# Minutes of the EORE AG Meeting

**Date:** 12 July 2023  
**Time:** 14:00 – 16:00 CEST  
**Location:** Virtual (Zoom)

## Summary of Action Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
<th>Suggested Deadline</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EORE AG Task Teams</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Share with Robin examples &amp; information about experiences with various digital platforms and partners (Subgroup on ‘partnership’).</td>
<td>AG members</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft Terms of References for the T&amp;EP ad hoc Task Team and reconfirm volunteers.</td>
<td>Céline &amp; Hugues</td>
<td>10 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share with Céline examples of ToRs of EORE personnel (T&amp;EP ad hoc Task Team).</td>
<td>AG members</td>
<td>10 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submit new projects to the Digital EORE Project Mapping.</td>
<td>AG members</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other Activities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Share with AG members the latest version of the ToC diagram and glossary.</td>
<td>Hugues</td>
<td>15 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide input to the draft agenda of DRC’s Emergency Risk Education Lessons Learnt Workshop.</td>
<td>AG members</td>
<td>14 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compile and share with UNMAS Sudan practical tools, lessons learnt, approaches and methodologies on emergency EORE.</td>
<td>AG members</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advertise and disseminate UNMAS webpage on Sudan.</td>
<td>AG members</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share updates &amp; information with the Secretariat on the situation and activities conducted or planned by member organisations in Sudan.</td>
<td>AG members</td>
<td>14 August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fill in the table for planning of EORE AG activities during the CCM and APMBC MSP (statements, side-event).</td>
<td>AG members</td>
<td>31 August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share an update with members on the NDM-UN side event on EORE SBC, with a link to all materials used and presented during the event.</td>
<td>Hugues</td>
<td>6 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disseminate and fill in ICBL-CMC questionnaire on EORE activities.</td>
<td>AG members</td>
<td>22 July</td>
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Participants

Co-Chairs: Furat Al Malkawi (The HALO Trust) & Hugues Laurengé (UNICEF)
Secretary: Faustine Auger (GICHD)

Core members:
- DCA: Mark Wilkinson
- DRC: Nick Vovk
- FSD: Angela de Santis
- GICHD: Céline Cheng
- HALO Trust: Kim Fletcher
- HI: Sofía Cogollos
- ICBL-CMC: Audrey Torrecilla
- LMAC: Lt. Col. Ali Makki
- MAG: Sebastian Kasack
- NPA: Colin Bent
- UNDP: Oksana Leschenko

Associate member:
- IOM: Séverine Lacroix

Observers & other attendees:
- ICRC: Louis Maresca
- DRC: Richard MacCormac
- MAG: Robin Toal, Myriam Rabbath
- UNMAS (Sudan): Sediq Rashid, Ali Ibrahim

Detailed Minutes

1. Welcome

Hugues opened the meeting by welcoming the participants to the second meeting of the year as well as by officially introducing Furat Al Malkawi (the HALO Trust), new Co-Chair of the EORE Advisory Group. Furat provided a few words of introduction and expressed her enthusiasm about the prospect of collaborating with the group over the next two years. Furat is based in Amman and has been working with the HALO Trust’s Syria programme for about 3 years. She oversees the implementation of EORE activities in Syria and tries with her team to develop new approaches to be used in Syria.

Hugues further congratulated DRC on the great results in the Co-Chair election, noting that the vote was tight and encouraging DRC to consider running again for the next term. Hugues also thanked Sofia (HI) for her dedication and great work as Co-Chair these last few months replacing Celine after her departure. He also expressed gratitude, on behalf of the EORE AG, to HI in general for having fulfilled this role for the last two years.

Hugues continued by welcoming new representatives to the group, namely Audrey Torrecilla (ICBL-CMC), Séverine Lacroix (IOM), as well as new alternates, including Angela de Santis (FSD) and Celine Cheng (GICHD). All new attendees were given the floor for a quick introduction where they shared their excitement to join the group. It was also the opportunity to welcome Sediq Rashid, programme manager for UNMAS Sudan, who would lead the update on Sudan later on in the meeting.
As a side note and after announcing the agenda, Furat explained that, for logistical reasons, and provided there is no objection, meetings of the EORE AG will now be recorded, noting that the recordings will not be published but only kept by the Secretariat to facilitate the drafting of minutes before being deleted. It shall be noted that no member objected to the proposition.

