

# EORE AG

## Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group

### Minutes of the EORE AG Meeting

**Date:** 29 June 2022  
**Time:** 15:00 – 17:00 CET  
**Location:** Virtual (Zoom)

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

#### Summary of Decisions

Decision	Yes Votes	No Votes	Abstentions
The AG voted to extend the membership term for mine action authorities from 1 to 2 years.	10	0	0

#### Summary of Action Points

Action	Responsible	Suggested Deadline
<b>EORE AG Governance</b>		
Reshare the EORE AG Terms of Reference with the AG members for information on the Co-Chairs' responsibilities	Co-Chairs	31 July
Send nominations for the NGO Co-Chair position	AG members (NGOs)	30 September
Provide update on the MAA nomination process, including the UN response and results of the nomination process	Co-Chairs	5 August
<b>EORE AG Task Teams</b>		
Contact AG and task team members to reconfirm membership and sub-group participation	Sebastian & Matthieu	31 August
<b>Cooperation</b>		
Share the draft of the IMAS Technical Note on IED Risk Education with the members of the AG	Hugues	15 July
Provide feedbacks on the IMAS Technical Note on IED RE to be circulated by Hugues	AG members & observers	15 August
<b>Other Activities</b>		
Share the final DEORE workshop package with AG members and EORE practitioners	Hugues	30 June
Share the presentation on the plan for developing an overarching theory of change for EORE	Hugues	31 July

Actively engage in the development of the overarching EORE ToC and participate in webinars	AG members & observers	Ongoing
Share existing/models of ToC with UNICEF	AG members & observers	Ongoing

## Participants

### Core members:

- DCA: Lene Rasmussen
- DRC: Hannah Rose Holloway (alternate)
- FSD: Alex Van Roy
- GICHD: Arianna Calza Bini (alternate)
- HALO Trust: Kim Fletcher
- ICBL-CMC: Ruth Bottomley
- MAG: Myriam Rabbath (alternate)
- UNDP: Oksana Leschenko
- UNHCR: Houda Chalchoul
- UNICEF: Kim Warren
- UNMAS: Bojan Vukovic

### Observers:

- GICHD: Faustine Auger
- ICRC: Louis Maresca
- UNICEF: Daniel Reijer (present during the 1<sup>st</sup> part of the meeting)

## Detailed Minutes

### 1. Welcome

Céline opened the meeting by giving an overview of the agenda and welcoming the alternates present, namely Hannah Rose Holloway (DRC), Mariam Rabbath (DRC) and Arianna Calza Bini (GICHD). She also introduced one new representative to the AG: Bojan Vukovic (UNMAS).

Céline then gave the floor to Kaitlin to introduce Faustine, future Secretary of the AG, and the timeline for the transfer of responsibilities. A gradual transition will take place over the summer, with Kaitlin remaining the main communication point during this period. Faustine will formally take over the role as of September, at which point an official communication will be sent to the members. Until then, Kaitlin should remain the main point of contact.

### 2. IMAS Technical Note on IED Risk Education

Hugues shared an update on the development of the IMAS Technical Note on IED Risk Education, last discussed by the AG on [15 October 2021](#). A presentation on this note was delivered by Lionel Pechera from the GICHD as part of the Plenary Session "Small Innovations, Big Wins in EORE" at the 25<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers (NDM-UN25). A recording of the session will be available on the NDM website soon.

Hugues recalled that the technical note in development is building on the initiative of DRC/DDG who put together in 2017 the initial draft. It represents a programmatic innovation and will help guide the sector on how to address IED risk education. In this revision, new approaches are proposed to conduct IED risk education. It also provides more guidance on what constitutes a permissive or non-permissive environment for IED risk education, as well as for determining when or whether to engage in IED risk education.

This technical note is still under development. Hugues and Lionel are co-chairing the technical working group. There is a good consensus on the draft, but, given the importance and sensitivity of the subject, the working group would like to engage the AG to benefit from the expertise of the members. In this regard, the draft of the technical note elaborated by the IMAS technical working group will be circulated to the AG members to provide their feedback via Hugues by mid-August [\[action\]](#).

After the feedback from the AG members has been received, the technical note will be revised and consolidated. The technical working group is expected to present a final version of the draft to the IMAS Review Board during Q3 of this year and, after approval by the Review Board, to release the final document by the end of the year.

