

EORE AG

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group

Minutes of the EORE AG Meeting

Date: 23 March 2022
Time: 14:30 – 16:00 CET
Location: Virtual (Zoom)

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

Summary of Action Points

Action	Responsible	Suggested Deadline
EORE AG Governance		
Finalise invitation letter and dissemination list of national and regional mine action authorities	Co-Chairs and Secretary	14 April
Send instructions for applying to be the next Co-Chair	Co-Chairs and Secretary	14 April
EORE AG Task Teams		
Invite new AG members to join digital EORE task team sub-groups	Matthieu & Sebastian	14 April
Review results of digital EORE project mapping and add any projects not yet included using this link	AG members with digital EORE projects	30 April
Coordinate on digital EORE data gathering and hosting of information collected	Kim F, Robin T & ICBL-CMC	30 April
Cooperation		
Review infographic on ways of sharing EORE experiences and consider how to use these or other tools to share good practices and lessons learned	AG members	Ongoing
Consider volunteering to produce bite-size content on EORE	AG members	Ongoing
Add link to ICBL-CMC resources on AG webpage	Secretary, with ICBL-CMC	14 April
Other Activities		
Share update on current access situation and protection assessment in Tigray	UNHCR	30 April
Discuss ideas for the donor event, approach potential partners and keep AG members updated	Co-Chairs and Secretary	30 April

Participants

Core members:

- DRC: Nick Vovk
- GICHD: Matthieu Laruelle
- HALO Trust: Kim Fletcher
- HI: Sofia Miranda Cogollos
- ICBL-CMC: Ruth Bottomley
- MAG: Sebastian Kasack
- NPA: Alberto Rinaldo Serra
- UNDP: Oksana Leschenko
- UNHCR: Houda Chalchoul
- UNICEF: Kim Warren

Observers:

- MAG: Myriam Rabbath (new alternate)
- UNHCR: Fabrizio Locuratolo (alternate)

Detailed Minutes

1. Welcome

Following a poll of AG members, it was decided to organise this second EORE AG meeting in March 2022 to conclude discussions from the previous one and table the remaining agenda items that were not covered. Céline opened the meeting by giving an overview of the agenda.

2. Updates on actions agreed at last AG meeting (8 March)

Ukraine

The first portion of the discussion summarised two key actions taken on Ukraine since the last meeting. First, the AG produced a [Q&A on EORE for actors in Ukraine](#) that has been published on the EORE AG website and disseminated via the iMREWG, Mine Action and Child Protection Areas of Responsibility, MHPSS Reference Group and ReliefWeb. Céline thanked members for their contributions and emphasised that it is a living document to which members are able to suggest updates at any point. Beyond questions and answers, it also includes links to useful resources and contact details to get further advice and information.

Several participants mentioned receiving positive feedback on the Q&A from colleagues. The GICHD expressed that it could translate the document into Ukrainian and Russian – an offer which was received positively with gratitude. [Addendum 5/4/2022: the translations are now available on the [EORE AG webpage](#).]

Second, following the interest generated on Conflict Preparedness and Protection (CPP) at the last meeting, the AG Secretariat is also working with NPA and UNMAS to organise a **webinar** on the topic, tentatively scheduled on 7 April. It will have a focus on Ukraine but be relevant for any other context with armed conflict. An invitation will be sent via email, and AG members are encouraged to attend.

Tigray

The following organisations provided further operational updates:

- HALO: Recently authorised to work in Ethiopia (mostly on clearance) but not yet in Tigray
- DRC: In preparatory stages for risk education work
- UNICEF: Have field office but main challenge is getting permission to use EORE materials, radio messages and other mass messaging tools in Tigray. Materials are stuck in warehouse in Addis but may be able to deliver in coming weeks once other vital humanitarian assistance is first delivered. Meanwhile, have a plan with UNMAS to begin a radio campaign in Amahar and Afar and possibly Benishangul-Gumuz regions in coming weeks, and the digital version of the materials have also been shared via UNMAS Sudan to target up to 90,000 Tigrean refugees. The education sector will support a new solar-powered radio campaign in the region that could be used to amplify EORE messaging.
- HI: Recruitment is in process for a risk education project that started on 1 February. An online training is being developed for the EORE project manager (once recruitment is completed). HI is open to receiving coordination proposals, requests or questions.
- UNHCR: Have had many exchanges with the MA AoR. Committed to follow up with protection cluster on current access situation and protection assessment that was undertaken in Tigray, and to share an update via email with the AG [\[action\]](#).

