

# **KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA Nation Religion King**

# **Royal Government of Cambodia**

The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

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

From 01 January 2026 to 31 December 2030

Updated as of 30 September 2025

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#### **List of Abbreviations**

APM Anti-Personnel Mine

APBMC Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

ARMAC ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center

ASEAN Association of South-East Asian Nations

BLS Baseline Survey

CCM Convention on Cluster Munitions

CCW Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

CIP Commune Investment Program

CM Cluster Munitions

CMAA Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority

CMAC Cambodian Mine Action Centre

CMAS Cambodian Mine Action Standard
CMVIS Cambodia Mine/ERW Victim Information System

CRC Cambodian Red Cross

CRPD Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

CSHD Cambodian Self-Help Demining

DAC Disability Action Council
ERW Explosive Remnants of War

GICHD Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

GMAP Gender Mainstreaming in Mine Action Plan
LRNTS Land Reclamation Non-Technical Survey
MACC Mine Action Coordination Committee

MAG Mines Advisory Group

MAPU Mine Action Planning Unit

MoEYS Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport

MoH Ministry of Health

MoSVY Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation

MRE Mine Risk Education

NMAS National Mine Action Strategy

NPA Norwegian People's Aid

NPMEC National Centre for Peacekeeping Force, Mine and ERW Clearance

NTS Non-Technical Survey

PMAC Provincial Mine Action Committee
PMS Performance Monitoring System

PWD Persons With Disabilities

PWDF Persons With Disabilities Foundation

PRC Physical Rehabilitation Center

QA Quality Assurance

QC Quality Control

QMT Quality Management Team

RCA Royal Cambodian Army

RCAF Royal Cambodian Armed Forces

SOS Spirit of Soccer

TRG Technical Reference Group

TS Technical Survey

TWG-MA Technical Working Group on Mine Action

UNMAS United Nations Mine Action Service

#### **Executive Summary**

The landmine and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) problem in Cambodia is the result of a series of internal and regional conflicts that affected the country from the early 1960s until the end of 1998. The contamination mine problem is concentrated, but not limited to, the northwestern provinces bordering Thailand, and it remains one of the densest areas of contamination in the world. Other parts of the country, mainly the east, are affected by ERW, including cluster munitions.

Landmines and ERW have killed and injured over **65,000** people in Cambodia since 1979. Annual casualties decreased from 4,320 in 1996 to 49 in 2024. However, mines and ERW continue to kill, injure, and traumatise people and communities and severely impede social and economic recovery and sustainable development in affected areas. Throughout Cambodia, an estimated one million people still live and work in areas contaminated by mines, cluster munitions, and other ERW.<sup>1</sup>.

Cambodia signed the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) on 03 December 1997 and ratified it on 28 July 1999, becoming a State Party on 01 January 2000. Although Cambodia only became a state party to the APMBC in 2000, it has been actively releasing areas containing anti-personnel mines since 1992. Due to the magnitude and nature of the anti-personnel mine problem in the country, Cambodia was granted two extension requests: the first, with an extension period from January 1, 2010, to December 31, 2019, and the second, with an extension period from January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2025.

Mine Action is a foundational element of Cambodia's National Strategic Development Plan of the Seventh Legislature of the National Assembly. It supports its objectives of economic growth, social equity, sustainability, and international cooperation. A 2021 study by the GICHD highlighted that mine action in Cambodia directly and indirectly contributes to 13 of the 17 Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Cambodia also established Mine Action as one of Cambodia's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 18): "End the negative impact of Landmines/ERW and promote victim assistance."

Cambodia's mine action aligned with the Royal Government of Cambodia's (RGC) broader national objectives, as outlined in the Political Platform of the Seventh Legislature of the National Assembly for Nation Building and Defence (2023–2028) and the Pentagonal Strategy-Phase I of the Royal Government of Cambodia of the Seventh Legislature of the National Assembly. Cambodia's commitment to mine action reflects its dedication to global peace and prosperity. It aims to create a safer environment for its citizens and contribute to international efforts to eliminate landmines and explosive hazards worldwide.

Anti-personnel landmines and ERW impede safe access to agricultural land, housing land, water resources, forests, markets, etc. National development projects, including hydropower plants, irrigation projects, and roads, must also be deemed safe before the project commences. While accident numbers have been decreasing, field observations indicate that farmers are taking risks to access their land before clearance due to the need for access or the expansion of agricultural land.

For the period of the current extension from 01 January 2020 to 30 June 2025, Cambodia has cleared/released a combined total of **1,294,701,191** square meters of land contaminated by all forms of explosive ordnance with the following details:

- 923,087,530 square meters of area containing anti-personnel landmines,
- 52,171,882 square meters of area containing anti-tank landmines,
- 224,859,380 square meters of area containing cluster munitions, and
- 94,582,399 square meters of area containing ERW.

Operations found and destroyed **508,413** items of explosive ordnance with the following details:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Source: CMAA National Database

- 121,835 anti-personnel mines,
- 1,495 anti-tank mines,
- 32,782 items of cluster munitions, and
- 352,301 items of ERW.

In total, from 1992 to 30 June 2025, Cambodia has cleared/released a combined total of **3,418,525,179** square meters of land contaminated by all forms of explosive ordnance with the following details:

- 2,501,792,912 square meters of area containing anti-personnel mines,
- 123,866,017 square meters of area containing anti-tank mines,
- 448,517,955 square meters of area containing cluster munitions
- 240,164,319 square meters of area containing ERW, and
- **104,183,976** square meters of areas cleared for administrative sites and risk reduction purposes.

Operations found and destroyed **4,447,052** items of explosive ordnance with the following details:

- 1,202,657 anti-personnel mines,
- 26,681 anti-tank mines,
- 73,377 items of cluster munitions, and
- **3,144,337** items of ERW.

The RGC was aware that this remaining contamination is incomplete, as previous surveys could not capture all areas of contamination due to a lack of infrastructure, development, and the absence of settlements. Over the past ten years, socio-economic and national infrastructure have significantly developed, people have moved in to new resettlements, and landmine incidents were recorded outside the surveyed areas; therefore, the RGC commissioned a new comprehensive survey, conducted by CMAC in collaboration with RCA under the coordination by CMAA, to identify the complete remaining landmine and ERW problem, which will also assist with the request for extension. The comprehensive survey commenced in November 2024 and was initially planned to be completed by late June 2025. Unfortunately, the rising border tensions and armed conflicts affected the survey process, thereby delaying the completion of the comprehensive survey. Despite these difficulties, 8 out of 21 districts have already been completely surveyed. In comparison, the survey for the remaining 13 districts has been completed, covering approximately 55 percent of the initially planned areas, and the results have been incorporated into this extension request. Cambodia is committed to completing the survey in the remaining 13 districts after the border situation returns to normalcy. When the comprehensive survey, which will resurvey part of the previously reported contaminated areas, is completed, Cambodia will have a clear picture of the remaining anti-personnel mine contamination, supporting the preparation and submission of an updated work plan in the following year.

As of this submission date, Cambodia still has **524,280,410** square meters of land contaminated by anti-personnel mines in the national database. Based on this, Cambodia has developed a clearance work plan for this extension period.

Cambodia requests a five-year extension from January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2030, to address the remaining anti-personnel landmine challenges. The extension period requested is based on the magnitude of the areas contaminated by anti-personnel mines to be released and the financial resources expected to be available. Cambodia requires **US\$146,798,515** to address the challenges during this five-year extension period.

Cambodia has been committed to addressing all areas suspected of containing anti-personnel mines in the most effective and efficient ways possible. Cambodia will provide state parties with regular updates on the progress of the implementation during the extension period.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Cambodia's mine and ERW problems resulted from internal and regional conflicts that affected the country from the 1960s until the end of 1998. The anti-personnel mine problem is concentrated, but not limited to, the north-western provinces bordering Thailand, and it is still one of the densest areas of contamination in the world. Other parts of the country, mainly the east, are affected by ERW, including cluster munitions.

