LibMAS 12.10

Second Edition: January 2017

MINE/ERW RISK EDUCATION (MRE)

Responsible National entity:

Libyan Mine Action Centre (LibMAC)
mandated by the Ministry of Defence (MOD)

Contact: LibMAC Deputy Director
quality.assurance@lmac.gov.ly

NOTE:

This document is current at the date shown on this page. The Libyan Mine Action Standards (LibMAS) are subject to regular revision, so users should ensure that they are using the latest version of each document in the standards. The most recent versions of LibMAS are the versions that are posted on the LibMAS pages of the LibMAC website www.lmac.gov.ly

Contents

Foreword

Critical safety, control and quality elements of the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) have been retained in the Libyan Mine Action Standards (LibMAS), so ensuring that they maintain the principles agreed in IMAS guidelines.

The work of preparing, reviewing and revising LibMAS is conducted by a technical committee with the support of international, governmental and non-governmental organisations in Libya. The latest version of each Libyan standard can be found at the LibMAC website.

In all LibMAS the words "must", "shall", "should" and "may" are used in the following way. "Must" or "shall" is used to indicate a requirement, something that must be done in order to conform to the LibMAS. "Should" is used to indicate the preferred requirements, methods or specifications, but these may be varied when reasons for doing so are given. "May" is used to indicate a possible method or course of action that should be considered but need not be applied.

In this LibMAS:

- The term "Mine/ERW Risk Education (MRE) organisation" refers to any organisation (government, NGO or commercial entity) that undertakes MRE activities. The organisation may do this as a part of more general Mine Action work, or may specialise in MRE. MRE organisations include headquarters and support elements.

1. Introduction

This standard provides requirements and guidelines for mine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) risk education (MRE) organisations working in Libya. It specifies the minimum requirements for the effective assessment, planning, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation of MRE activities in Libya.

The term mine/ERW risk education (MRE) refers to activities designed to reduce the risk of death and injury from mines and ERW by raising awareness and promoting safe behaviour. These activities include information exchange with communities, communication of safety messages to target groups, encouraging responsible community risk management, and supporting other aspects of mine action.

MRE should ensure that people in the affected communities are aware of the risks from mines and ERW and are encouraged to behave in a way which minimises risk to people, property and the environment. The objectives are to reduce risk taking activity to a level where people can live safely, and to recreate an environment where economic and social development can occur despite the constraints imposed by mine/ERW contamination until such threats are physically removed.

MRE in Libya is an integrated part of Mine Action and all MRE activities conducted by international entities must be co-ordinated through the Libyan Mine Action Centre (LibMAC). MRE activities conducted by Libyan government ministries should be co-ordinated with LibMAC to ensure efficient use of resources.

2. The Role of MRE in Mine Action

MRE can play a significant role in mine action by promoting the exchange of information with people in affected communities. This may be achieved in the ways explained below.

2.1   Communication of Safety Messages

MRE safety messages should be designed to influence individuals and communities in a way that promotes safe behaviour, so minimising risk of death and injury from mines and ERW. Messages may be transmitted through person to person communication, mass media (e.g. TV and Radio), traditional media, or "small media" such as posters and leaflets. Whenever possible, MRE safety messages in Libya should be designed to be part of school curricula or of public information campaigns that may be managed by relevant government ministries.

2.2   Data gathering in At-risk Communities

MRE work with at-risk communities should be designed to include gathering the following information. Some of this may confirm what is known and some may add to existing knowledge:
- information about the mine and ERW hazards;
- the extent of areas believed dangerous;
- the impact of mines/ERW on the people;
- victim and accident data;
- existing knowledge about the hazards;
- existing knowledge of safe behaviour; and
- victim assistance needs.

This information will be used to confirm and enhance existing knowledge and to help identify further Mine Action interventions that may be needed. The information may also be used to

evaluate the impact of mine action activities other than MRE.

