



EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION

Sector mapping and needs analysis



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GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Sector Mapping and Needs Analysis

GICHD, Geneva, 2024

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Top left: Innovation conference 2023 ©GICHD

Top middle: Some of the EORE sessions in Yemen take place in classrooms, homes or, in this case, simply under a tree. This photo was taken during the visit of the DRC Secretary General. 2021, Mawza – Yemen. DRC. ©Mario Quiñones

Top right: The GICHD Francophone Regional Cooperation Programme workshop at CPADD—in Ouidah, Benin, 2023 ©GICHD

Bottom left: EORE Regional Workshop with ARMAC, 2023 ©GICHD

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

APMBC	Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention	MA AoR	Mine Action Area of Responsibility
CCM	Convention on Cluster Munitions	MAG	Mines Advisory Group
CPP	Conflict preparedness and protection	MEAL	Monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning
DCA	DanChurchAid	NMAA	National mine action authority
DEORE	Digital EORE	NMAC	National mine action centre
DRC	Danish Refugee Council	NMAS	National mine action standards
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix	NPA	Norwegian People's Aid
EO	Explosive ordnance	NTS	Non-technical survey
EOD	Explosive ordnance disposal	OAP	Oslo Action Plan
EORE	Explosive ordnance risk education	QA	Quality assurance
EORE AG	EORE Advisory Group	QC	Quality control
EWIPA	Explosive weapons in populated areas	QM	Quality management
FSD	Fondation suisse de déminage (Swiss Foundation for Mine Action)	RBM	Results-based management
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining	SBCC	Social behaviour and change communication
HI	Humanity & Inclusion	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross	T&EP	Test and Evaluation Protocol
IED	Improvised explosive device	TNMA	Technical Note for Mine Action
IMAS	International Mine Action Standards	ToC	Theory of Change
IMREWG	International Mine Risk Education Working Group	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
IOM	International Organization for Migration	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
KAP	Knowledge, attitudes and practices	UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
LAP	Lausanne Action Plan	VA	Victim assistance
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2024 explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) sector mapping and needs analysis builds upon the foundational work of an initial report¹ published by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) in December 2019. This follow-up mapping looks at progress achieved over the past five years and offers strategic insights to shape future priorities and programming. Employing a diverse methodological approach, including surveys, interviews, and desk reviews, the report highlights findings and good practices across critical areas, providing a picture of achievements since the first mapping, and identifying actionable recommendations for stakeholders.

The report confirms that policy advancements and advocacy efforts have elevated the EORE sector's standing both in the mine action sector and beyond. EORE is increasingly acknowledged not only as a temporary reactive response in emergencies and post-conflict environments but also as an effective measure to mitigate explosive ordnance risks in land release phases and across contexts – including post completion. This heightened prominence is attributed to two key factors: the substantial collective advocacy efforts of EORE actors and the evolving global landscape characterised by increased conflicts. The 2023 report of the United Nations Secretary-General – Assistance in mine action, highlighted the critical role of EORE in civilian protection. The report also recognised the EORE Advisory Group (AG) as a pivotal global collaborative platform for sector guidance and a replicable model for other sectors.²

Achievements highlighted in this report include the following:

- EORE is increasingly acknowledged as an entry point in mine action, enhancing and serving as a precondition for successful land release and victim assistance.
- Integration of EORE into global agendas and other sectors has progressed.
- New guidance and resources have contributed to greater standardisation and professionalisation of the EORE sector.
- The sector has demonstrated remarkable innovation and responsiveness in addressing recent crises and challenges.
- Notable improvements in gender and age-sensitive EORE programming and reporting are apparent.

This mapping also identifies the following areas for improvement in the EORE sector:

- Operationalisation of risk education actions in the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) action plans as well as adaptation of their respective machineries to advance risk education commitments;
- Increased sustainable and earmarked funding;
- More effective coordination and collaboration mechanisms at the country level;
- Enhanced and funded integrated approaches to support risk reduction;
- Sustained technical guidance and sector leadership;
- Improved diversity- and disability-sensitive approaches;
- Strengthened quality and results-based management systems.

A crucial objective of this report is to generate strategic discussions among stakeholders on EORE within their respective contexts, organisations, and roles, enabling them to take informed actions. As the international mine action community prepares for the CCM Twelfth Meeting of States Parties and the APMBC Fifth Review Conference (5RC), this mapping links each key finding with specific calls for action. These are directed at various stakeholders, including donors, operators, national mine action authorities, and the EORE AG. The aim is to address sector challenges and opportunities, further elevate EORE's global profile, and enhance its impact and quality.

1 GICHD (2019), [Explosive Ordnance Risk Education - Sector Mapping and Needs Analysis](#).

2 "I am grateful for the work of the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group, and I encourage the creation of similar alliances of organisations to raise the profile of victim assistance interventions and ensure that the human rights and needs of victims of explosive ordnance are more systematically met." See United Nations Report of the Secretary-General (July 2023), [UN General Assembly - Assistance in mine action](#), pp. 6–7, and 16.

As part of this mapping exercise, interviewees were asked to share their visions for sector improvements if given a “magic wand” – the ability to enact immediate and impactful changes. With Cambodia hosting the upcoming APMBC 5RC in November 2024, a representative from the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority provided an inspiring response:



“If I had a magic wand, I would ensure universal recognition of the essential role of EORE, with consistent and sustainable support. Communities would also receive timely and effective information about potential dangers, ensuring their safety and awareness. Perhaps we don’t need a magic wand after all. We should all continue our efforts to advocate for and mobilise resources for EORE.”



The Innovation Conference 2023, November 2023 ©GICHD/Antoine Tardy

INTRODUCTION

Rationale

Over the past five years, the explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) pillar of mine action has undergone a transformative process, marked by increased professionalisation and visibility in disarmament conventions and across sectors. This process started with the establishment of the EORE Advisory Group (AG) in May 2019. The group brings together the expertise of over 15 organisations including national mine action authorities, international organisations, international NGOs, and UN agencies, to provide strategic guidance and elevate this thematic component.

In November 2019, the GICHD, as core member and secretariat of the EORE AG, published a first sector mapping and needs analysis.³ This report was commissioned in response to a growing number of explosive ordnance casualties and a consensus that EORE had received insufficient attention over the preceding decade, necessitating a comprehensive assessment of the sector’s status and needs. This report laid the groundwork, informing risk education inputs to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Oslo Action Plan and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) Lausanne Action Plan, and shaping the sector’s key priorities, including the EORE AG’s past and current workplan(s) – which were subsequently updated through regular monitoring and survey exercises.⁴

In the context of over 120 armed conflicts currently ongoing worldwide,⁵ and as the international mine action community prepares for the CCM Twelfth Meeting of States Parties and the APMBC Fifth Review Conference, this new mapping exercise, conducted between December 2023 and June 2024, serves multiple purposes. It aims to provide a picture of progress since the 2019 report (see timeline below), while also identifying current needs and challenges facing the sector. The findings are intended to inform future convention action plans, guide the prioritisation of the EORE AG’s work in supporting the sector, and pinpoint targeted actions to enhance the effectiveness and recognition of EORE both within and beyond the mine action sector. Ultimately, all these efforts are directed towards the crucial goal of reducing the number of explosive ordnance casualties.

The timeline below visualises practical milestones that have contributed to the sector’s advancements from 2019 until today.

3 GICHD (2019), [Explosive Ordnance Risk Education - Sector Mapping and Needs Analysis](#).

4 See [EORE AG Work Plan 2023–2024](#), EORE AG Progress Report 2020, [EORE AG Progress Report 2021–2022](#), and [EORE AG Summary of 2023 EORE Stakeholder Survey Results](#).

5 <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/icrc-opinion-paper-how-term-armed-conflict-defined-international-humanitarian-law>

2019

Establishment of the EORE Advisory Group (AG), a global coalition of 17 entities that provides guidance to national authorities and operators to improve risk education.



Inclusion of a dedicated section on risk education for the first time in the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention's five-year Action Plan. The Oslo Action Plan details the actions States Parties will take during the period of 2020–2024 to support the implementation of the Convention.

The "EORE - Sector Mapping and Needs Analysis" report, published by GICHD in 2019, provided an initial assessment of the EORE sector. It outlined the global needs and challenges within the sector and served as a vital stocktake for enhancing EORE efforts.

A first EORE digital Facebook ad campaign was launched by MAG - leveraging the power of social media.



2020

Publication by the GICHD of a 'Review of New Technologies and Methodologies for EORE in Challenging Contexts'. This review examines new technologies and methodologies used for the delivery and monitoring of EORE interventions.

Publication by the EORE Advisory Group of an 'EORE advocacy strategy' to guide stakeholders in their efforts to increase resources towards the thematic and elevate its profile.

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a system developed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to track and monitor displacement and population mobility. Information commonly needed for mine action, including EORE, were included in IOM's DTM Field Companion for mine action.

The 'Standardising Beneficiary Definitions in Humanitarian Mine Action' - Second Edition - was developed collaboratively by several operators. The guide aimed to establish common definitions of beneficiaries for mine action activities, including EORE, drawing from good practices worldwide.

International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) series 12.10 on EORE was reviewed. The revision reflected the change in terminology from MRE to EORE and incorporated updated approaches and good practices in risk education.

The GICHD published a working paper on 'Measuring the Results of EORE' - a desk review to identify current and emerging good practices in measuring the effectiveness and impact of EORE.

2021

In early 2021, The HALO Trust in partnership with Al Ghad conducted a "barrier analysis" with youth in Mosul, Iraq, to determine the constraints they faced in adopting safer behaviors related to explosive ordnance.



Inclusion of a section on risk education for the first time in the Convention on Cluster Munitions' Lausanne Action Plan. It details the actions States Parties will take during the period of 2021–2026 to support the implementation of the Convention.

Launch by the GICHD of an e-learning course on EORE for anyone interested in learning about the key principles of effective and ethical risk education.



Given the rapid rise of digital EORE projects, the EORE Advisory Group created a digital EORE task team to develop guidance.



2022

The first ever workshop on digital EORE was organised by GICHD and UNICEF in Spiez, Switzerland.

The first digital EORE and resource library was published on the EORE AG website

A technical note for mine action on risk education for improvised explosive devices (TNMA 12.10/01 on RE for IEDs) was published, providing specific guidance to stakeholders on this issue.

A Q&A was developed by the EORE Advisory Group to provide guidance on EORE to organisations responding to the conflict in Ukraine.

The Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA) was adopted, including a reference in support of the provision of risk education.

Minimum messaging on Conflict Preparedness and Protection in Ukraine was published.



2023

Launch by the GICHD of the Advanced EORE e-learning course - intended to support EORE practitioners to acquire common foundations on the EORE project cycle.

The technical note for mine action 05.10/01 was revised to include measurement and reporting of beneficiaries, including EORE beneficiaries.

A task team to identify EORE technical competencies with a view to supporting the future development of an IMAS EORE Competency Test & Evaluation Protocol (T&EP) was established under the EORE Advisory Group.

A study on EORE in residual contamination management was published by the GICHD. This study discusses the need for EORE in residual contamination and explores, using case studies from countries already engaging in residual contamination management, how it might be designed.



2024

With increased needs for EORE in multiple contexts, the EORE Advisory Group established an ad hoc emergency task team.



Publication of the 2024 'EORE Sector global mapping & needs analysis'. This report builds upon the foundational work of an initial report published in 2019. This follow-up mapping looks at progress achieved over the past five years and offers strategic insights to shape future priorities and programming.



At the 12th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, an EORE coordinator was appointed for the first time within the Convention's Coordination Committee.

The items on the timeline are not meant to be exhaustive. They reflect the results of an exercise carried out with EORE AG members during an in person retreat held in June 2024.

To access resources, go to: Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (<https://www.gichd.org/our-response/explosive-ordnance-risk-education/>) EORE Advisory Group (<https://www.gichd.org/our-response/explosive-ordnance-risk-education/eore-advisory-group/>)

Methodology

This mapping was developed based on a mixed methodology.

Firstly, results from the EORE Stakeholder Surveys conducted by the EORE AG between 2020 and 2023 were used to draw **quantitative analysis**, identify trends and make assumptions about the sector’s evolution. Consequently, this report occasionally refers to the EORE Stakeholder Surveys to illustrate certain findings.

Secondly, the 2023 Stakeholder Survey facilitated the identification and selection of interviewees for this mapping, ensuring diverse representation across profiles, organisation types, and geographical regions. Other interviewees were identified by colleagues as key resource persons to talk to. Eighty people went through over one hour long semi-structured interviews, also known as “conversations with a purpose” in social sciences. These interviews provided **qualitative insights**, highlighted good practices and informed the formulation of calls for action.

Thirdly, the findings were substantiated through a **comprehensive desk review and research**, drawing upon quantitative and qualitative inputs as well as relevant resources within and beyond the EORE sector, where possible.

While this mapping does not claim to be an exhaustive study or a comprehensive assessment, it provides a valuable overview of the EORE sector’s achievements, emerging trends, persistent challenges, and identified gaps. The mapping process yielded a substantial amount of information, documentation, and insights from various stakeholders. Due to the condensed nature of this report, only key findings and representative examples have been included.

The approach and methodology of this mapping have a positive bias, as respondents to the EORE Stakeholder Survey and interviewees likely possess a higher level of information, knowledge, availability, or commitment to the sector compared to those who were not reached. Consequently, they already prioritise and/or consider EORE as an important component of their activities and programmes. This positive bias was balanced, wherever possible, with a comparative analysis with the 2019 mapping and selected research. The latter should not prevent the sector from celebrating its progress and embracing upcoming challenges as opportunities to improve practices.

2023 Stakeholder Survey sample	EORE mapping interview sample
Data collected between 1 December 2023 and 12 January 2024	Data collected between January and July 2024
133 respondents: 86 men and 47 women	80 interviewees: 38 men and 42 women
55% respondents were international EORE/mine action organisations	51% respondents were international EORE/mine action organisations
16% national mine action authorities	14% national mine action authorities
10% local or national EORE operators	15% local or national EORE operators
9% organisations mainstreaming or supporting EORE	11% organisations mainstreaming or supporting EORE
2% donors	6% donors
72% of respondents focused on a single country, with the remainder working at global, multi-country or regional level	64% of respondents focused on a single country, with the remainder working at global, multi-country or regional level
Some 10 regions and 33 countries and territories were represented	Some 10 regions and 33 countries and territories were represented
Respondents came from 52 different organisations	Respondents came from 36 different organisations



The GICHD Francophone Regional Cooperation Programme (FRCP) workshop at CPADD—in Ouidah, Benin, October 2023 ©GICHD

How to read this report

The executive summary provides a concise overview of achievements and areas for improvement. Readers should use the table of contents to navigate specific areas of interest, as each chapter can be read independently. Key highlights are presented in designated text boxes throughout the report (see below). A separate document containing the executive summary, findings, and calls for action per sub-theme is available for easier reference. Finally, this report serves as a creative toolbox, presenting emerging ideas and issues to stimulate further discussion in relevant forums.

FINDINGS



This text box summarises the main takeaways.



"Voices from stakeholders"

Quotes were collected during EORE stakeholder mapping interviews, in a conversational style. They were anonymised to encourage stakeholders to share honest insights and perspectives.

CALLS FOR ACTION



Based on the findings, calls for action were formulated. Check them out and discuss their relevance and feasibility within your organisation.



ADVOCACY, POLICY, AND FUNDING AS CATALYSTS FOR PROMOTING EORE

EORE has consolidated as a crucial pillar within the mine action sector, gaining increased recognition from affected countries, mine action organisations, donors and other sectors alike (i.e. protection, education, social and behaviour change) in the past five years. EORE is now better acknowledged not only as a temporary reactive response in emergencies and post-conflict environments but also as an effective measure to mitigate explosive ordnance (EO) risks across contexts – including residual contamination – and land release phases (i.e. non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance). Although challenges remain, this increased visibility and recognition of EORE at global policy and operational levels is the result of advocacy efforts led by multiple stakeholders which started ahead of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Fourth Review Conference in 2019.

► RAISING THE PROFILE OF EORE IN DISARMAMENT CONVENTIONS

FINDINGS



The inclusion of dedicated risk education chapters in the five-year action plans of the APMBC and Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) has significantly repositioned risk education as a key pillar in the mine action sector. However, the momentum gained at the adoption of these plans has not been consistently maintained in convention meetings, statements, and side events. To enhance the focus on risk education, it is crucial for the convention machinery to appoint a dedicated risk education coordinator and to include a separate agenda item on risk education in all meetings. Currently, the structures and mechanisms of the conventions do not adequately emphasise EORE, leading to its limited representation in formal meetings and in coordination committees.



“The Oslo Action Plan and Lausanne Action Plan brought a greater level of attention of States Parties to risk education. It was clear risk education was not just the tail end of clearance and surveys, it shifted the focus to risk education requiring integration and more holistic approaches. It brought together States Parties, operators, and global strategic players in synergy. Now, more states are focused on risk education, they see the results of the actions taken. There is a greater professionalisation of the sector and coordination.”

International Organisation, HQ

CALLS FOR ACTION



States Parties:

- Report comprehensively on risk education in reports relating to Article 7 of the APMBC and CCM; systematically include detailed, costed, and multi-year risk education plans in Article 5 APMBC and Article 4 CCM extension requests;
- Maintain a section dedicated to EORE in conventions' action plans;
- Appoint a dedicated State Party as risk education coordinator or champion within APMBC and CCM structures to sustain momentum, capitalise on achievements, and monitor progress;
- Separate risk education from clearance in convention meeting agendas, starting with the CCM Twelfth Meeting of States Parties (12MSP) (September 2024) and the APMBC Fifth Review Conference (November 2024) to elevate visibility and foster focused discussions;
- Lead plenary sessions and side events and deliver statements on risk education;
- Include a strategic goal/objective on EORE in national mine action strategies with a results framework.