Before moving to the first agenda item, Hugues shared a few reflections with the group, taking stock of the first half of the year. Hugues commenced with a discussion on the lack of a plenary dedicated to EORE during the APMBC Intersessionals and NDM-UN, which took place in Geneva during the week of 19 June. While a side event was organised during the NDM-UN, EORE was not given sufficient emphasis in plenary sessions. In fact, clearance tends to remain the sole focus in most discussions. The omission of crucial pillars such as EORE and victim assistance is preoccupying and highlights the need to continue elevating the status of EORE to ensure proper representation and awareness. Unfortunately, this challenge also reflects in funding. Funding for emergency EORE in various contexts, such as Central Africa, West Africa, or even Yemen and Syria for instance, is a constant struggle. There is still a lot of work to conduct to make the community realise that mine action goes beyond clearance, as well as to secure necessary funding.

The recent incident in Somalia, south of Mogadishu, where a single UXO explosion caused significant casualties, including the death of 22 to 27 children, serves as a stark reminder of the importance of EORE, which can mitigate or minimise such incidents, along with the efforts of EOD and other mine action colleagues. MAG's swift and effective response following this accident was commended by Hugues, who informed the group that a compilation of materials should soon be shared by Robin (MAG) with the community as an example of emergency digital EORE.

However, as Hugues recalled, there have also been a number of positive developments in recent months that are worth mentioning:

- The full package of the Advanced EORE e-learning, comprising six modules developed by the GICHD, has now been officially endorsed by the EORE AG. This represents a significant milestone in professionalising the sector.
- A successful side event on SBC was held during the NDM-UN, with notable participation.
- A forthcoming UN Secretary-General report on assistance to mine action should soon be released, with the report set to be turned into a General Assembly resolution in September. The report will highlight the role of the EORE AG, a positive recognition for the group presented as good practice that could be applied to other sectors such as victim assistance for instance.

2. Updates from Subgroup 1 of the Digital EORE Task Team

Robin was given the floor to provide an update on the work of Subgroup 1 of the Digital EORE Task Team (DEORE TT) on partnership. The subgroup comprises seven members representing various organisations within the mine action sector.

The primary goal of the partnership subgroup is to identify ways that can enhance the EORE community to better understand and leverage opportunities in the digital space, particularly through partners and digital platforms. Over the past 6-8 months, the subgroup has been involved in extensive research to identify relevant platforms and partners across the digital space and categorising according to various aspects. In the initial stage of activity, the subgroup successfully identified 34 entities in various digital categories, including social media, direct messaging, online training, content creation, chat bots, e-mail marketing, data collection, and others. The list serves as a foundation for further exploration and collaboration.
The second stage of activity is now underway. It involves collecting short case studies from different organisations across the HMA sector with the aim to provide tangible examples of how organisations have effectively used or collaborated with different partners or platforms to enhance their work. Members were encouraged to support the subgroup by sharing information about their experiences with various platforms and partners [action].

The final product will be a categorised searchable table, which will feature the most frequently used digital platforms and partners within the EORE sector. It is expected that this resource will significantly enhance the ability of practitioners to identify suitable solutions, access relevant information and contacts, facilitating more effective partnerships.

The subgroup aims to complete the project by the end of the year, after the collection of additional case studies. Once the data is compiled and analysed, the results will be shared with the group, before the start of 2024.

### 3. Updates on the development of an overarching theory of change

Hugues provided an update on the development process of the overarching theory of change (ToC) to support the efforts of the EORE sector (activity 1.1.2 of the 2023-2024 Work Plan). Good progress has been made since last December. Four webinars have taken place, with an average participation of 8 to 10 organisations. Hugues explained that the ToC comprises three elements:

- The diagram: the visual representation of the entire ToC.
- The glossary: an explanation of all key terms used in the ToC.
- The narrative: the most significant part, where all pathways, linkages, and assumptions are unpacked and explained in a clear and rational manner.

He further reported that the first two components, the diagram and the glossary, are significantly advanced. It is now possible to test and share the diagram with all organisations. In case some members have not received the latest version, Hugues will re-share them both [action]. Work on the narrative continues.

Hugues informed members that the next webinar should be organised in September, possibly October, to present the draft narrative of the ToC. He concluded by expressing his gratitude to all organisations for their participation in the discussions and valuable contributions to the development of this Theory of Change for EORE.


