

Regional Stakeholder Dialogue on Humanitarian Demining: For a Mine-Free Zimbabwe by 2025

Norwegian People's Aid, Zimbabwe

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education



Norwegian People's Aid

Commemorating the International Day for Mine Awareness and Victim Assistance in Zimbabwe:



The event united eminent representatives from pivotal organizations, including leading International Mine Action Operators in Zimbabwe, such as the Norwegian People's Aid, The HALO Trust, Mine Advisory Group (MAG), and APOPO. Additionally, the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre, the Red Cross, the National Mine Clearance Unit, and the Mine Victim Assistance of Zimbabwe were in attendance, underscoring the collaborative effort towards mine awareness and victim assistance.



The Norwegian People's Aid Programme in Zimbabwe Showcases Impactful Initiatives at the International Day for Mine Awareness and Victim Assistance, Rainbow Towers Hotel, Harare on the 11th Of April 2024



Norwegian People's Aid



Children and pregnant mothers face unimaginable danger, risking their lives by crossing minefields just to access education and healthcare. No one should have to choose between safety and basic human rights. It's time to act for a mine-free world!



Focus Group Discussion on EORE: Engaging insights were gathered from a balanced group of 6 female and 6 male participants representing the communities of Rupiya and Mutinha within MF2 Sector 05. This discussion aimed to explore diverse perspectives and foster inclusive dialogue on landmine contamination affecting the community.





Commemorating the International Day for Mine Awareness and Victim Assistance in Zimbabwe:

- **Event Details:**
 - Held on **April 11, 2024**, at **The Rainbow Towers** in **Zimbabwe**.
 - Commemorated the **International Day for Mine Awareness and Victim Assistance**.
 - First time such a commemoration was organized in **Zimbabwe**.
- **Participants:** Included **international mine action operators**, **The Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre**, the **National Mine Clearance Unit**, **landmine survivors**, officials, and donor representatives.
- **Significance:**
 - Served as a **historic event** uniting efforts towards a **mine-free Zimbabwe**.
 - Emphasized the importance of **collaboration**, **ongoing support**, and commitment to **victim assistance initiatives**.
 - Advocated for the continuation of **mine awareness and demining efforts** in the country.





In Zimbabwe Risk-takers are broadly put into five categories:

- The Unaware.
- The Uninformed.
- The Misinformed.
- The Reckless.
- The Forced.

The goals of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education:

- To minimize deaths and injuries from landmines and other ERW;
- To reduce the social and economic impact of landmines and other ERW;
- Supporting relief and development work





The role of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education in NPA Zimbabwe :

- EORE support for Land Release.
- EORE support for victim assistance.
- EORE support for stockpile destruction.
- EORE support for advocacy.

Methodologies and Tools

- Direct presentations
- Focus Group Discussions
- Printed material (leaflets, posters, banners .t-shirts, caps etc...)
- Murals and bill-boards

All of those methodologies and tools are specifically tailored for different age and gender groups (Men, Women, Boys & Girls)





EORE Delivery

Pre-session

- Liaison
- Needs Assessment

During the Session

- Pre evaluation
- EORE Delivery
- Materials delivery
- Information gathering

Post Session

- Mid evaluation
- Reporting
- Post evaluation

- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) in Zimbabwe has improved access to services for mine and EO victims through its Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) activities. Although NPA does not provide direct victim assistance, it supports the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC) by collecting casualty data and helping victims access information for prosthetic services, thereby enhancing the support network for those affected by landmines and ERW.
- The EORE activities have established platforms for collecting vital information on explosive ordnance contamination, including its effects on daily activities, land ownership, post-clearance land use, and casualty statistics. This initiative empowers affected communities to prioritize areas for clearance based on post-clearance needs, fostering a clearer understanding of community requirements and risk profiles.





Empowering MF5 Landmine Survivors: Victim Assistance by NPA in Partnership with The HALO TRUST, November 2018.



Empowering MF3 Landmine Survivors: Victim Assistance by NPA in Partnership with The HALO TRUST, November 2018.