Donors:

- Incorporate specific indicators in calls for proposals to align with convention action plans;
- Track and report contributions and progress against action plan indicators.

Operators and national mine action authorities (NMAAs):

- Improve dissemination and operationalisation of convention action plans to ensure uptake of good practice and implementation of risk education commitments;
- Brief diplomats and donor staff regularly on risk education;
- Equip relevant staff and local organisations in advocacy and policy skills through the delivery of training initiatives and packages.

EORE Advisory Group (AG):

- Support the dissemination and operationalisation of convention action plans;
- Continue advocacy and policy efforts for increased EORE recognition and visibility in conventions.

Leveraging EORE in convention action plans

Many stakeholders reported that the inclusion of a dedicated section with specific actions (#28–32) on risk education in the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) adopted at the 2019 APMBBC Fourth Review Conference was a pivotal moment for the sector, revitalising EORE in mine action after a decade of decline. This followed advocacy efforts by States Parties, civil society, and the newly formed EORE AG to better recognise the role of risk education amid rising EO casualties. Action #24 also mandated the inclusion of multi-year, costed risk education plans in APMBBC Article 5 extension requests, reinforcing its integration with clearance obligations.

Similar advocacy efforts around risk education were conducted ahead of the CCM Second Review Conference in September 2021. The resulting Lausanne Action Plan (LAP)⁶ also includes a dedicated section on risk education (#27–30), aligning its actions with those outlined in the OAP and sectorial good practice.

Disseminating, operationalising, and reporting risk education commitments

While risk education has become more widely recognised as a cost-effective and life-saving component of mine action, reporting on these efforts continues to be a challenge. In November 2023, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines noted that although risk education was implemented in around 28 countries party to the APMBBC, States Parties still struggle with documenting these activities effectively in their reports.⁷

The Landmine Monitor 2023 also noted that some States Parties with clearance obligations had not confirmed they had carried out EORE.⁸ Moreover, only two out of eight States Parties included detailed, costed and multi-year risk education plans in their Article 5 extension requests submitted in 2022–2023.⁹ Similar omissions have been observed in Article 4 extension requests under the CCM for 2021–2022.¹⁰

Since 2020, there has been a noticeable increase in the integration of EORE into national mine action strategies by States Parties to the APMBBC and CCM, reflecting a growing recognition of its importance. It was reported that at least six national strategies adopted or reviewed between 2020 and 2024 included EORE as a strategic goal or objective.¹¹ This strategic mainstreaming demonstrates States Parties' commitment to integrate EORE within their national mine action programmes and monitor its implementation more systematically.

Interviewees highlighted a lack of dissemination and awareness of the OAP/LAP among national mine action authorities, donors, and in-country operators.

Sustaining the momentum created

The momentum gained in 2019–2020 was not always sustained in APMBBC and CCM related forums, according to an analysis of statements and side events. The number of side events dedicated to EORE at formal meetings of the APMBBC, and at the International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers, decreased after 2021. After the adoption of the LAP in 2021, side events of the CCM followed a similar trend. The number of Article 5 statements mentioning risk education during APMBBC and CCM MSPs, decreased from 40 in 2020, to 27 in 2021, and 31 in 2022.¹²

Moreover, several respondents reported that the current structure of the APMBBC and CCM meetings and machinery do not support qualitative discussions on risk education efforts undertaken by States Parties. Under the APMBBC and CCM, risk education is included in the agenda items of Article 5 and Article 4, respectively, and in their associated committees. Statements and discussions on clearance are therefore largely prioritised over risk education.

While interviewees expressed the need for the sector to sustain the positive momentum gained and celebrate achievements, they also stressed the need to appoint a dedicated risk education coordinator and create a separate

6 [Convention on Cluster Munitions Lausanne Action Plan](#) (September 2021).

7 Compliance with Article 7 of the APMBBC and CCM includes the requirement for States Parties to report annually on their mine action progress and challenges, including on risk education. International Campaign to Ban Landmines (November 2023), [Statement for the 21st Meeting of States Parties to the APMBBC](#), p. 1.

8 According to the Landmine Monitor, "Of the 33 States Parties with clearance obligations, 28 reported providing, or are known to have provided, risk education to populations at risk from antipersonnel mine contamination in 2022." See [Landmine Monitor 2023](#), p. 3.

9 According to the Landmine Monitor, countries that submitted Article 5 extension requests in 2022–2023 are the following: Afghanistan, Ecuador, Guinea-Bissau, Serbia, Sudan, Thailand, Ukraine and Yemen. Argentina is not included in this calculation as risk education was not relevant to its extension request. See [Landmine Monitor 2023](#), p. 3.

10 ICBL-CMC (2023), [Cluster Munitions Monitor 2023](#), p. 74, and EORE AG (2023), [EORE AG Progress Report 2021–2022](#), pp. 16 & 48.

11 Data provided by the GICHD, on strategies formally adopted by governments of States Parties. This included Cambodia, Iraq, Kosovo, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, and Zimbabwe.

12 EORE AG (2023 and 2024), [EORE AG Progress Report 2021–2022](#), pp. 16 & 48, and [EORE AG Summary of 2023 EORE Stakeholder Survey Results](#), p. 7.

agenda item in meetings of the Conventions to allow States Parties to uphold their risk education commitments.

Equipping relevant national and global players with advocacy and policy skills

Interviewees working at national and regional levels admitted they had very little exposure to advocacy and policy and would benefit from support. Many perceive advocacy and policy work as intimidating, requiring proficiency in the language and nuances of relevant conventions.

Some individuals in global roles emphasised the need to strengthen advocacy and policy efforts with diplomats and donor staff, particularly due to high turnover rates and the need for consistent support to EORE initiatives.

FUNDING DYNAMICS FOR EORE

FINDINGS:



Despite the EORE sector gaining significant momentum since 2019 and an increase in emergencies necessitating EORE interventions, this has not translated into improved funding to the sector. Operators have resorted to resource optimisation strategies and alternative funding sources to mitigate operational shortfalls. There is a growing demand to enhance resource mobilisation strategies for affected states through convention mechanisms and relevant national and global platforms.



“One of the things we want to focus on is that more funding is needed for EORE. More competence and capacity is needed for risk education, to educate people about what it entails ... it has been treated as a less important topic. We need to showcase how EORE can be done, for example through success stories, etc. I do think, – I can only speak from a Geneva perspective –, that many diplomats come from different backgrounds, a lot haven’t worked in mine action before. I think it is more a lack of knowledge about EORE rather than EORE not being a priority.”

Donor

CALLS FOR ACTION:



Donors:

- Discuss EORE in the Mine Action Support Group (MASG) more regularly;¹³
- Increase long-term and predictable funding sources that ensure continuity of EORE interventions;
- Set a percentage of dedicated funding for EORE;
- Report funding for clearance and risk education separately, when feasible;
- Consider funding EORE as part of wider funding schemes (i.e. education, protection).

NMAAs:

- Recognise the centrality of EORE in mine action programmes;
- Request cooperation and assistance by demonstrating progress and evidencing needs through APMBC and CCM Article 7 reports – depending on membership;
- Leverage APMBC individualised approaches and CCM country coalition mechanisms to support resource mobilisation for EORE;¹⁴
- Develop resource mobilisation opportunities by convening operators and donors in country.

Operators:

- Explore alternative funding streams from both mine action and non-mine action donors;
- Document and showcase the impact of EORE programmes in national, regional and global forums to support resource mobilisation efforts;
- Dedicate specific modules to resource mobilisation in training initiatives and packages to further strengthen these efforts;
- Strengthen resource mobilisation capacities of key in-country staff and local organisations;

EORE AG:

- Identify, report and advocate to bridge critical funding gaps;
- Facilitate with the Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR) regular meetings with donors and affected

13 The MASG aims to coordinate the humanitarian mine action efforts of major donor countries, align priorities of their mine action programmes, and boost donor support for mine action in critical areas. See UN Mine Action, [The Mine Action Support Group \(MASG\)](#).

14 Following the same principles as those of the individualised approach, country coalitions are national platforms allowing dialogue and collaboration between States Parties, donors and operators to fulfil CCM obligations. See CCM Implementation Support Unit (2023), [Country Coalitions to promote the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions \(CCM\)](#).

states to share progress achieved in the EORE sector and address funding challenges;

- Develop guidance on accounting and measuring EORE efforts;
- Finalise and disseminate the global EORE Theory of Change led by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF);
- Support capacity development efforts in resource mobilisation through global guidance.



Digital EORE Workshop, 2022 ©GICHD

Declining funds

Donors often combine risk education and land release funding, making it difficult to accurately estimate and track global EORE contribution levels. In 2022, USD 509.6 million (63% of the global support to mine action) funded integrated clearance programmes including EORE.

According to the Landmine Monitor, the relative share of risk education-earmarked funding has been declining: 2.4% in 2020, 2.1% in 2021, and 1% in 2022.¹⁵ While funding for mine action support to Ukraine saw a significant boost, enabling the EORE sector to explore innovative approaches, most stakeholders reported an overall decline in EORE funding in recent years. This decrease occurred despite a surge in armed conflicts and emergencies that required such interventions. In this context, several in-country stakeholders explained they had faced significant gaps due to funds being diverted to address new emergencies. Some also observed a waning global focus on “forgotten crises” like those in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, the Central African Republic, and Somalia, as well as on States Parties with lesser contamination.¹⁶

Strengthening resource optimisation and mobilisation strategies for EORE

Overall donor budget cuts have had an immediate negative impact on EORE activities, as reported by some affected organisations. To maintain prioritised non-technical surveys and clearance operations, EORE initiatives were sometimes reduced to a bare minimum. In some instances, this has led to reductions in personnel and difficulties in sustaining high-quality risk education activities. Some national and international operators reported good practices to adapt to the circumstances:

- The Senegalese Mine Action Centre engaged in an individualised approach in June 2023, which helped leverage EORE, and secure resources and connections with international operators and donors;¹⁷
- Fondation suisse de déminage (FSD) reported using philanthropic fundraising to maintain EORE activities in areas where donors show a clear preference for clearance, or in areas requiring sustained EORE efforts due to funding gaps in clearance. As an example, FSD noted that the relatively low cost of EORE activities enabled them to sustain their operations in Ukraine prior to the war. This established presence proved crucial to be able to swiftly mobilise in an emergency, without undergoing the need for lengthy preparatory procedures or registration processes;
- Other organisations, such as UNICEF, have integrated EORE with child protection initiatives, leveraging existing structures to maintain EORE efforts despite the lack of dedicated funding;
- Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA) reported that conflict preparedness and protection (CPP) might appeal more to donors supporting mine action and protection during emergencies, where survey and clearance are not feasible for extended periods;
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC) in West Africa and The HALO Trust in Cambodia emphasised integrating EORE with wider protection and development initiatives to sustain funding;
- In the Sahel, Humanity & Inclusion (HI) reported to have integrated EORE into a broader community risk management approach funded by non-mine action donors.

15 Data analysed from the Landmine Monitor. See ICBL-CMC (2021, 2022, 2023), [Landmine Monitor 2021](#), p. 101, [Landmine Monitor 2022](#), p. 105, and [Landmine Monitor 2023](#), p. 86.

16 ICBL-CMC (2023), [Landmine Monitor 2023](#), p. 86.

17 Individualised Approach is a platform that gathers States Parties, donors, operators, and relevant stakeholders, allowing States Parties to voluntarily and informally provide detailed information on challenges and needs to fulfil their APMB obligations. See [Senegal Individualised Approach](#), in the margins of the Intersessional Meeting of States Parties, June 2023.

- Stakeholders report feeling ill-equipped for effective resource mobilisation, as training packages for capacity development often overlook this crucial topic at both organisational and global levels. The MA AoR emphasised that there were no standardised EORE costing guidelines available to support fundraising efforts at country level.¹⁸ National mine action authorities, in particular, indicated that they would greatly benefit from additional support in defining clear EORE fundraising approaches and resource mobilisation strategies.

► THE LOCALISATION CHALLENGE

FINDINGS:



Localisation is crucial for sustainable and community-owned EORE initiatives. While limited funding is a barrier, international stakeholders also have perception-based concerns about partnering with local organisations and authorities, such as financial, legal and operational risks, negatively impacting national capacity and resource transfer processes.



“Localising EORE initiatives ensures they meet the specific needs of local communities in a sustainable way. Donors, UN agencies and international NGOs can play a vital role in supporting knowledge transfer and capacity building.”

NMAA

CALLS FOR ACTION:



Donors:¹⁹

- Support international NGO (INGO) projects contributing to localisation and national ownership;
- Include evidence-based risk mitigation measures in partnership agreements;
- Adapt funding strategies to ensure long-term support to localisation processes;
- Gradually increase direct funding to local and national organisations;

- Exchange good practices on localisation funding with other donors.

NMAAs:

- Facilitate the integration of EORE into government systems and policies;
- Encourage and facilitate knowledge transfer and capacity development from INGOs to NGOs;
- Share and promote successful local initiatives in global forums to influence localisation processes.

International operators:

- Enhance community-led risk management by providing training and resources to communities;
- Ensure global guidance and resources are disseminated at national and local levels;
- Build local and national capacity at technical and project management levels;
- Develop and implement clear exit strategies for anticipated funding gaps, gradually transferring ownership and decision-making from INGOs to national partners;
- Encourage and foster involvement of local partners in global initiatives.

EORE AG:

- Contribute to documenting and showcasing EORE localisation good practices;
- “Localise the global”: give a voice to local actors in global forums, events and guidance.

Limited funding to support localisation

Scarce funding in EORE was also reported as an obstacle to localisation, despite a broad commitment in the humanitarian sector to develop and fund locally-owned initiatives.²⁰ DanChurchAid reported it had to suspend its support to its implementing partner in South Sudan due to funding gaps; local organisations in Nigeria reported to have been trained in non-technical survey/EORE for a six-month project but could not receive any funding beyond that.

¹⁸ EORE AG (2024), [EORE AG Meeting Minutes 7 March 2024](#), p. 8.

¹⁹ See also OECD (2017), [Localising the response](#), pp. 8–13.

²⁰ At the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, the UN Secretary-General emphasised that humanitarian action should be “as local as possible, as international as necessary”, sparking debates, initiatives, and commitments on localisation in the humanitarian and mine action sectors. See Inter-Agency Standing Committee, [The Grand Bargain](#).

Even if national contributions have increased in 2022 compared to previous years, this remains insufficient to cover capacity development and operational needs in affected countries.²¹

The Landmine Monitor highlighted that 37% of international assistance in mine action went to INGOs. Local and national²² organisations received less than 1% (USD 3.4 million).²³ This gap between global localisation commitments and actual funding was also evident in the broader humanitarian sector: instead of increasing, direct funding to local organisations has decreased since 2018, reaching its lowest percentage of 1.2% of total assistance in 2021 and 2022.²⁴

Localisation as key to sustainability

All respondents emphasised the importance of localisation for sustainable, community-owned risk education, especially but not only, in managing residual risks.²⁵ Ensuring the continuity of EORE efforts after international organisations withdraw from an affected country is a major focus for INGOs. This involves training local trainers, fostering local ownership, and building the capacity of local organisations and NMAAs at both technical and project management levels. Additionally, it requires integrating EORE into government systems and policies to ensure it effectively becomes “as local as possible”. Examples include collaborating with relevant ministries to incorporate EORE into school curricula, public awareness campaigns, and emergency response protocols.

International operators emphasised that local organisations often have better access and understanding of the context and can ensure lasting change even after funding ends. Cambodia’s community-based risk reduction volunteer networks, established by the Cambodian Mine Action Centre and HI in 2001, exemplify this approach, as they continue to function effectively. Similarly, the Free Fields Foundation in Libya and the Senegalese Association of Mine Victims are notable examples of successful and sustainable

localisation, demonstrating effective and sustainable transfer of capacities from international operators to local organisations.

Efforts by INGOs to support and enhance community-led risk management approaches tailored to local contexts, such as training and equipping communities to identify and mitigate EO risks, were facilitated by long-term funding, sustained in-country presence, and clear exit strategies. These strategies involve gradually transferring capacity, ownership, and decision-making to community-based organisations and local authorities and require adapted funding schemes to do so.

Shifting perceptions hindering localisation

A study by the Humanitarian Policy Group revealed perception-based concerns among international stakeholders and donors about potential financial, legal, reputational, and security risks associated with partnering with local actors. While not evidence-based, these perceptions influence trust, partnership modalities, funding dynamics, and power dynamics between international and local humanitarian actors, hindering localisation efforts.²⁶ Targeted at donors, guidance issued by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on localisation also suggests that risks associated with localisation can be reduced by implementing adapted risk mitigation strategies during the design and planning stages, that can be integrated into partnership agreements.²⁷

The EORE Stakeholder Survey and interviews with local organisations and NMAAs revealed their limited access to global initiatives, resources, and training opportunities, which affects their ability to influence localisation processes. Some stakeholders within international organisations emphasised the importance of “localising the global”, advocating for increased involvement of national-level organisations in global initiatives. This approach could support good practices at the local level and influence new perceptions and priorities in localisation.

21 According to the Landmine Monitor, in 2022, 17 affected states contributed to 13% (USD 115.1 million) of the global mine action funding through their own national mine action programmes: “Reported national support had remained below \$100 million annually for six consecutive years, before rising to \$115.1 million in 2022”. See, ICBL-CMC (2023), [Landmine Monitor 2023](#), pp. 86 and 101.

22 Local organisations are typically NGOs or community-based organisations that operate within a specific geographic area, often focusing on the immediate needs of the local community. National organisations operate at a broader level, providing services or support across an entire country. They may have multiple chapters or branches in various regions.

