

EORE AG
Explosive Ordnance Risk Education
Advisory Group

Minutes of the EORE AG Meeting

Date: 7 March 2023
Time: 15:00 – 17:00 CET
Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Summary of Action Points

Action	Responsible	Suggested Deadline
EORE AG Governance		
Send an email to officially call for nominations for the position of NGO Co-Chair.	Co-Chairs & Secretariat	10 March
Consider volunteering for the NGO Co-Chair role and express interest to the Co-Chairs and Secretariat via email.	AG members (NGOs)	20 April
Publish the 2023-2024 EORE AG Work Plan on the AG page.	Co-Chairs & Secretariat	31 March
EORE AG Task Teams		
Consolidate DEORE TT subgroups 2 and 3 products (5 bite-size contents, 5 guidance on M&E metrics) and share the final products with AG members for validation and endorsement.	DEORE TT leads	15 March
Other Activities		
Share the recording of the EORE AG meeting with members.	Co-Chairs & Secretariat	10 March
Review and provide inputs on the third draft of the EORE ToC and assumptions via the Mural page.	AG members & observers	8 March
Send an invitation for the next EORE ToC webinar.	Daniel & Hugues	31 March
Share the 'Summary of 2022 EORE AG Survey Results' with AG members.	Co-Chairs & Secretariat	31 March
Provide suggestions to improve the process and methodology of the next annual survey(s).	AG members & observers	Ongoing
Share updates on the situation in Syria, the impact on EORE activities and programmes.	AG members & observers	Ongoing
Provide final comments and revisions on the draft 2023-2024 Work Plan (by email).	AG members & observers	15 March
Consider volunteering to host an EORE Hour webinar.	AG members & observers	Ongoing

Participants

Co-Chairs: Sofia Cogollos (HI) & Hugues Laurenge (UNICEF)

Secretary: Faustine Auger (GICHD)

Core members:

- DCA: Lene Rasmussen
- DRC: Nick Vovk
- GICHD: Matthieu Laruelle
- HALO Trust: Kim Fletcher
- HI: Alexandra Letcher
- ICBL-CMC: Marion Loddo
- LMAC: Lt. Col. Ali Makki
- NPA: Colin Bent
- UNICEF: Bakhtiyar Salimov
- UNMAS: Bojan Vukovic

Observers:

- MA AoR: Yoshiyuki Shiomi

Detailed Minutes

1. Welcome

Sofia opened the meeting by welcoming the participants to the first meeting of the year and introducing new representatives to the AG. She first introduced Alexandra Letcher (HI) and explained that, following Céline's departure from HI, Alexandra will now take on the role of representative to the AG and Sofia will act as co-chair until the end of HI's mandate. Sofia also took the opportunity to extend the group's special thanks to Céline for her hard work, leadership and dynamism in support of the EORE AG.

She then introduced Marion Loddo (ICBL-CMC) and Bakhtiyar Salimov (UNICEF). All new representatives were given the floor for a quick introduction where they shared their excitement to be part of the group.

Given the absence of several members of the AG, it was collectively agreed to record the session and share the recording with members to allow those who wish to re-listen to the meeting [\[action\]](#).

2. Updates from the Digital EORE Task Team

Matthieu was given the floor to provide an update on the work of the Digital EORE Task Team (DEORE TT). He first recalled that there are three subgroups under the DEORE TT, working on the following topics:

- Subgroup 1 on partnerships, led by Robin (MAG).
- Subgroup 2 on bite-size content, led by Audrey (ICBL-CMC) and Céline (GICHD).
- Subgroup 3, working on metrics for different DEORE tools, led by Kim (Halo).

Subgroup 1 is currently capturing details of various organisations that could add value or support Digital EORE and the sector. Matthieu also informed that subgroups 2 and 3 have produced several documents in the past months, which will soon be shared. He mentioned that subgroup 2 has developed five bite-size content documents on behaviour change communication for EORE, Facebook ads, online courses, mobile EORE augmented reality application, and on a child-friendly multimedia project. He also indicated that subgroup 3 has developed five guidance documents on M&E metrics for digital apps, e-learning, online sessions, SMS messenger, and social media.

All these products are currently being peer-reviewed by the DEORE TT members. Final revision and inclusion of members' comments and inputs is being done by the subgroups leads. The next step is to consolidate the documents during the week and to send them to the AG for final validation and endorsement [action]. Then, all documents will be shared with the wider sector.