As background information Céline recalled that this item is related to activity 1.4.3. of the EORE AG 2023-2024 Work Plan, which is about setting up an AG ad hoc Task Team on the identification of EORE key competencies to support the future development of an EORE Competency Test & Evaluation Protocol. The co-leads for this activity are UNICEF (Hugues) and GICHD (Céline).

As mentioned by Céline, there have been a lot of initiatives over the past few years aiming at ‘professionalising’ the EORE sector. However, important guidance in the form of a document that would identify and detail key standardised competencies and requirements for practitioners in EORE is still missing. Such a document – called T&EP - would define the minimum required competency for staff conducting EORE activities at different levels, be they agents or officers, team leaders or project managers.
Very recently, a T&EP for EOD operators (09.10/01/2023 - Competency standards for deminer, BAC operator, team leader and supervisor) has been developed and approved by the IMAS Review Board. Following this example and in line with the EORE AG Work Plan, Celine inquired whether members thought a T&EP for EORE was necessary and whether any members of the EORE AG would be interested in joining a Task Team to work on the development of this document. Several members expressed their support to the idea as well as their interest in joining the group, including Sebastian (MAG), Kim (The HALO Trust), Audrey (ICBL-CMC) and Sofia (HI).

Hugues further suggested that members share with Céline any examples of terms of references (ToRs) of EORE staff they may have. This would help the group draft the concept note of this T&EP. A scheme with different levels of competency, different roles for EORE staff could be envisaged, similar to the EOD one. Finally, he echoed the message shared by Céline and other members that such a document would certainly help professionalise and bring more legitimacy to the sector by providing a framework. He encouraged all members and organisations to participate in the process, adding that the idea of developing a T&EP for EORE competencies was also welcomed by the IMAS Review Board during their last meeting in June.

Audrey asked whether the T&EP would include training requirements. Céline specified that the scope of the T&EP and the way to move forward could be further discussed but confirmed that this is an important element that could be included in the T&EP.

Based on the discussions, it was concluded that there was a strong interest in setting up this ad hoc Task Team and developing this T&EP. Céline thanked everyone who had volunteered to take part and suggested some next steps [action]:

- Compile ToRs of EORE personnel sent by members in a folder.
- Draft some Terms of References for this ad hoc Task Team, which will be reviewed by EORE AG members.
- Reconfirm volunteers for the group.
- Organise a series of meetings, once the ToRs and the group are consolidated, to develop the first draft of the T&EP.

In terms of timeline, it is envisaged to have a first draft by December 2023 to submit it through the IMAS Review Board in 2024. A Technical Working Group under the IMAS Review Board could then be set up to review and adjust the draft before final submission for validation by the Review Board.

Finally, Céline stressed that this activity cannot be achieved alone and that, although UNICEF and the GICHD are leading the discussion, the development of this T&EP must be the fruit of collaborative work, with concrete involvement of members.

5. Update on DRC Emergency EORE Lessons Learnt Workshop

Nick reminded the group that DRC is organising an Emergency Risk Education Lessons Learnt Workshop in Ukraine end of August, which contributes to Activity 2.1.3 of the EORE AG 2023-2024 Work Plan. A message introducing this workshop and the tentative agenda had been previously circulated to EORE AG members.

The discussion began with Nick explaining the context of this workshop and the importance for DRC to having a collaborative approach to setting the agenda. After about a year of conducting emergency risk education in Ukraine, on a large scale, the overarching goal of the workshop is to take a step back and reflect on the learnings and experiences of EORE activities in Ukraine. He emphasised the importance of receiving inputs from all stakeholders involved in Ukraine to ensure
the event’s usefulness and relevance. He further explained that the Q&A on EORE for Ukraine developed by the EORE AG last year had been extremely useful as a guidance to conduct emergency EORE and that it has been used as the backbone for reflection for this workshop.

Although the tentative agenda had already been shared with several stakeholders for comments, including AG members and mine action operators in-country, this discussion is an opportunity to collect additional feedback. Nick also thanked UNICEF, MAG, the HALO Trust and HI for their input. He re-shared the link to the form in the chat and informed members that the deadline for comments is Friday, 14 July, after which point the agenda and invitations will be finalised. The two-day workshop will be held in person and online, with translation in Ukrainian, Russian and English, to enable as many people as possible to take part.