2.3   Community Liaison

Community liaison is important to all mine action activities and should be co-ordinated through LibMAC to ensure that a single, coherent approach is applied when interacting with communities and educating about mine/ERW risks. Within Libya, community liaison work should be carried out with cultural and ethnic sensitivity by people who can speak the national language (and, where appropriate) the regional language variations.

MRE community liaison should be conducted so that the MRE organisation develops an understanding of affected communities and their existing assets, needs, and priorities. Community liaison also allows the affected communities and local authorities to be involved in the MRE planning and activities. It is important that MRE community liaison in Libya should always be designed to ensure that community members are involved in determining their own risks and their priorities for MRE and other mine action assistance.

Successful MRE community liaison can allow valuable information about Mine Action needs to be gathered. It may also allow communities to share locally appropriate solutions for risk reduction. New information of relevance to any aspect of Mine Action must be passed to LibMAC without delay.

2.4   MRE Support for Demining

Demining includes survey, marking, removal of mines and ERW, and the clearance of land. MRE may contribute to each of these activities and can encourage community support for these activities.

In support of surveys, MRE teams may gather information that is of use when:
- Locating hazardous areas;
- Identifying the kinds of hazard present;
- Understanding how the presence of mines/ERW is affecting the community; and
- Helping to generate community lists of priorities for further Mine Action activity.

In support of identifying marking needs, MRE teams may:
- Gather and disseminate information about local warning signs;
- Ensure community understanding and respect for formal marking and fencing; and
- Help to generate community lists of priorities for marking (including suitable materials that will reduce the risk of removal, theft, or destruction).

In terms of the removal of mines/ERW and the clearance of land, MRE teams may:
- Advise the community of the arrival of demining teams;
- Inform the community about the safety procedures that will be used during demining operations;
- Inform men, women and children about the removal of hazards and areas that have been cleared, emphasising the presence of any uncleared areas;
- Facilitate the handover of released land, including arranging confidence-building measures to show the community that the released land is actually safe; and
- Conduct a follow-up survey by returning to the communities after demining activities have been completed. This can determine whether the land is being used, and used appropriately, by the intended beneficiaries.

In terms of explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), MRE teams may:
- Gather and report information on ERW spot tasks;

- Support the development of reporting systems for spot tasks;
- Facilitate the work of the spot task teams within communities; and
- Ensure that spot task teams respond in a timely manner to requests for their presence.

2.5   MRE Support for Victim Assistance

Victim assistance includes:
- rescuing the injured from hazardous areas,
- emergency and continuous medical care,
- physical rehabilitation,
- psychosocial support, and
- social and economic reintegration of survivors and persons with disabilities.

Collecting and managing information about victims is an essential part of Victim Support, and all such information must be made available to LibMAC.

Those engaged in MRE activities should also:
- Gather data about mine/ERW victims;
- Identify local capacities for victim assistance;
- Identify survivors in need of assistance;
- Provide detailed information to those in need about the assistance that is available within Libya;
- Liaise with physical rehabilitation centres when necessary;
- Facilitate transport of the survivor and a family member to and from the centre for treatment; and
- Consider employing survivors in their work whenever practical.

3. Assessments and Information Management

MRE should be based on a careful assessment of needs the purpose of which is to identify, analyse and prioritise the local mine and ERW risks. This involves assessing the capacities and vulnerabilities of the affected communities and deciding how best to conduct MRE after a need has been confirmed.

The reasons for gathering data and assessing needs should be explained to the community and the results shared with them. All data gathered should be stored, analysed, and used to improve MRE interventions in Libya. Generally, all data should be provided to LibMAC to inform the national MRE strategy.

3.1   The Conduct of the Needs Assessment

Any plan to conduct an MRE needs assessment must be reported to, and agreed with, LibMAC and other interested bodies within the Libyan government. A needs assessment that confirms a need for an MRE activity should define the conditions which, when achieved, will mean that the need for the MRE activity has passed.

Any long-term MRE activity in Libya should include making ongoing needs assessments. These will help to identify and needs that have changed and is part of the monitoring responsibility of MRE operators.