Matthieu and Sofia praised the subgroups for their amazing work, noting that these short and practical documents will certainly be useful for the sector.

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

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

Hugues reminded the group about the webinar that was recently held, which saw the participation of around 10 organisations. The third draft of the ToC was introduced during this third webinar. He mentioned that feedback on this latest draft is still welcome and invited everyone to visit the Mural page to review and provide inputs on this ToC version, as well as on the assumptions [action]. He informed the group that the deadline to provide inputs on Mural is on March 8th, but that the deadline could be extended if necessary.

Members are also encouraged to discuss the draft ToC not only within HQ but also with their field colleagues. Hugues also thanked Kim and Halo Trust as well as Audrey (ICBL-CMC) for their in-depth feedback and promised to address them.

He then explained the next step of the process, which will consist in another webinar where they will present the next draft, continue the discussion and initiate consultations beyond the Advisory Group and mine action sector. He highlighted the importance and need to discuss, unpack assumptions, and understand the logic that leads to each pathway of change. Hugues concluded by saying that they will soon send a save the date for this next webinar and that they intend to finalise the ToC and its narrative by Q2 [action].

Kim thanked Hugues for taking on the feedback and for the hard work in developing this theory of change. Sofia also expressed gratitude to UNICEF for the work put into the methodology, and particularly for providing the opportunity for everyone to participate in the development process. She noted that the recordings of the sessions were available for those who could not attend.

4. Update on 2022 EORE AG survey results

As background information, Faustine recalled that the annual EORE Stakeholder Survey was launched from December 2022 to January 2023 to gather feedback from stakeholders worldwide. The results of this main, extensive survey will be used and presented in the 2021-2022 EORE AG Progress Report, which will be finalised by mid-April.

She also reminded that, in previous years, the survey included a section with questions specifically for AG members. The goal of this section was to collect feedback on the perceived relevance of the group and its work, to gather recommendations and to assess the overall satisfaction of members. However, it was noticed in 2021 that some representatives did not answer the questions for AG members, while some external stakeholders did, which made it difficult to analyse and report on this section.

As a solution, it was decided to remove this part intended for AG members only from the 2022 EORE Stakeholder Survey and to send it separately to avoid confusion. Therefore, last December, AG members received two emails, one with the main EORE Stakeholder Survey to fill in, and to share with colleagues and partners; and the other one with the EORE AG survey composed of questions for AG members only. Twelve respondents from 11 organisations (core members or observers) completed the AG survey.

Faustine continued by presenting the document summarising the results of this AG survey. The document is composed of 6 parts covering the following topics:

- The perceived added value of the AG to members, organisations and the sector
- The time and workload it represents for members
- The composition of the AG
- The scope of work of the AG and the topics considered most useful in 2022
- Some suggested areas of work for 2023
- A zoom in on two specific resources (Introduction to EORE Essentials e-learning and Standardising Beneficiary Definitions in Humanitarian Mine Action – 2nd Edition)

She however stressed that, out of the 18 organisations invited to fill in the survey, only 11 organisations completed it, which represents around 60% of members/observers. It was also noted that participation in the main EORE Stakeholder Survey decreased this year. This is a concern for the Co-Chairs and Secretariat, who wish to increase participation in future surveys without overwhelming members. Hence, members were encouraged to provide feedback and suggestions to the Co-Chairs and Secretariat for the upcoming surveys **[action]**.

Faustine concluded by explaining that this summary of results will be circulated internally to AG members for information purposes **[action]** and that members should reach out in case of question.

Sofia thanked Faustine for putting this report together and invited everyone to read it as it shows how other members feel about the AG and whether members are all in the same line of thinking or have different expectations. Sofia mentioned that there were also some interesting suggestions for new topics or products. She emphasised the importance of everybody's participation and invited everyone to think about the future methodology, as mentioned previously.

5. Discussion on EORE AG Co-Chair nominations

Sofia reminded the group that the current Co-Chair's term is coming to an end in June 2023 and that, according to the ToRs of the AG, an NGO Co-Chair shall be proposed and voted on by AG members for a period of 2 years. She also stressed the importance of ensuring a rotation of NGOs, so that the group can gain experience and knowledge.

