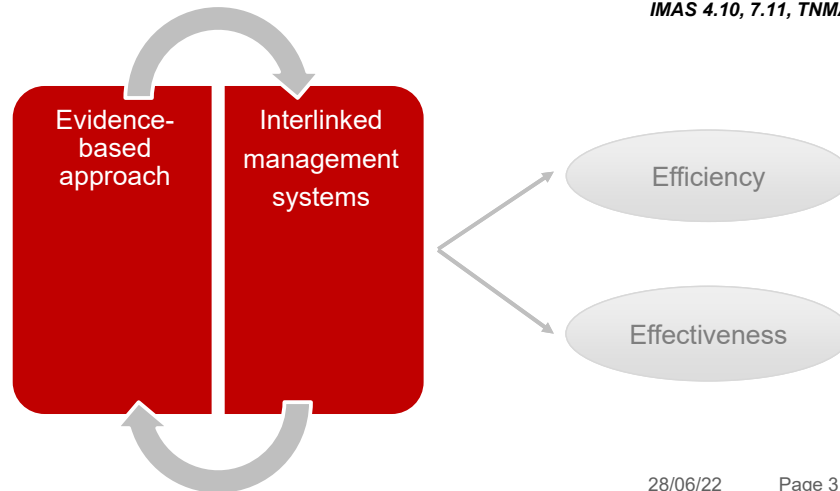






**All Reasonable Effort (ARE)** is define as “the minimum acceptable level of effort to identify and document contaminated areas or to remove the presence or suspicion of explosive ordnance”.

*IMAS 4.10, 7.11, TNMA7.11/03*



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## Sound Management of Land Release

- Mine Action Governance Structure.
- Regulatory frameworks.
- Appropriate Information Management systems.
- Robust Quality Management systems.
- Effective risk management systems.

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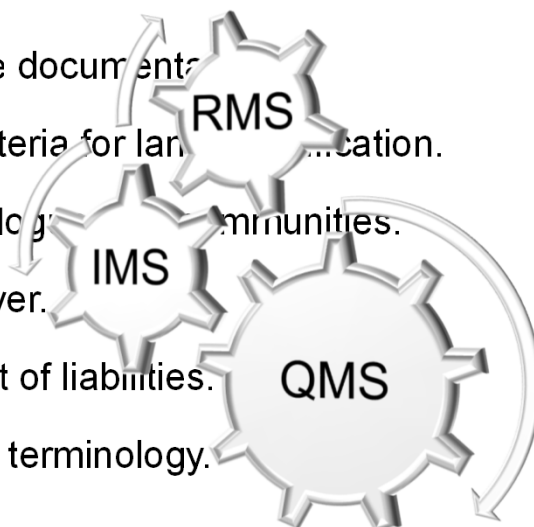
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## Principles for Applying ARE in LR

- Land release documentation.
- Objective criteria for land contamination.
- Inclusive dialog with communities.
- Land handover.
- Management of liabilities.
- Well-defined terminology.



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## Good Practice Checklist

Activity for NMAA	IMAS Chapter Reference
<b>Establish relevant institutions (national bodies) responsible for managing mine action activities</b> .....[this includes planning, accreditation, monitoring, training and development of national regulations and capacities].	<b>IMAS 02.10</b> (Guide for the Establishment of a Mine Action Programme)
<b>Carry out a comprehensive analysis of EO contamination</b> on your territory through a general mine action assessment	<b>IMAS 02.10</b> (Guide for the Establishment of a MAP)
<b>Develop a national mine action strategy</b> (including concrete and measurable goals and objectives) to address EO contamination. The strategy should include a monitoring mechanism	<b>IMAS 02.10</b> (Guide for the Establishment of a MAP)
<b>Develop NMAS</b> that define key LR terms and processes, as well as key parameters such as depth requirements, and other criteria such as weather areas are required to be metal free]	<b>IMAS 01.10.</b> (Guide for the Application of IMAS)
<b>Establish a prioritization system</b> guided by the national objectives outlined in the country strategy and linked to the regular risks assessments and additional information related to the impact of EO [such as casualty data]	<b>IMAS 07.11</b> (Land Release)
Carry out regular analysis of the results of Land Release	<b>IMAS 07.11</b> (Land Release) <b>IMAS 07.12</b> (Quality Management in Mine Action) <b>IMAS 07.40</b> (Monitoring of MA Organisations)

