

# EORE AG

## Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group

### Minutes of the EORE AG Meeting

**Date:** 5 Oct 2020  
**Time:** 14:30-16:30 Geneva time  
**Location:** Virtual (Zoom)

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

### Summary of Action Points

Action	Responsible	Suggested Deadline
<b>Activities</b>		
Widely communicate the adoption of the revised IMAS 12.10 on EORE and what changes or is new about it	All members, led by UNICEF	Q4 2020
Organise side event for CCM RevCon and prepare joint statement(s) for the disarmament convention meetings.	GICHD and Co-Chairs	30 Oct/ Mid-Nov
Provide feedback on EHRE message package, with a focus on red lines (see separate email).	All members	12 Oct
Send emails: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) With next steps for the establishment of a training task group to provide quality management for the EORE Essentials E-Learning</li> <li>2) To schedule a presentation on preliminary findings from the ongoing review on good practices for measuring the effectiveness and impact of EORE</li> </ol>	GICHD	End of Oct
<b>2020 &amp; 2021 Workplans</b>		
Send questions, clarifications and key points on pending actions in the 2020 workplan via email.	All members	Ongoing
Complete the survey on EORE (once received), and share internally with relevant staff members including national EORE focal points.	All members	Oct-Nov
Provide comments on the AG Work Plan 2021 zero draft Google Document	All members	20 Nov
Organise a final meeting of the year focused on the 2021 workplan	Co-Chairs/Secretary	Early Dec

## Participants

### Core members:

- DCA: Lene Rasmussen
- FSD: Alex van Roy (alternate)
- GICHD: Matthieu Laruelle
- HALO Trust: Kim Fletcher
- HI: Berengere Lenoir
- ICBL-CMC: Sarah Edgcumbe (alternate)
- MAG: Sebastian Kasack (Co-chair)
- NPA: Rasmus Sandvoll Weschke
- UNDP: Steinar Essen
- UNICEF: Hugues Laurence (Co-chair)
- UNMAS: Bridget Forster

### Associate members:

- IOM: Erhan Vural (alternate)
- UNHCR: Annika Gerlach (alternate)

### Observers:

- ICRC: Louis Maresca
- MA AoR: Christelle Loupforest
- NPA: Alberto Serra
- UNICEF: Carin Atterby, Werner Hof
- UNMAS: Audrey Torrecilla

## Detailed Minutes

### 1. Welcome

Hugues welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly the new faces, and invited participants to introduce themselves. As no new NGO members applied to co-chair the AG, it was announced that Sebastian will continue as co-chair for the next year.

Hugues noted that the AG has been very active over the months since the last meeting, including the finalisation of the *Standardising Beneficiary Definitions* guidance, launch of the *Review of New Technologies and Methodologies for EORE in Challenging Context*, and circulation of a draft Lausanne Action Plan with strengthened focus on risk education.

An overview of the agenda was provided, and a question was raised on funding trends for the risk education pillar and the need for the group to raise the profile of EORE among the mine action donor community. It was agreed to discuss this question while brainstorming on the 2021 workplan.

### 2. Communication on IMAS 12.10

Hugues announced that the two-year process of revising the International Mine Action Standard on risk education (IMAS 12.10) is nearly complete. The IMAS Review Board (RB) has received the final version and has already received enough affirmative votes for its adoption. This is formally

expected in the coming weeks, following an extension to voting that was requested by Colombia (an IMAS RB member). Only two minor sets of changes have been requested by RB members.

The revised IMAS 12.10 is a comprehensive standard, with 17 'shall' and 95 'should' statements. Its adoption will formally mark the shift in sectoral terminology from mine risk education (MRE) to explosive ordnance risk education (EORE). There will be a need to widely communicate the numerous changes in this version to the sector [\[action\]](#).