Nick then went over the tentative agenda which features a variety of discussions: a) Opening remarks; b) Setting the scene; c) EORE activities in Ukraine since the beginning of the war; d) KAP surveys; e) EORE coordination and monitoring; f) Emergency risk education materials; g) EORE for people on the move and in hard-to-reach areas; h) Digital EORE; i) Integration of EORE within the broader humanitarian response; j) Recap of lessons learnt and ways forward.

The output of the workshop will be the production of a report and an article in the journal. After reiterating his call to members to review the form and prompting questions to add any elements or topics of interest that might be missing, Nick also encouraged organisations to come forward, by email or through the form, should they be interested in presenting under specific sections [action].

Hugues enquired about the scope of the workshop and whether the lessons learnt shared would extend beyond Ukraine to include the perspectives of neighbouring countries for example. Nick confirmed that the workshop would also discuss neighbouring countries, especially those dealing with refugees from Ukraine, in the section dedicated to EORE for people on the move. It is also considered inviting representatives from other mine action centres or authorities, such as Croatian or Bosnian authorities, to share their experience in emergency EORE. Although the focus is on Ukraine and, to some extent, neighbouring countries, the aim is to share findings and provide updated lessons and guidance on emergency EORE that could be beneficial to other contexts.

As Hugues emphasised, this workshop is a great initiative which will contribute valuable insights to the EORE sector, both in Ukraine and beyond. Ali Ibrahim, Programme Officer for UNMAS Sudan, MA-AoR lead and EORE focal point for Sudan’s Programme, further stressed the relevance of having such a workshop on Ukraine’s experience on emergency risk education, which could be beneficial for Sudan given their current situation.

6. Update on Sudan

Hugues moved on to the next agenda item, giving the floor to Sediq Rashid from UNMAS Sudan for an update on the situation in the country. UNMAS is the main coordinating agency for mine action in Sudan.

Situational overview (conflict, threat, challenges, and opportunities)

On 5 December 2022, a preliminary political agreement was signed by more than 40 entities in Sudan. Political actors were working on finalising the political agreement. Several consultations were held focusing on five main priorities, one of them being the security sector reform. Unfortunately, the consultation on this matter failed, with disagreement on the timeline on integrating the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) into the regular Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF).
On 15 April, fierce fighting erupted despite a prevailing optimism for a political settlement. On 23 April, the evacuation of UN, aid and diplomatic community started. Fighting persisted, mainly occurring in residential, urban areas. The conflict rapidly spread all over Sudan, with its epicentre in Khartoum, which is home to 5 to 6 million people and transformed into a war zone. According to a report from OCHA, nearly 3 million people have been displaced, with the majority fleeing to camps located in safer parts of the country (~2.2 millions) and others to neighbouring countries (~615,000) such as Egypt, Chad, Ethiopia, the Central African Republic, or South Sudan.

Before 15 April, the landmine contamination from previous wars was mostly in rural areas, getting smaller with the concentration of efforts on the Blue Nile State, South Kordofan and Darfur States. Eastern States were all declared free from contamination. This new conflict is leaving behind significant explosive ordnance contamination (ERW) in the urban areas, with an estimated 7 million people in need of emergency EORE. Despite significant challenges, humanitarian assistance has continued, but at least 15 aid workers have been killed and millions of people are deprived from basic services. The overall impact is devastating, and this urban contamination represents a new challenge for Sudan, more complex and dangerous. The protection of civilian and humanitarian aid workers is a major concern.

Other challenges faced include:

- Loss of equipment due to large-scale lootings: programmes are in need of technical and non-technical equipment
- Visa and flights issues
- Communication issues: most telecommunication servers and networks were located in Khartoum; however, the UN emergency telecommunication cluster has now been activated
- Office facilities and accommodation challenges
- National mine action centre paralysed: the building of the National Mine Action Centre was occupied by the RSF in the early days of the conflict. Communication with the Director has now resumed, and liaison staff should soon arrive in Port Sudan to support the implementation of mine action plans and activities.
- Volatile situation and evolving conflict, with several warring factions and parties to the conflict posing major access and security concerns for the delivery of mine action and humanitarian services.
- Funding, although there are some opportunities.

The presence of mine action programmes in neighbouring countries, such as South Sudan and Ethiopia, is seen as an opportunity to help address the problem, for instance by providing risk education to refugees.

