



EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION

Sector mapping and needs analysis:
summary of key findings and calls for action



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) expresses its utmost gratitude to the people and institutions that so generously collaborated to produce the mapping exercise by sharing data, experiences, and feedback. The study has been conducted by Audrey Torrecilla, independent consultant, and Matthieu Laruelle, GICHD EORE programme manager. The publication was made possible with the financial support provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway. The opinions, findings, and conclusions stated herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway.

This reader-friendly summary distills the full report into bite-sized content, focusing on essential points. Recognising that time is often limited, this condensed version aims to provide readers with key findings and calls for action at a glance.

GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING

Explosive ordnance risk education sector mapping and needs analysis: **summary** of key findings and calls for action.

GICHD, Geneva, 2024

©GICHD

Cover photos:

Top left: Innovation conference 2023 ©GICHD

Top middle: Some of the EORE sessions in Yemen take place in classrooms, homes or, in this case, simply under a tree. This photo was taken during the visit of the DRC Secretary General. 2021, Mawza – Yemen. DRC. ©Mario Quiñones

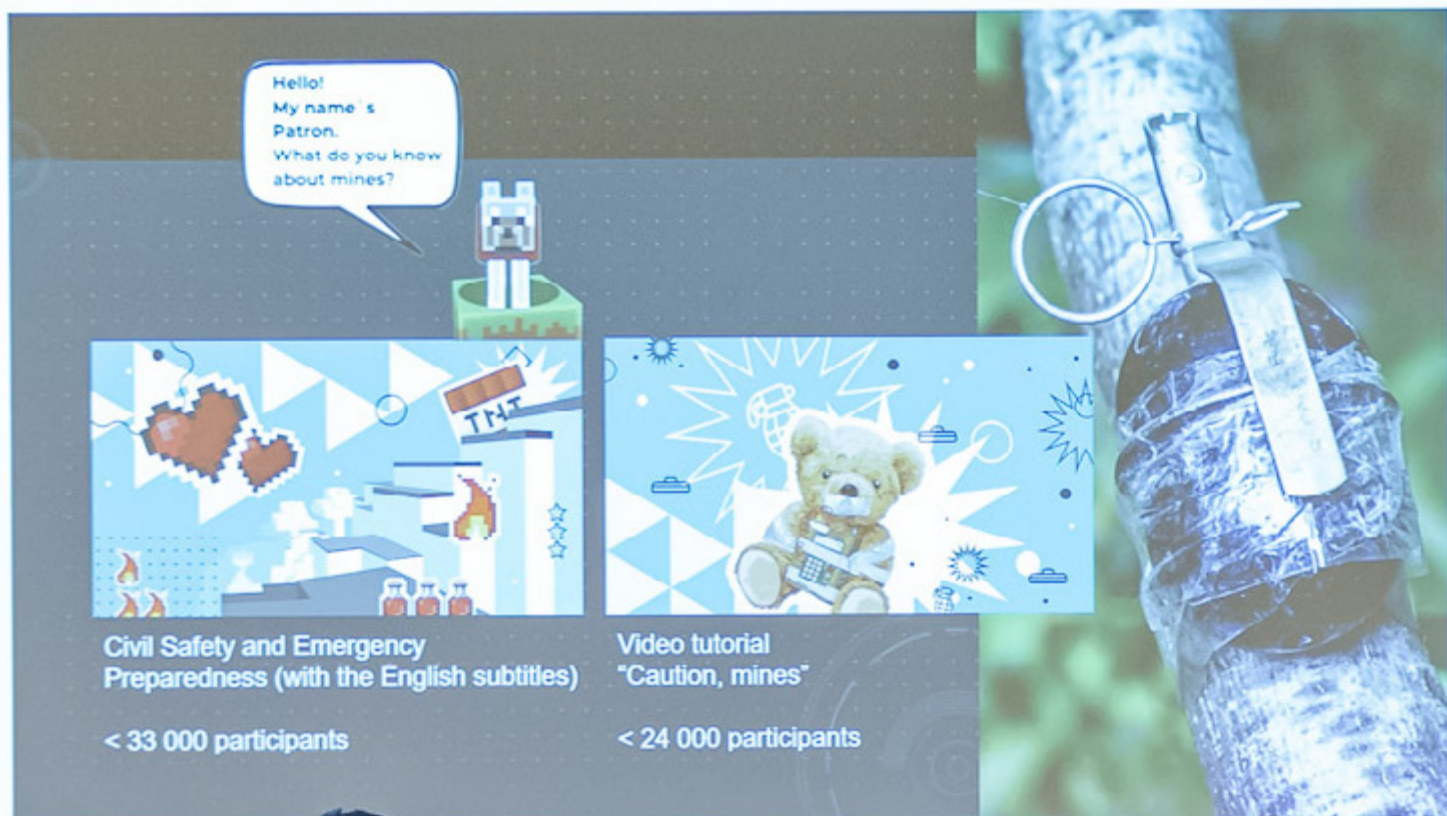
Top right: The GICHD Francophone Regional Cooperation Programme workshop at CPADD—in Ouidah, Benin, 2023 ©GICHD

Bottom left: EORE Regional Workshop with ARMAC, 2023 ©GICHD

Bottom right: GICHD's visit to Cambodia, 2022 ©GICHD

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| Abbreviations and acronyms. | 3 |
| Executive summary. | 4 |
| Advocacy, policy, and funding as catalysts for promoting EORE. | 6 |
| Raising the profile of EORE in disarmament conventions. | 7 |
| Funding dynamics for EORE. | 8 |
| The localisation challenge. | 9 |
| Integration for more effective risk reduction. | 10 |
| The role of EORE in broader mine action programmes. | 11 |
| Advocating for EORE in global agendas. | 12 |
| Operational integration of EORE with other sectors. | 13 |
| Advancing EORE: resources, professionalisation, and technical leadership. | 14 |
| Available resources and standards. | 15 |
| Professionalisation in progress. | 16 |
| Technical and thematic leadership and guidance. | 17 |
| Progress and challenges in quality and results-based management. | 18 |
| Remaining challenges in needs assessment. | 19 |
| Increased but uneven quality management. | 20 |
| Better standardised and transparent M&E. | 21 |
| Towards a more collaborative, inclusive, and innovative sector. | 22 |
| A better collaborative and coordinated sector. | 23 |
| Enhanced gender and age inclusion; disability still lagging. | 24 |
| An innovative and adaptative sector. | 25 |



ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

| | | | |
|----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| APMBC | Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention | NMAA | National mine action authority |
| CCM | Convention on Cluster Munitions | NMAC | National mine action centre |
| CPP | Conflict preparedness and protection | NMAS | National mine action standards |
| DTM | Displacement Tracking Matrix | NPA | Norwegian People's Aid |
| EO | Explosive ordnance | NTS | Non-technical survey |
| EOD | Explosive ordnance disposal | QA | Quality assurance |
| EORE | Explosive ordnance risk education | QC | Quality control |
| EORE AG | EORE Advisory Group | QM | Quality management |
| EWIPA | Explosive weapons in populated areas | RBM | Results-based management |
| GICHD | Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining | SBCC | Social behaviour and change communication |
| IMAS | International Mine Action Standards | SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| IMREWG | International Mine Risk Education Working Group | T&EP | Test and Evaluation Protocol |
| IOM | International Organization for Migration | ToC | Theory of Change |
| LAP | Lausanne Action Plan | UNHCR | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| M&E | Monitoring and evaluation | UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| MA AoR | Mine Action Area of Responsibility | VA | Victim assistance |
| MAG | Mines Advisory Group | | |
| MEAL | Monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning | | |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2024 explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) sector mapping and needs analysis builds upon the foundational work of an initial report¹ published by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) in December 2019. This follow-up mapping looks at progress achieved over the past five years and offers strategic insights to shape future priorities and programming. Employing a diverse methodological approach, including surveys, interviews, and desk reviews, the report highlights findings and good practices across critical areas, providing a picture of achievements since the first mapping, and identifying actionable recommendations for stakeholders. This document is a condensed version of the full report, highlighting key findings and calls for action. It is designed to help readers quickly grasp essential points and encourage their uptake.

The report confirms that policy advancements and advocacy efforts have elevated the EORE sector's standing both in the mine action sector and beyond. EORE is increasingly acknowledged not only as a temporary reactive response in emergencies and post-conflict environments but also as an effective measure to mitigate explosive ordnance risks in land release phases and across contexts – including post completion. This heightened prominence is attributed to two key factors: the substantial collective advocacy efforts of EORE actors and the evolving global landscape characterised by increased conflicts. The 2023 report of the United Nations Secretary-General – Assistance in mine action, highlighted the critical role of EORE in civilian protection. The report also recognised the EORE Advisory Group (AG) as a pivotal global collaborative platform for sector guidance and a replicable model for other sectors.²

Achievements highlighted in this report include the following:

- EORE is increasingly acknowledged as an entry point in mine action, enhancing and serving as a precondition for successful land release and victim assistance.
- Integration of EORE into global agendas and other sectors has progressed.
- New guidance and resources have contributed to greater standardisation and professionalisation of the EORE sector.
- The sector has demonstrated remarkable innovation and responsiveness in addressing recent crises and challenges.
- Notable improvements in gender and age-sensitive EORE programming and reporting are apparent.

This mapping also identifies the following areas for improvement in the EORE sector:

- Operationalisation of risk education actions in the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) action plans as well as adaptation of their respective machineries to advance risk education commitments;
- Increased sustainable and earmarked funding;
- More effective coordination and collaboration mechanisms at the country level;
- Enhanced and funded integrated approaches to support risk reduction;
- Sustained technical guidance and sector leadership;
- Improved diversity- and disability-sensitive approaches;
- Strengthened quality and results-based management systems.

A crucial objective of this report is to generate strategic discussions among stakeholders on EORE within their respective contexts, organisations, and roles, enabling them to take informed actions. As the international mine action community prepares for the CCM Twelfth Meeting of States Parties and the APMBC Fifth Review Conference (5RC), this mapping links each key finding with specific calls for action. These are directed at various stakeholders, including donors, operators, national mine action authorities, and the EORE AG. The aim is to address sector challenges and opportunities, further elevate EORE's global profile, and enhance its impact and quality.

1 GICHD (2019), [Explosive Ordnance Risk Education - Sector Mapping and Needs Analysis](#).

2 "I am grateful for the work of the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group, and I encourage the creation of similar alliances of organisations to raise the profile of victim assistance interventions and ensure that the human rights and needs of victims of explosive ordnance are more systematically met." See United Nations Report of the Secretary-General (July 2023), [UN General Assembly - Assistance in mine action](#), pp. 6–7, and 16.

As part of this mapping exercise, interviewees were asked to share their visions for sector improvements if given a “magic wand” – the ability to enact immediate and impactful changes. With Cambodia hosting the upcoming APMBC 5RC in November 2024, a representative from the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority provided an inspiring response:



“If I had a magic wand, I would ensure universal recognition of the essential role of EORE, with consistent and sustainable support. Communities would also receive timely and effective information about potential dangers, ensuring their safety and awareness. Perhaps we don’t need a magic wand after all. We should all continue our efforts to advocate for and mobilise resources for EORE.”



The GICHD Francophone Regional Cooperation Programme (FRCP) workshop at CPADD—in Ouidah, Benin, October 2023 ©GICHD



The Innovation Conference 2023, November 2023 ©GICHD/Antoine Tardy



ADVOCACY, POLICY, AND FUNDING AS CATALYSTS FOR PROMOTING EORE

EORE has consolidated as a crucial pillar within the mine action sector, gaining increased recognition from affected countries, mine action organisations, donors and other sectors alike (i.e. protection, education, social and behaviour change) in the past five years. EORE is now better acknowledged not only as a temporary reactive response in emergencies and post-conflict environments but also as an effective measure to mitigate explosive ordnance (EO) risks across contexts – including residual contamination – and land release phases (i.e. non-technical survey, technical survey and clearance). Although challenges remain, this increased visibility and recognition of EORE at global policy and operational levels is the result of advocacy efforts led by multiple stakeholders which started ahead of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) Fourth Review Conference in 2019.