The process of data gathering and analysis should be transparent and ensure the participation of the at-risk community, LibMAC and other interested bodies within the Libyan

government.

Those conducting a needs assessment should be appropriately experienced and gender balanced to do so. The MRE organisation's training to conduct a needs assessments should ensure that men and women staff:

- Understand the reason for gathering the data and how it will be analysed and used;
- Are not put at unnecessary risk; and
- Are aware of Libyan cultural and ethical norms for social interaction appropriate to gathering data and conducting a needs assessment.

3.2   Data to be Collected as Part of an MRE Needs Assessment

The data collected should allow the following to be determined:

- People who are in need of MRE, known as MRE Target groups. These may be defined as a social or a geographical group. This is determined by gathering mine and ERW victim data about who is taking risks and why, and who is affected by the believed presence of mines and ERW. Attention should be paid to current or projected population movements into or through areas believed hazardous.

- Information about the real or perceived mine and ERW hazards and where they are. This may include types of device, a description of the area where such devices can be found and any markings or warning signs that may be present);

- Areas where people are injured, where the risk is apparently greatest, and where risk-taking behaviour is occurring;

- The appropriate MRE messages and activities that should be conducted. This will vary by target group and by assessing how and why they take risks;

- MRE approaches and methods likely to induce behavioural change. Community input should be sought when assessing this and any existing local safety strategies;

- Appropriate channels of communication to get messages to the target groups, and the way target groups communicate and learn;

- Institutional arrangements and partnerships for providing MRE messages and for receiving data that is gathered;

- Resources available and their allocation; and

- An approximate time that it will take to achieve the MRE objectives.

3.3   Principles Applicable to the Conduct of Needs Assessments

Those conducting MRE needs assessments should draw on existing information wherever possible. To allow efficient collation and the sharing of results, the data must be gathered in the format required by the appropriate government Ministries and LibMAC.

People who are gathering MRE programme data must be specially trained for that purpose and that training must cover the ethics of data gathering. Care should be taken to allow those being interviewed to respond freely and without being influenced by the presence of others or the expectations of those gathering the data.

The MRE organization conducting the needs assessment must not raise expectations that cannot be fulfilled. They must stress that the data is being collected for the purpose of helping to determine community's MRE needs and that they do not set priorities for other mine action

interventions.

The needs of men, women and children must be considered in a way that recognises that people's perceptions and requirements vary according to age, gender, social, tribal/ethnic and educational background.

All mine and ERW survivors have the right to privacy and to be included in decisions that will affect them. This must be respected at all times.

Organisations conducting MRE needs assessments must provide LibMAC and the appropriate Libyan authorities with all the data collected. Names and identifiers can be removed except in the records of victims requiring assistance. That data will be treated by the recipients as a confidential record that can be used when planning and implementing programmes for victim assistance. LibMAC will share other information with appropriate government and mine action organisations when they have a clear need for the data.

When the report of a needs assessment conducted by an MRE organisation is presented to LibMAC, LibMAC should make it public along with an appropriate analysis of the results.

4. Planning

Any plan for MRE intervention in Libya should include a strategic plan and an action plan. The strategic plan must be agreed by the appropriate government ministries and LibMAC. The Action plan of MRE organisations must fit into that without duplication, so should also be agreed with the appropriate government ministries and LibMAC. The duration of the Libya MRE strategic plan may be extensive but an MRE organisation's action plan must be of less than 12 months duration. Both strategic and action plans may be subject to revision as the need for MRE interventions is reassessed. To achieve sustainability, efforts to strengthen a community's ability to conduct its own MRE and risk management should be an integral part of any MRE action plan.

When community mine action plans arise, these should be integrated into the strategic and action plans by LibMAC and the appropriate government ministries.

Project and programme MRE is all about the management of risk and understanding who and why they are taking risks with mines/ERW.

