

# **Fifth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction**

17 September 2024

English only

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**Siem Reap, 25-29 November 2024**

**Geneva, 20 June 2024**

Item 8(c) of the provisional agenda

**Review of the operation and status of the Convention**

**Clearing mined areas**

## **Updated Work Plan**

### **Submitted by Cambodia\***

1. The decision taken by the Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties on the request submitted by Cambodia for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of antipersonnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention\*, indicates that:

“The Conference, in recalling that the implementation of Cambodia’s national demining plan may be affected by pending survey and the agreement on work plans to address anti-personnel mines in un-demarcated border areas, requested that Cambodia submit to the States Parties, by 15 August 2022 and 30 April 2024, an updated work plan for the remaining period covered by the extension request. The Conference requested that these work plans contain an updated list of all areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, annual projections of which areas would be dealt with each year by which organizations during the remaining period covered by the request, and a revised detailed budget.”

“Also, in granting the request, the Conference noted that both Cambodia and all States Parties would benefit if Cambodia’s national demining plan incorporated its intentions concerning mined areas it has reported along the Cambodia - Thailand border, including by providing additional clarity on the location and status of areas suspected to contain mines along that border. The Conference noted the importance of Cambodia keeping the States Parties informed by reporting on information on and plans to deal with mined areas along Cambodia’s common border with Thailand.”

2. Cambodia’s Updated Work Plan was received on 30 April 2024.

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\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

\* APLC/CONF/2019/5.



## Annex



### Second Updated Work Plan Cambodia

Date: 30 April 2024

#### 1. Period of the work plan

This second updated work plan is to be implemented for a period of two years from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2025, the deadline by which Cambodia was granted to complete Article 5 obligation.

#### 2. Progress made since the start of the program in 1992

From 1992 to 31 December 2023, Cambodia released 3,023,956,726 square meters of land contaminated by all forms of explosive ordnance. In total 1,179,365 anti-personnel mines, 26,339 anti-tank mines, 69,320 cluster munitions, and 3,105,593 items of other explosive remnants of war were found and destroyed. See Table 1 and Table 2 for details. Released land has been put back into productive use by the affected communities for resettlement, agriculture, infrastructure development, and other purposes.

Table 1: Different contaminated areas released from 1992 to 31 December 2023.

Description	1992-31 Dec 2023
Anti-personnel mined area released (m <sup>2</sup> )	2,300,514,048
Anti-tank mined area released (m <sup>2</sup> )	115,341,185
Cluster munitions contaminated area released (m <sup>2</sup> )	345,379,519
Other ERW-contaminated areas released (m <sup>2</sup> )	171,542,918
Area cleared without site sketches <sup>1</sup>	91,179,056
<b>Total:</b>	<b>3,023,956,726</b>

Note: All data presented in this document was queried from the national database (IMSMA) on 29 March 2024.

<sup>1</sup> This area was cleared by the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) in support of the Government's infrastructure development projects to ensure the safety of the construction work. Clearance operations resulted in many mines and ERW being discovered and destroyed.

Table 2: Explosive items found and destroyed from 1992 to 31 December 2023.

Description	1992-31 Dec 2023
Anti-personnel mines found and destroyed	1,179,365
Anti-tank mines found and destroyed	26,339
Cluster munitions found and destroyed	69,320
Other explosive remnants of war found and destroyed	3,105,593

### 3. Progress made since the submission of the second extension request (01 January 2020-31 December 2023)

Cambodia's 2019 extension request indicated a remaining challenge of 9,804 suspected hazardous areas measuring 890,437,236 square meters, located in 24 provinces. However, these numbers were quickly outdated as many new anti-personnel mined areas have been discovered since then.

For the period from 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2023, Cambodia released 9,680 suspected areas measuring 989,653,555 square meters of area contaminated by all forms of explosive ordnance. See Table 3 for details.

