AN INITIAL STUDY INTO
MINE ACTION AND IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES
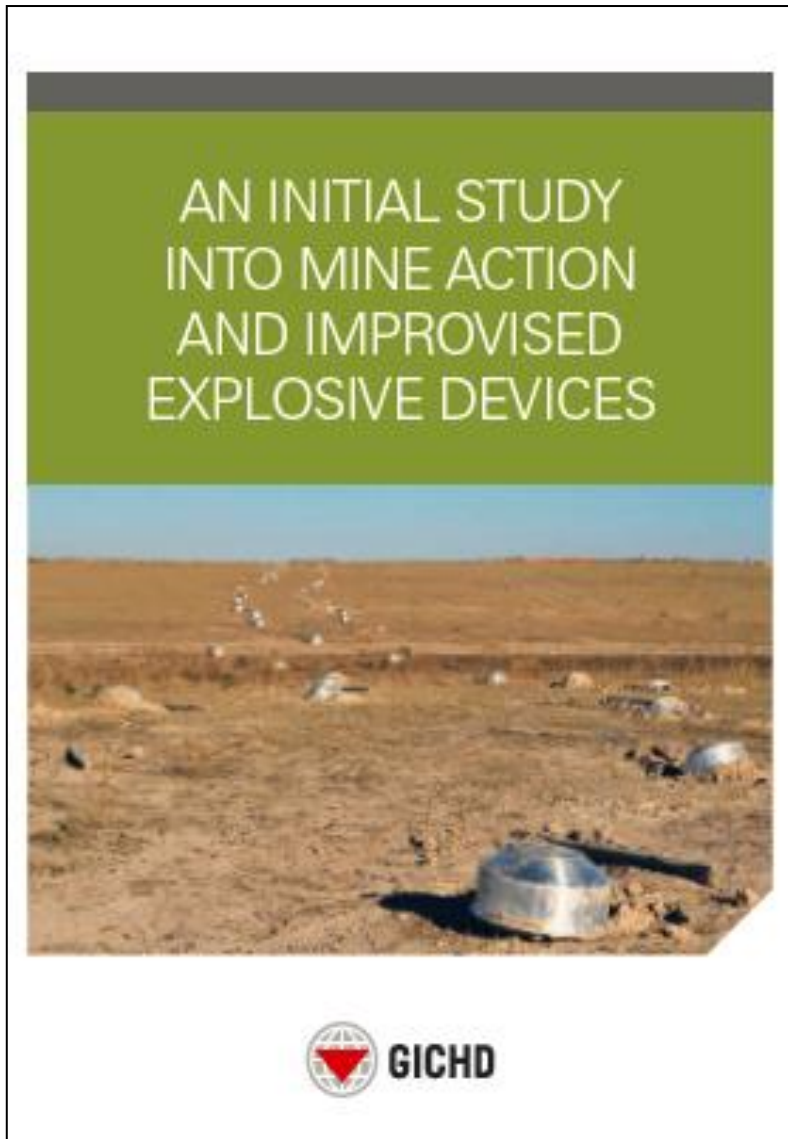