

EORE AG

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group

Minutes of the EORE AG Meeting

Date: 8 March 2022
Time: 14:30 – 16:30 CET
Location: Virtual (Zoom)

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

Summary of Action Points

Action	Responsible	Suggested Deadline
UNHCR Protection in Armed Conflict (PiAC) Toolkit		
Provide comments on draft MA and EORE module (circulated via email) and share operational examples and best practices	AG members	15 March
Emergency EORE in Tigray		
Support partners in Ethiopia to address barriers and identify solutions to delivering EORE in Tigray (discussion to be cont.)	AG members	Next AG meeting
Share assessments conducted in hospitals and IDP camps in and near Tigray, Ethiopia	UNICEF/ UNMAS	End of March
Emergency EORE in Ukraine		
Input to the Google Doc circulated via email in order to produce a short Q&A on EORE for partners in Ukraine	AG members	15 March
Circulate poll & Doodle on next meeting to AG members	Secretary	10 March

Participants

Core members:

- DRC: Nick Vovk
- FSD: Alex van Roy
- GICHD: Matthieu Laruelle
- HALO Trust: Matthew Walker (alternate)
- HI: Sofia Miranda Cogollos
- ICBL-CMC: Ruth Bottomley
- MAG: Sebastian Kasack
- NPA: Alberto Rinaldo Serra
- UNDP: Oksana Leschenko
- UNICEF: Kim Warren
- UNMAS: Pauline Boyer

Observers:

- ICRC: Louis Maresca
- MA AoR: Christelle Loupforest
- DRC/MA AoR: Hannah Rose Holloway
- NPA: Benedikte Bjerch-Andresen
- UNICEF Ukraine: Tetiana Kazanzhy
- UNDP Ukraine: Martin Oubrecht
- UNHCR: Julia Grignon
- UNMAS Palestine: Hana Albaioumy

Detailed Minutes

1. Welcome

Hugues opened the meeting by going over the agenda and introducing newcomers to the AG, including four new members: Nick Vovk (DRC), Sofia Miranda Cogollos (HI), Kim Warren (UNICEF), and Philippa Smith (IOM, not present).

2. Mine Action & EORE Module in UNHCR's PiAC Toolkit

The UNHCR Protection in Armed Conflict (PiAC Toolkit) aims at enhancing UNHCR and partners' protection work in armed conflict. After receiving positive feedback and requests to expand the scope of the toolkit beyond the nine existing modules, mine action/EORE was identified as one of four topics for additional modules. Julia, who is responsible for developing these modules, briefly introduced the work that has been done to date and thanked those who already contributed.

To further improve the draft, members were requested to share operational examples and best practices with Julia for inclusion in the module. It was also agreed that the full draft would be circulated to all AG members, with a deadline to comment by Tuesday, 15 March [action]. After that point, it will be finalised by UNHCR and integrated as part of the toolkit.

Alternative livelihood support to contribute to EO risk reduction was mentioned by a participant as one topic where more best practices and examples could be useful. It was noted that this could be a subject of a separate AG discussion or EORE Hour.

3. Discussion on Emergency EORE in Ukraine & Tigray

This agenda item responded to requests received by the AG Co-Chairs to review EORE messaging and approaches in two emergency contexts (Ukraine and Tigray).

Ukraine

Note: given the rapidly evolving context, the below updates should be considered valid as of the time when this meeting was held

Updates were first provided by actors operational in Ukraine:

