



No. 52101/186

PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
GENEVA

The Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (APMBC) Implementation Support Unit (ISU) and has the honour to refer to the former's Note No. 52101/89 dated 30 March 2022 submitting the Kingdom of Thailand's request for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with Article 5, paragraph 1 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction and the latter's request for additional information and clarification concerning the said extension request.

In this connection, the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva wishes to forward herewith additional information and clarification on Thailand's extension request.

The Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the APMBC ISU the assurances of its high consideration.

Permanent Mission of Thailand,
Geneva,

11 August B.E. 2565 (2022)



APMBC Implementation Support Unit,
United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs,
GENEVA.

Additional Information to “Request for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with Article 5, paragraph 1 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction”

The 3rd extension request Thailand submitted with a period of 3 years and 2 months until 31 December 2026 is based on realistic assumptions, taking the remaining areas and challenges into consideration. TMAC and relevant agencies are working on mine action effort, prioritizing Victim Assistance (VA), providing Mine Risk Education (MRE), as well as promoting gender mainstreaming. The required budget is in place and we have taken all the lessons learned in the previous period to adapt and make the operation during the third extension more effective.

Areas to be demarcated

The areas to be demarcated are one of the largest challenges we planned to address in the 3rd extension period. In this area, some part has been surveyed and some remaining part requires further collaboration with neighbouring countries.

The 14,313,869 sq.m. of Areas to be Demarcated (ADs) comprises of 10,598,192 sq.m. Suspected Hazardous Areas (SHAs) and 3,715,677 sq.m. Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHA) in 6 provinces. The table below provides detailed information on the ADs.

(Area to be Demarcated: ADs)

Province	SHA (sq.m.)	CHA (sq.m.)	SHA & CHA (sq.m.)
Sa Kaeo	5,534,862	343,382	5,878,244
Trat	2,197,477	629,901	2,827,378
Buri Ram	-	267,275	267,275
Surin	1,072,000	1,384,417	2,456,417
Sri Sa Ket	1,793,853	503,581	2,297,434
Ubon Ratchathani	-	578,121	578,121
Total	10,598,192	3,715,677	14,313,869

Mine Risk Education Efforts

Thailand sees the importance of preventing danger and accidents of mine in the areas that are yet to be cleared. Taking the limitation in accessing the ADs into consideration, Mine Risk Education (MRE) remains the priority of the mine-related operation and one of the main activities of the contingency plans. The MRE has been carried out in potential risk areas as well as in the ADs which are yet to be cleared. The MRE plan in the ADs area has been and will be the continuous effort from the TMAC.

The TMAC’s MRE process will start with TMAC’s Mine Risk Education Center orienting each HMAU at the beginning of the fiscal year. After that, the trained HMAU (also known as TMAC mobile training team) will visit each assigned destination twice a year to raise awareness of the danger of land mines and run a “course on notifying and educating the danger

of landmines.” In doing this, the HMAUs will also cooperate and build a network with relevant authorities at the border and the people network in the area such as Village Health Volunteers and leaders of the community. The HMAUs also use social media and traditional local media as a communication channel between HMAUs and the locals on mine risk issues.

The tables below provide the information on the MRE that has been carried out in 2022 and the plan for the future in the ADs.

MRE in ADs which have been carried out in 2022

No.	Description SHA/CHA	District	Sub-district	Village	No. officers	No. participants	Operation Period
SA KAEO PROVINCE							
1	SHA 84-01/AD-84-02/AD	Ta-phraya	Thap-sadej	Romsai/ Khlong-phaeng	3	35	7 Jun 22
2	SHA 119-01/AD	Ta-phraya	Ta-phraya	Neon-somboon/ Kaeo-petchploy	3	40	18 Jul 22
TRAT PROVINCE							
3	SHA 248-01/AD	Klong-yai	Hat-lek	Klongson			18 Jul 22
UBON RATCHATHANI PROVINCE							
4	478-04/02	Nam-yuen	Dom-pradit	Paed-um	8	273	1-15 Jul 22
5	478-04/03	Nam-yuen	Dom-pradit	Paed-um	7	411	16 Jul – 5 Aug 22