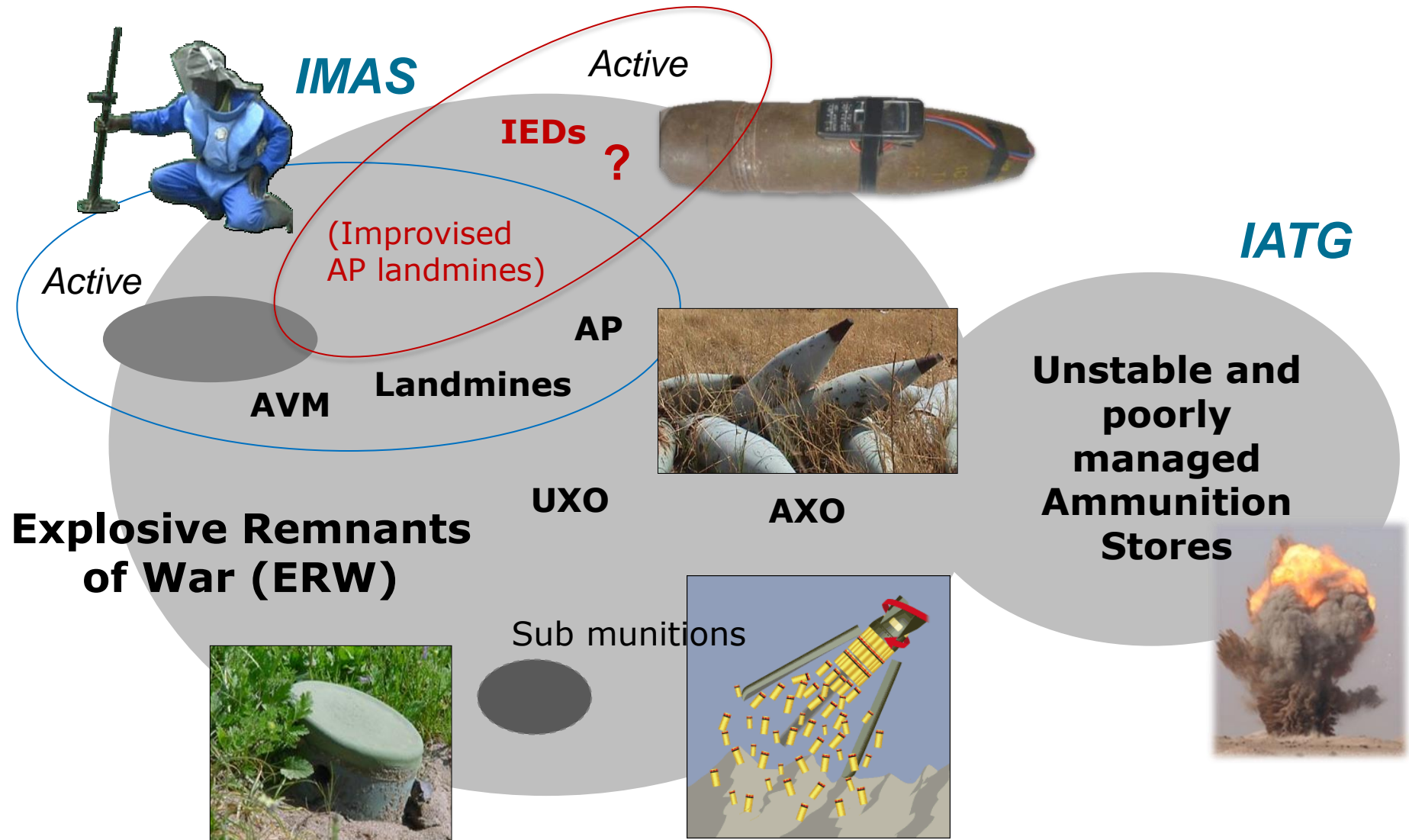
AN INITIAL STUDY INTO MINE ACTION AND IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

