



NEWSLETTER

July - September 2013

The Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) is working on policy guideline and strategic plan development for mine action in Cambodia since 2000. We work in strong collaboration and partnership with both national and international institutions. We represent the Royal Government of Cambodia in international mine action forums.

Technical Reference Group Meeting on Mine/ERW

On 22nd July, The Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) supported by UNDP's Clearing for Result Project organized a meeting to review and distribute the Baseline Survey findings and identify challenges and solutions for the future. 74 participants representing PMAC/MAPU, UNDP, CMAC, NPMEC, MAG, Halo Trust, CSHD, NPA, JMAS, and DNY took part in the meeting.

9 presentations were delivered by mine action operators to share progresses, challenges and way forward. Representatives of the CMAA delivered presentations on Baseline Survey (BLS) findings and mine clearance resources needed for the sector between 2014 and 2019.

Even though the funding for mine action sector has decreased, the sector still shows progresses between 2010 and 2013, as 221 square kilometers have been released, 180 kilometers have been cleared and in 2012, the casualty rate dropped below 200 for the first time.



Photo: CMAA

H.E. Prum Sophakmonkol Deputy Secretary General of the CMAA provided presentations on BLS finding and resources needed for the sector.

Mine clearance beneficiaries in Battambang province

Battambang – Farmer Chea Phearin carefully clears the grass as it was growing rapidly in her farmland. Corns are growing behind her house after it was swept clean of landmines. Those plants had been growing three months already on the one hectare of land.

“Now I can use more land for growing corn for the first time without any worry” 30 year old woman who lives in Kouk Roka village, Doun Ba commune, Koas Krala district in Battambang province, western Cambodia said “Corn will help my family to earn around 750 dollars. With that I can support 2 children with food, clothes and medical care.”

“Before the land was cleared, every morning my children and I went out to work in the field, walked the cows with worry because of landmine” she said.



Photo: CMAA

Farmer Chea Phearin, clears grass on a piece of land that was recently cleared of landmines.

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Mine clearance beneficiaries in Battambang province

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Supported by Clearing for Result project Phase II, in 2012 about 1,027,702 square meters of land have been cleared of landmines in Koas Krala district Battambang province. This provided some 621 poor families across this area with a better cultivation for farming.

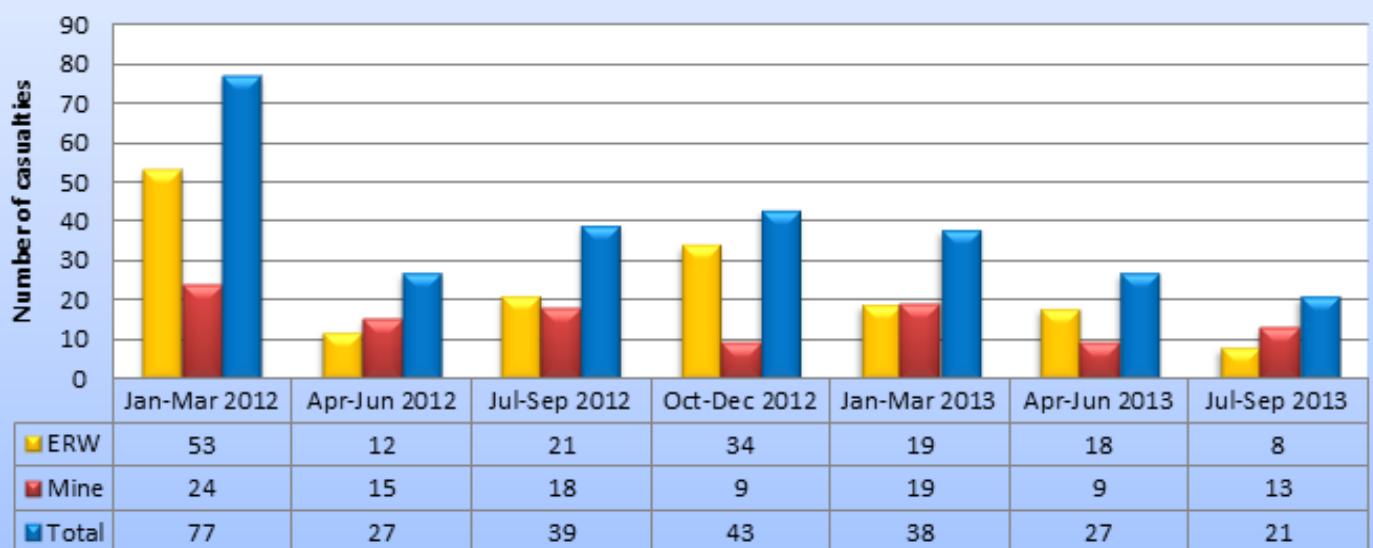
Most of the Cambodian families living in this area depend on growing crops so mine clearance is a priority for these communities. According to estimate by local officials in Dounba commune Mr. Nhuek Sophoan, on average, a family with one hectare of land produced 4 tons of corn from two cycles of crop within a four months period.

