

ONE HUMANITY

SUMMARY REPORT

29TH INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF MINE ACTION NATIONAL DIRECTORS
AND UNITED NATIONS ADVISERS (NDM-UN29)

22-24 April 2026

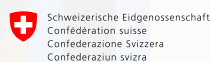
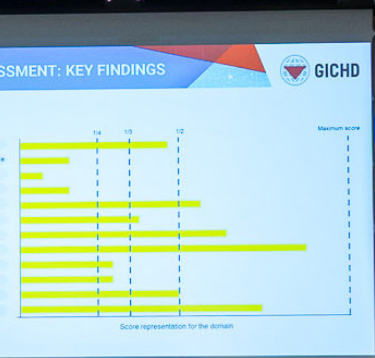


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview	01
Plenary 1: Enabled Sectors	05
Plenary 2: Emergency Risk Education During and After Conflict: Evidence, Innovations and What Works	07
Plenary 3: From Standard to Practice - Implementing the New IMAS Land Release Framework	09
Plenary 4: Donor Dialogue	11
Plenary 5: Reframing our Approach - Addressing the “Cost” of Mine Action Responses	13
Workshops	17
Side Events	19

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OVERVIEW

The 29th International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers (NDM-UN29), held under the theme of “One Humanity”, took place from 22-24 April 2026, at the Geneva International Conference Centre. The meeting, convened by the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, was co-hosted and co-organised by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS).

| Now in its 29th edition, the NDM-UN has established itself as the leading annual global forum for the mine action sector. It brings together mine action leaders, practitioners, national authorities, donors and partners from across the world to exchange knowledge, strengthen cooperation and address shared challenges.

The meeting provides a dynamic platform for dialogue, reflection and collective learning. Through plenary sessions, side events, workshops and informal exchanges, participants showcase practical solutions, share experience from different contexts and explore approaches that can translate ideas into concrete action.

Representing a **20 per cent increase** from last year, **815 participants** attended NDM-UN29, including National Mine Action Directors, representatives of mine action centres, UN Member States including donor representatives, United Nations advisers, mine action operators, academics, private sector and civil society from **86 countries and territories**, with **64% men and 36% women**. Over the three days, **45 sessions**, consisting of five plenaries, four workshops and 36 side events, featured **257 panellists** sharing experience and insights from the field, headquarters and the policy table.





Staff from UNMAS and GICHD who supported the logistical planning of NDM-UN29

| Representatives of affected countries and territories, including national directors, were panelists across the five plenary sessions, and many more participated as presenters during the 36 side events. NGO and civil society representatives were included as subject matter experts during plenary sessions. In all sessions, emphasis was given to ensuring representation of a range of geographical backgrounds and to ensuring gender diversity.

This year, the NDM-UN programme introduced a new element: four interactive, workshop-style dialogues for National Mine Action Directors and technical experts. These sessions focused on practical topics, hands-on exercises, available tools, and the sharing of best practices. Participants engaged with peers and facilitators on topics ranging from treaty obligations and reporting under the APMBC, CCM and CCW, to leadership in a changing sector, the operationalization of the new IMAS competency standard for EORE practitioners, and the practical intersection between mine action and the environment.

Feedback from the participants' survey at the conclusion of the meeting shows that **97%** of respondents found the logistical and organizational arrangements for the NDM-UN29 either excellent or good. **87%** reported that the agenda addressed topics of interest to them. This year's side events presented a wide range of topics which were rated as excellent or good by **89%** of respondents and provided space for rich and insightful discussions. Side events included topics such as: "Syria One Year On: Addressing Explosive Ordnance Contamination in a Changing Context", "Gaza: Explosive Hazards in Early Recovery – Coordinated and Integrated Mine Action", "From Hazard to Human Outcomes: Ukraine's Explainable, Data-Driven Prioritization with GRIT", "Cultural Heritage Protection in Mine Action", "Are We Behind the Curve – Drone-Delivered Explosive Ordnance and Mine Action?", "The Precision Paradox: Beyond Algorithms, the Ethics and Accountability of Marketing AI in Mine Action", and "Underwater Explosives – Past, Present and Future".



At the opening ceremony, Ms. Kazumi Ogawa, in her first NDM since taking up her role as Director of UNMAS, framed the meeting's theme of "One Humanity" as speaking to three dimensions: the indiscriminate nature of mines and explosive ordnance, the imperative to confront these weapons together as one, and the shared values and rights to life, safety, and opportunity, that mine action exists to protect.

| She paid tribute to the sector's resilience over a challenging twelve months marked by reductions in international funding and the closure of some programmes, even as new States have joined the humanitarian disarmament treaties, new authorities have emerged in contexts such as the Central African Republic, and Croatia has declared itself mine-free.



Ambassador Tobias Privitelli, Director of GICHD, framed NDM-UN29 around One Humanity, underscoring mine action as a shared humanitarian responsibility rooted in international humanitarian law, standards and collective action. He warned that explosive ordnance is causing devastating civilian harm across conflicts, communities and cities, while global divisions, more numerous crises, constrained resources and rising expectations increase pressure on the sector.

| The speech called for strong national leadership, honest assessment of operational realities, trusted institutions, reliable information and standards that are understood, applied and owned in practice.