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- Increasing humanitarian imperative:
  - Iraq, Syria, Colombia

- Current humanitarian response increasing

- Significant areas of uncertainty
  - Operators
  - Authorities
  - Donors

- Requirement to review Standards

Explosive Hazards that threaten civilians

IMAS

Active

IEDs **?**

Active

(Improvised AP landmines)

IATG

AP Landmines

AVM

Unstable and poorly managed Ammunition Stores

Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)

UXO **AXO**

Sub munitions

C-IED / IEDD Operations

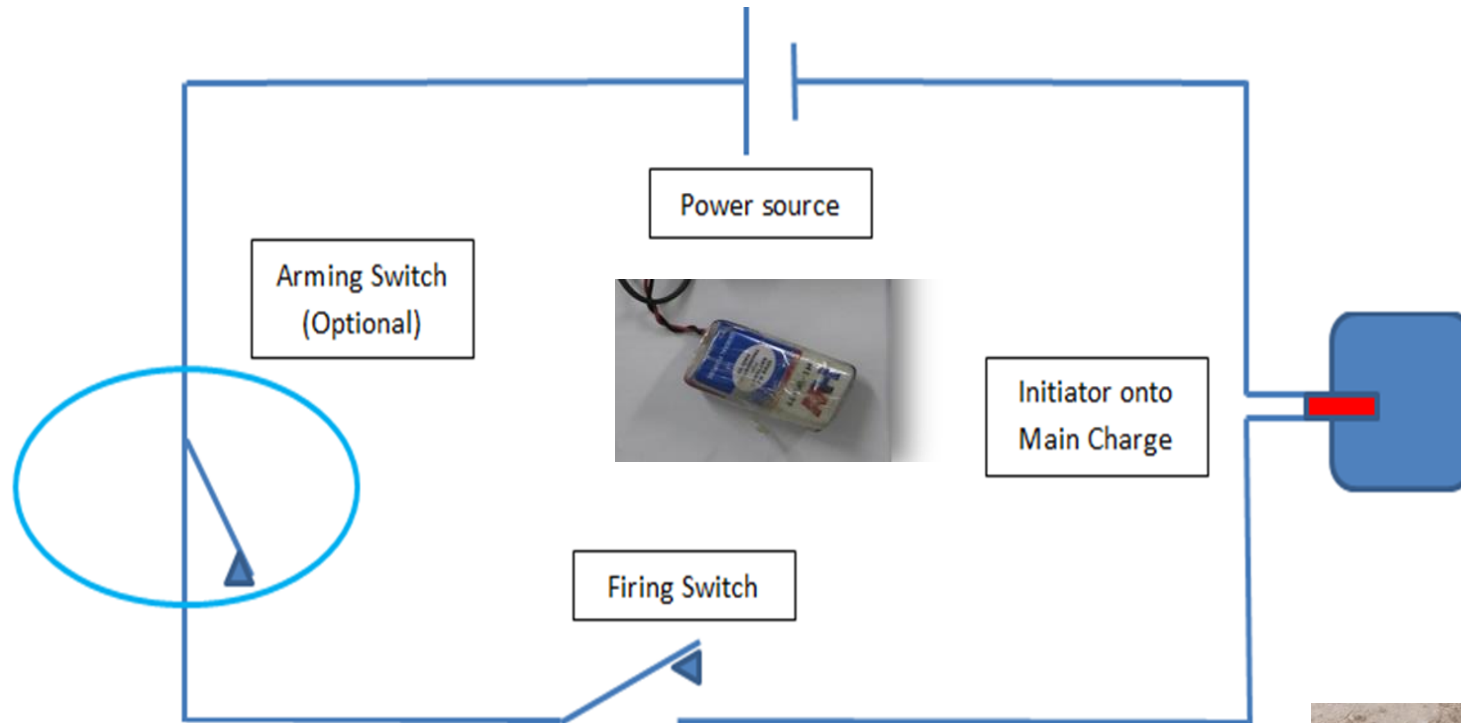**C-IED** is an activity for a nation's security forces. It seeks to identify:

- Whose funding IED production
- Tracking where components came from,
- Who made the IED, who planted it etc.
- And neutralising the devices

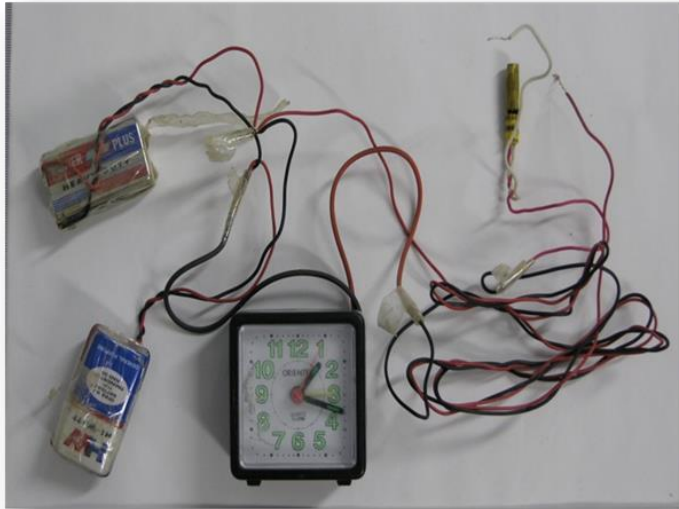**IEDD** concerns neutralising the device only

What does an IED consist of?

Power source

Arming Switch (Optional)

