

EORE AG
Explosive Ordnance Risk Education
Advisory Group

Minutes of the EORE AG Meeting

Date: 28 May 2020
Time: 14:30-17:30 Geneva time
Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Co-Chairs: Sebastian Kasack (MAG) & Hugues Laurence (UNICEF)
Secretary: Kaitlin Hodge (GICHD)

Summary of Action Points

Action	Responsible	Suggested Deadline
Workplan Activities		
Provide guidance to EORE AG representatives on the finalisation process for the EORE section of 2.0 document on Standardising Beneficiary Definitions	Sebastian	29 May 2020
Send any additional inputs or comments on the attachment "EORE AG Meeting – CCM LAP" to Matthieu and Kaitlin, who will then compile with the co-chairs and submit.	All representatives	5 June 2020
Share responses by country programmes to the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor questionnaire	DCA, DDG & NPA	ASAP
Advocate for EORE to be included in the APMBC Intersessional Meeting programme	Co-Chairs & GICHD	June 2020
Information Sharing		
Share calendar for this year's humanitarian programme cycle, once finalised by OCHA.	Christelle	n/a
The Co-Chairs invite written feedback on whether the EORE AG is adding value, if it is meeting expectations and if there is anything that should be changed or done differently.	All representatives	Ongoing
Share EORE good practices, SOPs & innovations with the Co-Chairs for inclusion in the COVID-19 resource library.	All representatives	Ongoing
Share the IASC Interim Guidance on Localisation and the COVID-19 Response	Christelle	29 May 2020
Structure and working procedures of the EORE AG		
Inform the Secretary if interested in the co-chair position.	All NGO representatives	30 June 2020

Participants

Core members:

- FSD: Alex van Roy (alternate)
- GICHD: Matthieu Laruelle
- HALO Trust: Kim Fletcher
- HI: Berengere Lenoir
- ICBL-CMC: Ruth Bottomley (alternate)
- MAG: Sebastian Kasack (Co-chair)
- NPA: Rasmus Sandvoll Weschke
- UNDP: Olaf Juergensen, Ariane Elmas (alternate)
- UNICEF: Hugues Laurence (Co-chair)
- UNMAS: Bridget Forster

Associate members:

- IOM: Nadia Akmoun, Erhan Vural (alternate)

Observers:

- ICRC: Louis Maresca
- MA AoR: Christelle Loupforest
- MAG: Milena Vara Ruiz
- NPA: Noe Falk

Detailed Minutes

1. Welcome

Sebastian welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited new participants to introduce themselves. Logistical details for the call were provided, along with an overview of the agenda.

2. Covid-19: tour de table and discussion

Each representative was invited to give a brief update (2-3 minutes) on their Covid-19 EORE adaptation response, including potential impact on EORE AG role and workplan activities. Overall, organisations' responses to the COVID-19 pandemic have generally fallen into one or more of the following trajectories:

- **Suspension or adaptation of face-to-face EORE activities to avoid being a vector for COVID-19 transmission.** Precautions for the latter have included reducing group sizes or transitioning to one-on-one sessions, greater social distancing, and / or suspension of school-based activities. Some organisations have developed new SOPs or training packages for EORE / MA activities in light of COVID-19. In some countries where EORE activities were suspended they are now gradually resuming.
- **Scaling up of non-face-to-face EORE activities**, including through digital means (e.g. social media advertisements and videos), mass media, and remote activation of community focal points.

- **Linking of EORE and COVID-19 prevention efforts.** This has mostly taken the form of joint messaging, although in some cases EORE capacities have been redirected to support the COVID-19 response.

One of the questions raised was how to (remotely) measure the effectiveness and impact of joint EORE / COVID-19 campaigns. Hugues suggested that readily available monitoring metrics for social media such as the number of views / clicks or the average time spent viewing a video are a first step, but that it would be useful to know if anyone has examples of monitoring activities or quick impact assessments that have been conducted.

Feedback from EORE donors has varied. Most donors have been willing to fund salaries and keep core activities going, while also requesting contingency plans. The EORE / COVID-19 resource library, which includes tools to shift from a face-to-face approach towards remote / digital activities, can be a good resource in this respect. It was also noted that there has been some reluctance among donors to allow mine action funding to be reallocated to the COVID-19 response, but this is organisation-specific. For example, those with broader mandates (e.g. working on victim assistance or wider public health interventions, etc.) are more likely to already have the staff training and resources to pivot in such a way. In a small number of cases, donors have reallocated mine action funds to the pandemic response.