It emphasized that progress depends on alignment, transparency and prioritizing impact over visibility. NDM-UN29 was presented as a vital forum for practical exchange, trust-building and collective problem-solving, with decisions ultimately affecting the safety, dignity and recovery of affected communities worldwide.



| Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix observed that NDM-UN29 was the largest National Directors' Meeting to date and a testament to the importance of the sector but also, "a sad indictment of the state of the world."

Speaking from the perspective of the head of UN peace operations and Chair of the UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, which brings together more than twelve UN entities, he emphasized the duty of care to peacekeepers, recalling the recent loss of three peacekeepers in southern Lebanon to an improvised explosive device. He welcomed Croatia's mine-free declaration, the accession of Tonga and the Marshall Islands to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and of Vanuatu to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, as well as Japan's leadership of the APMBC presidency and Zambia's incoming presidency, and the upcoming review conferences of the CCM in Lao PDR in September and the CCW in Geneva in November. Noting that approximately USD \$75 million was contributed by some 30 donor governments to UNMAS in the past year, he underscored that the scale of the problem and the available resources remain misaligned, and flagged Friday's closing plenary on reframing the financing of mine action as one of the most important conversations the sector can have.



| The opening segment concluded with a keynote address by the United Nations Global Advocate for Peace, Ms. Maryam Bukar Hassan, a spoken word artist, social activist and poet from Borno State, Nigeria.

Drawing on the daily realities of communities in Cambodia and Bosnia and Herzegovina to Lebanon, Ukraine, Colombia, the Solomon Islands and her own Nigeria, she reminded participants that approximately 4,000 people are killed or injured by landmines and explosive remnants of war each year, most of them civilians and many of them children, while some 60 countries and territories remain contaminated. Quoting a survivor, she observed: "We don't walk freely, we walk remembering." She juxtaposed global military spending of more than US\$2.5 trillion against the persistent under-funding of mine action, asking what it says about humanity that it has become more efficient at ending lives than at restoring the land on which life depends. She challenged participants to protect the agreements, the systems and the people that mine action exists to safeguard and closed with the words: "We are not many humanities. We are one. One humanity."

Videos of the plenaries are available [here](#).

PLENARY 1

The opening plenary, **Enabled Sectors – Mine Action as a Foundation for Sustainable Development**, moderated by Ms. Agi Veres of UNDP's Crisis Bureau, demonstrated how mine action, anchored in national ownership, forms a critical backbone for sustainable development.

| Colonel Cletus Maregere, Director of the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre, reported that Zimbabwe has cleared 97 per cent of confirmed contamination, with approximately 90 per cent of released land reclaimed for productive use.

Post-clearance outcomes include a tourism boom in Victoria Falls, named the world's best tourism destination by Forbes in 2025, and also set to host matches of the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, a peanut butter manufacturing plant in the Burma Valley, and improved access to schools, clinics and water points.



| Dr. Stacey Pizzino of the University of Queensland presented research showing that nearly four out of ten people injured by explosive ordnance in low-resource settings die from their injuries, and that ordnance corroding over decades releases toxic substances into soil, water and food systems.



This is a chronic risk, as documented by pilot research in the Solomon Islands, which detected military explosive residues in shellfish at local markets. She urged the integration of an environmental and public health lens into mine action.

| Mr. Nourou Macki Tall of FAO presented a five-step methodology developed in Ukraine to measure the agricultural return on mine action:

By October 2025, over 3,500 hectares released in Kharkiv and Mykolaiv had generated the equivalent of approximately 5 million loaves of bread and 1.2 million litres of oil, with clearance costs recovered in as little as one year for sunflower crops.



| Mr. Yoshizane Ishii, Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan, reaffirmed Japan's commitment of approximately USD \$80 million across 23 countries in 2025 and described mine action as the bedrock of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.



From the floor, Ukraine's Deputy Minister called mine action "step zero" for all recovery and placed particular emphasis on the need for stronger peer-to-peer dialogue directly among the national authorities of mine-affected countries themselves.

| He noted that Ukraine is open to learning from others and sharing what it has learned. As the moderator summarized, mine action outcomes are "not abstract numbers, this is about food on the table."



PLENARY 2

The second plenary, **Emergency Risk Education During and After Conflict: Evidence, Innovations, and What Works**, moderated by Ms. Maryam Bukar Hassan, UN Global Advocate for Peace, examined how explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) and Conflict Preparedness and Protection (CPP) can be scaled across conflict phases.



| Major General (Retd.) Khaled Hamdan, Director General of Sudan's National Mine Action Centre, described the challenges of delivering risk education in an active conflict environment.



| Ms. Héloïse Pihery, Global EORE Specialist at Humanity & Inclusion, cited more than 130 armed conflicts in 2025 and a 69 per cent increase in civilian casualties from explosive weapons between 2023 and 2024, arguing that traditional EORE focused on post-strike contamination is no longer sufficient.



| Mr. Colin Bent of Norwegian People's Aid presented the response in Gaza, where over 76 per cent of housing is damaged or destroyed:

with limited clearance capacity, EORE must be understood as an ongoing civilian protection activity, not a stop-gap. He emphasized the centrality of UNMAS's information management system in tracking and prioritizing operations across the sector.

