EORE AG
Explosive Ordnance Risk Education
Advisory Group

Minutes of the EORE AG Meeting

Date: 16 June 2021
Time: 14:00 – 16:00 CEST
Location: Virtual (Zoom)

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

Summary of Decisions

Decision	Yes Votes	No Votes	Abstentions
The AG voted to endorse the concept note for the EORE AG webinar series ("EORE Hour").	10	0	0
The AG voted to accept UNHCR as a core member	9	0	1
The AG voted to appoint Céline Cheng (HI) co-chair for the next year.	10	0	2

Summary of Action Points

Action	Responsible	Suggested Deadline
Work plan implementation		
Amend "EORE Hour" concept note to reflect suggestions and circulate to all members	Secretary	30 June
Provide comments on AG joint statement	All members	17 June
Send Hugues points to highlight for presentation during thematic session on completion and sustainable national capacities	All members	19 June
Circulate information on the Specialisation Programme on Protection Coordination	Secretary	30 June
If not already done, provide updates to ICBL-CMC for reporting in the Landmine & Cluster Munition Monitor reports	All members	ASAP
Draft terms of reference for a digital task team within the AG and seek volunteers	MAG	Q3-Q4
EORE AG governance structure & membership		
Share ideas for the AG's governance structure and membership (see guiding questions on page 7)	All members	Q3

Organise a separate meeting to discuss the AG's governance structure and membership	Co-Chairs	Q3-Q4
AoB		
Share guidance on engaging the media on EORE	UNICEF	

Participants

Core members:

- FSD: Alex van Roy
- GICHD: Matthieu Laruelle
- HALO Trust: Kim Fletcher
- HI: Céline Cheng
- ICBL-CMC: Ruth Bottomley
- MAG: Sebastian Kasack (Co-chair)
- NPA: Alberto Rinaldo Serra (alternate)
- UNDP: Stephen Robinson
- UNICEF: Hugues Laurenge (Co-chair)
- UNMAS: Christelle Loupforest (alternate; also representing MA AoR as observer)

Associate members:

- UNHCR: Houda Chalchoul[1]

Other observers:

- ICRC: Louis Maresca

Detailed Minutes

1. Welcome

Sebastian opened the meeting by giving an overview of the agenda. Some initial updates were provided including that:

- The new proposed dates for the second part of the 2nd Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), postponed from 2020, are between 20-23 September. It is recalled that the EORE AG planned to request a side event in the margins of this event, chaired by the UK Ambassador (President of the CCM for 2021).

---

[1] UNHCR was subsequently voted during the course of the meeting to become a core member

- The side event to the NDM side event on standardising beneficiary definitions set a record for most participants at over 270[2]. Statistics on the EORE AG side event will be requested by Hugues.

2. EORE AG Webinar Series

Kaitlin presented a concept note for an EORE AG webinar series, titled "EORE Hour," in line with the AG's 2021 work plan activity 2.1.3: "Host regular webinar series where EORE practitioners can meet each other and good practices and innovations can be shared."

Several AG members commented that they support the idea, including that the one hour duration is ideal, the workload is not too heavy on hosts, that it is regularly held, and that it maintains an informal spirit. The following suggestions were also made:

- The event should not be forced when there is no volunteer. In that case, the month would just be skipped.

- There should be a high degree of flexibility in the format, including if the host wishes for a longer duration than one hour.

- Topics should not be limited to strictly EORE but could be any topic that is relevant for EORE practitioners.

- Attention should be given to language issues if webinars are hosted by national or regional actors. For example, the platform should be capable of including interpretation.

The concept note will be amended to reflect these suggestions [action]. With that agreed, the AG voted to adopt the concept note and launch the webinar series [decision].

3. APMBC Intersessional Meeting (22-24 June)

Hugues thanked Kim, Ruth, Steve and Céline for drafting a joint statement on behalf of the AG for the upcoming intersessional meeting (IM), as well as members who commented on the statement already. It was agreed to give AG members until the end of the week to provide further comments [action]. It as also accepted that the four co-drafters could agree on a representative among them to read the statement on behalf of the EORE AG.

The following points were also raised regarding the IM:

- Hugues noted that UNICEF had been invited to be part of the thematic session on "Article 5 Completion: Completion and Sustainable National Capacities" (23 June, 16:30 CEST). Hugues had been asked to specifically share lessons learned and good practices in how a State Party should maintain risk education in the case of completion and when unknown minefields are identified. The need for an injury surveillance system would be mentioned. Hugues offered to share the AG perspective as part of this panel and therefore requested members to bilaterally provide any points to highlight by the end of the week [action].

---

[2] 273 unique visitors spent an average of 36 minutes watching.

- Matthieu informed the AG that the Netherlands' Presidency would organise a side event on "Innovation in Mine Risk Education" (23 June, 12:00 CEST). The GICHD had been invited to present the results of its *Review of New Technologies and Methodologies for EORE in Challenging Contexts*, alongside speakers from MAG and IHSCO Iraq.