- **Empowered Marginalized Communities:** EORE sessions have enabled marginalized community members to participate confidently in public meetings, allowing them to voice their needs and make informed decisions.
- **Enhanced Community Engagement:** Increased participation and involvement, with a strong focus on gender mainstreaming, have fostered inclusive decision-making within affected communities.
- **Sustainable Support Structures:** The establishment of community focal points and Training Of EORE Train the Trainers in affected areas has ensured ongoing engagement and sustainability of EORE initiatives.



EORE Train The Trainers Training by NPA Senior Community Liaison Officer at Tamandai Primary School, Chipinge District, Manicaland Province



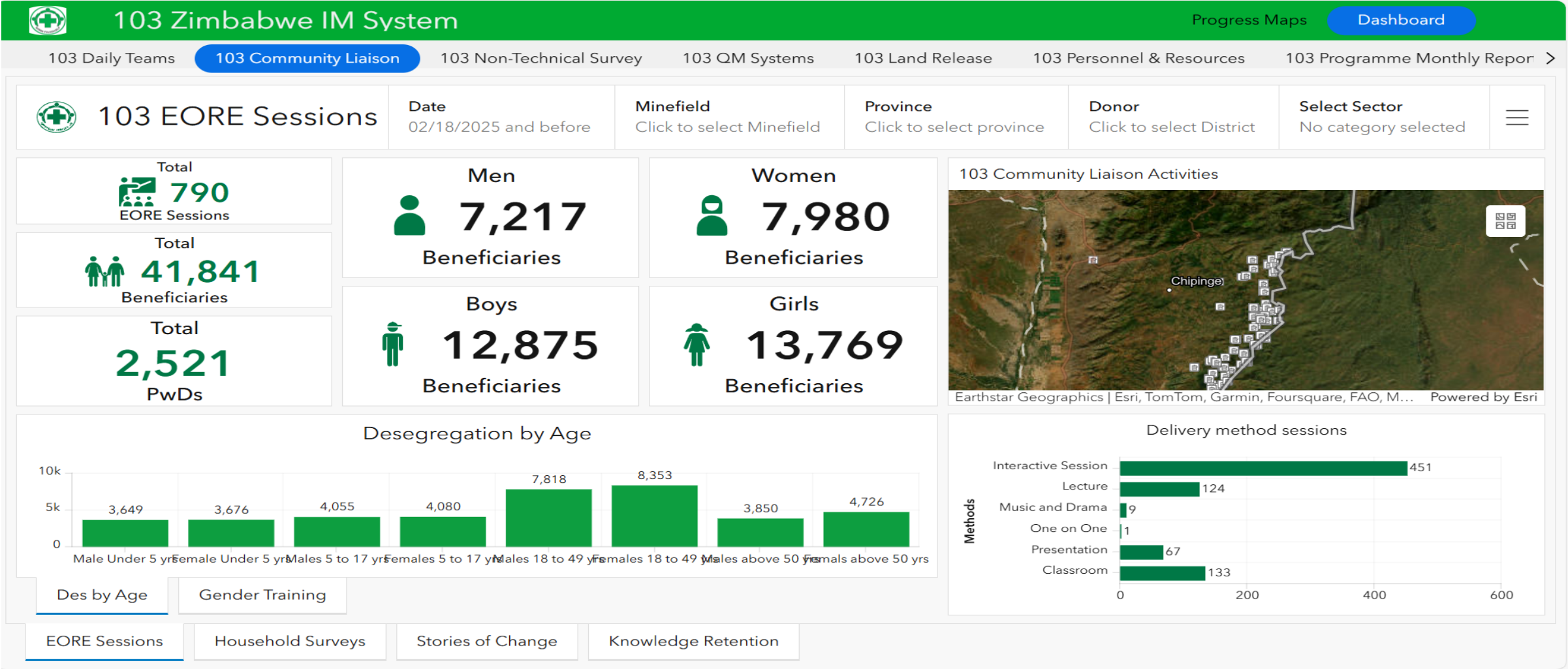
Paradigm Sheet EORE

| MA EORE Situation In 2016 | MA EORE Situation In 2024 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ineffective Stakeholder Coordination2. Inadequate Data Collection Practices3. Limited Capacity Building Opportunities4. Inefficient Methodologies for EORE Activities5. Weak Global Coordination6. MRE | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Enhanced Coordination Among Stakeholders and Operators.2. Strengthened National-Level Coordination3. Advanced Data Analysis and Evaluation4. Updated and Comprehensive Database5. Enhanced Capacity Building and Professional Development6. Refined Methodological Approaches for EORE Activities7. Strengthened Global Coordination |





Updated and Comprehensive Database



Challenges Faced In Zimbabwe During The Implementing EORE Sessions.