Civilians must be equipped to anticipate crisis and adopt immediate protective behaviours. She announced the official launch of the Early Response Network for EORE and CPP (ERNE), established with UNICEF, UNMAS, NPA, MAG and GICHD to provide rapid technical support in emerging crises where mine action capacity is limited. Ms. Safa Alkahaf, Child Protection Officer at UNICEF Syria, reported over 2,100 casualties since 8 December 2024 and flagged the acute vulnerability of returnees arriving with no knowledge of contamination risks. Syria has integrated EORE messaging across an innovative range of national systems, including the education curriculum, vaccination campaigns, religious gatherings, border crossings, and industrial products, coordinated by the newly established National Mine Action Centre.

From the floor, MAG called for integrating psychosocial support into EORE, and Jordan announced a campaign to share risk education messages with 400,000 Syrian returnees beginning May 2026 in partnership with UNICEF. Ms. Maryam Bukar Hassan closed by observing that risk education becomes “the difference between harm and safety, between loss and the continuation of life.”



PLENARY 3

The third plenary, **From Standard to Practice: Implementing the New IMAS Land Release Framework**, was moderated by Ambassador Tobias Privitelli, Director of GICHD, who framed the revised IMAS 07.11, adopted in January 2026, as one of the most consequential standards for operations on the ground.

| Mr. Armen Harutyunyan, Chair of the Technical Working Group and Head of Research, Innovation, Standards and Operations at GICHD, explained that the new edition is the first major revision since 2008 and it merges the previous IMAS 07.10 and 07.11 into a single, simpler standard.

It codifies definitions long used informally (direct and indirect evidence, EOD spot tasks, residual contamination) and replaces “technical” and “non-technical” with “intrusive” and “non-intrusive” interventions, explicitly recognizing that remote sensing equipment can serve the purpose of technical survey when properly trialed. The language is also deliberately simplified to ease translation into National Mine Action Standards (NMAS).



| Mr. Fadi Alsaleh, Director of the new Syria Mine Action Centre described the principal challenge as balancing the drive to accelerate clearance against the standard’s requirement that decisions remain grounded in evidence.

Syria is embedding the principle that clearing land does not mean rushing into clearance, supported by a national information management system being developed with GICHD and UNMAS.

| Mr. James Cowan, CEO of The HALO Trust, called for accelerated implementation with a one-word answer: technology.

At the current pace, far too many countries will miss their treaty deadlines. HALO’s workforce has dropped from approximately 11,500 to 7,500 in less than 18 months, but a smaller, higher-skilled workforce equipped with new survey tools, detectors and semi-autonomous machines can deliver more, including through innovations such as magnetic resonance detection. The new standard, he argued, “is at its heart a permission structure. Permission to act on evidence, permission to cancel land that the evidence says does not need clearing, permission to release by insisting on evidence over fear.”





| Ms. Angela De Santis, Deputy Head of Operations at Fondation Suisse de Déminage and a member of the Technical Working Group, identified the most important shift in the new IMAS:

land is now released because evidence meets nationally defined criteria, regardless of the activity that produced it, placing focus on the strength, quality and triangulation of evidence rather than the sequence of activities.

| Ms. Victoria Grant, Programme Management Officer at UNMAS, addressed the criticality of translating IMAS into NMAS:

efficiency gains will only materialize if the standard's lessons are applied contextually, with a risk management mindset essential in high-scale contexts such as Ukraine and Syria.



| Mr. Rabie Al Jawashi, Programme Manager and Founder of Free Fields Foundation in Libya, brought a frontline national operator's perspective.

With Libyan funding down approximately 75 per cent over five years, smaller operators depend on GICHD's guidance — particularly on questions left unresolved since Free Fields first piloted drones in 2016, including accreditation, training minimums, and whether drone survey can stand alone.

Floor discussion was rich. WFP urged the sector to be bold, asking whether mine action is too slow, too safe, or too expensive. Humanity & Inclusion argued that the shift now needed is from implementing standards to trusting the decisions those standards allow. The Libyan Mine Action Centre raised concerns about incorporating emerging technologies and AI into national standards while remaining accountable to communities.

| One participant flagged that the next round of IMAS work will tackle technical survey, non-technical survey, and risk management, and welcomed wider national authority participation. Another offered the framing that IMAS standards are like “traffic lights” bringing order to a road in chaos, to be adjusted to context once national authorities are firmly established.

PLENARY 4

The fourth plenary, **Donor Dialogue**, moderated by Ms. Kazumi Ogawa, Director of UNMAS, convened a candid exchange between three leading mine action donors and meeting participants. Ms. Ogawa framed the session as the sector being at a critical inflection point where the scale of contamination is increasing faster than the collective capacity to respond, and the sector requires predictable, flexible and strategically aligned funding.

| Ms. Karen Chandler, Director of the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement at the U.S. Department of State, reaffirmed that the United States remains the single largest contributor to global demining, with over US\$385 million provided in the past year.

She cited Ukraine, where the United States has trained nearly 2,500 deminers who have cleared 672 square miles and removed more than 260,000 items, with the Ukrainian government now running the training school and paying salaries, as a model of capacity-building done right.



| Ambassador Julien Thöni set out Switzerland's commitment of approximately US\$ 50 million in 2025, supporting 11 contexts and seconding 17 experts to eight countries across all five pillars.

