

# EORE AG

## Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group

### Minutes of the EORE AG Meeting

**Date:** 13 February 2020  
**Time:** 08:15 – 09:30  
**Location:** GICHD office, Geneva, Switzerland

**Co-Chairs:** Hugues Laurence (UNICEF) & Sebastian Kasack (MAG)  
**Secretary:** Kaitlin Hodge (GICHD)

### Summary of Action Points

Action	Responsible	Suggested Deadline
<b>Workplan Activities</b>		
Provide feedback on the draft advocacy strategy to the EORE AG Secretary, after which point an electronic vote will be conducted.	All members	6 March
Share final terms of reference for the EORE task group of the Regional Durable Solutions Working Group once finalised, and organize a call in March as a final sounding board on the way forward.	UNHCR + Secretary	March 2020
Circulate revised version 2.0 of the Standardising Beneficiary Definitions guidance to EORE AG members for feedback, once finalised.	HALO, MAG & NPA	March 2020
Continue consultations on the EORE Essentials E-Learning Module, with plan to ultimately hold a vote on the concept note on the margins of the APMBC Intersessionals.	GICHD	May 2020
Send any thoughts on the AG's approach to the CCM review process to Matthieu Laruelle.	All members	Ongoing
<b>Information Sharing</b>		
Share MAG, NPA and HI's <a href="#">EWIPA paper</a> on UXO contamination with all AG members	Secretary	28 February
Engage all interested members, including IOM, in consultative process for the EWIPA political declaration. *The Secretary is always available to forward documents or information to all EORE AG members on request.	All members working on EWIPA	Before the final round on 23 March
<b>Structure and working procedures of the EORE AG</b>		
Ensure coordination on future meetings to ensure there is overlap on important EORE events.	Co-chairs, secretary & partners	Ongoing

## Participants

### Core members:

- DCA: Lasse Marinus Joergensen (alternate)
- FSD: Alex van Roy (alternate)
- GICHD: Matthieu Laruelle
- HALO Trust: Kim Fletcher
- HI: Emmanuel Sauvage (alternate)
- ICBL-CMC: Ruth Bottomley (alternate)
- NPA: Rasmus Sandvoll Weschke

### Associate members:

- IOM: Yitna Getachew
- UNHCR: Machtelt de Vriese (alternate)

### Observers:

- HALO Trust: Matthew Todd
- MA AoR: Christelle Loupforest

## Detailed Minutes

### 1. Welcome/introduction

Co-Chairs welcomed guests to the meeting and invited each person to quickly introduce themselves. Thanks were given to GICHD for hosting.

### 2. IMAS Review Board developments

Hugues informed the EORE AG that the revised IMAS 12.10 on Explosive Ordnance Risk Education was discussed at the most recent meeting of the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) Review Board (RB) on 10 February 2020. It represents the most comprehensive review of this standard since 2009. The 22-month revision process was led by the working group on risk education within the IMAS RB, with inputs from the EORE AG and 10 members of the IMAS RB.

The final draft was generally supported with just a few suggested amendments, and no questions were raised about the revised terminology (EORE, in place of MRE). A question raised for debate was whether accreditation should be a systematic obligation for all countries. Consensus was that the language on accreditation should be strengthened but not made mandatory given that not all countries have the requisite structures in place. As the next step, the IMAS RB Secretary will make the requested changes and circulate for electronic vote by the end of April.

### 3. Report back from ARMAC regional meeting on EORE

The ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) recently organised a [Regional Consultative Meeting on Integrated Approaches to Mine Risk Education](#), where the EORE AG was represented by Matthieu (GICHD).

With funding from Japan, ARMAC recently completed a one-year study on "Integrated Approaches to Mine Risk Education in ASEAN Member States" in five affected states: Cambodia, Lao PDR,

Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. The meeting's objective was to present and discuss the results of this study and provide the opportunity for any additional inputs or recommendations on the final document and its recommendations. Matthieu, on behalf of the AG, provided input to help ensure linkages were made with global priorities and challenges and that recommendations were in line with IMAS and good practice.

