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Arms Control and Disarmament Policies: Political Debates in Switzerland

Dr. Dr. h. c. Barbara Haering
President GICHD Council of Foundation

The world is vastly interconnected

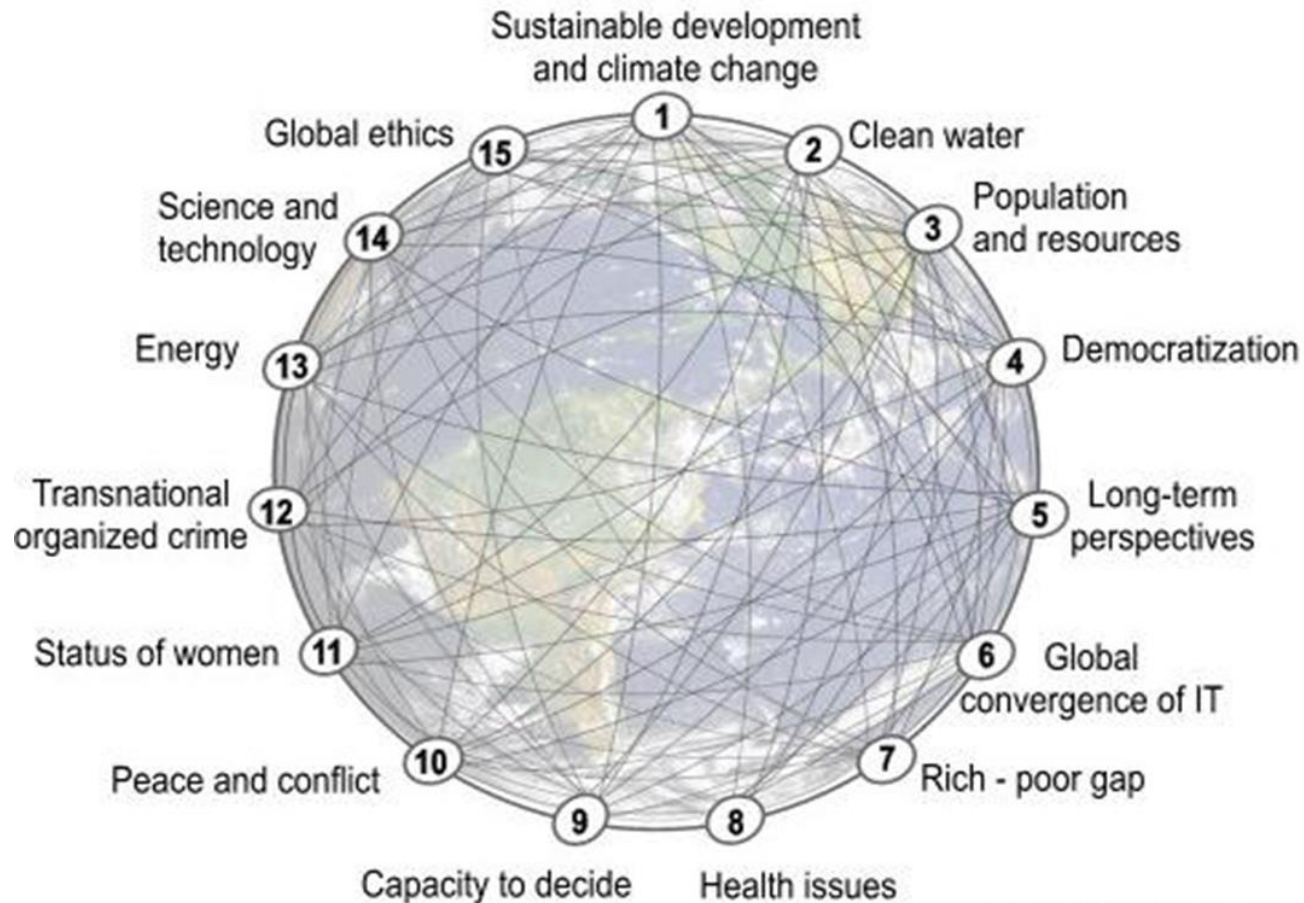


Flights



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We share global challenges



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We share new security threats

New security threats are...