► RAISING THE PROFILE OF EORE IN DISARMAMENT CONVENTIONS

FINDINGS



The inclusion of dedicated risk education chapters in the five-year action plans of the APMBC and Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) has significantly repositioned risk education as a key pillar in the mine action sector. However, the momentum gained at the adoption of these plans has not been consistently maintained in convention meetings, statements, and side events. To enhance the focus on risk education, it is crucial for the convention machinery to appoint a dedicated risk education coordinator and to include a separate agenda item on risk education in all meetings. Currently, the structures and mechanisms of the conventions do not adequately emphasise EORE, leading to its limited representation in formal meetings and in coordination committees.



“The Oslo Action Plan and Lausanne Action Plan brought a greater level of attention of States Parties to risk education. It was clear risk education was not just the tail end of clearance and surveys, it shifted the focus to risk education requiring integration and more holistic approaches. It brought together States Parties, operators, and global strategic players in synergy. Now, more states are focused on risk education, they see the results of the actions taken. There is a greater professionalisation of the sector and coordination.”

International Organisation, HQ

CALLS FOR ACTION



States Parties:

- Report comprehensively on risk education in reports relating to Article 7 of the APMBC and CCM; systematically include detailed, costed, and multi-year risk education plans in Article 5 APMBC and Article 4 CCM extension requests;
- Maintain a section dedicated to EORE in conventions' action plans;
- Appoint a dedicated State Party as risk education coordinator or champion within APMBC and CCM structures to sustain momentum, capitalise on achievements, and monitor progress;
- Separate risk education from clearance in convention meeting agendas, starting with the CCM Twelfth Meeting of States Parties (12MSP) (September 2024) and the APMBC Fifth Review Conference (November 2024) to elevate visibility and foster focused discussions;
- Lead plenary sessions and side events and deliver statements on risk education;
- Include a strategic goal/objective on EORE in national mine action strategies with a results framework.

Donors:

- Incorporate specific indicators in calls for proposals to align with convention action plans;
- Track and report contributions and progress against action plan indicators.

Operators and national mine action authorities (NMAAs):

- Improve dissemination and operationalisation of convention action plans to ensure uptake of good practice and implementation of risk education commitments;
- Brief diplomats and donor staff regularly on risk education;
- Equip relevant staff and local organisations in advocacy and policy skills through the delivery of training initiatives and packages.

EORE Advisory Group (AG):

- Support the dissemination and operationalisation of convention action plans;
- Continue advocacy and policy efforts for increased EORE recognition and visibility in conventions.

► FUNDING DYNAMICS FOR EORE

FINDINGS:



Despite the EORE sector gaining significant momentum since 2019 and an increase in emergencies necessitating EORE interventions, this has not translated into improved funding to the sector. Operators have resorted to resource optimisation strategies and alternative funding sources to mitigate operational shortfalls. There is a growing demand to enhance resource mobilisation strategies for affected states through convention mechanisms and relevant national and global platforms.



“One of the things we want to focus on is that more funding is needed for EORE. More competence and capacity is needed for risk education, to educate people about what it entails ... it has been treated as a less important topic. We need to showcase how EORE can be done, for example through success stories, etc. I do think, – I can only speak from a Geneva perspective –, that many diplomats come from different backgrounds, a lot haven’t worked in mine action before. I think it is more a lack of knowledge about EORE rather than EORE not being a priority.”

Donor

CALLS FOR ACTION:



Donors:

- Discuss EORE in the Mine Action Support Group (MASG) more regularly;³
- Increase long-term and predictable funding sources that ensure continuity of EORE interventions;
- Set a percentage of dedicated funding for EORE;
- Report funding for clearance and risk education separately, when feasible;
- Consider funding EORE as part of wider funding schemes (i.e. education, protection).

NMAAs:

- Recognise the centrality of EORE in mine action programmes;
- Request cooperation and assistance by demonstrating progress and evidencing needs through APMBC and CCM Article 7 reports – depending on membership;
- Leverage APMBC individualised approaches and CCM country coalition mechanisms to support resource mobilisation for EORE;⁴
- Develop resource mobilisation opportunities by convening operators and donors in country.

Operators:

- Explore alternative funding streams from both mine action and non-mine action donors;
- Document and showcase the impact of EORE programmes in national, regional and global forums to support resource mobilisation efforts;
- Dedicate specific modules to resource mobilisation in training initiatives and packages to further strengthen these efforts;
- Strengthen resource mobilisation capacities of key in-country staff and local organisations;

EORE AG:

- Identify, report and advocate to bridge critical funding gaps;
- Facilitate with the Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR) regular meetings with donors and affected states to share progress achieved in the EORE sector and address funding challenges;
- Develop guidance on accounting and measuring EORE efforts;
- Finalise and disseminate the global EORE Theory of Change led by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF);
- Support capacity development efforts in resource mobilisation through global guidance.

³ The MASG aims to coordinate the humanitarian mine action efforts of major donor countries, align priorities of their mine action programmes, and boost donor support for mine action in critical areas. See UN Mine Action, [The Mine Action Support Group \(MASG\)](#).

⁴ Following the same principles as those of the individualised approach, country coalitions are national platforms allowing dialogue and collaboration between States Parties, donors and operators to fulfil CCM obligations. See CCM Implementation Support Unit (2023), [Country Coalitions to promote the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions \(CCM\)](#).



Digital EORE Workshop, 2022 ©GICHD

► THE LOCALISATION CHALLENGE

FINDINGS:



Localisation is crucial for sustainable and community-owned EORE initiatives. While limited funding is a barrier, international stakeholders also have perception-based concerns about partnering with local organisations and authorities, such as financial, legal and operational risks, negatively impacting national capacity and resource transfer processes.



“Localising EORE initiatives ensures they meet the specific needs of local communities in a sustainable way. Donors, UN agencies and international NGOs can play a vital role in supporting knowledge transfer and capacity building.”

NMAA

CALLS FOR ACTION:



Donors:⁵

- Support international NGO (INGO) projects contributing to localisation and national ownership;
- Include evidence-based risk mitigation measures in partnership agreements;
- Adapt funding strategies to ensure long-term support to localisation processes;
- Gradually increase direct funding to local and national organisations;
- Exchange good practices on localisation funding with other donors.