Initiator onto Main Charge

Firing Switch
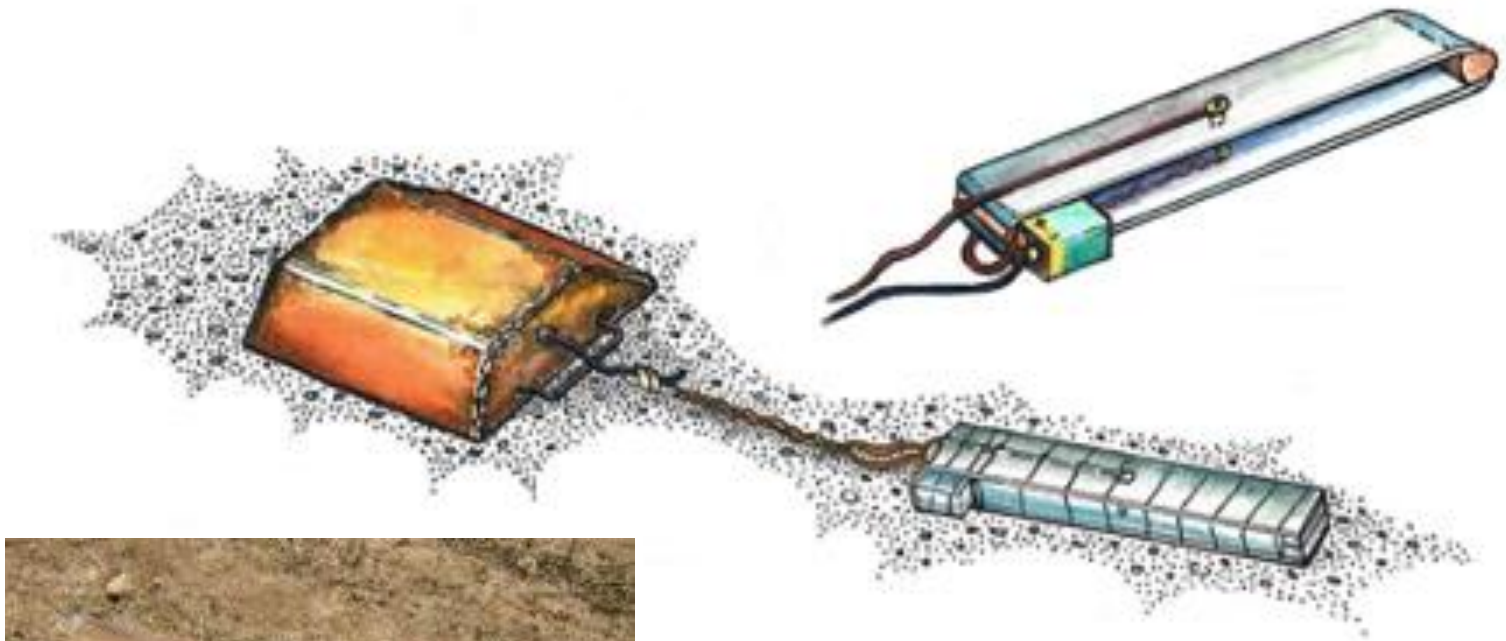
Time delay IEDs

Projected IEDs

Command IEDs

Suicide (belts or VB-IED)

Victim activated (Improvised Mines)

Single Pressure Plate Activated Mine

95% of devices found to date by NGO and commercial operators in Iraq

Improvised device by type - MAG North East Syria
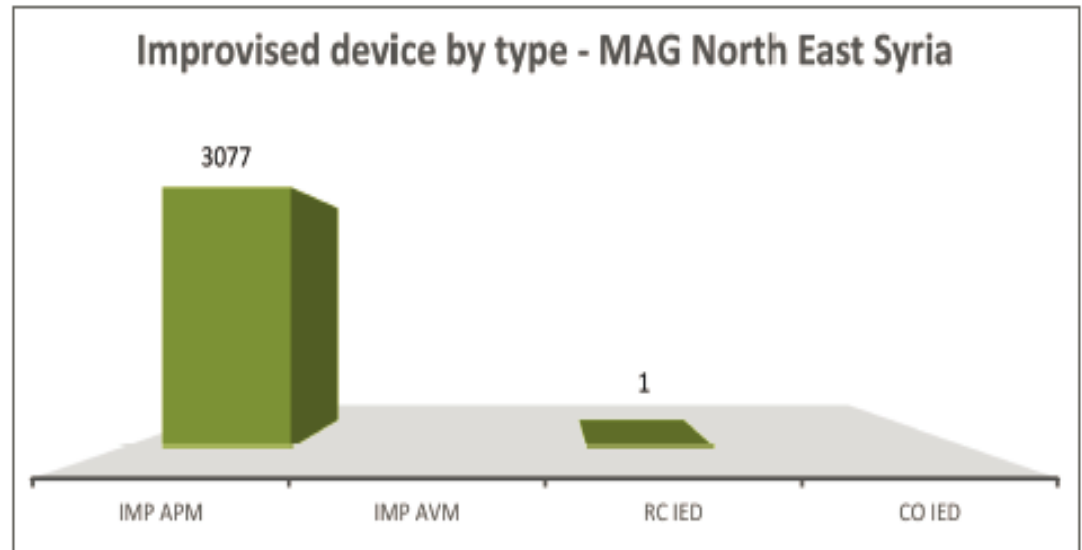
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IMP APM   IMP AVM   RC IED   CO IED

Figure 8. Improvised devices by type, as cleared by MAG in north eastern Syria to October 2016 (image credit: GICHD).