- **Challenges in Community Engagement:** Resistance from some community members due to past experiences or mistrust can hinder participation, making it difficult to effectively deliver EORE messages.
- **Cultural Barriers:** Diverse cultural practices and languages across communities may complicate communication and the adaptation of EORE materials, reducing their impact.
- **Limited Mass Media Outreach:** The lack of mass media coverage and awareness campaigns limits the reach of EORE initiatives, preventing broader community awareness and engagement.
- **Inadequate Capacity Building:** There is a critical need for training on new technologies and methodologies for delivering and monitoring EORE activities, which hampers the effectiveness and sustainability of educational efforts.



Challenges Faced In Zimbabwe When Implementing EORE Sessions.

- **Impact of Climate-Induced Disasters:** Adverse weather conditions and climate-related disasters hinder access to communities, as poor road conditions make it difficult to conduct EORE sessions, resulting in missed targets and planned activities.
- **Insufficient Funding:** A lack of dedicated funding for EORE activities limits the scope and effectiveness of programs, preventing operators from reaching all affected areas.
- **Limited Program Visits and Knowledge Sharing:** The absence of regular program visits and experience-sharing opportunities within the EORE department at the national level, restricts collaboration and the dissemination of best practices among operators.
- **Narrow Focus on Landmine-Affected Communities:** Prioritizing EORE sessions exclusively for landmine-affected communities overlooks the needs of those impacted by other explosive ordnance, leaving vulnerable populations without essential risk education and support.



Challenges continues

- **Insufficient Audiovisual Resources:** The lack of compelling audiovisual content hampers the ability to effectively communicate EORE messages and engage diverse audiences. Creating impactful visual resources could serve as a powerful tool for resource mobilization and community outreach.
- **Challenges in Beneficiary Tracking:** EORE sessions are conducted in three phases—pre, mid, and post. However, tracing beneficiaries for post-evaluations, conducted 3 to 6 months later, is particularly challenging for adults due to frequent family relocations driven by harsh economic conditions in Zimbabwe. This mobility complicates efforts to assess the long-term impact of EORE initiatives.



Recommendations

- **Leverage Information Communication Technology (ICT):** Utilize platforms like WhatsApp and bulk messaging to convene affected communities and facilitate educational sessions. This approach can enhance communication and engagement, ensuring critical EORE information reaches a wider audience.
- **Expand Training of Trainers (TOT) Programs:** Implement comprehensive TOT programs for selected community leaders, youth, young women, and village health workers. By equipping these individuals with the knowledge to train their peers, we foster sustainability and empower communities to take ownership of EORE initiatives.
- **Utilize Community Radios for Awareness:** Establish community radio programs to disseminate vital EORE information. This accessible medium can raise awareness and promote safe practices among community members.
- **Facilitate Exchange Workshops:** Organize exchange workshops within the EORE department to share best practices, experiences, and lessons learned. This collaboration can strengthen the overall effectiveness of EORE initiatives.



Recommendations

Enhance Capacity Building through Online Courses: Promote capacity building by encouraging participation in GICHD online courses. These courses can provide valuable insights into new methodologies and technologies for delivering EORE.

Develop Uniform EORE Evaluation Tools: Create standardized evaluation tools for EORE activities to ensure consistency in assessing impact and effectiveness across different communities.

