

Meeting of the Environmental Issues in Mine Action Working Group (EIMA)

25 May 2022

Hosted on Zoom

Participants in attendance:

1. Linsey Cottrell (CEOBS) (Co-chair)
2. Lucy Pinches (Mine Action Review) (Co-chair)
3. Christelle Mestre (GICHD)
4. Dansam Ousan (GNDR)
5. Audrey Torrecilla (ICBL)
6. Kiona Bolt (ICRC)
7. Martin Jebens (ICRC)
8. Sera Koulabdara (Legacies of War)
9. Lizzie Humphreys (MAG)
10. Bach Bui (NPA)
11. Chakreya Bout (NPA)
12. Katie Harrison (NPA)
13. Hilde Jørgensen (NPA)
14. Sarah Njeri (ODI)
15. Carlie Stowe (PeaceTrees)
16. Lily Gates (WRA)

MINUTES

Updates on environmental activities within organisations from attendees

Brief updates were given by:

- **MAR** – Development of the website for the EIMA working group is in progress. The website will include links to resources and will be shared with the group before launching.
- **ICRC** – ICRC (together with ARMAC) are looking to organise a workshop on climate change and mine action in SE Asia. The plan for the workshop in October 2022 is to bring together mine action operators and authorities to discuss solutions to tackle the problems around climate change and mine action. If you have ideas on agenda topics and speakers, please contact Kiona Bolt - kbolt@icrc.org
- **NPA, Vietnam** – NPA ran a school event in a rural district, which integrated environmental awareness and EORE together, and a drawing competition. Good support was received from the local district. NPA also similarly planning to do an event with a Women's Union, covering waste management and reaching

Introduction to the Global Network for Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction - [GNDR](#)

Dansam Ousan GNDR attended the meeting today as an observer only and Linsey gave an overview about GNDR, explaining how the platform may be of benefit to the HMA community. A brief overview of GNDR was given at the previous EIMA meeting in March.

Joining GNDR allows members to connect to other organisations through the network platform, which includes in-country environmental organisations working in climate change adaptation and risk reduction.

GNDR has over 1,200 organisations across 120 countries. GNDR provides a useful tools and guidance e.g. on strengthening collaboration, partnering policies, partnering agreements, and adding value to partnerships.

Critically, GNDR has undertaken a pilot project on 'Localised Climate Projections'. This approach may be useful to help support mine action programmes in understanding and managing local climate risks and engaging with local communities.

The GNDR Strategy has 3 core goals:

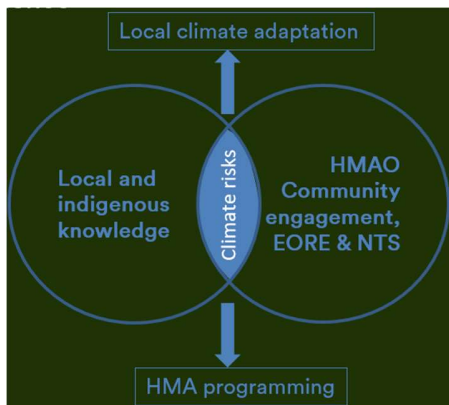
- i) strengthen the collaboration, solidarity and mobilization of CSOs;
- ii) champion a localisation movement; and
- iii) strive for risk informed development.

Under the second goal, climate projections can be used by local actors to plan for future disasters.

This can be done through the strengthening of local communities and members of CSOs working on areas of climate change. There is the emphasis on the promotion of scientific approaches on evidence from the community and field realities for Disaster Preparedness and Solution.

GNDR has already piloted this under a **Climate Exchange Visit** in Benin, West Africa - this is to share indigenous knowledge and gather scientific evidence. Similar exchange visits are scheduled to take place in other communities in various selected countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Timeframes for these are not yet known.

Fundamentally this highlights the potential that such initiatives, involving the collection of data and local knowledge could help inform both climate adaptation planning and HMA programming:



Note that GNDR champions working with indigenous communities, understanding traditional knowledge and adaptation techniques. A report from the pilot is planned to be available around **October 2022**.

Introduction to the USAID Climate Links - <https://www.climatelinks.org/>

We approached USAID to present to the group, but unfortunately no-one was available. Material and tools have been developed by external contractors. The focus is on 'development' but elements remain relevant and useful for the HMA community, including online courses, assessment tools, guidance and data resources. Two most relevant courses are:

1 - [Climate-Resilient Development 101](#)

This 2-hour online course, intended for USAID staff and partners, uses interactive features and videos to introduce fundamental concepts of climate resilience and how climate impacts are affecting key development sectors. The focus is on development but it introduces concepts and useful terminology, including

Climate stressors – such as increased temp, rainfall changes, soil moisture changes, droughts and floods, sea level rises and changes in storms

Non-climate stressors - such as conflict and corruption, natural disasters and disease outbreak, suppressed economic growth and inequality

Climate impacts - such as loss of life, damage to property services, ecosystems and natural resources.

Climate risks – which are the potential for negative consequences due to climate hazards and stressors.

