

# Digital EORE Bite-Sized Contents



## Safe Steps: Child-friendly EORE multimedia and digital program in Colombia

- # • Child friendly EORE
- Digital Application
- Videogame
- Virtual reality

January 2023

**EORE AG**  
**Explosive Ordnance Risk Education**  
Advisory Group

# Background Summary



Safe Steps is an alliance between Discovery Communications (a multimedia conglomerate including *Discovery Channel*), *Computadores para educar* (Colombia's government program to enhance computer access and literacy), USAID, and *Fundación Barco* (a non-governmental organization specialized in community education and development), that seeks to contribute to the reduction of accidents caused by explosive ordnance (EO) using digital EORE and innovative approaches. To achieve this purpose, Safe Steps has three objectives:

- Generate public awareness of EO risks
- Raise awareness of humanitarian mine action with local authorities
- Increase communities and educational institutions' capacities to safely mitigate EO risks

The program arose from the need to make information accessible to all and to make attractive, adaptable, and affordable educational materials that could be shared freely and serve for training and broadcast purposes.

Colombia's National Mine Action Authority, the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace, has been supporting the implementation of this approach in highly affected municipalities with a focus on the most vulnerable communities.

Safe Steps' pedagogical model is built on a participatory approach that includes elements from constructivism (a theory promoting teaching allowing children to learn through direct experience rather than abstract knowledge-sharing), cooperative learning, and flipped classroom strategies (a type of blended learning focusing on practical problem-solving during class time and complete lectures and tasks at home).

Timeline: January 2019 - January 2024

## Target groups:

- Primary: Children, with educational materials adapted to each age group
- Secondary: teachers and local authorities and leaders.

# Methodology



Safe Steps works with an operational scheme based on a national coordination team made up of a coordinator, an EORE regional manager leader, a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) leader, a communications leader and an administrative leader. There is a facilitator in every municipality where the program carries out EORE activities.

The program has developed pedagogical materials favoring the acquisition of self-care competencies (abilities, practices, and attitudes). These materials are used to disseminate and broadcast information and for training purposes in communities and educational institutions.

Its methodology includes a systemic approach covering the national, municipal, and community levels.

# Methodology



National scope:

- Click on the links to see those innovative EORE materials
  - Three informative capsules for television
  - A nine-episode mini-series for children: Lalo and Lulú take Safe Steps
  - Two survivor testimonials videos
  - A web page (soon to be translated in english), which features the program's information, educational content, and products
  - Currently, the program is working on a three-hour virtual course on EO awareness available to all

# Methodology



## Municipal scope:

- Basic EORE trainings (3 days, 24 hours) for local authorities and leaders, women, and youth, aiming at developing sustainable capacities in the territories, that will continue to provide risk education even after the program ends. The virtual course is currently in a testing and validating phase.

## Community scope:

- A virtual course according to School EORE National standards, available online and offline
- An educational videogame for 7 to 12-years-old children, downloadable from Android and Apple's app stores
- Three virtual reality experiences designed for Oculus VR
- Five radio ads for adults and five radio ads for children based on "Lalo and Lulú take Safe Steps" mini-series
- SMS text messaging and phone pre-recorded voice messages strategy to share educational content and information on EO safe behaviors
- In-person community trainings

# Recommendations



- As the project counterparts and providers are not from the humanitarian sector, the design of digital tools must be closely monitored to ensure the application and respect of humanitarian principles; child-based, gender, diversity, and disability approaches; do no harm principles; and conflict-sensitivity. These tools will achieve high quality technical standards.
- Testing and validating digital tools with communities is important to review and adjust technical content on EORE, usability and functionality.
- Digital tools do not replace in-person work with communities and local authorities. They complement advocacy and risk education activities implemented in the territories.





## Recommendations



- Digital tools must be considered as a part of a pedagogical model and implementation strategy. By doing so, EORE pedagogical objectives will not fade away.
- In the planning phase, human, financial and logistical resources must be assessed for the implementation and use of digital tools with communities.
- Cooperation with other sectors was key to design, field-test the materials and launch the project in affected communities.



## Recommendations



- If the necessary technology is not available in the operational context, the programme should supply it, the program should supply it: as an example, our facilitators use tablets and portable video beams to carry out in-person workshops in territories where there is a lack of basic services.
- Despite not being a specific program's objective EORE activities also supported the promotion of computer and new technologies literacy and competencies among individuals and communities.







## Monitoring and Evaluation



- A third-party organization carried-out the evaluation of the Safe Step Project. The monitoring and evaluation plan includes a baseline and an endline using qualitative and quantitative methodologies on a statistically representative sample.
- Safe Steps' Monitoring and Evaluation Plan has the following indicators:
  - ✓ Number of views of audiovisual products on television and social networks
  - ✓ Number of municipalities that include Humanitarian Mine Action on their territorial planning instruments
  - ✓ Number of people trained in EORE models
  - ✓ Number of people reach out with radio ads on safe behaviors
  - ✓ Number of people reach out with text messages on safe behaviors
  - ✓ Knowledge improvement on EORE workshops (baseline and endline evaluation)
  - ✓ Number of educational institutions with teachers trained on EORE
  - ✓ Number of contingency plans developed by educational institutions on landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) risks




Being an expert in EORE implementation with in-person methodologies does mean an organization has expertise in digital and new technologies. Allies and expert advisors are needed to ensure mutual understanding. Similarly, experts in digital methodologies may not experts in EORE, and a rigorous training process must be planned and implemented, not only in EORE/Mine Action, but also in humanitarian principles, gender, diversity and disability inclusion.




In order to integrate different approaches and competencies on digital and new technologies, it is necessary to be open to dialogue. Although Safe Steps focus on EORE trainings, it also develops computer and new technologies literacy and capacity development. This requires the program and EORE organization to know and promote those tools.

## Key Takeaways



To develop a culture of safe behaviors, information should be available to everyone, and key messages must be spread and strengthened. This is the reason why Safe Steps has a multimedia approach that goes from the more basic media, like radio and text messaging, to more sophisticated devices, like virtual reality, to promote behavior changes.



Virtual courses require digital skills from participants, as well as discipline and autonomy. These courses have potential if they can also be accessible offline or through USB memories, especially for communities with low connectivity.

This bite-sized content was based on...

## Safe Steps

...and written by:

**Raquel Vergara, Project Coordination, Fundacion**

**Barco: [rvergara@fundacionbarco.org](mailto:rvergara@fundacionbarco.org)**

...with the participation of:

**Audrey Torrecilla: [audrey.torrecilla@gmail.com](mailto:audrey.torrecilla@gmail.com)**



© 2023 Fundación Barco



<https://pasosseguros.fundacionbarco.org>



[@pasossegurosco](https://www.instagram.com/pasossegurosco)



[@pasossegurosco](https://www.facebook.com/pasossegurosco)



[@pasossegurosco](https://twitter.com/pasossegurosco)



[@pasosseguros](https://www.youtube.com/pasosseguros)



**EORE AG**  
**Explosive Ordnance Risk Education**  
Advisory Group