Mines and ERW have killed and injured over 65,000 people in Cambodia since 1979. Annual casualties decreased from 4,320 in 1996 to 49 in 2024. Mines and ERW continue to kill, injure, and traumatise people and communities, and severely impede social and economic recovery and sustainable development in affected areas. Throughout Cambodia, an estimated one million people still live and work in areas contaminated by mines and ERW, including cluster munitions.

Mine action is stipulated in the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2024-2028. Mine action is a foundational element of the NSDP, directly supporting its objectives for economic growth, social equity, sustainable development, and international cooperation. By clearing land, providing education on mining risk, and assisting victims, mine action unlocks opportunities for inclusive and sustainable development across the country. A GICHD study conducted in 2021 found that mine action in Cambodia directly and indirectly contributed to 13 of the 17 Global Sustainable Development Goals and supported 48 associated targets.

Cambodia adopted an additional Cambodian Sustainable Development Goal (CSDG) 18 titled "End the Negative Impact of Mines/Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and Promote Victim Assistance." This CSDG reflects Cambodia's unique challenges due to its history of conflict and the widespread presence of landmines and ERW. The CSDG 18 highlights Cambodia's commitment to addressing the legacies of war and ensuring that mine action contributes to long-term peace, safety, and development.

Cambodia signed the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) on 03 December 1997 and ratified it on 28 July 1999, becoming a State Party on 01 January 2000. Due to the magnitude and nature of the anti-personnel mine problem in the country, Cambodia was granted two extension requests. The first extension request covered the period from 01 January 2010 to 31 December 2019, and the second extension request covered the period from 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2025.

Cambodia has made a significant effort to implement the Convention, including the Universalization of Its Provisions, the implementation of Article 5, and Assistance to Victims. On 24 November 2023, during the 21st Meeting of States Parties to the APMBC in Geneva, Switzerland, Cambodia was elected President and Host of the Fifth Review Conference. This landmark event, "The Siem Reap-Angkor Summit on a Mine-Free World", was held on 25-29 November 2024, in Siem Reap, Cambodia, marking Cambodia as the first Asian nation to assume this prestigious role. The summit, held every five years, brought together delegates from around 160 countries, solidifying Cambodia's leadership in global mine action and its dedication to a world free of landmines.

Due to the magnitude of remaining anti-personnel mine challenges, Cambodia is submitting this third extension request, which provides an overview of the accomplishment during the second extension period from 01 January 2020 to 30 June 2025, the remaining challenges as of July 2025, and the rationale for the requested extension, the measures to be implemented during the extension period, and an expression of commitment for Cambodia to fulfil its obligations under Article 5 of the Convention.

#### 2. ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE THE EXTENSION REQUEST WAS GRANTED

#### 2.1 Quantitative Results

During the current extension request period from 01 January 2020 to 30 June 2025, Cambodia released **923,087,530** square meters of land containing anti-personnel mines. Of which, **144,288,841 square meters (16%)** were released through non-technical survey, **274,890,185 square meters (30%)** were released through technical survey, and **503,908,504 square meters (54%)** were released through clearance. As a result, 121,835 anti-personnel mines, 1,495 anti-tank mines, 32,782 items of cluster munitions, and 352,301 items of other ERW were found and destroyed.

Table 1: Areas containing AP mines released from 01 Jan 2020 to 30 June 2025 by province

Province	Area containing a	Area containing anti-personnel mines released from 01 January 2020 to 30 June 2025					
	Non-Technical Survey (m2)	Technical Survey (m2)	Clearance (m2)	Total (m2)			
1. Banteay Meanchey	23,201,019	19,491,898	83,650,529	126,343,446			
2. Battambang	19,853,375	49,463,358	132,776,704	202,093,437			
3. Kep	-	920,812	148,492	1,069,304			
4. Kampong Cham	-	574,920	691,640	1,266,560			
5. Kampong Chhnang	-	-	3,552,878	3,552,878			
6. Kampong Speu	2,368,258	27,020,915	17,276,560	46,665,733			
7. Kampong Thom	11,258,362	44,477,427	9,598,664	65,334,453			
8. Kampot	642,668	14,967,231	426,499	16,036,398			
9. Kandal	-	37,583	25,627	63,210			
10. Koh Kong	1,081,623	44,560	6,119,734	7,245,917			
11. Kratie	3,154,195	78,211	17,484,343	20,716,749			
12. Mondul Kiri			8,399,270	8,399,270			
13. Oddar Meanchey	41,471,508	895,736	38,482,666	80,849,910			
14. Pailin	2,535,569	9,077,553	20,745,786	32,358,908			
15. Phnom Penh	1,380,306	-	-	1,380,306			
16. Khet Preah Sihanouk	-	1,922,013	-	1,922,013			
17. Preah Vihear	19,139,323	24,823,423	72,197,132	116,159,878			
18. Prey Veng	-	-	5,900	5,900			
19. Pursat	5,479,175	30,329,540	40,590,140	76,398,855			
20. Rattanak Kiri	179,368	767,060	820,756	1,767,184			
21. Siem Reap	12,194,049	46,201,664	40,296,228	98,691,941			
22. Stung Treng	-	-	-	-			

23. Svay Rieng	-	-	9,646,085	9,646,085
24. Takeo	216,879	3,796,281	288,082	4,301,242
25. Tbong Khmum	133,164	-	684,789	817,953
Total	144,288,841	274,890,185	503,908,504	923,087,530
Percentage	16%	30%	54%	

#### 2.2 Qualitative Results

This section presents the qualitative results from the extension period, from January 1, 2020, to June 30, 2025.

#### 2.2.1 Planning and Prioritisation Process for Mine Clearance

Cambodia has been implementing the **top-down** and **bottom-up** approach to the planning and prioritisation process for landmine clearance. The top-down approach ensures that clearance is directed to the most vulnerable villages, which face a higher risk of contamination. In contrast, the bottom-up approach ensures that the clearance addresses the needs of the affected communities. This approach has been viewed as effective in addressing the needs of the affected communities in our planning and prioritisation.

- <u>The top-down approach:</u> Every year, CMAA establishes a list of priority villages based on mine/ERW casualties, village poverty, mine contamination, development requirements, and population.
- The bottom-up approach: MAPU coordinates with affected villagers and clearance operators within the priority villages to develop a list of priority minefields for clearance for PMAC approval and CMAA endorsement. The process is designed to be transparent, participatory, and decentralised. Mine clearance planning is intended to be effectively integrated into the commune investment programs through this process. The bottom-up criteria include fear, development needs, casualty data, land classification, and planned land use.

The planning and prioritisation process was further strengthened by incorporating the "Guideline on Village Meeting to Prioritise *Minefields for Clearance"* in October 2022. The objective of the Guideline is to ensure that men, women, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable village members have an opportunity to contribute to prioritising village minefields before the village chief presents them for clearance at the commune meetings.

# 2.2.2 Cambodian Mine Action Standards

During the extension period from 01 January 2020 to 30 June 2025, the CMAA led the revision of the following Cambodian Mine Action Standards (CMAS):

- CMAS on Organisational Accreditation and Operational License (revised in November 2020),
- CMAS on Monitoring of Demining Organisation (revised in November 2020),
- CMAS on Baseline Survey Mines (revised in December 2023).

The purpose of the revision is to align with IMAS and ensure that good practices and lessons learned from the field are incorporated to strengthen the safety, effectiveness, and efficiency of the demining work. During the same period, the CMAA led the development of the following CMAS:

- CMAS on Information Management (developed in June 2020),
- CMAS on Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (developed in May 2021),

- CMAS on Environmental Management in Mine Action (developed in June 2022),
- CMAS on Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming in Mine Action (developed in September 2024).
- CMAS on Baseline Survey Cluster Munitions (developed in December 2024),
- CMAS on Victim Assistance (developed in December 2024).

Based on the revision or development of the new Standards, relevant operators must revise and/or develop their Standard Operating Procedures to ensure compliance with the Standards. CMAA is responsible for developing and amending the Cambodian Mine Action Standards in collaboration with relevant operators to ensure they are safe, effective, efficient, and practical.

## 2.2.3 Performance Monitoring System (PMS)

Cambodia has produced Performance Monitoring System (PMS) reports since 2020. By June 2025, 24 PMS reports covering 24 communes had been made and shared with donors. The purpose of the reports is to present the socio-economic contribution of mine clearance to the livelihood of the affected communities and development projects.