Once published, the revised standard will also be uploaded to Mineaction.net, where states and practitioners can generate a checklist to verify compliance against shall-should-may statements with the new standard. Hugues noted that Fenix Insight, who is responsible for this tool, could be invited to make a presentation at the next meeting of the EORE AG.

A question was raised about translation of the revision. While GICHD typically translates standards into Arabic, French and Russian, the timeline for this needed to be checked. ***[Addendum from the GICHD: the translations should be published in late 2020 or early 2021.]***

### 3. Plans for the CCM Review Conference and APMBC Meeting of States Parties

Matthieu updated the group on planning for these two major conventional disarmament events happening in November.

The **Second Review Conference (RevCon or 2RC) of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)** will take place from 23-27 November. It will be hosted by the Swiss presidency in Lausanne – with most likely a maximum of two people per delegation attending in person (with alternates possible) and the remainder participating online. Some practical information is already available online, and side event application information is expected to be added next week. *[Addendum: side events form online, deadline 30 October]*

Following advocacy from the EORE AG among other actors, Chapter 6 of the draft Lausanne Action Plan (LAP) is fully dedicated to risk education, with four concrete actions and related quantitative indicators. An additional action under Survey and Clearance requires States Parties to include appropriate provisions for risk education in article 4 extension requests. During the second preparatory meeting for the RevCon, held on 4<sup>th</sup> September, the Presidency mentioned there is strong support from States Parties for this chapter, demonstrating recognition of the significance of protecting civilians from the risks of cluster munitions and their remnants. A new version of the LAP reflecting the most recent round of comments is expected to be uploaded soon, for adoption at the RevCon.

There are also ongoing discussions related to the CCM convention machinery, including on the question of resuming a (short) annual intersessional session. At present, risk education is handled as part of the Article 4 Coordination Committee on Clearance and Risk Reduction Education. A potential point of is to ask the Presidency and Art. 4 coordinators to strengthen the language on RE in the coordinators' mandate and/or to formally or informally designate one of the article 4 coordinators as responsible for following up on risk education commitments, as has been done by Norway for the APMBC. A second question is whether there is an ongoing reflection on the modification of the Art. 7 reporting template to reflect the Lausanne Action Plan, including the actions related to risk education.

Meanwhile, the **18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties (MSP) of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC)** will be in Geneva from 16-20 November – also in hybrid form. While the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) adopted last year marked significant progress in recognition of the importance of risk education and reduction, progress is still needed for its actions to be fully realised. For example, just a third of States Parties with Article 5 (clearing mined areas) obligations reported delivering tailored risk education messages to populations at-risk (action #29). *[Addendum: side events form online, deadline 30 October]*

Areas noted where it could be beneficial for EORE AG involvement include:

- Advocate to specify in TORs of CCM Article 4 coordinators (currently Afghanistan and Sweden) that they will follow up on EORE commitments
- Ask if CCM reporting template is being reviewed already based on new structure and indicators
- Share EORE messages on social media as part of the 'Road to Lausanne'
- Raise attention to need to implement and report on OAP Actions 28-32 (on risk education and reduction)

It was further agreed that the EORE AG should organise at least one side event, ideally in the margins of the RevCon as it is the higher profile event. This can be supplemented, especially for the MSP, by one or more joint statements from the EORE AG **[action]**.

#### 4. External update 1: EHRE Workstream of the RDSWG for Syria

Annika, Audrey and Carin jointly presented the results of the Regional Explosive Hazard Risk Education (EHRE) Workstream which, over the past few months, has as attempted to 'identify gaps and generate technical resources, including harmonizing EHRE messaging, materials and approaches, from a return preparedness perspective.' This workstream sits under the umbrella of the Regional Durable Solutions Working Group (RDSWG) for Syria under the overall auspices of the Regional Refugee Resilience Plan (3RP), and its work supports the objective from the EORE AG workplan to 'ensure the development of regional-level harmonised messages, materials and approaches on risk education for Syrian refugees...'