UNDP	- The situation on the ground has been extremely difficult, with staff relocating and under shelling
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<p>(Mine Action Sub Cluster Coordinator)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of the emergency response is ongoing and bilateral discussions are taking place with operators - It has been agreed that EORE messages need to be adapted to the current situation
<p>UNICEF</p>	<p>Activities in the pipeline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two series of cartoons developed previously are being widely boosted on Youtube, Instagram and Facebook. 5 million people were already reached in last 2 days (3 million of those through a Facebook boost). Two new cartoons will be ready in some weeks hopefully. - Producing short videos for screens for railway stations and Kyiv metro, which serves as the main bomb shelter during the last 12 days as well as for TV channels that operates in format of non-stop news, as well as printing materials to be placed on the railway/metro stations - Online lesson dedicated to EORE will be disseminated among regions less/not affected so teachers of remote classes will be able to deliver this through online schooling or parent chats. PPT used in this lesson will be disseminated through the teachers, parent groups and UNICEF social media accounts - EORE content will be disseminated through Telegram group of ministries and media outlets - Planning to coordinate with State Emergency Service on the delivery of EORE posters to affected communities <p>Other operational observations & constraints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where there is connection and electricity to charge phones, many people are digitally connected - Many staff & service providers had to flee quickly and/or are sheltering in bomb shelters. This poses logistical challenges to access master files of existing EORE resources. Thankfully a contractor has been located for video production. - Conflict is unpredictable and don't know what areas will be affected next, so need to be ready - As EO threats are extremely varied and people have limited time to focus on EORE, messages should be generalised (don't touch, don't pick up, stay away, report) while also showing as many photos of different ammunities being used as possible - Contamination and destruction is so pervasive that the clearance process is going to take many years
<p>FSD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Situation of staff: some remain in homes, some have relocated west, and one staff member left the country - Main activity is digital EORE: have been able to conduct online sessions with some people, although limited by internet access and bandwidth. Majority of efforts are through Facebook and VKontakte. Facebook ads are driving traffic to Facebook page Bezmin (4.5 million views since 25 Feb, 98% in Ukraine). - Having previously targeted non-government controlled areas in Russian, target audience has now been widened to whole country and materials translated into Ukrainian as well. - Staff have been doing some face-to-face sessions in shelters - Including messages on safe behaviours under fire and bombardment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Speaking with DRC and HALO on ways to coordinate and combine efforts on digital EORE
DRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary concern is staff safety and relocations to western parts of Ukraine; many are unable to leave besieged cities with unreliable communication. - Substantial resources are available for the response but further slowed by hacking of servers and limited functionality. As soon as access to EORE resources is restored, activities will resume. - Have put together an emergency EORE strategy. Phase 1 will focus on mass media campaigns through digital resources, mass media and television – and will be integrated as many needs assessments as possible. Once staff are in safer locations, will look to more broadly deployed programming.
HALO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conducting digital outreach on Twitter and Facebook, with general information and messaging
ICRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facing many of the challenges others have highlighted given security situation. Varying degrees of internet access by teams and movement of the delegation westward limits ability to fully engage the RASB approach. - Have maintained some structures in the East that are doing risk awareness activities - Developing an online awareness campaign as well as some physical materials (leaflets, etc.) to be distributed once the situation allows, in coordination with the Ukrainian Red Cross - Caution needed when delivering risk education in shelters to populations that are highly stressed and fearful. Messages and images are being tempered to avoid exacerbating fears by focusing on risk awareness. - Traditional messaging is being enhanced with messages on preventative actions about safety from shelling and shooting - Discussions on CBRN element to develop messages should this become an additional danger populations face

The following additional points were made during discussion:

- Other humanitarian clusters (in particular logistics) have asked for EORE materials for their staff. Nick agreed to touch base with Christelle after the meeting to see what can be shared.
- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator has expressed interest in MA AoR members’ geographic reach and connection with volunteer structure and local emergency services in order to explore transporting supplies into Ukraine. In terms of mainstreaming EORE into logistics, it was suggested that the MASC of Ukraine could provide an EORE information package that the logistic cluster can include in its operational guidelines for partners (with a focus on road safety in view of reports of anti-vehicle mines). The logistics cluster could also be used as a channel to distribute CPP and EORE leaflets in case telecommunications stop working.
- The affected population has many pressing needs in addition to safety: food, hygiene, rest, MHPSS, etc. It is our role as a sector to be sensitive to this while ensuring EORE is deployed and disseminated as soon as there is an immediate EO threat. Now is the moment to act.
- Even in locations where EORE activities are not yet possible, organisations could look into how capacities can be repurposed to meet most urgent needs – for instance, strengthening risk awareness of people who are delivering supplies to affected populations. Planning should also start now on what we should be planning for the future. Donor interest can

move quickly, so it is important to have a plan from the start to mobilise resources for EORE.

Finally, several organisations not currently operational in Ukraine offered their support in the following ways:

- **UNMAS Palestine** has developed several EORE and Conflict Preparedness and Protection (CPP) materials (currently being field tested) that could be shared and support offered for translation from Arabic into Ukrainian. The materials were developed following focus group discussions were held with different groups (ages, genders and rural/urban locations) to determine best channels. Messages include how to make houses safer, whether to open or close windows/curtains, how to choose the best room to shelter in, how to act safely under shelling and take a safety position, fire safety and regular EORE. The materials are disability inclusive and tailored to the different social media platforms being used (reels, TikTok, Instagram and Facebook) as well as for SMS and radio messaging.
- **NPA** has a team focusing on CPP. They affirmed that it seems to be relevant for the Ukrainian context and that NPA is willing to support by providing lessons learned, best practices and materials.
- **UNICEF Myanmar** has developed emergency EORE, including an [app](#), and been supported by NPA to deliver CPP in face of aerial bombardment. They have also used Facebook, Viber and Telegram to disseminate messages and facilitate incidents and casualties. Tiktok was also suggested as a vector.
- **MAG** offered to provide free Facebook ad credits.
- The **HI** representative from Colombia mentioned a model for emergency risk education and a quick response route that could be a baseline for basic principles.