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## Good Practice Checklist

Activity for MA Operators	IMAS Chapter Reference
<b>Set up an internal QMS</b> that ensures an auditable record of LR activities and reviews procedures based on lessons learned [in particular were EO accidents or accidents have taken place]	<b>IMAS 10.60</b> (Investigation and reporting of accidents and incidents)
<b>Undergo accreditation</b> to demonstrate organizational and operational compliance with national regulations, standards and quality requirements.	<b>IMAS 07.12</b> (Quality Management in Mine Action) <b>IMAS 07.30</b> (Accreditation of Mine Action Orgs.)
<b>Include clear guidance for decision-making within SOPs</b> , including the identification of competent and authorized/accredited staff for key decisions	<b>IMAS 07.12</b> (Quality Management in Mine Action) <b>IMAS 07.30</b> (Accreditation of Mine Action Orgs.)
<b>Ensure that communities are fully informed about LR activities</b> and that comprehensive information gathering has been carried out during land release processes [including women men girls and boys]	<b>IMAS 07.10</b> (Guide for the Management of LR and Residual Contamination Operations) <b>IMAS 07.11</b> (Land Release)

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### 5.2. IMAS 07.11 - Land Release

- ☐ NMAA develops, reviews and maintains a national land release policy and relevant standards.

**Conformance status:**

**Action required:**

- ☐ NMAA determines requirements for data collection.

**Conformance status:**

**Action required:**

- ☐ NMAA defines criteria for the cancellation/reduction of land where there is no evidence of an explosive hazard after non-technical survey and/or technical survey.

**Conformance status:**

**Action required:**

### 5.3. IMAS 07.10 - Guide for the Management of Land Release and Residual Contamination Operations

- ☐ The criteria for "all reasonable effort" shall be defined by the NMAA.

**Conformance status:**

**Action required:**

**Action required:**

D

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## Final Remarks

- **Conflict, Gender and Diversity-sensitive Community engagement.**
- ARE cannot be addressed without **defining the responsibilities and issues related to liability**
- **Residual Contamination Management** is closely tied to defining ARE.



## All Reasonable Effort and 2025

ARE is applied when sufficient, reliable information has been obtained to assist the NMAA to conclude, with confidence, that there is no evidence of EO contamination, and that where evidence has been obtained, the right interventions were implemented, effectively and efficiently, yet without sparing an effort.

Accordingly, NMAA can declare with confidence fulfilling their obligations under article 5.



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## **Making every effort count – Applying reasonable effort and cooperation and Assistance towards a successful 2025**

### **ARE Panel**

**21 June 2022**

**Speaker: Radwa Rabie, Program Manager for Standards, GICHD**

Excellencies and esteemed colleagues,

I would like to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share the reflections of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) on the recent Technical Note for Mine Action on All Reasonable Effort (ARE), which was released in March 2021 after wide consultations.

For decades, monumental resources have been invested to address Explosive Ordnance contamination. yet, as of today, victims continue to fall, and affected states and communities continue to bear the brunt of identifying and removing Explosive Ordnance.

33 States Parties have reported obligations under Article 5, and many more have reported Explosive ordnance contamination. As reported by states, we understand that many face straining operational and financial challenges.

The International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) have been developed to help states operationalise their commitments under various disarmament treaties, including the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention. IMAS are broad to accommodate to the realities of different Explosive Ordnance-affected countries.

To ensure that the considerable, yet finite resources are used effectively and efficiently, and that affected populations have the confidence to use their land safely, the concept of “All Reasonable Effort”, or (ARE) has been developed within the IMAS framework to foster a common understanding on how to release land more effectively, and efficiently, in comparison to how we did so decades ago.

**IMAS define (ARE) as the minimum acceptable level of effort to identify and document contaminated areas or to remove the presence or suspicion of explosive ordnance.**

The emphasis here rests on a comprehensive, evidence-based, reasoned, interlinked management approach, to ensure that contamination is identified and cleared without wasting precious time and resources, while confidence in the processes applied is increased.