- of transnational character,
- cross cutting traditional political issues,
- involving non-state actors,
- including new means and methods of warfare like unmanned aerial vehicles and cyber attacks,
- focussing on critical infrastructures including ICT,
- involving and threatening civilians.

Some keywords

- Failed states, revolutions, terrorist criminality
- **Complexity:** Shift to a multipolar world, including non-state actors and the risk of arms proliferation.
- **Militarization of space:** Also as a consequence of the increasing run for resources in the outer space.
- **Organized crime:** The total income of illicit trade, cyber-crime and money laundering could be over 2 trillion \$ per annum – nearly twice the military budgets worldwide.
- Democracy will be at stake if we don't address organized crime globally.

New challenges for disarmament

- During the area of Cold War, we knew what kind of weapons we were facing and where they were. Today, we don't know what kind of weapons will be used and where they are or will be!
- New challenges impact arms control and disarmament policies and negotiations:
 - Increasing complexity of threats – involving not only states but also non-state actors
 - New alliances in an increasingly multipolar world
 - Difficulties for international negotiations (-> CD)

Switzerland in this global context

- **Small, safe and neutral:** Switzerland is a small country with a long tradition of neutrality, embedded in a peaceful Europe.



Shifting paradigms also for Switzerland

- **Global dependence:** Switzerland's security massively depends on global security developments.
- **Transnational threats:** Switzerland's security is not a question of defending national borders anymore. As a consequence of transnational threats, defense and homeland security merge.
- **Swiss Neutrality:** As a consequence of the UN-Charter neutrality has lost its relevance as an obligation of international law.
- Abstaining from international security policies will not assure Switzerland's security any longer.

Switzerland's security policies

Therefore, Switzerland's security policies focus on:

- the security of our state and its population
- our capacities to act politically – on the national as well as on the international level
- the functioning of our critical infrastructures
- our international responsibilities, focusing on human security, disarmament and peace keeping under the umbrella of the UN (no peace enforcement)

Objectives of Swiss disarmament policies

- Switzerland's arms control and disarmament policies are led by the Federal Government and follow our overall security policies.
- Thereby, the following objectives are essential:
 - assuring national and international security
 - conducting measures of the disarmament and non-proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction
 - minimizing existing arm levels to the lowest degree possible
 - promoting human security

Switzerland's commitments

- All relevant international treaties and conventions have been ratified by Switzerland – except for the Open-Skies-Treaty (-> transit treaty).
- Switzerland spends about 16 Mio CHF per year on humanitarian disarmament.
 - 50% -> GICHD
 - 50% -> MASG, Appelle de Genève, CCM...
- Every four years the Federal Government submits a “Report on Arms Control and Disarmament” to Parliament. The last report has been submitted in November 2012.

Switzerland's pragmatic priorities

- Nuclear disarmament – with a specific focus on the human security dimensions.
- Strengthening the implementation, universalization and institutional set-up of existing treaties (-> CCM).
- Linking non-proliferation and disarmament and thus fostering the balance between the “haves and the not-haves”.
- Arms Trade Treaty, ATT
- Fostering international law as basis for multilateral agreements.

Parliamentary approaches are different

- Parliament does not play an important role in arms control and disarmament policies. Only few parliamentarians are committed to this issue.
- Their approach is different compared to international, to governmental and diplomatic initiatives:
 - Parliamentarians depend on elections. Therefore, they will go for the short term and look for visibility!
 - They commit themselves to issues that are high on public and media agendas, such as landmines, cluster munitions or nuclear disarmament.
- However: Parliaments provide the political legitimation needed for governmental and diplomatic initiatives.

Topical disarmament issues in Switzerland

- Switzerland's arms exports
- Where to store Swiss Army guns?

Swiss munitions exports: Legal framework

- Munitions may be exported. However, exports are forbidden by law in the following cases:
 - Internal or international conflict in the country of destination
 - Systematic and massive violation of human rights in the country of destination
 - High risk of use of these arms against civilians in the country of destination
 - High risk of proliferation to a country in conflict
- These criteria are binding for all decisions of the federal administration and the Federal Council.