Table 3: Different contaminated areas released from 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2023

	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
APM area released (m <sup>2</sup> )	102,900,733	127,839,103	191,541,632	328,014,642	750,296,110
ATM area released (m <sup>2</sup> )	7,920,210	4,287,703	14,231,751	16,796,647	43,236,311
CM area released (m <sup>2</sup> )	36,514,269	39,363,542	41,679,511	27,549,381	145,106,703
ERW area released (m <sup>2</sup> )	14,259,045	3,201,816	2,809,942	30,743,628	51,014,431
<b>Total:</b>					<b>989,653,555</b>

Under the APMBC, from 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2023, Cambodia released 7,925 suspected areas measuring 750,296,110 square meters of anti-personnel mined area. Of the total area released, 18% were released through non-technical survey (NTS), 30% were released through technical survey (TS), and 52% were released through full clearance. See Table 4 for details.

Table 4: Anti-personnel mined area released from 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2023

Description	2020-2023	Percentage
Anti-personnel mined area released through non-technical survey (m <sup>2</sup> )	132,917,403	18%
Anti-personnel mined area released through technical survey (m <sup>2</sup> )	226,326,998	30%
Anti-personnel mined area released through clearance (m <sup>2</sup> )	391,051,709	52%
<b>Total</b>	<b>750,296,110</b>	<b>100%</b>

The area contaminated by anti-personnel mine released has been gradually increasing from one year to another. 2021 saw an increase of 24%, 2022 saw an increase of 50% and 2023 saw an increase of 71% from the preceding year. See Table 5 for details.

Table 5: Anti-personnel mined area released by year

Description	2020	2021	2022	2023
Anti-personnel mined area released through non-technical survey (NTS) (m <sup>2</sup> )	27,535,408	41,658,693	32,276,782	31,446,520
Anti-personnel mined area released through technical survey (TS) (m <sup>2</sup> )	15,226,616	11,271,421	70,789,659	129,039,302
Anti-personnel mined area released through clearance (m <sup>2</sup> )	60,138,709	74,908,989	88,475,191	167,528,820
<b>Total</b>	<b>102,900,733</b>	<b>127,839,103</b>	<b>191,541,632</b>	<b>328,014,642</b>
<b>Annual increment (%)</b>		<b>124%</b>	<b>150%</b>	<b>171%</b>

In the 2023 updated work plan, Cambodia targeted to release 345,284,511 square meters in 2023. However, Cambodia was able to release 328,014,642 square meters, which is 95% of the target. It should be noted by 29 March 2024 (the data retrieving date) some land release data have not been entered into the national database. Thus, the actual 2023 land release output could be greater than 95%.

Operations from 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2023 resulted in 98,543 anti-personnel mines, 1,153 anti-tank mines, 28,725 cluster munitions, and 244,237 items of other explosive remnants of war (ERW) found and destroyed. See Table 6 for details.

Table 6: Explosive items found and destroyed from 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2023

Description	01 Jan 2020-31 Dec 2023
Anti-personnel mines found and destroyed	98,543
Anti-tank mines found and destroyed	1,153
Cluster munitions found and destroyed	28,725
Other explosive remnants of war found and destroyed	244,237

In 2023, 99,064,084 square meters of anti-personnel mined area was added to the national database. Some of these were discovered in 2023 and some were discovered in the years before 2023<sup>2</sup>.

### Mine Free Provinces

In 2019, Cambodia reported 24 provinces as being affected by anti-personnel mines. By the end of 2022, Cambodia had cleared 11 provinces of known anti-personnel minefields, and by the end of 2023, three additional provinces were cleared. See Table 7 for details.

Table 7: province cleared of known anti-personnel minefields in 2022 and 2023

Provinces cleared of known anti-personnel minefields in 2022	Provinces cleared of known anti-personnel minefields in 2023
1. Kampong Cham, 2. Kampong Chhnang, 3. Kampot, 4. Kandal, 5. Kep, 6. Phnom Penh, 7. Preah Sihanouk, 8. Prey Veng, 9. Svay Rieng, 10. Takeo, and 11. Tboung Khmum.	1. Kampong Speu, 2. Kratie, and 3. Mondul Kiri.

Note: Stung Treng is the only province that has ever been affected by anti-personnel mine.