CMAA trained provincial Mine Action Planning Unit (MAPU) staff to collect socio-economic data from the cleared minefields. The MAPU staff physically visited the cleared minefields to collect socio-economic data by interviewing users of the cleared land and completing PMS forms. The MAPU digitally sends the collected data to CMAA, which will check, clean, analyse, and write the PMS reports. A PMS report consolidating results from the six PMS reports produced in 2024 is attached as Annex 1.

#### 2.2.4 Mine-Free Village Mechanism

Cambodia introduced the Mine-Free Village Mechanism in 2022, aiming to clear or release all known minefields in villages. This initiative aims to unlock the full development potential of these communities while providing psychological relief to residents affected by mined contamination.

The mine-free village mechanism is to expand the avenue for the Cambodian mine action community to mobilise additional financial resources from development partners, the private sector, non-governmental organisations, and individuals to clear only known landmine-contaminated areas, village by village, to make it mine-free so that the risk and associated fear of mine accidents is removed. Community livelihood and development activities can be conducted safely to their full potential. This mechanism is not designed to undermine, but rather to complement, the existing contributions of traditional donors in supporting Cambodia's efforts to achieve a mine-free Cambodia.

Clearing all known minefields within a village enhances the efficiency of development planning. It removes the need for programs and donors to allocate resources for landmine surveys and clearance, allowing them to focus solely on development initiatives. As of 30 June 2025, 14 provinces and one capital out of 25 have been cleared and declared mine-free.



Figure 1: Cambodia map displaying mine-free provinces by 30 June 2025

#### 2.2.5 Quality Management System

CMAA regulates and monitors mine action operations in Cambodia, ensuring compliance with Cambodian Mine Action Standards (CMAS). This includes the accreditation and licensing of mine action organisations, as well as monitoring and reporting their performance against the Cambodian Mine Action Standards and Guidelines.

Quality management in mine action involves Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Control (QC) to ensure safety and effectiveness. QA focuses on management and operational procedures, with internal assessments by operators and external reviews by CMAA's Quality Management Teams (QMTs). QC involves inspecting the cleared land, with sampling conducted as a percentage of the total cleared area.

Non-conformities are classified as minor, major, or critical, depending on their impact on safety and compliance. Operators must take corrective and preventive actions to address identified issues. CMAA conducts follow-ups to ensure corrective measures are implemented effectively.

During the period from 01 January 2020 to 30 June 2025, CMAA's QMT conducted 14,206 inspections (10,213 QA and 3,993 QC), identifying 486 minor non-conformities, 79 major non-conformities, and 15 critical non-conformities. The most common cases of non-conformities include incorrect or missing pieces of non-critical information, as well as problems with limited consequences, resulting in internal inefficiencies. Corrective actions were instituted, resulting in better quality of mine action activities. Critical non-conformities that could not be addressed immediately required closing the demining sites until they were addressed.

#### 2.2.6 Methods Used to Identify Areas Containing Anti-Personnel Mines

The Cambodian Mine Action Standard on Baseline Survey (CMAS 14) was developed in January 2011. This standard specifies the requirements to identify a minefield. It was revised to specifically address landmines and named the Cambodian Mine Action Standard on Baseline Survey – Mine in December 2023, taking into account field experience and lessons learned. The CMAA led the revision; all clearance and survey operators, as well as partners, were in attendance. The purpose of the revision is to ensure that evidence exists to identify and record an area as contaminated.

#### 2.2.7 Methods Used to Release Areas Containing Anti-Personnel Mines

The Cambodian Mine Action Standard on Land Release (CMAS 15), approved in October 2014, outlines the requirements for the overall land release process, aiming to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of land release operations. CMAS 15 is designed for operators to deploy available resources to areas with the greatest need by clearly defining the actual contamination status. Nontechnical and technical surveys, as well as clearance methods, are deployed to release mined areas where appropriate.

Land release involves three methodologies for releasing contaminated areas:

- 1. **Non-Technical Survey (NTS):** Uses non-intrusive methods, such as field visits and data analysis, to assess and release suspected mine-contaminated areas. If no evidence of mines is found, the area is classified as **C1**. If uncertainty remains, the area proceeds with a technical survey or clearance.
- 2. **Technical Survey (TS):** Involves technical interventions to confirm the presence or absence of mines. If no mines are found, the area is classified as **C2**. If uncertainty remains, the area proceeds with clearance.
- 3. **Clearance:** The final step is applied when survey methods have been exhausted. It involves physically removing mines from well-defined areas. Cleared areas are classified as **C3**.

Each step progressively reduces uncertainty, ensuring land is released safely and efficiently. A mine-contaminated area can be released through a single or a combination of methods based on the characteristics and threats of the area.

#### 2.2.8 Handover of Released Land

CMAA has established and implemented the Guidelines on Planning and Prioritisation, which highlight the handover process of released land. This ensures the participation of relevant stakeholders, including operators, beneficiaries, local authorities, MAPU, and the QM team, to build confidence in the safe and productive use of released land.

From 01 January 2020 to 30 June 2025, a total of 5,626 locations of cleared anti-personnel mine-contaminated land, covering 579,698,277 square meters, have been handed over to 604,852 direct beneficiaries, including 123,889 boys, 125,547 girls, 200,734 men, 197,987 women, and 5,263 people with disabilities. CMAA accepts cleared land once all mines, cluster munitions, and other ERW hazards have been removed in accordance with clearance standards, and all quality management processes have been thoroughly completed and documented.

Land released through non-technical and technical surveys carries a residual risk of explosive hazards compared to fully cleared areas. In Cambodia, liability is linked to compliance with CMAA's standards. Operators who adhere to CMAS and accredited procedures are not held liable. However,



Figure 3: CMAC and MAPU officials are preparing documents to hand over the cleared land to the community.

failure to comply may result in a review of accreditation status. Leading to its revocation. CMAA enforces this through a rigorous quality management process, ensuring the highest possible standards within Cambodia's mine action sector.

#### 2.2.9 Structures of Mine Action Sector

There were no significant changes to the national demining structure during the extension period. The Cambodia mine action sector continues to separate the regulatory and operational functions of the various operators. (*Ref. Action #2 of the Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan.* 

The CMAA regulates, plans, coordinates, and monitors all mine action activities nationwide. It continues to develop and implement various standards and instructions, and formulate the national mine action policy in alignment with the Royal Government of Cambodia's National Strategic Development Plans. As the government's body responsible for regulating, planning, coordinating, and monitoring mine action, CMAA also chairs key coordination mechanisms, including the Technical Working Group on Mine Action (TWG-MA), the Mine Action Coordination Committee (MACC), and various Technical Reference Groups (TRGs).

Over 5,800 demining staff from national and international operators will be deployed nationwide by the end of June 2025. The national clearance operator, Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC), is the largest in the country. Accredited international operators include HALO Trust, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Anti-Personnel Landmines Detection Product Development (APOPO), and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA).

The Royal Cambodian Army started humanitarian demining operations in 2022. The National Centre for Peacekeeping Force, Mines, and ERW Clearance was tasked with clearing land in support of the government's development and humanitarian projects. It was accredited to operate under the UN Peacekeeping mission. Both entities are placed under the Structure of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF).

The General Commissariat of the National Police also contributes to mine action, mainly in ERW reporting and delivering explosive ordnance risk education. Demining operators also provide mine risk education and victim assistance, in collaboration with the Cambodian Red Cross (CRC), the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports (for explosive ordnance risk education), the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation (for victim assistance), and various NGOs. The following operators are currently active in releasing areas containing anti-personnel mines in Cambodia.

Table 2: Operators active in releasing areas containing anti-personnel mines

	Name of the organisations		Staff	
		Men	Women	Total
1.	Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC)*	1,692	423	2,115
2.	National Center for Peacekeeping Forces, Mine and ERW Clearance (NPMEC)	576	3	579
3.	Royal Cambodian Army (RCA)	1,170	0	1,170
4.	Engineering Department of RCAF	40	0	40
5.	The HALO Trust (HALO)	702	482	1184
6.	Mine Advisor Group (MAG)	301	182	483
7.	Anti-Personnel Landmines Detection Product Development (APOPO)	53	34	87
8.	Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)	61	72	133
9.	Cambodia Self-Help Demining (CSHD)	23	13	36
	Total			5,827

<sup>\*</sup>Note: CMAC has over 12,000 volunteers serving in EORE, VA, as community liaisons and information collectors.

