

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) Advisory Group Terms of Reference

Introduction

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) is a central pillar of mine action well reflected in normative frameworks including IHL (MBT, CCW, CCM) and the IMAS. In a context where EO victim numbers are reaching peaks not seen since 1999 – particularly in regions where the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, displacement, improvised explosive devices and urban contamination multiply risks – the EORE sector needs to be strengthened first at policy and coordination level and second at technical level.

In several key meetings with concerned donors and partners beginning at the 17MSP APMBC in November 2018 and continuing at the 22nd NDM in February 2019, the idea of reactivating a global advisory group to strengthen the sector and mobilise efforts to address the significant upturn in EO accidents received common support. It was agreed that the proposed group should serve as a tool for increasing the quality and coverage of EORE programmes, promoting effective behaviour change strategies, strengthening the cadre of EORE experts, addressing contextual sensitivities, advocating to member states including donors, and securing buy-in from highest levels on the importance of coordination.

This group will better position EORE to respond and adjust well to the changing environment and is de facto a reactivation of the “International Advisory Group for MRE” that was established in March 2008 and co-convened by UNICEF and the GICHD but not sustained.

Objectives

Purpose:

The purpose of the international EORE Advisory Group (EORE AG) is to provide overall guidance to the sector and identify ways to improve integration, effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of EORE within the broader mine action sector and beyond. Its objectives include ensuring that:

1. Risk education standards, guidelines, methods, and approaches are relevant, effective and adapted to emerging threats and requirements;
2. Risk education is well integrated in mine action programmes;
3. Synergies are increased with other humanitarian and development sectors including protection, shelter (migration and displacement), education, and health, in line with the cross-sectoral approach of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals;
4. Guidance on priority-setting is provided to support the prioritising of resources for groups of highest risk and need; and
5. Donors are aware of gaps and mechanisms to address them.

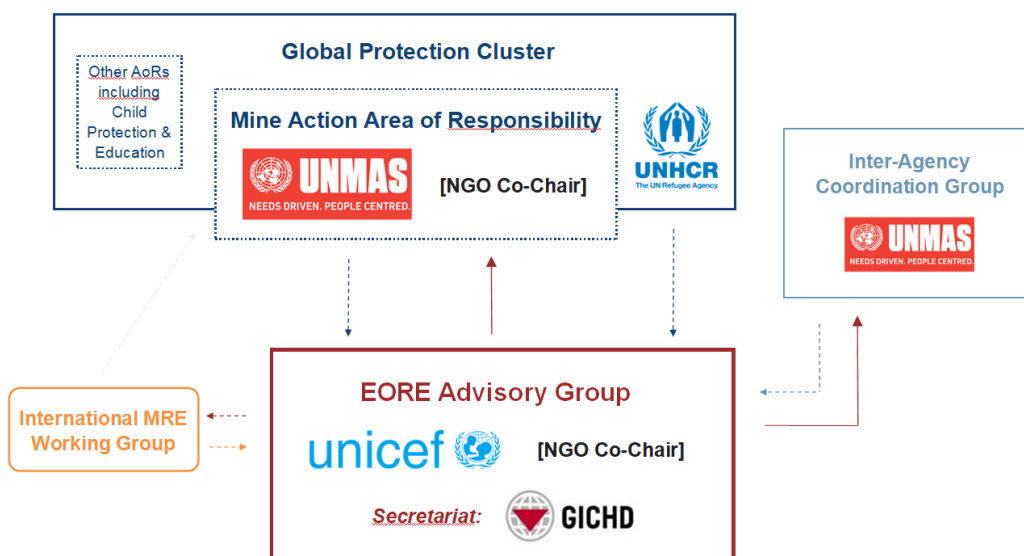
Activities:

More specifically, the Advisory Group will:

- Oversee and review developments in EORE on a regular basis;
- Coordinate EORE contributions to relevant frameworks, strategies and action plans, as well as to the monitoring of their implementation (e.g., Oslo and Lausanne Action Plans);