He described the work as "Sisyphean" with the boulder pushed up the hill only to roll back down with each new conflict and emphasized Switzerland's continued support for the normative framework and the hosting of the two Implementation Support Units by GICHD.



| Ambassador Tormod Endresen outlined Norway's contribution of approximately US\$57.5 million across more than 25 countries and referenced the feasibility study on a voluntary trust fund under the APMBC designed to help States struggling with the "last mile" of completion.





From the floor, questions included one from the Central African Republic, which asked how forgotten contexts that attract roughly 1 per cent of global funding can secure greater support. Ethiopia raised demining as a vehicle for trade rather than aid, and the United States pointed to the Vietnam partnership as evidence for such an approach. UNMAS noted that mine action is increasingly recognized within the UN system as an enabling activity and encouraged participants to position mine action proposals beyond strict humanitarian funding lines, including through direct engagement with ministries of finance and development agencies.

PLENARY 5



The closing plenary, **Reframing our Approach: Addressing the “Cost” of Mine Action Responses**, was moderated by Mr. David Riley, UK Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament and Chair of the Mine Action Support Group. The need for mine action is growing while the resource envelope is reducing, he observed, and the sector must look to alternative, innovative sources of funding. The UK has been working for five years to diversify funding, including through outcome-based finance and the Minefields to Rice Fields project in Cambodia, and sees real potential to attract both commercial and philanthropic capital. He paid tribute to the EU and the Netherlands for their support to GICHD’s Innovative Finance Secretariat.

| Mr. Dmytro Panshyn, Head of the Humanitarian Demining Department at Ukraine’s Ministry of Economy, Environment and Agriculture, described how the EU-Ukraine Facility enables a streamlined mechanism: a farmer applies for land to be demined; the centre verifies eligibility, opens a tender on an electronic public procurement platform, and tracks the project through to quality assurance and certification.

Approximately EUR 40 million has been allocated to date, with cost savings of up to 70 per cent reported. Ukraine’s 2026 demining plan was partially formed through GRIT (Ground Rehabilitation through Innovation Technologies), an automated prioritization tool.



| Mr. Amir Omeragic, Director of the Peace and Security Cluster at UNOPS, noted that the sector should not define its work only in terms of cost, but it must define it in terms of results and multiplier effects.

In Afghanistan, over a 13-year period in a demined area of Kandahar, UNOPS has used geospatial imagery and AI to observe what followed clearance: approximately 4,000 houses, 1,500 apartments, nine schools, a hospital, and around USD 1 billion of follow-on investment.



| Ms. María Merchán Rocamora, Innovative Finance Advisor at GICHD, walked participants through the risk-return spectrum of capital, from purely private capital at commercial rates, through concessional finance offered by patient investors, to the largely below-market conditions in which mine action operates.

GICHD has begun exploring partnerships with multilateral development banks, including conversations on guarantees that ease lending conditions. The case for using public money differently, she argued, hinges on quantifying the positive socio-economic externalities of mine action, including spillovers to agriculture, infrastructure, and recovery, to match concessional finance to the right interventions. "This is not about financializing the mine action sector," she summarized, "it is about engaging in this matching exercise." A glossary of innovative finance terminology in English, French and Spanish is available on the NDM website.



The floor discussion included The HALO Trust highlighting Angola, where national leadership has convened public, private and humanitarian actors to clear the Lobito Corridor. Save the Children reminded participants that children accounted for 46 per cent of recorded landmine and ERW casualties in 2024, yet only 5 per cent of mine action funding went to victim assistance and presented practical innovations including a low-cost prosthetic knee co-developed with Imperial College London.

| A representative of MAT Kosovo, drawing on seventeen years in Wall Street structured finance, offered a sharp clarification: concessional finance is finance, and to attract it the sector must make its outcomes quantifiable and enforceable. The private sector pool, he noted, is "much, much deeper than anything this sector will ever need."







WORKSHOPS

| NDM-UN29 introduced four interactive workshop-style dialogues designed for National Mine Action Directors and technical experts. These sessions focused on practical topics, hands-on exercises, available tools, and the sharing of best practices.

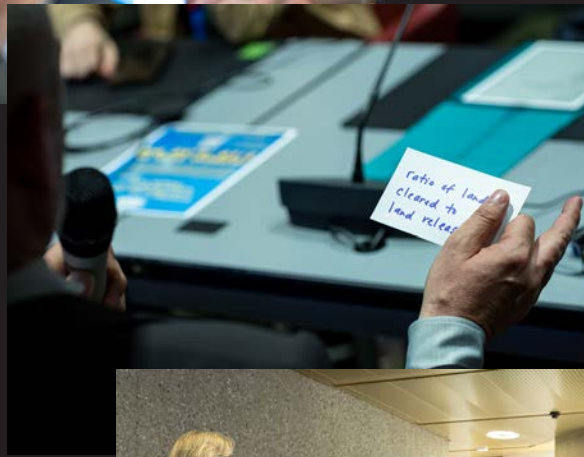
The workshops covered: **Convention Essentials**, with the Implementation Support Units of the APMBC, CCM, and CCW providing updates on the status and operations of the three Conventions, and answering questions on how to join, engage in, and implement them; **Leadership in Mine Action**, an interactive exercise run by James Madison University on the traditional and evolving qualities needed to lead and manage mine action programmes in a rapidly changing environment; **Operationalising the New IMAS Competency Standards for EORE Practitioners** – a participant-led workshop, organized by the GICHD's EORE programme, on the new Test & Evaluation Protocol 12.10, with breakout discussions in English, French and Arabic; and **Taking a Practical Look at the Intersection Between Mine Action and the Environment**, an exploration of how the sector can adapt to evolving climate, environmental and public health risks, and identify practical opportunities for collaboration with actors across the environment, agriculture, health and climate sectors.