# 2.2.10 Efforts Undertaken to Exclude Civilians from Mined Areas

#### 2.2.11 Minefield marking

According to CMAS 13: Marking Mine & ERW Hazards, demining operators mark minefields before the commencement of clearance operations (boundary marking) and during clearance operations (operational marking). Boundary marking defines the limits of clearance operations. Ideally, boundary marking should commence and be completed before clearance operations start. Due to the time consumed with boundary marking, clearance operators may carry out boundary marking concurrently with clearance operations.

Between 01 January 2020 and 30 June 2025, 3,535 new anti-personnel minefields, equivalent to 732,179,495 square meters, were identified and marked to ensure the safety of villagers.

#### 2.2.12 Mine Risk Education

Mine Risk Education (MRE) aims to reduce high-risk behaviours among people living or working in areas affected by mines. MRE programmes continued to target high-risk areas, focusing on the most vulnerable populations – including mobile adult populations and children- to achieve greater impact.

MRE activities were tailored to the specific needs of the communities and context, based on consultations with MRE operators, with a focus on gender and diversity inclusion. These activities include message development and delivery, media use, and various materials such as mass campaigns, billboards, leaflets, posters, textbooks, T-shirts, household visits, community-based

volunteer efforts, public service announcements, and law enforcement initiatives. The MRE has been integrated into the primary and secondary school curriculum.

CMAA coordinated and chaired eight TRG-MRE meetings to discuss MRE materials and MRE planning, and organised National Mine Awareness events (24<sup>th</sup> February) four times. CMAA developed a list of prioritised villages for annual MRE operations in consultation with operators. As part of its mandate, CMAA regularly monitored the MRE operations and provided recommendations for improvement.

Key documents have been developed and endorsed to strengthen the coordination of MRE. These documents include the Cambodian Mine Action Standards 21 on Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE), a three-year EORE action plan (2021-2023), and a two-year action plan (2024-2025) outlining the operators' MRE roadmap.

All mine action teams can provide MREs to local communities when necessary. Effective MRE is based on a careful and ongoing assessment of the needs of affected communities, as well as the involvement of existing community structures and local authorities. Cambodia plans to transfer MRE skills and knowledge to local communities gradually. So far, 202 (women: 42) school teachers and 323 (women: 27) police officers from high-risk north-western provinces have received MRE training from trainers. They will subsequently train school students and community members, ensuring the sustainability of MRE efforts at the community level.

The following organisations are conducting MRE activities from 01 January 2020 to 30 June 2025: CMAC, CRC, NPMEC, MoEY, POLICE, MAG, HALO Trust, SOS, APOPO, CMVIS, and CSHD. In total, **9,259,134 people** (men: 3,310,685, women: 3,555,869, boys: 1,026,786, and girls: 1,365,794), including students, received MRE messages in various ways from January 1, 2020, to June 30, 2025.

Table 3: MRE recipients from (	01 January 2020 to 30 June 2025
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	MRE Recipients from 01 January 2020 to 30 June 2025								
Year	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total				
2020	621,673	628,922	216,891	132,745	1,600,231				
2021	421,890	454,136	77,108	65,501	1,018,635				
2022	539,668	593,714	149,896	292,863	1,576,141				
2023	271,762	298,251	100,872	107,048	777,933				
2024	1,024,871	1,101,756	211,392	488,351	2,826,370				
Jan-Jun 2025	430,821	479,090	270,627	279,286	1,459,824				
Total	3,310,685	3,555,869	1,026,786	1,365,794	9,259,134				

#### 2.2.13 Resources Made Available to Support Progress Made to Date

CMAA has developed a Resource Mobilization Strategy to strengthen efforts in addressing financial challenges and seizing emerging opportunities. While traditional donors remain the primary and essential funding source for the mine action sector, Cambodia continues to cultivate strong relationships with donors and development partners, built on years of mutual trust and shared achievements. At the same time, CMAA remains committed to exploring collaboration with prospective donors.

CMAA has coordinated with relevant donors to analyse shifts in Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) budgets, evolving policy landscapes, and budget allocation processes to ensure effective funding strategies. This assessment helps identify potential risks and opportunities to access funding streams.

CMAA will enhance engagement with a diverse donor base by collaborating with regional states, NGOs, and international organisations while fostering relationships with emerging and non-traditional donors, including the private sector. Expanding private sector involvement, as outlined in the NMAS 2018–2025, introduces an innovative approach to fundraising, particularly through the implementation of the Mine-Free Village Mechanism.

Additionally, demining operators can engage directly with donors, development partners, and international organisations to secure financial resources and technical support. This autonomy enables them to sustain and expand operations while aligning with national mine action priorities. By leveraging partnerships and external resources, operators can enhance the efficiency of mine clearance efforts, thereby contributing to Cambodia's goal of becoming a mine-free country and improving community safety and livelihoods.

The table below presents resources made available to the Cambodian mine action sector from various sources from 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2024.

Table 4: Resources Mobilised from 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2024

Year	Resources from the Royal Government of Cambodia (US\$)	Resources from the international community (US\$)	Resources from the private sector (US\$)	Total (US\$)
2020	\$6,243,248	\$33,799,050	0	\$40,042,298
2021	\$6,600,786	\$31,197,129	\$1,062,035	\$38,859,950
2022	\$4,458,086	\$32,210,589	\$20,046,596	\$56,715,271
2023	\$31,771,454	\$40,562,455	\$1,723,680	\$74,057,589
2024	2,260,900	\$57,523,175	\$873,000	\$60,657,075
Total	\$51,334,474	\$195,292,398	\$23,705,311	\$270,332,183

Note: This figure covers the whole sector for both landmine and other ERW operations

# 2.2.14 Funding implications

Limited resources were made available: As indicated in the previous extension request, Cambodia required US\$307,681,702 to release 659,640,427 square meters between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2024. While Cambodia could mobilise only US\$268,071,283 (87% of the requirement), it released 884,294,411 square meters (134% of the target). This demonstrates that although Cambodia secured just 87% of the necessary resources, it achieved 134% of the planned clearance, highlighting the exceptional efficiency of the country's mine action program.

Table 5: Area planned to be released vs area actually released

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Required budget (US\$)	57,058,574	57,036,710	64,528,806	64,528,806	64,528,806	307,681,702
Planned APM area released (Sqm)	110,000,000	110,000,000	146,546,809	146,546,809	146,546,809	659,640,427
Actual budget (US\$)	40,042,298	38,859,950	56,715,271	74,057,589	58,396,175	268,071,283
Actual APM area released (Sqm)	102,900,733	127,839,103	191,541,632	361,935,450	100,077,493	884,294,411

**Note:** Cambodia released **361,935,450** square meters in 2023 and **100,077,493** square meters in 2024. The peak performance in 2023 primarily resulted from the **US\$30 million** contributions from the Royal Government of Cambodia toward mine clearance by the national operators. Unfortunately, due to economic difficulties, the Royal Government of Cambodia was unable to fund mine clearance in 2024.

#### 3 NATURE AND EXTENT OF THE REMAINING ARTICLE 5 CHALLENGE

#### 3.1 Quantitative Aspects

#### 3.1.1 Remaining Contamination

As of 01 July 2025, Cambodia still has **524,280,410** square meters of areas containing anti-personnel mines in the national database. Table 6 below lists the provinces that still have areas contaminated with anti-personnel mines.

