



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
**Nation Religion King**

**STATEMENT OF CAMBODIA ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE**  
**INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON THE ANTI-PERSONNEL**  
**MINE BAN CONVENTION**  
**WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION BUILDING IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**  
**On 19-21 June 2023**

**H.E. Chair, Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I would like to express my sincere thanks for the invitation to share the progress made by Cambodia in its efforts to fulfill its commitments to assist mine/ERW victims as agreed upon in the Oslo Action Plan. I would also like to congratulate Italy and Uganda as Chairs, and Slovenia and Zambia for their achievements as the Committee on Victim Assistance. Next, I would like to give key updates on Cambodia's implementation of the Oslo Action Plan in terms of victim assistance:

**Action #33**

The CMAA played its role to strengthen coordination, mobilize resources, and enhance technical assistance to support mine/ERW survivors and their families. CMAA worked closely with relevant government entity, line ministries, subnational authorities, NGOs, and the private sector actively participate in victim assistance activities. These activities span the continuum of care and include the provision of emergency response assistance and ongoing medical care to victims, medium to long-term rehabilitation, psychological and socio-economic support, vocational training, job placement, and addressing the rights and needs of persons with disabilities through policies, plans and legal frameworks.

**Action #34**

As a State Party to the Convention, Cambodia worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life of survivors. The Royal Government of Cambodia established various legal and operational frameworks to support mine/ERW victims, as well as persons with disabilities. The Cambodian Mine Action Standard on Victim Assistance was adopted in 2022 and the development of the Victim Assistance Practice Guideline will be finished at the end of this year. These frameworks provide roadmaps for supporting mine/ERW victims as well as indirect victims.

**Action #35**

**Cambodian Mine/ERW Victim Information System(CMVIS)**

65,005 casualties have been recorded by the Cambodian Mine Victim Information System (CMVIS) from 1979 to Dec 2022. The number of individuals killed or injured by anti-personnel mines provisionally recorded from CMVIS of CMAA between 01 January to 31 December 2022 equals 41 mine/ERW casualties. This consists of 19 casualties caused by mines and 22 casualties by ERW. 10 people were killed, 24 people were injured, and 07 incidents resulted in amputation. 28 casualties were men, 12 casualties were boys under 18 years old, and 1 casualty was a woman. Such data underscore the effectiveness of the this CMVIS.

### **Quality of Life Survey (QLS)**

In 2022, 25 volunteer survivor networks working in the 3 provinces of Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, and Pailin conducted the Quality of Life Survey (QLS) for mine survivors and other persons with disabilities. The volunteer survivor networks conducted direct interviews with 3,420 persons with disabilities (1,553 women) including 1,295 landmine/ERW survivors (115 women) throughout 276 villages in 55 communes across 25 districts. Of those interviewed, the survey identified that most of the survivors had received assistance, with a limited number reporting a lack access to services.

### **Action #36**

23,367 persons with disabilities, including mine/ERW survivors, received service from physiotherapists and surgeons. In total, first-aid training was delivered to 962 people (533 women) from Village Health Support Groups (VHSG) (830 total, 509 women), Health Centre Staff (57 total, 27 women), Disabled People's Organisation (DPO) (15 total, 11 women), and Village Leaders (60 total, 6 women). The recipients were able to provide vital first-aid interventions to 1,389 out of the 2,271 (61%) people recorded who sustained injuries (including traffic accidents) in the local areas.

### **H.E. Chair, Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen,**

### **Action #37**

Currently, the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) has been developing the Referral Mechanism and service directories and organized the National Victim Assistance Workshop on 25-26 May 2023 by inviting all relevant stakeholders for discussion and providing those input to both documents. We expect the documents to be completed at the end of this year. This process will serve to address the gaps in service provision as identified through the Quality of Life Surveys.

### **Action #38**

The Physical Rehabilitation Centers (PRCs) produced and repaired 23,759 products and 23,468 persons with disabilities, including 8,630 mine/ERW survivors, received physical rehabilitation supports, such as prosthetics, orthotics, wheelchairs, tricycles, and walking aids including crutches cans, and walking frames repaired. 10,136 Physiotherapist Assessments and 60,187 Physiotherapy Treatments were also delivered.

Psychological Social Support Training was delivered in partnership between CMAA and the ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC) to 80 medical students and 80 staff from Volunteer Survivor Networks, CMVIS, and PRCs.

### **Action #39**

361 children with disabilities, including mine/ERW survivors, were provided support to study at primary school and 53 persons with disabilities to public schools. 156 persons with disabilities, including 50 mine/ERW survivors, were trained at vocational training centers and 23 people received job placements. 34 persons with disabilities received small business training while another 16 small business received other forms of support. 493 persons with disabilities had interviews for referral to other service providers, and 44 persons with disabilities were referred to other NGOs/service providers. 33 women with disabilities attended the sports events, and 24 bicycles were provided to persons with disabilities.

### **Action #40**

The National Committee for Disasters Management developed its action plan for response to preparedness, safety, and protection of the Cambodian people by including landmine survivors in dangerous situations, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies, and natural disasters, in line with relevant international humanitarian and human rights law and international guidelines.

**H.E. Chair, Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen,**

**Challenges**

Despite these achievements, Cambodia faces several critical challenges. First, Cambodia is under-resourced in emergency support and ongoing medical care, rehabilitation services, psychological and psychosocial support, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, vocational training skills, and community services. Moreover, the capacity and cooperation of victim assistance stakeholders in data reporting remains a pressing issue. Cambodia takes this opportunity to call for technical and financial assistance from all development partners so that together we can overcome these challenges and ensure that all members of our community can live with dignity and equality.

**Way forward**

Cambodia's commitments to improving the quality of life of mine/ERW survivors and persons with disabilities are reassured every year and underscored by the efforts just highlighted. Cambodia would also like to note its collaboration with the ISU to organize the Third Global Victim Assistance conference from 17-19 October 2023 in Phnom Penh.

**Conclusion**

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all development partners, notably the Implementation Support Unit of this Convention, Australia, Canada, Exceed Worldwide, Humanity & Inclusion, ICRC, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, and those whom might not be named here, for their invaluable collaboration and contribution to Cambodia in undertaking its obligations to mine/ERW survivors and other persons with disabilities.

***Thank you.***