Erik Van Oudheusden
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Netherlands

Miodrag
Serbian Minister





SIDE EVENTS

Videos of the side events are available [here](#).



| From Policy to Practice: Lessons from Implementing Commitments under the Convention on Cluster Munitions (Permanent Mission of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, GICHD, UXO Lao, MAG, UNMAS)

This side event explored how States and operators translate cluster munition commitments into practical action. Drawing on Lao PDR's national experience, regional operational perspectives, and system-wide insights, the session identified successes, challenges, and lessons learned. The discussion aimed to inform the next Action Plan and engaged mine action directors, UN advisers, operators, donors, and other stakeholders in a practitioner-focused exchange.



| From Crisis to Recovery: Strengthening Victim Assistance for Survivors of Explosive Weapons (LibMAC, DRC Ukraine, DRC occupied Palestinian territory, DRC Libya)

Survivors of explosive weapons face predictable and long-term harm, yet victim assistance systems often struggle to respond during crises. Drawing lessons from Gaza, Libya, and Ukraine, this side event explored how victim assistance operates across different stages of conflict and recovery. The session promoted integrated, survivor-centred approaches linking emergency response with long-term inclusion, and engaged donors, States, and UN coordination actors working on protection and humanitarian mine action.



| Protecting Civilians in Libya: The Skirat Explosion Response, Bridging Information and Field Operations (LibMAC, UNMAS, Libyan Peace Organization (LPO), GICHD, The HALO Trust)

This event showed how information management and operations work together to reduce explosive risks and protect civilians in Libya. Drawing on the response to the unplanned explosion at Skirat in Misrata, the session highlighted how LibMAC swiftly mobilized national and international NGOs for clearance and risk education. It also demonstrated how IMSMA supports timely, coordinated response through data collection, analysis and tasking in support of stabilization and conflict prevention.



| Integrated, Environmentally Responsible Mine Action and Ammunition Management: Türkiye's National Model for One Humanity (Republic of Türkiye Ministry of National Defense, Turkish Permanent Mission to UNOG, TURMAC, ASFAT)

This side event presented an integrated approach to mine action and ammunition management, combining safety, environmental responsibility, and innovation. It showcased national capabilities in safe modular storage, inspection and life-cycle management, environmentally responsible disposal, and mechanical mine clearance. The session promoted international cooperation and shared best practices with States Parties, international organizations, donors, and technical experts working in humanitarian mine action and ammunition management.



| From Hazard to Human Outcomes: Ukraine's Explainable, Data-Driven Prioritization with "Ground Rehabilitation through Innovation Technologies" (GRIT) (Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, UN Resident Coordinator's Office Ukraine, UNDP, GRIT Team)

This session demonstrated how mine action in Ukraine – under the leadership of the Ministry of Economy – has created a dynamic environment for data-driven decision-making. Layers of data are drawn upon to identify expected outcomes prior to tasking instructions being issued. The event showcased the data layers used and the outcomes beyond clearance, including restored agricultural production, access to essential services, community resilience, and renewed economic activity, reinforcing the meeting theme of "One Humanity".

| Investing in Safe Land: Pathways to Support Livelihoods in the Horn of Africa (The HALO Trust, Danish Refugee Council, Humanity & Inclusion)

Landmine and explosive ordnance contamination in the Horn of Africa blocks access to grazing land, farmland, water, and trade routes, deepening food insecurity and undermining livelihoods. This session shared practical evidence on how humanitarian mine action can restore safe land for productive use and support community-led recovery. It brought together donors, national authorities, operators, and implementing partners interested in linking mine action more effectively with livelihoods, food security, and climate resilience.



| Global Progress in Landmine and Cluster Munition Clearance and Lessons in Effective Coordination from Lao PDR and Lebanon (Lao PDR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lebanon Mine Action Centre, Mine Action Review)

Participants gained a clear, evidence-based overview of global progress and challenges in the survey and clearance of anti-personnel mines and cluster munition remnants, including the current status of APMBC Article 5 and CCM Article 4 implementation. Representatives highlighted practical lessons from effective national coordination platforms in Lao PDR and Lebanon, offering transferable insights to other affected States. The Netherlands contributed perspectives as both a donor and CCM Coordinator for International Cooperation and Assistance.



| Beyond Compliance: Discussing the Impact of Victim Assistance Standards on Survivors' Access to Services (Colombia Office of the Peace Commissioner – Mine Action Group, Danish Refugee Council, Humanity & Inclusion, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation)

