

Evaluation of the Humanitarian Demining Programme in Chile

Ian Mansfield Director of Operations

Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

Ian Mansfield



> Background

> Based on a request from the Government of Chile and the Chilean National Demining Commission (Comisión Nacional de Desminado – CNAD), the GICHD conducted an evaluation of Chile's humanitarian demining programme from 8-22 June 2009





> Mission

- > Assess the mine clearance and quality management process planned by CNAD and implemented by the Chilean Armed Forces
- > Identify and address issues that can have a negative impact on the mine clearance operations, shortcomings as well as parallels drawn to lessons learnt from mine action programmes with similarities to those conditions found in Chile
- > Evaluate the national training capacity (the Army School of Engineering) for operational staff



> Main findings

> The way the humanitarian demining programme is organised suggests a professional organisation with very competent personnel. CNAD seems to have good command and overview of the progress of work and of the challenges ahead



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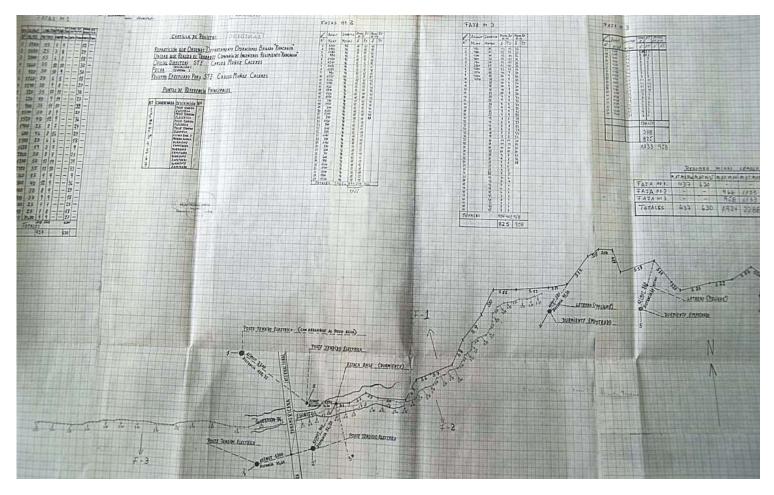
> Main findings cont'd

- > Open and professional attitude among all personnel encountered in the programme
- > Overall, the programme is well equipped
- > Safety is always of the highest importance





> Excellent minefield records



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> The role of the military in humanitarian demining

- > The cooperation between CNAD and the Army Engineer School seems to be good
- > The Government of Chile is fortunate to be able to draw from resources from the Armed Forces
- > The personnel involved in the humanitarian demining programme have been specially trained for this task and seem to be very competent
- > The challenge is to utilise the Armed Forces as effectively as possible