Sofia thus informed the group that nominations are now officially open and invited all core member NGOs to discuss internally to see if they can volunteer for the role. She mentioned that interested

organisations should express their interest to the Co-Chairs and Secretariat via email by April 20th [\[action\]](#).

Sofia also provided more information about the role of Co-Chair and said that the workload is estimated to be around three hours per month, with some periods requiring four to five hours of work. She emphasised that the Co-Chair position does not necessarily need to be filled by someone from HQ or in a global position but can be filled by someone from the field. For further details, the list of responsibilities can be found in the [terms of reference](#) of the Advisory Group, and the Co-Chairs and Secretariat remain available to answer all questions. An email will also be shared soon, calling for nominations and providing more detailed information [\[action\]](#).

It was recalled that it is not only a great opportunity for the organisation but also for the staff involved, who will be able to share their expertise, be updated on important discussions, but also to gain exposure to a wide range of EORE-related topics.

Hugues thanked Sofia for her call and further stressed the importance of maintaining a rotation of the Co-Chair to ensure that every NGO has a chance to become Co-Chair. Hugues offered to connect potential nominees with Sebastian or Céline, former Co-Chairs of the group, to share their extensive experience.

6. Update on Syria earthquake impact

Hugues moved on to the next agenda item on the impact of the earthquake in Syria and Turkey. He recalled that a month ago, Turkey was hit by a terrible earthquake (and several aftershocks), which had a devastating impact on both Turkey and Syria. A flash appeal was launched highlighting the needs in terms of mine action. A discussion was also held at the last MA AoR meeting on the impact and what should be done by the mine action community.

Referring to the flash appeal, Hugues mentioned the risks for humanitarian and aid rescue workers, particularly those involved in search and rescue and rubble removal, and the need to include EORE for aid workers in the overall response. He recalled that staff in the region are directly and heavily impacted. He also mentioned the importance of non-technical and technical surveys to assess the presence of explosive ordnance in damaged areas, and of shelter and building assessments. More data and evidence are needed to prevent accidents related to explosive ordnance, especially as movement of populations in contaminated areas increases the risk of accidents.

Hugues then opened the floor to members to share updates from their programmes and on the implications of the earthquake on EORE activities. Kim informed the group that Halo Trust has started an online campaign and relaunched the Facebook campaign they had before. She mentioned that their teams are shifting over to earthquake response rather than EOD and that they have no data on accidents related to rubble removal.

Hugues thanked Kim for this update. He also suggested contacting the MA AoR coordinator in the affected region (UNMAS colleague) for more information. Yoshizuki (MA AoR) informed that staff in Syria had reported accidents related to the earthquake but that there were no casualties. He will continue following-up with colleagues in the field.

Regarding UNICEF, Hugues also mentioned that their two hubs in Syria (Damascus) and Turkey (Gaziantep) confirmed their intention to scale up EORE and to ensure that it is part of the overall response. Organisations should, however, be careful in their interventions not to exacerbate the trauma or generate unnecessary additional fears.

On CPP, Colin explained that, unfortunately, NPA had ended its CCP interventions in Syria in July 2022 and was no longer working in North-West or North-East Syria on mine action. He mentioned that NPA had shifted its focus toward more traditional mine action (in South/central Syria) but would like to start up CPP again in the future.

Although the EORE AG did not receive any specific request, it stands ready to support where possible and relevant. Hugues and Sofia suggested leaving the conversation open if some colleagues wanted to check with their missions in Syria how the flash appeal is being implemented and share any specific needs or information they might have in the future [\[action\]](#).

Addendum - Updates provided following the meeting:

- Information from UNMAS Syria – MA AoR (Mine Action sub-sector Coordinator):

A short note (annexed to the minutes) is available in both English and Arabic with some mine action considerations to keep in mind.

Explosive ordnance awareness materials are available and can be requested and included in activities (submit your request [here](#)). Tailored explosive ordnance risk awareness materials exist targeting rubble removal workers (see [here](#) as well as [here](#) and [here](#)) and are free to print, use and disseminate. An online tool is also available to report on explosive ordnance encountered during field work: <https://ee.humanitarianresponse.info/x/R09xuR3J>.

- Information from MAG (9 March 2023):

MAG's HMA activities (including EORE) are located in North-East Syria, which was less impacted by the earthquake. MAG's ability to work in other parts of Syria is limited but the possibility to eventually work with a partner organisation to provide emergency relief in areas most impacted by the earthquake is being discussed.

