

EORE AG

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group

Minutes of the EORE AG Meeting

Date: 15 October 2021
Time: 14:00 – 16:00 CEST
Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Co-Chairs: Celine Cheng (HI) & Hugues Laurence (UNICEF)
Secretary: Kaitlin Hodge (GICHD)

Summary of Decisions

Decision	Yes Votes	No Votes	Abstentions
The AG voted to extend the current work plan for a second year.	10	0	0

Summary of Action Points

Action	Responsible	Suggested Deadline
APMBC 19th Meeting of States Parties		
Lead drafting of joint statement for APMBC 19 th Meeting of States Parties.	Sebastian, Ruth, Kim & Matthieu	5 Nov (TBC)
Inform the AG Secretary if interested in also volunteering to work on the statement.	Other AG members	27 Oct
Technical note on IED Risk Education		
Inform Hugues and Lionel if interested in participating in the technical working group to update the technical note on IED risk education (TNMA IEDRE)	AG members	5 Nov
Communicate information about the draft TNMA IEDRE and plans to update to the MA AoR	Hugues	5 Nov
Information sharing & feedback		
Re-circulate the working paper on Measuring the Results of EORE	Matthieu	5 Nov
Share link to Colombia's dashboard on victims of improvised mines with the iMREWG as a good practice example.	Audrey?	5 Nov
Provide feedback on the Mine Action Needs Assessment Questions Database .	AG members	Ongoing

Review and share feedback on draft Cooperation Guidance Note. A final version will then be circulated for vote in early December.	AG members	26 Nov
Share feedback or ideas with the AG Co-Chairs and Secretary on the organisation of an EORE event for donors.	AG members	26 Nov
EORE AG work plan and governance		
Add any relevant updates not yet shared in 'status' column of the work plan (on Google Doc).	AG members	26 Nov
Provide final comments on ToR. A final version will then be circulated for vote in early December.	All members	26 Nov

Participants

Core members:

- DCA: Lene Rasmussen
- FSD: Alex van Roy
- GICHD: Matthieu Laruelle
- HALO Trust: Sinead Conway (alternate)
- HI: Céline Cheng (co-chair)
- ICBL-CMC: Audrey Torrecilla (alternate)
- MAG: Sebastian Kasack
- NPA: Alberto Rinaldo Serra
- UNDP: Stephen Robinson
- UNHCR: Houda Chalchoul
- UNICEF: Hugues Laurence (co-chair)
- UNMAS: Christelle Loupforest (alternate; also representing MA AoR as observer)

Observers:

- ICRC: Louis Maresca
- GICHD: Lionel Pechera (agenda item 2 only)

Detailed Minutes

1. Welcome

Sebastian opened the meeting by welcoming newcomers and giving an overview of the agenda.

2. TNMA IED RE

Hugues welcomed Lionel, an advisor on IMAS at the GICHD, to the meeting to provide updates on the status of the draft technical note for mine action on improvised explosive device risk education (TNMA IEDRE). This TNMA was developed and first shared online in 2018 as a draft pending wider terminology agreement. The purpose of this TNMA is to support actors to, first and foremost, assess and determine whether to engage in IED RE – as well as to provide reflections on good practices for doing so.

Now that the IMAS RB has clarified relevant terminology, there is a need to reexamine and update the draft TNMA. This need has been formally recognised in the IMAS RB's work plan for 2022. Aspects that will receive particular attention include:

- Adapting to existing IMAS terminology;
- Clarifying the definition of IEDs as it pertains to risk education (current definition in IMAS 4.10 refers to clearance);
- Incorporation of latest good practices;
- Improving the clarity of the structure;
- Expanding on the notion of do no harm and risk management related to beneficiaries (current focus is on operator safety); and
- Reviewing the risk assessment matrix.

A technical working group (TWG) has been mandated by the IMAS RB to update the draft TNMA. This TWG will be co-chaired by GICHD (Lionel) and UNICEF (Hugues). After that, the TNMA will need to be validated by the IMAS RB and endorsed by the IMAS Steering Group. All organisations that are part of the IMAS RB may participate in the TWG, as well as thematic experts invited by the co-chairs. EORE AG members are therefore invited to contact Lionel and Hugues if they wish to participate through either of these avenues [\[action\]](#). If their organisation already has a representative in the TWG, they are requested to coordinate with their colleague as there should only be one representative per organisation.