The response so far

In terms of response, it is true that capacities are limited. However, risk education messages have been disseminated using social media, local radios and televisions from the start of the conflict. Online meetings and security briefings have also been organised, included to aid workers, introducing focal points for calling technical experts for help. Risk education materials, inspired from the UNMAS Programme in Palestine, have been used and are available on UNMAS website.

Other actions by UNMAS included:

- Contributing to the revision of the Humanitarian Response Plan
- Setting up a temporary office in Port Sudan, close to other organisations
- Publishing a request for quotation (RFQ) for emergency risk education to contract an organisation and increase the risk education campaign
Engaging and coordinating with stakeholders (including with donors and nearby programmes, such as South Sudan, Ethiopia and Abyei, for support)

Revising the mine action work plan in Sudan to address the new threat of UXO contamination in urban areas, especially Khartoum.

Two additional RFQ should soon be published, one on data collection on new contamination and displaced population, and the other one for survey and clearance of urban areas.

Risk education has been integrated in all the above interventions, with for example the launch of a hotline number as part of the data collection exercise with operators trained on risk education.

**Q&A and update from other AG members**

Sebastian (MAG) asked whether application to RFQs is limited to operators already registered in Sudan. Sediq confirmed that at the moment RFQs are open to registered operators only. There are currently 7 operators in Sudan, both international, such as DRC, and local.

On the risk education package developed based on Palestine’s materials, Colin (NPA) enquired whether CPP content and messages were included (e.g. preparing grab bags, hibernation kit, etc.). Sediq confirmed the importance of such messages and their inclusion in the risk education materials developed. Colin informed the group that NPA has secured some funding for the Sudan programme to conduct CPP. He will facilitate contacts between their country director and UNMAS programme for support and synergies.

Sediq insisted that support from all is needed as millions of people are in need of EORE and the return of displaced populations is expected as soon as there will be a ceasefire. Capacity is limited but a robust response is needed, all the more since clearance will take time.

For UNICEF, Hugues affirmed their readiness to support all the efforts deployed, as part of the UN system, in close coordination with UNMAS. UNICEF has been engaged over the last decade on EORE programming in Sudan and all colleagues are mobilised (SBC, protection, emergency, etc.). He further stressed the importance of CPP messages in this kind of situation. Finally, he asked Sediq how the EORE AG, as a coalition of organisations very much engaged on EORE, could support UNMAS and the response in Sudan.

As Sediq explained, ideas and technical advice is welcomed considering the vast number of people to reach. Support to create bridges and reach out to partners from other sectors would also be very much appreciated, such as UNHCR and IOM for instance, with a view to embed risk education messages in their projects and activities to reach the widest audience possible and explore opportunities for support and synergy of action.

In terms of weapon contamination response, Lou (ICRC) informed the group that ICRC have not had a programme in Sudan in the past. An EOD specialist had been posted in Sudan for a short period of time as part of the rapid deployment team, but his replacement is not there yet due to visa issue. Hence, ICRC has no expertise in country at the moment, which has hindered on the ground outreach or capacity building with the National Red Crescent Society. They are hoping to have more capacities in the future.

Hugues mentioned that data on preliminary studies show that one of the first protection concerns for people is the issue of explosive weapons in populated areas, as many of them have never been exposed to ERW contamination before. In the last years, AG members have developed some materials, including the ‘Q&A on EORE for Ukraine’ which, as suggested by Hugues, could potentially be adapted to the Sudan context. In addition, Hugues called on all member organisations to compile and share practical tools that could be used right away, as well as lessons learnt, approaches and methodologies on emergency EORE, especially mass messaging and the
use of digital EORE in such context [action]. He also stressed the importance of having access to a platform or webpage with updated information on the situation and latest developments in terms of emergency EORE in Sudan.

Sediq confirmed that receiving materials and lessons learnt would be helpful, such as the ones that will be shared during DRC’s workshop in Ukraine. He further concurred on the need to step up in terms of mass messaging and the importance of providing regular updates. He recalled that there is a specific page for Sudan on the UNMAS website that is regularly updated. Hugues encouraged all members to advertise widely the webpage [action].