NMAAs:

- Facilitate the integration of EORE into government systems and policies;
- Encourage and facilitate knowledge transfer and capacity development from INGOs to NGOs;
- Share and promote successful local initiatives in global forums to influence localisation processes.

International operators:

- Enhance community-led risk management by providing training and resources to communities;
- Ensure global guidance and resources are disseminated at national and local levels;
- Build local and national capacity at technical and project management levels;
- Develop and implement clear exit strategies for anticipated funding gaps, gradually transferring ownership and decision-making from INGOs to national partners;
- Encourage and foster involvement of local partners in global initiatives.

EORE AG:

- Contribute to documenting and showcasing EORE localisation good practices;
- “Localise the global”: give a voice to local actors in global forums, events and guidance.

⁵ See also OECD (2017), [Localising the response](#), pp. 8–13.

INTEGRATION FOR MORE EFFECTIVE RISK REDUCTION



Following progress made at advocacy and policy levels, the mapping indicates that EORE is increasingly and more effectively integrated within mine action and other sectors:

- National mine action authorities (NMAAs) and operators reported growing synergies with non-technical survey (NTS), clearance operations and victim assistance (VA), with explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) serving as a key entry point and an enhancer of effectiveness and efficiency;
- Holistic approaches with wider sectors like protection, health, and education contribute to risk reduction strategies addressing intentional or forced risky behaviours towards explosive ordnance (EO).

► THE ROLE OF EORE IN BROADER MINE ACTION PROGRAMMES

FINDINGS:



The sector increasingly recognises the role that EORE plays in supporting survey, marking, clearance, and victim assistance by building trust with communities. This integration has led to more successful EO reporting, improved explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) response, and enhanced victim identification and referral processes.

When operators and NMAAs allocate adequate attention and resources to EORE, they can build strong trust-based relationships with communities. In Bosnia and Herzegovina for instance, EORE activities have helped communities regain trust in the safe use of cleared land, fostering cooperation and support for ongoing mine action efforts.



“I come from an EOD background, and I realised I was wrong that EORE was somehow not enough. I don’t feel that it was perceived as of vital importance, included at operational level. It has now become clearer to me that EORE has a very specific role; it is a useful activity to deliver as a first response, with a quick effect, as opposed to removing EO from the ground that requires a lot of time and money. This may also be due to the way the donor landscape has changed. Perhaps the donors perceive more value than they did before in the past 2–3 years ... EORE is easier to fund than supporting full-scale clearance.”

International NGO (INGO), HQ

CALLS FOR ACTION:



Donors:

- Prioritise funding for integrated mine action approaches, while ensuring adequate funding specifically for EORE to maintain quality and coverage.

Operators/NMAAs:

- Continue to implement EORE/land release/VA integrated approaches;
- Equip multi-task teams (MTT), EOD and VA teams with skills and knowledge in EORE for ad-hoc or more systematic field implementation;
- Ensure that delivery of EORE by MTT, EOD and VA teams is submitted to regular quality management;
- Develop EORE teams’ capacities in VA (victim identification, collection of casualty data, and referral);
- Document and share success in integrated approaches to support resource mobilisation;
- Share good practice on holistic approaches with the sector to help improve risk reduction for intentional and forced unsafe behaviours;
- Standardise and conceptualise holistic approaches to streamline EORE activities within organisations and its effective integration with other forms of assistance.

EORE Advisory Group (AG):

- Promote integrated and holistic approaches in relevant forums using concrete case studies;
- Contribute to global guidance on integrated approaches and effective risk reduction in mine action.



► ADVOCATING FOR EORE IN GLOBAL AGENDAS

FINDINGS:

Action 28 of the Oslo Action Plan and Action 27 of the Lausanne Action Plan call for further integration of risk education into wider humanitarian, development, human rights, environmental, protection and education efforts. However, a stronger mutual understanding between EORE and these sectors is still needed. To achieve this integration, a two-way conversation must occur at global, regional, and national levels and sustained advocacy efforts are required.

“We have a very strong protection agenda. To us, if civil society and civilians in affected areas can avoid harm from explosive ordnance and weapons through EORE, it is just as important as clearing explosive ordnance.”

Donor



“To cope with the shrinking of funding, the key is to integrate EORE with wider approaches. However, when some donors see integrated EORE, they come to us and say ‘this is not us, this is for other donors’. We have to change the mindset, and promote integrated approaches with donors, include it in our advocacy strategy”.

INGO, West Africa

CALLS FOR ACTION:



Operators/UN Agencies/Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR):

- Find opportunities for integration with broader agendas (human rights, disaster risk reduction, education in emergencies, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Women, Peace and Security);
- Document, share, and showcase concrete examples of integrated approaches to inspire others and leverage them for advocacy efforts;
- Continue to implement and document EORE/conflict preparedness and protection (CPP) approaches and their importance in the use of explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA);
- Strengthen operational and global synergies between EORE and other protection agendas;
- Elevate EORE at the UN Global Protection Cluster (GPC) annual conference to foster practical synergies;
- Develop collaboration with other Areas of Responsibility and clusters.

EORE AG:

- Support and amplify advocacy efforts and EORE integration in global agendas beyond conventions;
- Contribute to documenting effective and successful integration in global agendas and other sectors;
- Ensure the EORE AG regularly delivers reports and presents decisions and guidance notes to the MA AoR for transmission to the GPC, as mentioned in the EORE AG Terms of Reference.

► OPERATIONAL INTEGRATION OF EORE WITH OTHER SECTORS

FINDINGS:



Operational integration of EORE with other sectors serves several purposes – to deliver risk education with fewer resources, expand its outreach, and provide alternatives to intentional or forced risky behaviours. Efforts in advocacy, resource mobilisation, and coordination should be sustained to foster and enhance partnerships and synergies.



“EORE allows us to connect with other needs that are not necessarily addressed in mine action ... It promotes alternatives to unsafe behaviour.”

