

EORE AG

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group

Minutes of the EORE AG Meeting

Date: 11 Feb 2021
Time: 14:30-16:30 Geneva time
Location: Virtual (Zoom)

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

Summary of Decisions

Decision	Yes Votes	No Votes	Abstentions
The AG voted to endorse the proposed outline for the EORE Essentials e-learning course	10	0	0
<i>Addendum 22/3/2021:</i> The AG voted via email to adopt the EORE AG work plan for 2021	10	0	0

Summary of Action Points

Action	Responsible	Suggested Deadline
EORE in the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor Reports		
Send any additional comments on EORE reporting in the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor reports	All members	19 Feb
Share any relevant information on cross-border activities with ICBL-CMC as part of data collection process for the reports	All members	Q1-Q2
Work plan & reporting		
Share EORE AG Progress Report 2020	Secretary	26 Feb
Send any final comments on draft AG work plan 2021. <i>(After this, a clean version will be sent to all members for electronic vote.)</i>	All members	19 Feb
Consider volunteering to be the next EORE AG co-chair	NGO core members	Q2
AOB		
Contact Christelle Loupforest if interested to contribute to the EORE needs assessment for refugees fleeing recent hostilities in Tigray, Ethiopia	All members & observers	ASAP

Participants

Core members:

- DCA: Lene Rasmussen
- FSD: Alex van Roy
- GICHD: Matthieu Laruelle
- HALO Trust: Kim Fletcher
- HI: Céline Cheng
- ICBL-CMC: Ruth Bottomley
- MAG: Sebastian Kasack (Co-chair)
- NPA: Rasmus Sandvoll Weschke
- UNDP: Stephen Robinson
- UNICEF: Hugues Laurence (Co-chair)
- UNMAS: Bridget Forster

Associate members:

- IOM: Erhan Vural (alternate)

Observers:

- GICHD: Inès Issa
- ICBL-CMC: Marion Loddo (Landmine Monitor editor)
- MA AoR: Christelle Loupforest

Detailed Minutes

1. Welcome

Sebastian opened the meeting by inviting participants to introduce themselves. Particular welcome was given to new representatives from HI (Céline), UNDP (Stephen) and UNHCR (Houda Chalchoul, who could not make it).

During the introductory updates, Matthieu informed the AG that the *Review of New Technologies and Methodologies for EORE in Challenging Contexts* has now been translated into French, Spanish and Ukrainian. The translations are available on www.eore.org. Arabic and Russian versions are planned for Q2-Q3 this year.

Christelle noted that UNMAS Sudan is planning an EORE needs assessment for refugees who fled recent hostilities in Tigray, Ethiopia and crossed into Sudan. In addition, UNMAS is deploying Mr. Abel Tesfai to Ethiopia to look into ways to support mine action coordination. Organisations are invited to contact Christelle if they would like to be connected to these initiatives **[action]**.

2. EORE AG Progress Report 2020

Kaitlin presented key findings from the EORE AG's 2020 Progress Report, currently being finalised. The report draws on results from the 2020 EORE Stakeholder Survey that received 82 unique responses from international and local EORE operators, national mine action authorities, donors, organisations supporting EORE and actors from other sectors.

On the **EORE AG work plan status: activities, outputs & achievements**, Kaitlin noted that, despite COVID-19, the AG was able to achieve 70% of its planned activities in full or part, with another 10% initiated and the remaining 20% postponed to 2021. The presentation highlighted several achievements across the six thematic of the work plan: quality management, cooperation, integration and synergies, information management, advocacy and policy, and cross-cutting activities.