Table 6: Provinces with Area Containing Anti-Personnel Mines as of 01 July 2025

	Province	APM Area (m²)
1.	Banteay Meanchey	38,968,493
2.	Battambang	209,791,037
3.	Kampong Thom	3,510,164
4.	Koh Kong	4,986,230
5.	Oddar Meanchey	48,475,236
6.	Pailin	21,097,546
7.	Preah Vihear	62,712,711
8.	Pursat	106,499,658
9.	Rattanak Kiri	170,352
10.	. Siem Reap	28,068,982
	Total	524,280,410

#### 3.1.2 Humanitarian, Economic, Social, and Environmental Implications

Mines and ERW have caused over 65,000 casualties in Cambodia since 1979. While clearance efforts and risk education programs have reduced accidents, incidents still occur, particularly in rural areas along the Cambodia-Thailand border. Contaminated land hinders farming, infrastructure development, and settlement, thereby preventing economic growth. Adult males are at higher risk due to their work in forests and fields, and survivors often face lifelong disabilities, medical needs, and financial difficulties. Beyond the direct threat to lives, mines and ERW also impede Cambodia's socio-economic development. A 2021 GICHD study highlighted that mine action contributes to 13 of the 17 Global Sustainable Development Goals.

APM continues to restrict safe access to agricultural land, housing, water resources, forests, and markets. They also pose challenges to national development projects, including hydropower plants, irrigation systems, and road construction, which require clearance before work can begin. Despite declining accident rates, many farmers risk entering uncleared land due to the urgent need for land for agricultural production. Between 01 January 2020 and 30 June 2025, there were 255 mine and ERW casualties (120 by mines and 135 by ERW). Casualties caused by mines were most frequent among those collecting food, clearing new land, and farming.

Chart 1: Mine/ERW Casualties by Province from 01 January 2020 to 30 June 2025

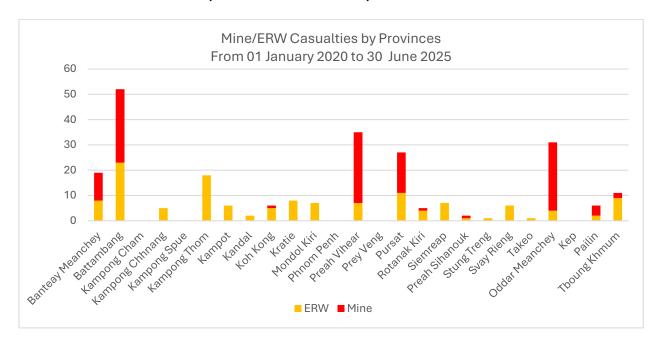
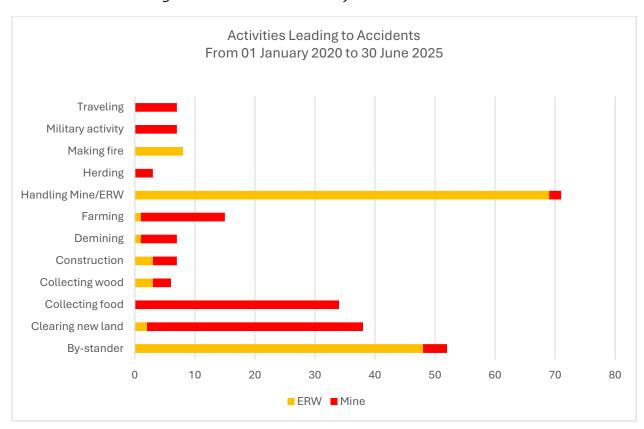


Chart 2: Activities Leading to Accidents from 01 January 2020 to 30 June 2025



#### 3.2 Qualitative Aspects

In the second extension request, Cambodia aimed to release all known anti-personnel mine suspected areas by 2025. However, this goal could not be achieved due to the following circumstances that impeded compliance:

- The magnitude of the remaining problem and completing the priorities of socio-economic development
- Needs to address other types of ERW contamination, namely anti-tank mines, cluster munitions, UXO, underwater contamination, and aerial bombs.
- Discovery of new minefields: According to the Cambodian Mine/ERW Victim Information System (CMVIS) report, approximately 49% of mine accidents over the past decade (2015– 2024) occurred outside the minefields recorded in the national database, including inaccessible areas that were not covered in previous baseline surveys, particularly along the Cambodia-Thailand border. Therefore, a comprehensive baseline survey in these areas is essential.
- Geographical Challenges: Landmine clearance has moved to more challenging minefields in rugged mountainous terrain and dense forests, making access difficult.
- Border Challenges: Challenges along the border between Cambodia and Thailand, including incomplete demarcation, hinder the clearance of minefields in this area.

#### 4 DETAILED WORK PLAN FOR THE PERIOD OF THE REQUESTED EXTENSION

The following sections provide information on the measures to be taken and Cambodia's commitment to the principles and objectives of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention during the requested extension period. (*Ref. Action #23 of the Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan*).

#### 4.1 Amount of Time Requested and Rationales

Cambodia remains steadfast in its commitment to the principles and objectives of the APMBC. Acknowledging the remaining challenges, Cambodia seeks a five-year extension from **01 January 2026 to 31 December 2030**. According to the national database, the request period is based on the reality that, as of 01 July 2025, Cambodia still has 524,280,410 square meters of land contaminated by anti-personnel mines. While Cambodia has made significant progress in mine clearance over the past decades, this extensive area underscores the ongoing complexity of mine action efforts in the country.

The extension will enable Cambodia to continue its comprehensive mine clearance efforts, safeguard communities, and fulfil its obligations under the APMBC. By addressing the remaining contamination, Cambodia aims to eliminate the threat of APM, providing communities with safer access to land and resources essential for sustainable development and economic growth. This commitment underscores Cambodia's dedication to a mine-free future, aligning with national development priorities and the global objective of a world free of anti-personnel mines.

#### 4.2 Comprehensive Survey

The RGC tasked CMAC to conduct a **comprehensive survey** in collaboration with the RCA to identify contaminated areas in 21 districts of 7 provinces bordering Thailand, which are heavily affected by APM and other unexploded ordnances due to past conflicts. In the last 10 years (2015-2024), 49% of mine accidents occurred outside the identified minefields in these areas. This indicates that many minefields in these areas have not yet been surveyed. (*Ref. Action #17 of the Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan.* 

The comprehensive survey, which commenced in November 2024, was designed to systematically identify and document the remaining mine-affected areas in the border regions. The survey encountered significant challenges, including resource shortages, rising border tensions, and armed conflicts with Thailand. Despite these difficulties, 8 out of 21 districts have already been completely surveyed. In comparison, the survey for the remaining 13 districts has been completed, covering approximately 55 percent of the initially planned areas, and the results have been incorporated into this extension request. Cambodia is committed to completing the survey in the remaining 13 districts after the border situation returns to normalcy. When the comprehensive survey, which will also resurvey part of the previously reported contaminated areas, is completed, Cambodia will have a clear picture of the remaining antipersonnel mine contamination, support the preparation and submission of an updated work plan, and serve as a critical basis for planning, clearance prioritization, and resource mobilization.

This effort demonstrates the RGC's unwavering commitment to comprehensively and strategically accelerating mine action efforts, aiming to achieve a mine-free Cambodia within the requested extension period. CMAC's survey expertise, in close collaboration with local authorities, affected communities, the Secretariat for Border Affairs, and the RCA, ensured that the survey was conducted thoroughly, effectively, and efficiently. CMAA quality management teams monitored the survey to ensure its compliance with CMAS. The outcomes of this survey strengthen Cambodia's mine action initiatives and play a crucial role in enhancing cross-border cooperation, thereby improving the safety, security, and livelihoods of communities along the Cambodia-Thailand border.







Figure 5: CMAA QM team monitoring the CMAC survey team in collaboration with the RCA.

To ensure the credibility of the survey results, CMAA closely monitored survey activities by deploying quality management teams to conduct QA and QC of the survey process and results more frequently, ensuring that any non-conformities were corrected immediately. The CMAA evaluates the survey process and results against the technical requirements outlined in the CMAS on Baseline Survey-Mine.

