

EORE AG
Explosive Ordnance Risk Education
Advisory Group

Minutes of the EORE AG Meeting

Date: 27 November 2019
Time: 19:30-21:30
Location: NPA Head Office, Stortovet 10, Oslo, Norway

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

Summary of Decisions Taken

Decision Taken	Votes For	Votes Against
Structure and working procedures of the EORE AG		
Membership by NGOs shall be restricted to those operating internationally	<i>unanimous consent by core members present</i>	
Membership shall be restricted to not-for-profit entities	<i>unanimous consent by core members present</i>	

Summary of Action Points

Action	Responsible	Suggested Deadline
Workplan adoption		
Submit any additional comments on the 2019-2020 Workplan to the EORE AG Secretary	All members	6 December
Electronically vote on the 2019-2020 Workplan	All core members	20 December
Activities		
Provide input to ICBL-CMC on what EORE information would be useful for <i>The Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor</i> to monitor and report.	Secretary (prompt & consolidate) + all members (input)	Q1 2020
Standards		
Share questions from IMAS RB Secretary on the revision of IMAS 12.10 for input	Hugues	TBD
Advocacy & Policy		
Send ideas to the Secretary for possible topics for a side event at the next National Director's Meeting	All members & observers	11 December

Structure and working procedures of the EORE AG		
Inform 3D LifePrints and CBS/ONGDH of decisions regarding membership by commercial entities and national NGOs, respectively.	Secretary	6 December
Electronically vote on Snail Aid's request for membership.	All core members	20 December
Send information about events relevant for this group to the Secretary for inclusion on the EORE calendar.	All members & observers	Ongoing
Create a document elaborating the inclusive and exclusive membership criteria, or amend the EORE AG ToR to reflect this information.	Co-chairs & secretary	By next meeting

Participants

Core members:

- DCA: Charlotte Billoir (alternate)
- DDG: Richard MacCormac
- FSD: Alex van Roy (alternate)
- GICHD: Matthieu Laruelle
- HALO Trust: Abdullah Alkhasawneh (alternate)
- HI: Elke Hottentot (alternate)
- ICBL-CMC: Kasia Derlicka-Rosenbauer
- NPA: Rasmus Sandvoll Weschke
- UNDP: Olaf Juergensen
- UNMAS: Bridget Forster

Associate members:

- UNHCR: Anna Rich (alternate)

Observers:

- ARMAC: Dwi Parmeswari, Hal Judge
- HI: Emmanuel Sauvage, Héloïse Pihery, Deirdre McMahon
- ICBL-CMC: Ruth Bottomley
- UNDP Lebanon: Ariane Elmas
- UNMAS: Christelle Loupforest

Detailed Minutes

1. Welcome/introduction

Sebastian welcomed guests to the meeting and invited each person to quickly introduce themselves. New representatives from GICHD (Matthieu), ICBL-CMC (Kasia), HALO Trust (Abdullah) and UNHCR (Caroline) were formally welcomed to the group.

Thanks were given to NPA for hosting, and welcome remarks were given by Rasmus.

2. Update on Progress So Far

Sebastian highlighted that there has been significant momentum around the topic of risk education and the EORE AG since its last meeting in May. This has included:

- **Establishment of the EORE AG:** Officially launched in May 2019, the AG now has 12 core members, 2 associate members and 1 observer. It has developed a close relationship with the MA AoR, reporting on nearly a monthly basis.
- **Risk education and reduction in the Oslo Action Plan:** The EORE AG successfully advocated for strengthened profiling of risk education in the Oslo Action Plan, both in presentations to States Parties of the APMBC at the May 2019 Intersessional Meeting and in formal written inputs submitted to the Norwegian Presidency in June and August 2019. Recommendations were taken on board and incorporated into the plan, to the extent that for the first time in APMBC history there is a dedicated section on risk education in the action plan. The co-chairs thanked Norway for making risk education a priority for its presidency.
- **Raising the profile:** EORE in general, and the EORE AG in particular, was raised in the presentations of Ambassador Stefano Toscano (GICHD), Christelle (MA AoR) and Hugues during the October 2019 meeting of the Mine Action Support Group (MASG), which is composed of over 30 donor states. The MASG minutes and presentations will soon be available [here](#).
- **New IMAS 12.10 on EORE:** The EORE AG submitted feedback on the draft revision of IMAS 12.10 led by the IMAS Review Board (RB) risk education working group, which were incorporated and shared with the full RB for comment. These comments are now being consolidated by the Secretary of the RB; additional support will be requested of the EORE AG in the coming weeks to respond to questions raised **[action]**. We can expect the revised IMAS to be voted on by the RB in February.
- **EORE Sector Mapping and Needs Analysis:** This rapid analysis that ran from May to July 2019 was commissioned by the GICHD on behalf of the EORE to get a better understanding of current EORE coordination structures, capacities, and future needs, as well as of the effectiveness of current EORE tools, methods and approaches. Findings and recommendations were validated by the EORE AG, and the recommendations have informed both the AG's inputs to the Oslo Action Plan and the draft EORE AG workplan.