- Identify challenges and document good practices at the global, regional and national levels;
- Conduct stakeholder surveys and monitor progress in the risk education pillar;
- Issue guidance statements, disseminate lessons learned and promote good practices in EORE;
- Contribute to the review and/or revision of relevant IMAS (e.g., IMAS 12.10, IMAS 05.10 Annex B-Minimum Data Requirements) and technical notes (e.g. TNMA IED RE) when needed;
- Review and provide comments on assessments of EORE as well as global and national theories of change, results frameworks, planning and implementation;
- Contribute to development and/or review of EORE-related documents, for example, webinars, articles, training materials and evaluation reports for wider circulation;
- Support contributions to the *Landmines and Cluster Munitions Monitor* and encourage review of ongoing EORE programmes to ensure relevance and quality of approaches used;
- Provide guidance on the development and adaptation of EORE in response to changing environment and context;
- Promote data/knowledge sharing with and greater integration of EORE into other mine action pillars, humanitarian, protection, education and development work, as well as learning from experts in risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), social and behavioural change communication (SBCC) and the private sector;
- Support meetings of EORE practitioners at appropriate gatherings, such as Intersessional Meetings, Meetings of States Parties and International Meetings of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers (NDM-UN), including through the iMREWG; and
- Position the EORE sector vis a vis other RE needs in 'active conflict' environments, particularly in relation to the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

Structure



Relations with Other Bodies:

The EORE AG shall regularly report to the Global Protection Cluster (GPC), especially the Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR), strengthen collaboration with the Child Protection and Education sectors and maintain close links with the International MRE Working Group (iMREWG). Reports on the work of the EORE AG shall also be shared with the Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA) on at least a quarterly basis.

Chairs:

The EORE AG will be co-chaired by UNICEF and a rotating NGO co-chair. The NGO co-chair will be proposed and voted on by the members of the AG for a period of two years, after which the co-chair position may rotate to another Member. In order to maintain their neutrality, the co-chairs shall not have voting rights; rather, their organisations will be permitted to nominate separate representatives to serve as Core Member. The following responsibilities will be split between the co-chairs:

- Chairing meetings of the EORE AG;
- Delivering reports to and presenting relevant decisions and guidance notes from the EORE AG to the MA AoR for onward transmission to the GPC (as relevant);
- Sharing updates with the IACG-MA on the work and decisions of the EORE AG;
- Overseeing the production, approval and implementation of workplans;
- Proposing areas of work that respond to needs or gaps in the EORE sector; and
- Providing guidance and advice as necessary to the Secretary.

Secretariat:

The GICHD will provide the Secretariat function for the EORE AG. The tasks undertaken by the Secretariat include:

- Planning and organising meetings of the EORE AG, in cooperation with the Chairs;
- Communicating agendas for meetings;
- Producing minutes of meetings held, collecting comments and obtaining the approval of the Chairs;
- Assisting the Chairs with the production and implementation of workplans;
- Maintaining a dedicated web space for the AG, where minutes and other relevant documents are published;
- Managing a calendar of EORE-related events and meetings;
- Acting as the point of coordination for all EORE AG information circulation and data collection; and
- Liaising and coordinating with other forums and coordination bodies including the GPC, MA and other relevant AoR and iMREWG.

Members:

The EORE AG is composed of individuals representing key agencies involved in EORE, including the UN, GPC, and international and national NGOs with experience and knowledge in EORE, as well as Regional/National Mine Action Authorities or Centres (MAAs for short) managing or delivering EORE. Its membership has two tiers:

- **Core Membership:** Core membership is open to organisations, groups and entities directly involved in EORE, including both the UN and NGOs, as well as MAAs where appropriate. The discrete organisations listed in Annex A are requested to provide a

qualified representative at a technical level to represent the organisation as Core Members with full voting rights.

The organisation should ensure a qualified substitute is nominated in the event that the initial representative leaves the organisation or is unable to fulfil her/his responsibilities for a finite period. Other Members can be invited as individuals when her or his profile is applicable and beneficial to the AG.