- Matthieu further noted that the GICHD has systematically incorporated analysis of risk education as part of its comments on extension requests. Christelle expressed an interest in seeing comments on Nigeria and learning more about the process to share feedback. Sebastian explained that organisations are sometimes requested bilaterally to provide feedback, rather than the AG as a collective.

4. Other updates and questions on work plan implementation

Sebastian invited organisations to provide updates on each thematic area of the work plan. These are reflected in the table below.

Org	Activity	Update
1. Quality Management		
MAG	1.1.2	Placing a big impetus on digital EORE, including how it can be measured – using focus group discussions, qualitative and quantitative tools.
GICHD	1.1.1	The working paper on measuring the effectiveness and impact of EORE is being finalised. It should be shared in July and followed by a webinar.
UNICEF	1.1.3	Team in headquarters is working with an RBM specialist on the overarching theory of change, which should be ready in July and will be followed by a webinar later in the year.
	1.4.2	In its May meeting, the IMAS Review Board discussed updating the draft Technical Note on IED Risk Education. It was agreed that there is need to review this. The GICHD will work with UNICEF to propose updates, which will be put forward to the AG for comment.
	1.5.2	A decision is pending on whether this year's edition of the UNICEF-led trainings on Effective EORE and Integrated Mine Action, held annually in Spiez, can be maintained. They had to be suspended last year as a result of the pandemic. In worst case scenario, they will be postponed to 2022.
HALO	1.3.3	As part of a HALO project in Iraq, a paper is being drafted on using a barrier analysis approach that will be shared with the AG.
	1.1.2	Currently trying to shift away from measuring community behaviour through focus group discussions and instead incorporating behavioural questions into 6-month retention surveys in Afghanistan, Somalia/Somaliland and Ukraine. Can write a brief on experiences with that but will be another 6 months before the data is available. Will also put something together on the endline barrier analysis and whether/how questions on barriers can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the campaign.
NPA	1.1.2	Implementing digital and remote EORE in Iraq; will get in touch with programme to see if have something that can contribute.
2. Cooperation		
AG	2.2 / 2.2.1	Made a big push for localisation through the side event organised by the AG for 24NDM by spotlighting the work of local and community-based

		organisations. AG members provided support for translation and subtitling.
UNDP	2.1.2 / 2.2	Starting to implement a project on adaptive management using feedback loops with communities, academia and a range of stakeholders. UNDP will update the AG on progress of the pilot.
UNICEF	2.1.1	The online repository is in UNICEF's work plan. The current iMREWG (to be renamed) will be the basis for this repository, which will include migrating all other similar libraries (e.g. COVID-19, risk communication and community engagement, Spiez courses).
	2.1.4	A workshop on digital EORE – with the purpose of taking stock and envisaging a regular course on the topic – is planned for December, contingent on the health situation. The GICHD has agreed to co-lead it with UNICEF.
HALO	2.1.2	In partnership with UNICEF, are currently using virtual reality in Ukraine. Can put together some lessons learned from that experience.
	2.1.5	Would be very interested in helping get the brief going on core/standard messaging.
3. Integration & Syngergies		
GICHD	3.1.1	Learning from other sectors was a focus of the GICHD webinars on Digging Deeper through Behaviour Change and Going Digital earlier this year.
MA AoR / UNMAS / GICHD	3.2.2 / 3.2.3	A Specialisation Programme on Protection Coordination is being launched by the Global Protection Cluster (GPC), in collaboration with all of the areas of responsibility including the MA AoR. The MA AoR has worked to ensure that EORE is well-represented in the training programme, including the inclusion of the EORE Essentials e-learning introduction as a mandatory component. Christelle will provide more information that can be circulated to the AG **[action]**. Already 135 people have registered.
UNHCR	3.2.2	Have developed a protection in armed conflict toolkit that will be launched during the upcoming Centre of Competence Humanitarian Negotiation World Summit. There are some sections on mine action activities, for which more EORE inputs could be made including introducing the EORE AG. The latest version can be shared if there is interest in the AG.
	3.2.2	UNHCR focal point for regional protection in the Sahel is interested to discuss opportunities to replicate last year's initiative with the Regional Durable Solutions Working Group for Syria. A call is being organised.
	3.2.2	Discussions are under way for the inclusion of EORE material in the voluntary repatriation package for Nagorna-Karabach.
UNICEF	3.2.2	Have developed a [child protection playlist](#) that includes concrete action and learning tools for EORE. There have already been more than 1,160 enrollments, 90% of which are from outside UNICEF.
4. Information Management		
MAG	4.1.1	In the May meeting of the IMAS Review Board, it was agreed that IMAS 5.10 will be updated to reflect the standardised beneficiary definitions and that it will be accompanied with a technical note. Can also see that

