



## 1. Background

Landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) contamination in Cambodia is the result of a protracted sequence of internal and regional conflicts that affected the country from the mid-1960s until the end of 1998. The northwestern regions bordering Thailand are affected with the highest concentrations of anti-personnel mines in the world. Other areas of the country, mainly in the east, have been impacted primarily by the presence of ERW, including cluster munitions (CM). This fact-sheet underscores mine action achievement from 1992 to December 2023 unless a different period is stated.

operators. This is to provide confidence to the donors and beneficiaries that the activities of the operators are conducted safely, and the cleared land is safe for productive use in line with Cambodian Mine Action Standards (CMAS). From 2018 to December 2023, total number of 10,365 QA/QC inspections were conducted by CMAA QM team.

## 11. National Mine Action Strategy (NMAS 2018-2025)

The road map of the mine action sector is the National Mine Action Strategy (NMAS) 2018-2025, which was developed in line with Cambodia's national strategic plans and the Maputo +15 declaration that encourages all states parties to complete mine-free status by 2025. The NMAS aims to release all known landmine contaminated area and prioritized CM contaminated area by 2025 and to address the threats from other ERW.

## 12. Sector Management and Coordination

To ensure proper management, effectiveness and efficiency of the mine action sector, the Royal Government of Cambodia established CMAA in 2000 with the mandate to regulate, coordinate and monitor mine action activities. Further, the RGC established the Technical Working Group on Mine Action (TWG-MA) in 2004 to serve as a coordinating body and dialogue mechanism that brings together the RGC, development partners (DP), mine action operators, and development organizations to support mine action and ensure that it contributes to the attainment of the national development priorities. TWG-MA meet two times annually.

## 13. Environmental Aspects

In 2021, Cambodia introduced a Cambodian Mine Action Standard on Environmental Management (CMAS 20), and discussions continue on further amendments or additions to the standards.

From January to December 2023, 25 survivor network volunteers conducted the Quality-of-Life Survey (QLS) on 4,175 persons with disabilities (702 women) including 3,206 landmine/ERW survivors (273 women) in 236 villages, 95 communes/Sangkat, 25 districts in Battambang, Banteay Meanchey and Pailin provinces. Outcomes of the survey have been shared with disability stakeholders to plan their supports to persons with disabilities.



## 9. Gender Mainstreaming

Gender has been considered in all activities of mine action in Cambodia. About 23% of the mine action workforce are women. The sector is working to increase the percent age of women as stated in the Gender Mainstreaming in Mine Action Plan 2021-2025 and Guidelines. With regard to mine clearance, MAPU is working to in-participation in the planning and prioritization process to ensure that the needs and priorities of women is taken into consideration.



## 10. Quality Management (QM)

Clearance operators conduct their own quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC) to ensure that their mine action activities are carried out safely, effectively and efficiently and that the outputs (cleared land) is safe for use as intended. CMAA employs quality management teams to conduct external QA and QC of all



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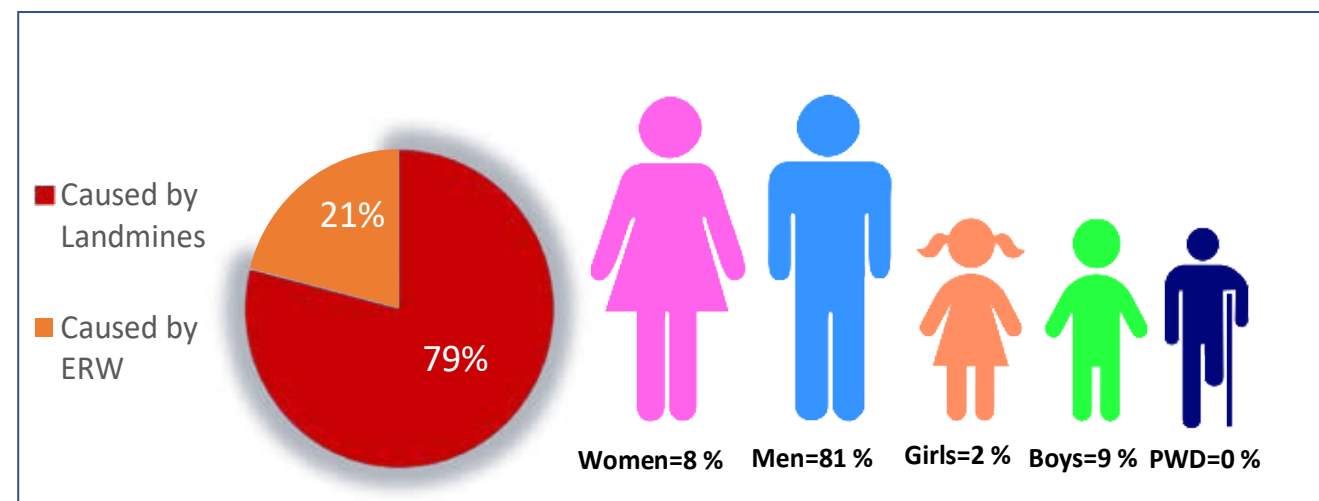


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## 2. Impact of the Contamination

Landmine and ERW have killed and injured 65,043 people in Cambodia since 1979. Although, the number of annual casualties has been brought down from 4,320 in 1996 to 41 in 2022, these explosive ordnances keep endangering the Cambodian population especially those in the rural areas. From January 2023 to March 2024, there were 38 casualties. Among the casualties, 11% died.