23 ICBL-CMC (2023), [Landmine Monitor 2023](#), p. 86.

24 Development Initiatives, [Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2023](#), pp. 70–72.

25 GICHD (2023), [EORE in Residual Contamination Management](#), pp. 5–6.

26 See Véronique Barbelet, Gemma Davies, Josie Flint and Eleanor Davey, “ODI Global Advisory (2021), [Interrogating the evidence base on humanitarian localisation: a literature study](#)”, p. 11. See also Schindler, Markus, “[Localization in Mine Action: Where the Possible Meets the Necessary](#)”, *The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction* 28, no. 1 (2021): 6–8.

27 Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (2017), [Localising the response](#), pp. 15–17.

المشكلة: عدم تنفيذ قرارات التقييم والمراقبة بشكل فعال

التحديات

الحلول الممكنة

النتائج المتوقعة



INTEGRATION FOR MORE EFFECTIVE RISK REDUCTION



Following progress made at advocacy and policy levels, the mapping indicates that EORE is increasingly and more effectively integrated within mine action and other sectors:

- National mine action authorities (NMAAs) and operators reported growing synergies with non-technical survey (NTS), clearance operations and victim assistance (VA), with explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) serving as a key entry point and an enhancer of effectiveness and efficiency;
- Holistic approaches with wider sectors like protection, health, and education contribute to risk reduction strategies addressing intentional or forced risky behaviours towards explosive ordnance (EO).

► THE ROLE OF EORE IN BROADER MINE ACTION PROGRAMMES

FINDINGS:



The sector increasingly recognises the role that EORE plays in supporting survey, marking, clearance, and victim assistance by building trust with communities. This integration has led to more successful EO reporting, improved explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) response, and enhanced victim identification and referral processes.

When operators and NMAAs allocate adequate attention and resources to EORE, they can build strong trust-based relationships with communities. In Bosnia and Herzegovina for instance, EORE activities have helped communities regain trust in the safe use of cleared land, fostering cooperation and support for ongoing mine action efforts.



“I come from an EOD background, and I realised I was wrong that EORE was somehow not enough. I don’t feel that it was perceived as of vital importance, included at operational level. It has now become clearer to me that EORE has a very specific role; it is a useful activity to deliver as a first response, with a quick effect, as opposed to removing EO from the ground that requires a lot of time and money. This may also be due to the way the donor landscape has changed. Perhaps the donors perceive more value than they did before in the past 2–3 years ... EORE is easier to fund than supporting full-scale clearance.”

International NGO (INGO), HQ



CALLS FOR ACTION:



Donors:

- Prioritise funding for integrated mine action approaches, while ensuring adequate funding specifically for EORE to maintain quality and coverage.

Operators/NMAAs:

- Continue to implement EORE/land release/VA integrated approaches;
- Equip multi-task teams (MTT), EOD and VA teams with skills and knowledge in EORE for ad-hoc or more systematic field implementation;
- Ensure that delivery of EORE by MTT, EOD and VA teams is submitted to regular quality management;
- Develop EORE teams’ capacities in VA (victim identification, collection of casualty data, and referral);
- Document and share success in integrated approaches to support resource mobilisation;
- Share good practice on holistic approaches with the sector to help improve risk reduction for intentional and forced unsafe behaviours;
- Standardise and conceptualise holistic approaches to streamline EORE activities within organisations and its effective integration with other forms of assistance.

EORE Advisory Group (AG):

- Promote integrated and holistic approaches in relevant forums using concrete case studies;
- Contribute to global guidance on integrated approaches and effective risk reduction in mine action.



EORE support for survey, marking and clearance

International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) 12.10 underscores the role of EORE in mine action and its contribution to other essential activities such as community liaison (CL) and land release.²⁸ As of 2024, the “silos”, identified in the 2019 mapping, between clearance/EOD and EORE/CL practitioners are now, if not broken down, greatly fractured. About 60% of respondents to the 2023 Stakeholder Survey indicated that EORE was integrated with NTS, technical survey, and clearance efforts. Integration is also an adaptive strategy by operators to ensure cost-effective EORE delivery despite limited mine action funding.

EORE is increasingly recognised as an entry point, an enhancer and a precondition for successful land release, especially in areas where clearance cannot take place for security reasons, or due to ongoing conflict.

- EORE is an integral part of CL: many organisations, such as Mines Advisory Group (MAG), integrate EORE into their community liaison activities, ensuring it is provided before, during, and after land release, which builds trust and acceptance of mine action activities with communities.
- EORE supports more effective survey and clearance: success stories show EORE sessions often lead to EO reporting and quick EOD responses, involving communities in risk prevention, identification, and removal. Some stakeholders reported to be increasingly using multi-task teams combining survey, clearance, and EORE depending on the contamination and needs of the community. The Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) targets high-risk communities, training local residents, the authorities, police, and monks, enabling

them to effectively disseminate EORE safety messages and report EO.

- EORE supports land use: in land release and residual contamination contexts, such as in Bosnia and Herzegovina, EORE was presented as a critical activity that helped communities to regain trust in the safe use of cleared land.

Key issues and possible solutions were identified in EORE/land release integrated approaches:

- High needs for survey and clearance coupled with limited mine action funding can reduce the time allocated to and quality of EORE. A career path favouring training and mobility between EORE, NTS, and clearance was reported to contribute to better operationalisation of the EORE integrated approach. Fondation suisse de déminage reported to have included the Introduction to EORE Essentials e-learning course in the training package of its survey and EOD staff; CMAC trains its clearance teams in EORE to deliver sessions in areas of operations; The HALO Trust in Syria integrated former EORE staff members into its EOD teams, ensuring the systematic provision of EORE to communities.
- Adopting clear organisational objectives can help streamline EORE. As an example, MAG reported that it was developing an updated Theory of Change with a dedicated outcome and indicators on the integration of mine action pillars;
- Operators and EORE departments within NMAAs/NMACs noted evolving perceptions on the importance of EORE but highlighted the need for continued national-level advocacy. A persistent “military bias” in NMAAs/national mine action centres (NMACs) often prioritises clearance over other mine action pillars.

28 See IMAS [12.10](#), Amendment 3, Explosive ordnance risk education (September 2020), pp. 10–11.

EORE support for victim assistance

According to IMAS 12.10 and IMAS 13.10 on victim assistance, EORE may facilitate the provision of assistance to EO victims and contribute to injury surveillance.²⁹ EORE was reported as more integrated with victim assistance, although to a lesser extent than with land release.³⁰ Most interviewees acknowledged the underdevelopment of VA in their programmes, stressing the need for increased funding and commitment from NMAAs/NMACs and operators. Several organisations highlighted the cost-effectiveness of EORE in preventing EO incidents compared to the substantial resources required for VA. Neglecting risk education could lead to increased funding needs to support growing victim demands.

EORE/VA integrated approaches were reported to benefit both pillars. For example, The HALO Trust Colombia has developed an implementation guide on EORE and VA, which includes practical recommendations regularly updated and shared with teams and partners.³¹ This integration allows for the identification of victims, collection of data on casualties, and referral to appropriate services, enhancing the overall effectiveness of mine action programmes. More concretely:

- EORE is an entry point to identifying victims and collecting data on casualties. In turn, this allows for better profiling of EO risk takers as part of an EORE needs assessment and enables messages to be better targeted according to needs.
- Through routine frequent contact and visits to affected communities, EORE teams can effectively refer EO victims to services offered by their own organisations or other sectors. This helps build trust with communities and acceptance of EORE messages and activities. Some programmes, such as the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in Syria, have deployed mixed EORE/VA teams to address needs, to ensure cost-effectiveness despite limited funding, and in compliance with IMAS.
- EORE can contribute to victims' inclusion and participation in mine action activities by hiring survivors and/or partnering with survivors' organisations. Messages provided by or including survivors are often more effective and impactful among communities.

Holistic approaches

Some mine action organisations have adopted holistic approaches. Humanity & Inclusion's armed violence reduction projects and the International Committee of the Red Cross's (ICRC's) risk awareness and safer behaviour approaches allow for the development of alternatives to risk-taking behaviours.³²

Based on needs assessments, organisations refer EORE beneficiaries, identified as risk-takers due to unsafe livelihood options, to income-generating activities. For instance, ICRC Senegal's weapon contamination programme worked with the livelihood department to support farmers in oyster fishing, offering an alternative to farming mine-contaminated land. Similarly, Danish Refugee Council's (DRC's) humanitarian disarmament and peacebuilding interventions and DanChurchAid's (DCA's) initiatives focus on safety, security, and community resilience, integrating mine action with development and humanitarian interventions.³³

EORE holistic approaches are often operationalised but not necessarily conceptualised and standardised through proper guidance. As an example, in March 2019, the ICRC published its Risk Awareness and Safer Behaviour Guidelines which greatly helped streamline EORE into broader activities, transitioning from mere communication to a comprehensive approach integrating health, psychosocial support, and livelihood assistance.³⁴



29 See IMAS [12.10](#), Amendment 3, Explosive ordnance risk education (September 2020), pp. 11–12, and IMAS [13.10](#), Amendment 1, Victim assistance in mine action (January 2023), pp. 3–4.

30 According to the 2023 Stakeholder Survey, 49% of respondents indicated that EORE was integrated with victim assistance efforts.

31 The HALO Trust (2023), "Implementation Guide on EORE and VA" (Version 3), shared by The HALO Trust Colombia programme.

32 HI, [Armed Violence Reduction](#).

33 DRC, [Humanitarian Disarmament and Peace Building](#) and DCA (undated), [Building Resilient Communities](#).

34 ICRC (2019), [Increasing Resilience to Weapon Contamination Through Behaviour Change](#).



▶ ADVOCATING FOR EORE IN GLOBAL AGENDAS

FINDINGS:



Action 28 of the Oslo Action Plan and Action 27 of the Lausanne Action Plan call for further integration of risk education into wider humanitarian, development, human rights, environmental, protection and education efforts. However, a stronger mutual understanding between EORE and these sectors is still needed. To achieve this integration, a two-way conversation must occur at global, regional, and national levels and sustained advocacy efforts are required.



“We have a very strong protection agenda. To us, if civil society and civilians in affected areas can avoid harm from explosive ordnance and weapons through EORE, it is just as important as clearing explosive ordnance.”

Donor



“To cope with the shrinking of funding, the key is to integrate EORE with wider approaches. However, when some donors see integrated EORE, they come to us and say ‘this is not us, this is for other donors’. We have to change the mindset, and promote integrated approaches with donors, include it in our advocacy strategy”.

INGO, West Africa

CALLS FOR ACTION:



Operators/UN Agencies/Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR):

- Find opportunities for integration with broader agendas (human rights, disaster risk reduction, education in emergencies, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Women, Peace and Security);
- Document, share, and showcase concrete examples of integrated approaches to inspire others and leverage them for advocacy efforts;
- Continue to implement and document EORE/conflict preparedness and protection (CPP) approaches and their importance in the use of explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA);
- Strengthen operational and global synergies between EORE and other protection agendas;
- Elevate EORE at the UN Global Protection Cluster (GPC) annual conference to foster practical synergies;
- Develop collaboration with other Areas of Responsibility and clusters.

EORE AG:

- Support and amplify advocacy efforts and EORE integration in global agendas beyond conventions;
- Contribute to documenting effective and successful integration in global agendas and other sectors;
- Ensure the EORE AG regularly delivers reports and presents decisions and guidance notes to the MA AoR for transmission to the GPC, as mentioned in the EORE AG Terms of Reference.

EORE and the global protection and education agendas

The United Nations Mine Action Strategy (2024) underscores the importance of EORE in safeguarding individuals and communities from EO and calls for improved coordination and resources within the UN system.³⁵ Mine action is a key area of the UN Global Protection Cluster. The Mine Action Area of Responsibility identifies EORE as a crucial component for protecting people in humanitarian emergencies.³⁶ Goal 2 of the Strategy aims to support the EORE Advisory Group's (AG's) outreach efforts. Similarly, the EORE AG has a responsibility to report to the MA AoR.³⁷

At country level, the MA AoR has successfully integrated EORE into the Humanitarian Needs Overview and Response Plans, with significant progress since 2019. EORE is now included in humanitarian funding mechanisms, such as the Central Emergency Response Fund. Notably, EORE is a mandatory requirement for accessing Humanitarian Pooled Fund resources in Myanmar. The MA AoR also incorporates EORE into training for coordinators and uses the Global Protection Cluster Conference to emphasise its importance through the delivery of EORE sessions to protection colleagues.

Effective integration into the global protection agenda requires ongoing coordination, promotion of integrated approaches, and advocacy:

- EORE is seen by several non-mine action stakeholders as a critical enabler for humanitarian and protection work, especially in conflict-affected areas.
- Opportunities for synergy with the Child Protection AoR and Global Education Cluster are highlighted by both MA AoR and the EORE AG, yet documentation and promotion of effective integration with these areas at global and operational levels remain limited.³⁸

35 United Nations (2024), [Mine Action Strategy](#), p. 9.

36 Global Protection Cluster (2022), [The Primacy of Protection. Mine Action Area of Responsibility Strategy 2022–2024](#), p. 10.

37 EORE AG (July 2023), [Terms of Reference](#), p. 3.

38 Global Protection Cluster (2022), [The Primacy of Protection. Mine Action Area of Responsibility Strategy 2022–2024](#), p. 14, and EORE AG (July 2023), [Terms of Reference](#), p. 3.

39 United Nations (2024), [Mine Action Strategy](#), p. 41.

40 GICHD (2021), [The Sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in Jordan](#), GICHD (2022), [The Sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in Cambodia](#), GICHD and UNDP (2022), [The Sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), GICHD (2022), [Linking Mine Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - Insights from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Lao PDR](#), GICHD (2022), [Contribuciones de la acción integral contra minas al desarrollo sostenible en Colombia](#), and GICHD and UNDP (2023), [The sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in Somalia](#), and [The Sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in South Sudan](#).

41 See GICHD and UNDP (2023), [The Sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in South Sudan](#), p. 94.

42 Vovk, Nick, "Linking Mine Action and Development: The Case of Komyshevskaya", *The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction* 25, (2021): 28.

43 See for example in South Sudan, GICHD and UNDP (2023), [The Sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in South Sudan](#), p. 99.

EORE and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The UN considers mine action, including EORE, as an "accelerator of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".³⁹ A series of GICHD case studies, some jointly developed with United Nations Development Programme, in various affected countries focused on how mine action pillars could respectively contribute to the SDGs and their associated targets.⁴⁰ As an example, in South Sudan, EORE was reported to contribute to SDG 4 on quality education; SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions; SDG 10 on reduced inequalities; and SDG 17 on partnerships to achieve the SDGs.⁴¹

A case study on a DRC project, From Mines to Milk, in Ukraine showed how integrated approaches within and between mine action and development sectors increased EORE effectiveness and supported safer community development.⁴² DCA also developed a successful integrated approach in South Sudan, under the slogan "from hazard to harvest", combining EORE with agricultural land release and land use activities, improving safe agricultural production and enhancing food security. Demonstrating success in integrated EORE and development approaches can support further integration into broader development agendas.

EORE and peacebuilding

Contributing to the SDGs is linked to peacebuilding in many contexts, as highlighted by the GICHD series of studies.⁴³ A South Sudan INGO interviewee explained that, in regions suffering endemic conflict involving youth, EORE not only supports clearance efforts but also promotes peacebuilding among youth through sports, schools, drama clubs, and talent shows. Similarly, organisations in Colombia reported that EORE helps connect communities with the authorities, reinforcing social fabric and trust within conflict-affected areas.



SBC toolkit pilot training in Türkiye, 2024 ©GICHD

In 2023, the UN Secretary-General’s policy brief, *A New Agenda for Peace*, urged actions to “Accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (Action 4) and “Reduce the human cost of weapons” (Action 7).⁴⁴ Recommendations for Action 7 include achieving universalisation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), and “strengthening the protection of civilians in conflict zones” through the Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas.

There is scope to investigate the impact of EORE on achieving the SDGs and focus on actionable recommendations from the UN Secretary-General’s *New Agenda for Peace* to better align EORE initiatives with broader peacebuilding and sustainable development objectives.

EORE and climate change

Some interviewees suggested integrating EORE with climate change initiatives, particularly in forums such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and through collaboration with UN agencies such as the United Nations Environment Programme. Climate change exacerbates existing vulnerabilities and contributes to displacement, making it a compounded factor for people on the move alongside ongoing conflicts.

Linking EORE with climate change issues can facilitate the development of comprehensive strategies that address the dual threats posed by explosive remnants of war and

climate-related disasters. Furthermore, advocating for this connection in relevant international discussions can help mobilise resources and support for affected communities, ensuring that EORE is not only a standalone initiative but also part of a broader framework for sustainable development and peacebuilding. This approach also aligns with the goals of the SDGs and the *New Agenda for Peace*, emphasising the need for holistic solutions to complex global challenges.

Explosive weapons in populated areas

Including risk education in the EWIPA Declaration is a significant achievement resulting from advocacy efforts on the part of EORE stakeholders and “champion” states. Though non-binding, the Declaration underscores EORE’s crucial role in civilian protection and the political commitment of signatories. This process shows the power of coalitions in achieving humanitarian goals and has raised EORE’s political visibility.

In this context, Norwegian People’s Aid reported that its CPP approach grew from a commitment at policy level and an operational need to cover two blind spots in EORE: its focus on remnants of war and on immediate post-conflict rather than active conflict. CPP and EORE are therefore complementary in supporting community resilience and could be further included in disaster risk reduction agendas and approaches implemented by operators and NMAAs. In April 2024, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) called for sustained financial support for programmes protecting children from EWIPA, including risk education.⁴⁵

44 United Nations (2023), *A New Agenda for Peace*, p. 22.

45 UNICEF (2024), *Advocacy brief: Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas*, p. 3, and *Meaningful action to prevent the use of explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA) could almost halve number of child casualties in conflicts*.

▶ OPERATIONAL INTEGRATION OF EORE WITH OTHER SECTORS

FINDINGS:



Operational integration of EORE with other sectors serves several purposes – to deliver risk education with fewer resources, expand its outreach, and provide alternatives to intentional or forced risky behaviours. Efforts in advocacy, resource mobilisation, and coordination should be sustained to foster and enhance partnerships and synergies.