On **EORE sector progress: outcomes achieved**, the presentation highlighted progress in terms of four outcomes: strengthening the profile of EORE; increasing resources to the sector; access by stakeholders to effective EORE methods, tools and approaches; and adoption of EORE good practices. Findings included:

- At a global level, the AG has successfully contributed to a strengthening of the profile of EORE. Results are more mixed at regional and national level, showing need for more outreach to the field.
- The increased profile has not yet necessarily been translated to increased resourcing (human or financial) for EORE, although there are some positive signs of momentum in this direction.
- Resource awareness is highest at global level and by EORE operators and organisations supporting EORE, and it is lowest at national level. There is need for more outreach to national mine action authorities in particular.
- Examples were collected on how stakeholders are using key EORE resources, as well as baseline data on adoption of national strategies and standards, accreditation systems, training packages, standard operating procedures and theories of change on EORE.

On **feedback and suggestions for the EORE AG**, it was reported that feedback from AG members has been overwhelmingly positive, with all surveyed members agreeing or strongly agreeing that their organisation and the mine action sector get value from the AG. Moreover, the wide breadth of the AG's work is seen as useful. Suggestions received included to increase attention to use of products (availability, accessibility, language, etc.), offer more online events open to whole sector and consider expanding membership from country and regional level.

Kaitlin noted that the findings from this report have been taken into account in revising the AG's draft 2021 work plan. The full report will be shared as soon as possible, with more detailed information that could be useful for external and internal advocacy [\[action\]](#).

3. EORE reporting in the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor

In 2020, the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor reports included reporting on EORE for the first time in roughly a decade. In particular, an integrated approach was taken to including EORE data in sections on mine action impact of both reports. Country profiles are also being continuously added, also including EORE data. Ruth thanked AG members for their support last year and noted that the response rate for data collection through the AG was very good.

Participants were invited to share any spontaneous feedback on the 2020 report. An initial comment was that this report represents a watershed moment for the sector and is a great evolution for EORE. Additional comments can also be sent via email [\[action\]](#).

For 2021, ICBL-CMC is seeking to also include EORE beneficiary data using the definitions agreed under the guidance *Standardising Beneficiary Definitions for Humanitarian Mine Action*. The idea

is to collect this data using an online form. Overall beneficiary numbers would be disaggregated by sex, age and disability, but for practicality reasons only an overall number (not disaggregated) would be requested for each of the three types of EORE (interpersonal, mass and digital media, and training of trainers).

Initial comments from AG members on the 2021 plans included:

- Appreciation that the Monitor will try to capture information on the reach of EORE through beneficiary totals. This will be a useful tool for harmonising global data and even comparing across time and countries.
- Other potential data sources were mentioned. For example, there may be potential to capitalise on latest developments in the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) and Global Awareness of Mine Action Platform (GAMA). Matthieu would be happy to connect with Ruth on this. In addition, the recently launched UN platform has a [dashboard](#) on UN support for EORE.
- A question was asked about how cross-border issues will be reflected. Ruth noted that cross-border activities will be highlighted in relevant country profiles; however, these are not always reported, so AG members who have information on such activities are requested to share this data with ICBL-CMC **[action]**. Fact sheets are also being produced, including one on risk education, that can be used to explore thematic topics like this.
- Constraints of collecting data disaggregated by age, sex and disability were recognised. It was also noted that not all actors yet use the same definition of EORE beneficiaries, but that it should not be too difficult to align.
- More analysis of information on EORE coordination, including where there are gaps, would be appreciated.
- No objections were raised to following a similar data collection process as last year, whereby AG members were sent questionnaires for dissemination to field level. It would be helpful if AG members could also send ICBL-CMC a list of countries that they have activities in, to help with tracking responses.

Finally, as part of the 2021 work plan, ICBL-CMC has agreed to lead the collection of data on EORE resourcing trends. Marion briefed the AG on how the Landmine Monitor reports on funding, as well as some of the constraints faced, including the fact that many donors still report funding for EORE together with clearance/land release. This is something that advocacy by AG members could potentially help to address. As data reported should be useful for the sector, members are encouraged to reflect on what would be of use to include (e.g. information also from other sectors, etc.).

Members were invited to reflect further on the areas where EORE and resourcing data would be useful and suggestions for data sources. Comments can be shared via email until 19 February **[action]**.