The survey identified an additional 277 minefields covering 149,784,042 square meters, which can be detailed as follows:

Province	A2 classification		A4 cla	A4 classification		Total	
	Polygon	Area (m²)	Polygon	Area (m²)	Polygon	Area (m²)	
Banteay Meanchey	3	226,368	37	8,042,323	40	8,268,691	
Oddar Meanchey	8	2,246,560	11	2,993,269	19	5,239,829	
Preah Vihear	2	493,926	58	13,903,785	60	14,397,710	
Pailin	-	-	26	16,546,149	26	16,546,149	
Battambang	20	11,348,228	85	74,359,314	105	85,707,542	
Pursat	-	ı	27	19,624,122	27	19,624,122	
Total	33	14,315,082	244	135,468,961	277	149,784,042	

#### 4.3 Annual Land Release Work Plan

As of this submission date, Cambodia still has 524,280,410 square meters of land contaminated by anti-personnel mines recorded in the national database. Based on this data, Cambodia developed its clearance work plan to serve the purpose of this extension request period.

However, this remaining contamination is incomplete. The comprehensive survey will resume once the border situation returns to normal. When the comprehensive survey, which will resurvey part of the previously reported contaminated areas, is completed, Cambodia will have a clear picture of the remaining anti-personnel mine contamination, supporting the preparation and submission of an updated work plan.

The table below presents a land release target for the requested extension period, with an estimated amount of land to be released through Non-Technical Survey, Technical Survey, and Clearance, based on historical data. (Ref. Action #18 of the Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan.

Table 7: Land Release Target from 01 July 2025 to 31 December 2030

Year	Released through Non-Technical Survey (m2) (16%)	Released through Technical Survey (m2) (30%)	Released through Clearance (m2) (54%)	Total area released (m2)
01 Jul-31 Dec 2025	12,833,101	24,062,065	43,311,716	80,206,882
2026	20,800,000	39,000,000	70,200,000	130,000,000
2027	12,562,941	23,555,515	42,399,926	78,518,382
2028	12,562,941	23,555,515	42,399,926	78,518,382
2029	12,562,941	23,555,515	42,399,926	78,518,382
2030	12,562,941	23,555,515	42,399,926	78,518,382
Total	83,884,866	157,284,123	283,111,421	524,280,410

## 4.4 Planning and Prioritisation for Mine Clearance

Cambodia is committed to maintaining effective, decentralised planning and prioritisation throughout the requested extension period. This approach has been widely recognised for its positive impact, particularly in empowering affected communities to participate in decision-making regarding mine action activities. By involving local communities, the process ensures that clearance efforts align with their immediate needs and long-term priorities, fostering a sense of ownership and inclusiveness. (Ref. Action #29 of the Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan).

The CMAA will continue to closely monitor the implementation of this process to ensure it remains effective and responsive to the evolving needs on the ground. Where necessary, the CMAA will introduce adjustments or refinements to enhance the efficiency and impact of planning and prioritization efforts, ensuring that resources are allocated strategically to achieve the most significant benefit for affected communities. This proactive approach underscores Cambodia's dedication to upholding transparency, community engagement, and adaptive management in mine action planning.

The CMAA will strategically coordinate the release of anti-personnel minefields based on their geographical location and priority. The immediate priority will be clearing minefields to ensure the security and safety of local communities and areas with the greatest need for socio-economic development. However, it is impossible to specify which minefields to be cleared by operators during the requested extension period. This is because clearance will have to follow the annual provincial planning and prioritization process, as well as the priority of the donors' funding for the clearance operations.

The minefields located in complex areas, including those closer to the border, which may involve more complex considerations such as border security, accessibility, mine density, and rugged terrain, will be approached and addressed in the later years of the extension, ensuring a comprehensive and orderly progression of demining efforts.

#### 4.5 Clearance of Minefields Along the Border with Thailand

Cambodia recognizes that border areas remain among the most heavily contaminated by landmines in Cambodia's territory from the past conflict along the border between Cambodia and Thailand. Clearance in these areas, however, must be undertaken in a manner consistent with the frameworks of the General Border Committee (GBC) and the Joint Boundary Commission (JBC). This ensures that humanitarian demining advances parallel with the survey and demarcation process, upholding the principles of peace, transparency, mutual respect, and shared responsibility.

#### 4.5.1 Cambodia-Thailand Border Conflict

The armed conflict between Cambodia and Thailand occurred along the border area from 24 to 28 July 2025, causing civilian injuries and deaths, homes and infrastructure destroyed, and severe property damage. Around 170,000 Cambodian civilians were forced to flee their homes to safe zones. The hostilities also created new contamination from explosive ordnance, further endangering communities in the border areas. These tragic events severely undermined clearance operations, reversing the progress and cooperation that had previously been achieved in border clearance efforts.

#### 4.5.2 Cambodia-Thailand Ceasefire Agreement

With strong support from our friends and partners, particularly Malaysia, the United States, and China, we achieved a ceasefire at the Special Meeting in Putrajaya on 28 July 2025. Following the mandate of that meeting, Cambodia, in collaboration with Thailand and with facilitation from Malaysia, convened the Extraordinary General Border Committee (GBC) Meeting, which was held on August 7, 2025, in Kuala Lumpur. The meeting, which included Malaysia, the United States, and China as observers, resulted in an agreement on the ceasefire terms.

#### 4.5.3 Border Clearance Cooperation and Mechanism Through the GBC

Cambodia has recently proposed that Cambodia and Thailand explore priority border areas for humanitarian mine clearance, particularly areas where people are living and where clearance would directly serve socio-economic needs, protect civilians' lives on both sides, and support regional stability.

All these humanitarian demining actions are without prejudice to the survey and demarcation of the land boundary between Cambodia and Thailand, nor shall they be used to create faits accompli on the ground or boundary claims.

The Cambodia-Thailand General Border Committee (GBC) convened a special meeting in Koh Kong Province, Cambodia, on 10 September 2025, concluding at 11:15 AM. Led by Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister General Tea Seiha and Thai Acting Minister General Nattaphon Nakphanit, the GBC reaffirmed its commitment to key agreements by adopting and signing Agreed Minutes and a Joint Press Statement. In this spirit, the Agreed Minutes stipulate the establishment of a Joint Coordinating Task Force within one week, comprising GBC Secretariats, CMAC, and TMAC, demonstrating Cambodia's good faith. This task force will identify priority areas for humanitarian demining, develop Standard Operating Procedures, coordinate demining activities, and consider each side's criteria. The success and effective operationalization of this initiative, however, will depend on the genuine intention of Thailand to pursue humanitarian demining in good faith.

Cambodia emphasizes that effective and sustainable mine clearance and broader mine action are contingent upon peace and stability, as facilitated by the ceasefire agreement of 28 July 2025. However, the continued fragility of the border situation undermines mine clearance operations and the safety of personnel.

In this context, Cambodia recognizes that new mechanisms will be required to ensure that humanitarian mine clearance in the border areas can occur safely, be coordinated, and mutually agreed upon. To this end, Cambodia also underscores the importance of involving a credible third party whose presence and facilitation would help build trust, enhance transparency, and ensure the success of clearance operations along the border.

Strengthening the cooperation of border clearance operations will be made within this framework, ensuring that joint efforts enhance the safety of broader communities, contribute to socioeconomic development, and uphold the principles of peace, rebuild mutual trust, and transform the shared border between the two countries into one of peace, cooperation, development, and shared prosperity.

# 4.5.5 Mine Risk Education and Victim Assistance in the Border Areas

Cambodia delivers mine risk education in all high-risk areas across the country, regardless of their location. However, border areas are often prioritised due to their high contamination levels. With its current mechanism and structure, Cambodia can deliver education on mine risk nationwide. Cambodia will continue prioritising mine risk education in border areas where communities live near suspected minefields that have not yet been cleared.

Regarding victim assistance in border areas, Cambodia has a well-established structure that brings together national institutions, local authorities, and mine action partners to support emergency response and long-term health services. Cambodia is also developing a Referral Pathway Mechanism to ensure coordinated emergency care, rehabilitation, and psychosocial support for survivors.