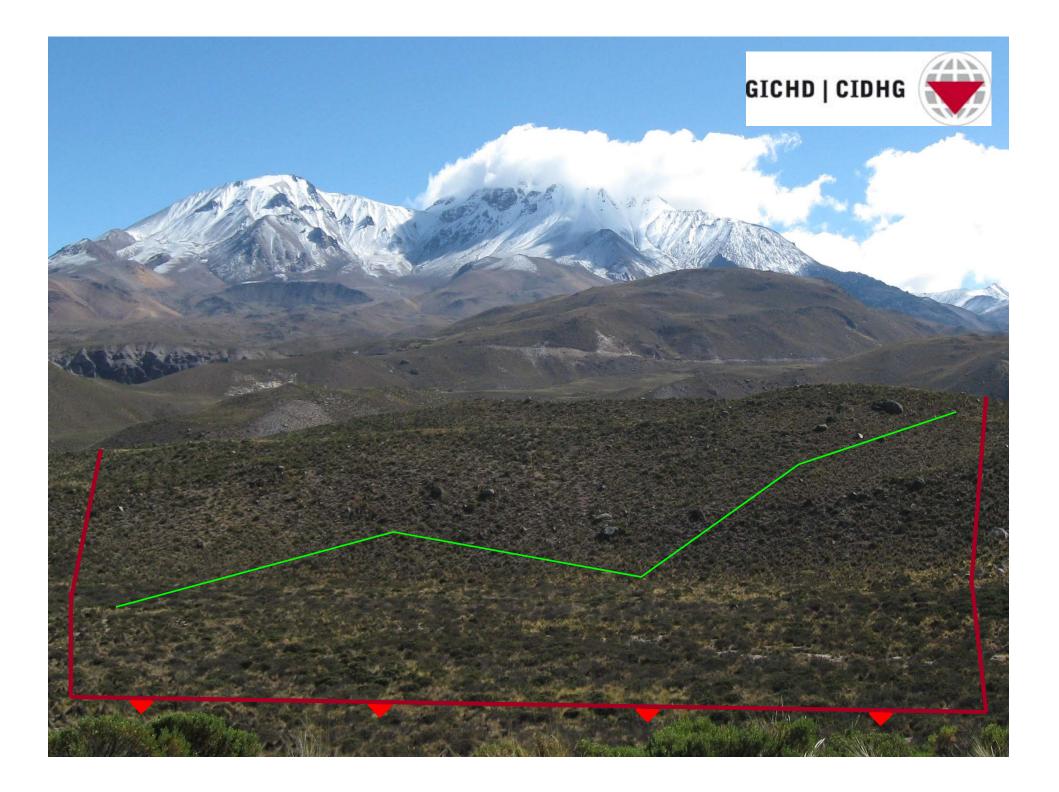


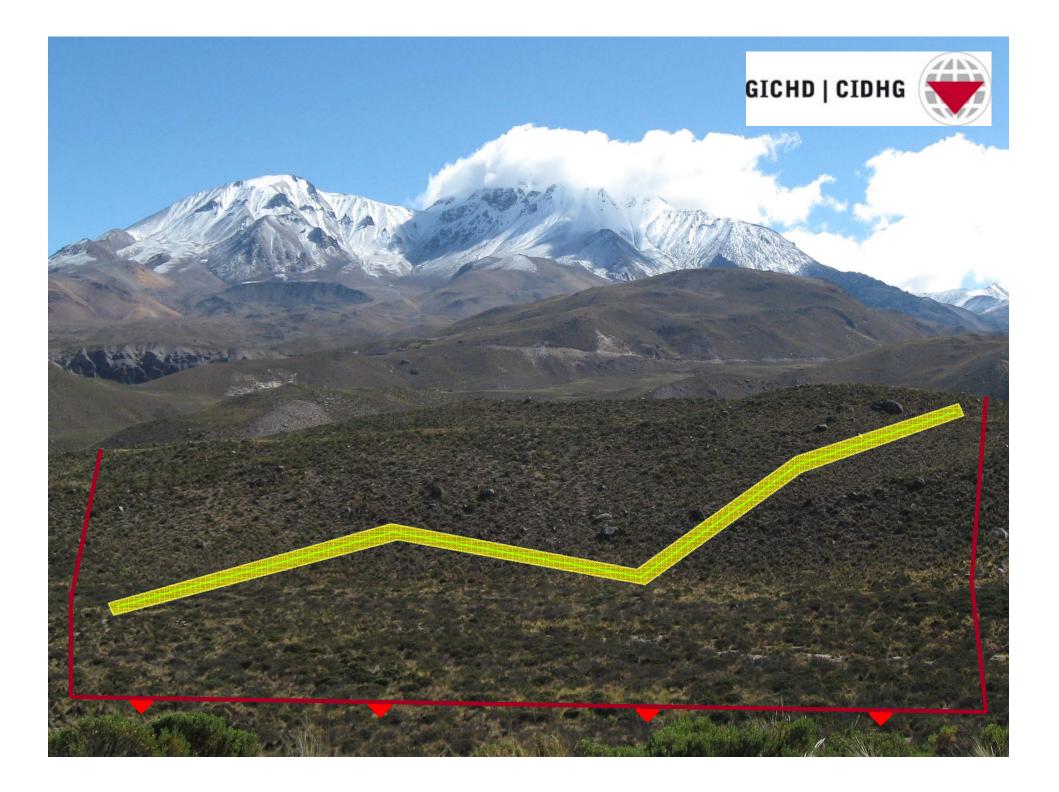
> Conclusions and recomendations (1)