Few organisations reported needing to make shifts to the activities that they are leading in the EORE AG Workplan for 2020, with the following exceptions:

- The Review of New Technologies and Methodologies for EORE in Challenging Contexts is expected to be published in July, rather than June as initially planned. The associated workshop to share findings will be organised virtually instead, most likely in late Q3.
- Due to limited consultant availability at present, the Review of Good Practices for EORE Impact Assessments – originally planned for Q1-Q2 – will be shifted to Q3-Q4, and the follow-up workshop pushed to 2021. Depending on the COVID-19 situation, it may still be able to be held in person late next year.
- Questionnaires have been sent to mine action authorities and operators for collection of EORE data and information, but partly due to the COVID-19 situation responses have been somewhat slower than anticipated. Nevertheless, ICBL-CMC still anticipates it will be able to include some reporting on EORE in this year's Landmine & Cluster Munitions Monitor.

3. **Standardising Beneficiary Definitions 2.0 (breakout discussions)**

Sebastian provided an overview of the background to the draft document that was shared prior to the meeting. The draft document comprises the chapter on EORE beneficiary definitions with some changes and core comments received inserted. Participants were divided into four breakout groups to discuss the EORE beneficiary definitions and report back. During the ensuing discussion, the following points emerged:

- The document should acknowledge that there are indirect beneficiaries that are important and need to be better defined, but also that it is not feasible to count indirect beneficiaries in a meaningful way and therefore we agree not to count them.
- Three ways of classifying the beneficiaries were received during the comment round: from HI, GICHD and the IACG-MA. There seemed to be general agreement that one classification should be (1) face-to-face or interpersonal EORE and another (2) mass/social media or public information, and that (3) "training" should be renamed "training of trainers" (ToT).

There was still debate over whether emergency EORE should be counted separately or subsumed under the other categories. Participants agreed that a table would be a useful way of presenting the categories.

- Another question was whether interactive media should be counted separately from one-way forms of mass media communication. A suggestion was to *at minimum* count the beneficiaries from mass/social media (i.e. those who have benefited from the EORE activity by receiving a communication), and optionally to further indicate how many of those beneficiaries interacted further. Ultimately, the focus of this document should be on minimum requirements.
- One of the groups discussed the importance of continuing to emphasise collecting data on disability. The group recognised the limitations in trying to incorporate disability data collection during EORE, and the consensus was that gathering disability data should not be a requirement. However, there was also agreement that as a sector we need to continue to emphasise disability inclusion in EORE and monitor it to the extent possible. There are both practical barriers operators have to overcome and cultural barriers participants have to overcome in order to be included, so the inclusion of those vulnerable groups likely won't happen if we don't press the issue. In particular, we could suggest operators use the Washington Group Short Set of Disability Questions (WGSS) in ToT, where we have more time with participants and control over who attends (and including people who are differently abled in ToT may help us recognise when materials aren't accessible or messaging should be adjusted).

Next steps: Sebastian will discuss the inputs from the EORE AG with the core team responsible for the document and convene interested EORE AG members in a final consultation to finalise the EORE section [\[action\]](#).

4. CCM Action Plan (brainstorming in breakout discussions)

Matthieu updated the AG on the process leading up to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) 4th Review Conference in November 2020, and key milestones along the way for the EORE AG to engage with the Swiss CCM Presidency and its Coordination Committee to strengthen EORE within the framework of the Convention. Particular attention was given to the Swiss Presidency's invitation for comments on a zero-draft of the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP) that will define the actions for CCM States Parties and the wider mine action community for the next five years. Participants were divided into three breakout groups to brainstorm the approach that the EORE AG should take and the considerations that should be reflected in its comments.

Overall, the participants agreed that the EORE AG should take a similar approach to the LAP as it did with the Oslo Action Plan (OAP), including recommending a dedicated section on risk education, while also incorporating lessons learned from the OAP process – for example, on terminology. Including “risk reduction” in the Oslo Action Plan was overall a positive given the importance of integrating EORE with other mine action pillars and humanitarian, development, protection and education initiatives. But attaching it to the section on risk education has also created confusion since risk reduction is the responsibility of *all* of mine action (including clearance). Should a similar approach be proposed for the LAP, it would be worthwhile to have more discussion on what is meant by risk reduction.