INGO, Middle East



“We are working on disaster risk reduction, also on protection, so these are ideal sectors for mainstreaming EORE. We are also working on gender-based violence (GBV), water, sanitation and hygiene, health and nutrition. We have not said we are mainstreaming risk education to our current donors. However, we still record and report our EORE beneficiaries to the sector”.

Local organisation, Nigeria

CALLS FOR ACTION:



Donors:

- Include EORE in broader non-mine action funding schemes to make it a regular practice rather than an exception;
- Ensure EORE receives dedicated funding as part of broader funding schemes;
- Encourage consortia between mine action and non-mine action stakeholders to foster operational synergies and knowledge management.

Other sectors:

- Integrate EORE e-learning courses into relevant communities of practice, resource libraries, and training sessions across organisations to enhance awareness of EORE;
- Participate in MA AoR and/or EORE working groups in countries to foster collaboration;
- Invite EORE operators and NMAAs to Areas of Responsibility beyond mine action (i.e. child protection, Housing, Land and Property and GBV) or cluster coordination meetings (protection, health, education etc.);
- Identify and foster operational synergies with EORE.

Operators/NMAAs:

- Foster partnerships between EORE operators and stakeholders from migration, education, health, disaster risk reduction, and protection sectors such as the International Organization for Migration's (IOM's) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM);
- Explore opportunities for integration and synergies, particularly in cross-border and regional approaches;
- Invite stakeholders from related sectors (migration, education, protection) to participate in MA AoR and/or EORE working groups and join protection clusters;
- Develop adapted accreditation and certification pathways allowing broader sectors to mainstream EORE while upholding minimum quality requirements.

EORE AG:

- Support advocacy and resource mobilisation efforts on EORE integration with broader sectors;
- Contribute to documenting effective and successful integration in broader sectors;
- Ensure the participation of protection, migration, education and health players alike in the EORE AG and/or its relevant task teams, based on identified needs and opportunities;
- Liaise with the MA AoR to identify joint opportunities for integration with protection and education; also between other sectors and AoRs.



ADVANCING EORE: RESOURCES, PROFESSIONALISATION, AND TECHNICAL LEADERSHIP

From 2019 to 2024, interviewees reported that there was a substantial increase in the number of EORE focused publications and guidance documents, including the revision or development of new standards. Stakeholders also highlighted disparities in capacity development and access to resources.

► AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND STANDARDS

FINDINGS:



Overall, there has been an increase in the availability, knowledge, and use of resources among organisations. However, their development, dissemination, and uptake are uneven, especially for national organisations and authorities that face barriers in accessing and contributing to global resources.



“To access resources and stay up to date, we regularly visit the GICHD and International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) websites. We share relevant information during coordination meetings with operators and compare new guidance to our local realities. Regarding operationalisation, we first adapt the new IMAS to national mine action standards (NMAA). The latest EORE standards were revised in 2022, through a local workshop with all partners. NMAA were then validated by the national commission.”

National mine action authority (NMAA)/National mine action centre (NMAC)



“I am aware of EORE resources because I am a member of the EORE global mailing list of the IMREWG, and I receive the information. The NMAA is also a member. When the resources are relevant, we or the NMAA share them with the EORE Technical Working Group. If there are substantial and critical issues that need to be discussed, we do that. Information sharing is one thing ... institutionalisation and operationalisation is another question.”

United Nations Agency, Vietnam



CALLS FOR ACTION:



NMAAs

- Simplify NMAA amendment procedures for minor updates to ensure quicker and more efficient revisions.

Sector (operators, NMAAs and support organisations):

- Develop comprehensive checklists that highlight key IMAS changes for NMAA revisions;
- Pool resources at global, regional, and country levels to translate key documents;
- Create concise resource summaries with key takeaways and checklists in multiple languages;
- Develop a more accessible global EORE library for sharing collaborative content;
- Regularly disseminate resources and guidance through communities of practice, webinars, or workshops, promoting uptake by local and national organisations;
- Establish country-level or regional communities of practice for NMAAs and local organisations to facilitate discussion, information exchange, and sharing of context-specific good practices.

EORE Advisory Group (AG):

- Encourage the creation of practical/concise resources and guidance based on identified needs, led by EORE AG members through task teams;
- Oversee resource use and uptake through regular EORE stakeholder surveys;
- Promote and disseminate resources through relevant forums and events (EORE Hour, etc.);
- Support and promote the UN Children’s Fund’s (UNICEF’s) migration of the International Mine Risk Education Working Group (IMREWG) to a fully functional community of practice.



Digital EORE Workshop, 2022 ©GICHD

► PROFESSIONALISATION IN PROGRESS

FINDINGS:



While the mine action sector was previously dominated by explosive ordnance disposal and clearance expertise, EORE is now gaining status and recognition. Stakeholders report increased professionalisation of EORE attributed to the adoption of new resources and updated Standards by organisations; the revision of EORE training packages by operators; increased access to capacity development opportunities for EORE professionals; and the ongoing standardisation of EORE competencies.



“There has always been this perception, especially from clearance technicians, that EORE is something like “you just walk around and bla bla” ... people understand now it is a technical thing and that you need to have a good background, you need to know how to work with people and how to talk to them ... there is now much more focus on the quality of it and on the technical side of EORE.”

INGO, East Africa

CALLS FOR ACTION:



NMAAs:

- Emphasise the role of certification and accreditation to develop technical capacities, maintain quality in EORE delivery, and ensure alignment with standards and humanitarian principles;
- If adopted in 2025:
 - » Adapt the Test and Evaluation Protocol (T&EP) for EORE competencies to local contexts and standardise requirements at the national level;
 - » Support the operationalisation of the T&EP with adapted training management packages and accreditation procedures to ensure consistency and quality in EORE activities.

Sector (including operators, NMAAs and other organisations):

- Develop self-evaluation tools, such as anonymous surveys, to identify knowledge gaps within programmes and address them in future professional development plans;
- Replicate global courses such as the UNICEF annual course on EORE in Spiez, Switzerland, in other regions, to ensure access to national organisations and all staff levels;
- Implement enhanced monitoring and evaluation practices to ensure the application of newly acquired knowledge and skills post-training, moving beyond basic pre/post-training assessments;
- Ensure supervisors allocate specific time for their staff to participate in online and face-to-face EORE training and attend capacity enhancement opportunities;
- Develop training management packages and professional development pathways adapted to the T&EP on EORE competencies.