Should guidance be needed in the meantime, members/observers are encouraged to use the draft available on the [website](#) (2018), or the draft of the technical note to be circulated, keeping in mind that this is a work in progress that has not yet been endorsed and that cannot be disseminated beyond the AG until it is approved by the IMAS Review Board.

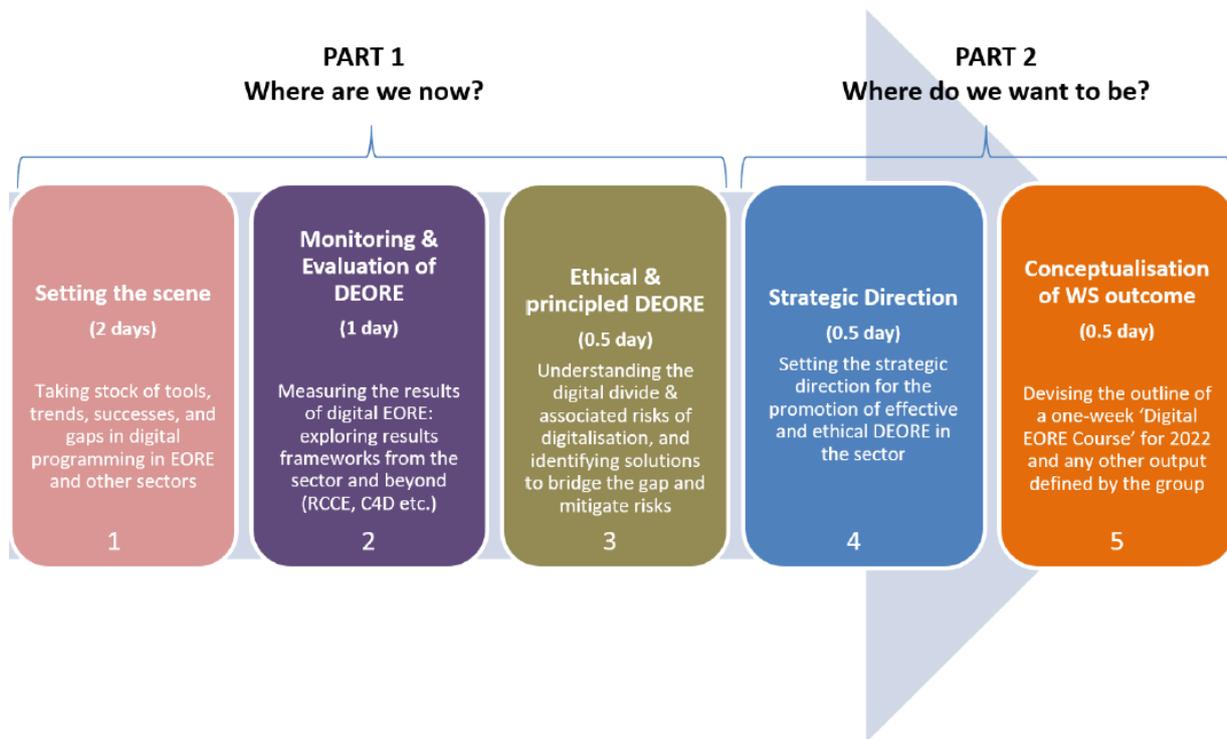
Further to this update, the following additional points were made:

- UNICEF in Myanmar is in the process of developing IEC materials specifically for risk education for IEDs and welcomes the development of this technical note.
- There is no repository of IED risk education materials used across the world. It would be useful to have a specific repository on IED risk education that could showcase how various organisations use IED risk education materials, be it “traditional” or electronic/digital materials. This could be an interesting action point for knowledge management and sharing on this topic.

### 3. Digital EORE Workshop

The workshop on digital EORE, co-led by UNICEF and the GICHD from 16-20 May 2022, gathered 17 full-time participants and 18 facilitators (from the mine action sector as well as other sectors) who shared their experience on digital engagement.

The workshop was divided into two parts: Addressing the state of play regarding digital engagement (part 1) and the question of ‘where we want to be’ in 5 years (part 2). The original session plan is shown below; it was largely maintained, with the exception of the final session which was instead dedicated to developing the skeleton of a work plan for the next five years.