If the named representative cannot attend an AG meeting, and a substitute is provided by the parent organisation/group, the attending person will have the right of a proxy vote on behalf of the named Core Member.

MAAs shall be invited to nominate 1-3 representatives (depending on space available) to participate in the EORE AG as a Core Member. Nominations shall be on a two-year basis and, to the extent possible, should allow for rotation among MAAs from different geographic regions.

Core Members (or a nominated substitute) shall participate in at least one meeting per year of the EORE AG or relinquish their Core Member status by default. Core Members are encouraged to take the lead on at least one activity in the AG's work plan.

To remain effective and manageable, the maximum number of Core Members on the AG is 15.

- **Associate Membership:** Associate membership is open to all interested humanitarian organisations, as well as specialists representing specific areas of interest to EORE, such as social and behavioural change. Associate Members are able to attend and contribute to the regular meetings and work of the EORE AG but will not have voting rights on final decisions. Associate Membership does not need to be approved by a formal vote.
- **Observers:** In the event that a humanitarian organisation does not wish to be a formal member of the EORE AG, they may be given observer status. Observers do not need to be approved by a formal vote.

All Members of the AG can make suggestions for new or additional Members, and Core Members can request a vote to terminate or extend a Core Member's representation for whatever reason. Suggestions and requests should be sent to the Chair, through the Secretary, by email or at AG meetings. Additional or new Members, extensions and ends of membership, if not voluntary, will be put to vote by Core Members.

Task Teams:

To deliver on its workplan, the formation of specific task teams may be required. These teams will work on a voluntary basis, nominating their own leads and establishing a work plan towards delivery of the identified piece of work. They will report to the AG on progress towards their deliverable and present their work to the AG for finalisation through approval by the Core Membership.

Participation in task teams need not be confined to the Members of the EORE AG but rather should draw on the requisite expertise for the topic, including through the iMREWG.

Working Procedures

Meetings:

The EORE AG will convene between one and three meetings per year. It will also make use of electronic means to discuss issues submitted to the group and exchange ideas on a regular basis. EORE AG meeting minutes and recommendations will be circulated widely within the mine action community and to other stakeholders, including through the iMREWG.

Workplan:

The work of the AG shall be governed by a formal multi-year work plan with annual monitoring of implementation and adjustments. The work plan shall be agreed by a vote of the Core Members. It is the responsibility of the Chairs, with the support of the Secretary, to ensure a work plan is drafted and submitted to the Members in a timely fashion, reflecting the most pressing needs of the sector.

The advice and/or guidance of the AG may be formally requested by the Inter-Agency Coordination Group (IACG) on Mine Action, GPC, MA and other AoRs, iMREWG, any of its Members and/or any other organisation, group or entity with an interest in EORE. Formal requests should be directed via the Secretary to the Chair, who shall determine whether the request corresponds to the mandate of the AG. In observing a need or gap, the Chairs may also directly propose areas of work.

The workplan can be revised at any stage through a vote. To reduce unnecessary bureaucracy and administration, minor tasks can be undertaken and/or responses gathered on the directive of the Chairs as long as these activities do not incur significant costs or time of Members.

Decision-Making:

Decisions of the EORE AG shall be made on a majority basis through a formal voting process. Examples of decisions include adoption of workplans, evaluation findings and other outputs of the task teams; issuance of recommendations or guidance notes; and decisions related to the chairing and membership of the AG.

Only Core Members may vote, and decisions require a quorum of at least 2/3 of the Core Members.

Annex A: Member Organisations – as of July 2024

Organisation	Member Type
Colombia OACP	Core
DCA	Core
DRC	Core
FSD	Core
GICHD	Core
HALO Trust	Core / Co-Chair
HI	Core
ICBL-CMC	Core
LMAC	Core
MAG	Core
NPA	Core
UNDP	Core
UNHCR	Core
UNICEF	Core / Co-Chair
UNMAS	Core
IOM	Associate
UNOPS	Associate
ICRC	Observer