The meeting also laid the groundwork to discuss future cooperative arrangements in the region on EORE. In particular, ARMAC remains eager to follow and link up with EORE developments at global level. At the end of the meeting, ARMAC launched its new [Magazine 2020](#) entirely dedicated to EORE (including an article on the EORE AG) and agreed on future communication channels and knowledge sharing platforms for EORE.

#### 4. **Update on the EORE task force of the Regional Durable Solutions Working Group (RDSWG) in the context of the Syria+ response**

Due to a last minute conflict, the representative of UNHCR from the RDSWG was not able to make the meeting, so a written update was provided.

With support from UNMAS, the RDSWG has named EORE as an area of increased focus in 2020. Terms of reference (ToR) and specific deliverables for the EORE task force should be finalised by the end of February, with a focus on general awareness raising for counselling, targeted training and information provision on various areas. EORE AG members requested the ToR be shared when possible **[action]**. UNHCR offered to participate in an ad hoc call in March for interested AG members, after the above is finalised but before work commences, as a final sounding board on the way forward. There was strong interest among the AG for such a call, so the EORE AG Secretary should see to its organisation once the ToR for the task force are ready **[action]**.

Also related to the Syria+ response, Sebastian highlighted that the UNDP project for Syrian refugees in the context of return (see [EORE AG Meeting Minutes of 27 November 2019](#)) will begin in March. The first six months will be a design/research phase. While led from Lebanon, there is the possibility for involvement of other countries in the region.

The EORE AG welcomes the news of these two developments and is happy to hear that there is coordination between them to ensure maximisation of synergies and avoidance of duplication. At the same time, it is unfortunate that a meeting with stakeholders of the UNDP project overlapped with the EORE AG meeting, preventing members from participating in both. It is requested that overlap in important EORE meetings be prevented in the future, in the interest of all **[action]**.

#### 5. **Update on the standardisation of beneficiary definitions**

Providing guidance on recording EORE activities, including on standardised methodologies to calculate EORE beneficiaries, is part of the EORE AG's workplan for 2020, led by HALO Trust, HI, MAG, NPA and UNMAS. In this domain, Sebastian informed the AG about progress on the standardisation of beneficiary definitions.

A meeting of stakeholders was held on 10 February to discuss the revision of HALO Trust, MAG and NPA's earlier guidance on Standardising Beneficiary Definitions ("version 2.0"). Turnout was strong, with representation from NGOs, the UN, ICRC, GICHD – from headquarters and the field. Sebastian noted that one of the most significant inputs generated from the meeting was that the current definition of indirect beneficiaries needs rethinking. Up until now, most organisations have

categorised those reached through mass or digital media as *indirect* beneficiaries, despite being direct recipients of EORE. It was recommended by the stakeholders present for this meeting that the different forms of EORE be separated out (e.g. face-to-face risk education vs public information dissemination) and that the former indirect beneficiaries be reclassified as direct beneficiaries of public information campaigns.

Hugues noted that it would take time to reflect such a change within the UN M&E mechanism, but that it is a change worth making if the sector is in agreement. He also emphasised the need to invest in measuring both quality and coverage, including through public information. Open questions remain about how beneficiaries of public information campaigns can be calculated that will need to be still considered. It was also mentioned that in some cases output monitoring (e.g. number of messages sent, billboards posted, etc.) may be more useful than unreliable estimates of beneficiary numbers.

In the coming months, HALO Trust, MAG and NPA plan to revise the Standardising Beneficiary Definitions guidance version 2.0 based on the comments received and circulate to key stakeholders, including the EORE AG, for review and endorsement **[action]**.

## 6. EORE Essentials Concept Note

Matthieu introduced a concept note for an e-learning module called EORE Essentials with the aim of offering a grounding in the core principles of effective and ethical EORE. The development of this concept note by the GICHD has been part of its commitment in the 2020 EORE AG workplan to explore possibilities and make recommendations for increasing the reach of training opportunities.

To date, the GICHD has reached out to about 15 organisations and national authorities to assess whether the tool is needed and collect comments on the proposed content and form. The responses have so far been unanimously positive about the need, and feedback on the content has been incorporated in the current draft of the concept note shared with the AG. Matthieu further noted that the GICHD has just launched an e-learning course on gender and diversity in mine action, and the AG would be able to benefit from the experience and scenarios developed through that tool. While the GICHD does not yet have funding for this project, endorsement from the AG could support fundraising efforts.