EORE AG:

- Continue to support the development and adoption of the T&EP on EORE Competencies;
- Work towards supporting the adoption of these standards through the development of additional guidance, if relevant.



The GICHD Francophone Regional Cooperation Programme (FRCP) workshop at CPADD—in Ouidah, Benin, October 2023 ©GICHD

► TECHNICAL AND THEMATIC LEADERSHIP AND GUIDANCE

FINDINGS:



The EORE sector's move towards professionalisation and self-organisation around specialised entities and the EORE AG demonstrates an effective model for advancing EORE through technical leadership and collaboration. To become more efficient and responsive to both current and future needs, the sector needs strong technical and thematic leadership.



“The complex challenges of EORE demand continuous attention and collective effort. Strong thematic and technical leadership is crucial to keep EORE high on the global, regional and national agendas, convene diverse actors to share and co-create, and drive the field forward. This shared commitment is the engine that pushes our sector and fuels our ability to innovate, professionalise, adapt and respond to emergencies.”

INGO, HQ

CALLS FOR ACTION:



NMAAs

- Simplify NMAS amendment procedures for minor updates to ensure quicker and more efficient revisions.

Sector (including operators, NMAAs and support organisations):

- Assume thematic leadership in specific thematic areas of expertise and produce outputs beneficial to the sector;
- Leverage individual organisation's expertise and experience to support advocacy and policy efforts at global and country levels.

EORE AG:

- Develop a road map to prioritise and monitor key areas needing resources/guidance based on mapping;
- Support the identification of useful expertise outside the mine action sector to support EORE initiatives;
- Support the creation of ad-hoc task teams to answer sector's needs based on EORE members' and others' expertise;
- Promote and disseminate resources through relevant forums and events (EORE Hour, etc.).

PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES IN QUALITY AND RESULTS-BASED MANAGEMENT

According to International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) 07.12, results-based management (RBM) integrates quality management (QM) to ensure a clear specification of requirements and continuous improvement through feedback loops based on actual results. EORE stakeholders should ensure that quality management systems align with IMAS 12.10, section 10 on monitoring and evaluation.⁶ Quality management systems should include regular monitoring, evaluation, and feedback mechanisms to improve EORE activities.

This approach is widely promoted in the UN system and among donors.⁷ Operators often use terms such as monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL) to describe frameworks for assessing and adjusting intervention quality throughout project cycles.⁸ Recent years have seen significant advancements in quality management within the mine action sector, resulting in enhanced attention to monitoring EORE quality, implementation progress, and outputs. However, stakeholders acknowledge the ongoing need to strengthen needs assessment processes, which are pivotal for effective QM and RBM. Moreover, defining EORE outcomes and measuring impact remains a sector challenge. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in collaboration with the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group (EORE AG), is developing a comprehensive EORE Theory of Change (ToC) for the sector to sustain progress, systematically document the impact of EORE interventions and cover gaps not addressed by the sector-wide ToC.

⁶ IMAS 12.10, Amendment 3, Explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), (September 2020)

⁷ ITAD (2022), [A Sector-Wide Theory of Change for Mine Action and User Guide](#).

⁸ GICHD (2023), [Advanced EORE e-learning course](#).

► REMAINING CHALLENGES IN NEEDS ASSESSMENT

FINDINGS:



Despite the requirement to align needs assessment methodologies with IMAS 12.10, section 5, to enhance the effectiveness of EORE, challenges persist in data availability, transparency, and the adoption of participatory approaches. These issues impact the sector's ability to prioritise and plan interventions effectively.



"In some countries at the moment, we are doing blind EORE. Our programmes have no idea what kind of explosive ordnance (EO) accidents happen, and who the victims are. We do not have access to this data. There is also not enough understanding and integration of intentional risk-taking behaviours in our assessment efforts. Baselines need to be widely improved and systematised."

International NGO (INGO), HQ



"When it comes to the needs analysis, we as donors rarely see comprehensive analysis on why people have accidents, what people were doing when they had their accident, what groups of people and what kind of devices were involved ... We need more data-driven approaches that lead to tailored risk education."

Donor



CALLS FOR ACTION:



Donors:

- Allocate funding for comprehensive needs assessments, including data collection and analysis, as foundational to effective EORE project design and implementation.
- Include needs assessment as a basis/justification/requirement for funding, linking identified needs and proposed project objectives in proposals/concept notes assessment matrices.

Sector (incl. operators, national mine action authorities (NMAAs) and support organisations):

- Implement transparent data-sharing practices and facilitate participatory approaches at all operational levels;
- Enhance transparency in sharing victim data and risks to facilitate better analysis and prioritisation of target groups;
- Facilitate forums to enable discussions on actionable recommendations from needs analysis to inform EORE programme design;
- Develop and disseminate simplified, context-adapted tools for needs assessment, integrating qualitative data sources and ensuring community engagement to mitigate survey fatigue;
- Develop and promote standardised protocols for injury surveillance and needs assessments to improve data reliability and confidence in planning processes;
- Establish mechanisms for regular re-assessments especially in volatile contexts;
- Foster regional cooperation in data collection and analysis to strengthen evidence-based planning and prioritisation across borders;
- Allocate dedicated resources for comprehensive baseline and endline surveys, emphasising their role in adjusting programme activities and maximising impact.

EORE AG:

- Support the development of assessment tools and guidelines to enhance consistency and effectiveness in needs assessments across different operational environments.



The GICHD Francophone Regional Cooperation Programme (FRCP) workshop at CPADD—in Ouidah, Benin, October 2023 ©GICHD

► INCREASED BUT UNEVEN QUALITY MANAGEMENT

FINDINGS:



Quality management practices in the EORE sector face various challenges and vary in their approach. There is a need to implement standardised quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) protocols in all EORE programmes.