Five years after the adoption of the international standard on victim assistance (IMAS 13.10), this session evaluated its practical application in conflict-affected states including Ukraine, Colombia, Palestine, Senegal and Syria. The event identified field-level barriers and shared best practices in operationalizing IMAS 13.10. It also opened a conversation about how the application of this norm has helped improve data collection, mapping of services, and survivors' access to services.

| Mine Action and Climate Responsibility: Practical Steps to Measure and Reduce Impact (Mines Advisory Group (MAG))

Mine action operations carry a significant but often poorly understood environmental footprint. This session explored how carbon measurement helps organizations identify where emissions come from and what can realistically be reduced without undermining delivery. It shared practical insights, common challenges, and early lessons from across the sector, with participation from national mine action authorities, operational NGOs, donors, and partners working on policy, operations, and sustainability.

| Mine Action as a Peace-Building Tool: The Colombian Transitional-Restorative Approach (Colombia Office of the Peace Commissioner – Mine Action Group, Special Jurisdiction for Peace (SPJ), UNMAS, GICHD, Interpeace)

This event discussed the progress and challenges of implementing restorative humanitarian mine action measures within transitional justice, focusing on the Colombian experience. By addressing land contamination as a conflict-related harm, the session highlighted how a “One Humanity” approach – grounded in collective responsibility and people-centred action – can strengthen coordination and ensure that mine action pillars effectively restore safety and agency to victims and affected communities, contributing to a sustainable recovery in EO-affected territories.



| Partnering for Impact: Combining Global Tools with Local Adaptations to Reach Explosive Ordnance Impacted Communities (CENSCOPE, UNOPS, SafeLane Global, Danish Refugee Council)

This side event explored how mine action partners working with UNOPS have creatively expanded their support to affected communities. CENSCOPE, a local humanitarian grantee delivering risk education, is operationalizing IMAS in northern Nigeria; the Danish Refugee Council is working alongside local NGOs to clear Khartoum neighbourhoods; and international commercial implementer SafeLane Global has re-engineered its clearance capacity in South Sudan to address the broad range of South Sudan’s explosive hazards.

| From Lausanne to Vientiane: Strengthening Gender Considerations and Diversity of Populations in the Cluster Munitions Convention (Austria, Cameroon, UNIDIR)

In the latest Action Plan of the Cluster Munitions Convention, adopted in Lausanne, States Parties committed to practical steps that integrate gender perspectives and the diversity of populations into all aspects of mine action and programming. As the Action Plan enters its final year of implementation, this event took stock of progress and discussed ideas to inform the next Action Plan, to be adopted by the Third Review Conference of the CCM in Vientiane.



| Localizing Gender in Humanitarian Mine Action: Sharing Ukraine's Experience of Empowering Women at the Frontline in Humanitarian Mine Action (Ministry of Economy, Environment, and Agriculture of Ukraine, Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, Ukrainian Deminers Association, BBC Media Action, UN Women, NGO Girls, GICHD)

From the onset of war through response and recovery, gender and women's empowerment must be at the centre of all action. Integrating women's empowerment into locally-led humanitarian mine action is sustainable and efficient. Sharing these inclusive practical practices enhances efficiency and improves outcomes in HMA for recovery and peacebuilding in crisis- or war-affected countries.



| Making Localization Work: Pathways to Sustainable Nationally Led Mine Action (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia, MAG, Ukrainian Deminers Association, GICHD)

Localization is central to achieving sustainable, nationally led mine action, yet its meaning and approach remain inconsistent across the sector. This session discussed approaches to localization, shared practical experiences from donors, national authorities, national NGOs, and international operators, and explored pathways that strengthen national ownership, promote local leadership, and ensure sustainable investment.



| Managing Explosive Hazards in Cities – Lessons from Sudan, Gaza, Syria and Iraq (National Mine Action Authorities of Sudan, Directorate of Mine Action of Iraq, UNMAS Sudan, UNMAS oPt, UNMAS Syria, UNMAS Iraq)

What does it take to make cities safe again after conflict? Explosive hazards in homes, streets and critical infrastructure are blocking returns, humanitarian access and recovery. This session explored how mine action can unlock progress, drawing on Sudan, Gaza, Syria and Iraq, and highlighted practical lessons and priority actions for national authorities, operators and donors working to link mine action with safe returns, service restoration and reconstruction.



| Cultural Heritage Protection in Mine Action (Blue Shield International, UNESCO, The HALO Trust)

Mine action operators often work around some of the world's most significant cultural sites. While the removal of landmines and ordnance delivers the first phase of recovery, returning communities seek solace in cultural familiarity. This session discussed the role mine action plays in the protection of cultural heritage and opened a discussion on the simple measures required to protect cultural heritage in operations, supporting the sector's intent to build more stable and resilient communities.

| Syria One Year On: Addressing Explosive Ordnance Contamination in a Changing Context – Progress and Priorities (Syria National Mine Action Centre, Syria Mine Action Area of Responsibility, DCA, DRC, HI, ITF Enhancing Human Security, MAG, NPA, The HALO Trust, ReachOut, Roj Mine Control Organisation, SafeLand, UNMAS)