Swiss munitions exports in numbers (1)

- In 2012 Switzerland supplied 68 countries with munitions: Germany and Saudi Arabia are the main end user of Swiss munitions exports. Some numbers
 - 2005: 259 Mio CHF
 - 2009: 728 Mio CHF
 - 2011: 873 Mio CHF
 - 2012: 700 Mio CHF
- Exported munitions are mainly:
 - Ammunition (32%)
 - Tanks (25%)
 - Weapons of diverse calibre (18%)

Swiss munitions exports in numbers (2)

- Increase of 170% between 2005 and 2012.
- Around 0.35-0.4% of our total export volume
- 60% of the net value added of these exports remain in Switzerland and some 5'000 people's income depend on these exports. (*BAKBASEL 2008*)
- In 2012 Switzerland ranked 13 amongst the major munitions exporters and was responsible for 1% of the arms exports worldwide (2010: 0.55%). (*SIPRI*)
- In addition: Exports of dual use products, where the numbers are unclear (global permissions)..

Munitions exports policies need coherence

- Munitions export policies ask for a close cooperation of three ministries: Foreign Affairs, Defense and Economic Affairs. Conflicting interests have to be balanced in order to achieve a coherent approach.
- Arms exports policies have to be predicable for all parties involved. Producers have to be aware of regulations and policies for arms exports.
- Therefore, a close cooperation of the federal administration taking decisions itself and preparing decisions of the Federal Council with industry and NGOs is important.

How did these weapons reach Syria?



In summer 2012 hand grenades exported in 2004 to the UAE were used in Syria.

- The Swiss Government acted swiftly and took diplomatic measures against the UAE in September 2012.
- Moreover, in October 2012 the guidelines addressing non proliferation were up-graded and anchored in the federal ordinance, thus increasing legal security and transparency.

People's initiatives against arms exports

- Broad public debates are periodically launched by people's initiatives urging to forbid munitions exports:
 1. Initiative launched in 1969; failed in 1972 (49.7 %)
 2. Initiative launched in 1997; failed in 2000 (22.5 %)
 3. Initiative launched in 2005; failed in 2010 (32.0 %)
- The initiatives were reacting on critical exports of arms or dual use goods, claiming a lack of coherence between foreign affairs and development aid policies on the one hand and economic interests on the other.
- All initiatives failed in the referendum – but had an impact on Switzerland's arms exports legislation.