Hugues also provided information on two new resources from outside this group but still of interest to its members: the launch of the [UN Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programmes](#) and the [IASC Guidelines on INclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action](#)

Finally, Hugues mentioned that the 3rd Annual **Effective EORE course** held in Spiez, Switzerland last September received good and constructive feedback. As a reminder, this is not an entry-level risk education course but takes it a step further with an important focus on RBM and making sure EORE is outcome-driven. Based on feedback received, behaviour change components of case studies will be strengthened in case studies, as well as more deep dives included on EORE challenges such as risk education for IEDs. Dates have already been agreed for 2020 (23.09 – 02.10.2020), and planning is beginning for 2021.

3. EORE AG Workplan 2019-2020

Sebastian introduced the draft one-year workplan for the EORE AG, which foresees targeted interventions to both raise the profile of risk education and improve its effectiveness, efficiency and integration. The draft workplan is divided into four thematic areas (quality management, cooperation, information management, and advocacy and policy) in line with the recommendations of the EORE Sector Mapping and Needs Analysis, as well as some cross-cutting actions.

For each activity, one or more organisations have been named lead. The lead is responsible for actively driving the activity and providing any associated resources (human or financial) for its realisation. That said, the EORE AG remains a collaborative body that acts as much in consensus as possible, and as such members should be consulted at relevant decision points and any formal outputs of the group shall be submitted for vote. Finally, the EORE AG will remain in regular consultation with the MA AoR and other relevant stakeholders to ensure synergies are maximized and duplication avoided.

The chair then opened the floor for comments on the workplan. These included:

- Currently, integration of risk education comes into the workplan in the cooperation and information management sections and as a cross-cutting activity. A dedicated section on integration and synergies should be created to reinforce this topic's importance for the implementation of the Oslo Action Plan.
- Questions were raised about the inclusion of an activity focused on the Syria plus response. Some members felt that, as a global group, we should be focusing on activities with more universal/global applicability, such as providing overarching guidance for responding to regional crises. Others felt that the group must start somewhere, and this activity could serve as a pilot for similar actions in other regions in future workplans. It was also mentioned that it would be a missed opportunity for a group like this not to bring all its collective knowledge to one of the biggest humanitarian crises of today. Therefore as a compromise, it was suggested that the Syria-focused activity could be maintained, while an additional one be added at global level.
- A suggestion was made for an additional activity to be included in a future workplan is guidance on the provision of first aid kits and training as part of risk education (e.g. when should it be done, what should be the messages?).
- In the section on information management, the focus should be on all people at risk, not just those at highest risk. Disaggregation by disability should also be included. Questions were raised about who will be aggregating the data and how it will be quality managed.
- On behalf of ICBL-CMC, Kasia informed the AG that the *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor* is interested to restart monitoring and reporting on EORE. The next step will be determining capacity and needs, for which it would be helpful to have input from the EORE AG on what information would be most useful. The AG welcomed this decision and agreed to provide this input **[action]**. One initial thought from UNHCR would be to have specialised reports on how landmines are affecting refugees and IDPs.
- A general question on resource requirements was raised, for which it was noted that the organisations listed as leads have responsibility for ensuring sufficient resources for their respective activities.

The contents of the workplan were agreed in principle by the members with no major objections raised; however, due to limited time for additional comments, the co-chairs and members agreed that an additional round of feedback will be accepted. New comments should be submitted to the

Secretary by Friday, 6 December, and a revised version will be circulated for electronic vote prior to the end of the year **[action]**.

Members were reminded that that this document has been widely consulted over the last two months, and the wording has been agreed with all lead organisations (many of whom have already incorporated these activities into their own workplans). Any suggested changes would therefore need to be agreed with the lead. This one-year workplan should not be a straitjacket, but should build on the momentum from the Oslo Action Plan by highlighting a few concrete ways to make a tangible difference in a short timeframe.

4. Update on EORE for Syrian refugees in the context of return

Ariane informed the EORE AG of a joint proposal by UNMAS Lebanon, UNMAS Syria, UNDP, UNHCR and UNICEF to provide EORE for Syrian refugees in the context of return. Following presentation of several scenarios to the Lebanese Army, it was decided that the project will be led by the Lebanese Mine Action Centre, coordinated by the UN family and implemented by organisations active on the ground such as DDG, HI, NPA and MAG.