Improvised device by type - MAG Northern Iraq

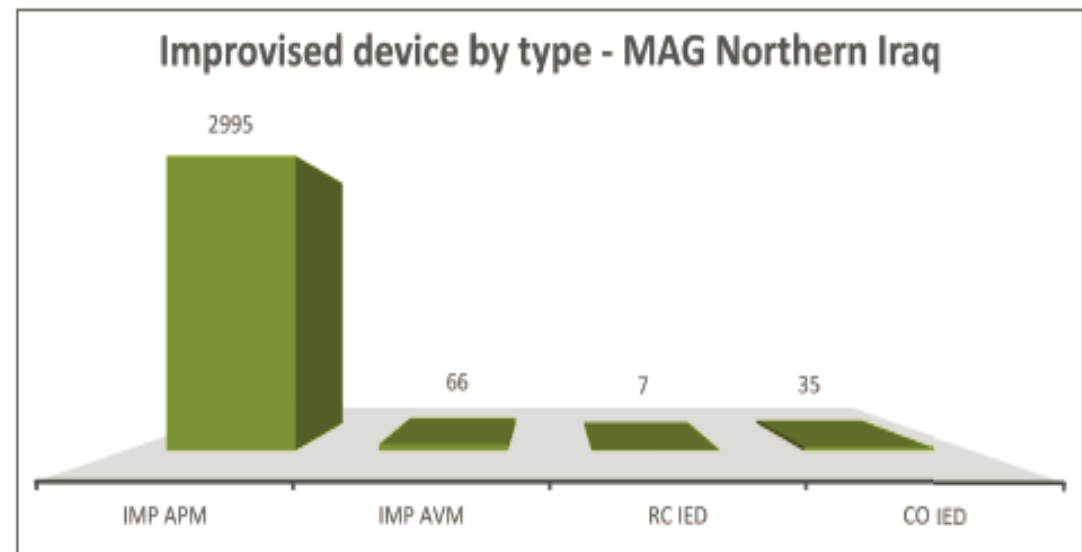2995

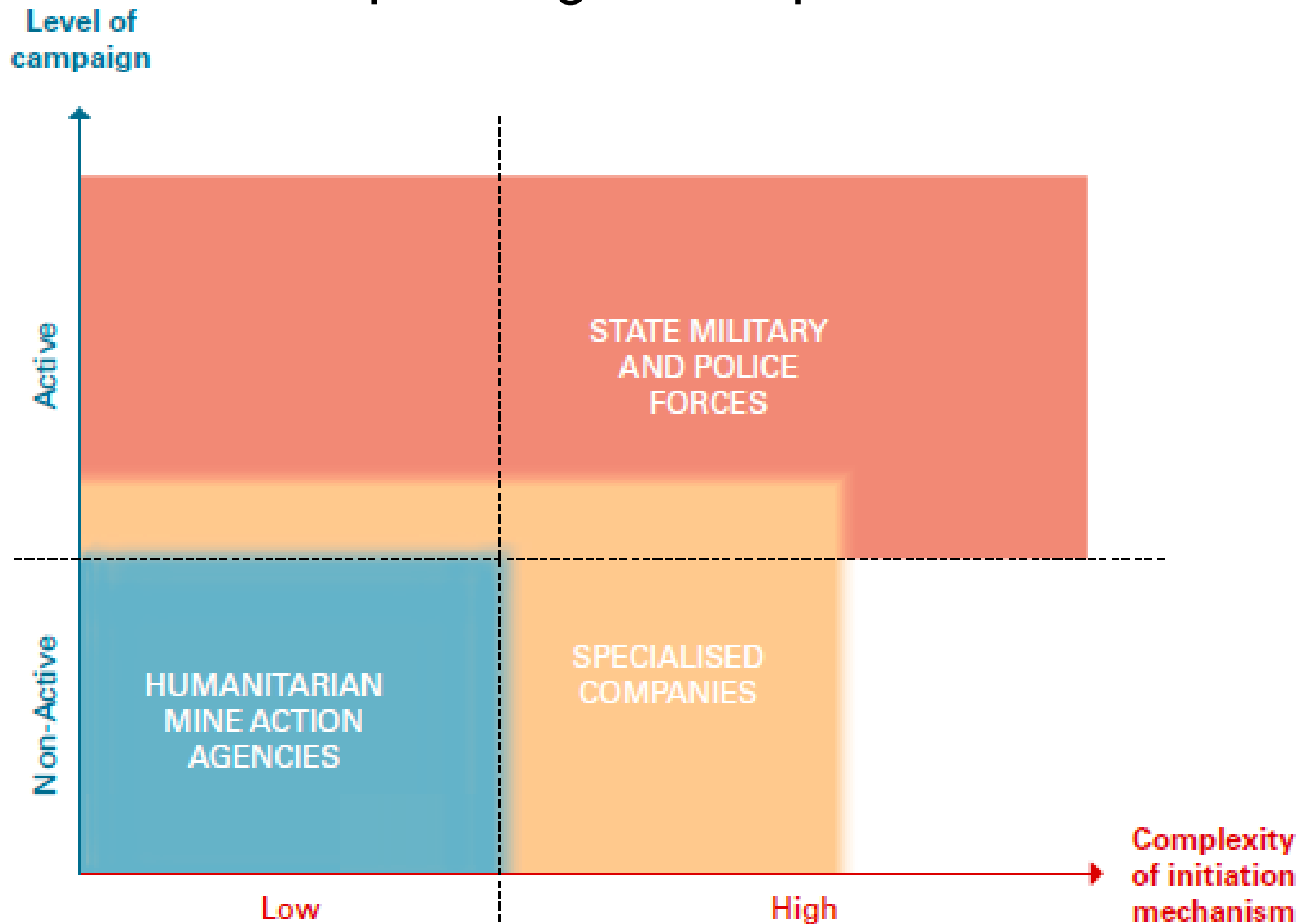66   7   35

IMP APM   IMP AVM   RC IED   CO IED