“EORE allows us to connect with other needs that are not necessarily addressed in mine action ... It promotes alternatives to unsafe behaviour.”

INGO, Middle East



“We are working on disaster risk reduction, also on protection, so these are ideal sectors for mainstreaming EORE. We are also working on gender-based violence (GBV), water, sanitation and hygiene, health and nutrition. We have not said we are mainstreaming risk education to our current donors. However, we still record and report our EORE beneficiaries to the sector”.

Local organisation, Nigeria

CALLS FOR ACTION:



Donors:

- Include EORE in broader non-mine action funding schemes to make it a regular practice rather than an exception;
- Ensure EORE receives dedicated funding as part of broader funding schemes;
- Encourage consortia between mine action and non-mine action stakeholders to foster operational synergies and knowledge management.

Other sectors:

- Integrate EORE e-learning courses into relevant communities of practice, resource libraries, and training sessions across organisations to enhance awareness of EORE;
- Participate in MA AoR and/or EORE working groups in countries to foster collaboration;
- Invite EORE operators and NMAAs to Areas of Responsibility beyond mine action (i.e. child protection, Housing, Land and Property and GBV) or cluster coordination meetings (protection, health, education etc.);
- Identify and foster operational synergies with EORE.

Operators/NMAAs:

- Foster partnerships between EORE operators and stakeholders from migration, education, health, disaster risk reduction, and protection sectors such as the International Organization for Migration’s (IOM’s) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM);
- Explore opportunities for integration and synergies, particularly in cross-border and regional approaches;
- Invite stakeholders from related sectors (migration, education, protection) to participate in MA AoR and/or EORE working groups and join protection clusters;
- Develop adapted accreditation and certification pathways allowing broader sectors to mainstream EORE while upholding minimum quality requirements.

EORE AG:

- Support advocacy and resource mobilisation efforts on EORE integration with broader sectors;
- Contribute to documenting effective and successful integration in broader sectors;
- Ensure the participation of protection, migration, education and health players alike in the EORE AG and/or its relevant task teams, based on identified needs and opportunities;
- Liaise with the MA AoR to identify joint opportunities for integration with protection and education; also between other sectors and AoRs.



SBCC toolkit pilot training in Türkiye, 2024 ©GICHD

Protecting people on the move

Interviewees noted that the correlation between explosive ordnance contamination and displacement/migration extends beyond conflict-related scenarios. Displacement and migration dynamics and flows highlight common challenges, including on awareness raising for people on the move whether internally or across borders, cross border cooperation among states and operators, and identification/creation of safe pathways. Joint initiatives remain scarce, but some examples can support future developments:

- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and IOM have joined the EORE AG.
- In 2019–2020, the IOM’s DTM collaborated with the MA AoR to develop a DTM Field Companion for Mine Action, improving data collection and use. Results from projects in Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Mali will be presented in an EORE Hour webinar on 30 October 2024.
- An EORE module has been added to UNHCR’s Humanitarian Protection in Armed Conflict Toolkit to support people on the move.⁴⁶
- The GICHD and IOM plan a Q4 2024 roundtable to identify practical entry points.

46 UNHCR (2021), [Humanitarian Protection in Armed Conflict](#).

47 Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (2015), [Safe Schools Declaration](#), Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (undated), [Education in Emergencies](#), and Matthieu Laruelle (2023), Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies, [What are the links between education in emergencies and explosive ordnance risk education?](#)

48 See also Vovk, Nick, “[Emergency Explosive Ordnance Risk Education: Lessons Learned from Ukraine](#)”, *The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction* 28, no.1, (2024): 25.

49 INEE (2012), [Minimum Standards for Education: Preparedness, Response, Recovery](#).

EORE and education in emergencies (EiE)

Integrating EORE into the school system and curriculum is a strategy developed in countries facing a widespread and protracted EO problem, including in emergency contexts. Some stakeholders reported the need to explore existing initiatives to maximise such strategies.

Education in emergencies offers practical opportunities for collaboration and cooperation in mainstreaming EORE and developing integrated approaches.⁴⁷ In contexts like Ukraine, DRC suggested synergies could be identified with the education in emergencies sector, “particularly when it comes to needs assessments, mass media campaigns, and coordination”.⁴⁸

Despite their adherence to distinct sets of standards, the interconnectedness of EORE and EiE was highlighted in some interviews. Within the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) Minimum Standards for Education, notable emphasis is placed on the need to inform and protect learners, teachers, and other educational personnel from the dangers of “arms, ammunition, landmines and unexploded ordnance in and around the learning environment”.⁴⁹

Leveraging other sectors to provide alternative solutions to risk-taking

The versatility of EORE enables its integration with wider sectors such as protection, health, education, and economic security. In a similar way to holistic approaches, organisations emphasised how EORE integrated approaches contribute not only to preventing risky behaviours, but also to promoting alternatives to unsafe behaviours. Examples of integrated approaches demonstrate existing good practices:

- A study by the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center emphasises effective coordination at local, regional, and national levels to reduce EO risks.⁵⁰
- EORE initiatives often involve staff from diverse backgrounds, enhancing skills and fostering synergies. In Nigeria, protection organisations trained by UNMAS on EORE/NTS continued mainstreaming EORE in other protection activities despite EORE funding gaps.
- Organisations with broader mandates integrate EORE into their activities. UNICEF includes EORE in child protection, education, health, nutrition, mental health & psychosocial support, and GBV programmes. IOM and UNHCR incorporate EORE in community-based protection activities, addressing needs in areas not covered by EORE operators.
- Integrating EORE into school curriculums in coordination with NMAAs/NMACs and health ministries has proven successful and sustainable in several countries and supports residual risk management strategies.

Challenges include maintaining quality and ensuring accurate monitoring and reporting when EORE is part of broader protection initiatives. While community-based networks are often the only way to deliver life-saving messages, there are concerns about the actual competencies of facilitators, teachers, and volunteers, potentially undermining crucial messages. Some organisations that mainstream EORE may not be subject to accreditation or regular monitoring, risking misalignment with IMAS or national mine action standards (NMAS). This highlights the need for alternative accreditation, certification, and capacity-building pathways to be developed with authorities.⁵¹ The planned release of the Test & Evaluation Protocol on EORE competencies in 2025 should help standardise minimum requirements for EORE practitioners and help address these challenges.⁵²

Finally, some stakeholders expressed concerns that while integration can unlock funding opportunities, it may also dilute resources dedicated to EORE by distributing them into broader schemes. This could ultimately reduce the funding available, potentially resulting in fewer initiatives in heavily contaminated areas where they are most needed. However, many also highlighted that the connection to global agendas should not be viewed solely through the funding lens: integrating EORE into broader initiatives is key to ensuring greater reach and sustainability of EORE efforts. To mitigate any potential decrease in dedicated funding, there were recommendations to address this through targeted advocacy efforts.



50 ARMAC (2020), [Integrated Approaches to Explosive Ordnance Risk Education in ASEAN Member States](#), pp. 31, and 37–38.

51 See also Vovk, Nick, "[Emergency Explosive Ordnance Risk Education: Lessons Learned from Ukraine](#)", *The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction* 28, no. 1, (2024): 27.

52 EORE AG (2023), Task team to identify explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) technical competencies with a view to supporting the future development of an IMAS EORE Competency Test & Evaluation Protocol (T&EP), shared by task team co-leads.

ADVANCING EORE: RESOURCES, PROFESSIONALISATION, AND TECHNICAL LEADERSHIP



From 2019 to 2024, interviewees reported that there was a substantial increase in the number of EORE focused publications and guidance documents, including the revision or development of new standards. Stakeholders also highlighted disparities in capacity development and access to resources.

▶ AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND STANDARDS

FINDINGS:



Overall, there has been an increase in the availability, knowledge, and use of resources among organisations. However, their development, dissemination, and uptake are uneven, especially for national organisations and authorities that face barriers in accessing and contributing to global resources.



“To access resources and stay up to date, we regularly visit the GICHD and International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) websites. We share relevant information during coordination meetings with operators and compare new guidance to our local realities. Regarding operationalisation, we first adapt the new IMAS to national mine action standards (NMAA). The latest EORE standards were revised in 2022, through a local workshop with all partners. NMAA were then validated by the national commission.”

National mine action authority (NMAA)/National mine action centre (NMAC)



“I am aware of EORE resources because I am a member of the EORE global mailing list of the IMREWG, and I receive the information. The NMAA is also a member. When the resources are relevant, we or the NMAA share them with the EORE Technical Working Group. If there are substantial and critical issues that need to be discussed, we do that. Information sharing is one thing ... institutionalisation and operationalisation is another question.”

United Nations Agency, Vietnam



CALLS FOR ACTION:



NMAAs

- Simplify NMAA amendment procedures for minor updates to ensure quicker and more efficient revisions.

Sector (operators, NMAAs and support organisations):

- Develop comprehensive checklists that highlight key IMAS changes for NMAA revisions;
- Pool resources at global, regional, and country levels to translate key documents;
- Create concise resource summaries with key takeaways and checklists in multiple languages;
- Develop a more accessible global EORE library for sharing collaborative content;
- Regularly disseminate resources and guidance through communities of practice, webinars, or workshops, promoting uptake by local and national organisations;
- Establish country-level or regional communities of practice for NMAAs and local organisations to facilitate discussion, information exchange, and sharing of context-specific good practices.

EORE Advisory Group (AG):

- Encourage the creation of practical/concise resources and guidance based on identified needs, led by EORE AG members through task teams;
- Oversee resource use and uptake through regular EORE stakeholder surveys;
- Promote and disseminate resources through relevant forums and events (EORE Hour, etc.);
- Support and promote the UN Children’s Fund’s (UNICEF’s) migration of the International Mine Risk Education Working Group (IMREWG) to a fully functional community of practice.



Illustration from the EORE E-learning module © GICHD

IMAS revisions and compliance

Several IMAS revisions have been made in the past few years to standardise practices and requirements, but also to address new threats and issues faced in the sector:

- In 2020, an updated version of IMAS 12.10 was made available. It had not been reviewed since 2013.⁵³ The Standard adopted the term “EORE” – replacing “mine risk education/MRE” – to reflect operational realities. It also makes essential references to humanitarian principles, gender and diversity, and additional requirements for the quality delivery of EORE.
- In 2022, the Technical Note for Mine Action (TNMA) 12.10/01 on improvised explosive device (IED) risk education provided complementary guidance to address the increasing IED threat and was the result of an extensive consultative process.⁵⁴ Operators and NMAAs/NMACs reported that the TNMA helped to equip them better to provide risk education in IED-contaminated areas. The 2023 EORE Stakeholder Survey showed that these two resources are the most widely used in the sector.
- In 2023, amendments made to IMAS 05.10 and the development of its related TNMA 05.10/01 included essential and harmonised guidance on measurement and reporting of risk education beneficiaries, including sex and age disaggregated data by type of EORE provided (interpersonal, mass and digital media, training of trainers).⁵⁵

53 IMAS [12.10](#), Amendment 3, Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (September 2020).

54 Technical Note for Mine Action (TNMA) [12.10/01](#), Risk education for improvised explosive devices (November 2022).

55 IMAS [05.10](#), Amendment 2, Information management for mine action (March 2023) and Technical Note for Mine Action (TNMA) [05.10/01](#) on measurement and reporting of beneficiaries (October 2023).

56 MAG, DanChurchAid (DCA), Danish Demining Group/DRC, Fondation suisse de déminage (FSD), The HALO Trust, Humanity & Inclusion, and Norwegian People’s Aid, [Standardising Beneficiary Definitions in Humanitarian Mine Action](#), Second edition, 2020.

At global level, international operators reported adopting these standards. For example, Mines Advisory Group (MAG) aligned its global technical standards with revised IMAS, producing technical notes and practical guidance, thus streamlining standards and developing capacities across its programmes. Similarly, Danish Refugee Council (DRC) updated its EORE generic operational standards based on IMAS 12.10 and TNMA 12.10/01, enabling each country programme to update their standard operating procedures (SOPs) and train staff.

At the country level, interviewees reported that aligning national mine action standards with IMAS involved consultative workshops with local and national EORE stakeholders, establishing a best practice. However, this can present drawbacks:

- This lengthy process can create bottlenecks, resulting in parallel systems when higher national authority approvals are delayed;
- There is a perception that IMAS can be limiting, particularly when NMAAs/NMACs interpret them literally, hindering flexible approaches in emergency contexts.

Suggestions to counter these drawbacks included creating checklists for NMAAs/NMACs, in order to highlight key IMAS changes which NMAAs revisions should focus on, and simplifying NMAAs amendment procedures for minor updates.

Increased global resources

Between May 2019 and May 2024, over 15 global resources were produced through collaborative and consultative efforts. They can be accessed on the EORE AG website. They provide technical guidance on a variety of subjects, including the following resources:

- Measurement of beneficiaries and reporting: Standardising Beneficiary Definitions in Humanitarian Mine Action,⁵⁶ in 2020, represented a significant step towards international NGOs (INGOs) reaching a common agreement on standardised methodologies for calculating and reporting EORE beneficiaries. This process culminated in the modifications made to IMAS 05.10 on information management and its associated TNMA 05.10/01.

- Basic and advanced EORE training for practitioners: the GICHD's Introduction to EORE Essentials e-learning course⁵⁷ (2021) and the Advanced EORE online course⁵⁸ (2023). These two online courses in multiple languages were adopted by several organisations as part of their training packages and reported by stakeholders to be highly qualitative and practical. The annual course training package on delivering effective EORE was also made available by UNICEF.
- Digital EORE: a task team was created to develop guidance and resources in 2022–2023, including a digital EORE project and partnerships mapping, and monitoring and evaluation guidance. A resource library on digital EORE was also made available online following a global workshop jointly organised by the GICHD and UNICEF in 2022.

The role of ad hoc task teams in producing resources proved crucial for providing the practical guidance required in the sector. Participants in these teams noted that the collaborative format and spirit they experienced, encouraged productive discussions, ensuring efforts were both output-oriented and time-bound. Recent guidance efforts have been focused on being concise and practical rather than prescriptive and conceptual, aiming to effectively support operations.

Improving accessibility and uptake of resources

Although there were overall improvements between 2020 and 2024, national and operational actors continue to face obstacles regarding awareness and the use of global resources, due to several factors:⁵⁹

- A language gap in global technical guidance: while IMAS are translated into multiple languages, other EORE guidance is primarily in English. Organisations in francophone Africa and the Middle East have stated that their teams struggle to access new or updated resources due to inadequate in-house translation capabilities.
- Lack of practicality of some global guidance: although recent improvements were noted, there is a need for shorter and more straightforward guidance that translates information into actionable recommendations, supporting operationalisation.
- Inadequate knowledge management processes: stakeholders, including from international organisations,

identified issues in the internal dissemination of documents and guidance, from global to country levels, but also from organisation to implementing partners.

- Other difficulties, such as a lack of information on resource availability and connectivity barriers, limited access to the online resource libraries, and led to constraints in time and resources to read and use documents appropriately.

To enhance access and uptake of global resources, stakeholders proposed several solutions to support the dissemination and appropriation of resources within the sector:

- Prioritise the development of concise, multi-language EORE resources, including summaries, checklists, and toolboxes, to enhance accessibility and practical application.
- Create regional and country-level communities of practice involving NMAAs and local organisations to facilitate the dissemination and use of new resources.
- At global level, the IMREWG serves as a vital community, albeit hindered by an outdated platform and limited functionality for document sharing and interactive communication. Upgrading and migrating the IMREWG to a new practical “one-stop-shop” for EORE materials, resources and guidance, beyond the current EORE AG library hosted on the GICHD website would be a game changer.
- Continue and develop online webinars and workshops for knowledge management: ad-hoc online events such as the EORE Hour Series provide critical platforms for sharing good practices and innovation among EORE practitioners.⁶⁰ These webinars foster both informal dialogue and technical discussions, evidenced by increased registrations and significant viewership on YouTube, demonstrating sustained interest and engagement within the EORE community.
- Face-to-face workshops complement these efforts by enabling practitioners to collaborate, discuss good practices, and deepen their understanding of operational contexts. For instance, DRC Ukraine's workshop on emergency EORE yielded valuable insights published in *The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction*, highlighting the importance of regional and localised events in knowledge exchange.

57 GICHD (2021), [Introduction to Explosive Ordnance Risk Education \(EORE\) Essentials](#).

58 GICHD (2023), [Explosive Ordnance Risk Education \(EORE\) Advanced Course](#).

59 Mainly based on results from the 2020–2023 EORE AG Stakeholder Survey, backed up by mapping interviews. Stakeholder Survey results are available from EORE AG (2023), [EORE AG Progress Report 2021–2022](#), p. 30. [Summary of 2023 EORE Stakeholder Survey Results](#), EORE AG (2024) pp. 9–11. It is worth noting that participants of the survey were presented with a list of 15 resources in 2022, and 22 resources in 2023.

60 EORE AG (2021–2024), [EORE Hour webinars](#).



Digital EORE Workshop, 2022 ©GICHD

► PROFESSIONALISATION IN PROGRESS

FINDINGS:



While the mine action sector was previously dominated by explosive ordnance disposal and clearance expertise, EORE is now gaining status and recognition. Stakeholders report increased professionalisation of EORE attributed to the adoption of new resources and updated Standards by organisations; the revision of EORE training packages by operators; increased access to capacity development opportunities for EORE professionals; and the ongoing standardisation of EORE competencies.



“There has always been this perception, especially from clearance technicians, that EORE is something like “you just walk around and bla bla” ... people understand now it is a technical thing and that you need to have a good background, you need to know how to work with people and how to talk to them ... there is now much more focus on the quality of it and on the technical side of EORE.”