To summarise, some of the main outcomes of the workshop included:

- First draft of a common vision and skeleton of action plan for the next five years;
- First drafts of guidance notes on digital tools, their use (ex. chatbot, social media), and their monitoring and evaluation;
- Draft list of recommendations and principles to bridge the digital divide in the sector;
- Agreement on a common definition of DEORE and on a 'spectrum of digital solutions' for EORE;
- Proposition of a series of M&E solutions;
- Recording of a number of interventions that will be made available.

Finally, the live results of a global mapping of digital EORE initiatives, conducted by a sub-group of the Digital EORE Task Team, were presented and finalised. This mapping highlights that digital EORE interventions are recent and still at an early stage, with an important increase of activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The database of digital EORE currently includes about 40 initiatives and has been published on the [AG webpage](#), where it remains open for further additions.

Very good feedback was received from the participants, who reported high satisfaction rates in the workshop evaluation. The final workshop package will be shared soon with the participants and, once approved, disseminated to AG members and other practitioners within the sector **[action]**.

#### 4. Updates from the Digital EORE Task Team

The different sub-groups of the Digital EORE Task Team updated the AG on their progress:

## **Mapping of digital EORE activities:**

As previously mentioned, the mapping project is now available on the EORE AG webpage. The sub-group is now finalising its work and preparing to transition its mandate. Taking into account the priorities determined during the Digital EORE Workshop, it is proposed that it will be replaced by a new group focusing on developing a sectoral approach towards partnership (including with tech companies and other experts on digital behaviour change interventions) to strengthen DEORE.

## **Micro-content on DEORE:**

Two bite-size products have been produced – one on UNMAS Afghanistan’s SBCC project and the other one on MAG’s digital EORE project with Facebook/Meta – and should soon be submitted to the EORE AG for approval. Another bite-size content on the use of digital applications in EORE is in progress.

Also, as for the first sub-group, following the DEORE Workshop, the group is now operating a slight shift in its work to expand the spectrum of bite-size content to be developed to include guidance notes, for instance on copyright issues or on other sectors’ best practices on the use of technology.

## **Monitoring & Evaluation of DEORE:**

The sub-group is also building on the work done during the Digital EORE Workshop and is looking at developing recommendations for M&E, e.g. to count beneficiaries and to measure behaviour change. This will likely require desk research by members of the sub-group in the coming months.

Finally, the leads of the three sub-groups took the opportunity to sensitise AG members on the need to reconstitute membership and interest to be able to move forward on tasks. The co-leads of the task team will reach out to AG/task team members over the summer to initiate this process. **[action]**. AG members are also encouraged to reach out directly to Matthieu and Sebastian if they are interested in participating in the DEORE TT.

## **5. Updates on development of an overarching theory of change**

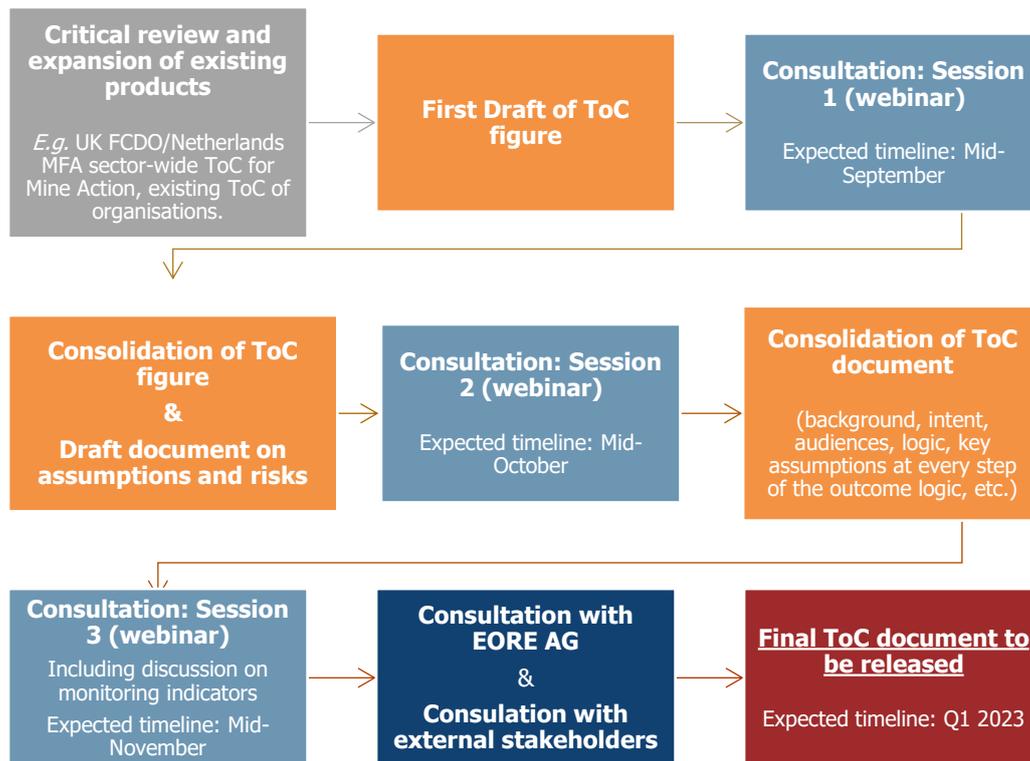
As recalled by Hugues, there is currently no theory of change applicable to the EORE sector. Hence, the idea is to develop of an overarching theory of change to support the efforts of the sector (activity 1.1.3 of the [2021-2022 Work Plan](#)).