To conclude, Sediq expressed his sincere appreciation for being given the opportunity to address the group and share this update. The team is eagerly looking forward to receiving support, ideas, and advice from the group. Given the difficult working environment and numerous restrictions encountered, he emphasised the value of learning from others' experiences and insights. Considering the challenging circumstances, there is an urgent need to join together and support one another, as the situation poses a grave risk to various vulnerable groups, including children and women. Hugues invited all members to continue gathering contributions and information on the situation and activities conducted or planned by their teams in Sudan, to be shared with the Secretariat for consolidation [action].

7. Discussion and planning on upcoming events

Moving on to the next agenda item, Furat recalled that, as part of Activity 5.1.1 of the Advisory Group Work Plan, the Group committed to organising or participating in events targeting key stakeholders and decision-makers. She highlighted that two key events will take place in the coming months - namely the Convention on Cluster Munitions Meeting of State Parties, from 11 to 14 September, and the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention Meeting of State Parties, from 20 to 24 November - providing the group with an opportunity to organise actions.

As these events will be coming fast, this meeting is an opportunity to generate discussion and plan ahead. With Faustine sharing her screen to display a planning table, Furat enquired about:

- Who is planning to attend these events
- Volunteers to organise an EORE AG side-event & topic ideas
- Volunteers to draft and/or deliver statements for the EORE AG during these events

Several members confirmed that their organisation would be represented during these events, including the GICHD, ICBL-CMC, the HALO Trust, MAG, FSD, DRC, NPA, HI, DCA, UNDP & UNICEF.

As for a side-event, Sebastian suggested the topics of mass messaging, emergency risk education, urban risk education and EWIPA, to be further determined. These topics could potentially resonate with many, especially when considering the situations in several countries, such as Ethiopia, Yemen or Sudan for instance.

Due to the time constraint, it was proposed to circulate the table with the above questions after the meeting to be filled by members during the summer. Members were invited to continue reflecting on potential topics and consider volunteering to organise a side-event, draft or deliver an EORE AG statement [action].

8. Update on last month event

Due to time constraint, this agenda item was not developed. Hugues will share a more thorough update on the NDM-UN by email, especially on the side-event on EORE-SBC that was organised
by UNICEF (with the EORE Advisory Group). The email will include a link to all the materials that were used during the session [action]. Overall, the side-event, which was chaired by Somalia and included several panellists, went very well, with a good attendance rate.

9. **AOB**

Audrey recalled that ICBL-CMC is currently collecting information on EORE activities through their yearly EORE questionnaire. An email was sent a few weeks ago to reach out to all in-country EORE focal points to ask them to fill in the questionnaire. She thanked all members who collaborated and shared the questionnaire with their colleagues; 28 responses have been received so far, but more answers are needed as some countries and information are missing. Members were asked to contact their in-country focal points to complete the short questionnaire. Audrey informed the group that the deadline to fill in the survey had been extended by one week and that she will send a reminder by email with the list of countries for which information are missing [action].

Kim reminded the group about the Digital EORE Project mapping, created by the DEORE Task Team, which unfortunately has not been updated for over a year. Sharing the link to the mapping and to the submission form in the chat, she invited everyone to fill in the form to submit new projects to the mapping [action].

Faustine informed members that future meetings will now be held on Teams, instead of Zoom. If any objections, members are invited to reach out to the Secretariat. She also thanked the two volunteers who have registered to host an EORE Hour: HI for October and CRS Vietnam for November.

Hugues then took the floor to discuss two last points. First, he reminded the group that this week is the last chance for organisations to nominate participants to attend the PfP Courses in Spiez on ‘Effective EORE’ and ‘Integrated Mine Action’. Second, Hugues updated the group on a discussion held in the margin of the NDM-UN with the GICHD’s management team. He explained that for 2023, the decision has been taken to conduct a mapping exercise, led by the GICHD, similar to the one conducted in 2019 (see Sector mapping and needs analysis), in place of the EORE annual survey. The EORE annual survey, led by the EORE AG Secretariat, is a heavy and time-consuming exercise which requires a lot of resources, both human and financial, especially to analyse the data collected. Last year also saw a decline in stakeholders’ appetite for the survey. It is thus time to adapt and prioritise activities in line with needs but also resources. This mapping aims to take stock of the 4 year-period since the EORE AG establishment. Finally, as the EORE AG has not met in-person for a while, it is also proposed to organise an in-person retreat in Q1-2 of 2024, in Geneva or nearby, to be further discussed and subject to funding.