INGO, East Africa

CALLS FOR ACTION:



NMAAs:

- Emphasise the role of certification and accreditation to develop technical capacities, maintain quality in EORE delivery, and ensure alignment with standards and humanitarian principles;
- If adopted in 2025:
 - » Adapt the Test and Evaluation Protocol (T&EP) for EORE competencies to local contexts and standardise requirements at the national level;
 - » Support the operationalisation of the T&EP with adapted training management packages and accreditation procedures to ensure consistency and quality in EORE activities.

Sector (including operators, NMAAs and other organisations):

- Develop self-evaluation tools, such as anonymous surveys, to identify knowledge gaps within programmes and address them in future professional development plans;
- Replicate global courses such as the UNICEF annual course on EORE in Spiez, Switzerland, in other regions, to ensure access to national organisations and all staff levels;
- Implement enhanced monitoring and evaluation practices to ensure the application of newly acquired knowledge and skills post-training, moving beyond basic pre/post-training assessments;
- Ensure supervisors allocate specific time for their staff to participate in online and face-to-face EORE training and attend capacity enhancement opportunities;
- Develop training management packages and professional development pathways adapted to the T&EP on EORE competencies.

EORE AG:

- Continue to support the development and adoption of the T&EP on EORE Competencies;
- Work towards supporting the adoption of these standards through the development of additional guidance, if relevant.

Approaches to professional development

The EORE sector continues to experience high turnover among staff and implementing partners due partly to the short duration of projects. Newcomers to the sector reported having more immediate access to training opportunities and resources through dedicated packages provided by organisations.

Diverse approaches to professionalisation were identified, including in-person and online training, internal or external webinars, peer-to-peer support, and mentoring. Some operators explained that the availability of the reviewed EORE IMAS, e-learning courses and other guidance, encouraged them to review their internal EORE training packages and standard operating procedures (SOPs). Individuals also referred to exposure visits to other programmes, annual internal workshops and/or retreats as important in their professional growth.

NMAAs emphasised the role of certification and accreditation in developing technical EORE capacities at national level. The NMACs in Lebanon and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the NMAA in Colombia reported that standardised training packages and accreditation procedures at national level contributed to assert EORE teams' capabilities, maintaining quality in EORE delivery, and ensuring alignment with Standards and humanitarian principles. The NMAA in Colombia set up a sophisticated system of certification of EORE practitioners in partnership with the National Training Service (SENA) and developed a training manual for facilitators through consultations with operators.

The development of self-evaluation tools, through anonymous surveys, could help organisations identify knowledge gaps within each programme, and address them through professional development plans.

Enhancing capacity through training

Stakeholders particularly highlighted increased access to training opportunities as a key factor in enhancing capacity.

At the global level, GICHD's multilingual online e-learning courses, aligned with IMAS, were widely recognised as a key resource for staff capacity building and internal advocacy. Operators reported using the e-learning courses in their training packages and/or onboarding. FSD, for instance, uses the Introduction to EORE Essentials e-learning to ensure all team members share basic knowledge and appreciation of EORE.

The in-person UNICEF annual course "Delivering Effective EORE" was also reported as highly valuable for skills enhancement and networking. However, attendees noted the need for increased frequency and locations of the course to improve access for local organisations. Furthermore, local organisations often lacked information on training opportunities.

At organisational level, access to and availability of internal training opportunities seem to have increased. The Stakeholder Survey showed that 64% of responders had internal training packages on EORE, with 76% compliant with IMAS, up from 58% and 57% respectively in 2021. However, access to training opportunities varies, with disparities noted in exposure to specialised and technical courses for local staff and organisations. DCA and MAG reported that they are updating their training packages to incorporate best practices and align with IMAS.

Organisations also encounter difficulties in establishing systematic follow-up mechanisms beyond pre/post-training assessments to ensure the application of newly acquired knowledge and skills. There is a need for enhanced monitoring and evaluation practices concerning training outcomes and, more broadly, staff professional development.

Standardising competencies to support mutual understanding

Adapting the quality assurance framework used for land release to EORE activities has facilitated progress in quality management. This approach has promoted a common operational language and mutual understanding through the consistent use of processes and tools.

Similarly, inspired by the IMAS T&EP for land release⁶¹, which aims to standardise competencies required for operations, the EORE AG launched a task team in November 2023 co-led by the GICHD and UNICEF to develop a T&EP for EORE competencies. This initiative aims to enhance professionalisation and standardisation within the EORE sector. If approved by the IMAS Review Board, this protocol will establish minimum standards and qualifications for EORE personnel, ensuring they acquire essential knowledge, skills, and attitudes for their roles.

The adoption of an EORE competency standard will enable organisations to assess and certify the competence of their staff, thereby supporting capacity building and professional development efforts.

61 <https://www.mineactionstandards.org/standards/08-10-01-2024/>



The GICHD Francophone Regional Cooperation Programme (FRCP) workshop at CPADD—in Ouidah, Benin, October 2023 ©GICHD

► TECHNICAL AND THEMATIC LEADERSHIP AND GUIDANCE

FINDINGS:



The EORE sector’s move towards professionalisation and self-organisation around specialised entities and the EORE AG demonstrates an effective model for advancing EORE through technical leadership and collaboration. To become more efficient and responsive to both current and future needs, the sector needs strong technical and thematic leadership.



“The complex challenges of EORE demand continuous attention and collective effort. Strong thematic and technical leadership is crucial to keep EORE high on the global, regional and national agendas, convene diverse actors to share and co-create, and drive the field forward. This shared commitment is the engine that pushes our sector and fuels our ability to innovate, professionalise, adapt and respond to emergencies.”

INGO, HQ

CALLS FOR ACTION:



NMAAs

- Simplify NMAS amendment procedures for minor updates to ensure quicker and more efficient revisions.

Sector (including operators, NMAAs and support organisations):

- Assume thematic leadership in specific thematic areas of expertise and produce outputs beneficial to the sector;
- Leverage individual organisation’s expertise and experience to support advocacy and policy efforts at global and country levels.

EORE AG:

- Develop a road map to prioritise and monitor key areas needing resources/guidance based on mapping;
- Support the identification of useful expertise outside the mine action sector to support EORE initiatives;
- Support the creation of ad-hoc task teams to answer sector’s needs based on EORE members’ and others’ expertise;
- Promote and disseminate resources through relevant forums and events (EORE Hour, etc.).

PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES IN QUALITY AND RESULTS-BASED MANAGEMENT

According to International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) 07.12, results-based management (RBM) integrates quality management (QM) to ensure a clear specification of requirements and continuous improvement through feedback loops based on actual results. EORE stakeholders should ensure that quality management systems align with IMAS 12.10, section 10 on monitoring and evaluation.⁶⁴ Quality management systems should include regular monitoring, evaluation, and feedback mechanisms to improve EORE activities.

This approach is widely promoted in the UN system and among donors.⁶⁵ Operators often use terms such as monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL) to describe frameworks for assessing and adjusting intervention quality throughout project cycles.⁶⁶ Recent years have seen significant advancements in quality management within the mine action sector, resulting in enhanced attention to monitoring EORE quality, implementation progress, and outputs. However, stakeholders acknowledge the ongoing need to strengthen needs assessment processes, which are pivotal for effective QM and RBM. Moreover, defining EORE outcomes and measuring impact remains a sector challenge. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in collaboration with the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group (EORE AG), is developing a comprehensive EORE Theory of Change (ToC) for the sector to sustain progress, systematically document the impact of EORE interventions and cover gaps not addressed by the sector-wide ToC.

⁶⁴ IMAS 12.10, Amendment 3, Explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), (September 2020)

⁶⁵ ITAD (2022), [A Sector-Wide Theory of Change for Mine Action and User Guide](#).

⁶⁶ GICHD (2023), [Advanced EORE e-learning course](#).

▶ REMAINING CHALLENGES IN NEEDS ASSESSMENT

FINDINGS:



Despite the requirement to align needs assessment methodologies with IMAS 12.10, section 5, to enhance the effectiveness of EORE, challenges persist in data availability, transparency, and the adoption of participatory approaches. These issues impact the sector's ability to prioritise and plan interventions effectively.



“In some countries at the moment, we are doing blind EORE. Our programmes have no idea what kind of explosive ordnance (EO) accidents happen, and who the victims are. We do not have access to this data. There is also not enough understanding and integration of intentional risk-taking behaviours in our assessment efforts. Baselines need to be widely improved and systematised.”

International NGO (INGO), HQ



“When it comes to the needs analysis, we as donors rarely see comprehensive analysis on why people have accidents, what people were doing when they had their accident, what groups of people and what kind of devices were involved ... We need more data-driven approaches that lead to tailored risk education.”

Donor



CALLS FOR ACTION:



Donors:

- Allocate funding for comprehensive needs assessments, including data collection and analysis, as foundational to effective EORE project design and implementation.
- Include needs assessment as a basis/justification/requirement for funding, linking identified needs and proposed project objectives in proposals/concept notes assessment matrices.

Sector (incl. operators, national mine action authorities (NMAAs) and support organisations):

- Implement transparent data-sharing practices and facilitate participatory approaches at all operational levels;
- Enhance transparency in sharing victim data and risks to facilitate better analysis and prioritisation of target groups;
- Facilitate forums to enable discussions on actionable recommendations from needs analysis to inform EORE programme design;
- Develop and disseminate simplified, context-adapted tools for needs assessment, integrating qualitative data sources and ensuring community engagement to mitigate survey fatigue;
- Develop and promote standardised protocols for injury surveillance and needs assessments to improve data reliability and confidence in planning processes;
- Establish mechanisms for regular re-assessments especially in volatile contexts;
- Foster regional cooperation in data collection and analysis to strengthen evidence-based planning and prioritisation across borders;
- Allocate dedicated resources for comprehensive baseline and endline surveys, emphasising their role in adjusting programme activities and maximising impact.

EORE AG:

- Support the development of assessment tools and guidelines to enhance consistency and effectiveness in needs assessments across different operational environments.



SBCC toolkit pilot training in Türkiye, 2024 ©GICHD

Needs assessment: an essential yet often overlooked step in programming

IMAS 12.10 requires thorough needs assessments by national authorities and EORE operators to identify, analyse, and prioritise local EO risks, to assess vulnerabilities across communities. These assessments are essential for shaping national strategies and action plans and serve as the bedrock for RBM and MEAL. Despite a perception that this requirement is a given in the sector, many stakeholders stressed the importance of going “back to basics”; there is a prevalent need across various programmes and geographic levels to strengthen needs assessments and ensure regular re-assessment of community needs.

Donors are keen on needs assessment. Action 30 of the Oslo Action Plan (OAP), and Action 29 of the Lausanne Action plan (LAP) refer to tailoring programmes on the basis of needs assessment and/or casualty data analysis. There is broad consensus in the sector that skipping the needs assessments leads to quality issues in project implementation, and ultimately diminishes its impact. However, operators noted that financial constraints may exacerbate current gaps, as decreasing funds in programmes often lead to the removal of surveys and assessments as means of a cost-saving measure.

67 The 2023 Stakeholder Survey showed that 20% of stakeholders felt less confident in injury surveillance. Injury surveillance was also among the top five priorities identified by national authorities for potential capacity development. EORE AG (2024), [Summary of 2023 EORE Stakeholder Survey Results](#), pp. 14 and 16.

68 ICBL-CMC (2023), <https://www.the-monitor.org/reports/landmine-monitor>, p. 54.

Challenges in casualty data collection for needs assessment

Many contexts still lack clear and accessible data on EO victims, crucial for beneficiary profiling and EORE planning. This is due to several factors:

Access to data:

- There are transparency issues in sharing victim data, hindering effective analysis and prioritisation of target groups in certain contexts: some operators mentioned that information on EO victims were not timely or effectively shared by NMAAs, and vice versa.
- National authorities and operators also face challenges in collecting comprehensive casualty data, especially in remote areas.

Completeness of data:

- Data collected is not always complete; crucial information for EORE, such as activity at the time of accident, or the type of EO involved, may be missing or not be reliable;
- Data collection on EO victims is not systematic and sometimes neglected in favour of other operational priorities.

Quality of data:

- When available, the data often do not meet the threshold or requirements to sufficiently inform programming or is not representative of the vulnerable and most at-risk groups/population.

Injury surveillance was highlighted as a key area that may require capacity building in the 2023 Stakeholder Survey.⁶⁷ As reported in the Landmine Monitor 2023, “Some states do not have functional casualty surveillance systems in place, while other forms of reporting are often inadequate or lack disaggregation.”⁶⁸

Attempts to pool efforts and establish more reliable and transparent victim data collection and analysis systems were reported. For example, in countries or regions such as Syria and the Sahel, operators have developed regional initiatives to jointly analyse casualty data, improving information sharing and strengthening evidence-based planning and prioritisation across borders. The Lebanese Mine Action Center reported to be using an online dashboard shared with operators to analyse and monitor EO casualty data.

Improving assessment tools and methods

While many stakeholders use internal guidelines and templates for needs assessments, these resources and their use often depend on programme-specific capacities, and availability of support from headquarters.

Similarly to what was identified in the previous 2019 EORE Sector Mapping and Needs Analysis, knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) baseline surveys were often mentioned by stakeholders as a key tool used in their needs assessment.⁶⁹ They provide quantitative data to inform programme adjustments and enhance intervention effectiveness. When properly conducted, knowledge, attitudes, practices KAP surveys foster a comprehensive understanding of community dynamics and facilitate tailored programming. However, challenges were identified in the implementation and analysis of KAP surveys, including:

- Significant resources required for training, deploying enumerators, and managing data;
- Large-scale surveys such as KAP may be perceived as sensitive or intrusive by authorities and local communities in some countries, leading to reluctance or restrictions in data collection;
- Inconsistent availability of expertise and logistical support, which can compromise data and the quality and accuracy of analysis;
- Potential survey fatigue among communities due to frequent and repeated assessments by multiple organisations;
- Endline KAP data is often used solely for evaluation rather than as an opportunity for reassessment and programming adjustment;
- Quantitative outputs from KAP surveys only partially capture behavioural drivers and detailed insights into target groups.

Efforts to mitigate these challenges include adapting data collection and analysis tools and methods by:

- Pooling resources to streamline survey operations and reduce costs;

- Using simplified questionnaires to enhance efficiency and respondents' engagement;
- Adapting traditional survey tools with social and behaviour change communication-oriented questions to better identify behavioural drivers, such as the KAP survey conducted by Humanity & Inclusion (HI) and Danish Refugee Council (DRC) in Ukraine;⁷⁰
- Integrating qualitative methods such as focus groups⁷¹ and barrier analysis to gain deeper insights into behavioural drivers and community needs, as implemented by Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and The HALO Trust;⁷²
- Considering low-profile and lower-scale data collection initiatives, such as KAP-oriented pre- and post-tests;
- Organising workshops involving the authorities, implementing partners, and national staff to enhance qualitative analysis of baseline survey results and deepen understanding;
- Reviewing processes continuously, refining the methodology and tools and striking a balance between standardisation and context specificity in the process.

Needs assessment tools and initiatives should be adapted to operational contexts. For example, in emergency settings, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) conducts rapid assessments using available data, while more in-depth community assessment is conducted in protracted or post-conflict contexts. Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) conducts baseline surveys on protection needs, capacities, risk mitigation practices, and emergency services for each context, informing tailored conflict preparedness and protection/EORE interventions. Some stakeholders observed delays in adjusting programmes when transitioning from emergency to protracted or post-conflict contexts, as evolving risk patterns and affected groups were not promptly reassessed.

69 GICHD (2019), [Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Sector Mapping and Needs Analysis](#), p. 33.

70 See DRC and HI (2023), [KABP Survey Report, Ukraine](#).

71 Helaine Boyd, Sebastian Kasack, Noe Falk Nielsen, "[Measuring Behavior Change Resulting from EORE and the Need for Complementary Risk Reduction Activities](#)", *The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction* 24.1 (2020).

72 The HALO Trust (2021), [Using Barrier Analyses to improve Explosive Ordnance Risk Education](#).



The GICHD Francophone Regional Cooperation Programme (FRCP) workshop at CPADD—in Quidah, Benin, October 2023 ©GICHD

► INCREASED BUT UNEVEN QUALITY MANAGEMENT

FINDINGS:



Quality management practices in the EORE sector face various challenges and vary in their approach. There is a need to implement standardised quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) protocols in all EORE programmes.



“Quality management processes have evolved. When I started my career, we assumed that “if we tell people, then they will know”. We were keen on getting everything right in our training, get accredited, and we would just let the trained staff go for it and do their sessions in communities. Now, there are more attempts at quality control, there is more quality assurance, supervisors are regularly visiting, giving teams their feedback, supporting them to learn and grow.”

INGO, Ukraine



CALLS FOR ACTION:



NMAAs:

- Develop simplified and accessible accreditation processes for local organisations to facilitate an emergency EORE response;
- Adapt IMAS on QM and develop and ensure adherence to national mine action standards (NMAS) on QM.

Sector (incl. operators, NMAAs and support organisations):

- Enhance transparency and clarity in QA/QC processes to reduce subjectivity and to standardise data collection;
- Strengthen capacity building for NMAAs/national mine action centres (NMACs) to conduct regular QA visits and effectively monitor EORE quality;
- Localise quality management processes within local authorities and community structures to ensure sustainability beyond project timelines;
- Foster collaboration between EORE and monitoring and evaluation (M&E)/MEAL teams to integrate QA into broader project management frameworks;
- Integrate further non-technical survey (NTS) and EORE QA to reduce cost and increase capacity of internal QA;
- Enhance third party QA from other sectors where relevant.

Evolution of quality management in EORE

Stakeholders have diverse perspectives on what constitutes high-quality EORE. However, they generally emphasise that quality includes evidence-based, targeted, and interactive approaches that positively impact communities.

