

EORE AG

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group

Minutes of the EORE AG Meeting

Date: 1 December 2022
Time: 15:00 – 17:00 CET
Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Co-Chairs: Céline Cheng (HI) & Hugues Laurence (UNICEF)
Secretary: Faustine Auger (GICHD)

Summary of Decisions

Decision	Yes Votes	No Votes	Abstentions
The AG voted to extend the NGO co-chair initial term from 1 to 2 years.	10	0	2

Summary of Action Points

Action	Responsible	Suggested Deadline
EORE AG Governance		
Update the EORE AG Terms of Reference with the decision to extend the NGO co-chair term to two years	Secretariat	31 December
Consolidate a first draft for the 2023-2024 Work Plan	Co-Chairs & Secretariat	31 January
EORE AG Task Teams		
Share the draft developed for the e-learning tool for further dissemination to the group (<i>Monitoring & Evaluation</i>)	Kim F.	6 January
Submit five bite-size contents to the AG for validation by silent vote (<i>Micro-content on DEORE</i>)	Céline & Audrey	28 February
Other Activities		
Share the first draft of the overarching EORE ToC with AG members	Hugues	14 December
Actively engage in the development of the overarching EORE ToC and participate in webinars dedicated for this subject (anticipated total three webinars)	AG members & observers	Ongoing
Review and address the comments left in the consolidated 2021-2022 Work Plan document sent on 1 December with the inputs of all members on the status of activities	AG members & observers	6 January

Share plans or ideas of activities for the next Work Plan by email with the Secretariat and Co-chairs (provide a description of the intended activity, the corresponding output and timeline)	AG members & observers	15 January
Once launched, fill out the 2022 EORE Stakeholder Survey as well as the survey specifically for AG members; and share the EORE Stakeholder Survey internally and externally to partners and relevant stakeholders	AG members & observers	15 January

Participants

Core members:

- DCA: Mark Wilkinson (alternate)
- DRC: Nick Vovk
- GICHD: Matthieu Laruelle
- HALO Trust: Kim Fletcher
- HI: Sofia Cogollos
- ICBL-CMC: Ruth Bottomley
- LMAC: Lt. Col. Ali Makki
- MAG: Sebastian Kasack
- NPA: Colin Bent
- OACP – Descontamina Colombia : Ana Jaqueline Jaimes Alfonso
- UNDP: Oksana Leschenko
- UNHCR: Houda Chalchoul
- UNMAS: Bojan Vukovic

Observers:

- ICRC: Louis Maresca
- MAG: Robin Toal
- MA AoR: Rahman Mohammadi
- UNICEF: Daniel Reijer (present during the 1st part of the meeting)

Detailed Minutes

1. Welcome

Hugues opened the meeting by welcoming the participants to the last meeting of the year and introducing new representatives to the AG: Ana Jaqueline Jaimes Alfonso (Oficina del Alto Comisionado para la Paz – Descontamina Colombia), Lt. Col. Ali Makki (LMAC) and Colin Bent (NPA). Following Hugues’ special congratulations on behalf of the group to Ana Jaqueline and Lt. Col. Ali Makki on their election as representatives of national mine action authorities, they were both given the floor for introductory words.

The alternates present were also introduced, namely Mark Wilkinson (DCA) and Rahman Mohammadi (MA AoR). Hugues then provided an update on the departure of Kim Warren, representative of UNICEF to the AG, who should be replaced soon.

Following Kaitlin's departure, Faustine was officially reintroduced as Secretary of the EORE AG and a special thanks was addressed to the former Secretary Kaitlin Hodge for the pivotal role she played in establishing the AG and for her commitment and hard work over the past years.

2. Global reflections and update on recent developments

As the end of the year approaches, Hugues shared a couple of reflections with the group on major achievements and recent developments, in particular:

- On 18 November 2022, 83 States formally adopted a [political declaration on EWIPA](#) in Dublin. This political declaration contains strong commitments to address the issue of EWIPA, including an explicit provision that each State is expected to provide risk education.
- The **IMAS Technical Note on IED Risk Education** was adopted by the Review Board and published on 22nd November. It is now available and replaces the 2018 draft version on the IMAS [website](#). The 2018 version was already in the Top 5 most consulted IMAS TNMA.