One year after major shifts in Syria's operational context, explosive ordnance contamination continues to pose a widespread threat to civilians and to safe returns, livelihoods and recovery. This session reflected on progress achieved, highlighted remaining challenges, and explored priorities for scaling mine action. Bringing together national and operational perspectives, it engaged donors, policymakers and humanitarian actors on how to sustain and strengthen the response.

| Justifying and Embedding Environmental Responsibility and Long-Term Climate Considerations Into Mine Action Programmes (University of Queensland, UNDP, NPA, The HALO Trust, Conflict and Environment Observatory (CEOBS))

This event provided evidence and demonstrated to national authorities and mine action operators the importance of embedding environmental responsibility and climate-responsive approaches into mine action programmes. It aimed to bridge the gap between conjecture, policy and practice by sharing research results, practical entry points, and examples of good practice for implementing sustainable, relevant, and impactful mine action programmes.

| Stories of Resilience – Ukraine (State Emergency Services of Ukraine (SESU), WFP, FAO, Centre for Humanitarian Demining (CHD), Ukraine Demining Association)

This session focused on mine action in rural communities in Kharkiv, Ukraine – placing people and results in the spotlight. It linked clearance to recovery, telling stories of resilience and hearing the voices of rural households and small-scale farmers through three immersive video clips that introduced mine action engagement through coordinated activities of panellists from the United Nations, civil society and state institutions of Ukraine.



| Ensuring Safe and Credible Land Release: Sri Lanka's Completion Survey Process and Lessons Learnt (National Mine Action Centre (NMAC), Sri Lanka, GICHD, MAG)

The Sri Lanka Completion Survey Process (SLCSP) is a nationally led, evidence-based approach to verify that previously mined or explosive-contaminated areas are safe for civilian use. Launched in 2023, it systematically assesses around 1,400 Grama Niladhari divisions using GIS-based mapping, quality assurance, and community engagement. The process ensures credible, transparent land release, supports APMBC Article 5 compliance, identifies residual hazards, and contributes to safe resettlement, livelihoods, and sustainable development.



| Strengthening Animal Detection of Explosive Ordnance: from Standards to Impact for Communities (UNOPS, APOPO)

This side event explored how advances in standards, technology and training are improving the efficiency of animal detection of explosive ordnance and supporting their integration into national mine action programmes – and why this matters for more efficient land release and secure communities. The session highlighted practical field results and connected these to recent developments in guidance and capacity, bridging policy and practice for national authorities, operators, donors, technical specialists, and others interested in leveraging animal detection for impact.

Venue: Geneva International Conference Center, Room E

Organized by: Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA)



| From Contamination to Recovery: Mine Action as the Foundation for Reconstruction (Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA), ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC), GICHD, Mine Action Review/ Norwegian People's Aid, ITF Enhancing Human Security)

This side event highlighted how mine action supports reconstruction and recovery in post-conflict settings, emphasizing coordination between mine action, development, and urban recovery actors. It enhanced understanding of mine action as a key enabler of reconstruction, promoted the exchange of practical experiences, strengthened cooperation between institutions and partners, and increased recognition of its role within broader recovery and development frameworks.



| The Precision Paradox: Beyond Algorithms, the Ethics and Accountability of Marketing AI in Mine Action (Subsphere Corporation)

This session addressed the “precision paradox” in humanitarian mine action, where overhyped AI marketing masks critical technical limitations. It aimed to bridge the gap between “black-box” algorithms and the ground truth of the minefield by promoting transparent, human-centred AI development. Targeting donors, technology providers, and demining practitioners, the event explored how a “One Humanity” approach ensures that technology serves as a consultant to human judgement, protecting lives through meaningful accountability.



| Are We Behind the Curve – Drone-Delivered Explosive Ordnance and Mine Action? (UNDP, Ukraine National Mine Action Centre, UNMAS, Global Clearance Solutions (GCS))

In a few short years, drones of all kinds have revolutionized how wars are fought. Mine action has yet to catch up with the latest developments, especially when it comes to classification, reporting and training. This side event initiated a sector-wide discussion and gathered suggestions about the best way to address the rapidly evolving challenges posed by drone-delivered explosive ordnance.



| Addressing the Remaining Mine Contamination: Practical Lessons Learned from Non-Technical Survey in the Republic of Serbia (Permanent Mission of Serbia, Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia (SMAC), ITF Enhancing Human Security, independent NTS expert, GICHD)

This side event showcased Serbia's Non-Technical Survey project addressing remaining mine contamination. With donor support and close integration of information management and field operations, the project – implemented in line with the latest NTS competencies – demonstrated how teams overcame legacy data, non-standard coordinate systems, limited access to remote communities, and capacity gaps. Solutions included recruiting and training local NTS members and a step-by-step capacity-building approach.

| Mine Action, Counter-IED and IED Threat Mitigation: Comprehensive and Adaptive Responses (Burkina Faso National Commission for Arms Control, UNMAS Somalia, UN Office of Mine Action and Police (OMAP), GICHD, MAG)

This panel explored the key alignments and differences between mine action responses and counter-IED efforts. It examined how each approach addresses strategy, planning, and operational challenges, particularly in contexts where humanitarian principles must be upheld while prioritizing the protection of civilians.