“Quality management processes have evolved. When I started my career, we assumed that “if we tell people, then they will know”. We were keen on getting everything right in our training, get accredited, and we would just let the trained staff go for it and do their sessions in communities. Now, there are more attempts at quality control, there is more quality assurance, supervisors are regularly visiting, giving teams their feedback, supporting them to learn and grow.”

INGO, Ukraine



CALLS FOR ACTION:



NMAAs:

- Develop simplified and accessible accreditation processes for local organisations to facilitate an emergency EORE response;
- Adapt IMAS on QM and develop and ensure adherence to national mine action standards (NMAS) on QM.

Sector (incl. operators, NMAAs and support organisations):

- Enhance transparency and clarity in QA/QC processes to reduce subjectivity and to standardise data collection;
- Strengthen capacity building for NMAAs/national mine action centres (NMACs) to conduct regular QA visits and effectively monitor EORE quality;
- Localise quality management processes within local authorities and community structures to ensure sustainability beyond project timelines;
- Foster collaboration between EORE and monitoring and evaluation (M&E)/MEAL teams to integrate QA into broader project management frameworks;
- Integrate further non-technical survey (NTS) and EORE QA to reduce cost and increase capacity of internal QA;
- Enhance third party QA from other sectors where relevant.

► BETTER STANDARDISED AND TRANSPARENT M&E

FINDINGS:



The EORE sector has made significant advancements in adopting more transparent, efficient and standardised M&E systems. Further improvements are needed to ensure consistent implementation, local capacity building, and to define harmonised impact metrics across different contexts and levels of operation.



“Whether EORE benefits people is a pointless question, there is sufficient evidence that education or health prevention make a difference. The point is how you educate; the question is quality.”

INGO, HQ



“For EORE evaluation, it is shifting a bit. On what level do we want our partners to report – is it output or impact? There is a general understanding that measuring impact is hard. It is hard to justify that only EORE contributed to reducing risks and ... it does not matter so much. Many of our partners are happy with our funding because we are happy with having flexibility in our agreements on what they intend to do in terms of impact. We trust the process. We have tried to advocate for more flexibility and also multiannual funding, which is important for EORE.”

Donor

CALLS FOR ACTION:



Donors:

- Align M&E indicators and frameworks with LAP and upcoming Siem Reap Action Plan⁹ indicators, and Global EORE ToC;
- Allocate/earmark resources for EORE M&E.


Operators/NMAAs:

- Standardise M&E indicators and frameworks across donors for coherent and comparable reporting;
- Develop standardised M&E guidelines and tools to enhance consistency across EORE projects by creating clear, accessible guidelines within own organisation;
- Promote collaboration between international organisations, local partners, and communities to harmonise M&E systems and practices;
- Provide mechanisms for obtaining and incorporating affected communities feedback into M&E processes;
- Strengthen local M&E capacity through training and support for local staff and partners;
- Use artificial intelligence, augmented reality, and other advanced technologies to innovate M&E practices;
- Incorporate insights from other sectors and the media industry to tailor M&E approaches and metrics;
- Enhance own data analysis capabilities by building capacity for better data analysis and timely feedback for programme adjustments;
- Implement mobile devices and dashboards for live information tracking by using real-time data collection;
- Share best practices and lessons learnt between organisations to improve M&E by fostering knowledge exchange;
- Dedicate resources for EORE evaluation to document outcomes/impacts.

EORE AG:

- Support the development of global standardised and practical M&E tools adaptable to operational contexts;
- Finalise and disseminate the global EORE ToC under UNICEF lead;
- Revise the existing sector-wide ToC to adequately capture EORE results in collaboration with donors, to avoid fragmentation of efforts;
- Advocate for more standardised M&E frameworks across donors for coherent reporting and evaluation.

⁹ The Fifth Review Conference of the APMBC to be held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, from 25-29 November 2024, will adopt three key substantive documents: 1) a Review Document detailing the status of implementation, 2) the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan for the years 2025-2029 and 3) a political declaration.



TOWARDS A MORE COLLABORATIVE, INCLUSIVE, AND INNOVATIVE SECTOR

In recent years, the mine action sector has made progress in improving coordination, collaboration, mainstreaming gender and age inclusion, and adopting innovative approaches, with recent conflicts as catalysts. However, challenges remain in ensuring adequate operational coordination at the country level, making meaningful progress towards diversity and disability inclusion, and sustaining effective innovation.



► A BETTER COLLABORATIVE AND COORDINATED SECTOR

FINDINGS:



Collaboration and coordination within the sector have significantly improved over the past five years. Stakeholders have emphasised both the necessity and effectiveness of collaborative approaches at global, regional, and country levels to pool resources, expertise, and knowledge to achieve common goals and respond effectively to emergencies.



“The difference the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group (EORE AG) makes is that we work as a coalition and bring together new knowledge outputs and key resources available on our webpage. We talk with one voice in meetings of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and Convention on Cluster Munitions, and make joint statements ... It is like a think-tank where people think in a more strategic manner. Today if a donor, a State Party, a United Nations agency wants a recommendation, or has an issue with a specific topic, they knock on the door of the EORE AG.”

UN Agency, core EORE AG member

CALLS FOR ACTION:



Donors:

- Increase support to coordination and collaboration initiatives, especially in emergency contexts and cross-border projects;
- Favour multi-year funding for coordination and other collaboration platforms to enable forward planning and clear exit strategies;
- Define clear coordination and collaboration expected outcomes with partners to track progress.

Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR):

- Continue to advocate for multi-year funding for coordination platforms to achieve longer-term collective goals;
- Equip in-country coordinators with tools and soft skills to foster operational support and collaborative approaches at country level;
- Promote collaborative approaches through EORE technical working groups and output-oriented task teams;
- Engage with authorities and stakeholders from other sectors to support operations and integrated approaches;
- Support other national and regional coordination initiatives and implement clear exit strategies.

Operators/national mine action authorities (NMAAs):

- Engage in EORE-related collaboration and coordination platforms;
- Allocate time and resources to actively participate in coordination and collaboration mechanisms, including to produce outputs;
- Participate in cross-sector coordination to identify and promote synergies.

