

CCM THEMATIC WORKING GROUP ON RISK EDUCATION

WORK PLAN 2024 -2025

Lao PDR

1. Enhancing risk education in the CCM up to the 13MSP

a- Appointment of a risk education coordinator at the 12MSP

The 12MSP to the CCM marked a significant milestone in addressing the issue of risk education under the CCM. For the first time in the Convention's history, States Parties made the decision to decouple risk education from clearance and appoint a dedicated risk education coordinator within the CCM machinery. This decision came as a result of a working paper titled "Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) in the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)" (document [CCM/MSP/2024/WP.1](#)) submitted by Norway and Italy, the 2023-2024 Coordinators of the Working Group on Clearance and Risk Reduction. The appointment of a dedicated risk education coordinator serves several important purposes:

- **Enhanced effectiveness:** It aims to improve the overall effectiveness of efforts to address risk education issues within the framework of the CCM.
- **Increased focus:** By separating risk education from clearance in the agenda of future MSPs, the convention recognizes the distinct importance of EORE.
- **Improved monitoring and exchange of practices:** The coordinator will facilitate more effective monitoring of the indicators outlined in the LAP and the exchange of practices.

By elevating risk education in its machinery and proceedings, the CCM has established a strong legacy, set a precedent for Conventions to follow and, most importantly, contribute significantly towards preventing the tragic consequences for civilians of the use of explosive ordnance.

b- The humanitarian impact of cluster munitions

The [Cluster Munition Monitor 2024](#) reports that the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions has remained severe, posing multiple threats to civilian populations. Cluster munition remnants generate civilian casualties and create long-lasting danger e.g. infrastructure like schools and hospitals suffers direct damage impeding access to basic services and contaminated agricultural land threatens food security in affected regions.

Risk education interventions are key protection activities in emergencies, during, and after conflicts. They play a vital role in raising awareness of dangers posed by explosive ordnance and promoting long-term behavioural change. They must be rooted in a thorough understanding of the context, including the types of explosive ordnance threatening communities and the behaviours of at-risk groups.

c- Risk education in international standards and the CCM

- Good practice for effective and efficient risk education is codified in the International Mine Action Standard on explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) [series 12.10](#). It is complemented by a Technical Note on risk education for improvised explosive devices (RE for IEDs), [series 12.10/01](#).
- **Article 4** paragraph 2 of the CCM, states that "In fulfilling its obligations under paragraph 1

of this Article, each State Party shall take the following measures as soon as possible ...”:

- survey, assess and record the threat.
- ensure the effective exclusion of civilians from all cluster munition contaminated areas, including by perimeter-marking, monitoring, and fencing or other means.
- conduct *risk reduction education* to ensure awareness among civilians living in or around cluster munition contaminated areas of the risks posed by such remnants.
- assess and prioritize needs in terms of marking, protection of civilians, clearance and destruction.

d- Risk education in the Lausanne Action Plan (LAP)

To guide States Parties in the effective implementation of the Convention, the Second Review Conference adopted the five-year LAP for the period 2021-2026. Mirroring the decision taken in the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Oslo Action Plan, CCM States Parties created a dedicated section VI on risk education in the LAP with **actions 27 to 30** and **action 24** that requires States Parties to include a costed risk education plan in extension requests, ensuring that risk education activities are adequately planned and resourced throughout the extension period.

2. Activities

This workplan marks a significant milestone as the first risk education-specific plan under the CCM. It establishes ambitious goals to promote risk education by drawing on a wealth of resources. The plan leverages the expertise of the EORE Advisory Group, a platform comprising over 18 organizations committed to elevating the profile and professionalizing EORE. Additionally, it utilizes existing resources and guidance on best practices, as well as Lao PDR's extensive experience in risk education. With these valuable assets at hand, the risk education coordinator will organize a series of activities designed to advance the objectives of this pioneering workplan:

- Tracking and trend analysis of dedicated funding to risk education:

Funding dedicated to risk education constituted only 1% of the overall mine action funding in 2022. In order to raise awareness on EORE funding, the following avenues could be explored:

- Explore with UK as the current chair of the Global Mine Action Support Group (MASG) the possibility to discuss funding levels for EORE at one of the next MASG meetings.
 - Facilitate a meeting with donors and affected States in Geneva to share progress achieved in the EORE sector and address funding challenges.
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- Support and participate in the work of the Analysis Group on Article 4 extension requests providing guidance and strategy with regards to EORE.
 - Will encourage State parties with article 4 obligations to report on EORE separately and include aspects related to gender, age, disability and diversity in their risk education programs, highlighting the importance of risk education as a priority
 - Will empower synergies with other thematic coordinators within the CCM, especially international cooperation and assistance and gender, as well as relevant stakeholders: donor and partner states, international organizations, non governmental organizations and civil society.

- Stakeholders dialogue on EORE

The RE coordinator, with the support of the ISU and other partners, will convene a group of stakeholders to discuss emerging risk education challenges across disarmament conventions.

- EORE Hour webinar

The RE coordinator will submit a proposal to the EORE Advisory Group Secretariat to host an EORE Hour webinar to discuss risk education within the framework of the CCM. Tentative co-panelists could be States Parties Lebanon, Somalia and the Philippines.

- Side event on EORE at the 13MSP

The RE coordinator will host a side event at the 13MSP to take stock of EORE progress made under the CCM during the Presidency. The side event will bring together national mine action authorities, national and international operators, civil society, and donors.

- 13MSP documents

The RE coordinator will draft a working document on risk education for the 13MSP as well as the risk education section of the 13MSP progress report.

3. Workplan implementers and supporting partners

- a. Lao PDR as RE coordinator
- b. The ISU CCM
- c. National Mine Action Authorities of CCM States Parties
- d. International organizations and national/international NGOs specializing in risk education (GICHD, EORE Advisory Group)

4. Timeline of the activities up the 13MSP

First quarter

- Presentation of workplan to the Coordination Committee

Second quarter

- EORE Hour in coordination with the EORE AG
- Stakeholders dialogue on EORE
- Drafting the risk education section of the 13MSP progress report (presentation of the implementation of recommendations as contained in CCM/MSP/2024/WP.1)

Third quarter

- Final review and submission of the progress report if necessary
- Preparation for the 13MSP
- EORE side event at the 13MSP

5. Resources

- "Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) in the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)" (document [CCM/MSP/2024/WP.1](#))
- [International Mine Action Standard on EORE](#)
- [Technical Note on RE for IEDs](#)
- [EORE Hour](#), a monthly webinar for EORE practitioners and the disarmament community
- EORE Advisory Group [website](#)
- GICHD [resource library](#)
- Introduction to [EORE e-learning](#) (60min online course)