<sup>2</sup> This data was stored on workbench.





As of 01 January 2024, Cambodia still has **515,000,000** square meters of anti-personnel mined area to be released by the end of 2025. This 515,000,000 square meters included **435,064,084** square meters that are already registered on the national database and **79,935,916<sup>3</sup>** square meters projected to be discovered from 2024 to 2025.

The baseline survey of Cambodia was completed in 2020. However, Cambodia will continue to deploy survey teams to visit anti-personnel minefields recorded on the national database to release areas through non-technical surveys. The non-technical survey work accurately defines the location and the size of the contaminated area to support national planning and prioritization and to ensure that clearance resources are directed to areas requiring technical survey and clearance. CMAA estimated nationally that on average 20 percent of anti-

<sup>3</sup> Note: based on data analysis in April 2023, CMAA projected and announced at the TWG-MA that 179,000,000 square meters will be discovered from 2023-2025. By the end of 2023, 99,064,084 square meters have already been discovered. Thus, 79,935,916 square meters are projected to be discovered from 2024-2025.

personnel mined areas can be released through non-technical survey, leaving 80 percent to be addressed by technical survey and clearance.

Currently, CMAC, HALO Trust, MAG, and NPA are conducting non-technical surveys. CMAA will continue to encourage these operators to expand non-technical survey activity. With lessons learned from the field, the CMAA with support from all clearance operators and partners has revised the Cambodian Mine Action Standards on Baseline Survey to ensure that new anti-personnel mine-contaminated areas are accepted/recorded based on evidence.

An Executive Order issued by The Office of The Council of Ministers, dated 13 March 2024, orders CMAC to complete a survey of minefields along the Cambodia-Thailand border under the leadership of the CMAA and in close cooperation with the Royal Cambodian Army. The motivation behind this decision is that many locations within this area have not been surveyed during the first phase of the baseline survey from 2009 to 2010 due to inaccessibility, remoteness, and restrictions, and the recent observations that many accidents occurred outside the existing minefield polygons.

At the time of writing this second updated work plan, CMAA is working with CMAC and the Royal Cambodian Army on the survey work plan. When this survey is completed, Cambodia will have a reliable anti-personnel mined area to plan and address to finish the job.

## 6. Clearance work plan

Based on the consolidation of land release plans from all operators, Cambodia plans to release 313,753,769 square meters in 2024 (See Table 8 for details) and the remaining 201,246,231 square meters in 2025.

Table 8: Consolidation of land release plans from all operators in 2024

Operators	With funds from RGC	With funds from donors	Total
CMAC	118,775,693 m <sup>2</sup>	76,547,370 m <sup>2</sup>	195,323,063 m <sup>2</sup>
NPMEC	51,028,999 m <sup>2</sup>	0	51,028,999 m <sup>2</sup>
RCAF	44,499,077 m <sup>2</sup>	0	44,499,077 m <sup>2</sup>
HALO	0	12,983,024 m <sup>2</sup>	12,983,024 m <sup>2</sup>
MAG	0	9,617,047 m <sup>2</sup>	9,617,047 m <sup>2</sup>
CSHD	0	302,559 m <sup>2</sup>	302,559 m <sup>2</sup>
	214,303,769 m <sup>2</sup>	99,450,000 m <sup>2</sup>	313,753,769 m <sup>2</sup>

Note: The land release plan of APOPO is part of the land release plan of CMAC.

The Cambodian mine action sector has a mixed toolkit to address anti-personnel minefields. This includes different types of manual clearance teams, and mechanical and animal detection systems to clear and release anti-personnel minefields with different degrees of difficulty and

size. Clearance operators have the liberty to technically decide on the deployment of the tools that they have in their toolbox to tackle minefields in their work plans.

The CMAA Quality Management Teams will continue to conduct quality assurance and quality control of the operators' teams to ensure that field activities are conducted safely, and the cleared land is safe for intended land use.