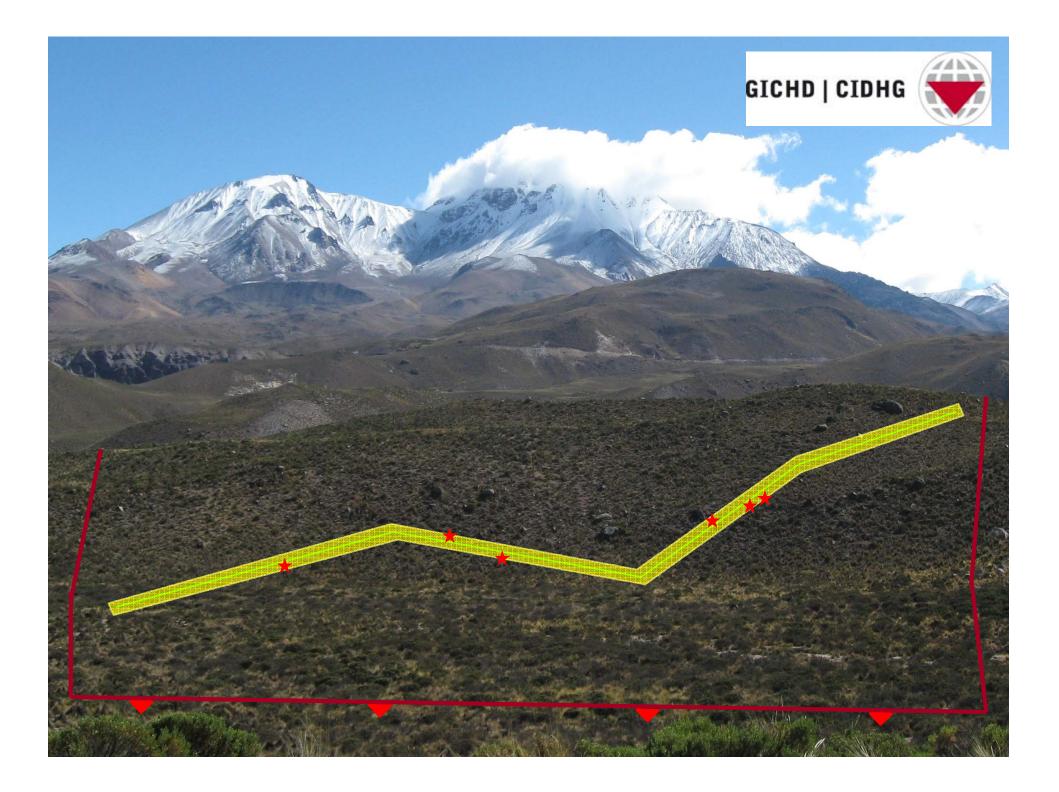
- > Through better survey and information management, clearance activities could be focussed towards clearance of the minefields in accordance with the minefield records
- > Assessment should be made and targeted search should 'fade outwards' from the last recorded position of the missing mine
- > "Inside out" methodology when operating with accurate minefield records