It was requested that information about the draft TNMA and plans to update it also be communicated to the members of the MA AoR [\[action\]](#).

3. **APMBC 19th Meeting of States Parties (19MSP)**

The 19MSP will take place from 15-19 November in the Hague in a hybrid form. Celine explained that, given current capacities and work loads, it would not be feasible for the AG to organise a side event for this MSP. Instead, the question was posed whether there is interest in delivering a joint statement on behalf of the AG, similar to what was done for the 2021 Intersessional Meeting and 18MSP of the APMBC last year. The response was generally positive, with four members volunteering to work together on the statement: Sebastian (MAG), Ruth (ICBL-CMC), Kim (HALO) and Matthieu (GICHD) [\[action\]](#). Additional volunteers may contact Kaitlin to contribute [\[action\]](#).

The floor was then opened for participants to share relevant updates:

- ICBL-CMC will host a side event launching the 2021 Landmine Monitor and presenting key findings, including on risk education (15 November, 13:00-15:00 CET).
- ICRC is organising a side event on innovation with presentations from each of the mine action pillars. Matthieu (GICHD) will present on EORE and it will likely be chaired by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Other organisations that mentioned planning side events that may include were MAG (capacity building), UNDP (Sahel), NPA (Zimbabwe and Angola), UNMAS Afghanistan (long-term impact of mine action) and UNMAS Sudan (Sudan-Chad cross-border collaboration).

4. Updates on 2021 work plan implementation & proposal to extend current work plan to 2022

Prior to the meeting, a draft revised work plan was circulated via Google Doc to all members with the timeline extended into 2022. Celine explained the rationale for this proposed extension. To start, the EORE AG terms of reference state that the AG shall be guided by either an annual or biannual work plan. While thus far the work plans have been annual, more time is needed to realise some of the targets of this ambitious work plan plan. More importantly, there is a feeling that the contents of the work plan remain highly relevant. On this basis, the AG voted unanimously to extend the current work plan to 2022 **[decision]**.

Organisations were also asked to provide updates on the implementation of the work plan. These updates have been added directly in the status column of the extended work plan. In addition, the following points were raised:

- The GICHD will re-circulate the working paper on Measuring the Results of EORE **[action]**
- Colombia has a publicly accessible [dashboard](#) on victims of improvised mines that could serve as a good practice example. It is disaggregated by ethnic minority status, gender, age and location. The link to the dashboard could be shared with the iMREWG **[action]**.
- It was clarified that AG members can nominate other representatives from their organisations to participate in task teams.
- The MA AoR welcomes feedback on the [Mine Action Needs Assessment Questions Database](#), which includes many questions on risk education **[action]**. It would be especially interesting to know if certain questions work better or worse in particular contexts.
- The IASC is conducting a review of the [IASC Policy on Protection in Humanitarian Action](#). This is a good opportunity to highlight the work the sector has done in the last 4-5 years.
- [IMAS 13.10](#) on Victim Assistance in Mine Action was formally approved on 13 October. It includes guidance that will strengthen our sector's accountability towards persons with disabilities, including survivors and victims. EORE actors are highly recommended to read the standard and reflect on how EORE activities can/should be adjusted to be in compliance, especially with regards to disability data collection. HI will explore hosting an EORE Hour on this topic.

Updates may still be added directly to the Google Doc for another month, after which point it will be finalised **[action]**.

5. EORE AG Terms of Reference

The EORE AG 2021 work plan foresees a review of the EORE AG's governance structure and membership is foreseen. Celine recalled that this was first discussed at the last AG meeting in June, including brainstorming on some key questions. Following this discussion, the TOR were circulated as a Google Doc with invitation to make concrete suggestions for revision.

