

MINUTES

IMAS REVIEW BOARD MEETING

Date of meeting:	30 October 2024
Start time (duration):	14:00 Central European Time (2 hours)
Location:	Online (Microsoft Teams)
Meeting chair:	Mr. Pehr Lodhammar, UNMAS
Meeting secretary:	Mr. Sasha Logie, GICHD

1. Call to order, welcome of new members, and adoption of the agenda

Mr. Lodhammar, called the meeting to order.

The chair welcomed Mr. Griner, OAS's new representative, and Mr Robin, UNOPS's new representative. He also noted APOPO had changed status from observer to board member.

The agenda was adopted without changes.

2. Review and Approval of the Draft RB Workplan 2025-26

The secretary, Mr. Logie presented the draft IMAS Review Board workplan 2025-26. The presentation focussed the three inputs to the workplan: 1. the results of the review of IMAS older than 5 years; 2. proposals for workplan activities by RB members; and 3. carryover activities from the previous workplan that had not started.

During the review of IMAS older than review years exercise, RB members indicated whether IMAS should be categorized as requiring one of the following actions: 'confirmation'; 'amendment'; 'revision; or 'withdrawal', where these terms were defined as:

- **Confirm:** IMAS is still relevant and fit for purpose, and it can be revalidated for five years without change.
- **Amend:** IMAS is still relevant and generally fit for purpose but requires some maintenance, e.g., minor editorial or technical corrections.
- **Revise:** IMAS is still relevant, but the content is outdated, and the document requires significant revision.
- **Withdraw:** IMAS subject matter is no longer relevant to mine action, and the IMAS should be removed from the standards

The chair, Mr. Lodhammar then opened the floor for discussion, with the objective of deciding which activities in the draft workplan should be approved, and how the work should be organized.

Below is summary of the review process which happened in advance and the discussions during the meeting, related to each IMAS document.

IMAS to amend

Land release and related IMAS chapters

A large part of the meeting was dedicated to discussing land release (LR) related IMAS chapters, IMAS 07.10 and IMAS 07.20, and IMAS that would be impacted by amendments. The following IMAS were grouped accordingly:

LR IMAS

- **IMAS 07.10 | Guidelines and requirements for the management of land release and residual contamination operations**
- **IMAS 07.11 | Land release**

IMAS impacted by amendments to the LR IMAS

- **IMAS 07.12 | Quality management**
- **IMAS 07.14 | Risk management**
- **IMAS 08.10 | Non-technical survey**
- **IMAS 08.20 | Technical survey**
- **IMAS 08.30 | Post-clearance documentation**
- **IMAS 09.13 | Building clearance**

The discussion drew upon activities that took place in advance of the meeting; a LR IMAS consultation that GICHD conducted, and the IMAS review exercise.

The outcome of the GICHD land release (LR) IMAS consultation which recommended amending the land release IMAS 07.10 & 07.11, was reflected in the IMAS review which took place ahead of the RB meeting. The IMAS review also identified amending the LR IMAS as a priority for the workplan and that amendments to the LR IMAS would impact other related IMAS and that the above IMAS should be group together in the workplan.

It was noted that, given the importance of these IMAS to the overall mine action process, that the review of these documents would be the main focus of the workplan.

During the meeting there was general agreement that work to amend or revise LR and related IMAS should be coordinated to ensure consistency and cross referencing across the documents, however that it would be too large a body of work for one TWG to undertake. It was also noted that different skillsets would be required for different documents. To overcome these challenges, it was suggested forming TWG subgroups working on individual or smaller groupings of IMAS. It would be important to coordinate the work of the sub-groups.

Sequencing of the IMAS revisions should be considered, starting with IMAS 07.10 and IMAS 07.11. It was also noted that given that amending and revising these eight IMAS was a large and time-consuming body of work, it could take longer than the two-year timeframe of the workplan. IMAS should be submitted for approval individually once completed, without waiting for all IMAS to be finalized.

For IMAS 07.12 and IMAS 07.14, it was noted that both may require a more significant revision, separately from any updates to the LR IMAS. Feedback from national authorities indicates that the IMAS are too theoretical and could be revised to provide more practical guidance.

While these documents are grouped and listed under 'IMAS to amend' section of the workplan, a TWG will be able to propose changing the status of an IMAS to require a revision through the TWG TORs.

The requirement to engage with national authorities during the review of LR IMAS was emphasized.

GICHD accepted the suggestion that it coordinate the TWG reviewing the LR IMAS.

IMAS Chair and Secretary to draft a proposal for how to manage the work to amend the LR and related IMAS.

Low priority IMAS that require amendment

During the IMAS review exercise, and number of IMAS were indicated as requiring amendment, but were highlighted as low priority. These included:

- **IMAS 03.30 | Guide to the research of mine action technology**

- **IMAS 03.40 | Test and evaluation of mine action equipment**
- **IMAS 07.30 | Accreditation of mine action organisations**
- **IMAS 07.40 | Monitoring of mine action organizations**
- **IMAS 09.60 | Underwater survey and clearance of EO**
- **IMAS 11.30 | National planning guidelines for stockpile destruction**
- **IMAS 09.31 | Improvised Explosive Device Disposal**

As a result, these were included in the draft workplan for the Secretary to undertake some maintenance to fix errors, e.g., updated outdated terminology and references. Ms. Baker (PM/WRA) supported this during the meeting suggesting that, to help streamline the process, that the secretary amends these IMAS and submits them directly to the board for approval without requiring the creation of TWGs.