		countries are codifying the definitions in their NMAS and some donors are pushing for them to be used in their grant agreements. There is still need to discuss some points, like difficulties measuring media and radio coverage.
GICHD	4.1.1	Systematically mainstreaming EORE in the work of the centre, including involvement in strategic planning processes with national authorities like Afghanistan, Iraq and Vietnam. As part of this, the GICHD has advocated for the use of the standardised EORE beneficiary definitions to improve monitoring and reporting.
5. Advocacy & Policy		
ICBL-CMC	5.1.4	Thanks to everyone who has provided information on EORE so far. While less information has been received this year than last, this may be the nature of things since only updates are needed and circumstances may not have changed. There is still time to provide updates so contact Ruth directly ASAP if not done already [action]. Four fact sheets have been developed: one explicitly focused on risk education, and three others with risk education mainstreamed (on children, gender and improvised mines). Article 5 extension requests are also being reviewed to check whether States Parties have provided detailed, costed risk education plans.
	5.2.1	Reporting on risk education funding trends is still planned for this year, but not many more donors are disaggregating their risk education funding.

5. Establishment of a task team on digital EORE

Sebastian proposed the establishment of a task team on digital EORE under the frame of the AG. No objections were given and it was agreed that the task team can be established. MAG will draft terms of reference and look into who wishes to participate [action].

6. Presentation & voting on new AG co-chair

Hugues informed the AG that an expression of interest had been received from HI (Céline) to take over the co-chairing role from MAG (Sebastian). Céline presented HI's candidature, which builds on its Comprehensive Approach to Mine Action that incorporates armed violence reduction activities addressing forced and reckless risk-taking behaviours. HI is interested in particular with increasing the use of human-centred design, strengthening meaningful engagement, making EORE more disability inclusive and exploring how EORE and risk education on small arms and light weapons contribute to conflict transformation . Céline further explained that, if selected, she would serve as principal focal point but would also have the backing of several colleagues in the Armed Violence Reduction (AVR) division of HI working on land release, victim assistance, conflict transformation, quality management and innovation.

Prior to voting on the co-chair selection, Hugues raised the question of whether UNHCR should be upgraded from associate to core member status. Houda affirmed that UNHCR was interested in becoming a core member, and Kaitlin confirmed UNHCR's eligibility based on their implementation of EORE activities. AG members voted to accept UNHCR as a core member effective immediately [decision].

Following this, AG core members voted to appoint Céline (HI) co-chair for the next year **[decision]** and participants congratulated Céline on the start of her tenure.

7. Discussion on AG governance structure and membership

Hugues explained that the IMAS governance structure was recently subject to an external review and is now undergoing several reforms to make it more equitable and free from conflicts of interest. For example, the IMAS Review Board chair from UNMAS no longer has voting rights and instead UNMAS is permitted to have a separate representative with voting rights. The IMAS Steering Group has also invited national mine action authorities (NMAAs) to nominate a representative to join the SG.

While the AG will not be commissioning an external review, it is the right moment for a conversation within the group on whether and how its terms of reference should be reformed. This is foreseen for Q2-Q3 in the AG's work plan (activity 6.3.1). To launch this discussion, Hugues gave an overview of the existing TOR of the AG, including governance and membership structures. The following guiding questions were posed:

- Is the AG's current governance structure and membership fit for purpose? Should anything be adjusted?

- Should the AG move to a biannual work plan?

- How can the involvement of NMAAs be strengthened?

- Should there be a participation requirement for members?

- Does the co-chair role need to be de-conflicted?

The floor was then opened for initial comments:

- Christelle noted that the MA AoR is also undergoing a strategy review through which its governance is being examined.

- Sebastian raised the question of how many members is feasible to manage. The answer to this question would influence how possible it is to open membership to NMAAs, donors, etc. Other members agreed, while Matthieu also emphasised that there is a need to strike a balance between limiting numbers to be manageable while also opening the AG to de-silo EORE and contribute to our objectives (which include greater integration and synergies). Ultimately, the AG is the sum of the collective efforts of its individual members who make up the group and engage in a sustainable way.

For time reasons, the discussion had to be closed here, however a suggestion was made to have a separate meeting dedicated to this topic. It was agreed that the group's terms of reference would be circulated following this meeting, and that members are invited to share their ideas **[action]**. A separate meeting could be organised in the medium-term so that the discussion is advanced this year.

8. AOB

Christelle flagged that UNMAS has recently had to write multiple complaints to major global media outlets following their publication of photographs of children playing with explosives. The question was raised whether the AG has recommendations for engaging the media. Hugues noted that UNICEF has guidance that can be shared **[action]** and that it could also be tabled as a topic for a future meeting or potentially webinar.

Finally, as the meeting was the last one co-chaired by Sebastian, the AG joined together to thank him for his two years of leadership. His passion for EORE, dedication to the group, enthusiasm and guidance were celebrated for getting the AG off to a great start in its foundational first two years.

Addendum from 15 July 2021

The following decision has been taken via email vote:

Decision	Yes Votes	No Votes	Abstentions
The AG voted to endorse the Introduction to EORE Essentials e-learning course.	12	0	0