The presence of landmines and ERW prevents reconstruction and development from taking place in a safe manner. Most community development projects would not have taken place without the support of landmine and ERW clearance. In an affected country like Cambodia, landmine and ERW clearance is the backbone for national socio-economic development.

## 3. Progress and Remaining Challenges

Humanitarian mine action in Cambodia started in 1992. As of December 2023 Mine action operators CMAC, NPMEC, RCAF, HALO Trust, MAG, APOPO, CSHD and NPA released **3,024** km<sup>2</sup> of contaminated areas.

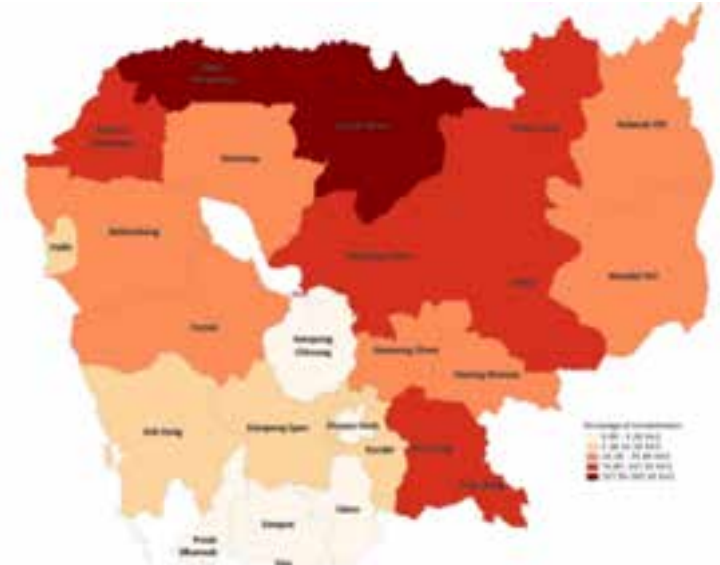


The following table presents accumulative numbers of explosive items found and destroyed by area clearance and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) task teams:

Anti-personnel mines	1,179,365
Anti-tank mines	26,339
ERW including CM	3,105,593

By December 2023, the national database indicates that **1,789** km<sup>2</sup> remains contaminated which include:

Landmine area (km <sup>2</sup> )	468
CM area (km <sup>2</sup> )	731
ERW area (km <sup>2</sup> )	590



## 4. Planning and Prioritization

Cambodia adopts the top-down and bottom-up approaches to planning and prioritization for landmine/ERW clearance. As the leader of the sector, CMAA identified priority villages where clearance assets should be directed to. CMAA did this in consultation with MAPU, clearance operators, relevant data and it is called the top-down approach. In line with the identified priority villages, the Mine Action Planning Unit (MAPU) will work with the affected villages, clearance operators and development organizations to prioritize minefields to clear annually to ensure that needs and priorities of the affected communities are taken into consideration. This is the bottom-up approach. These two approaches are complementing one another.

## 5. Socio-Economic Contribution

About **76%** of the cleared land was used for agriculture and remainder as for housing, infrastructure development and risk reduction etc. The clearance directly and indirectly benefited 11,980,172 people, most of them living in the rural area.



## 6. Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)

Clearance operators in Cambodia have the capacity to conduct EOD in response to calls and reports from local authorities and communities living in affected area. From 1994 to December 2023, 182,707 EOD tasks were conducted, and 1,877,124 explosive items (landmines and ERW) were found and destroyed by the EOD teams.

## 7. Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)

There are ten organizations implementing EORE in Cambodia. The purpose of the EORE is to educate people about the danger of EO (landmines and ERW) and activities that may lead to accidents with the aim to change risky behavior. The EORE is integrated with other mine action activities such as land release, accident data collection and victim assistance and nationwide school curriculum. It is also delivered through formal sessions and house/field visits targeting the high risk groups. 6,176,371 beneficiaries received EORE from 2018 to December 2023 (2,312,440 women, 2,230,348 men, 830,966 girls, and 828,376 boys).

## 8. Landmine and ERW Victim Assistance

Survivors of explosive ordnance accident and their families receive a continuum of care focusing on all components of Victim Assistance in Mine Action including emergency care and rehabilitation, psychosocial and psychological support, social and economic inclusion and advocacy. The mine action sector efforts focus on multidisciplinary approaches involving ministries, entities, and organizations to integrate victim assistance into health, disability, education, labour, development, and social protection strategies among others.

CMAA is working on developing guidelines for organizations implementing Victim Assistance activities, have developed a Cambodian Mine action Standard on Victim Assistance and works with UNDP under Clearing for Results IV on Quality of Life Survey. From January to December 2023, 25,260 persons with disabilities, including landmine/ERW survivors received physical rehabilitation from 11 Physical Rehabilitation Centers (PRCs), 3 Repair workshops and 1 Spinal Injury Cord Center.

Those supports included 3,212 prosthetics (1,722 lower limbs, 146 upper limbs), 3,260 orthotics (2,479 lower limbs, 50 upper limbs and 31 spinals), 1,043 wheelchairs (940 for adult and 93 for child), 47 tricycles 3,671 walking aids and 12,715 repairs.