- According to the Global Protection Cluster's '*Syria Earthquake Protection Briefing Note for Donors, Humanitarian Leadership and Humanitarian Actors*' (16 March 2023):

"[...] Populations displaced by the earthquake may be unaware of explosive ordnance contamination on roads and in new settlements, which may lead to further casualties. Based on the RPA conducted in NWS, **13%** of [key informants] indicated that mines or Explosive Remnants of War had been found in their location."

7. Discussion on the draft 2023-2024 EORE AG Work Plan

Sofia started by thanking members for their input and comments regarding the AG draft work plan (2023-2024). She also thanked those who volunteered to lead or support some activities.

Sofia explained that the purpose of this discussion was to review the draft and check the outputs and activities, to finalise and ensure consensus of the group on the draft work plan. She clarified that this would be the last group conversation regarding the work plan, although it can always be updated in the future if necessary (e.g., during the end of year implementation review).

As mentioned in the work plan, Sofia reminded the group that should an organisation volunteer to lead a specific activity, they are responsible for actively driving the activity and providing any associated resources for its realisation. However, she mentioned that organisations can work together, and that the goal is not to create more work for staff and organisations but to rely on each organisations' internal priorities and activities.

As an overview, Hugues recalled the 6 components or axes of the work plan, namely (i) quality management, (ii) cooperation, (iii) integration and synergies, (iv) information management, (v) advocacy and policy, and (vi) cross cutting issues.

Hugues then presented the first three axes, related outputs and activities to the group. Over the course of this presentation, the following comments and contributions were made:

- On activity 1.2.4, LMAC volunteered to also share lessons learnt and good practices on the topic of residual contamination. Hence, both GICHD and LMAC will explore this topic under the new work plan.
- On activity 1.3.1, Matthieu explained that the GICHD, as some may know, is developing an SBCC toolkit for EORE practitioners which will be piloted before its publication and dissemination. In this regard, organisations that could be interested in piloting this toolkit should contact Céline Cheng for more information.
- On 1.4.3, Hugues mentioned the interest of UNICEF to co-lead this activity, but to be further discussed. He also called on other organisations to express interest to lead on this activity on the identification of EORE key competencies.
- On activity 2.1.3, Ali asked for clarification on the form the proposed sessions or workshops should take (in-person or online). Hugues explained that it is up to the organiser to decide. Nick also confirmed that DRC is planning to organise a workshop in Q3 to share lessons learnt on emergency risk education in Ukraine. It is envisioned to hold this workshop in person and online, to ensure the widest participation. Members were further reassured about the possibility to participate and contribute in different ways to the suggested activities, despite not being listed as leads.
- On activity 2.2.1 on translations, Bojan asked some clarifications on what is considered to be a key resource. Hugues explained that this is quite broad, and it could be any resource of particular relevance or particularly beneficial for the sector. For instance, it could be a TNMA, such as the TNMA on risk education for IEDs. The resource can be specific to a region or country (such as the Q&A for Ukraine) or a more global product.
- On activity 2.2.2, Kim informed that Halo Trust is planning to have a workshop on the topic of localisation in March and will be happy to share some lessons learnt and findings after this event. Alexandra confirmed the timeframe for this activity for HI, noting that they will probably explore this topic in the context of Iraq.
- On activity 2.3.1, Ali confirmed the interest of LMAC to work with OACP on the topic of improved coordination.

Sofia then proceeded with the review of the last three axes and related outputs and activities. The following comments or contributions were made:

- On activity 4.1.3, LMAC volunteered to take the lead on this activity to support the revision of the IMSMA form on risk education.
- On activity 5.1.1, the possibility that some members be present, physically or online, should be discussed at a later stage when organising such advocacy events.

At the end of the review exercise, members were informed that they had one week, until 15 March, to provide any final comments and revisions (by email) before the work plan is published **[action]**. It was also pointed out that activities without an identified lead would be deleted.

Finally, Hugues enquired about the assumptions presented at the end of the work plan, which were retained, with no further additions.

8. AOB

Sofia reiterated the call for volunteers to present an [EORE Hour webinar](#). For the next one, scheduled on April 26th (unless there is no volunteer), applications are open until March 15th. This is a great initiative welcomed by all, and especially colleagues in the field. It is open to all and organisations are strongly encouraged to [register](#) to host a webinar **[action]**.