Other points raised included:

- Perhaps there should be mention of the need to maintain commitments even when there are unexpected events (such as the COVID-19 pandemic).
- An argument has been made in some circles that there are fewer accidents under the CCM than the APMBC and therefore risk education does not need a dedicated section. We need to therefore be clear why EORE is still important in this context (e.g. establishment of norms and effect on practices and positions of States that have not yet adhered to the Convention, anticipating future challenges, linkages with other pillars including as a source of information about contamination, etc.).
- Given that the CCM addresses a weapon often delivered by air and with a wide area effect, the 'Conflict Preparedness and Protection' and other similar risk education approaches addressing the risk of cluster munitions attacks seem particularly relevant. We might consider therefore broadening our focus beyond just cluster munition remnant contamination (risk of CM accident) but also to the use of cluster munitions (risk of CM attack).
- The Article 7 reporting form should be adapted and aligned between the Conventions (CCM/APMBC) so that States Parties of both are incentivised to invest more efforts in EORE reporting to the Conventions.

Next steps: EORE AG representatives to send comments on the "Guiding questions on the CCM LAP" to Matthieu and Kaitlin by Friday, 5 June. These will then be consolidated and submitted to the Swiss Presidency by the Co-Chairs on 8 June (the deadline) [\[action\]](#).

5. EORE and the Humanitarian Programme Cycle

Christelle provided a brief update on the humanitarian programme cycle, which includes the preparation of humanitarian needs overviews (HNOs) and humanitarian response plans (HRPs). OCHA has not yet sent a calendar for this year's humanitarian programme cycle, but the process has already kicked off in South Sudan and Iraq and Christelle will share the full calendar with the EORE AG once it is ready [\[action\]](#). OCHA is also developing new guidance to complement the HNO/HRP package sent last year, with a focus on improving prioritisation. The EORE AG has a potential role to play in supporting the 16 mine action areas of responsibility (AoRs) in the field to make sure that communities needing risk education are prioritised and targeted.

The MA AoR has also been contacted by several MA field coordinators for guidance on conducting needs assessments. In this regard, IOM and the MA AoR are planning to pilot the Mine Action Field Companion to the IOM-led Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), which includes several relevant questions for EORE, in several countries. So far, Nigeria, Afghanistan and Mali have expressed interest. The MA AoR is also consulting field coordinators to improve the questions on mine action used by REACH for its multisectoral needs assessments to measure severity of humanitarian conditions for protection.

6. Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor Update

Ruth reaffirmed ICBL-CMC's commitment to explore options for reporting on EORE through the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor, and emphasised that it is important this reporting reflect the indicators of the OAP and LAP. She thanked the EORE AG for its helpfulness in sending responses to the questionnaires from country programmes and requested that those representatives who have not done so yet to please share them as soon as possible. In particular, responses would be grateful from DCA, DDG and NPA [\[action\]](#).

7. 1-Year EORE AG Review

Hugues recalled that the EORE AG has now been in existence for a year, and during this short time it has had several notable achievements:

- Adoption of the first annual workplan
- Publication of the EORE Sector Mapping and Needs Analysis
- Successfully advocating for a dedicated section to risk education in the Oslo Action Plan (a first in APMBC history)
- Adoption of an advocacy strategy
- Incorporation of EORE in the Mine Action Field Companion for the IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix
- Establishment of the Regional Durable Solutions Working Group for Syria Workstream on Explosive Hazard Risk Education
- COVID-19 Webinar and resource library
- High profiling in forums like the MASG / Oslo Review Conference / NDM

We would like to know from members – have you seen added value from the AG? Does the AG meet your needs and expectations? If not, what could be changed or done differently?

Due to limited time this discussion could not be facilitated, but written feedback is always welcome [\[action\]](#).

8. AOB

Co-chair selection: No applications have been received for the NGO co-chair position of the EORE AG, so the deadline to express interest has been extended to 30 June. If no applications are received by the new date, MAG will automatically continue as NGO co-chair for the next one year [\[action\]](#).

EORE/COVID-19 Resource Library: Reminder that [this library](#) exists as a resource for exchanging on EORE/COVID-19. Everyone is encouraged to share good practices, SOPs, innovations, etc. for EORE & COVID-19 with the co-chairs for inclusion in the library [\[action\]](#).

IMAS 12.10: It is expected that the revised IMAS on EORE will be ready for vote by the IMAS Review Board in the course of June. Once approved, this will be communicated to the AG and more widely through the iMREWG [\[action\]](#).

APMBC Intersessional Meeting: The draft programme (30 June-2 July) includes a series of panel discussions which address new elements of the Oslo Action Plan that will guide the work in the lead up to the 18th Meeting of States Parties in November 2020. Although EORE is the object of a new section it is not in the agenda. The EORE AG co-chairs, with the support of GICHD, will advocate for EORE to be included [\[action\]](#).

IASC Interim Guidance on Localisation and the COVID-19 Response: Christelle will share this document which references work on risk communication [\[action\]](#).