2 – [Climate Risk Management \(CRM\) Process](#)

This course introduces the CRM process. For USAID, CRM has been a mandatory requirement for all new strategies since Oct 2015 and all new projects since Oct 2016. The CRM process is iterative – builds at work done at strategy stage.

At Strategy Level, uses USAID climate risk screening and management tool to rate programmes as high, medium or low risk. Further action and assessment is only required where **medium** or **high** risk has been identified.

Climate risk assessment takes into account 2 main factors: the nature, strength and probability of a climate hazard; and the vulnerability of a community, project or say structure to a climate stress.

Vulnerability depends on exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity.

The introductory course also covers **Communicating Climate Risks** and like any communication of risk, highlights the need for a clear messaging and avoidance of scary predictions which can demotivate action.

CRM tools also available on the website: <https://www.climatelinks.org/resources/climate-risk-screening-and-management-tools>. These guide you through the CRM process of assessing, addressing and adaptively managing climate risks.

There are tools for the design of [strategies](#), [projects](#) and [activities](#).

[A guide](#), which complements the tools, supports adaptively managing climate risks and follows the **8 iterative steps** in CRM.

Climate risk profiles and data resources are also available, including [country risk profiles](#) similar to those published by ICRC. These gives good coverage and appear to include most countries of interest to HMA programmes

Also links to [SERVIR](#), which employs satellite imagery with climate and weather data to support the management of climate risk and land use for over 45 countries. There are also trainings and other tools and events for utilizing geospatial data for climate-related themes such as land use, water, and agriculture. Not all countries are of course covered, but looking at Vietnam, for example, 5 products are listed. This include the [Surface Water Mapping Tool](#), which is perhaps of more relevance for mine action since it covers surface water distribution changes over space and time and these patterns can provide insight into flooding and flood risk.

25th NDM Side Event

Unfortunately, only a limited number of side events are planned for this year's NDM. We approached UNMAS for a dedicated side event for the EIMA working group but asked to merge with a NPA/CEOBS/UNIDIR event on Conflict, pollution and explosive ordnance. The side events are also limited to just 50 minutes so it will be an introduction to EIMA working group and giving examples of some initiatives already underway, rather than being able to other individual slots to EIMA WG members.

EIMA working group members to send short examples of initiatives already underway to Lucy, for inclusion in the side event.

An additional opportunity for a side event could be at the CCM MSP, 30 Aug - 2 Sept.

A reminder from Sarah Njeri that a plenary at the 23rd NDM also looked at mine action and the environment:

https://www.mineaction.org/sites/default/files/dr._sarah_njeri_kings_college_london.pdf

<https://www.mineaction.org/en/ndm-un23-presentations-plenary-sessions>

For those planning to attend the NDM in person, it would be a good opportunity to connect in person. Hilde also announced plans for an informal planning meeting on 'environmental capacity building' environment - get in touch if suggested you'd like to be involved.

Impact Assessment Survey following Land Release

At the previous EIMA meeting, a request was circulated to take part in a survey to better understand the extent to which impact assessments are carried out following land release.

The response rate was poor – just 4 replies – but the results have been shared. The survey will be kept open so **we still encourage more to take part** since it can be an important way to present opinions, highlight what should be happening and demonstrate some level of evidence.

We asked about: the frequency of impact assessments; when were they being undertaken; when should be the optimum time to carry these out; and how important are they? Most interesting, information on climate vulnerability, land use changes and monitoring of any environmental enhancement measures were not taking place, despite their importance ranking high. **More survey responses would be incredibly useful**, especially to inform donors, highlight the gaps and show what information should be collected in the future.

The survey also asked who should take responsibility for undertaking IAs – responses split 50:50 between MAO or MAA responsibility. To encourage and support completion of IAs, responses suggested this should be a donor requirement and also commented that the results should be shared with the community.

If you can, please complete and circulate to colleagues this short survey - a brief explanation included in the survey:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1jy0bWchEJvvlOtpXmL18u44IqxcRTAfdmn3VQEK7c/edit#responses>

Any Other Business

Note from Martin Jebens to all on the proposal from NPA to update IMAS 07.13, dated 2017. Timing is right since IMAS reviews should be around every 5 years. *[Post meeting note - the proposal has gone to the IMAS review board and now accepted].*

Suggestions for forthcoming topics include:

- biodiversity enhancement measures;
- response to natural disasters and HMA planning;
- looking at failed environmental initiatives and lessons learnt for previous approaches;
- environmental degradation of explosives caused by the environment and how this may be affected by climate change (e.g. work by Colin King) – increasing speed of degradation or rendering explosives safer, in some cases. Parallels here to contaminated land and climate risk guidance currently under development in the UK.

Date of next meeting

Next meeting **Wed 3rd August 2022, 12pm CET**. Suggested topic for next meeting on biodiversity and ecological enhancement measures.

[A draft agenda is [here](#)].

Please add any further suggestions/comments or send them to linsey@ceobs.org

Useful links

Reminder to check the [Linkedin group](#), where other updates posted and a link to the [Google Drive](#) for other EIMA resources.