Annex

- Warning on explosive ordnance contamination in areas impacted by the earthquake, February 2023, UNMAS – MA AoR Syria.

Warning on explosive ordnance contamination in areas impacted by the earthquake February 2023

Overview:

A major earthquake of magnitude 7.8 struck south-east Turkey and north Syria at approximately 04.20 hrs local time on 6 February. Aleppo, Hama, Lattakia and Idlib are among the areas most affected within Syria. The earthquake was also strongly felt in Damascus. Relief efforts are complicated as the Middle East is experiencing bad weather conditions.

Explosive ordnance contamination was recorded in communities affected by the earthquake. Past contamination and lingering explosive items may have resurfaced and/or moved, as well as hidden under rubble, and could further complicate aid rescue efforts, as well as compounding risks for both local population and humanitarian workers.

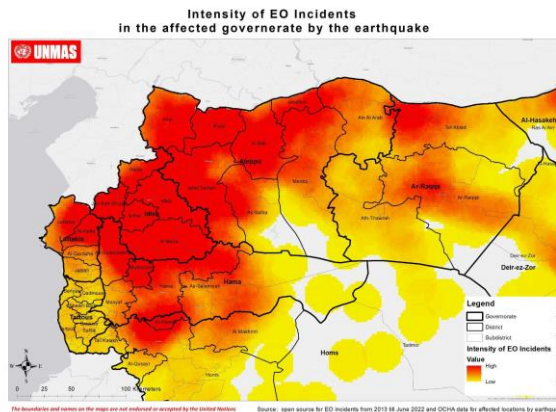
تحذير من التلوث بالذخائر المتفجرة في المناطق المتضررة من الزلزال شباط 2023

لمحة عامة:

ضرب زلزال بقوة 7.8 درجة جنوب شرق تركيا وشمال سورية في حوالي الساعة 04.20 فجراً بالتوقيت المحلي في يوم 6 شباط. وتعدّ محافظات حلب وحماة واللاذقية وإدلب من أكثر المناطق تضرراً في سورية. كما شعر سكان مدينة دمشق بالزلزال بقوة. ويُشار إلى أنّ جهود الإغاثة معقدة إذ يعاني الشرق الأوسط من ظروف جوية سيئة.

وقد تم تسجيل تلوث بالذخائر المتفجرة في المجتمعات المتضررة من الزلزال؛ حيث من الممكن أن تكون الذخائر المتفجرة الموجودة سابقاً قد ظهرت إلى السطح و/أو تم نقلها، أو بقيت مخفية تحت الأنقاض، ومن الممكن أن تزيد من تعقيد جهود الإنقاذ والمساعدات، فضلاً عن مضاعفة المخاطر لكل من السكان المحليين والعاملين في المجال الإنساني.

"كثافة حوادث الذخائر المتفجرة في المحافظات المتضررة من الزلزال"



The map above shows intensity of explosive ordnance incidents over the past years in the areas affected by the earthquake. Areas having witnessed higher intensity of hostility are more likely to present explosive ordnance contamination.

وتوضح الخريطة أعلاه كثافة حوادث الذخائر المتفجرة على مدى السنوات الماضية في المناطق المتضررة من الزلزال. حيث تُعدّ المناطق التي شهدت كثافة عالية من الأعمال العدائية أكثر عرضة لتلوث الذخائر المتفجرة.

الرسائل الرئيسية:

Key messages:

- Be aware that areas impacted by the earthquake may present some form of explosive contamination. Be aware that explosive items may have resurfaced and/or moved, or remain hidden under rubble.
- Seek information from local authorities and community members on areas that were known to be dangerous to access before the earthquake. The map above shows areas that have experienced explosive incidents (with red color showing higher intensity) and are reportedly impacted by some form of explosive contamination.
- If you see a suspicious item, don't touch or approach. Report to local authorities and use existing reporting tools and channels.
- Ensure that aid respondents have received explosive ordnance awareness and are aware of the risks and correct behaviour to adopt to mitigate explosive risks.

Safer Behaviors:

- When traveling, avoid leaving the main road for any reason, even to look for cell phone signal. Stay on main roads and in places that are frequently used and known to be safe. Don't go on the sides and edges of the road as they might be contaminated.
- If possible, travel during the day and not at night to be fully aware of your environment.
- If you are deployed to areas where you did not work before, ask local authorities and the local residents about hazardous items they may know about.
- Stay away from rubble removal areas.

