



## The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) launches new Cluster Munitions Identification Tool

**Lusaka, 11 September 2013** - On the occasion of the Fourth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) hosted by Zambia this week, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) will launch its web-based Cluster Munitions Identification Tool (CM ID Tool).

Cluster munitions are weapons which disperse explosive submunitions from a larger container. These do not always function as designed however, and the unexploded bomblets pose a hazard to civilians and their livelihoods long after conflict has ended. During their history of use, cluster bombs have killed and injured thousands of civilians and continue to do so today.

The CCM treaty prohibits cluster munitions and requires member states to address the humanitarian consequences they cause and report accurately on the cluster munitions in their possession. With the GICHD's CM ID Tool – a web-based system that enables the easy identification of cluster munitions – it is now possible for countries to assess whether or not these weapons fall within the categories banned under the CCM.

“Weapons within any one country can be difficult to identify because often they come from a variety of sources – purchased from several foreign governments or left behind when allies withdraw or conflicts end,” explains GICHD Advisor Erik Tollefsen. “Non-technical staff may not be able to easily differentiate between weapons that are classified as cluster munitions and those that are not. This could lead to uncertainty about which stockpiled weapons must be reported on.”

The CM ID Tool provides an easily accessible and searchable database using graphic navigation to identify cluster munitions based on weapon category. It shows types and combinations of explosive submunitions and cluster munitions, and helps identify remnants of bomblets and cluster munitions – such as nylon ribbons, parachutes, and metal fragments. It also provides a series of images of typical strike patterns of the most common cluster munition types.

Please see link to the CM ID tool: <http://cmid.gichd.org>

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*The GICHD thanks its donors and partners: the Governments of Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, Norway, Spain and Sweden for providing technical data on cluster munitions; the Governments of Japan, Norway and Switzerland for supporting this project financially; Ballard Chalmers, Fenix Insight, Golden West Humanitarian Foundation, Fort Enterprise and Human Rights Watch for their assistance.*

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### About the GICHD

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) is an international expert organisation based in Switzerland that works to eliminate mines, explosive remnants of war and other explosive hazards. By undertaking research, developing standards and disseminating knowledge, the GICHD supports capacity development in mine-affected countries. It works with national and local authorities to help them plan, coordinate, implement, monitor and evaluate mine action programmes. The GICHD also contributes to the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and other relevant instruments of international law. The GICHD follows the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence.