

CAMBODIA



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

MINE CLEARANCE IN CAMBODIA (PHASE II)



An expert of HALO Trust at work
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BACKGROUND

which poses serious adverse socio-economic impacts on rural communities, including loss of human lives and disabilities as well as restrictions on access to agricultural land, forests, and water resources. Poor people and women are particularly affected.

Since 1979, over 65,000 Cambodian men, women and children have been recorded as killed or suffering from life-changing accidents involving mines and unexploded ordnances (UXO). In the past 30 years, Cambodia has cleared over 2,138 km² of minefields, benefiting approx. 6.3 million people (50% women) and improving livelihoods of thousands of rural people. Annual casualty numbers decreased from 2,070 in 1993 to 77 in 2019, and to 65 in 2020. In most recent years, landmine and UXO accidents are concentrated on the Cambodian-Thai border due to progressive land use of previously uncultivated land in the so-called K5 mine belt, which has the highest number of minefields. Clearance of these minefields along the border becomes an increasingly high

priority and the requirement for good planning and task prioritization is crucial to staying ahead of population growth.

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) launched the National Mine Action Strategy (NMAS) 2018-2025 and announced the Cambodia Sustainable Development Goal 18 to make Cambodia a mine-free country by 2025. The government estimates that between 2018-2025, USD 406 million or USD 51.4 million/year are required to complete the task, but only USD 30 million (including USD 10 million from the RGC) per year have been committed so far. All mine action operators in Cambodia work under the coordination of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA). In 2021, the RGC trained and deployed the first 400 out of 2,000 soldiers on humanitarian demining. This is an important step and will be a significant boost to the sector's efforts and the commitments by the RGC.

This project forms an integral part of the Swiss Cooperation Programme in the Mekong Region 2022-25. In addition to this project, Switzerland provides a core contribution to the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), which provides capacity building support on various aspects of mine action as well as support for data management for known mine presence, and planning for demining.

OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of Switzerland's support to mine clearance in Cambodia is to improve livelihood opportunities for men and women, enabling wider economic development, and reducing casualties in vulnerable rural communities in Cambodia (K5 mine belt).

The three objectives of the project are:
Outcome 1: To make safe land available for agriculture and infrastructure development in poor rural communities, in particular border communities expanding through internal migration. communities expanding through internal migration.