The presenters shared information about the main tasks completed and outputs delivered under this workstream (see right) and requested the EORE AG's support to review the message packages – with a particular focus on red lines. Because the workstream ends in October, feedback must be received by **12 Oct** (apologies were given for the condensed timeframe) **[action]**. Instructions for providing feedback were shared via the meeting chat and through email to all AG members.

**UNMAS** Tasks completed and outputs

NEEDS DRIVEN. PEOPLE CENTRED.

- ✔ **Task 1 and 2** : Situation analysis and mapping
  - **Outputs 1 and 2** : Governorate Profile Dashboard and EH Risks Profile Analysis
- ✔ **Task 3** : Developing Basic EHRE Awareness Messaging
  - **Output 3** : Key message packages for provided for adult male and female refugees planning to travel and/or return to Syria, and for children.
- ✔ **Task 4 and 5** : Developing recommendations on EHRE tools, methodologies and training requirements
  - **Outputs 4 and 5** : Key recommendations on EHRE programming for refugees including EHRE Training curriculum for facilitators and EHRE sessions curriculum
- ✔ **Regional Synergies** : outputs streamlined into relevant EORE initiatives in the region, such as the EORE sub-project for Refugees in Lebanon

Once finalised, the outputs will be shared widely with regional actors and online in a repository. It was noted that this work has demonstrated how much can be achieved when working together, and it has fostered an even deeper culture of collaboration oriented towards results – one that

will be continued through other platforms even after the end of this workstream. To a question posed about the 'ingredients' that have allowed this regional initiative to successfully take off and deliver concrete outputs, credit was given largely to the personal element: the people involved and their technical expertise, the good working dynamics and the sharing of good practices and the output-oriented approach of the Workstream.

The AG expressed its appreciation to the presenters for their important work and expressed an interest in continuing to work together.

## 5. External update 2: Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action

The Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCC) are the core UNICEF policy and framework for humanitarian action and are mandatory for all UNICEF personnel. They apply in all countries and to all children affected by humanitarian crisis, based on needs, regardless of their country's state of economic and social development.

First published in 1998 and last updated in 2010, Hugues informed the AG that a new edition of the CCC will be released on 15 October. Relevant for the AG, one core commitment is fully dedicated to mine action and weapons, it includes the benchmark that 'at-risk children and communities have access to age-appropriate education about the risks of explosive weapons.'

The CCC on mine action and weapons reaffirms that all children exposed to EO have the right to be protected including through EORE. This actionable commitment (like all other CCC) derives from the Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC), therefore all member states but one (196 State Parties) have an accountability to comply with the CRC and to meet this commitment. The CCC can thus be used by any organization to advocate for, and leverage, EORE from an International Human Rights Law perspective.

The CCC will be shared externally on <https://corecommitments.unicef.org> together with a toolkit and learning resources.

## 6. Status of 2020 workplan implementation

Due to time constraints, the decision was taken to conduct this agenda item offline. Members are welcome to send questions, clarifications and key points on pending actions in the 2020 workplan via email and these will be disseminated/acted on/responded to accordingly **[action]**.

Matthieu briefly mentioned that a contribution from the Government of Italy is enabling the GICHD to begin its work on the EORE Essentials E-Learning sooner than initially foreseen. Work will begin already in 2020 to draft the storyboard outline for this course and develop the first (introductory) module. Recalling that it was previously agreed that a training task group will be established within the AG to provide quality management for this product, an email will be sent shortly to all AG members inviting voluntary participation and outlining next steps **[action]**.

Members will also be contacted shortly by the GICHD to establish a date for a presentation/discussion on preliminary findings from the ongoing desk review of good practices for measuring the effectiveness and impact of risk education **[action]**.

Finally, Sarah conveyed a message of thanks from Ruth Bottomley (ICBL-CMC representative to the AG) for the support provided in collecting data on risk education for the Landmine and Cluster

Munition Monitor. It was noted that while the reporting may not be fully comprehensive this year, it is hoped that it will serve as encouragement for more reporting in future years.