The 2023 EORE Stakeholder Survey underscored a notable perceived improvement in EORE quality, mainly attributed by interviewees to professionalisation, standardised training programmes, and enhanced quality management frameworks.⁷³

NMAAs interviewed in this study have strengthened their QM frameworks for EORE over the past five years. Many emphasise the importance of a robust organisational and operational accreditation system, with regular checks and refreshers, aimed at equipping EORE practitioners with essential skills and ensuring their consistent implementation. The Lebanon Mine Action Center (LMAC) developed a document in early 2024 detailing expectations for operational accreditation, including practical and written tests for facilitators and annual renewals. In Colombia, accreditation and certification are comprehensive processes lasting six months, verifying technical, professional, and “self-care” competencies to ensure facilitators can navigate conflict-sensitive scenarios safely.

However, some operators have noted drawbacks to these processes, citing barriers for local organisations, liability concerns, and operational bottlenecks due to heightened accreditation demands that NMAAs/NMACs struggle to meet. This may hinder access to accreditation for community focal points and local organisations, especially in remote areas, and delay and diminish emergency response capacity. For example, in Ukraine, lessons learnt from emergency EORE emphasised that mine action centres should ensure a simplified and cost-free accreditation process for local organisations, along with regular monitoring.⁷⁴



73 EORE AG (2024), [Summary of 2023 EORE Stakeholder Survey Results](#), p. 8.

74 See also: Vovk, Nick, [“Emergency Explosive Ordnance Risk Education: Lessons Learned from Ukraine”](#), *The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction* 28, no. 1, (2024): 31.

Challenges in implementing quality assurance

The EORE sector has incorporated QA processes inspired by clearance and survey methods, resulting in diverse practices across organisations. Both internal and external QA measures are now more standard, along with the development of tools for reporting and monitoring to assess and adjust EORE session quality. Challenges in implementing quality assurance can lead to gaps in ensuring that EORE interventions meet required standards, compromising their effectiveness. Stakeholders cited the following issues:

- Inconsistent application of QA standards within organisations due to varying expertise and resources, as well as decentralised systems: DRC, DanChurchAid (DCA), and MAG noted how the proportion of EORE activities within the overall operations may affect QA efforts. Some non-mine action organisations struggle with standardised QA practices due to resource limitations and broader operational focus;
- Limited capacity of organisations and NMAAs to conduct regular internal and external QA visits, especially where EORE coverage is important;
- Difficulties in performing regular QA visits due to security concerns or access issues in certain areas;
- Focus of QA processes primarily on field-based interpersonal EORE, with limited application to other delivery methods;
- QA processes often overlook engagement with communities and third parties such as teachers, authorities, and NGOs/INGOs from other sectors.

These challenges underscore the necessity for standardised QA practices adaptable to local contexts and inclusive of diverse stakeholders.



Enhancing quality management beyond the tick-the-box exercise

To improve quality management in EORE beyond a “tick-the-box exercise” and procedural compliance, stakeholders should prioritise several actions. These include:

- Establishing clear guidelines and efficient QA processes to standardise practices and reduce variability across projects. In Afghanistan, the NMAC (the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination) shared guidelines in 2019 to enhance transparency in QA processes, defining major and minor non-conformities and outlining corrective measures for critical issues. MAG and other international organisations are standardising QA grading criteria to reduce subjectivity across projects.
- Strengthening local capacity to empower subnational levels to conduct effective QA/QC, monitor visit outcomes, report findings, and take corrective measures. Despite challenges verifying quality in insecure areas like Burkina Faso and Niger, HI reported that efforts are underway to build capacity for QA at the subnational level and empower partners to conduct internal QA and report to NMAAs.
- Integrating QA practices across EORE and NTS activities to enhance collaboration and develop unified grading systems. In Senegal, the NMAA (Senegalese Mine Action Center) is adapting its QA framework to integrate EORE/NTS activities, using mixed teams for field visits and harmonising grading.
- Integrating QA practices across relevant organisational departments. For instance, The HALO Trust and HI have implemented MEAL team QA visits, ensuring impartial assessments and fostering inter-departmental cooperation.
- Integrating QA practices with other sectors. Training initiatives are extending QA responsibilities to education authorities to enhance coverage, sustainability, and accountability.

Some stakeholders suggested further linking QA with the outcomes of EORE activities. For instance, a non-conformity in outcome could involve failure to adapt the approach when persistent unsafe behaviours are observed in a defined target group. This perspective implies that the organisation should be accountable for the implementation of broader and integrated risk-reduction approaches or for undertaking and documenting advocacy efforts with other sectors.

► BETTER STANDARDISED AND TRANSPARENT M&E

FINDINGS:



The EORE sector has made significant advancements in adopting more transparent, efficient and standardised M&E systems. Further improvements are needed to ensure consistent implementation, local capacity building, and to define harmonised impact metrics across different contexts and levels of operation.



“Whether EORE benefits people is a pointless question, there is sufficient evidence that education or health prevention make a difference. The point is how you educate; the question is quality.”

INGO, HQ



“For EORE evaluation, it is shifting a bit. On what level do we want our partners to report – is it output or impact? There is a general understanding that measuring impact is hard. It is hard to justify that only EORE contributed to reducing risks and ... it does not matter so much. Many of our partners are happy with our funding because we are happy with having flexibility in our agreements on what they intend to do in terms of impact. We trust the process. We have tried to advocate for more flexibility and also multiannual funding, which is important for EORE.”

Donor

CALLS FOR ACTION:



Donors:

- Align M&E indicators and frameworks with LAP and upcoming Siem Reap Action Plan⁷⁵ indicators, and Global EORE ToC;
- Allocate/earmark resources for EORE M&E.

⁷⁵ The Fifth Review Conference of the APMB to be held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, from 25-29 November 2024, will adopt three key substantive documents: 1) a Review Document detailing the status of implementation, 2) the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan for the years 2025-2029 and 3) a political declaration.

Operators/NMAAs:

- Standardise M&E indicators and frameworks across donors for coherent and comparable reporting;
- Develop standardised M&E guidelines and tools to enhance consistency across EORE projects by creating clear, accessible guidelines within own organisation;
- Promote collaboration between international organisations, local partners, and communities to harmonise M&E systems and practices;
- Provide mechanisms for obtaining and incorporating affected communities feedback into M&E processes;
- Strengthen local M&E capacity through training and support for local staff and partners;
- Use artificial intelligence, augmented reality, and other advanced technologies to innovate M&E practices;
- Incorporate insights from other sectors and the media industry to tailor M&E approaches and metrics;
- Enhance own data analysis capabilities by building capacity for better data analysis and timely feedback for programme adjustments;
- Implement mobile devices and dashboards for live information tracking by using real-time data collection;
- Share best practices and lessons learnt between organisations to improve M&E by fostering knowledge exchange;
- Dedicate resources for EORE evaluation to document outcomes/impacts.

EORE AG:

- Support the development of global standardised and practical M&E tools adaptable to operational contexts;
- Finalise and disseminate the global EORE ToC under UNICEF lead;
- Revise the existing sector-wide ToC to adequately capture EORE results in collaboration with donors, to avoid fragmentation of efforts;
- Advocate for more standardised M&E frameworks across donors for coherent reporting and evaluation.



Advances in M&E practices

The EORE sector has seen sustained improvements in M&E practices, driven by the gradual adoption of standardised measurement and reporting guidelines for beneficiaries.⁷⁶ This progress culminated in modifications to IMAS 05.10 on information management, and its associated TNMA 05.10/01, which enhanced the quality and aggregation of data across programmes.⁷⁷

Key advancements include:

- The establishment of centralised and standardised data collection and analysis systems, including Information Management System for Mine Action risk education forms, EO victim forms and pre/post test forms. International organisations such as The HALO Trust, NPA, and DCA reported these systems were now operational across various countries.
- The widespread use of pre and post tests to measure knowledge increase.
- The increased adoption of digital tools such as dashboards and mobile devices, enabling real time data collection, enhancing transparency, efficiency, and the ability to compare data between different regions. For instance, NPA has developed operational dashboards using Survey 123 to streamline data submission and monitor EORE sessions remotely, including documentation and photos. In Lebanon, the LMAC reported using customised 123 survey forms, including mandatory data fields and photos. Data is collected on tablets by each team leader, transmitted in real-time to a centralised dashboard and shared with the EORE technical working group to jointly discuss and analyse results.

⁷⁶ MAG, DCA, Danish Demining Group/DRC, Fondation suisse de déminage (FSD), The HALO Trust, HI, and NPA. [Standardising Beneficiary Definitions in Humanitarian Mine Action](#), Second edition, 2020.

⁷⁷ IMAS [05.10](#), Amendment 2, Information management for mine action (March 2023) and Technical Note for Mine Action (TNMA) [05.10/01](#) on measurement and reporting of beneficiaries (October 2023).

- The support provided by M&E/MEAL departments to EORE teams of some international operators. HI, DRC, and The HALO Trust have dedicated MEAL departments involved in all stages of EORE programming, ensuring systematic data collection and rigorous analysis to support evidence-based decision-making throughout project cycles.

Disparities in M&E capacity and frameworks

Despite advancements in M&E practices, the 2023 Stakeholder Survey showed that M&E ranked among the top five priority areas where stakeholders expressed less confidence. Additionally, it was identified as one of the top two priority areas for capacity development by NMAAs.⁷⁸ This may be linked to disparities in M&E capacity and frameworks.

Disparities between international and national M&E capacities are evident in various countries. For instance, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Pakistan face infrastructure limitations that hinder advanced data collection methods. These countries often rely on basic tools such as Google Forms, or paper forms due to frequent electricity shortages. Stakeholders also report challenges in data analysis and feedback mechanisms, impacting the ability to comprehensively analyse data and provide timely feedback for programme adjustments.

Disparities in donor M&E frameworks complicate efforts to harmonise and standardise output and outcome measurements across different contexts. Donors have developed diverse M&E frameworks for operators, stimulating meaningful dialogue and prompting international organisations to refine their measurement and indicator definitions. For example, the mine action sector-wide ToC, developed jointly by the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, defines five output indicators for EORE monitoring.⁷⁹ These indicators cover metrics like session numbers, direct and indirect beneficiaries, knowledge improvement through pre/post test scores, and community EO reports. Meanwhile, the 2024 United Nations Mine Action Strategy emphasises output indicators on deploying EORE in countries with a UN presence, and intermediate outcomes on establishing injury surveillance and integrating EORE delivery in schools.⁸⁰

The sector also sees diverse approaches among EORE operators in defining and assessing outputs and outcomes, influenced by their main donors and own strategic goals.

Based on the sector-wide ToC and indicator bank, MAG is developing a customised ToC for EORE. This includes specific output indicators for digital EORE, mass media campaigns, Training of Trainers programmes, and community EO reports. MAG's framework also incorporates outcome indicators to measure safer behaviours.

The ongoing development of a sector-wide ToC by UNICEF, in partnership with the EORE AG and other operators, will provide a common M&E framework for the sector, and contribute to addressing some of these challenges. Some also recommended revising the existing sector-wide ToC to adequately capture EORE results in collaboration with the EORE AG, to avoid fragmentation of efforts.

Defining and measuring impact

Mirroring disparities in M&E frameworks, stakeholders define impactful EORE in diverse ways:

- Some prioritise reducing casualties and increasing EO reports, yet they acknowledge that attributing these changes solely to EORE can be misleading, especially in complex contexts with multiple interventions.
- Others emphasise promoting safe behaviours but highlight challenges in accurately measuring behavioural changes.
- Several stakeholders argue that EORE impact should be judged by communities' sustained ability to manage risks independently, although effective tools for measuring these transformations are currently lacking. This perspective advocates for a longer-term approach beyond typical project durations.

Many stakeholders are currently questioning impact measurement:

- Improving and complementing quantitative methods: impact measurement methods predominantly include KAP endline surveys and pre/post tests, sometimes complemented by retention tests and baseline comparisons. However, KAP surveys are criticised for often focusing on knowledge change over behavioural outcomes. Focus groups and case studies are used to refine quantitative results with qualitative insights, though data from these discussions can be challenging to analyse. HALO suggests integrating barrier analysis tools to assess obstacles to safe behaviour and enhance existing M&E frameworks.⁸¹

78 EORE AG (2024), [Summary of 2023 EORE Stakeholder Survey Results](#), pp. 14 and 16.

79 ITAD (2022), [A Sector-Wide Theory of Change for Mine Action and User Guide](#).

80 United Nations (2024), [Mine Action Strategy](#), p. 37.

81 The HALO Trust (2021), [Using Barrier Analyses to improve Explosive Ordnance Risk Education](#), p. 18.

- Incorporating new metrics and approaches from other sectors: some stakeholders suggested looking at successful strategies from related sectors such as health, which includes prevention and education campaigns, or marketing with effective advertising and communication concepts. This approach aims to inspire innovative M&E practices and frameworks.
- Incorporating metrics from other sectors should be done with consideration of the structures that exist in mine action to enable this kind of engagement. The health sector in many countries benefits from the existence of structures (community health strategies) at grassroots level enabling health promotion, awareness campaigns, community dialogue, data collection and basic M&E at community level. Leveraging on existing health structures (through collaboration with ministries of health) would be more feasible than incorporating this approach directly.
- Enhancing follow-up and behaviour change tracking: some organisations such as the Free Fields Foundation (3F) in Libya, collect pre/post tests during EORE sessions, along with phone numbers of audience members willing to be contacted for follow-up. 3F organises follow-up calls to test knowledge retention and ask additional questions to capture possible reported behaviour changes (“if they have seen an EO”, “if they have touched it”, or “if they have informed authorities of it”).
- Leveraging advanced technologies: some organisations are currently discussing how to leverage emerging technologies like artificial intelligence and augmented reality to support M&E for EORE.

Stakeholders highlight the interconnectedness of quality, community engagement, and impact within EORE initiatives. Community involvement is deemed crucial throughout the entire process, influencing inputs, outputs, and outcomes. Emerging discussions and evolving perspectives in the sector increasingly view impact as a continuum. Drawing on best practices from land release efforts, the evaluation of EORE interventions could also focus on demonstrating and documenting all reasonable efforts by organisations to maintain quality and community engagement within specific contexts.



The Innovation Conference 2023, November 2023 ©GICHD



TOWARDS A MORE COLLABORATIVE, INCLUSIVE, AND INNOVATIVE SECTOR

In recent years, the mine action sector has made progress in improving coordination, collaboration, mainstreaming gender and age inclusion, and adopting innovative approaches, with recent conflicts as catalysts. However, challenges remain in ensuring adequate operational coordination at the country level, making meaningful progress towards diversity and disability inclusion, and sustaining effective innovation.

▶ A BETTER COLLABORATIVE AND COORDINATED SECTOR

FINDINGS:



Collaboration and coordination within the sector have significantly improved over the past five years. Stakeholders have emphasised both the necessity and effectiveness of collaborative approaches at global, regional, and country levels to pool resources, expertise, and knowledge to achieve common goals and respond effectively to emergencies.



“The difference the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group (EORE AG) makes is that we work as a coalition and bring together new knowledge outputs and key resources available on our webpage. We talk with one voice in meetings of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and Convention on Cluster Munitions, and make joint statements ... It is like a think-tank where people think in a more strategic manner. Today if a donor, a State Party, a United Nations agency wants a recommendation, or has an issue with a specific topic, they knock on the door of the EORE AG.”

UN Agency, core EORE AG member



CALLS FOR ACTION:



Donors:

- Increase support to coordination and collaboration initiatives, especially in emergency contexts and cross-border projects;
- Favour multi-year funding for coordination and other collaboration platforms to enable forward planning and clear exit strategies;
- Define clear coordination and collaboration expected outcomes with partners to track progress.

Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR):

- Continue to advocate for multi-year funding for coordination platforms to achieve longer-term collective goals;
- Equip in-country coordinators with tools and soft skills to foster operational support and collaborative approaches at country level;
- Promote collaborative approaches through EORE technical working groups and output-oriented task teams;
- Engage with authorities and stakeholders from other sectors to support operations and integrated approaches;
- Support other national and regional coordination initiatives and implement clear exit strategies.

Operators/national mine action authorities (NMAAs):

- Engage in EORE-related collaboration and coordination platforms;
- Allocate time and resources to actively participate in coordination and collaboration mechanisms, including to produce outputs;
- Participate in cross-sector coordination to identify and promote synergies.

EORE AG:

- Continue collaborative efforts oriented towards clear collective outputs and goals;
- Advocate for multi-year funding for coordination platforms to achieve longer-term collective goals;
- Use mapping recommendations to identify and define priority areas to support the sector;
- Strengthen linkages with the MA AoR and promote a collaborative approach.

The power of collaboration

Stakeholders emphasised the importance of adopting a collaborative approach going beyond mere information exchange, and fostering environments where organisations can pool resources, expertise, and knowledge to achieve common goals, and respond to emergencies.

At global level, interviewees greatly attributed increased collaboration to the role played by the EORE AG since its establishment in 2019. In the Report of the UN Secretary-General, Assistance in mine action, the key role of the EORE AG as a global collaborative platform providing guidance to the sector was further highlighted.⁸² The EORE AG enables informal networking and the creation of dedicated task teams to produce specific outputs needed in the sector. Many organisations which are members of the Advisory Group highlighted that the structure of the group, and the creation of dedicated time-bound and output-oriented task teams, facilitated productive collaboration, and opened opportunities for discussions and partnerships outside of the EORE AG to support programmes at regional or country levels.

At regional level, few initiatives have been developed, fostered by the need to develop cross-border approaches to ongoing or anticipated crises. As an example, in 2020, the Regional Durable Solutions Working Group (RDSWG) workstream on EORE gathered together operators working in Syria and neighbouring countries to produce tangible and practical outputs for Syrian refugees planning their return. Several stakeholders also noted that regional workshops organised with the GICHD in francophone Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia have enhanced information exchange, good practices, and the formalisation of EORE tools. Local organisations and NMAAs/national mine action centres (NMACs) particularly appreciated these workshops due to their limited opportunities to attend global events and exposure to other perspectives and alternative approaches on EORE.