#### 4.6 Methods Used to Release Areas Containing Anti-Personnel Mines

Cambodia will continue to actively promote and encourage all demining operators to adhere fully to the Cambodian Mine Action Standards 15 on Land Release. This commitment is vital to consistently applying the highest standards across all land release operations. By adhering to the CMAS, operators can effectively implement the full range of land release methodologies currently being utilised to address APM-contaminated areas. These methodologies include:

- 1. **Non-Technical Survey (NTS):** Uses non-intrusive methods, such as field visits and data analysis, to assess and release suspected mine-contaminated areas. If no evidence of mines is found, the area is classified as **C1**. If uncertainty remains, the area proceeds with a technical survey or clearance as necessary.
- 2. **Technical Survey (TS):** Involves technical interventions to confirm the presence or absence of mines. If no mines are found, the area is classified as **C2**. If uncertainty remains, the area proceeds with clearance.
- 3. **Clearance:** The final step is applied when survey methods (NTS and TS) have been exhausted. It involves physically removing mines from well-defined areas. Cleared areas are classified as **C3**.

An APM contaminated area can be released through a single method or a combination of techniques, based on the characteristics and threats of the area, as presented in the chart below. The area released through non-technical surveys is classified as C1, technical surveys as C2, and clearances as C3.

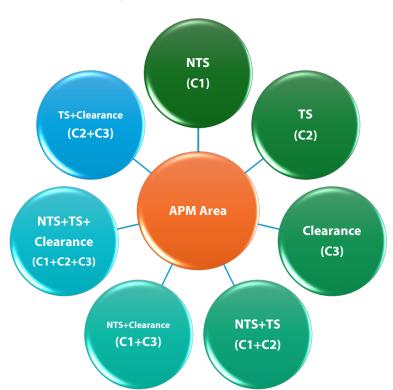


Chart 3: Methods available for releasing AP minefields

Cambodia recognises the importance of innovation in land release methodologies and actively encourages operators to adopt new technologies, tools, and approaches. These advancements enhance efficiency and effectiveness, accelerating the land release to provide safe land for productive use. By fostering compliance, collaboration, and innovation, Cambodia strengthens its commitment to achieving mine action goals in a timely and effective manner, contributing to the socio-economic development of affected communities.

#### 4.7 Mine Risk Education

Mine Risk Education (MRE) is crucial in reducing the risk of landmine and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) accidents by promoting safe behaviours among individuals living or working in contaminated areas. MRE programs are continuously adapted to evolving needs and contexts, ensuring that high-risk areas, particularly those with vulnerable populations such as mobile adult workers and children, receive targeted education to minimise potential accidents.

To enhance the effectiveness of MRE, Cambodia will review and develop MRE messages and materials to raise awareness and encourage safe practices by considering gender and diversity inclusion. MRE is being integrated into survey, clearance, victim assistance, and other mine action efforts to reinforce risk education among affected communities. Additionally, MRE activities will be incorporated into broader humanitarian response plans, including protection, development, environmental conservation, education, and disaster risk reduction initiatives. Furthermore, MRE will be delivered in high-risk areas to promote preventive measures for affected populations and vulnerable groups. MRE activities will be adapted to the specific community situation. These activities include mass campaigns, billboards, leaflets, posters, textbooks, T-shirts, household visits, community-based volunteers, public service announcements, integrating MRE messages into school curricula, and strengthening the implementation of laws related to the management of weapons, explosives, and ammunition. (Ref. Action #27 of the Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan).

Cambodia has over 10,000 community-based volunteers working nationwide to conduct MRE activities, which are considered an effective and sustainable approach for residual risk management, both in the short term and as part of a long-term risk education strategy.

Cambodia has gradually transferred MRE skills and knowledge to local communities by continuing to train schoolteachers and police officers in the most affected provinces, enabling them to provide MRE to school students and communities. This approach ensures the sustainability of MRE efforts at the community level. (*Ref. Action #26, 28 of the Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan*).

TRG-EORE meetings will be organised at least once a year to discuss MRE materials, MRE planning, and the organisation of National Mine Awareness Day (24 February). CMAA will continue to develop a list of prioritised villages for annual MRE operations in consultation with MRE operators and mine/ERW casualty data (CMVIS). As part of its mandate, CMAA will regularly monitor the MRE operations and provide recommendations to improve its effectiveness and efficiency.

Providing MRE through both reactive and proactive approaches is considered a long-term prevention strategy, which minimizes the risk of future landmine accidents. Ensuring that the community is well-informed and properly supported is essential for reducing the dangers posed by landmines. If an incident occurs in the unsurveyed area, the procedures must be established and followed to prioritise safety and ensure effective communication about the risks. Immediate Response ensures that no one else risks stepping on a landmine or being caught in a similar accident. Establish a safe perimeter around the accident site. The incident should be reported to local authorities, NGOs, and humanitarian organisations responsible for mine clearance. This helps to monitor hazardous areas and prevent future accidents.

After reporting, mine clearance teams will survey the area and ensure no further risk exists. Regular MREs will be carried out in high-risk areas to continuously educate and remind the population of the risks associated with landmines. Notify local authorities, mine action teams, or the relevant emergency services immediately. It's essential to have trained personnel handle the situation. After the incident, conducting Mine Risk Education in the affected community is necessary. Educate locals on how to spot dangerous areas and avoid landmines. In areas with frequent landmine risk, ensuring locals know safe behaviours is key to preventing further accidents; therefore, safety precautions will be provided through a comprehensive MRE program.

The table below presents the MRE workplan, which includes the anticipated number of MRE sessions and beneficiaries from July 2025 to December 2030 across ten provinces. This work plan was developed based on the accident report 2015-2024 and the remaining APM contamination.

Table 8 MRE Workplan from 2025 to 2030 in Provinces Affected by APM Contamination

Province	Accident Report 2015- June 2025			Remaining APM Contamination as of 01 Jul 2025	MRE Workplan for January 2025 to December 2030 in Provinces Affected by APM Contamination						mination	
	Mine	ERW	Total	Area Size(sqm)	Description	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Total
Banteay Meanchey	41	12	53	38,968,493	MRE session	7,372	7,372	6,635	5,972	5,375	4,838	37,564
					Beneficiary	147,440	147,440	132,700	119,440	107,500	96,760	751,280
Battambang	55	35	90	209,791,037	MRE session	10,050	10,050	9,045	8,141	7,327	6,595	51,208
					Beneficiary	201,000	201,000	180,900	162,820	146,540	131,900	1,024,160
Kampong Thom	0	12	12	3,510,164	MRE session	2,149	2,149	1,935	1,742	1,568	1,412	10,955
					Beneficiary	42,980	42,980	38,700	34,840	31,360	28,240	219,100
Koh Kong	4	5	9	4,986,230	MRE session	897	897	1,901	2,397	2,894	3,468	12,454
					Beneficiary	17,940	17,940	38,020	47,940	57,880	69,360	249,080
Oddar Meanchey	51	15	66	48,475,236	MRE session	3,298	3,298	2,968	2,673	2,406	2,166	16,809
					Beneficiary	65,960	65,960	59,360	53,460	48,120	43,320	336,180
Pailin	16	9	25	21,097,546	MRE session	1,249	1,249	1,125	1,013	912	821	6,369
					Beneficiary	24,980	24,980	22,500	20,260	18,240	16,420	127,380
Preah Vihear	40	21	61	62,712,711	MRE session	3,208	3,208	2,888	2,600	2,340	2,106	16,350
					Beneficiary	64,160	64,160	57,760	52,000	46,800	42,120	327,000
Pursat	25	15	40	106,499,658	MRE session	2,278	2,278	2,051	1,846	1,662	1,496	11,611
					Beneficiary	45,560	45,560	41,020	36,920	33,240	29,920	232,220
Ratanak Kiri	1	12	13	170,352	MRE session	320	320	288	260	234	211	1,633
					Beneficiary	6,400	6,400	5,760	5,200	4,680	4,220	32,660
Siem Reap	3	12	15	28,068,982	MRE session	4,911	4,911	4,420	3,978	3,581	3,223	25,024
					Beneficiary	98,220	98,220	88,400	79,560	71,620	64,460	500,480
Total	236	148	384	524,280,410	Total MRE Session	35,732	35,732	33,256	30,622	28,299	26,336	189,977
					Total Beneficiary	714,640	714,640	665,120	612,440	565,980	526,720	3,799,540
					Budget (US\$)	\$500,248	\$500,248	\$465,584	\$428,708	\$396,186	\$368,704	\$2,659,678

#### 4.8 Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming in Mine Action

The Cambodian Mine Action Standard (CMAS) on Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming in Mine Action was developed in September 2024. Mine action operators will develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) and relevant documents in accordance with CMAS. Additionally, the CMAA's Gender Team plans to build monitoring tools (procedures and forms) and a work plan, and conduct field monitoring to assess the implementation of the standard. They will provide recommendations to strengthen compliance with the standard.