Following a brief discussion of how the AG could contribute, it was agreed that operators in Tigray/Ethiopia can build off the updates given here to coordinate as needed. It is an option for the future to further share good practices or hold a webinar on Tigray if there are volunteers to host it.

3. Conclusion of discussion on role of EORE AG in emergency contexts

The recent discussions on Ukraine and Tigray have raised the question: what role can and should the EORE AG play in emergencies? Following discussion, it was agreed that AG support is and should remain demand driven. The AG acts on the basis of requests received, as long as the request is within its mandate and capacity. Similar has been done for the COVID-19 pandemic and the Syrian and West and Central African regional responses.

It was further agreed that the Q&A developed for Ukraine can serve as basis for a tool that can be adapted for future emergencies.

4. EORE AG governance updates

Following the revision of the EORE AG's [Terms of Reference](#) in December 2021, Céline announced several updates on how this revision is being implemented:

- **Decision to make the Co-Chair role neutral/non-voting:**

The organisations currently co-chairing (UNICEF and HI) have nominated new representatives to serve as Core Members (Kim Warren and Sofia Miranda Cogollos, respectively). Henceforth, the Core Member representatives will hold the voting rights for UNICEF and HI.

- **Decision to invite national/regional mine action authority representatives as Core Members:**

A letter has been drafted and will be shared with mine action authorities inviting them to nominate representatives. The AG will organise a meeting of MAAs in May where they can make their pitches, following which they will be invited to vote on their representatives by June. This year, the AG will have space for two MAA representatives. The AG Secretary has been in contact with the IMAS Secretary to follow their lessons learned.

The next steps are to finalise this letter including eligibility criteria and to prepare the dissemination list [\[action\]](#). AG members may be requested to share recommendations on contact information for certain MAAs.

- **Decision to introduce a participation requirement for Core Members:**

Céline reminded Core Members that they are now required to participate in at least one meeting per year, starting from 2022, in order to maintain their Core Membership. If any organisations have not participated in an AG meeting as of the end of 2022, they will be contacted to discuss their status in the group.

In addition, the following general governance updates were provided:

- Following HI's appointment as Co-Chair last June on a one-year term, now is the time when organisations should begin considering applying to be the next Co-Chair. Céline noted that it has been a very interesting and fruitful role with a great team and recommended it to anyone considering applying. Instructions will soon be provided via email on how to apply [\[action\]](#). It was commented that it can be helpful to have Co-Chairs remain for two years, and that it is possible for the current Co-Chair to reapply.
- Kaitlin informed the AG that the GICHD has started the process of identifying a new Secretary, and Matthieu reaffirmed that the GICHD is strengthening its EORE capacity and hopes to have someone on board by the end of April. The plan is for a gradual transition of the role to ensure minimal disruption of service provided and maximum sustainability for the AG Secretariat. Kaitlin should remain the main point of contact for information circulation until a formal handover is announced.

5. Task team updates

Digital EORE (DEORE) Task Team

The DEORE Task Team was created last year under the co-leadership of Matthieu and Sebastian, comprising AG members and representatives from national authorities. Its work has been divided into three sub-groups which each provided updates:

- Sub-group 1 on global mapping of DEORE initiatives (led by Kim Fletcher and Robin Toal): a global survey on DEORE projects has been disseminated and 37 projects collected so far. AG members are requested to review the results (to be shared via email) and [add any missing projects \[action\]](#). The sub-group awaits an update from UNICEF on the new online space for the iMREWG as a potential home for the survey results.
- Sub-group 2 on developing bite-size content on essential DEORE topics (led by Céline and Audrey Torrecilla): The first content has been created and will be validated the following day by the sub-group. The question was posed whether content also needs to be validated by the AG as a whole. It was agreed that content produced within the task team should be

sent to the Secretariat and Co-Chairs for dissemination via email and can then be approved via silent procedure. It is preferable to group materials in batches for approval.