At country level, successful in-country initiatives involving multiple areas of expertise and sectors such as national authorities, operators, ministries, the private sector, research institutions and communications companies have also emerged since 2019. Some examples: the Building Mine

Safety Awareness in Ukraine (Watch your step!) project developed with the East Europe Foundation in Ukraine;⁸³ the Vietnam Catholic Relief Services online EORE Digital Training Course and an EORE Digital Library for primary and secondary school students;⁸⁴ or the Fundación Barco “Safe Steps” child-friendly multimedia and digital EORE programme in Colombia.⁸⁵

Stakeholders emphasised the importance of collaborative approaches fostered by the creation of dedicated task teams, enabling expertise and resources in all scenarios to be pooled, including to respond to emergencies. Examples include: emergency EORE/COVID-19 online library set up roughly a month after the pandemic outbreak, by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the EORE AG;⁸⁶ emergency EORE guidance in Ukraine by the EORE AG shared less than a month after the Russian invasion;⁸⁷ and guidelines for Syrian refugees by the RDSWG for Syria which were distributed in 2020 to anticipate refugee spontaneous returns.⁸⁸ In 2024, Humanity & Inclusion (HI), Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA), UNICEF, and United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) collaborated effectively to set up the implementation of a joint emergency EORE/conflict preparedness and protection (CPP) response to the Gaza crisis, demonstrating the importance of rapid communication and resource sharing.

Increased efforts have also been made to learn from and work more closely with the public health and social and behaviour change sectors.

Improved global coordination, persisting challenges at country level

Coordination in the EORE sector was reported to have improved at global level, compared to 2019. The MA AoR contributed to raising the profile of EORE at both global and country levels and is the main global coordination mechanism where EORE can be addressed and promoted within the broader mine action and protection sectors.

At country level, as of May 2024, the MA AoR was activated in 16 countries compared to 18 in 2022 and ensures the integration of EORE in humanitarian response plans. The MA AoR has reportedly contributed to capacity development

82 United Nations General Assembly (July 2023), [Assistance in mine action – Report of the UN Secretary-General](#), p. 16.

83 East Europe Foundation, [“Watch your Step!” program](#), and DCA, [Watch your step!](#)

84 CRS Vietnam (2024), “Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Digital Development and Application”, side event presentation for the 27th International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers (NDM-UN27), 29 April 2024. Presentation shared by the GICHD. The training platform is available in Vietnamese and English: <https://giaoducbommin.vn/landing>.

85 EORE AG (2023), [Safe Steps: Child-friendly EORE multimedia and digital program in Colombia](#).

86 EORE AG (2020), [EORE/COVID-19 online resource library](#).

87 EORE AG (2022), [Questions & Answers on Explosive Ordnance Risk Education for Ukraine](#), also available in Ukrainian.

88 RDSWG (2020), [Guidelines on Explosive Hazards Risk Education \(EHRE\) For Safer Return](#) and [Joint country profile data analysis](#).

of NMAAs/national mine action centres (NMACs) when these organisations take part in the co-ordination of the Area of Responsibility at country level. Depending on the context and the longevity of in-country humanitarian mine action programmes, many operators believe coordination mechanisms are essential for normalising civil-military relationships between NMAAs/NMACs and EORE operators while jointly upholding humanitarian principles.

EORE coordination at country level continues to rely heavily on the commitment of organisation representatives, NMAAs/NMACs, and interpersonal relationships, and faces challenges due to insufficient resources for full-time coordinators and information management officers. This often hinders responsiveness, whereas well-funded contexts like Ukraine have developed coordination tools and workshops to improve effectiveness, operational planning and collaboration. Funding shortages, especially after the departure of UNMAS, have disrupted coordination in Mali and Niger, highlighting the need for targeted capacity building, clear exit strategies, and reliable funding mechanisms for coordination. Scarce resources increase competition among organisations, reducing coordination efficiency, and in sensitive contexts, politicised platforms fail to prioritise operations effectively. However, international organisations have shown effective coordination during crises, as seen in Ukraine and Gaza, where collaborative efforts have led to rapid response and focused CPP messaging. Establishing technical EORE sub-working groups within MA AoR or mine action working groups has been identified as a best practice for raising EORE profiles, fostering synergies, and developing operational resources.



SBCC toolkit pilot training in Türkiye, 2024 ©GICHD

▶ ENHANCED GENDER AND AGE INCLUSION; DISABILITY STILL LAGGING

FINDINGS:



The sector has improved in gender and age-sensitive programming and reporting. However, disability is less considered due to misconceptions, a lack of practical EORE guidance, and insufficient data collection and needs assessment.



“I think risk education is one of the areas gender mainstreaming is important, and where we can get women working, including in areas where it is culturally more sensitive. We still do have a long way to go for equality in mine action.”

Donor



“We have a differential approach on gender, age and ethnicity, but the task ahead is immense. We have a debt with children, we owe to them a specific approach tailored to their specific needs and age. Ethnicity is complex, we are working with indigenous communities and need to make a lot of adjustments to ensure ownership. For example, EORE terminology is sometimes too technical.”

NMAA/NMAC

CALLS FOR ACTION:



Donors:

- Include sex, age, and disability disaggregated data (SADDD) requirements to track contributions of EORE to gender and diversity strategic objectives when relevant;
- Avoid setting strict 50/50 gender beneficiary targets that could prevent true gender and sensitive approaches;
- Encourage partnerships with survivor organisations or organisations of persons with disabilities and synergies with victim assistance.

Operators/NMAAs:

- Continue to prioritise and integrate age and gender mainstreaming efforts across all operational aspects;
- Continue hiring mixed-gender teams including in challenging contexts;
- Use tools such as the Gender and Diversity Analysis Checklist to tailor more inclusive programmes and teams;⁸⁹
- Organise and/or request support to train Gender and Diversity Focal Points, including through the GICHD's Gender, Diversity, Equality and Inclusion programme;⁹⁰
- Mandate training on gender and diversity for all staff working on EORE. This may include the GICHD's "Introduction to Gender and Diversity in Mine Action" online course;⁹¹
- Ensure diversity and disability are better taken into account in EORE needs assessment and monitoring and evaluation;
- Systematically include the Washington Group Short Set of Questions in EORE needs assessment initiatives to collect evidence-based data on persons with disabilities and better tailor programmes;
- Consider partnerships with survivor organisations and organisations of persons with disabilities to conduct activities;
- Give more positive representations of survivors in EORE materials and messages;
- Proactively recruit survivors as EORE team members;
- Use successful disability sensitive approaches to develop and share lessons learnt;
- Leverage own experience to contribute to global technical guidance.

EORE AG:

- Contribute to the development of practical and applicable guidance on disability-sensitive EORE by convening a task team on the topic, including disability and EORE specialists.

A more gender- and age-inclusive sector

Stakeholders reported progress in gender- and age-sensitive EORE programming. This was reinforced by:

- The integration of gender and age considerations in the Oslo Action Plan (OAP) and the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP), extending beyond EORE to the broader mine action sector.
- A strong interest from mine action donors in showing that their activities contribute to gender, age, and diversity inclusion as part of their strategic objectives.⁹²
- The updating and dissemination of International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) 12.10 on EORE, Standardising Beneficiary Definitions in Humanitarian Mine Action, IMAS 05.10 on information management for mine action, and its related TNMA 05.10/01, which contributed to establishing good practices in disaggregating needs assessment and beneficiaries' data by age and gender.

Good practices illustrating progress in the sector were reported:

At operational level:

- Standardising age and gender disaggregated casualty and beneficiary data collection and analysis tools. All stakeholders reported this was systematically implemented for needs assessment, measurement and reporting of beneficiaries, enabling further gender and age sensitive programming.⁹³
- Adapting methodologies to specific gender and age groups' considerations and needs. As an example, organisations in Colombia combine EORE sessions with traditionally women-led community activities to better access the female community.⁹⁴ Stakeholders noted that EORE helps build community trust, address women's rights, and identify and refer cases of gender-based violence. Organisations like DanChurchAid (DCA), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), HI, and UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) also use child-to-child and child-to-adult risk education approaches and involve child specialists in developing tailored methodologies and materials.

89 The Gender and Diversity Analysis Checklist, developed by the GICHD's Gender and Mine Action Programme is a practical tool that could be further adapted to EORE to support better understanding of gender, age, and diversity dynamics and to tailor more inclusive programmes and teams. GICHD (2016), [GMAP's Gender and Diversity Analysis Checklist](#).

90 The GICHD's Gender, Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion programme provides guidance and technical support on these areas, including through training of Gender and Diversity Focal Points identified by NMAAs and mine action operators.

91 GICHD (2020), [Introduction to Gender and Diversity in Mine Action](#).

92 Dominic Wolsey and Laura Biscaglia. ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (2023) [Monitoring & Evaluation of Gender Equality and Inclusion in Explosive Ordnance Risk Reduction](#), pp. 19–20.

93 GICHD (2024), [Inclusive Data Management in the Mine Action Sector](#), pp. 26–28.

94 GICHD (2024), [Inclusive Data Management in the Mine Action Sector](#), p. 31.

- Recruiting and training gender-balanced teams, including in challenging contexts. For example, in Afghanistan, DRC adapted to new regime requirements by employing mixed-gender teams of male and female relatives, which is culturally acceptable. This approach enhances gender and age sensitivity in reaching both men and women.
- Avoiding strict 50/50 gender beneficiary targets unless needs assessments demonstrate their relevance. Operators emphasised that prioritisation should be given to the most vulnerable and those most at risk, often working-aged men in most contexts, who are the hardest to reach due to their livelihood activities.⁹⁵

At organisational level:

- Mandating training for EORE staff on gender, age, and diversity. This includes training within organisations, or the GICHD’s Introduction to Gender and Diversity in Mine Action e-learning course.⁹⁶
- Promoting women to leadership positions and fostering an inclusive work environment. Women interviewed felt supported within their hierarchy and noted progress in this respect over the past five years.
- Adopting organisational policies that mainstream or focus on gender, age, and diversity. Many of the organisations interviewed reported that such policies help uphold these principles in all aspects of EORE operations.
- Creating specific roles such as Gender and Diversity Focal Points and advisors. Stakeholders pointed out that these positions at headquarters or country levels played a positive role in facilitating the inclusion of diverse perspectives and concerns into operational priorities and actions.
- Implementing qualitative surveys to go “beyond the numbers” and adjust approaches. As an example, HI analysed how age, gender, and other factors intersect in mine action employees’ experiences, and presented findings at the 21st APMBC Meeting of States Parties.⁹⁷

Small but insufficient progress in disability inclusion

Most organisations interviewed in the framework of this mapping insisted that progress on disability inclusion was insufficient. Although overall guidance was provided in 2019 for the humanitarian sector by the Inter-Agency

Guidelines on Disability Inclusion, with a dedicated section for mine action, this seems to have been largely overlooked in the sector. Many stakeholders feel that the current efforts are not enough, and often, persons with disabilities are not included compared to other vulnerable groups.⁹⁸ This is due to several factors:

On implementation:

- Common perceptions exist among EORE stakeholders that persons with disabilities face lower exposure to explosive ordnance (EO) risks. However, these perceptions are not necessarily based on evidence and appropriate needs assessment.
- Stakeholders often misunderstand disability inclusive EORE, viewing it primarily as needing costly specialised measures like braille materials or sign language interpreters. However, effective inclusion often involves simpler adaptations/adjustments. For instance, communicating information in plain language, using visual aids, or providing access for persons with mobility difficulties to contribute to EORE group sessions can significantly enhance the participation of persons with disabilities without extensive additional resources.
- Disability sensitive approaches are still perceived as daunting or out of reach, especially when mine action programmes do not cover victim assistance activities.
- EORE stakeholders, including NMAAs/NMACs, do not feel sufficiently equipped on disability inclusion. Practical guidance adapted to EORE was reported to be lacking.

On data collection and reporting:

- IMAS 05.10 (Information management for mine action) minimum requirements for EORE beneficiaries do not include disability disaggregated data. The TNMA 05.10/01 mentions that efforts to identify persons with disabilities are not always possible or “reasonable”, especially “during large group sessions of interpersonal EORE or through mass and digital media”.⁹⁹
- Many mine action donors do not mandate the use of sex, age, and disability disaggregated data. In interviews, they expressed uncertainty about their M&E capacity and how to effectively use this additional data. The Dutch and UK Ministries of Foreign Affairs stand out as exceptions by requiring SADDD in their indicator bank.¹⁰⁰
- Organisations’ data collection and M&E systems are not yet all adapted to capture disability data. Some organisations report on persons with disabilities as a

95 See also, Dominic Wolsey and Laura Biscaglia. ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (2023) [Monitoring & Evaluation of Gender Equality and Inclusion in Explosive Ordnance Risk Reduction](#), p. 29, and ICBL-CMC (2023), [Landmine Monitor 2023](#), p. 72.

96 GICHD (2020), [Introduction to Gender and Diversity in Mine Action, online course](#).

97 HI (2024), [Armed Violence Reduction Newsletter October–December 2023](#), p. 1.

98 Inter-Agency Standing Committee (2019), [Guidelines: Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action](#), pp. 162–165.

99 Technical Note for Mine Action (TNMA) [05.10/01](#) on measurement and reporting of beneficiaries (October 2023), p. 7.

100 ITAD (2022), [A Sector-Wide Theory of Change for Mine Action and User Guide](#), p. 70.

separate category from women, girls, boys and men, which hinders the potential for intersectional and inclusive data analysis.¹⁰¹ The Landmine Monitor 2023 noted that “only 11 of 60 risk education operators or authorities collected data on beneficiaries with disabilities”, and only eight provided disability data disaggregated by age and gender.¹⁰²

- Even if organisations collect disability data, they do not know how to analyse it in a meaningful manner that would lead to an adjustment in programming.¹⁰³

Interviewees raised several factors that contribute to progress in disability inclusive approaches:

- Including Washington Group Short Set of Questions in needs assessments. Surveys in Iraq and Ukraine by organisations such as Mines Advisory Group (MAG), HI, and DRC showed evidence of specific risk patterns among disabled persons in contaminated areas.¹⁰⁴
- Establishing disability focal points or advisors and capacity development opportunities on disability. Organisations reported that this helped drive progress. HI has been signalled out by several stakeholders as a leading organisation on disability inclusive approaches, including through specific training and awareness-raising activities.
- Integrating EORE and victim assistance (VA) components. Programmes with EORE/VA integrated approaches tended to report greater progress in understanding and effectively incorporating persons with disabilities into EORE activities.
- Leveraging survivors’ experiences in the development of EORE materials and the delivery of EORE sessions. Operators such as HI, The HALO Trust, MAG, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have reported hiring survivors as EORE facilitators and team members; this initiative enhanced effectiveness and contributed to breaking down stigma associated with disability within an organisation and in communities.
- Collaborating with survivors and organisations of persons with disabilities. These partnerships contribute to fostering more inclusive approaches, materials, and work environments. Organisations like UNICEF, Fondation suisse de déminage (FSD), DCA, and The

HALO Trust have reported positive experiences in this area. In Colombia, the NMAA provided financial support to survivor organisations for combined risk education and victim assistance activities.

- Promoting successful experience and sharing lessons learnt. In 2019, UNICEF led a sign-language EORE campaign and child-to-child inclusive approach in Yemen. More recently, NPA developed EORE/ CPP video content for social media, including sign language translation.
- Conducting studies to identify areas of improvement. In 2020, the ICRC released a report internally on the engagement of EO survivors in its weapon contamination activities; ARMAC developed a study on M&E of gender equality and inclusion in EO risk reduction in 2023.¹⁰⁵
- Developing tailored approaches with persons with disabilities. As an example, NPA planned a workshop with different groups of persons with disabilities in Gaza to test EORE/ CPP messages and adapt them if needed to specific requirements. HI recently developed a similar approach in Benin to test and tailor EORE materials.

Other diversity factors inaccurately captured

The inclusion of other diversity factors such as ethnicity or religion was not accurately captured during this mapping. While stakeholders aim to consider diversity in recruitment and conflict-sensitive approaches, this is not always reported or monitored by organisations. Colombia stands out as an exception. The Colombian NMAA and operators use a “differential approach” to tackle intersectionality in gender, age, and ethnicity. HI Colombia developed a guide for risk education with an ethnic focus through collaboration with indigenous representatives, including materials in six native languages. Data on casualties and beneficiaries are disaggregated by broad ethnic groups, helping to monitor and adapt EORE outreach. In contrast, countries like Iraq do not prioritise diversity factors such as ethnicity or religion, perceived as secondary for implementation.¹⁰⁶ Echoing broader societal debates, collecting data on ethnicity or religion can be very delicate and go against conflict-sensitive approaches in certain contexts.

101 See also, Dominic Wolsey and Laura Biscaglia. ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (2023) [Monitoring & Evaluation of Gender Equality and Inclusion in Explosive Ordnance Risk Reduction](#), pp. 25–26, and ICBL-CMC (2023), [Landmine Monitor 2023](#), p. 72.

102 ICBL-CMC (2023), [Landmine Monitor 2023](#), p. 72.

103 Dominic Wolsey and Laura Biscaglia. ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (2023) [Monitoring & Evaluation of Gender Equality and Inclusion in Explosive Ordnance Risk Reduction](#), pp. 25–26.

104 Notably in Ukraine, an HI and DRC knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) survey including the Washington Group Short Set of Questions showed most age and gender groups associate disability with higher risk-taking behaviours towards EO. See DRC and HI (2023), [KABP Survey Report, Ukraine](#), p. 52. See Washington Group on Disability Statistics, [Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Functioning \(WG-SS\)](#).

105 ICRC (2020), “Increasing the Engagement of Mine and ERW Survivors in ICRC Efforts to Reduce the Risks of Weapon Contamination”, and Dominic Wolsey and Laura Biscaglia. ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (2023) [Monitoring & Evaluation of Gender Equality and Inclusion in Explosive Ordnance Risk Reduction](#).