4. **EORE Essentials e-learning course**

Matthieu informed the AG that work on the EORE Essentials e-learning course has begun. As set out in the concept note adopted by the AG last June, the GICHD will act as project lead with overall ownership of the course and the AG will be at key milestones for endorsement. The Geneva-based company eSkills, which specialises in adult e-learning, has been brought on to lead the development from a technical perspective. For peer review and quality management of the

course, an internal GICHD Peer Review Panel (PRP) and an EORE AG Training Task Group (TTG) have been established, the latter of which consists of representatives of ten AG member organisations and two national authorities (all on a voluntary basis).

The first phase of the project – the development of the full course outline and first module – is ongoing until the end of April. To this end, Matthieu presented a draft course outline that has been reviewed by the TTG. The AG voted unanimously to endorse the outline **[decision]**.

The next step will be the development of the first module (introduction to EORE). The first workshop for this was held with the TTG on 8 February, on which basis a storyboard is being developed. Future phases – for which fundraising is still ongoing – will consist of the development of modules 2-5 (Q2-Q4 2021), launch of the course (end of 2021) and translation into other languages (from 2022).

5. Discussion on the 2021 EORE AG work plan

A discussion was held on the revised draft of the AG work plan for 2021, which was circulated prior to the meeting. Hugues thanked AG members for their contributions during the last round of comments (in Nov/Dec last year) and advised the group about key developments since then. In particular, it was highlighted that the work plan should be ambitious but realistic, and as such a column has been added to specify the role of AG members in contributing to the proposed activities. Members were encouraged to flag when activities did not seem realistic, with the option for it to be added back at a later stage should it become a possibility.

Hugues, Sebastian and Kaitlin then provided a section-by-section overview of the work plan thematics before opening the floor for discussion.

The following suggestions were noted:

- Activity 1.5.2: A question was raised over whether the global trainings on Effective EORE and Integrated Mine Action will be moved online, if circumstances do not allow them to proceed in person in 2021. Hugues responded that while this will not be possible this year, it could be considered for subsequent years.
- Activity 2.1.3: Non-members of the AG should also be able to lead organisation of webinars. Regional cooperation should be encouraged in particular, in order to engage more actors at regional and national level. These could even be in other languages, such as French or Arabic. Monthly webinars may be too ambitious.
 - Christelle highlighted the Mine Action Area of Responsibility's (MA AoR) network of contacts with local partners that can be mobilised. While most mine action coordinators would not be in a position to organise monthly webinars, they could facilitate access for national authorities.
- Findings from the 2020 EORE Stakeholder Survey clearly show a need for more outreach with national mine action authorities (NMAAs) and other EORE practitioners working at national level. Regional webinars (activity 2.1.3) could help address this, but we should also consider engaging NMAAs in even more sustainable ways, such as through rotating participation in the EORE AG. The experience of disseminating the *Guidance on Standardising Beneficiary Definitions* has shown there is strong appetite among NMAAs and national operators to participate when concrete invitations are shared.
- Activity 2.1.5: Information on core standard messaging should be included among the topics for briefs. These bite-size materials also do not have to be just written briefs: they

could be videos, blogs, etc. Members can be invited to provide technical briefs when possible.

- Activity 4.2.2: This activity should be rephrased to align with other activities led by ICBL-CMC, and the role of AG members (to contribute) noted.
- Activity 6.2.1: It was noted that there is a IASC Reference Group on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action that has, in the past, supported other sectors to develop guidance on this topic. It could be worthwhile to reach out to this group to see what resources or support are available; the MA AoR could facilitate an introduction. HI has also developed guidance on mainstreaming disability in mine action that can be drawn on.

AG members were asked to send any additional comments via email by 19 February. A clean version based on the comments will then be circulated for an electronic vote **[action]**.

Finally, Sebastian mentioned that the time is approaching to appoint a new EORE AG co-chair from among the NGO core members. Organisations are asked to begin exploring whether they would like to volunteer **[action]**.

6. AOB

No AOB points were raised.