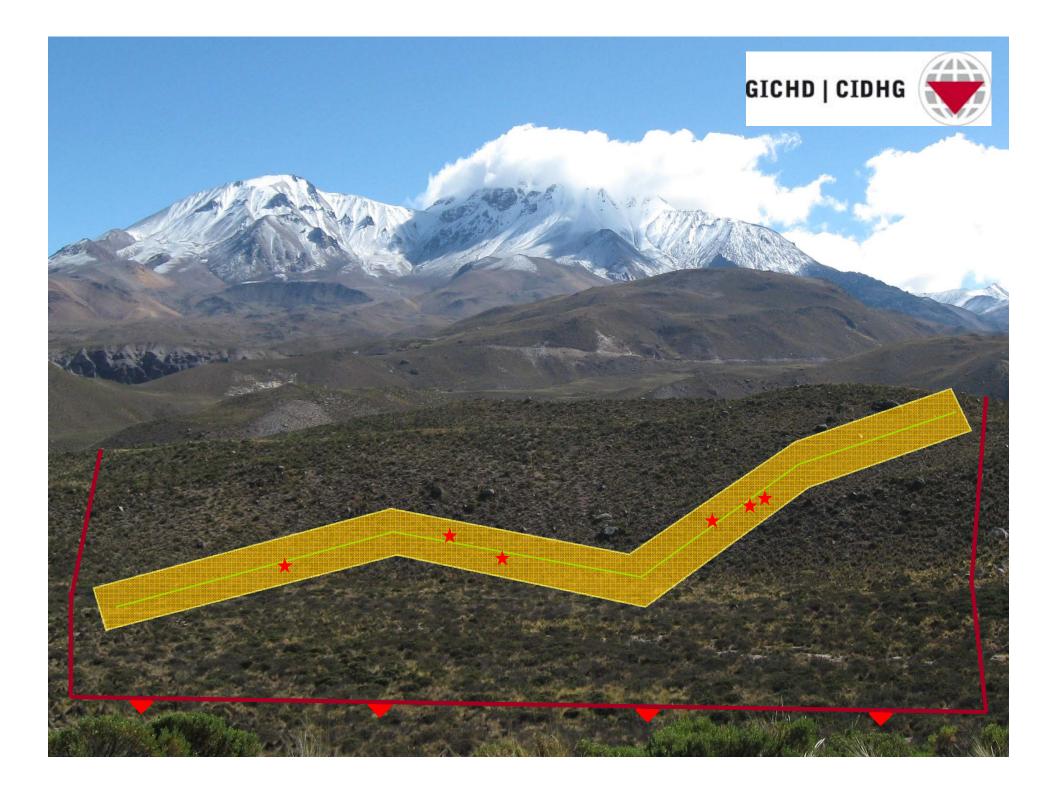


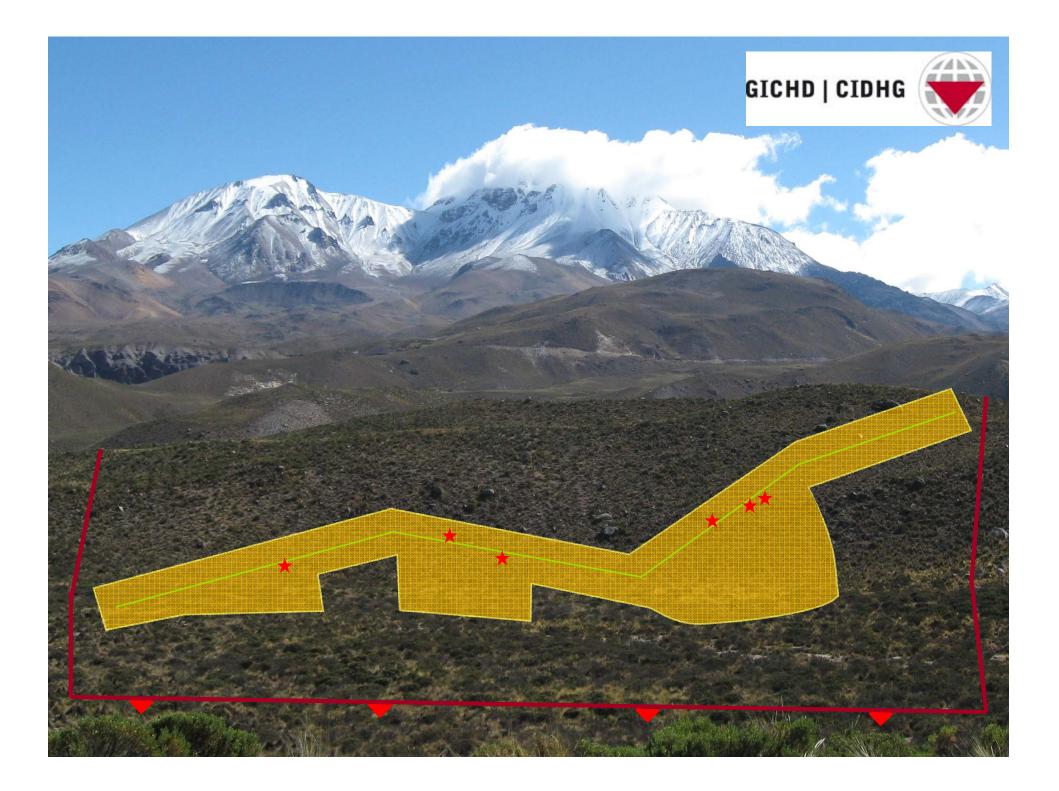


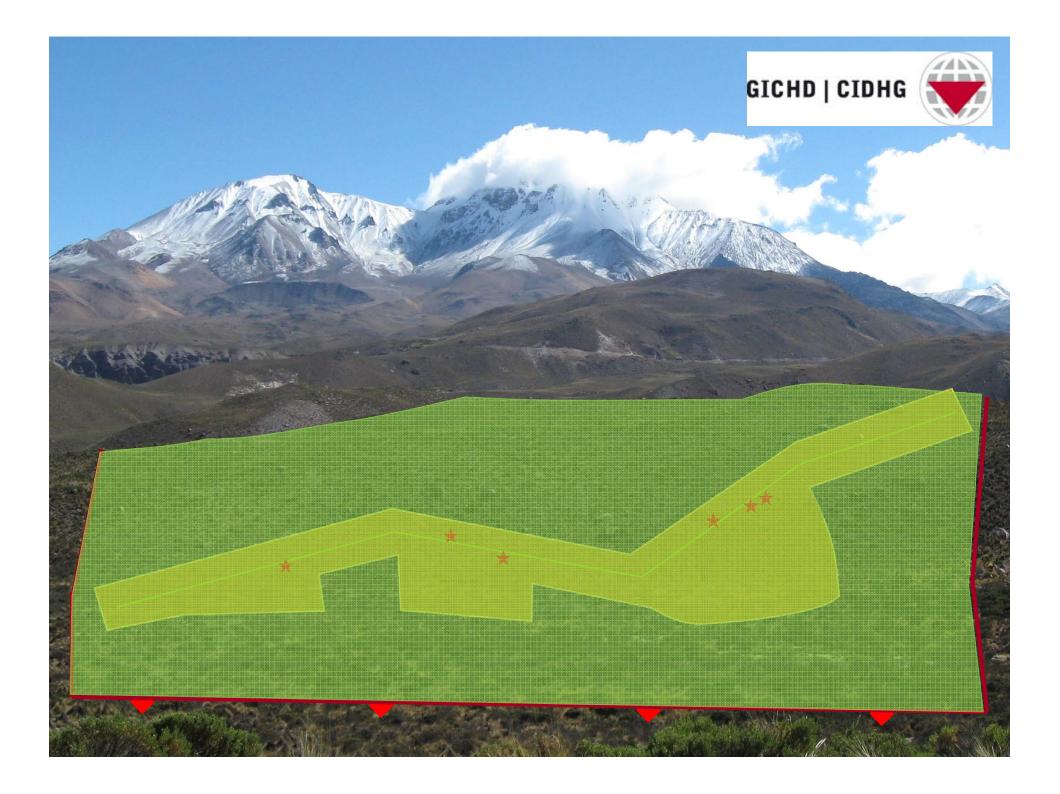


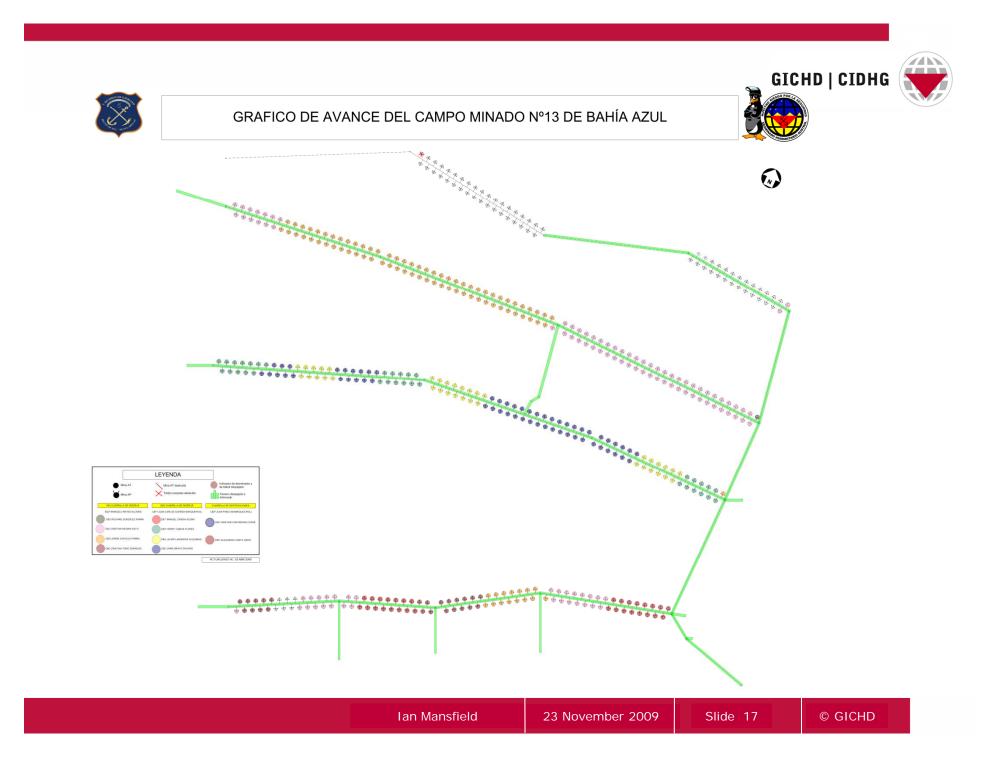














> Conclusions and recomendations (2)

- > After all ground likely to contain mines has been cleared, the rest of the land within the perimeter of the suspect hazardous area (SHA) should be released
- It is of critical importance that CNAD develops a national policy that allows for land release after clearance of landmines has been undertaken in an area



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> Conclusions and recomendations (3)

- > The current certification procedures of demining processes are complicated
- > Quality management in mine action is based on quality assurance (QA) of the process and quality control (QC) of end product
- > The certification process uses too many resources relative to the extra assurance it gives CNAD and is de facto the main constraint on increased productivity in the humanitarian demining programme



> Conclusions and recomendations (4)

- > The humanitarian demining programme in Chile needs more civil engineering type machinery
- > Excavators and front end loaders should be leased or purchased to speed up clearance. Armouring of the cabin and operator training can be done in country
- > Excavating and loading machines should be matched with industrial sifting machines

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> Conclusions and recomendations (5)

- > A centrally-managed survey component should be established
- > The gathering, management and processing of available data are key to a new survey
- > A systematic approach to the existing records, incorporating lessons learnt over the past few years, would move the humanitarian demining programme forward
- > This would enable CNAD to make a detailed and accurate proposal for an extension request for Protocol 5 of the APMBC
- > Such a survey component would probably reduce the cost of subsequent mine clearance by releasing significant areas of SHA through non-technical survey



> Questions?







Ian Mansfield

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