It shall be noted that the Netherlands MFA and the UK FCDO have recently developed an overarching theory of change for mine action, covering all pillars, that will be piloted in the next months in Afghanistan, Angola, Lebanon, Libya, and Ukraine. However, it is thought that the EORE sector is unique in many ways and needs a specific and detailed global ToC that can be transformed into results-based frameworks and adapted by any organisation and country.

Following this introduction on the rationale behind the development of an overarching ToC for the EORE sector, Daniel Reijer from UNICEF explained the timeline and process foreseen for this work:

- Development of the EORE ToC during Q3 and Q4 2022.
- Launch of the EORE ToC in Q1 2023 following wide consultation.

## Proposed Work Plan



Drafts and revised versions of the ToC will be shared with the EORE AG before each webinar for review. Webinars will be participatory and interactive and last between 90 and 120 minutes.

Whilst not a prescriptive tool, the goal of this overarching ToC is to help professionalise the sector. To ensure from the outset that all stakeholders have a clear idea of what they aim to do and achieve, a solid RBM structure, and thus a solid ToC, are fundamental to any EORE programme. However, not all countries or organisations are equipped with a ToC. Hence, with this sector-wide ToC, the objective is to offer an example of an ideal tool or framework for EORE programmes that can be adjusted and adapted to every context. It will help ensure better accountability and transparency within the sector by facilitating the evaluation of programmes and projects, but also generate partnerships and synergy of actions. This work is also the opportunity to reflect on and define a set of agreed key indicators.

To ensure the success, acceptance and dissemination of this first-ever sector-wide ToC, consultation with and participation of the widest audience is required. The FCDO and Netherlands will also be informed and MAAs will need to be involved from the outset to guarantee the authorities' buy-in. This can be done through the AG, via the MAAs to be nominated soon, and through consultations conducted in parallel to the webinars.

The following additional points were made during the discussion:

- When developing the ToC, special consideration should be given to how other mine action partners framed their ToC, how EORE was incorporated, but also to compare with the FCDO/Netherlands overarching ToC for Mine Action.
- UNICEF RBM courses will soon resume. The idea of these courses is also to develop theories of change, but at country-level, which is quite different.

A few action points were also identified during the discussion [\[actions\]](#):

- PowerPoint presentation of Daniel to be shared with AG members.
- All members and stakeholders are encouraged to take an active part in this process and participate in the webinars.
- While Kaitlin will share with Daniel theories of change that have been compiled through the annual EORE Stakeholder Survey, all stakeholders are encouraged to share existing ToC they may know/use.

## 6. Discussion on EORE AG Co-Chair nominations

Céline recalled that Co-Chair nominations were sought and due at the end of May. Whilst the one-year term of HI ends this month, no nominations were received from other NGOs to take over.

The members were reminded that, as outlined in the minutes of the first AG meeting in May 2019, *"A suggestion is made that there should be a rotation of the co-chair position amongst all core members until all NGOs have had a chance to serve a term by 2030. This is largely supported but there should be space for flexibility based on capacities. Thus, it is agreed that no NGO shall serve more than one consecutive term (term = period of 12 months) and, in principle, all core members should be open to serving as co-chair."*

Three NGOs should have already chaired the group and a fourth one should now start its term. However, to date only two NGOs have served as Co-Chair of the AG (MAG and HI).