The CMAA gender team will coordinate with mine action operators and other stakeholders to monitor and promote the implementation of gender and diversity mainstreaming in mine action plans.

#### 4.9 Resource Mobilisation

CMAA has developed a Resource Mobilization Strategy to strengthen efforts in addressing financial challenges and seizing emerging opportunities. While traditional donors remain the primary and essential funding source for the mine action sector, Cambodia continues to cultivate strong relationships with donors and development partners, built on years of mutual trust and shared achievements. At the same time, CMAA remains committed to exploring collaboration with prospective donors. (*Ref. Action #40 of the Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan*).

CMAA has coordinated with relevant donors to analyse shifts in Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) budgets, evolving policy landscapes, and budget allocation processes to ensure effective funding strategies. This assessment helps identify potential risks and opportunities to access funding streams.

CMAA will enhance engagement with a diverse donor base by collaborating with regional states, NGOs, and international organisations while fostering relationships with emerging and non-traditional donors, including the private sector.

Key forums for resource mobilisation will include regular Technical Working Group on Mine Action meetings, which bring together key national and international stakeholders to review progress, discuss priorities, and explore opportunities for collaboration. Bilateral meetings with foreign embassies in Cambodia will also be held to strengthen diplomatic ties and secure commitments from individual donor countries. Additionally, active participation in international donor meetings to present Cambodia's achievements, ongoing needs, and long-term plans further demonstrates the country's transparency and accountability to its global partners. Moreover, relevant government sessions will be leveraged to ensure strong domestic support for mine action efforts. (Ref. Action #41 of the Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan).

In parallel with resource mobilization efforts, the CMAA will provide regular updates on the sector's progress and development, including sharing key information on the status of mine clearance, advancements in land release methods, and overall achievements against strategic goals to establish open and transparent communication to keep the international community, private sector, and the Royal Government of Cambodia fully informed and engaged in supporting Cambodian mine action sector.

Additionally, demining operators can engage directly with donors, development partners, and international organisations to secure financial resources and technical support. This autonomy enables them to sustain and expand operations while aligning with national mine action priorities. By leveraging partnerships and external resources, operators can enhance the efficiency of mine clearance efforts, thereby contributing to Cambodia's goal of becoming a mine-free country and improving community safety and livelihoods.

The following table presents the land release target and financial budget needed for the requested extension period.

Table 9: Annual land release target and financial budget

Year	Total area released (m2)	Total budget for Land release (US\$)
01 Jul-31 Dec 2025	80,206,882	22,457,927
2026	130,000,000	36,400,000
2027	78,518,382	21,985,147
2028	78,518,382	21,985,147
2029	78,518,382	21,985,147
2030	78,518,382	21,985,147
Total	524,280,410	146,798,515

**Note:** Cambodia requires **US\$146,798,515** to address the remaining challenges. This estimate is based on an average land release cost of **US\$0.28** per square meter, determined through multi-year cost analyses that incorporate land classification, methodologies, and technologies, as well as

consultations with national and international operators. The figure reflects experience from previous land release operations across areas with diverse levels of landmine contamination. It is regarded as realistic and sufficient to support land release activities ranging from high-density minefields to areas with scattered contamination, ensuring flexibility, effectiveness, and efficiency.

#### 4.10 Sector Coordination

To ensure the effective implementation of the work plan, Cambodia will maintain a robust three-tiered coordination system throughout the requested period. This system has proven to be functional and efficient, operating effectively at the political, sectoral, and technical levels. Past experiences demonstrate that this layered approach fosters smooth collaboration, ensuring clear communication, accountability, and a streamlined process for addressing challenges and achieving objectives across all levels of government and stakeholders. (Ref. Action #41 of the Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan).

- Technical Working Group on Mine Action (TWG-MA): At the political level, the TWG-MA is led by the Royal Government represented by the CMAA, and it serves as a consultative mechanism between the Royal Government, development partners, NGOs and private sector to discuss policy issues to improve overall sector coordination, promote alignment and harmonization of aid and external resources for the mine action sector to contribute to the implementation of the National Mine Action Policy 2026-2035 and the National Strategic Development Plan 2024-2028. (Ref. Action #42 of the Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan).
- Mine Action Coordination Committee (MACC): At the sector level, the MACC is led by the CMAA with the participation of all mine action operators and partners, and it serves as a consultative mechanism between the national mine action authority (CMAA) and mine action operators to coordinate and guide operations toward achieving the objectives and goals of the National Mine Action Policy 2026-2035.
- Technical Reference Group (TRG): At the technical level, the TRG is led by relevant CMAA's Deputy Secretary Generals or Departmental Directors to discuss and seek solutions to resolve technical issues within their thematic areas. There are 8 TRG: (1) Survey and Clearance, (2) Explosive Ordnance Risk Education, (3) Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming in Mine Action, (4) Victim Assistance, (5) Cluster Munitions Remnants Survey, (6) Information Management, (7) Capacity Development, and (8) Performance Monitoring System.

#### 4.11 Capacity to Manage Residual Threats

Cambodia is committed to building a sustainable national capacity to manage residual contamination as part of its long-term mine action efforts. This capacity will address landmine and ERW contamination following large-scale clearance operations. Establishing this capacity will ensure that Cambodia is well-prepared to manage residual contamination effectively, safeguard communities, and enable the continued use of land for socio-economic development. (Ref. Action #21 of the Siem Reap Angkor Action Plan).

Building the national capacity to manage residual contamination is a key component of the forthcoming National Mine Action Policy 2026-2035, which is currently in its final stages of development. The Policy outlines Cambodia's vision for transitioning from large-scale clearance to a sustainable framework for managing residual contamination. It also emphasizes building a highly skilled and equipped workforce capable of responding rapidly to mine and ERW reports, conducting surveys, and clearing hazardous areas efficiently.

By incorporating the national capacity to manage residual contamination into the National Mine Action Policy, Cambodia aims to institutionalize its mine action capabilities, thereby enabling it to manage residual contamination effectively. Through this effort, Cambodia reaffirms its dedication to

creating a safe and productive environment for its people, ensuring that progress made in mine clearance is sustained over the long term.

It should be noted that after clearing all the known minefields, Cambodia still has a large area known to be contaminated by cluster munitions and other ERW to address. Establishing the national capacity to manage residual contamination must be a key objective of Goal 2 of the National Mine Action Policy 2026-2035.

Establish a sustainable national capacity and framework to manage residual contamination, starting with a comprehensive review of the existing institutional framework. This review should clearly define roles and responsibilities and identify the key institutions responsible for managing residual contamination by 2030. By 2035, a national capacity for managing residual contamination will be in place.

# 4.12 The Risk Factors That May Affect the Realization of the Work Plan

The following are perceived risks that may impact the successful realization of the work plan during the requested extension period:

- Geographical Challenges in Border Areas: Minefields along the Cambodia-Thailand border are in rugged mountainous terrain and dense forests, making access difficult.
- Border Demarcation: Incomplete border demarcation can pose significant risks that may lead to uncertainties regarding access, potential disputes, and restrictions on demining activities. Such uncertainties may delay operations, create tension between the two countries, and impact the overall progress of the work plan.
- Availability of Financial Resources: The timely and sufficient allocation of financial resources
  is critical for executing the work plan. Any delays in funding, shortfalls, or the reallocation of
  economic resources can hinder operational planning, limit access to necessary equipment
  and personnel, and disrupt the continuity of clearance activities. Financial constraints could
  also compromise the quality and efficiency of the operations, thereby affecting the
  achievement of planned objectives within the extension period.

# **Annexes**

Annex 1: Consolidated Performance Monitoring System Report Produced In 2024

Annex 2: Cambodian Mine/ERW Victim Information System

Annex 3: List of Minefields Containing APM as of July 2025

Annex 4: National Mine Action Policy 2026-2035 (Draft)