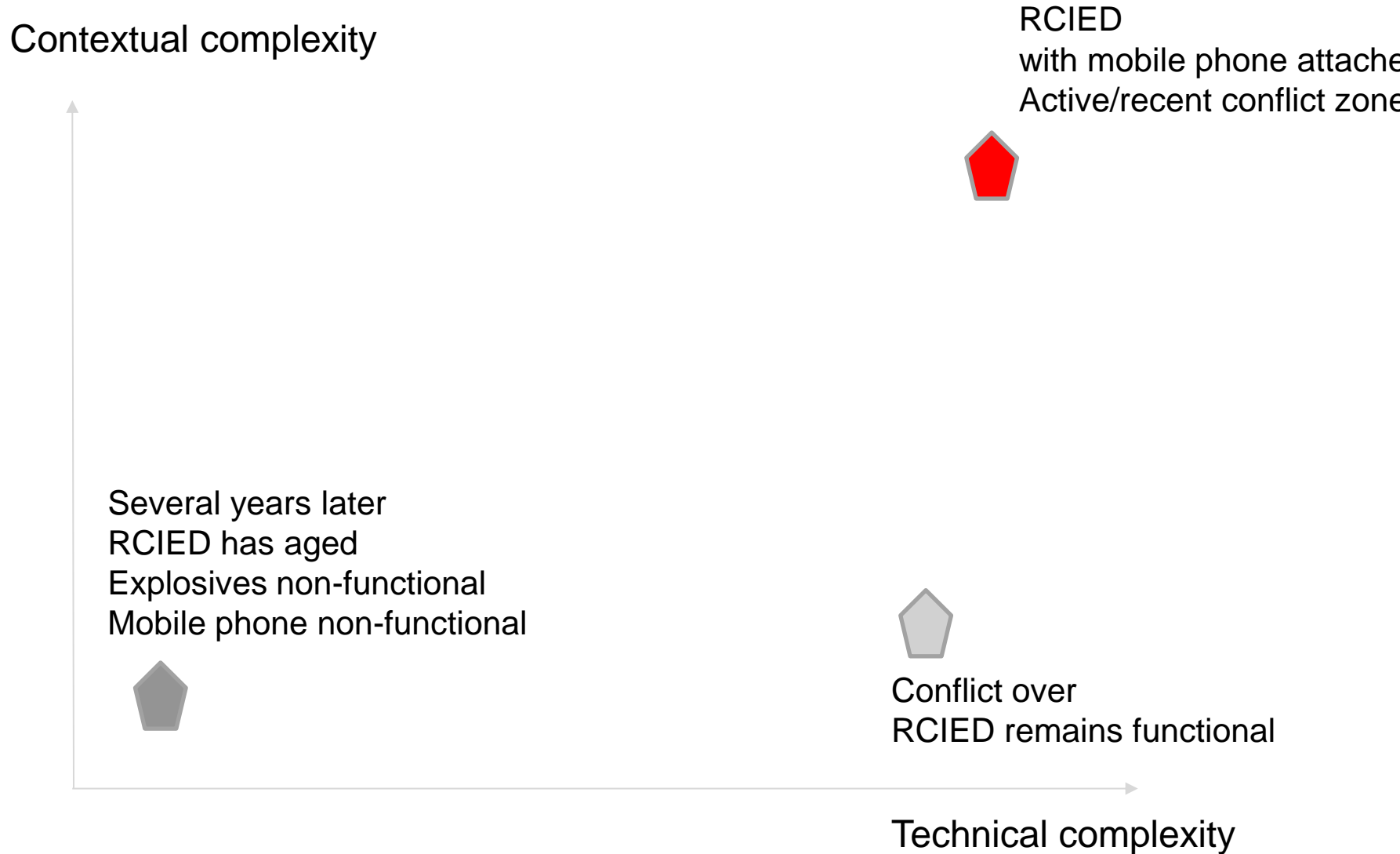
Figure 7 Improvised devices by type, as cleared by MAG in northern Iraq to October 2016 (image credit: GICHD).