Sub-group 3 on establishing good practice for DEORE M&E (led by Kaitlin): The group is currently working on researching DEORE metrics and good practices from other sectors. These will be used during the upcoming DEORE workshop in Spiez (May 16-20) to generate: 1) recommendations on DEORE beneficiary counting; 2) mapping of available digital metrics and their meaningfulness; 3) sample methods for doing a basic evaluation of common DEORE activities; and 4) responses to 'sticky questions' that need further exploration.

Seeing as several current members are Ukrainian or working on Ukraine and therefore have less capacity contribute at this time, the co-leads will reach out to new members to invite them to join sub-groups [\[action\]](#).

Finally, it was noted that MHPSS referrals can be added to digital EORE. UNICEF was also congratulated for their massive digital reach in Ukraine and was requested to share information on the materials being disseminated.

Training Task Team

The Training Task Team was created in 2020, led by Matthieu, to support the GICHD's development of an e-learning course, EORE Essentials. The first module of this course was endorsed by the AG in July 2021 and launched in English. It is also available offline and an Arabic version is expected by June 2022.

In the eight months since its launch, the introductory module has been completed by over 500 people and received excellent feedback (over 60% rate it five stars). At the same time, there has been little uptake by donors. The GICHD plans to conduct targeted outreach with key stakeholders to better understand how it is being used and the internal strategies that have successfully increased uptake (e.g. making it compulsory).

Work on the second phase is ongoing, consisting of four additional modules specifically for EORE practitioners. The storyboard for module two is complete and moving into the beta phase, and design of module three has started.

Development of the course is a collaborative effort involving two peer review groups: the training task team of the AG, which includes national mine action authorities and EORE field staff, and an internal GICHD peer review panel with experts on information management, gender and diversity, strategic planning, standards, etc. The plan is to launch the four new modules in September/October, initially in English.

Matthieu thanked everyone for their support so far and emphasised that it has been a great collaborative experience. Speaking on behalf of the AG, Céline further thanked the GICHD for the useful and interesting project and expressed excitement for the Arabic version. It was noted that information on who is taking the training would be welcomed.

6. Implementation status of Cooperation Guidance Note

Kaitlin recalled that the AG endorsed a Cooperation Guidance Note in December 2021 and requested updates on each of the three sections:

- **Part 1: Sharing Experiences**

Two vehicles for sharing of experiences that have been used the most are the publication of articles and organisation of webinars. Topics have included [tailoring EORE](#); [barrier analysis/risk reduction](#); [alternative EORE approaches](#); [EORE during the pandemic](#); [digital EORE](#); [EORE digital games](#); and [harmonisation in West and Central Africa](#).

Members were reminded that they should refer back to the infographic on ways to share information and consider how they can use these or other tools to share good practices and lessons learned [\[action\]](#).

- **Part 2: Producing Micro-Content**

The DEORE Task Team has already kicked off work developing bite-size content related to digital EORE. AG members were therefore asked to consider volunteering to produce content on other relevant topics beyond DEORE [\[action\]](#).

- **Part 3: A New Online Home for the iMREWG**

Hugues recalled that the current iMREWG platform is twenty years old. It was established by ICBL and taken over by UNICEF in the early 2000s. It currently has 514 participants and, although some emails are no longer valid, around 70 new members join every year. The below map shows the location of the half of members for which a location is known.



In line with the Cooperation Guidance, UNICEF is planning to upgrade to a more interactive and transparent platform with sub-groups at regional level and a library. No timeline is currently available as focus is on other projects, but the plan is to complete the work this year. Contributions, inputs and recommendations from the AG are welcome. In the meantime, temporary measures can be used such as the library linked to the GICHD's [Review of New Technologies and Methodologies for EORE in Challenging Contexts](#), the AG's library on [EORE and COVID-19](#), and the library of materials for the UNICEF course on [Developing Effective EORE](#).

