



As delivered

United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention: Twenty-second Meeting of the States Parties
(1 - 5 December 2025)

Statement under agenda item 9(b)(ii) Mine risk education and risk reduction

[delivered by Mr. James Staples, UNMAS on Thursday, 4 December]

Madam President¹,

This statement is delivered on behalf of the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA)².

Excellencies,

The need for explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) is felt all over the world, from Sudan to Nigeria, from Gaza to Ukraine and from Colombia to Myanmar. The need for risk education only increases, with civilians in grave danger in contaminated areas.

In 2024, nearly 70% of child casualties in 26 situations of armed conflict resulted from explosive weapons. Over the past five years, contamination by mines and explosive remnants of war was the second most prominent explosive weapons threat to children³. One way to mitigate the risks posed to civilians and especially children from explosive weapons, including landmines, is to systematically integrate EORE and Conflict Preparedness and Protection into humanitarian

¹ H.E. Ms. ICHIKAWA Tomiko, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Representation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament, President of the Twenty-second Meeting of the States Parties (22MSP).

² The United Nations Departments and Offices of the Secretariat, specialized agencies, funds and programmes are: the United Nations Mine Action Service of the Department of Peace Operations, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the World Bank are observers.

³ See "Explosive weapons and child casualties in conflict: Five key facts". [UNICEF](#).



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coordination, and protection and preparedness frameworks. This is critical to ensure consistent protection before, during and after conflict⁴.

The Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan highlights the significance of EORE as a pillar of a comprehensive approach to mine action. The United Nations fully supports this approach and is in the process of implementing various initiatives in line with this action plan. Indeed, the UN provides risk education to protect civilians from explosive threats, with a focus on the most at-risk, displaced, also when returning to their countries or areas of origin, and underserved populations.

In the occupied Palestinian Territory from August 2023 to July 2025, UNMAS and partners trained 1,069 humanitarian workers to deliver risk education. This resulted in over 1.4 million people being reached with EORE and safety messaging through both in person awareness raising and combined with large-scale mass media campaigns. In Afghanistan, more than 1.3 million people have received risk education through a combination of in person training and mass messaging since 1 April 2025 through - indeed UNICEF had delivered in person EORE to nearly 340,000 children and caregivers by Sept of this year.

In Yemen, in partnership with national authorities, UNICEF delivered lifesaving EORE to more than 220,000 children during the first half of 2025. These activities were delivered in person across all governorates through schools, child-friendly spaces, and community platforms.

In South Sudan, 80% of explosive ordnance victims in South Sudan are children. The UN is collaborating with the National Mine Action Authority, supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency to develop new child-friendly EORE materials.

In Nigeria, UNMAS and BBC Media Action developed and broadcast new EORE messaging through local radio channels, funded by the British Government. The UN works to

⁴ 2025 Saving Lives in Conflicts Report - Risk Education and Conflict Preparedness to Protect Civilians in EWIPA Settings.



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integrate EORE into broader education plans and incorporate victim assistance into EORE and survey activities. These EORE programmes are sensitive to the age of the intended recipient, in line with Action 26 and 27 of the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan.

The UN also ensures that EORE delivery is inclusive and that it prioritizes the most exposed communities and persons with specific needs amongst those. In Yemen, sign language is used in contaminated areas and on national television to reach and empower thousands of children with hearing impairments. In Afghanistan, tailored sessions and educational videos and materials target children, returnees from neighboring countries such as Iran and Pakistan, scrap collectors and nomadic communities, people at a higher risk of encountering EO. In Colombia, risk education focuses on civilians from vulnerable ethnic groups.

Furthermore, investing in technology, strategic partnerships and casualty recording is essential for identifying risk and protective factors, ultimately transforming how risk education is planned and delivered. In Lebanon, Syria and Ukraine, Government-led or interagency digital platforms and dedicated websites such as “[Ukraine is Home](#)” or “[Syria is Home](#)” share awareness-raising materials for returning refugees and displaced populations. In South Sudan, UNOPS partnered with NASA data to develop flood models overlaid with population movement data, helping to prioritize critical EORE efforts in high-risk areas. In Gaza, to enhance response planning, a [public mapping tool](#) was developed by UNOPS in support of UNMAS, which displays real-time data on Explosive Hazards Assessments.

Such work can only be done by engaging local actors, and adapting to the specific context and pre-testing material and messages with the affected communities. In some cases, EORE must use low-tech approaches and be as low-profile as possible to ensure inclusivity and the safety of participants.

As we have heard today, risk education is a vital pillar of mine action, requiring a comprehensive and coordinated approach from actors at all levels. The United Nations urges



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States to continue funding risk education activities and stands ready to support States Parties to comply with the Convention and to sustain risk education efforts – doing so contributes to save lives and limbs and safeguards our tomorrow.

END