

# CAMBODIA



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC

## MINE CLEARANCE IN CAMBODIA (PHASE II)



An expert of HALO Trust at work  
Photo@ SDC

### 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 km<sup>2</sup> 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.

**PROJECT AT A GLANCE:**

**Duration**  
Previous phase: 2013 - 2019  
Phase II: Jan 2020 - Dec 2022

**Budget**  
Total budget:  
USD: 7,500,000  
Swiss contribution:  
CHF 3,500,000

**Implementing Agency**  
HALO Trust

**Other partners**  
- Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA)  
- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)  
Co-Donors (Germany, USA, UK and Ireland)

**Outcome 2:** To reduce casualties by provision of Risk Education and removing mines and other Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) where they pose the greatest threat.

**Outcome 3:** To support participatory planning and prioritization of mine clearance activities to ensure effective mine clearance and post-clearance land use.

**EXPECTED RESULTS**

Land mine clearance of 12.2 km2 of heavily mined areas in north western Cambodia will provide safe access to land and livelihood development to 25,000 rural households. Switzerland’s support to mine clearance allows rural communities to safely grow crops, collect non-timber forest products, and access water sources.

Cambodian actors, the CMAA in particular, have the capacity for effective data management as a result of the support provided by Switzerland and GICHD.

**APPROACH**

Removing the threat of landmines releases land back to communities, allowing economic development and ensuring poor rural people do not risk injury when cultivating contaminated areas. Whilst contamination exists, mine risk education is provided to raise awareness of hazards, and to promote safe behaviour among communities at risk.

The integration of mine action planning with local development plans, and the focus on women and marginalized groups as key beneficiaries are contributing to the overall strategic priority of poverty reduction. HALO prioritizes clearance directly with impacted communities and provincial Mine Action Planning Units (MAPUs), based on the threat posed to nearby populations and their development requirements.

HALO follows clear procedures to monitor and validate mine clearance plans to ensure that the project does not use donor funding for the clearing of concession land or commercial land owned by private companies.

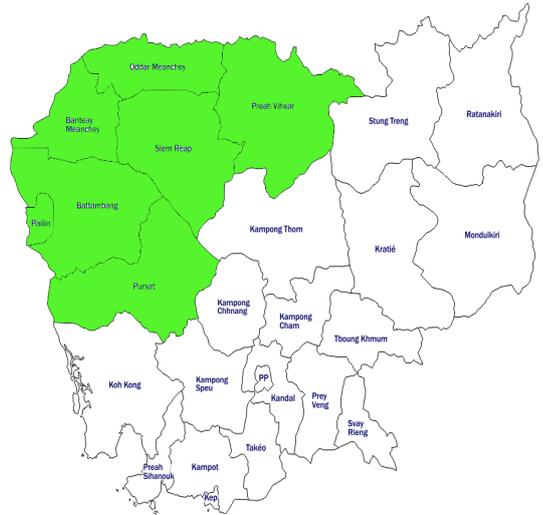
Non-technical surveys are carried out that establish or confirm the type of mine threat, and delineate the boundaries of the mined area before clearance.

**KEY RESULTS AND INSIGHTS OF PREVIOUS PHASE**

Since 2013, Switzerland has supported Cambodia’s mine action sector with USD 7.15 million through the UNDP-led mine clearance project. By end of 2019, the project has cleared 120 km2 of minefields in poor rural communities. This represents about 10% of the nationwide mine-cleared area in the country. Over 1 million people (49% women) benefit from safe access to land and water sources, which has helped to increase income opportunities in the most mine-affected provinces of Pailin, Battambang and Banteay Meanchey. Switzerland, together with the technical expertise of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, supported the government to develop and launch the NMAS 2018-2025 and the NMAS resource mobilization strategy. The ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (AR-MAC) headquartered in Cambodia, received support to organize several regional events for ASEAN countries including the regional workshop on gender participation in mine action in Vientiane.

**TARGET GROUP AND PROJECT LOCATION**

Rural poor people, small households and families, in particular landless families and women-headed households that are living with explosive remnants of war in the most contaminated areas of the K5 mine belt in Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Oddar Meanchey, Pailin, Preah Vihear, Pursat and Siem Reap provinces.



Target provinces highlighted in green colour

**Imprint**  
Swiss Cooperation Office and Consular Agency SDC  
50, Street 334, Boeung Keng Kang, Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
Email: phnompenh@eda.admin.ch  
Web: www.eda.admin.ch/cambodia  
March 2022