

KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA Nation Religion King

INTERVENTION OF CAMBODIA ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE VICTIM ASSISTANCE EXPERTS MEETING INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE GENEVA BUILDING IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND On 18 June 2025

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

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, I wish to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to present our progress in fulfilling the victim assistance commitments under the Siem Reap-Angkor Action Plan 2025-2029.

Action #30: Coordination and Support for Victim Assistance

Cambodia, through the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA), continues to play a leading role in the coordination and technical facilitation of victim assistance. Working closely with government ministries, local authorities, development partners, NGOs, and the private sector, the CMAA leads national efforts that encompass:

- Emergency response and pre-hospital care;
- Access to medical and physical rehabilitation services;
- Psychosocial and socio-economic support;
- Vocational training and employment promotion; and
- Advocacy for the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities, especially landmine and ERW survivors.

This comprehensive and inclusive approach aims to ensure that all survivors receive timely, quality, and needs-based support.

Action #31: Policy and Standards Development

Cambodia has reaffirmed its strong and enduring commitment to victim assistance through the development and adoption of key national policies and standards. Notably:

- The Cambodian Mine Action Standard (CMAS) on Victim Assistance provides clear guidance for all actors involved in delivering survivor services.
- The National Disability Strategic Plan 2024–2028 integrates landmine/ERW victim assistance within the broader disability rights and development framework.
- In addition, the National Mine Action Policy 2026–2035 and the National Guideline on Victim Assistance are currently under development and are expected to be finalized by the end of 2025.

These frameworks will ensure enhanced coordination, accountability, and effectiveness in addressing the long-term needs of survivors.

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Challenges

Despite commendable progress, Cambodia continues to face several persistent challenges in delivering comprehensive victim assistance. Key gaps include:

- Insufficient and unpredictable funding for emergency response, rehabilitation, psychosocial care, and livelihood support;
- Threats of closure or reduced operations at physical rehabilitation centers due to funding constraints;
- Limited vocational training and job placement opportunities for survivors;
- Weak survivor-tracking systems and data coordination mechanisms, especially in remote and high-impact areas.

These challenges underscore the urgent need for sustained and targeted technical and financial support to maintain critical services and ensure no survivor is left behind.

Way Forward

Cambodia remains resolute in its commitment to upholding the rights and dignity of mine/ERW survivors and all persons with disabilities. Our priorities moving forward include:

- Strengthening policy implementation and multi-sectoral coordination;
- Expanding inclusive and community-based services in underserved areas;
- Enhancing data management systems to better monitor survivor needs and outcomes;
- Promoting survivor-led participation and empowerment in all aspects of assistance.

Conclusion and Appreciation

In conclusion, the Royal Government of Cambodia expresses its deep appreciation to all partners who have supported our victim assistance journey. In particular, we thank:

- The Implementation Support Unit,
- Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea,
- Exceed Worldwide, Humanity & Inclusion, ICRC,
- UNDP, UNICEF, WHO,
- And all other organizations and individuals whose contributions continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of survivors.

Your partnership remains instrumental in building a society where all individuals, regardless of injury or disability, can live with dignity, equality, and opportunity.