

IMAS Review Board Workplan
September 2021- December 2022

Updated 18 November 2021

Overview

	Title	RB approved	TWG Focal Point	Progress	Timeline
	IMAS documents to be revised				
1	IMAS 04.10 Glossary of mine action terms, definitions and abbreviations	May 2021	GICHD ¹	Ongoing	Q3 2022
2	IMAS 06.10 Management of Training	May 2021	GICHD	Ongoing	Q4 2022
3	IMAS 08.40 Marking Mine and ERW Hazards	May 2021	GICHD	Ongoing	Q2 2022
4	IMAS 09.50 Mechanical Demining TN 09.50/01	May 2021	NPA & HALO	Ongoing	To be confirmed
5	IMAS 10.10 Safety and occupational health - General requirements	May 2021	HALO ²	Ongoing	To be confirmed
6	IMAS 10.20 Demining worksite safety	May 2021	HALO	Ongoing	To be confirmed
7	IMAS 10.30 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	May 2021	HALO	Ongoing	To be confirmed
8	IMAS 10.50 Storage, Transportation and Handling of Explosives	May 2021	HALO	Ongoing	To be confirmed
9	TN 10.10/01 and/or IMAS on Management of Human Remains Located during Mine Action operations ³ *	Feb 2019	GICHD ⁴	Ongoing	To be confirmed
10	TN 12.10/01 Risk Education for Improvised Explosive Devices	May 2021	UNICEF & GICHD	Ongoing	To be confirmed
	Other				
11	IMAS 05.10 Information Management for Mine Action, (Annex B- Minimum Data Requirements)	May 2021	GICHD	Ongoing	Q1 2022
12	T&EP 09.30 EOD Competency Standards *	Feb 2020	GICHD	Ongoing	Q3/Q4 2021
13	T&EP 09.31 IEDD Competency Standards *	Feb 2020	GICHD	Ongoing	Q3/Q4 2021
14	T&EP (new) Competencies for Trainers and Handlers *	Feb 2020	GICHD	Ongoing	Q3/Q4 2021
15	T&EP (new) Setting Up ADS Testing Areas *	Feb 2020	GICHD	Ongoing	Q3/Q4 2021
16	T&EP (new) Additional Operational Competencies	May 2021	NPA	Ongoing SG approval	To be confirmed

* Carryover activity from previous workplan, previously approved by the IMAS SG.

¹ A TWG may be required for definitions that are considered unclear or misleading.

² GICHD is available to co-coordinate the 10 series workplan items.

³ The RB meeting of 24 May 2021 decided to form a TWG to consider whether a TNMA and IMAS is required.

⁴ GICHD will coordinate with ICRC as the subject matter expert.

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Background

1) IMAS 04.10 Glossary of mine action terms, definitions and abbreviations

Due to the development, in recent years, of new IMAS and the update of a few others, new and revised definitions are missing in the Glossary. Given the importance of standardised terms and definitions to ensure the coherence of standards to provide national authorities with approved terminology for national-level standards/policies, and to serve as the basis for mine action translations, update to the definitions is necessary.

The updates fall into three general categories. First, some definitions within the IMAS corpus (at least 61 have already been highlighted by GICHD) are not in the Glossary. Second, there remain cases where definitions have been amended in the context of other IMAS, but the definitions have not been adjusted in the Glossary (at least 10 cases have been noted). These first two categories of amendments can be completed as a tabletop exercise and do not require the formation of a Technical Working Group (TWG). Finally, there is a need to review about 38 cases where there are definitions that are either ambiguous and/or different than the same term defined within one or more of the IMAS chapters. These inconsistencies will likely require more discussion and require a TWG to carry out the review and a more in-depth analysis.

2) IMAS 06.10 Management of Training

Training is a central activity to mine action and has a direct impact on safety, effectiveness and efficiency of mine action operations. Notably, the current IMAS 06.10 on the Management of Training was last amended eight years ago in 2013. Subsequently training carried out in the sector has evolved. In particular, the development of local capacities has become a greater focus for mine action organisations, as a means to empower local organisations and management.

In this context, a review of the document will be undertaken to assess its relevance and effectiveness for National Mine Action Authorities and mine action organisations. In particular the document will be reviewed against related mine action guidance such as the T&EPs related to competencies (that have been developed or are being reviewed such as those pertaining to Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Disposal, Animal Detection Systems (ADS), and EOD). For example, Annex B “An example of training and session objectives for a basic demining training” is not aligned with T&EPs 09.30/01/2014, which is itself being reviewed. In addition, the fact that ISO guidance related to training has evolved since the last review of IMAS 06.10 will be another factor to consider in the effort to ensure that IMAS 06.10 represents good practice on training.

3) IMAS 08.40 Marking Mine and ERW Hazards

This IMAS on marking mine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) hazards was last amended in 2013. Since then, the mine action context has evolved. An example of this is the

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increasing contamination of urban areas with IEDs, another is the on-going conflict scenarios where access considerations that have eroded mine action's "permissive" environment. Some effective practices that have evolved over the last decade are also not included in this IMAS. Review of IMAS 08.10 will be carried out, with a particular emphasis on the current contextual challenges and recent practices. The GICHD has already commenced a review of this IMAS which is due to be completed in November 2021. Sequencing the work of the TWG to begin after the review is completed could be considered.