## 7. Plans to conduct an annual survey

While this agenda item also had to be skipped for time reasons, Kaitlin briefly mentioned that the GICHD in its secretariat capacity intends to conduct an annual survey on risk education progress and needs. It will be sent to representatives of national mine action authorities; organisations directly involved in EORE delivery; organisations working on EORE but not in a delivery capacity; other humanitarian, protection, development and education actors; and donors, among others.

The survey is expected to be emailed in the course of October-November and will feed into the development of the 2021 workplan. AG members are asked to all complete it, as well as to share it internally with relevant staff members including national EORE focal points **[action]**.

## 8. Brainstorming discussion on 2021 workplan

Kaitlin provided a framework for brainstorming on the 2021 workplan. It was first noted that a distinction should be drawn between activities led by the AG that can be attributed to it, versus activities led by individual or groups of members for which the AG contributes. Inclusion of activities led by individual members in the workplan signals a consensus on the need for it and can be leveraged for securing buy-in, funding, prioritisation, participation, etc.

Members were then asked for their feedback on: 1) what they see as the role of the group going forward and 2) what level of engagement is foreseen as feasible and realistic for 2021 – given workplans and especially the COVID-19 pandemic. Members were also invited to share specific activities that they would like to see included.

Overall, there was strong consensus that the EORE AG remains highly relevant, and that this relevance has been demonstrated by the group's delivery of concrete results, undeterred by the pandemic. Several expressed thanks to the leadership of the Co-Chairs and Secretariat for driving the group's productivity, as well as to the GICHD representation that has taken the lead on a large share of activities under the current workplan. Credit was also given to the broad and varied participation in the group, and its ability to carry on activities by meeting online.

### **Specific areas mentioned where the AG's role has been appreciated included:**

- Focusing and prioritisation of key tasks
- Channeling of resources towards the sector
- Encouraging and creating space for innovation
- Contribution to long overdue regional initiatives such as the EHRE RDSWG
- Forum to hear about the latest sectoral developments
- Harmonisation of tools and approaches
- Space to share challenges and develop a common vision

Based on this, most agreed that a similar workplan – in both structure and ambition – could be foreseen for next year. Meanwhile, members brought up the following as **areas of work that they would like to see strengthened or incorporated in the 2021 workplan:**

- Greater focus on supporting protection of civilians living through conflict and in areas where acute humanitarian needs may be being neglected; could be linked to the creation of a collective standby capacity on risk education
- Sharing of findings related to behaviour change and community engagement
- Strengthening of synergies with wider humanitarian, protection and development sectors:
  - Inclusion of EORE in humanitarian response plans (HRPs)
  - Linking of EORE to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus
  - More participation in other forums beyond mine action
  - More thinking around how we can work with partners that deliver EORE but are not MA specialists – to ensure quality of approach and consistent messaging
- Regional and national engagement:
  - Continuing to advise and develop guidance at global level, while also ensuring the tools that have been developed are disseminated and used at regional and country level
  - Translation and dissemination of resources in right languages to right people
  - Listening to the voices of national mine action authorities/centres and local authorities – including through more active engagement in the group
  - Stocktaking of national strategic plans for risk education
- Piloting by members of some of the approaches and tools that we have recommended, which would produce concrete examples that can be further shared with the sector
- Not just creation but also promotion of the EORE Essentials E-Learning product
- Follow up to the *Review of New Technologies and Methodologies for EORE in Challenging Contexts* to better gauge the impact that these technologies (including those implemented jointly as part of the COVID-19 pandemic response) have had
- Continuing to provide support to the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor for the collection of risk education data

As a next step, the Co-Chairs and Secretariat will circulate a draft workplan for 2021 incorporating the above points. It will be shared as a Google Document for members to directly comment on. The last meeting of the AG for the year will focus on the this workplan [\[action\]](#).