106 See GICHD (2024), [Inclusive Data Management in the Mine Action Sector](#), pp. 22 and 26.



SBCC toolkit pilot training in Türkiye, 2024 ©GICHD

▶ AN INNOVATIVE AND ADAPTATIVE SECTOR

FINDINGS:



Recent conflicts, increased donor support, and the need to overcome operational challenges have catalysed significant adaptation and innovation within the sector. New approaches have emerged and proven efficient, particularly in areas such as digital EORE, CPP/emergency risk education, cross-border initiatives, and social and behaviour change communication (SBCC). Sustaining and expanding these initiatives will be crucial for the sector's continued advancement and integration.



"I'd like to see something more in terms of innovative ideas – not that they have been lacking, but because there has been a lack of continuity; something comes up, everyone wants to do it, and then we forget about it. We need more consistency and continuity."

International Organisation, Europe & the Caucasus

CALLS FOR ACTION:



Donors:

- Consider funding schemes that allow for piloting of innovative approaches and scaling-up if successful;
- Consider flexible funding schemes adapted to regional and cross-border contexts and approaches;
- Consider long-term and flexible funding mechanisms that can support sustainable and localised efforts in emergency preparedness and risk management;
- Facilitate, when appropriate, identification of opportunities and partnerships with private, tech sector, or service providers to support innovation and implementation of new approaches.

Operators/NMAAs:

- Consider partnerships with the private and academic sectors to strengthen innovative approaches and monitor them more effectively;
- Leverage digital EORE to build national capabilities and equip stakeholders with knowledge, skills, and resources to enhance computer literacy and digital proficiency;
- Ensure sustainability of innovative approaches through capacity development and clear exit strategies fostering national ownership;
- Favour a combination of multimedia and interpersonal approaches based on robust needs assessment to enhance the effectiveness of EORE;
- Adopt conflict-sensitive strategies and foster multi-country humanitarian cooperation to prevent unintended consequences or negative perceptions in cross-border and regional projects;
- Continue to further integrate EORE and CPP but also EORE and disaster risk reduction to enhance communities' emergency preparedness and locally-owned risk management strategies;
- Develop, disseminate and adapt practical guidance through the emergency task team;
- Build one's own SBCC capacity and share lessons learnt and good practices within and beyond the organisation;
- Ensure SBCC approaches are based on robust needs assessment and analysis of behavioural drivers;
- Leverage own experience in digital EORE, CPP/emergency risk education, cross-border approaches, and SBCC, to contribute to global technical guidance.

EORE AG:

- Advocate for the inclusion of references to cross-border approaches and dedicated cooperation and assistance support;
- Contribute to the development of practical and applicable guidance on innovative approaches through the creation of dedicated task teams or organisation of webinars to share good practices;
- Support and promote, when pertinent, regional coordination and collaboration efforts with the MA AoR and other relevant actors;
- Promote innovative approaches and responsiveness of the sector in relevant forums.

The digital EORE “boom”

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the adoption of digital EORE methodologies to reach populations despite movement restrictions and physical distancing measures, prompting stakeholders to increase digital communication as an alternative to face-to-face modalities. While the importance of combining interpersonal EORE approaches and methodologies with digital EORE has been underscored by many stakeholders, the Digital EORE “boom” is undeniable and continues to raise a lot of interest and requests for capacity development in the sector.

The digital EORE project mapping, developed by the EORE AG Digital Task Team, records 37 projects developed in the past five years, including 24 ongoing.¹⁰⁷ Some lessons learnt collected suggest that Digital EORE benefits from longer term donor support, and include the following:¹⁰⁸

- Donors can, when appropriate, facilitate the identification of partnership opportunities with service providers. A notable example is MAG’s Digital EORE pilot project implemented in Iraq, supported by the US State Department that helped secure a donation of advert credits from Meta;
- Significant initial investment and development of in-house digital capabilities are required for accurate implementation and monitoring of Digital EORE projects. For example, MAG recruited a dedicated Digital EORE manager to pilot, scale up, train local resources, and improve programming;
- Time should be allocated to capacity-building for service providers in EORE and tailoring content to target audiences. DRC’s development of a child-friendly augmented reality application in Ukraine involved substantial capacity-building and monitoring of external partners;
- Once launched, maintenance and monitoring costs of Digital EORE are relatively low. Projects can be easily

scaled up, replicated, and adapted to different contexts, enhancing responsiveness in emergencies or reaching communities otherwise inaccessible. With a minimal budget, MAG reported to have set up a quick Digital EORE response through Facebook ads, only a few hours after the Kakhovka dam destruction in Ukraine on 6 June 2023, but also, three days later, following a deadly EO accident in Qoryoley town in Somalia. The ads were reported to have reached about 100,000 unique Facebook users;¹⁰⁹

- Successful Digital EORE projects require efficient multi-sector and multi-stakeholder coordination. The Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in Vietnam EORE Digital Training Course and Library involved mine action and education authorities’ commitment and active participation;¹¹⁰
- Engagement in Digital EORE social media projects benefits from user-generated content. UNICEF collaborated successfully with TikTok and Instagram influencers to increase EORE reach;¹¹¹
- Digital EORE contributes to improving computer literacy and digital capabilities in regions with limited resources. Mine Mark in Azerbaijan and Fundación Barco in Colombia confirmed that this fosters multi-stakeholder partnerships and can diversify funding opportunities;
- Collaboration with academic, IT, and engineering sectors supports innovation in Digital EORE. For instance, Fondation suisse de déminage’s (FSD’s) submission to the PeaceTech Hackathon in March 2024 aimed to develop software promoting safe behaviours among affected communities.¹¹²

Some challenges to implementation were identified by stakeholders:

- Digital EORE M&E challenges reflect those in the EORE sector, with behaviour change assessment remaining complex, despite digital tools providing extensive metrics for accurate monitoring;¹¹³

107 EORE AG (2022), [digital EORE project mapping](#).

108 Unless mentioned otherwise, lessons learnt were collected during mapping interviews, review of Digital EORE Task Team outputs and EORE Hour Webinars dedicated to Digital EORE. See EORE AG (2022), [Digital EORE Micro-content](#), and EORE Hour Webinars (2023–2022): [EORE Digital Application & Practice](#), [Exploring new resources for Digital EORE](#), [EORE Lessons Learned from MAG’s Digital EORE Project](#).

109 Toal, Robin, “[MAG Emergency Response: Digital Explosive Ordnance Risk Education in Somalia](#)”, *The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction* 27, no.3, (2023).

110 Nguyen, Minh Chau, CRS Vietnam (2024), “Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Digital Development and Application”, side event presentation for the 27th International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers (NDM-UN27), 29 April 2024. Presentation shared by the GICHD. The training platform is available in Vietnamese and English: <https://giaoducbommin.vn/landing>. For other examples, see also GICHD (2024), [Innovation Conference Report](#), pp. 20–22.

111 Some examples are provided here: <https://www.tiktok.com/@glebrepich/video/7263171759304822022>; <https://www.tiktok.com/@nataliachab/video/7262333959458082080>; <https://www.instagram.com/p/CvfaxOPNFV3/>.

112 EPFL EssentialTech Centre (2024), LinkedIn Post March 2023, “[Challenge 1: From FSD \(Fondation suisse de déminage\): How to make people adopt safe behavior in the presence of landmines or other explosive ordnance?](#)”

113 Practical guidance on M&E metrics was developed by the DEORE task team and made available to the sector. See, EORE AG (2023), [DEORE M&E metrics](#). IMAS 05.10 and its associated TNMA 05.10/01 provide minimum requirements and general guidance to measure beneficiaries of digital EORE, although more focused on social media metrics. See, IMAS [05.10](#), Amendment 2, Information management for mine action (March 2023), and TNMA [05.10/01](#), Measurement and reporting of beneficiaries (October 2023).

- Digital EORE is not always feasible or effective, particularly when explosive weapons' attacks disrupt telecommunications infrastructure, or where connectivity is low and/or expensive;
- Ongoing hurdles in adopting Digital EORE approaches stem from perceived technical complexity and disparities in digital capabilities between national and international levels;
- Some NMAAs/NMACs remain cautious and restrictive towards Digital EORE due to perceived reputational and security risks;
- Generational gaps within organisations complicate the integration of digital approaches alongside traditional interpersonal EORE activities.

Recent crises as catalysts for emergency EORE and CPP

The EORE sector faces various challenges and opportunities in adjusting to the complexities of concurrent conflicts, new threats such as chemical and incendiary weapons, and natural disasters, as seen in the past five years. While the adoption of the Declaration on the protection of civilians from the consequences of explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA) marks policy progress, continuous use of EWIPA, and the increasing frequency of other types of emergencies, demands agile and innovative responses. This entails the following:

- **Overcoming operational challenges and enhanced responsiveness**

Emergency EORE requires regular updates and tailored materials for diverse groups, despite logistical hurdles and lengthy national validation procedures. MAG and NPA have reduced production delays by investing in in-house capacity for design and materials.

Ensuring staff safety and effective outreach in conflict-impacted areas is critical. In Ukraine, there was overwhelming demand for EORE for humanitarian workers and dissemination of NGO-specific EORE sessions.¹¹⁴

The sector faces new threats and lacks adapted global guidance. Conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza have highlighted the issue of wide impact area explosive weapons, but also chemical and incendiary weapons. Increased extreme weather events, such as flooding in Libya and South Sudan,

push the sector to evaluate climate change's impact on EO contamination and adapt EORE responses.

The Emergency Risk Education Task Team of the EORE AG established in March 2024 plans to develop resources for responding to different types of emergencies, including chemical and incendiary weapons, natural disasters, and active conflicts.¹¹⁵

- **Enhancing coordination and integration of EORE with CPP and disaster risk reduction**

Collaborative approaches are essential for sustaining life-saving information delivery and assistance in conflict areas. The sector sought collaborative approaches through the EORE AG and MA AoR mechanisms during conflicts in Ukraine, Sudan, and Gaza.

Integrated EORE is vital for enhancing community and individual resilience. Recent conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza have driven the integration of CPP and EORE, leveraging funding for developing and adapting approaches. Embedding EORE in national curricula and collaborating with sectors such as protection, health, and education can establish sustainable capacities for monitoring and responding to various risks. For example, FSD integrated EORE into broader disaster risk reduction mechanisms led by local organisations in the Philippines.

Developing sustainable and inclusive emergency responses requires long-term, flexible funding to support the sustainability, responsiveness, and localisation of risk management approaches. Lessons learnt from emergency EORE and CPP can support broader risk prevention efforts and improve responses in residual management contexts, making EORE part of a comprehensive set of life skills for communities facing contingencies.¹¹⁶

Strengthening cross-border and regional approaches

The EORE sector has increasingly embraced cross-border and regional approaches over the past five years, driven by factors such as population displacements and movements caused by conflict, extreme weather, and political and economic instability. Donors' interest and funding have also played a pivotal role in this shift. For instance, the German Federal Foreign Office's 2024–2028 Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy underscores the potential of

114 See also Vovk, Nick, "[Emergency Explosive Ordnance Risk Education: Lessons Learned from Ukraine](#)", *The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction* 28, no.1, (2024): 27.

115 EORE AG (2024), Emergency Risk Education Task Team ToRs, shared by task team co-leads.

116 "Risk Education in Conflict: creating resilience", side event presentation for the 27th International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers (NDM-UN27), 29 April 2024. Notes on the side event were shared by the GICHD.



regional initiatives to foster reconciliation, peacebuilding, and cooperation in long-term crisis resolution.¹¹⁷ Recent examples highlight the growing adoption of regional approaches by operators:

- Organisations such as HI, MAG, and DRC have regionalised their programmes to align with conflict patterns and funding dynamics.
- Stakeholders in the Sahel are working towards harmonising casualty data collection and information sharing among operators and authorities. In Syria and neighbouring countries hosting refugees, the Regional Durable Solutions Working Group has developed an online dashboard for joint casualty data analysis.
- Initiatives such as DRC’s online digital EORE sessions for Ukrainian diaspora women and the training of Syrian refugees/returnees by the Arab Mine Action Consultancy Company illustrate efforts to address EORE needs among refugee populations.
- Projects like those led by the United Nations Development Programme on EO risk reduction for Syrian refugees in Lebanon and by Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas on the Colombia-Venezuela border, aim to mitigate EO risks for cross-border movements and displacements.
- Political sensitivities can arise with regional and cross-border approaches, necessitating careful coordination with relevant authorities and sectors;
- While integrating essential preparedness strategies, EORE initiatives should avoid inadvertently encouraging unsafe returns, requiring well-designed, tested, and coordinated messaging with stakeholders and authorities;
- Cross-border EORE messaging should not only focus on border areas but also on regions further inland where people might move around. Therefore, messages developed for refugees/returnees, could be suitable for internally displaced persons in certain areas only;
- Flexible donor funding is crucial for enhancing the effectiveness and responsiveness of EORE activities across various countries, enabling adaptability in reporting and fund transfers to adapt to crisis and population movements;
- The OAP and LAP do not specifically address cross-border EORE and the need for tailored international cooperation and assistance in mine action.

Although not many lessons learnt are available on regional and cross-border approaches, interviews and an ongoing study conducted by the GICHD on the broader mine action sector underscore several considerations:¹¹⁸

117 German Federal Foreign Office, [Federal Foreign Office Humanitarian Mine Action Strategy within the framework of the humanitarian assistance of the Federal Government 2024–2028](#), p. 16.

118 Draft analysis and recommendations on the mine action cross-border study provided by the GICHD.

Harnessing Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) for EORE

SBCC is a fairly new concept for the sector, that has been further developed in the past five years. It is increasingly seen as a crucial approach to effectively modify persistent risky behaviours. In November 2023, a plenary session was held on “Harnessing Social and Behaviour Change Communication for EORE”¹¹⁹ during the GICHD Innovation Conference.

Some examples of the effective use of SBCC methodologies were provided by interviewees, participants to the Innovation Conference, and desk reviews:

- Some organisations reported to be using “human-centred” or “user-centred” design as part of SBCC approaches, such as HI in Iraq and Benin, or CRS in Vietnam to develop and test EORE materials with community members, ensuring ownership and appropriate targeting and content of messages.
- UNMAS partnered with a company in 2019 to assess and redesign EORE strategies in Afghanistan. The initiative focused on psychological, sociological, and environmental factors affecting at-risk groups, resulting in more positive, actionable messages delivered through multimedia channels.¹²⁰ In 2022, a partnership with BBC Media Action was established to develop and broadcast content on mass media. A panel and endline study showed that viewers and listeners demonstrated increased intention to practice safe behaviours after engaging with content. Audiences were also more likely to discuss explosive ordnance with others.¹²¹
- UNICEF Ukraine’s SBCC department piloted a child-centred approach for 2023 Mine Awareness Day featuring Dog Patron, a beloved cartoon character and mine detection dog.¹²² The initiative included a radio programme broadcast live on Facebook by UNICEF, the Ministry of Education, the State Emergency Service, and the national mine action centre. Approximately 100,000 children participated online, offline, and in schools, engaging through UNICEF child-friendly spaces. The campaign, deeply rooted in Ukrainian culture and language, promoted interaction and retention of EORE

messages, leveraging user-generated content from children, teachers, and parents. It was successfully repeated in 2024 to sustain interest and reinforce knowledge.

Based on these examples, the following keys for success have been identified:

- A solid needs assessment is essential to identify the main behavioural drivers of individuals and communities and address them successfully.¹²³ SBCC relies on understanding “why people do what they do”.¹²⁴ In 2021, The HALO Trust published a paper based on a barrier analysis with adolescents and young adults in Iraq.¹²⁵ HALO identified a lack of practical methods for understanding why some groups are at greater risk and how EORE messaging can influence behaviours. The paper offers tools like the barrier analysis survey and practical recommendations for needs assessment and monitoring in different contexts.¹²⁶ In 2023, HI and DRC implemented a KAP survey in Ukraine with an SBCC focus, to better understand behavioural drivers.¹²⁷
- Successful SBCC integrates multimedia approaches such as mass media, Digital EORE, and community engagement activities including face-to-face EORE. Both short and longer form content and a mix of methodologies should be used to draw attention and repeat messages on the one hand, and to allow interaction and uptake of safety messages on the other.
- SBCC approaches build up their effectiveness through iterative processes, allowing more granular understanding and targeting of audiences and changes in risky behaviours; this implies a need for locally-driven and long-term projects.
- Existing monitoring tools used in the media and communication sectors should be further adapted to EORE to better measure effectiveness and behaviour change.
- Training of staff on SBCC for EORE. The GICHD will release an SBCC toolkit for EORE practitioners in December 2024. A pilot was implemented with three country programmes of MAG in the Middle East and included one representative from HI.

119 GICHD (2024), [Innovation Conference Report](#), pp. 49–51.

120 UNMAS (2019), [UNMAS in Afghanistan Behaviour Change Communication for Explosive Ordnance Risk Education](#).

121 BBC Media Action (2023), [Using mass media to increase audiences' ability to keep safe from explosive ordnance in Afghanistan](#).

122 UNICEF (2023), [Radio dictation from Dog Patron on International Mine Awareness Day](#) (in Ukrainian).

123 Although not directly referring to SBCC, IMAS 12.10 mentions minimum data collected should allow to determine “risk communication/education and community engagement approaches and methodologies likely to induce behavioural change. Community input should be sought in assessing any existing local safety strategies”. See IMAS [12.10](#), Amendment 3, Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (September 2020), p. 14.

124 UNICEF (2021), [Social and Behaviour Change guidance toolbox](#), The fundamentals of SBC.

125 The HALO Trust (2021), [Using Barrier Analyses to Improve Explosive Ordnance Risk Education](#).

126 The HALO Trust (2021), [Explosive Hazards Barrier Analysis Survey](#).

127 See DRC and HI (2023), [KABP Survey Report, Ukraine](#).



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