- كُن على علم بأن المناطق المتضررة من الزلزال قد تُظهر شكلاً من أشكال التلوث بالذخائر المتفجرة. وكُن على علم بأن العناصر المتفجرة قد تظهر إلى السطح و/أو يتم نقلها، أو تبقى مخفية تحت الأنقاض.
- احصل على معلومات من السلطات المحلية وأفراد المجتمع حول المناطق التي كان من المعروف أن الوصول إليها خطير قبل الزلزال. حيث توضح الخريطة أعلاه المناطق التي تعرضت لحوادث مرتبطة بالذخائر المتفجرة (يُظهر اللون الأحمر كثافة أعلى) والتي ورد أنها تأثرت ببعض أشكال التلوث بالذخائر المتفجرة.
- إذا رأيت جسماً غريباً، فلا تلمسه أو تقترب منه، وقم بإبلاغ السلطات المحلية واستخدم أدوات و قنوات الإبلاغ الموجودة.
- تأكد من أن المستجيبين الذين يقدمون المساعدات قد تلقوا التوعية بالذخائر المتفجرة وأنهم على دراية بالمخاطر والسلوك الصحيح لاعتماده للتخفيف من مخاطر المتفجرات.

السلوكيات الأكثر أماناً:

- عند التنقل، تجنب مغادرة الطريق الرئيسي لأي سبب من الأسباب، حتى للبحث عن إشارة الهاتف الخليوي. وابق على الطرق الرئيسية وفي الأماكن التي يكثر استخدامها والمعروفة بأنها آمنة. ولا تسر على جوانب وحواف الطريق لأنها قد تكون ملوثة.
- إذا كان ذلك ممكناً، تنقل أثناء النهار وليس في الليل لتكون على دراية كاملة ببيئتك.
- إذا تم نشرك في مناطق لم تعمل فيها من قبل، فاسأل السلطات المحلية والسكان المحليين عن الأجسام الخطرة التي قد يعرفون عن وجودها.
- ابتعد عن مناطق إزالة الأنقاض.
- إذا واجهت جسماً مشبوهاً، فتوقف، وابق هادئاً، وانظر حولك وحذر الأشخاص من حولك. لا تقترب أو تلمس أو تلتقط أو تركل أو تحرق أو تحرك الجسم المشبوّه، سواء بيدك أو بعضاً أو بحجر، لأن ذلك قد يؤدي



- If you encounter a suspicious item, stop, stay calm, look around and alert those around you. Do not approach, touch, pick up, kick, burn, or move the suspicious item, either with your hand, a stick or a stone as it might lead to an explosion.
- Alert the community and local authorities to ensure no one approaches the hazardous area or item.

Response capacity:

- Explosive ordnance awareness materials are available for distribution to communities and to all humanitarian respondents. Submit your request here:
<https://forms.gle/jcZHca9MQD3aXZm97>
- A tool to report explosive items is also available for all humanitarian workers [here](#). Save the link in your phone and use it to report.

For further info, please reach out to:

Francesca Chiaudani, Mine Action sub-sector coordinator, francescac@unops.org

For info on explosive ordnance awareness trainings, and to inquiry on availability, please contact: unmassyria@unops.org

- إلى انفجاره.
حذر المجتمع والسلطات المحلية لضمان عدم اقتراب أحد من المنطقة أو الجسم الخطير.

مواد الاستجابة:

- تتوفر مواد التوعية بالذخائر المتفجرة لتوزيعها على المجتمعات وجميع المستجيبين الإنسانيين. أرسل طلبك هنا:
<https://forms.gle/jcZHca9MQD3aXZm97>
- تتوفر أداة للإبلاغ عن العناصر المتفجرة لجميع العاملين في المجال الإنساني هنا. احفظ الرابط في هاتفك واستخدمه للإبلاغ.

لمزيد من المعلومات، يرجى التواصل مع فرانشيسكا شياوداني، منسقة القطاع الفرعي للإجراءات المتعلقة بالألغام، francescac@unops.org

للحصول على معلومات حول تدريبات التوعية بالذخائر المتفجرة، وللاستفسار عن مدى توفرها، من فضلك التواصل عبر البريد الإلكتروني: unmassyria@unops.org