| Ready to React: Humanitarian Mine Action in Emergencies (Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Switzerland, Humanity & Inclusion, Conflict and Environment Observatory (CEOBS), Explosive Weapons Trauma Care Collective (EXTRACCT), NPA, UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC), UNMAS)

Humanitarian mine action is increasingly relied upon as a life-saving component of emergency response, protecting civilians and responders in armed conflict and climate-related hazards. This session examined real examples of emergency preparedness and response spanning risk education, survey, explosive ordnance disposal, victim trauma care, and more. It also explored coordination, conflict sensitivity, and “do no harm” principles, with participation from operational agencies, coordination bodies, national authorities, and donors working in humanitarian response.

| Syria Unsafe to Recover: Mine Action, Livelihoods, and the Cost of Short-Term Funding (Danish Refugee Council Syria, Humanity & Inclusion Syria, SafeLand)

Syria’s widespread explosive hazards continue to endanger civilians and block access to land, services, and livelihoods. This session explored how integrated humanitarian mine action can support recovery, self-reliance, and community resilience. It brought together donors, United Nations agencies, and practitioners to discuss practical approaches and the need for predictable, multi-year funding to enable safe, sustainable recovery.

| Outcome-Based Finance in Humanitarian Mine Action: Putting Theory into Practice (United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), DanChurchAid (DCA), APOPO, GICHD)

Given pressures on development funding, humanitarian mine action must diversify its funding streams. Other sectors have benefited from using outcome-based finance to attract new funding. Drawing on two pilot outcome-based finance mine action projects in Cambodia (APOPO) and Syria (DCA), and the expertise of GICHD’s Innovative Finance Secretariat, the panel considered the potential for HMA outcome-based finance projects to attract additional funding from governments and the private sector.

| Navigating the Minefield: Data and Strategies for Protecting Civilians and Humanitarians from Explosive Hazards (Humanitarian Outcomes – Aid Worker Security Database, Action on Armed Violence – Explosive Violence Monitor)

This event explored the real-world dangers of landmines and explosives through the lens of data from AOAV’s Explosive Violence Monitor and the Aid Worker Security Database. These two data initiatives map the evolving risks facing both civilians and humanitarian personnel. Featuring a firsthand perspective from an operational NGO, the session bridged the gap between raw numbers and the lived reality of mine action in the field.



| Operationalizing the Mine Action–Development Nexus: Lessons from the Korea–Vietnam Peace Village Project (Viet Nam National Mine Action Centre (VNMAC), UNDP Vietnam, GICHD)

Using the Korea–Vietnam Peace Village Project as a case study, this event examined the enabling factors that allowed mine action to be successfully integrated with development activities such as climate-resilient housing, community health stations, and climate-resilient agriculture. The discussion highlighted how coordination mechanisms, national ownership, financing modalities, and deliberate sequencing between land release and development investments can transform mine action from a stand-alone activity into a foundation for sustainable development.

| Gaza: Explosive Hazards in Early Recovery – Coordinated and Integrated Mine Action (Humanity & Inclusion, UNMAS, The HALO Trust, NPA, Danish Refugee Council)

This event highlighted how explosive ordnance contamination constrains early recovery in contexts where the full scope of mine action cannot yet be implemented, and presented adaptive solutions applied in Gaza under severe operational constraints. The event showcased coordinated and integrated approaches combining explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) and conflict preparedness and protection (CPP), and victim assistance, demonstrating how these pillars work together to support humanitarian access, protect civilians, and enable early recovery efforts in a highly complex operational environment.

| Beyond Survival: Victim Assistance, Trauma Care, and Psychosocial Support in EO-Affected Syria (Humanity & Inclusion, UNMAS, The HALO Trust, NPA, Danish Refugee Council)

As explosive ordnance casualties rise in Syria, victim assistance remains one of the most underfunded and often overlooked pillars of mine action. This event brought forward perspectives from survivors and practitioners to highlight gaps in trauma care, rehabilitation, and psychosocial support. It examined what is needed to ensure sustained, inclusive support to survivors, their families, and communities, recognizing victim assistance as a lifelong commitment.



| Underwater Explosives – Past, Present and Future (Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services, Solomon Islands, GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, UNDP, UNIDIR, JPI Oceans)

Sea mines and other underwater explosives remain an overlooked legacy of past and current conflicts. Millions of tonnes of munitions lie corroding on the seafloor and in inland waters, posing risks to ecosystems, coastal communities, the blue economy and maritime security. Governance and responses remain fragmented and largely reactive. This side event examined underwater explosives as a multisectoral challenge and explored risk-based approaches to monitoring, clearance and maritime security governance.



| From Shared Contamination to Shared Solutions: Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam Addressing UXO Issues Together (ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC), Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), UXO Lao, VNMAC)

This session explored how Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Viet Nam are working together, with support from Japan, to address shared unexploded ordnance challenges in the region. It highlighted why cooperation among neighbouring affected countries matters and how practical exchange can improve survey, clearance, and future regional collaboration. The session was intended for national mine action authorities and centres, partners, and practitioners interested in regional approaches that can strengthen cooperation and improve responses to shared contamination challenges.



EODYNAMICS

APOPO

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WORLD FOUNDATION

STATE OF PALESTINE

NETHERLANDS