Operating Envelope

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Contextual complexity

RCIED
with mobile phone attache[d]
Active/recent conflict zone[s]

Several years later
RCIED has aged
Explosives non-functional
Mobile phone non-functional

Conflict over
RCIED remains functional

Technical complexity

Contextual complexity

Western Mosul
February 2017

Antioquia Colombia 2017
(10 year old)

Western Mosul 2020?

Technical complexity
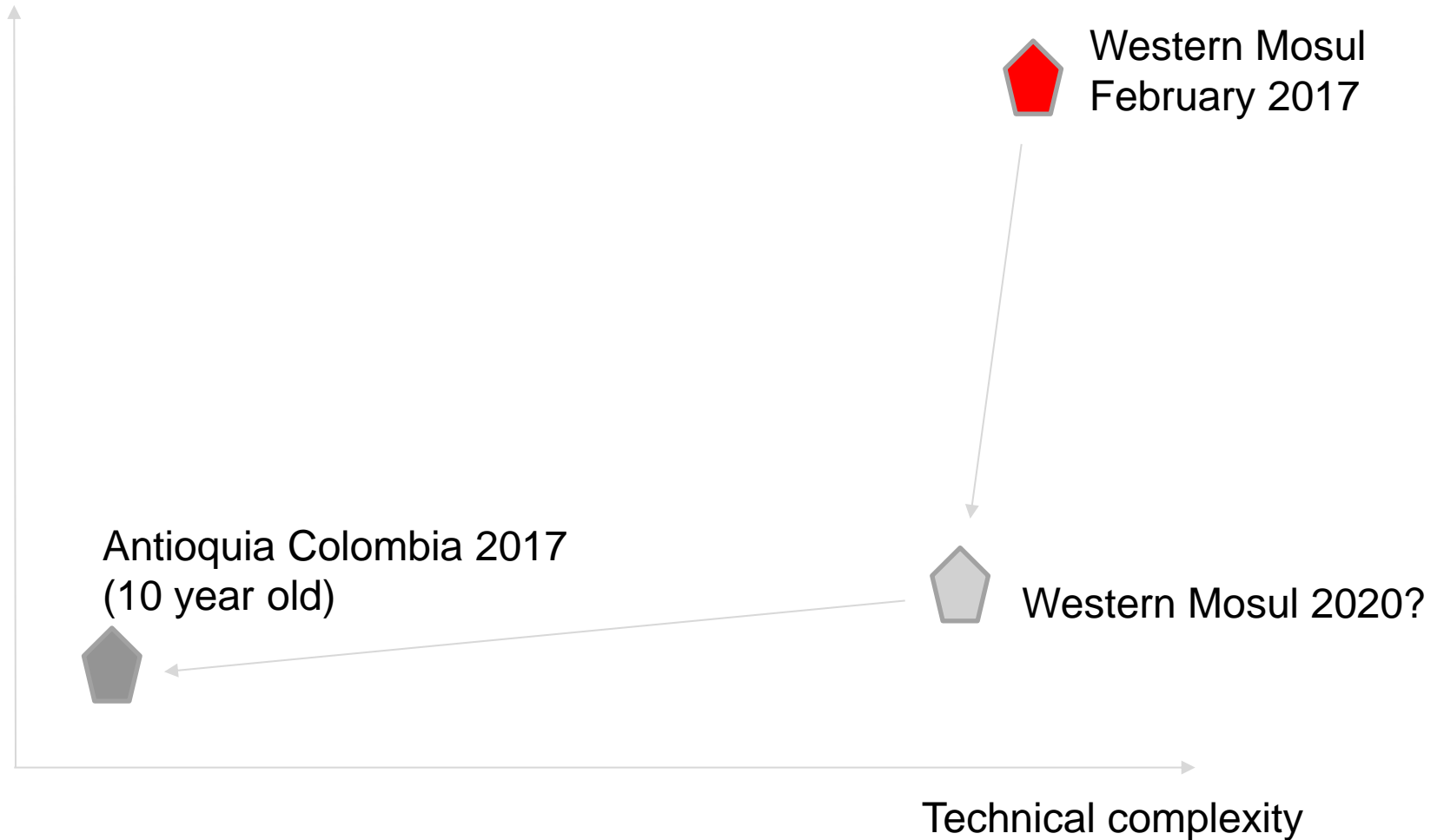
Key points from the Study