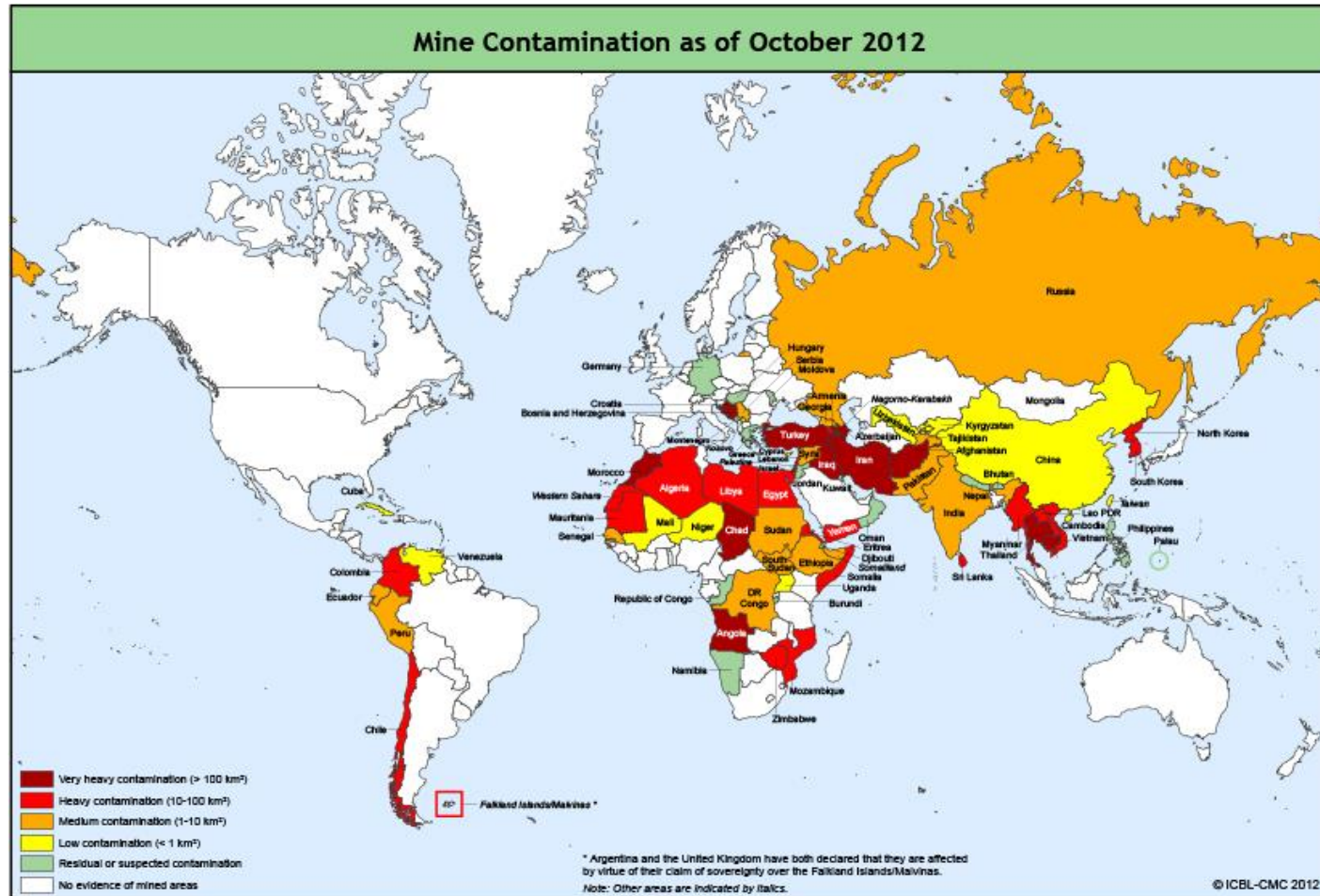
Where to store Swiss Army guns?

- Following an old tradition, Switzerland's militia soldiers store their personal army guns at home. In November 2010 654'562 personal army guns were stored at home.
- The number of suicides and homicides committed with army guns increased over the last years.
- Therefore, women's organizations, pacifist groups as well as left wing and green parties are urging government and parliament to end this tradition.
- The Swiss Army now offers the option to store personal gun in arsenals.

The GICHD

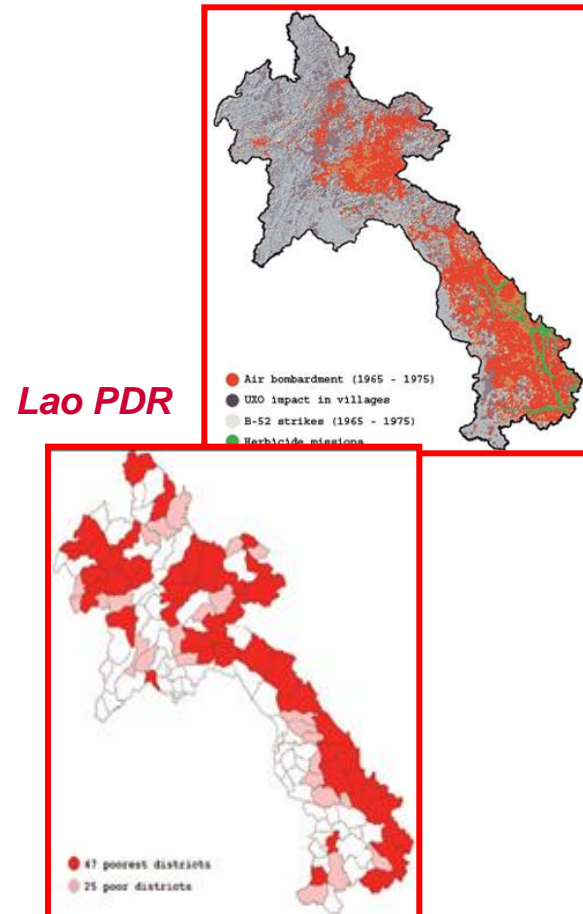
- The Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining GICHD has been launched by Switzerland more than ten years ago.
- Today the GICHD is supported by a broad international community of donor countries and mine affected countries.
- The GICHD supports states parties in implementing the Ottawa Convention and hosts the Implementation Support Unit ISU – we stand ready to do so also for the Oslo Convention.