Landmine and ERW Casualty Trends

The past years have seen significant reductions in casualties and incidents due to protracted efforts in the clearance of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) and mine risk education (MRE). 2012 saw an overall 12% reduction in casualties from the previous year with 186 reported casualties, compared to 211 in 2011 and 286 in 2010. Observing the figures over a 5-year period illustrates more impressive results of the rate of casualty reduction since the establishment of CMAA in 2000. Between 2003 and 2007 there were 3,347 reported landmine/ERW casualties nationally, especially in the most contaminated provinces normally Battambang and Banteay Meanchey. Concentrated efforts in these and other highly contaminated provinces have resulted in a 64% casualty reduction over the following 5-year period (2008-2012) with 1,198 reported casualties. Men are commonly the most at risk group with over 60% of casualties in the last 5 years. Boys (those under eighteen) are also at risk accounting for over 24% of casualty numbers within the same period. Though women (9%) and girls (6.2%) accounted for fewer casualties, they are still vulnerable to landmines/ERW. In quarter 3 2013, 21 mine/ERW casualties were recorded by the CMVIS data gatherers. The figure for Q3 2013 represents a decrease of 46% compared with the 39 casualties reported in quarter 3 2012.

Clearance has also witnessed significant achievements. From January to September 2013 (see chart below) indicate that over 38,535,010 square kilometers was cleared by four demining operators: the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC), the National Centre for Peacekeeping Forces, Mines and ERW Clearance (NPMEC), the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and HALO Trust. During that period, 10,456 anti-personnel mines (APM), 307 anti-tank mines (ATM) and 10,929 unexploded ordinances (UXO) were discovered and destroyed.

Chart of Mine/ERW casualties during January to December 2012 and from January to September 2013



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Clearance on BLS Polygons from January to September, 2013

Clearance Results	CMAC	NPMEC	MAG	HALO	CSHD	Grand Total
Total of Area (Sqm)	25,550,405	396,822	1,704,844	10,329,508	553,431	38,535,010
Total number of APM	3,391	143	508	6,243	171	10,456
Total number of ATM	81	0	5	213	8	307
Total number of UXO	5,228	102	89	5,369	141	10,929

Meeting to Review the Progress on PCM and Mine Clearance Planning

On 25-28 August, all MAPU from Western provinces and relevant departments in CMAA attended the meeting to review the progress that MAPU have made and challenges faced in Post Clearance Monitoring (PCM) and work plan implementation. MAPU also shared experiences to align mine action plan and its budget for PCM. Regarding the achievements, MAPU integrated the mine action plan in the Commune Investment Plan (2014-2016) and selected 422 villages for planning priorities for mine clearance among 99 communes in 35 districts in 2014.

H.E. Chum Bun Rong, Secretary General of the CMAA reminded the audience that the planning and prioritization of clearance tasks have been decentralized by RGC to the provincial and local authorities so MAPU must work closely with affected communities to select clearance tasks and then coordinates the planning process in consultation with demining operators and relevant development organizations.



Quality of Life of landmine/ERW Survivor Workshop

On 29 August, the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA), in cooperation with the Cambodia Campaign to Ban Landmines (CCBL) and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs), organized a workshop to disseminate a report on Quality of Life survey involving landmine and ERW survivors and persons with disabilities. Since May 2012, the survey team has surveyed in 393 villages in 21 provinces and interviewed 3448 persons with disabilities out of which 1661 are landmine survivors.

Data entry was undertaken at the Reflection Centre (Metta Karuna) located in Siem Reap with the involvement of most landmine/ERW survivors and persons with disabilities. The survey provided an opportunity for advocating the rights and needs of landmine and ERW survivors and other persons with disabilities.



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Mine Risk Education Technical Reference Group Meeting

On 20 September, the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) organized a Mine Risk Education Technical Reference Group meeting to review progress and challenges. 31 participants came from the mine risk education sector representing the Ministry of Education, National Police, CMAC, NPMEC, MAG, Halo Trust, SOS and CSHD. The meeting also agreed on a draft National Action Plan for MRE 2013-2016, MRE Monitoring Guidelines, MRE Emergency Guidelines and MRE IMSMA report form.



MRE operators are required to comply with mine risk education standard, which operators must be applying for MRE certificate from CMAA. H.E. Chum Bun Rong reminded the MRE operators that did not yet apply for MRE certificate to send the request and relevant documents. The Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority with funding support and technical assistance from UNICEF developed the Cambodian Mine Risk Education Standard. The purpose of having this standard is to support the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority and MRE operators in improving MRE activities in Cambodia.

Gender Technical Reference Group Meeting

On 30 September, the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) organized a meeting to disseminate the Gender Mainstreaming in Mine Action Plan baseline report and way ahead. 32 representing participants attended the meeting including government ministries, demining operators and NGO partners.



Since 2012, CMAA with funding support and technical assistance from UNDP's Clearing for Result Project developed the Gender Mainstreaming in Mine Action Plan (2013-2015). The purpose of having this action plan is to mainstream gender equality to various communities.

Exchange visit from other programme

Delegations from Lebanon visited CMAA to exchange different knowledge and experiences such as mine clearance methodology, land release process, planning and priority setting, and impact assessment. Besides this, Lebanese mine action center also visited mine action operators such as CMAC, MAG, and HALO Trust to study operation especially those using mechanical machine. Two teams from Japanese university students also visited CMAA aiming at a research study about the victim assistance in Cambodia.



Contact us

Address: New Building, Corner Street 273 & 516, Tuol Kork Village, Tuol Sangke Quarter, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Phone / Fax: (+855) 23 880 462/ 228 265
E-mail: cabinet@cmaa.gov.kh / info@cmaa.gov.kh
Website: www.cmaa.gov.kh