Risk-takers can be categorised in four ways:

   a. **The Unaware** (the person doesn't know anything about the dangers that mines and ERW represent – typical examples are refugees or young children).
   b. **The Uninformed** (the person knows that mines and ERW exist and are potentially dangerous but doesn't know about safe behaviour – typical examples are the internally displaced or older children).
   c. **The Reckless** (the person knows about safe behaviour but deliberately ignores it – typical examples are adolescent boys playing with mines or other explosive devices).
   d. **The Forced** (the person has little or no option but to intentionally adopt unsafe behaviour – typical examples are adults in highly-impacted communities who need to forage for food or water for their families to survive).

4.1 General Considerations for MRE

Understanding the environment and versatility is important for conducting MRE and in general, the following should be considered when planning for MRE to ensure that it is conducted safely and effectively:

a. **Literacy:** Developing world - minimal schooling, low level of literacy, lack of familiarity with communication approaches; mines/ERW often in remote, agricultural areas with are difficult to reach.
b. **Geography:** Developing world – limited infrastructure, roads & resources; information by word of mouth.
c. **Conflict:** Security concerns; restrictive access; disruption to normal activities; donor concerns / funding; new mines/ERW.
d. **Movement:** The needs of IDP's & refugees; risk of mine/ERW accidents.
e. **Gender:** Different gender roles and tasks influence the level of exposure to mines/ERW; gender considerations when delivering MRE messages (language, technique, material).
f. **Culture, traditions and language:** Realising diversity, identifying the appropriate delivery method and tailoring the tone to the situation.

5. MRE Messages and Message Delivery

The following elements should be included in an MRE communication strategy:

- risk-taking behaviours to be addressed,
- target groups,
- safety messages,
- communication channels, and
- means of dissemination.

5.1   Message Development

The messages to be communicated will depend on target audiences, the behaviour to be promoted and those things likely to influence target audiences to adopt the desired behaviour. Messages or symbols must be culturally, linguistically, and socially appropriate and, when appropriate, positive. Generally, the Ministry of Education and LibMAC should be involved in MRE message selection.

5.2   Message Testing

Whenever possible, messages and their suggested means of delivery should be tested before they are used. Ideally, testing should be with some of the target audience. The testing should be designed to ensure that MRE messages or materials are:

- understandable,
- socially acceptable,
- relevant,
- realistic, and
- persuasive.

5.3   Monitoring, Reviewing and Revising MRE messages

Messages and message delivery should be monitored to assess their effectiveness. A monitoring system should have been established at the planning stage. Monitoring should be designed to assess whether messages are:

- Reaching their target audiences;
- Being understood and accepted; and
- Being acted upon.

When it is clear that messages are not being as effective as planned, the message must be

revised. Often the target audience may be the best source of ideas for increasing the effectiveness of MRE messages.

6. Implementing MRE in Libya

This section identifies particular issues in the implementation of MRE projects in Libya. MRE activities in Libya at this time should be planned and subject to a coherent needs assessment. Some of the lessons learned during emergency MRE in Libya may be appropriate to consider during planning, but planning and approval for MRE interventions should precede implementation of any further MRE activities.

6.1   MRE in Schools

Because Libya has a mine and ERW problem resulting from recent conflict and also has legacy mine and ERW contamination of large areas, a long-term need for MRE is anticipated. Integrating appropriate MRE into the school curriculum is the responsibility of the Libyan Ministry of Education with input from other government authorities and LibMAC when appropriate. MRE messages may be integrating into existing curricula or added as an extra activity as appropriate. This is a Libyan government responsibility and any MRE organisation wishing to provide inputs should consult with the Ministry of Education and all other interested parties.

6.2   Safety Considerations for MRE Personnel

The following is applicable for MRE personnel operating in Libya, they must:

a. Receive appropriate mine/ERW recognition and awareness training before deploying to work in mine/ERW affected areas.
b. Be familiar with all mine action marking systems and local 'improvised' markers which may be employed to indicate hazardous.
c. Conduct MRE from known safe areas.
d. When visiting a Mine Action Organisation demining worksites follow the instructions of the worksite supervisor (or equivalent).
e. Do not handle mines/ERW or other hazardous items unless qualified and authorised to do so.