ARE neither means nor encourages cutting corners to leave obligations unfulfilled or avoid expending resources to address complex or costly tasks. On the contrary, ARE reinforces the capacities of States Parties to meet their obligations efficiently and effectively; and resonates with the relevant conventions and their action plans. It encourages utilising appropriate and proportionate investments to reach the necessary level of confidence that Explosive Ordnance has been identified and removed.

### **ARE underlines the sound management of LR**

Applying ARE does not pertain only to the technical LR activities, namely Non-technical Survey, Technical Survey and Clearance. It applies more widely to the comprehensive management aspects that need to be in place to ensure successful LR operations. These aspects include setting up:

1. **The Mine Action Governance structure** to manage the national mine action program.
2. **The regulatory frameworks** for the planning and implementation of LR. That includes mine action strategies, National Mine Action Standards and other relevant regulations.
3. **An appropriate Information Management system** to define the scope of contamination and track progress achieved. ARE cannot be properly achieved if the information available is either flawed or incomplete. Common minimum data requirements facilitate performance to agreed standards.
4. **A robust Quality Management system**, including on accreditation and monitoring, is essential for identifying non-conformities and the associated training needs, and for proactively adjusting planning and implementation to incorporate lessons learned.
5. **An effective risk management system** and a comprehensive Risk analysis will inform appropriate Land Release interventions, and combined with functional IMS and QMS, they are essential for the management of residual contamination.

### **Principles of applying ARE in LR processes:**

Operationally, clear ARE criteria will set the bounds of different land release processes.

For example: Defining direct and indirect evidence within NMAS, setting the criteria for proceeding with NTS or TS or for land reduction or cancellation and for database clean-ups, defining clearance depth and the allocation of equipment, are all examples of applying ARE in the land release decision making.

### **The TNMA summarises some of the key principles for applying ARE in LR. These include:**

1. the documentation of LR activities and processes.
2. the development of objective criteria for the classification and re-classification of land.
3. the enhancement of inclusive dialogue with communities.
4. the implementation of land handover.
5. The management of liabilities; and
6. the use of well-defined and commonly understood terminology for reporting.

These principles are interlinked and imbedded within the wider management systems. For instance, the accurate documentation of LR is fundamental for functional information management and quality management systems. It equally enhances the capacities of national authorities to manage residual contamination or liability claims in the future.

The TNMA provides a checklist that is likely to be useful for states to carry out analysis on whether ARE has been applied or not. It lists examples of relevant requirements for NMAA and operators, and their corresponding guidance in IMAS.



As a part of its support to states in developing their national standards using an ARE lens, the GICHD has recently adopted the TNMA's checklist as the basis for an assessment conducted in Angola on the status of ARE and the actions required to achieve it. This is just one example of how such a checklist approach can be useful for defining ARE criteria.

Finally, additional elements are important to consider to achieve ARE:

- **Conflict, Gender and Diversity-sensitive Community engagement** is fundamental. Affected communities not only do they have vital information for the identification and removal of EO contamination, but their engagement increases their buy-in and ultimately, confidence in using the released lands.
- ARE cannot be addressed without **defining the responsibilities and management of liability**. This is likely to include higher level State representation and other stakeholders outside the NMAA, and may require to be reflected within either National Mine Action Standards or other relevant regulatory frameworks.
- Similarly, addressing **the Management of residual contamination** and those risks remaining after ARE has been applied, is central to defining ARE criteria. It should be incorporated early on into the planning of the mine action programs. And particularly for those countries approaching obligation deadlines, this should be a matter of urgency.

Your excellencies and colleagues, the concept of ARE reinforces the importance of a comprehensive, evidence-based approach to managing LR, and it emphasizes the importance of applying IMAS effectively and efficiently.

ARE is applied when sufficient, reliable information has been obtained to conclude, with confidence, that there is no evidence of EO contamination, and that where evidence has been obtained, the right interventions were implemented, effectively and efficiently, yet without sparing an effort. Accordingly, states can declare with confidence fulfilling their obligations under article 5, toward a successful 2025.

Thank you!