Regarding the digital EORE agenda and the progress made in this field, Hugues recalled the establishment and work done by the Digital EORE Task Team, led by Matthieu and Sebastian, and that the first Workshop on DEORE was held in May this year, in Spiez, which represent huge accomplishments.

Other important elements and achievements mentioned included:

- The increasing professionalisation of the sector, with for instance the uptake of the GICHD's 'Introduction to EORE Essentials' E-Learning and UNICEF courses on effective EORE and Integrated Mine Action, which resumed in 2022.
- The growing importance of social and behaviour change communication (SBCC), including with participation of some core members in the 2022 SBCC Summit organised from 5-9 December in Marrakech.

However, it was also the opportunity to raise some concerns and highlight some setbacks for the sector, particularly in terms of resource mobilisation. Indeed, whilst resource mobilisation for Ukraine has been quite significant, some contexts face more difficulties in securing the necessary funds for EORE, such as the Sahel, Ethiopia, Myanmar or even at the global level. If donors are aware of the importance of EORE, it unfortunately does not often translate into funding commitments. As an illustration, during last MASG meeting in June, it was stated that "a minimum of 2%" of mine action funds are to be dedicated to EORE in Ukraine. This shows that the sector is still behind in terms of conveying the right message to the donor community and in showcasing the importance of EORE. Efforts must be made to better advocate for this pillar of mine action and a strong sector-wide theory of change is certainly a key element.

3. Updates from previous week's events

The EORE AG made a statement at the 20th MSP of the APMBC. Kim F. and Sebastian led the drafting process, with support from AG members. Special thanks were addressed to Sebastian, who also delivered the statement on behalf of the EORE AG. From the feedback, it seems that the statement was well received by donors, especially the emphasis on localisation. The statement should soon be available on the APMBC website.

4. Updates from the Digital EORE Task Team

The Digital EORE Workshop held in May in Spiez led to the definition of a common vision for DEORE as well as a draft action plan. On this basis, membership of the Digital EORE Task Team was reopened in September 2022 to revitalise the group and allow new members to join. The Task Team now consists of around 20 members divided into 3 sub-groups. In addition, the sub-groups of the Digital EORE Task Team that had achieved their objectives by delivering the expected products reoriented their activities, based on more recent needs identified in Spiez.

In this light, the leads of the different sub-groups of the Digital EORE Task Team were invited to provide an update:

Mapping of digital EORE activities:

As mentioned by Robin (MAG), the mapping exercise is now complete and [available](#) on the EORE AG webpage. It provides a snapshot of key information on about 40 DEORE projects around the globe, as well as contact details to enable practitioners to contact organisations about specific projects to learn more. While updates are always welcome to keep the mapping accurate and relevant and the [form](#) remains open, the group will now focus on developing a sectoral approach towards partnerships to strengthen DEORE. The group held its second meeting since its shift in mandate. The group's first objective is to draw an overview of existing partnerships and best practices, within and beyond the sector, while also exploring possibilities for new partnerships (including with tech companies). The aim is to reach out to all relevant actors with knowledge and expertise and to develop a network that can help advance DEORE. The sub-group will revert to the AG with concrete plans and priority actions once this first step is completed. Please note that people who are interested in contributing to the work of the sub-group are still welcome to join.

Micro-content on DEORE:

The re-constituted sub-group is continuing its work to develop bite-size content on topics of interest. As mentioned by Céline, one bite-size content on the use of virtual reality has already been developed by Nick, with the support of Audrey, and three others are being developed. Two should be finalised by the end of December and the other one in January. Once at least five bite-size contents are completed, they will be submitted to the AG for validation by silent procedure [\[action\]](#).

Monitoring & Evaluation of DEORE:

A new member, Nicola Bailey from BBC Media Action, joined the sub-group. In terms of products, the group has developed an outline and template for the monitoring and evaluation of 5 different digital tools. Members were tasked with developing the content of each of these guidance documents. While the first draft for the e-learning tool is already available, the others should be ready by the next AG meeting. Kim will share the draft for the e-learning tool by email for further dissemination to the group [\[action\]](#).