CMAA plans to clear three additional provinces – Ratanak Kiri, Kompong Thom, and Siem Reap, by the end of 2024 and plans to clear the seven remaining provinces – Koh Kong, Pursat, Battambang, Pailin, Banteay Meanchey, Oddar Meanchey, and Preah Vihear by the end of 2025.

## **7. Sustainable national capacity**

CMAA will start preparing the new National Mine Action Strategy 2026-2030 in the second half of 2024. The Strategy aims to provide a roadmap for Cambodia to address other contaminations, and establish sustainable national capacity to address residual threats. The Strategy will also cover explosive ordnance risk education, victim assistance, and south-south cooperation among others.

With financial support from the GICHD, the CMAA will pilot a project on response to residual threats in Siem Reap in the coming months to learn lessons to inform the design of response to residual threats that will be part of the National Mine Action Strategy 2026-2030.

## **8. Explosive Ordnance Risk Education**

Explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) remains an important component of mine action to reduce the potential accidents in communities living in contaminated areas. Building on the successful implementation of explosive ordnance risk education in previous years, CMAA will continue to coordinate the work of explosive ordnance risk education operators to target high-risk groups, including the mobile population.

CMAA will also ensure that explosive ordnance risk education remains mainstreamed in the school curriculum, consulting with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS) to update explosive ordnance risk education in both primary and secondary school curriculums when needed.

CMAA will continue to organize National Mine Awareness Day (24 February) and install explosive ordnance risk education billboards in high-risk areas to strengthen awareness of the public on the danger of mines and explosive remnants of war to reduce potential casualties.

CMAA will train 80 teachers and 80 police officers in 2024 and 80 teachers and 80 police officers in 2025. Teachers and police officers are the resource persons who will then provide risk education to students and populations living in affected areas to adopt safe behavior.

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In addition, community-based explosive ordnance risk education will be reinforced by adapting to the changing context. The sector aims to provide EORE to 1.7 million people in 2024 and 1.7 million people in 2025, of which 37% are expected to be men, 38% are women, 13% are boys, and 12% are girls.

## 9. Annual cost and resource mobilization

To release the remaining 515,000,000 square meters, Cambodia needs US\$ 132,355,000<sup>4</sup>. Taking into consideration the contributions from the Royal Government of Cambodia (US\$ 60,000,000), the international community (US\$ 32,000,000), and the private sector (US\$ 200,000), US\$ 40,155,000<sup>5</sup> have been identified as a funding shortfall for the period from 2024-2025.

## 10. Capability/Capacity

CMAA will continue to coordinate clearance activities to ensure concerted efforts are directed to national priorities addressing the needs of the affected communities through the clearance of minefields prioritized under the coordination and facilitation of the provincial mine action planning units (MAPU). Currently, there are eight operators involved in anti-personnel minefield survey and clearance. See Table 9 for details.

Table 9: Operators involved in the survey and clearance of anti-personnel minefields

Operators	March 2024
1. Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC)	1,846
2. Royal Cambodian Army (RCA)	910
3. The HALO Trust (HALO)	1,200
4. National Center for Peace Keeping Forces, Mine/ERW Clearance (NPMEC)	540
5. Mine Advisor Group (MAG)	615
6. Norwegian People Aid (NPA)	134
7. Anti-Personnel Landmines Detection Product Development (APOPO)	82
8. Cambodian Self Help Demining (CSHD)	37
<b>Total:</b>	<b>5,364</b>

By March 2024, the Royal Cambodian Army (RCA) deployed 910 demining personnel to clear minefields mostly in the border area with Thailand. The RCA plans to train 10 additional demining platoons in 2024. Thus, by the end of 2024, the RCA will have 1,170 demining personnel deployed.

<sup>4</sup> Projected average cost to release 1 square meter of anti-personnel mined area is \$0.257

<sup>5</sup> Note: data analysis shows that on average it costs \$0.257 to release one square meter of mined land. Thus, it would cost \$132,355,000 to release 515,000,000 square meters. Considering contributions from the three parties, \$40,155,000 (rounding \$40.2 million) is identified as a funding shortfall.