4) IMAS 09.50 Mechanical Demining and TN 09.50/01

IMAS 09.50 was last updated in June 2013. Since then, mechanical clearance operations have expanded into a broader range of operational environments and have been applied to an increasing number of threats. IMAS 09.50 would benefit from a comprehensive review in order to ensure that it provides clearer guidance on the types of equipment most commonly used. In particular the review should reflect the widespread and growing use of adapted construction machinery, especial for the clearance of IEDs. With regard to TNMA 09.50/01, it is now out of date and does not provide adequate guidance on the more commonly used mechanical demining methods. The GICHD is currently conducting a study on mechanical clearance that could feed into the review of this IMAS.

5) IMAS 10.10 Safety and occupational health - General requirements

6) IMAS 10.20 Demining worksite safety

7) IMAS 10.30 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

8) IMAS 10.50 Storage, Transportation and Handling of Explosives

The IMAS 10 Series have not been reviewed since 2013. It was suggested that a TWG could work on a number of the 10 series IMAS simultaneously.

On-going work on T&EP 09.30/01 has highlighted that there are some areas of IMAS 10.50, in particular Annex F, that require some updates.

The Annex F refers to the capability to inert items as being a 3+ competency. A review of the shall requirements in the overall document could also be beneficial. For example, there is no "shall" requirement to necessitate adherence to Ammunition Compatibility Group Mixing Rules detailed in Appendix 3 to Annex E. There is further the potential to add more detail on accounting requirements. Much of IMAS 10.50 is fit for purpose and it is anticipated any review would not necessarily be fundamental. But once the T&EP 9.30/01 is completed, it would be useful to review IMAS 10.50.

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9) TN 10.10/01 or IMAS Management of Human Remains Located during Mine Action operations

Revision of the TNMA on the management of human remains, is a carryover task from the previous workplan that was approved by the Steering Group. At its meeting in May, the Review Board tasked a TWG to review both the existing TNMA, and review again whether there is a requirement for a new IMAS.

10) TN 12.10/01 Risk Education for Improvised Explosive Devices

In 2018, the Technical Note for Mine Action on Risk Education for IEDs was published in draft format. Since that time, the TNMA has not been formally approved, despite the fact that it is currently in use due to considerable demand for the guidance on the topic addressed. Although the IMAS Review Board had provisionally approved this document (pending decisions on key terms that were being discussed in the context of IEDs), it was never finalised.

While this is considered an important TNMA for EORE practitioners considering IED EORE activities, previous feedback on the TNMA suggested that the earlier draft raised more questions than answers, and that it requires further work. As such, the RB agreed, following the advice of the EORE AG co-chair from UNICEF, that a comprehensive review of the document would be required. This would take more time but could yield a more satisfying and consensus-oriented approach.

Other Activities

11) IMAS 05.10 Information Management for Mine Action, (Annex B- Minimum Data Requirements)

A significant effort was carried out by a coalition of mine action operators and other stakeholders to address the fact that standardised definitions of relating to beneficiaries (including categories of land use) were developed. This document, Standard Beneficiaries Definitions, which has now been made widely available within the mine action sector, represents consensus within a significant component of the sector.

There are, however, certain discrepancies in the document with IMAS guidance and some new concepts that were never introduced into the IMAS framework, including: definitions of direct and indirect beneficiaries for Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE), Land Release, Victim Assistance and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) spot tasks. In addition, six categories of land use are defined in the document. It is important to bring this guidance into IMAS by first looking at IMAS 05.10, Annex B. This will subsequently allow for update to the approved definitions into IMAS 04.10.

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- 12) T&EP 09.30 EOD Competency Standards
- 13) T&EP 09.31 IEDD Competency Standards

This is a carryover activity from the previous RB workplan. A TWG is working on revisions to T&EP 09.30 and T&EP 09.31 following the request made by the Review Board in February 2020. Revisions to the T&EP 09.30 EOD will have a knock-on effect and require subsequent amendments to the chapeau IMAS 09.30 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD). RB and SG approval to include a revision to IMAS 09.30 will be sought once the revision to the T&EP is completed and the extent to the revision to IMAS 09.30 is known.

- 14) T&EP (new) Competencies for Trainers and Handlers
- 15) T&EP (new) Setting Up ADS Testing Areas

This is a carryover activity from the previous RB workplan. Having delivered two new/updated IMAS standards the Animal Detection Systems, the TWG that had drafted them was given approval from the SG to continue existing streams of work on developing Test and Evaluation Protocols for the establishment of ADS test areas, and ADS handler competencies.

- 16) T&EP (new) Additional Operational Competencies

At its meeting on the 24 May 2021 (see minutes by clicking [here](#)), there was broad consensus amongst RB members to consider developing new T&EPs on operational mine action areas currently not covered by IMAS. While there was broad support to include new T&EPs on the workplan, the discussion did not specify which thematic areas should be addressed. A TWG will be formed to review the scope of which thematic areas should be considered by the RB for developing new T&EPs.