5. Updates on development of an overarching theory of change

Daniel from UNICEF provided an update on the development process of the overarching theory of change to support the efforts of the EORE sector (activity 1.1.3 of the [2021-2022 Work Plan](#)).

As previously mentioned, UNICEF courses on effective EORE and Integrated Mine Action resumed in September this year, after a pause of two years due to the pandemic. These courses, held in Spiez, provided an opportunity to discuss a wide range of subjects and issues (*e.g.* injury surveillance, direct and mass messaging programmes, disability inclusion, victim assistance), while also exploring results-based management. Going through the methodology and process of defining sound and strong evidence-based programmes, participants were able to draw various problem trees, draft theories of change and associated monitoring frameworks, applicable to diverse contexts and needs.

These materials developed collaboratively became an inspiration, the starting point for the development of the overarching ToC for the sector. Building on the group works and discussions, and after a few sessions to refine further the content, a first draft of the EORE ToC was finally produced. This first version, which will be shared with AG members soon **[action]**, is thus based on more than 25 EORE-focused ToC developed by practitioners - predominantly from the field - during different courses since 2017.

On 14 December, a first kick-off webinar will be organised to gather inputs from AG members on this first version. The webinar will introduce the concept of theory of change, its development and provide a space to discuss the content of the draft. As this is an important exercise, the participation of all members or nomination of alternates is strongly encouraged **[action completed]**.

The development of this overarching ToC being an inclusive process, further dissemination to a wider audience is planned. Two additional webinars are scheduled for Q1 2023 to gather views and inputs from as many stakeholders as possible, both from the sector and beyond.

Houda (UNHCR) highlighted the importance of this overarching ToC, which can help better advocate for the sector and attract more attention to EORE, but also to consult with the broadest audience possible. In this sense, it was suggested to include the GPC in the discussions. Ana Jaqueline (OACP) asked if other colleagues beyond the AG could join the webinar. Responding to the question, Hugues further reassured members that although the first webinar (14 December) is for EORE AG members only, other key stakeholders will be included in the next stages of consultations (*e.g.* Itad, GPC).

6. Update on 2021 & 2022 EORE surveys and progress report

Faustine provided a few updates regarding the EORE Stakeholder Survey and the EORE AG Progress Report. Concerning the EORE Stakeholder Survey, the Summary of the 2021 EORE Stakeholder Survey Results has been shared and is [available](#) on the EORE AG webpage. The 2022 EORE Stakeholder Survey is under development and will be launched in December, through the usual communication channels (direct emails, iMREWG, MA AoR, etc.). It will be open until mid-January. Some additional questions specifically for NMAAs will be added this year, at the request of Jaqueline and Ali. Members are invited to share this survey internally and externally to their partners and other relevant stakeholders **[action]**. However, it shall be noted that this year, the part intended for AG members only has been withdrawn from the EORE Stakeholder Survey and will be sent separately in a follow-up email to AG members, alternates and observers.

Concerning the EORE AG Progress Report, unfortunately, it has not been possible to produce a Progress Report for 2021 due to the important workload and change of Secretariat these last months. For the record, the Progress report is composed of i) the Review of the Work Plan implementation, ii) the Analysis of the EORE Stakeholder Survey Results, and iii) Annexes (including a CCM and APMBC Statements analysis conducted by the GICHD). Alternatively, the

Summary of the 2021 EORE Stakeholder Survey Results has been produced and published. A full Progress Report will be produced in Q1 2023, covering the full Work Plan implementation period (2021-2022), incorporating and analysing results from both the 2021 and 2022 EORE Stakeholder Surveys, and comparing to the baseline established in the 2020 Progress Report.

7. Discussion on EORE AG Co-Chair nominations

Céline recalled that HI's one-year term was supposed to come to an end, but that no nominations were received from other NGOs to take over despite the extension of the deadline until September 2022. Unfortunately, this is not the first time this happens since no nominations were received in 2020, which led MAG to serve a second term.

Hence, following the discussions at the last meeting, and given the difficulty to receive nominations on a yearly basis for the role of Co-Chair, the AG voted to formally extend the initial term of the NGO co-chair from one to two years **[decision]**. The ToR of the AG will thus be revised accordingly.