**11. Matters may affect the implementation of the updated work plan**

The sector perceives the following challenges may affect the sector's ability to achieve the targets of this updated work plan:

- a. The sector does not receive the financial resources it needs,
- b. If the size of minefields resulting from the survey in the border area with Thailand is greater than 79,935,916 square meters, which was projected to be discovered from 2024-2025,
- c. There are areas along the border that are un-demarcated and therefore access is limited.

As the lead of the sector, CMAA will continue to work closely with the Royal Cambodian Army to secure access to release anti-personnel minefields in the border area, update development partners on the progress of the sector and seek continued financial support from current and potential donors, and monitor survey activities to ensure quality of the survey results.

**12. Sustainable development goals and mine action in Cambodia**

In a small country like Cambodia, mine action and development are closely related. In 2021, the GICHD completed a study to understand the sustainable development outcome of mine action. The study presents evidence of the multidimensional and transformative role of mine action by identifying its direct contribution to 13 Sustainable Development Goals and at least 48 of their targets in Cambodia. Hence, the mine action sector has contributed to the five dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: partnership, peace, people, planet, and prosperity.

After the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals at the UN General Assembly in 2015, Cambodia adopted and adopted all of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and added the 18<sup>th</sup> Goal entitled 'End the negative impact of mines/ERW and promote victim assistance'.

**13. Monitoring and review of the work plan**

The progress in the implementation of this updated work plan will be monitored and measured by the CMAA based on available information and data. CMAA will assess the progress of this updated work plan regularly and inform States Parties and ISU when required.

Cambodia understands that should it not be able to complete clearance of all known anti-personnel mined areas by 31 December 2025, it is required to submit to the States Parties a 3<sup>rd</sup> Extension Request, which is due by 31 March 2025.

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**Attachments:**

Annex 1: Remaining anti-personnel minefields by district as of January 2024

Annex 1: Remaining anti-personnel mined areas by district as of 01 January 2024

Province	District	# minefield	Total area (m <sup>2</sup> )
Banteay Meanchey	Malai	415	26,857,804
	Ou Chrov	102	11,395,276
	Paoy Paet	60	4,728,745
	Preah Netr Preah	2	49,319
	Svay Chek	67	4,314,367
	Thma Puok	353	18,045,573
Battambang	Aek Phnum	24	4,888,087
	Banan	28	3,259,575
	Bavel	1	20,895
	Kamrieng	29	1,727,810
	Koas Krala	181	26,666,265
	Moung Ruessei	1	4,459
	Phnum Proek	45	1,288,186
	Rotanak Mondol	44	3,850,885
	Samlout	540	43,706,339
	Sampov Lun	28	1,172,556
	Sangkae	4	56,880
	Thma Koul	22	2,164,723
Kampong Thom	Santuk	2	306,058
Koh Kong	Botum Sakor	15	1,247,850
	Kaoh Kong	3	130,479
	Mondol Seima	266	16,024,873
	Srae Ambel	1	102,048
	Thma Bang	12	487,436
Oddar Meanchey	Anlong Veang	138	16,606,556
	Banteay Ampil	171	11,865,780
	Chong Kal	8	329,739
	Samraong	175	25,810,515

	Trapeang Prasat	122	13,012,805
Pailin	Pailin	202	10,052,477
	Sala Krau	31	1,457,745
Preah Vihear	Chhaeb	2	20,982
	Choam Khsant	558	102,155,616
	Kuleaen	46	6,208,201
Pursat	Phnum Kravanh	144	22,211,391
	Veal Veaeng	395	37,107,031
Ratanak Kiri	Ou Ya Dav	4	950,755
Siem Reap	Angkor Chum	5	836,898
	Banteay srei	15	831,700
	Chi Kraeng	34	5,494,562
	Soutr Nikom	1	115,124
	Srei Snam	29	6,789,667
	Svay Leu	3	401,738
	Varin	2	308,315
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,330</b>	<b>*435,064,084</b>

\*435,064,084 square meters are already on the national database and 79,935,916 square meters are projected to be discovered from 2024 to 2025. Thus, the total contaminated area to be addressed from 2024 to 2025 is 515,000,000 square meters.