- Limitations of IED/IEDD language and terminology

- Stakeholder uncertainty exists across many aspects of the topic

- Humanitarian IEDD mostly involves the application of the same underlying management systems and principles as in traditional HMA

- The IED environment is less forgiving

- Need to better define competence and equipment requirements for IEDD

Key principles

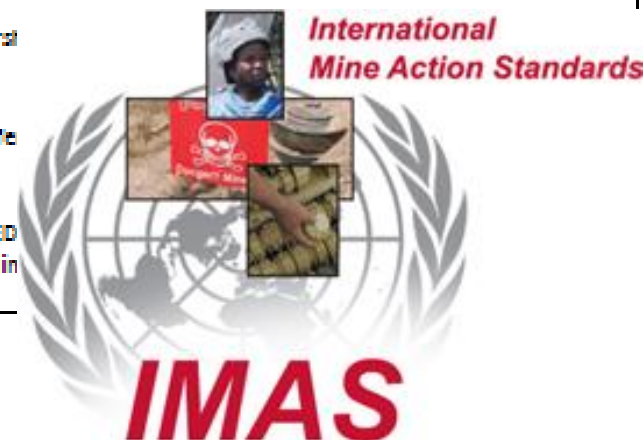Improvised devices show more variations than industrial manufactured weapons.

Different designs are employed in different areas and change over time.

- Information Management of the highest order is essential

- Risk Management - constantly, using data and results of analysis, across all aspects of operations

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Summary of proposed/possible adjustments to IMAS to reflect relevance/applicability to IEDs and IEDD

IMAS	!	Topic	Adjustments
01.10	H	Guide for the application of IMAS	IMAS to be reviewed in its entirety by the RB
02.10	H	Guide for the establishment of a mine action programme	**Main body** 4.1 note possibility of improvised, artisanal and locally manufactured landmines 5.1 GMAA – should include improvised aspects where relevant 5.3 increased planning demand when wholly or partly improvised weapons are present 5.5 Personnel – reflect technical nature of mines/ERW that may be encountered, including IEDs where applicable 5.5.1 Training – demands of IEDs, CM/SM, etc. 6.3 MAC – potentially expanded stakeholder group members(etc.) 8. possible need for training aids 11.2 MAC responsibilities – accreditation implications of diffe **Annex D** D.4 a new brief subsection for IEDs and IEDD D.4.2 highlight essential function of IM when dealing with IED D4.6 emphasise the use of incoming data to drive continual in environment
03.10	M	Guide to the procurement of mine action equipment	Consider minor edits to: 17.1 mention of IEDs and specific technical challenges 18.1 User community aspects of IEDD 18.4 Military – functions relating to IEDs Annex B – additional input on technology for IEDD Also consider: New subsection on 'rapid changes in the operating environment', such as those associated with IEDs and IEDD Addressing funding and the importance of addressing real needs rather than 'nice to have' Revising the introduction (which is out of date in tone and content generally) and reflect procurement implications of action against different weapon types, including those partly or wholly improvised
03.20	L	The procurement process	Could consider adjusting the section on project management to reflect application of the procurement process when speed is of the essence and when responding to fast evolving threats
03.30	L	Guide to the research of	Analysis of constraining factors – inclusion of IEDs where applicable

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