



ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC)

INTERVENTION

Third Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
Vientiane, Lao PDR

AGENDA ITEM 9(c): AGENDA ITEM 9(D) – RISK EDUCATION

Mr. President,

ARMAC welcomes the report of the Coordinator on Risk Education, **Lebanon**, and expresses its appreciation for the work undertaken in supporting implementation of the risk education provisions of **Article 4**. Risk education remains an essential measure for protecting affected communities while contamination persists. Drawing from our regional work in Southeast Asia, ARMAC would like to highlight **three considerations for strengthening effective and sustainable risk education**.

First – risk education must remain nationally led, evidence-based and responsive to changing risks.

Communities do not face the same risks, and those risks can change over time. Contamination patterns, population movements, livelihoods, age, gender and other factors can influence exposure to explosive ordnance. Effective risk education therefore requires more than the delivery of standard messages. It requires an understanding of who is at risk, why they are at risk, where that risk occurs, and which communication approaches are most appropriate for different groups and contexts.

This makes strong connections between risk education, community engagement and information management particularly important. Disaggregated data and community-level information can help national authorities and operators identify changing patterns of risk, prioritize interventions and adapt approaches accordingly.

Second – sustainability requires investment in national and local capacity.

Regional cooperation can help countries strengthen their own risk education systems by providing opportunities to exchange methodologies, training approaches, tools and lessons learned. ARMAC is strengthening regional technical capacity on Explosive Ordnance Risk Education, including through the development and adaptation of regional guidance and practical tools, capacity development, and the exchange of national experience among ASEAN Member States.

Our approach is not to create a single model for every country. Rather, regional cooperation should help identify effective practices that can be adapted to national and local contexts, while strengthening the institutions and practitioners responsible for planning and delivering risk education.

Third – risk education should continue to adapt to evolving risks and operating contexts.

Changes in contamination, population movements, technology, information environments and the ways communities communicate require risk education practitioners to continually assess whether existing approaches remain appropriate and effective.

Digital tools and emerging technologies may provide additional opportunities to strengthen analysis, improve targeting and reach populations through appropriate communication channels. However, technology should complement — not replace — trusted community engagement and nationally appropriate approaches.

For ARMAC, the priority is therefore not innovation for its own sake, but the responsible use of appropriate tools where they can improve the effectiveness, accessibility, targeting and sustainability of risk education.

Mr. President,

From our regional experience, ARMAC sees three priorities going forward: strengthening the use of evidence and disaggregated data to understand risk; investing in sustainable national and local capacity; and ensuring that risk education can adapt as risks and communities change.

Regional and international cooperation can support these priorities by enabling countries to share practical experience, adapt proven approaches and connect nationally identified needs with relevant technical expertise and resources.

ARMAC remains committed to working with ASEAN Member States, States Parties, the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, civil society, operators and technical partners to strengthen effective, accessible and sustainable risk education.

Our collective efforts should therefore focus not only on the reach of risk education, but on its effectiveness in enabling at-risk populations to understand evolving risks, adopt safer behaviours and reduce their exposure to harm.

Thank you, Mr. President.