In this light, and since no nominations were received, it was also automatically decided to extend HI's co-chair term for a second year, **until June 2023**. Members and observers were however informed that nominations will be discussed and sought during the next AG meeting for the rotation in June. In addition, Céline informed the group that she will be leaving her position in HI in February and thanked the group for the work done together over the last two years. Regarding the position of co-chair, HI is taking steps to ensure that a replacement be identified to cover the remainder of the term, for a smooth transition without interruption.

8. Review of the 2021-2022 Work Plan implementation & Development of the 2023-2024 Work Plan

As the 2021-2022 AG Work Plan is coming to an end, the group is in the process of reviewing its implementation to reflect on the progress made and developing the new 2023-2024 Work Plan.

In order to take stock of the implementation of the Work Plan, Céline opened the session by providing a summary of key achievements and reflections for each of the 6 axes of the Work Plan, based on the inputs provided by all AG members end of 2021 and during the review exercise conducted in November 2022. For a more detailed overview, members were invited to refer to the consolidated Work Plan document sent by Faustine in the morning, which contains the inputs from all members on the status of the various activities. It shall be noted that a few suggestions and comments are still to be addressed and that members are invited to review the document to provide final feedback and clarifications **[action]**.

As highlighted by Céline, while the 2021-2022 Work Plan can be said to be a success and much has been achieved in the last two years with regard to the 6 components (*i.e.* Quality Management, Cooperation, Integration and Synergies, Information Management, Advocacy and Policy, and Cross-cutting), additional efforts are still needed to meet the desired results in specific topics and areas, such as for the realisation of Output 6.2 ("EORE outputs and activities take into consideration *Gender, Age, Diversity, Disability and Conflict Sensitivity* aspects") and in terms of information management.

Following Céline's overview, some members shared their comments and suggestions for the implementation or continuity of specific actions, including:

- Encouraging the use and organisation of more EORE Hour webinars on a broader range of topics, which will require the identification of specific members to lead/facilitate the EORE Hour initiative. Topics suggested by members include: 'the role of the private sector and commercial operators in the provision of EORE', 'regional aspects and EORE messages for refugees and returnees', presentation of projects with a strong SBC lens, quality management. It was also recalled that EORE Hour webinars can have a regional focus and do not necessarily need to be delivered in English.
- Prioritising the organisation of a donor event for resource mobilisation.
- Prioritising the translation of key EORE resources into different languages for increased uptake.

For the second part of the session, discussions focused on the development of the next EORE AG Work Plan. The aim was to brainstorm on topics and activities that could be included and to get a better idea of what the organisations envisage for the next plan. In this respect, a 'round table discussion' was held enabling each member to share the vision and priorities of their respective organisation for the next years.

Members were encouraged to formulate concrete ideas for the group and express their interest in leading on topics. In addition, members and observers were reminded that, although there is no official requirement for an organisation to lead or co-lead an activity to remain in the group, members/observers are expected to actively contribute to several activities and "are encouraged to take the lead on at least one activity in the AG's work plan", according to the [EORE AG ToR](#).

Among the main topics and priorities mentioned were: digital EORE, social and behaviour change communication (SBCC), monitoring and evaluation of EORE, disability inclusive EORE, localisation and capacity building, the establishment of a technical working group to develop an EORE competency framework (T&EP), EORE and conflict preparedness & protection (CPP), theory of change, etc.

Finally, Hugues presented the next steps of the development process of the 2023-2024 Work Plan:

1. The inputs provided during the discussion by AG members will be compiled by the Secretariat.
2. Members/observers who have further plans or ideas or who would like to contribute to, lead or co-lead specific activities are invited to share their thoughts by email with the Secretariat and Co-chairs by 15 January 2023 **[action]**. Members shall provide a description of the intended activity, the corresponding output and timeline.
3. Based on contributions, the Co-chairs with the support of the Secretariat will consolidate a first draft of the 2023-2024 Work Plan **[action]**.

9. AOB

No further updates were shared. Participants were invited to provide any other information or comment they may have to the Secretariat by email.