Celine then highlighted the suggestions that have been made so far:

- Minor updates to the activities section to reflect current priorities
- Separate neutral role of co-chairs and voting role of core members

- Increase maximum number of core members from 12 to 15
- Recommend representation be at technical, rather than senior, level (based on recommendations from 2020 EORE AG Progress Report)
- Introduce a participation requirement for core members of one meeting per year, plus potentially encourage every core member to lead at least one work plan activity
- Clarify difference between associate members and observers and potentially consolidate
- Rather than an annual/biannual work plan, propose a multiyear work plan with annual peer review process to monitor implementation and adjust e.g. activities/outputs

In addition, the following points/questions were raised during the discussion:

- To encompass the broad range of types of mine action authorities, the word 'national' be removed – referring instead to mine action authorities (MAAs).
- Through what means can we encourage MAAs to join the AG? One suggestion is to invite MAAs to come forward should they be interested in joining the group. Representation could be done through an equitable geographical distribution of MAAs on an annual rotational scheme. More time is needed to explore this idea and balance it against practical questions such as how to define regions, how many and how it could be implemented, while building on previous experience involving MAAs.
- Given the work plan output to empower local communities and stakeholders to deliver high quality EORE programmes, should the AG open its membership to one or more local actors?
- Given the importance of the localisation agenda, should the AG include at least one local or national actor?¹

Due to limited time, it was agreed to continue taking comments for another month and then conduct an electronic vote. To facilitate this, the Secretary and Co-Chairs will update the TOR based on these comments and circulate the link again for final comments [\[action\]](#).

6. Cooperation Guidance Note

Several activities in the AG work plan make reference to fostering increased cooperation. In order to kick-start implementation of these activities, a guidance note has been developed with sections sections:

- Part I is on **sharing experiences**. Its main contribution is a one-page infographic detailing what to share and six suggestions for how to share.

¹ It is noted that, following an EORE AG decision taken on [27 November 2019](#), NGO membership in the AG is currently restricted to those operating internationally. From this decision: "National NGOs may and should still be encouraged to participate through membership in ICBL-CMC and/or through guest presentations where relevant." Nevertheless, debate on how to engage national organisations is necessary and will require more discussion within the AG.

- Part II is on **micro, or 'bite size', content**. It proposes three concrete steps to promote more such content. As an annex, there is also a suggested template for short info briefs.
- Part III is on the development of an advanced **knowledge sharing platform** for the iMREWG. It sets out a potential structure and defines the desirable features of such a platform, which will be managed by UNICEF.

Celine noted that some initial feedback has already been provided, including a suggestion that other language resources be included across the different folders rather than housed separately.

Due to limited time, it was agreed to re-circulate the guidance by email. Members are requested to send their feedback directly to Kaitlin [\[action\]](#). Suggestions will then be incorporated and a final version circulated for vote.

7. Donor workshop

Hugues recalled that last year's EORE AG progress report found that significant gains in raising the profile of EORE have not yet been translated into increased resources for the mine action pillar. There is a need to further raise the attention of donors on this important topic. To increase donor access to information about EORE developments and gaps, activity 5.2.3 of the AG WP states that the AG will 'organise a seminar on latest EORE developments for key donors.' This event is foreseen for the first half of 2022.

It was noted that the working with the Mine Action Support Group (MASG) – which brings together more than 30 mine action donors – is promising, although it may not be feasible to have a meeting dedicated to EORE only. The idea was seen as worth exploring. The alternative would be to organise an independent donor event, involving the MASG as much as possible.

Another suggestion was to approach the Presidencies of the APMBC and CCM, and their respective machineries, and to link the event to the implementation of the conventions' action plans. Christelle also provided a [link](#) to the MA AoR webpage where the 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overviews are summarised.

Members are invited to share feedback or ideas with the AG Co-Chairs and Secretary [\[action\]](#). More details will be shared at a later date as the concept is refined.

8. AOB

Stephen announced that this will be his last AG meeting with UNDP. The group congratulated him on his next steps and thanked him for his active role in the AG over the last year.

Addendum from 20 December 2021

The following decisions have been taken via email vote:

Decision	Yes Votes	No Votes	Abstentions
The AG voted to endorse the Cooperation Guidance Note	11	0	0
The AG voted to endorse all suggested changes to the AG Terms of Reference, including with regards to:			
The neutral role of the Chairs	11	0	0
Membership for regional/national mine action authorities	10	1	0
A participation requirement for Core Members	10	0	1
Increasing the maximum number of Core Members	11	0	0
Associate membership vs. observer status	10	1	0
All other suggested changes	11	0	0