MRE in ADs which have been planned

No.	Description SHA/CHA	District	Sub-district	Village	No. officers	No. participants	Operation Period
SA KAEO PROVINCE							
	SHA 5-01/AD	Ta-phraya	Ta-phraya	Khao-lukchang/ Na-ngam			19 Aug 22
2	SHA 10-01/AD-10-02/AD	Ta-phraya	Ta-phraya	Thap-siam/ Thap-siem			13 Sep 22
3	SHA 6-01/AD	Khoksung	Khoksung	Nhong-yakao/ Nhong-samed			26 Oct 22
4	SHA 27-01/AD	Khoksung	Non-makmun	Nhong-chan/ Non-makmun			8 Nov 22
5	SHA 62-01/AD	Aranyaprad	Parai	Phu-namkliang/ Nong-yapong			16 Dec 22
6	SHA 113-01/AD	Aranyaprad	Parai	Parai/ Parai-mai			27 Jan 23

7	SHA 84-01/AD-84-02/AD	Ta-phraya	Thap-sadej	Romsai/ Klong-phaeng			10 Feb 23
8	SHA 119-01/AD	Ta-phraya	Ta-phraya	Neon-somboon/ Kaeo-petchploy			23 Mar 23
9	SHA 5-01/AD	Ta-phraya	Ta-phraya	Khao-lukchang/ Na-gnam			5 Apr 23
10	SHA 10-01/AD-10-02/AD	Ta-phraya	Ta-phraya	Thap-siam/ Thap-siem			17 May 23
11	SHA 6-01/AD	Khoksung	Khoksung	Nhong-yakaeo/ Nhong-samed			23 Jun 23
12	SHA 27-01/AD	Khoksung	Non-makmun	Nhong-chan/ Non-makmun			24 Jul 23
TRAT PROVINCE							
13	SHA 248-02/01AD	Klong-yai	Klong-yai	Klong-chak			13 Nov 22
14	SHA 228-01/AD	Klong-yai	Hat-lek	Klong-hin			14 Nov 22
15	SHA 227-01/AD	Klong-yai	Hat-lek	Hat-lek			13 Jan 23
16	SHA 227-02/01/AD	Klong-yai	Mai-rood	Huang-bon			7 Mar 23
17	SHA 248-01/AD	Klong-yai	Mai-rood	Nong-muang			19 Mar 23
18	HA 229-01/AD	Klong-yai	Klong-yai	Bang-in			12 May 23
19	SHA 428-01/AD	Klong-yai	Hat-lek	Kod-sai			13 May 23
20	SHA 229-01/AD	Klong-yai	Klong-yai	Suan-maprao			9 Jun 23
UBON RATCHATHANI PROVINCE							
21	CHA 457-01/AD	Nam-yuen	Song	Nam-yuen			Jan-Jun 23
SRI SAKET PROVINCE							
22	CHA 439-02/01/AD	Kantharalak	Lalai	Ko			Jul-Dec 23

Victim Assistance

Thailand has collected and monitored the data of mine victims to assist people who are affected by the remaining mine. Thailand's assistance of mine victims is in line with its national policies on the public health system and the social welfare system. In healthcare, Victim Assistance (VA) activities are integrated into the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) policy framework, in particular, Universal Coverage for Emergency Patients (UCEP). The Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Development, and Human Security also ensures that the victim can return to society as productive members by assuring their needs.

Moreover, the members of HMAUs also visit mine victims annually to assist and assess the further need of the victims, such as assisting these victims to visit the hospital and checking the prosthesis legs. Moreover, there is also vocational training run by the NPA such as teaching the victims to enhance ITs skills.

The TMAC has regularly collected data of the victims. From 1973-2022, TMAC collected the data of mine victims disaggregated by age and gender. Of overall 719 mine victims, 667 are men and 52 are women.

Age (years)	No. of victims (As of May 2022)	Male	Female
0-9	0	-	-
10-19	1	1	-
20-29	0	-	-
30-39	10	10	-
40-49	54	51	3
50-59	267	246	21
60-69	244	228	16
70-79	113	108	5
80-89	27	21	6
90-99	2	2	-
100-109	1	-	1
TOTAL	719	667	52

Statistics show that from January 2021 - present, there are 4 mine victims with 3 injured and 1 death and all of these victims are male. Most of mine victims are not locals. They entered the forest, which is a hazardous area, to gather mushrooms. This showed that the MRE operations for the locals are successful to some extent.

Gender Mainstreaming

As Thailand fully supports Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality, the promotion of gender mainstreaming is included in mine-action.

Unlike many countries, the demining operation in Thailand is run by TMAC, a government agency under The Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters. Thus, the majority of the TMAC personnel are male, in tandem with the number of the Armed Forces Personnel at The Royal Thai Armed Forces. Although the majority of the personnel working in demining fields are male, more than 20% of TMAC personnel are female working on policy and planning as well as on coordination duties. Therefore, women also have played an important role in facilitating the overall mine operations.