Following these updates, several members commented on the urgency for a more interactive online community of practice on EORE and therefore a hope that a precise timeline could be further specified. The question was raised as to whether it will be capable of housing an online

database of digital EORE projects (see agenda item 5) searchable by country, organisation and tool. While the current platform is not, the new platform could be but it will depend on the timeline. Finally, it was requested that attention be given to raising awareness of the iMREWG platform to ensure it is used.

ICBL-CMC noted that, as part of its reporting on EORE, it is producing fact sheets, profiles and beneficiary figures – and requested that all EORE websites be linked together. Until new website is launched, the AG website is currently serving this purpose, and a link can be added to the ICBL-CMC resources [\[action\]](#). The Digital EORE Task Team sub-group mapping DEORE projects said that it will coordinate with ICBL-CMC on data gathering and to see about hosting of the information collected [\[action\]](#).

7. Updates on development of an overarching theory of change

Hugues provided an update on activity 1.1.3 of the [2020-2021 Work Plan](#): “Develop an overarching theory of change/results framework, including example indicators, that can be adapted by EORE stakeholders.” UNICEF has contracted a consultant within its child protection team in New York to lead this work, using the overall mine action theories of change developed by FCDO, the Netherlands and the UN as a basis for a generic theory of change focused on EORE. Hugues plans to touch base with the consultant in the coming weeks to develop a work plan, which may include a short series of webinars to solicit input. No specific task team will be created as UNICEF plans to engage all AG members. It is hoped the task can be completed within a year.

Hugues further took the opportunity to announce that the course on Developing Effective EORE, which has a strong RBM focus, is foreseen to be held this year from 21-30 September in Spiez, Switzerland. One component of this course involves participants developing theories of change for their organisations or countries. Invitations will be sent by the end of May or early June to all AG members to nominate a participant.

8. EORE AG donor event

Hugues recalled activity 5.2.3 of the [2020-2021 Work Plan](#): “Organise a seminar on latest EORE developments for key donors.” Since the last meeting, the Co-Chairs have been exploring whether it would be possible to jointly organise an event with the Mine Action Support Group (MASG) during the week of April 4 (International Mine Awareness Day). Unfortunately, no response has been received since February. The following alternative ideas were brainstormed:

- A side event to convention-related meeting (e.g. Intersessionals, Meetings of States Party) or National Director’s Meeting (NDM) is an option but not desirable as many donors are very busy during these meetings.
- The AG could find a donor willing to co-organise an event or partner with the Global Protection Cluster or Mine Action Area of Responsibility.
- The event could be linked to an [international day](#) or current global events (e.g. Ukraine, Tigray) in order to attract donors.

The Co-Chairs agreed to internally discuss the ideas, (re-)approach potential partners to pitch the event and keep AG members updated of progress [\[action\]](#).

9. AOB

Houda thanked everyone who provided comments on the draft mine action and EORE module of the Protection in Armed Conflict (PiAC) toolkit; a new version will be shared soon.

Houda further mentioned that UNHCR and other agencies (including UNMAS and UNIDIR) have proposed topics related to the use of explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA) for Protections of Civilian Week 2022, including urban warfare, urbanisation and displacement. It was suggested that EORE be discussed in one of these events. Hugues confirmed that UNICEF will likely also organise event(s) on EWIPA, and that it could be interesting to explore links between CPP and protection of civilians in contexts of shelling, airstrikes, etc.

Hugues informed the AG that the IMAS Review Board is currently working on updating several standards and technical notes with implications for EORE. These include IMAS 4.10 (Glossary of mine action terms, definitions and abbreviations), IMAS 5.10 (Information Management for Mine Action, including Annex B on minimum data requirements) and the technical note on IED risk education. The latter will be shared with the AG soon for endorsement via silent email procedure. Responding to a question on conflict sensitivity for IED risk education, it was noted that the draft TNMA includes elements on this and that it also features in the Q&A on EORE for Ukraine.

Matthieu noted that IED risk education was one of the most requested topics in a recent survey on the upcoming NDM, along with requests for risk education case studies, and asked whether the AG will plan any events for the NDM. Hugues responded that the AG should at minimum have a side event, potentially targeting the donor community based on rationale that the sector is expecting more on EORE; however, it was pointed out that side event slots are only 45 minutes this year so plenary sessions will likely have more impact.