A global challenge

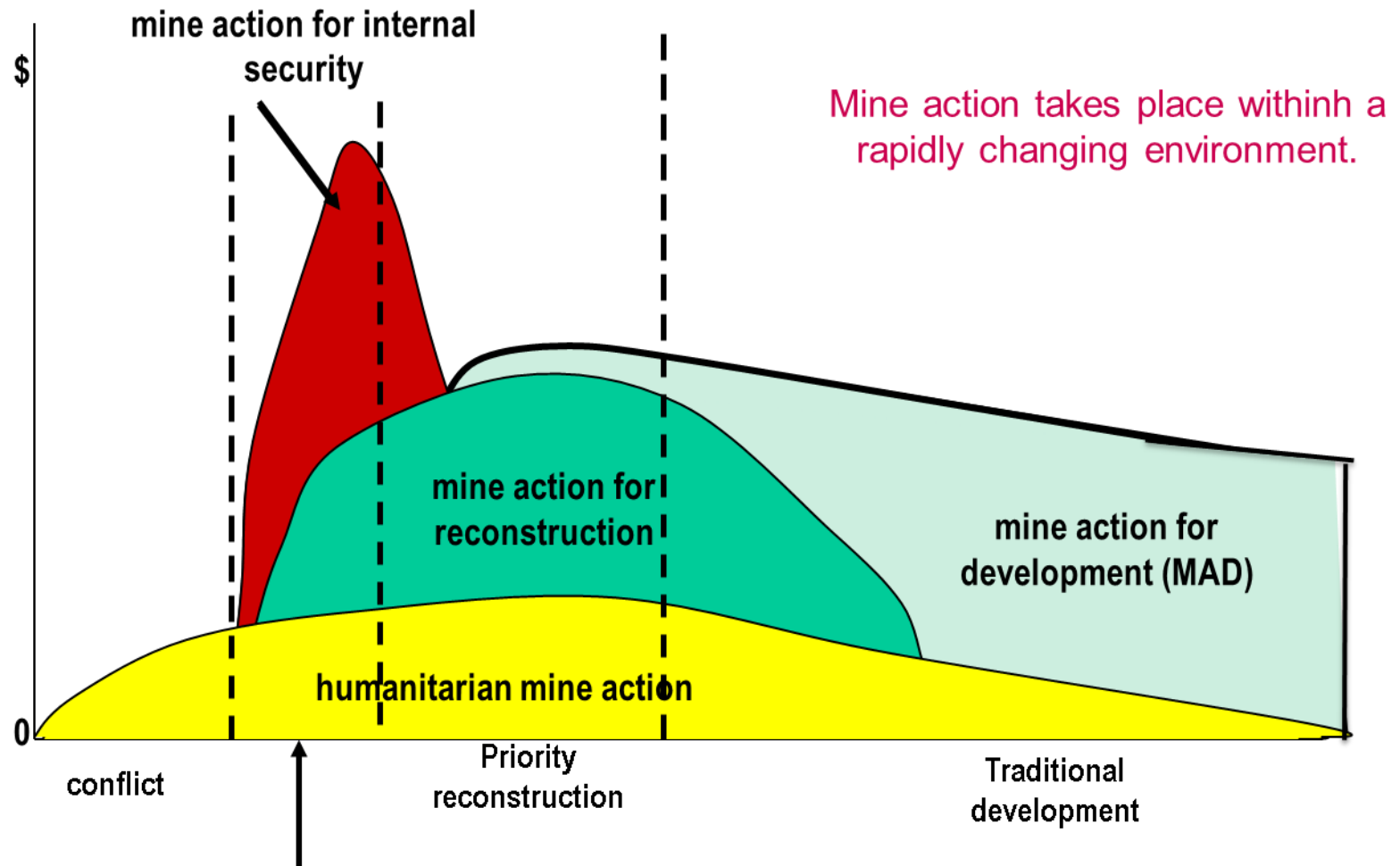


The consequences of ERW

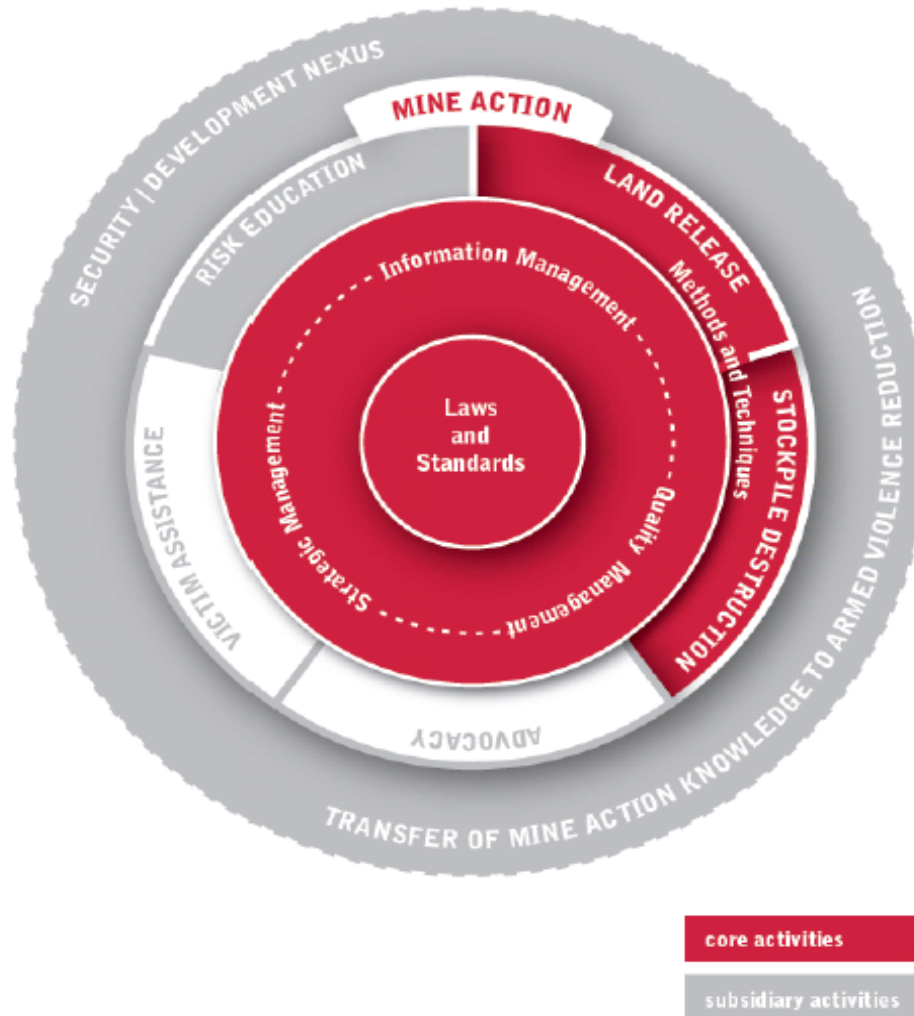
- Injures and kills civilians
- Restricts the access to first necessity goods such as water or food
- Impedes the development of a country



The GICHD is responsive at all stages



The scope of GICHD-activities



Strategic objectives of the GICHD

- **Global clarity on explosive hazards:** The GICHD supports partner countries with tools and information management practices to document the impact of explosives contamination and mine action.
- **High-performing national authorities and national ownership:** The GICHD advises and trains mine action authorities and actors to improve strategic and operational performance.

To sum up

- We are the first generation that has the resources to substantially contribute to peace and stability worldwide. We therefore have the responsibility to do so.
- The complexity of security threats is increasing. We therefore need comprehensive human security approaches.
- On the background of our long lasting experience Switzerland has the potential to become a security and peace exporter.
- To do so we have to co-operate internationally.