In MRE, there has been a huge involvement from female village health volunteers and female teachers. For example, the MRE activities in May 2022 involved 21 village health volunteers, of this number, 15 are female. The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MDHS) also sent 4 personnel to train the villagers on mine victim assistance, all of the instructors were female.

Budget

As indicated in the 3rd Extension Request, Thai mine action is mainly funded by the government and the Royal Thai government is committed to the continued support of the

TMAC’s humanitarian operation from 2024-2026. As Thailand’s fiscal year is on annual basis, the budget is year by year and based on the situation of each year. However, based on the remaining areas, the TMAC has estimated the required budget for the operations as followed:

Fiscal year	Personal (THB)	Operations (THB)	Additional Fund (THB)	Total (THB)	Total (USD)
2024	120,000,000	55,000,000	3,250,000	178,250,000	5,465,947
2025	130,000,000	58,000,000	3,250,000	191,250,000	5,864,586
2026	150,000,000	65,000,000	4,500,000	219,500,000	6,730,858
Total	400,000,000	178,000,000	11,000,000	589,000,000	18,061,390

*The budget for MRE is estimated to be 500,000 THB per annual.
(USD = THB 32.611 (Bank of Thailand’s exchange rate as of 1 March 2022))

In addition to the budget provided by the Royal Thai government, funding has also been given by Thailand’s international partners, namely the United States, Japan and Norway. The United States has supported demining operation through GICHD as mentioned in the extension request. Besides the PATOM project mentioned in the extension request, from 2016 to 2021. Japan has given USD 2,247,084.9 through JAPAN-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) to the Thai Civilian Deminer Association (TDA). From 2018-2021, Norway has granted around Norwegian krone (NOK) 20.4 million through Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA). In 2022, it is estimated that NOK 5.5 million will be given to the NPA to support the mine operations in Thailand.

Looking ahead, the NPA is confirmed to receive an annual budget from the Norwegian Government of approximately NOK 5.5 million during the 3rd extension request to assist the mine operations in Thailand.

Pilot Project

The pilot project on Demining Cooperation along the border of Thailand and Cambodia, jointly implemented by TMAC and Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC) in 2020, was meant to be a model for future projects and an important platform for future cooperation. This project has allowed TMAC and CMAC to continuously exchange information regarding the operation. Unfortunately, restrictions due to COVID-19 have delayed the visit to the operation field. However, the project has created mutual understanding, particularly regarding the limitation in mine clearance operations as well as built trust between Thailand and Cambodia.

Cooperation with Cambodia

With the success of the Pilot Project, The Royal Thai Government and TMAC have put priority on the continued dialogue and consultation with Cambodia regarding the joint demining operations. TMAC has placed the time frame to consult with CMAC and the Royal Cambodian Government. The discussion could start even before the end of the 2nd Extension Request and the TMAC hopes that further mine action in the ADs could be taken.

Regarding the Committee’s advice to consider adjusting the timeline with Cambodia as well as cooperation mine clearance operation and conducting Mine Risk Education, Thailand is ready to further discuss these issues with Cambodia.

Impact of Clearance on Socio-Economic Development

Thailand takes the issue of socio-economic development seriously and is fully committed to driving forward the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Government recognises the interconnection between mine operations and sustainable development. As Thailand has completed more than 98% of its mine clearance operation, it is evident that mine-free areas have changed every day's life of local communities. Not only in terms of safety, mine-free areas also significantly contribute to the socio-economic advancement of the local communities such as areas for agriculture, rural development and connectivity.

An excellent example is the Prasat Sdok Kok Thom, in Sa Kaeo province near the border with Cambodia, which was once located in a mine-contaminated area. After the areas are mine cleared, the Government restored the 11th-century Temple and developed its architectural landscape. The Prasat Sdok Kok Thom has become an important national heritage and tourist attraction.

Experience Sharing

Once Thailand becomes mine-free, TMAC has an intention to transform the center into a demining training center, in order to share its know-how in mine operations. The size of TMAC may be reduced in accordance with the situation and assignment. The personnel will continue maintaining their networks with relevant agencies in the countries, such as the military and the Border Patrol Police, in case new mines are found. The center also plans to assist other countries, especially other ASEAN Member States, in capacity building and experience sharing. The TMAC is in the process of securing funds to establish the such center and is ready to work with other countries as well as ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC).