IMAS to be added to the workplan for maintenance by IMAS Secretary.

Other IMAS

- **IMAS 07.31 | Accreditation and operational testing of Animal Detection Systems and handlers**

APOPO proposed amending paragraph 6.5, that is causing some confusion with authorities and agencies.

IMAS amendment to be added to the workplan with APOPO coordinating.

- **IMAS 04.10 | Glossary of mine action terms, definitions and abbreviations**

GICHD proposed a review of terminology related to gender, diversity, equality and inclusion. It was clarified that usually the addition or revision of terminology in IMAS 04.10 derives from other new, amended or revised IMAS documents. Mr. Rabie (GICHD) suggested the review of the thematic area of GDEI terms in IMAS 04.10 directly was the proposition from GICHD. Mr. Laurence (UNICEF) emphasized the importance of review GDEI related terminology through a TWG to ensure broad consensus. GICHD offered to coordinate such a TWG.

GDEI related terminology to be reviewed through a TWG coordinated by GICHD

IMAS to revise

- **IMAS 02.10 | Guide for the establishment of a mine action programme**
- **IMAS 11.20 | Principles and procedures for open burning and open detonation operations**

The IMAS review indicated that these two IMAS require a revision, but that they are a medium level priority for the workplan. During the discussion it was noted that IMAS 02.10 remains relevant as there are a lot of states establishing new national mine action programmes.

No coordinator was identified during the meeting. IMAS Secretary to ask for volunteers by email.

- **IMAS 10.20 | Safety & occupational health - demining worksite safety**
- **TNMA 10.20/02 | Field risk assessments**

IMAS 10.20 and the accompanying TNMA were activities in the 2023-24 workplan that were not started.

No coordinator was identified during the meeting. IMAS Secretary to ask for volunteers by email.

IMAS to withdraw

- **IMAS 03.10 | Guide to the procurement of mine action equipment**

- **IMAS 03.20 | The procurement process**
- **IMAS 07.20 | Guide for the development and management of mine action contracts**

The IMAS resulted in a clear consensus that these three IMAS should be withdrawn from the IMAS series. There was discussion during the meeting about whether the IMAS should remain given how the significant role and size of procurement contracts in mine action.

IMAS to be withdrawn from the IMAS framework, coordinated by the IMAS Secretary.

- **IMAS 07.42 | Monitoring of stockpile destruction programmes**
- **IMAS 11.10 | Guide for the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines**

There was a proposal to withdraw these two IMAS, as there is subject matter crossover with IATGs. However, it was noted the IMAS remain relevant to mine action authorities that do not use IATGs. It was suggested that the content of the IMAS could be integrated into other IMAS. E.g. text from 07.42 could be amalgamated into existing IMAS on monitoring.

IMAS to remain, but no coordinator identified to review IMAS. IMAS Secretary to ask for volunteers by email.

New IMAS

- **New T&EP on mechanical competencies**

This is a carryover activity from the 2023-24 workplan. Ms. Christie (HALO) volunteered HALO to coordinate a TWG on developing this new T&EP.

IMAS to be included in the workplan, with HALO coordinating a TWG

- **New T&EP on EORE competencies**

A task team co-lead by GICHD and UNICEF, within workplan of the EORE Advisory Group, has been working on standardizing EORE competencies, which it proposes to be brought into IMAS through the development of a new T&EP. GICHD and UNICEF offered to co-coordinate a TWG to develop the T&EP.

IMAS to be included in the workplan, with UNICEF and GICHD coordinating a TWG (subject to EORE AG consultation)

- **New T&EP on Protocols for Remote Sensing applications through UAS**

GICHD proposed a new T&EP on remote sensing through UAS. Ms. Rabie (GICHD), advised that this topic would be included in the programme at the second GICHD Innovation Conference which will take place at the end of 2025. It was decided to consider later whether to add this activity to the workplan following the Innovation conference, after which the requirements for a T&EP would be better defined. An alternative to a new T&EP could be integrating application principles into the NTS standard, or through a standalone TNMA, T&EP or an IMAS.

T&EP not included in the workplan. To be considered for inclusion at a later stage

Workplan next steps

The chair and secretary will send an email which will include:

- Options for the RB to consider on how to manage the LR and related IMAS batch.
- Asking RB members to volunteer to lead TWGs, where there is no lead.

3. Any other business

Ms. Rabie indicated that GICHD is reviewing IMAS related to rubble and debris management, TNMA 10.10.03, TNMA 09.50.01 and IMAS 09.13, to identify the gaps how IMAS could be updated accordingly. It was noted that rubble and debris clearance is separate from building clearance, while there can be overlap. It was also noted that future work in IMAS should focus on mine action activities and avoid being expanded beyond the scope of mine action. GICHD advised that it will consider making a proposal to the workplan at a later date.

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