There were no objections from AG members to the development of a digital training on EORE, and the only comment received was whether the behavioural change triangle's shape should be reconsidered due to resemblance of the public health pyramid. It was agreed that consultations will continue, including through a virtual group discussion, and a vote ultimately held on the margins of the APMBC intersessionals (30 June-02 July in Geneva) **[action]**. Following this, the establishment of a task team working specifically on the content and development may be considered.

## 7. Advocacy Strategy

Kaitlin presented a draft advocacy strategy for the EORE AG, developed by the GICHD in collaboration with the co-chairs. The draft includes objectives, messages and opportunities to increase awareness of EORE with several key stakeholder groups. It responds to the commitment in the workplan to develop and implement an advocacy plan to promote EORE using all possible avenues, in order to (a) strengthen knowledge of and interest in EORE by stakeholders and

decision-makers and (b) ensure donors have access to information about gaps in EORE implementation and associated resourcing needs.

The draft advocacy strategy has been designed to be a resource that AG members can quickly refer to when engaging such stakeholders, to complement their own advocacy efforts. AG members agreed that it would be useful for operators to have in hands, and that the design of the brochure is good. AG members are asked to provide feedback on the draft to the EORE AG Secretary by **6 March**, after which point it will be circulated for electronic vote **[action]**.

Christelle further noted that the first meeting of the Global Protection Cluster's focus group on advocacy would take place the following week, and it would be useful for the AG to be represented.

## 8. Other key updates on workplan implementation progress and plans

Matthieu mentioned that the **GICHD review of the use of new technologies and methodologies for EORE in challenging contexts** (e.g. IEDs, urban contamination and remote access) is in progress, being led by the consultant Sylvie Bouko. All AG members should have been contacted by her at this stage. Hugues requested members attend the plenary session the following day on "Thinking Safety and Acting Safely in the Digital Age", where Sylvie would be one of eight panellists presenting on digital innovations in EORE.

Ruth reminded AG members of **ICBL-CMC's commitment to start reporting on risk education** again. In the coming weeks, ICBL-CMC will look to the AG for country contacts that can be used as primary sources for information on risk education at country level. Ruth noted that they are still in the beginning phase of developing the questions that will be sent to states, which they plan to link to the Oslo Action Plan implementation. **Addendum:** Ruth has been designated as the EORE researcher / editor who will be supporting this workstream, and Kasia will act as alternate cover as both work part-time.

## 9. AOB

For the implementation of the **APMBC Oslo Action Plan**, Matthieu informed the AG that risk education is being dealt with under the Committee on Article 5 Implementation. Norway has been appointed the informal risk education focal point, and the GICHD has offered its services to help redraft the guide to Article 7 reporting to capture the risk education indicators. He also noted that the GICHD's top level management has been asked by Switzerland, President of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), to provide support for the **CCM review process**. The AG agreed that Matthieu should serve as focal point for the EORE AG through this process, and if anyone has thoughts on our strategic approach they should send them directly to Matthieu **[action]**.

Rasmus updated the AG on the second round of **[negotiations on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas \(EWIPA\)](#)**, which were held on 10 February. Ireland has drafted a Political Declaration Elements Paper, in which victim assistance comes in strongly but there is no mention of risk education. NPA believes there is room for more on risk reduction / risk education and humanitarian programming to prevent harm to civilians and invites other organisations to contribute to the drafting of the political declaration. Others are encouraged to either become members of the International Network on Explosive Weapons (**[International Network on Explosive Weapons \(INEW\)](#)**) or share comments through the network. MAG, NPA and HI have also prepared a **[paper](#)** on UXO contamination from EWIPA that will be shared with AG members **[action]**. An IASC statement was prepared by OCHA and endorsed by 6 UN agencies and 14 other

organisations, including the GPC, and it was requested that in the future such information be shared with other organisations including IOM **[action]** so that they have the opportunity to support. The last round of negotiations for a political declaration will take place on 23-24 and 26-27 March in Geneva.