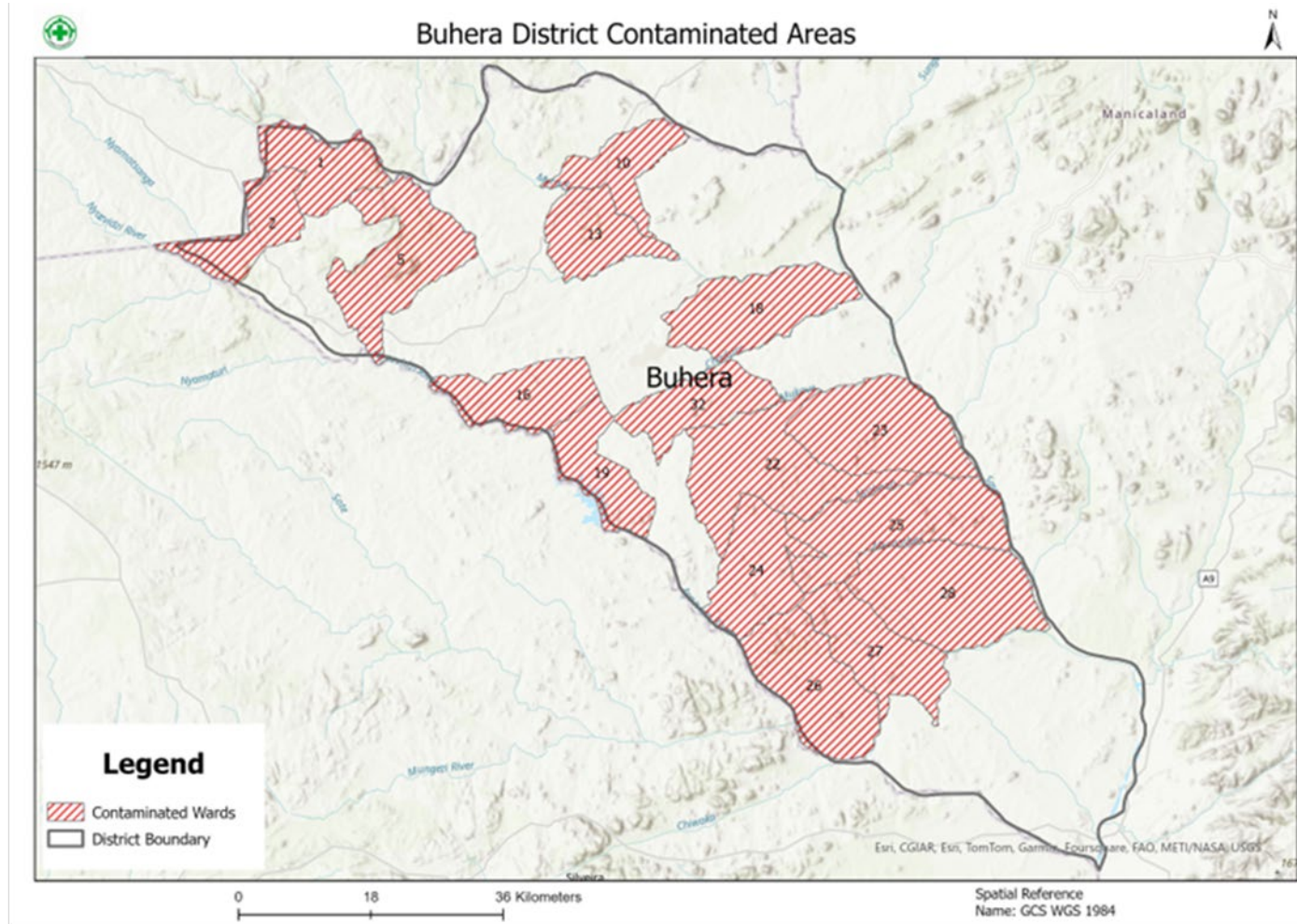
Adopt a Multidimensional Approach: Recognize the interconnected challenges faced by marginalized communities affected by explosive ordnance, such as drug abuse, gender-based violence, and environmental degradation. Implement EORE sessions that address these issues holistically, ensuring that risk assessments consider the diverse roles and responsibilities of different gender groups

Broaden the Scope of EORE Initiatives: Shift focus beyond landmines to include communities impacted by other explosive ordnance. Since 1976, these communities have lived in fear, and addressing their needs is crucial for comprehensive safety. It is imperative for the nation, donor community, and relevant stakeholders to prioritize this issue in places like Buhera and Mutasa Districts to create a safer future for all.

Most of these recommendations require additional resources; more time, labour, finances, etc.



Buhera District



Buhera District: EO Contaminated Areas Based on NPA Assessment and EOD Task Locations by the 3 Engineers Squadron



Listen to Mufowo resting at home after being discharged from the hospital.



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Solidarity in Action



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