EORE AG:

- Continue collaborative efforts oriented towards clear collective outputs and goals;
- Advocate for multi-year funding for coordination platforms to achieve longer-term collective goals;
- Use mapping recommendations to identify and define priority areas to support the sector;
- Strengthen linkages with the MA AoR and promote a collaborative approach.

► ENHANCED GENDER AND AGE INCLUSION; DISABILITY STILL LAGGING

FINDINGS:



The sector has improved in gender and age-sensitive programming and reporting. However, disability is less considered due to misconceptions, a lack of practical EORE guidance, and insufficient data collection and needs assessment.



"I think risk education is one of the areas gender mainstreaming is important, and where we can get women working, including in areas where it is culturally more sensitive. We still do have a long way to go for equality in mine action."

Donor



"We have a differential approach on gender, age and ethnicity, but the task ahead is immense. We have a debt with children, we owe to them a specific approach tailored to their specific needs and age. Ethnicity is complex, we are working with indigenous communities and need to make a lot of adjustments to ensure ownership. For example, EORE terminology is sometimes too technical."

NMAA/NMAC

CALLS FOR ACTION:



Donors:

- Include sex, age, and disability disaggregated data (SADDD) requirements to track contributions of EORE to gender and diversity strategic objectives when relevant;
- Avoid setting strict 50/50 gender beneficiary targets that could prevent true gender and sensitive approaches;
- Encourage partnerships with survivor organisations or organisations of persons with disabilities and synergies with victim assistance.

Operators/NMAAs:

- Continue to prioritise and integrate age and gender mainstreaming efforts across all operational aspects;
- Continue hiring mixed-gender teams including in challenging contexts;
- Use tools such as the Gender and Diversity Analysis Checklist to tailor more inclusive programmes and teams;¹⁰
- Organise and/or request support to train Gender and Diversity Focal Points, including through the GICHD's Gender, Diversity, Equality and Inclusion programme;¹¹
- Mandate training on gender and diversity for all staff working on EORE. This may include the GICHD's "Introduction to Gender and Diversity in Mine Action" online course;¹²
- Ensure diversity and disability are better taken into account in EORE needs assessment and monitoring and evaluation;
- Systematically include the Washington Group Short Set of Questions in EORE needs assessment initiatives to collect evidence-based data on persons with disabilities and better tailor programmes;
- Consider partnerships with survivor organisations and organisations of persons with disabilities to conduct activities;
- Give more positive representations of survivors in EORE materials and messages;
- Proactively recruit survivors as EORE team members;
- Use successful disability sensitive approaches to develop and share lessons learnt;
- Leverage own experience to contribute to global technical guidance.

EORE AG:

- Contribute to the development of practical and applicable guidance on disability-sensitive EORE by convening a task team on the topic, including disability and EORE specialists.

10 The Gender and Diversity Analysis Checklist, developed by the GICHD's Gender and Mine Action Programme is a practical tool that could be further adapted to EORE to support better understanding of gender, age, and diversity dynamics and to tailor more inclusive programmes and teams. GICHD (2016), [GMAP's Gender and Diversity Analysis Checklist](#).

11 The GICHD's Gender, Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion programme provides guidance and technical support on these areas, including through training of Gender and Diversity Focal Points identified by NMAAs and mine action operators.

12 GICHD (2020), [Introduction to Gender and Diversity in Mine Action](#).



SBCC toolkit pilot training in Türkiye, 2024 ©GICHD

► AN INNOVATIVE AND ADAPTATIVE SECTOR

FINDINGS:



Recent conflicts, increased donor support, and the need to overcome operational challenges have catalysed significant adaptation and innovation within the sector. New approaches have emerged and proven efficient, particularly in areas such as digital EORE, CPP/emergency risk education, cross-border initiatives, and social and behaviour change communication (SBCC). Sustaining and expanding these initiatives will be crucial for the sector's continued advancement and integration.



"I'd like to see something more in terms of innovative ideas – not that they have been lacking, but because there has been a lack of continuity; something comes up, everyone wants to do it, and then we forget about it. We need more consistency and continuity."

International Organisation, Europe & the Caucasus

CALLS FOR ACTION:



Donors:

- Consider funding schemes that allow for piloting of innovative approaches and scaling-up if successful;
- Consider flexible funding schemes adapted to regional and cross-border contexts and approaches;
- Consider long-term and flexible funding mechanisms that can support sustainable and localised efforts in emergency preparedness and risk management;
- Facilitate, when appropriate, identification of opportunities and partnerships with private, tech sector, or service providers to support innovation and implementation of new approaches.

Operators/NMAAs:

- Consider partnerships with the private and academic sectors to strengthen innovative approaches and monitor them more effectively;
- Leverage digital EORE to build national capabilities and equip stakeholders with knowledge, skills, and resources to enhance computer literacy and digital proficiency;
- Ensure sustainability of innovative approaches through capacity development and clear exit strategies fostering national ownership;
- Favour a combination of multimedia and interpersonal approaches based on robust needs assessment to enhance the effectiveness of EORE;
- Adopt conflict-sensitive strategies and foster multi-country humanitarian cooperation to prevent unintended consequences or negative perceptions in cross-border and regional projects;
- Continue to further integrate EORE and CPP but also EORE and disaster risk reduction to enhance communities' emergency preparedness and locally-owned risk management strategies;
- Develop, disseminate and adapt practical guidance through the emergency task team;
- Build one's own SBCC capacity and share lessons learnt and good practices within and beyond the organisation;
- Ensure SBCC approaches are based on robust needs assessment and analysis of behavioural drivers;
- Leverage own experience in digital EORE, CPP/emergency risk education, cross-border approaches, and SBCC, to contribute to global technical guidance.

EORE AG:

- Advocate for the inclusion of references to cross-border approaches and dedicated cooperation and assistance support;
- Contribute to the development of practical and applicable guidance on innovative approaches through the creation of dedicated task teams or organisation of webinars to share good practices;
- Support and promote, when pertinent, regional coordination and collaboration efforts with the MA AoR and other relevant actors;
- Promote innovative approaches and responsiveness of the sector in relevant forums.



GICHD

Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

Maison de la paix, Tower 3, Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2C
PO Box 1300, CH 1211 Geneva 1, Switzerland