The first 6 months of the project will be a research and development phase, with a primary focus on developing a Syria context-sensitive and threat-specific EORE training package for the most at risk group (men). Findings from the GICHD's review of new technologies and methodologies for EORE in challenging context are expected to feed into this phase, and new tools may need to be designed. The messages and tools will then be rolled out as a pilot project in Lebanon and could subsequently be used by other countries.

5. New Membership Requests

The Secretary informed members that the EORE AG has received three new requests for membership: from [Snail Aid – Technology for Development](#) (an international non-profit organisation), [3D LifePrints](#) (a commercial entity) and [Convention pour le bien etre social](#) (a national NGO). For time reasons, it was agreed that voting on the requests will have to be conducted via email.

The EORE AG took the opportunity of this meeting to discuss the wider question of membership criteria. Members recognised the importance of engaging national-level civil society and NGOs, but at the same time emphasised the global advisory mandate of the EORE AG. It was also noted that having the ICBL-CMC, which is itself a network of national and international NGOs, as a core member allows for the voices of national NGOs to still be represented. It was therefore decided that membership of the EORE AG by NGOs shall be restricted to those operating internationally **[decision]**. National NGOs may and should still be encouraged to participate through membership in ICBL-CMC and/or through guest presentations where relevant.

It was further agreed that, in order to maintain the humanitarian ethos of the group, members should not have commercial interests, and therefore membership shall be restricted to not-for-profit entities **[decision]**.

Membership by national authorities (for example, as done through the rotational representation system of the IMAS Review Board) may still be considered, as well as by regional coordination bodies given that strengthening cross-border collaboration is a priority of the AG.

The Secretary shall accordingly inform the two relevant applicants of this decision and arrange for a vote on the remaining request from Snail Aid **[action]**. It was suggested to create a document elaborating the inclusive and exclusive membership criteria, or to amend the ToR of the group to reflect this **[action]**.

6. EORE AG Webpage and 2020 Calendar of Events

A [webpage](#) has been established to house the EORE AG terms of reference and meeting minutes. This is hosted on the GICHD's webpage for the time being but, in the future, this would ideally be moved to the knowledge management platform of the iMREWG.

This webpage also links to a [global calendar of events](#) for the EORE sector. Members and observers are encouraged to share information about additional relevant events with the Secretary who manages this calendar **[action]**. This can be done at any point throughout the year.

Hugues highlighted that UNICEF is organising a panel during the plenary of the next National Director's Meeting (NDM) in February 2020 on use of technology for the delivery of EORE. Anyone with ideas for side event topics for the EORE AG should share these with the Secretary, as side event applications are due on 15 December **[action]**. The next meeting of the EORE AG will take place on the margins of this conference at a more reasonable hour.

It was also mentioned that dates are not yet set for the Global Protection Cluster meeting, and that there will be a meeting on SDG 16 in October in Rome.

7. APMBC Review Conference developments: Action Plan, Machinery, etc.

Matthieu informed the EORE AG that the GICHD, as well as several other partners, had advocated for the APMBC convention machinery to be adapted to the enhanced commitments of States Parties through the Oslo Action Plan; however, unfortunately, there was no appetite from States Parties to increase the machinery.

At the same time, the EORE AG took it as a positive signal that Sachi Claringbould (First Secretary from the Netherlands) participated as a panellist in the EORE AG's side event on risk education and made a strong statement on the importance of risk education in the plenary. Norway, who has applied for membership of the Article V committee, has indicated that they will continue to elevate the risk education agenda together with the Netherlands through this mechanism.

It was further noted that, while the Norwegian presidency took several steps to frame the discussion (Ruth's opening remarks are available [online](#)) and to encourage states to report on risk education as part of their Article V statements, just 7 of 22 States Parties did so. More work is needed to engage States Parties in the implementation of the new action plan. It was also noted that it would be helpful to have an aggregation of risk education comments from the statements made by States Parties; written copies should be available on the Review Conference website shortly.

8. Conclusion

Sebastian thanked participants for the engaged discussion. Congratulations were also given to Bridget who was one of 8 UNMAS staff to receive the 2019 Secretary-General Award for Gender Parity.

Addendum from 21 December 2019

The following decisions have been taken via email vote:

Decision Taken	Votes For	Votes Against	Abstentions
The EORE AG Workplan for 2019-2020 is adopted.	9	0	0
The request for membership from Snail Aid – Technology for Development is not approved.	1	6	2