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> time this situation has happened as no nominations were received in 2020, which led MAG to serve a second term. This is concerning and represents a threat to the sustainability of the AG. As emphasised by Céline and Hugues, the EORE AG being highly visible and widely recognised, the co-chair role is a great opportunity for NGOs.

Regarding the question of why no NGO applied to serve as the next Co-Chair, some representatives have raised questions about the responsibilities and expectations regarding the role and most mentioned a lack of time and capacities in terms of human resources.

In this regard, Céline clarified that the Co-Chair does not necessarily have to be someone in a global position but can also be a person from the field. Therefore, the representatives of the different structures are encouraged to reach out to field colleagues. The list of responsibilities of the Co-Chairs can also be found in the [Terms of Reference](#) of the Advisory Group (p.3), that will also be re-shared by email to the members [\[action\]](#).

As part of the discussion, the following solutions and options were also envisaged:

- In the future, and subject to modification of the EORE AG ToR, open the Co-Chair role to MAAs part of the AG.
- Although all NGOs are encouraged to Co-Chair and a rotation is preferable in line with the spirit of the ToR, if by practice two-year terms tend to become the norm, change the ToR to extend the NGO Co-Chair term.
- Discuss the status of members who are consultants and its compatibility with the Co-Chair role.

Given the concerns raised about time and capacities, it will be opportune to discuss challenges and define priorities when drafting the next work plan of the AG, to ensure the sustainability of the group.

## **Addendum following the meeting (30/06/2022):**

Considering the comments and clarifications made, it has been decided to extend the deadline for co-chair nominations until 30 September. All NGO Core Members are invited to nominate a delegate to be Co-Chair for a one-year term, starting from the subsequent meeting **[action]**. Nominees do not have to be current members of the EORE AG but may be technical and senior members (ideally) from the field. As an indication, in terms of workload and time, it is estimated that it takes an average of 3 hours per month (5 – 10% of time depending on periods).

### **7. Updates on AG nomination process for mine action authority representatives**

As an introduction, Céline recalled that:

- In December 2021, the ToR of the EORE AG were revised to accept one up to three mine action authorities (MAAs) as Core Members based on their nominations and election by MAAs.
- On 11 April 2022, a letter was sent to MAAs/Mine action Centres (MACs) inviting nominations. Eleven nominations were received.
- On 10 May 2022, a virtual meeting with MAAs to hear pitches from the nominees was held.
- Between 18-31 May 2022, MAAs/MACs proceeded to vote to elect their representatives (2 slots open).

As Hugues recalled, it has been of particular importance to the AG that the nomination process be neutral, transparent and democratic and for MAAs to decide themselves on their representatives. Some questions regarding the process have been addressed by one MAA and UN Member State bilaterally to UNICEF as co-chair and two UN AG members. UNICEF intends to coordinate and issue a UN response on this aspect. Hugues will update the group on this matter **[action]**.

Regarding the results, whilst one clear winner emerges from the votes, there is a 4-way tie for the second place. In order to break the tie, it was proposed to the AG members to select the 2<sup>nd</sup> representative based on the following three criteria:

- 1) Technical EORE expertise of the MAA/MAC
- 2) Geographic distribution
- 3) Gender balance

As no member objected to this proposition, an agreement was reached regarding the use of these criteria and members of the AG will be informed of the final results as soon as possible following the finalisation of the above-mentioned UN response **[action]**.

Finally, whilst regular rotation of MAA representatives is imperative, given heavy administrative requirements to the voting process, the AG voted unanimously to extend the term of MAAs from one to two years **[decision]**. The ToR of the AG will thus be revised accordingly.

## 8. Updates from previous week's events

The NDM provided a good opportunity to give visibility to and stress the importance of EORE. EORE was particularly well highlighted during this NDM, from a plenary session on innovations and EORE, to diverse side events. The EORE AG was also well promoted, particularly during the mine action support group meeting with donors. UNMAS will soon upload all the presentations including from side events.

## 9. AOB

Kim (UNICEF) proposed that a discussion be held regarding the addition of some advocacy agenda in the future.

No further updates were shared. Participants were invited to provide any other information or comment they may have to the Secretariat by email.