7. Coordination of MRE

To ensure that MRE is integrated with other aspects of mine action, MRE in Libya should be coordinated within the LibMAC.

Overall responsibility for the national management of mine action, including MRE, rests with the Ministry of Defence and through them, with LibMAC. LibMAC shares responsibility for MRE with other government ministries, especially the Ministries of Education and Information.

8. Monitoring, Evaluation and Assessment

Internal monitoring should be an integrated part of planned MRE activity. The MRE organisation should have their plan approved by the Libya Ministry of Education which should monitor the progress of the organisation's work.

The MRE organisation's monitoring system should:

- Identify measurement indicators that focus on relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability;
- Establish systems to collect information concerning these indicators;
- Have a process that systematically collects and records the information;
- Ensure that the data collected is analysed and interpreted;
- Ensure that the information is used to inform day-to-day project/programme management; and
- Ensure that MRE activities are appropriately adapted as a result of the information gathered by monitoring.

Monitoring should look at how well MRE is being implemented and whether the plan on which implementation is based is still relevant to the needs of the affected communities. To achieve this the following issues should be monitored:

- Effectiveness and efficiency of MRE delivery;
- Perception of MRE projects and programmes by at-risk communities;
- Resultant behavioural change;
- Geographical coverage;
- Reasons for risk-taking, new behaviours, adaptation to the hazard;
- Casualties; and
- Changes in the make-up of the target risk group.

The results of the monitoring should be evaluated to assess the effectiveness of MRE and progress in implementing plans in pursuit of the MRE strategy. Evaluation of MRE should assess the impact of the project or programme, in particular in reducing the human, social or economic impact of mines and ERW. An evaluation may not necessarily be of a single project; it can also consider the organisational approach/policy/strategy on MRE.

The assessment should look for changes to:
- initial assumptions regarding target groups;
- demographic and cultural changes affecting those most at risk;
- the mine/ERW hazard; and
- the broader political and socio-economic context that might influence people's ability to respond to MRE in an appropriate manner.

9. Roles and Responsibilities

Residents in parts of Libya who live with the mine/ERW hazards, bear a primary responsibility for ensuring their own protection. MRE organisations should seek to understand and support at-risk communities in their efforts to minimise risk, and not to assume ignorance or lack of capacity.

The Libyan authorities, both the national government and at local level, have the primary responsibility for ensuring the safety of their constituents. This obligation is recognised in the IMAS, which affirm that: "The primary responsibility for mine action lies with the Government of the mine-affected state."

9.1   Libyan Mine Action Centre (LibMAC)

In collaboration with the Libyan Ministry of Education and Ministry of Information, LibMAC will:
   a.   Devise and update a national strategic plan for MRE;

b.   Ensure that MRE is integrated into overall mine action activities;

c.   Grant Operational Accreditation to MRE organisations that can demonstrate that they have the assets and the procedures appropriate to conduct MRE in Libya;

d.   Provide quality assurance and quality control checks on MRE activities; and

e.   use information gathered in MRE activities appropriately.

9.2   MRE Organisation

The organisation planning and undertaking MRE activities must:

- gain LibMAC Operational Accreditation for the assets and procedures they will use to conduct MRE;

- present SOPs for their activities in the implementation of MRE;

- collect all information required during MRE activities and make that information available to the Libyan authorities, as directed; and

- consult closely with affected communities with regard to all MRE activities and planning.

10. General References

a. International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), in particular, 12.10 Mine/ERW Risk Education.

11. Record of Amendments

Ser.	Date: D/M/Y	Standard	Section / Paragraph	Amended by: Name / Position / Org.	Comments
1	21/10/15	12.10 MRE	All	Doug Ware, Chief of Ops/QA, UNMAS	Revised and add. details to existing Standard