Ethiopia

As mine action lead for Ethiopia, UNMAS (Pauline) provided an overview of the difficulties reaching affected populations in Tigray with EORE. Physical materials produced by UNICEF have been held at the border as only life-saving materials (health and food supplies) are permitted entry. Lack of internet connection or phone network hinders alternative ways of delivering EORE. Finally, there are sensitivities around acceptance of EORE by local authorities. Support of the AG was requested to address the barriers and identify solutions [\[action\]](#).

Updates were then provided by organisations operational in Ethiopia:

HI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project started on 1 February - Recruiting a local project manager who will receive distance training. Currently putting together a training package that can be downloaded when they have internet access, read & completed offline. To make this feasible, limited internet connection through UNHCR is anticipated. - Lessons learned will be collected to improve for future trainings, and the MA AoR will be kept updated - Have been exploring possibility of doing CPP in Ethiopia but not sure about context and sensitivities so will discuss with NPA
UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No mass messaging was possible, either through radio, TV, internet or SMS. - Produced leaflets and posters in Addis to be disseminated but were blocked at entry of Tigray

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Together with UNMAS & with Japanese funding, will deliver radio campaign & mass messaging in Afar and Amhara regions, and possibly in west Benishangul - Expecting to piggy back on the solar radio scheme that the education sector is using but uncertain in Tigray since communication systems are still down there (no phone/internet etc.) - Regional dimension: around 60,000 Tigrayan refugees are across the border in Sudan. UNMAS Sudan has started to reach out to the refugees and will re-print and use the existing EORE material developed for Tigray. - Have not incorporated any CPP messaging in Tigray, but lessons learned from UNMAS Palestine & NPA will be useful in the future - Agree to share assessments conducted in hospitals and IDP camps showing child casualties from ERW [action]
ICRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Currently no Weapon Contamination capacity in Ethiopia but did an assessment in Amhara in February to understand nature and scope of contamination that made clear there is significant ERW contamination problem causing injury to population. Was not possible to enter Tigray. - Hope to have dedicated resource attached to ICRC delegation in Addis that can work on staff safety and operational continuity issues and undertake some RASB activities.
DRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Main issue is access and getting materials into the region - Looking to train a key staff to enter and conduct a ToT (presently only internationals can enter and exit) - Are able to access certain IDP camps and settlements outside Tigray, mainly in Afar, and looking at rolling out EORE in those locations as well

It was further noted that NPA and HALO have been in the process of getting authorisation to conduct mine action activities in Ethiopia.

Support from the AG

The Co-Chairs highlighted that this meeting should serve as the beginning of a conversation to find ways to better support efforts within Ethiopia and Ukraine, within the mandate of the EORE Advisory Group.

On this note, Kaitlin provided a brief overview of historical AG discussions, its ToR and work plan:

- The overall [purpose](#) of the AG is to provide overall guidance to the sector and identify ways to improve integration, effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of EORE within the broader mine action sector and beyond;
- While members have previously expressed that the group should focus “on activities with more universal/global applicability”, it was also “mentioned that it would be a missed opportunity for a group like this not to bring all its collective knowledge to...the biggest humanitarian crises of today” ([minutes of 27/11/2019](#));
- Among other activities, the AG’s [Terms of Reference](#) state that it can, among other activities, “provide guidance on the development and adaptation of EORE in response to changing environment and context” and “issue guidance statements, disseminate lessons learned and promote good practices in EORE”;

- Activity 1.2.1 in the [AG Work Plan 2021-2022](#) is to “serve as a technical resource for the sector in face of new and emerging challenges”.

With this in mind, the question was asked how our coalition of EORE organisations can support EORE operators in Ukraine and Ethiopia – and more widely, in emergency contexts. The following responses were noted:

- Sharing of relevant materials from other contexts would be appreciated, for example through a one-stop shop folder accessible to anyone.
- A 2-pager or Q&A document on guiding principles or recommendations for EORE would be useful to answer questions like should we be doing EORE? If so, how to do it without furthering harm?
- It is difficult to now estimate what will come next. Organisations on the ground will revert back to the AG with more concrete requests as the situation evolves and needs/capacities become clearer.
- At this stage, there is a need to be ensuring that materials are in correct languages and adjusted to the new context. For this, CPP is increasingly needed. Venues also need to be identified to reach as many people as possible to ensure minimum awareness.
- One key forthcoming EORE priority will be to support the design and implementation of a regional campaign to target Ukrainian refugees prior to their return
- The CPP approach was signalled out as an especially useful resource given current risks faced in Ukraine.

Conclusion & Next Steps

As a concrete next step, it was agreed that the AG will produce a short Q&A for Ukraine and include a link to upload relevant resources/materials. It will be shared as a Google Doc for members to add contributions until 14 March, after which point it will be finalised and further disseminated **[action]**.

A poll will also be circulated to AG members on whether to organise an additional meeting this month to conclude this discussion and go through remaining agenda items that could not be covered today **[action]**.