

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2025
 UNCLEAR WHETHER ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE

KEY DATA

ANTI-PERSONNEL (AP) MINE CONTAMINATION: MASSIVE

NATIONAL AUTHORITY ESTIMATE

681 km²

AP MINE CLEARANCE IN 2022

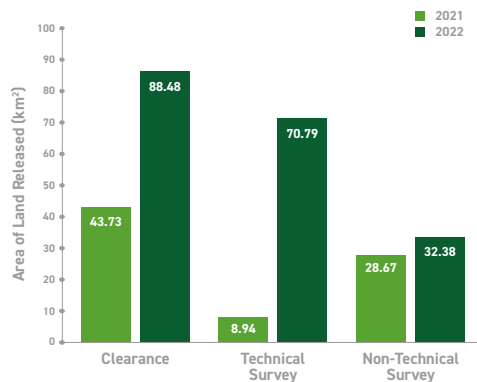
88.48 km²

AP MINES DESTROYED IN 2022

14,402

(INCLUDING 1,354 DESTROYED IN SPOT TASKS)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT



CURRENT LIKELIHOOD OF MEETING 2025 CLEARANCE TARGET (as per the Oslo Action Plan commitment): LOW

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Prime Minister Hun Sen reasserted Cambodia's determination to complete clearance of anti-personnel (AP) mines by the end of 2025, launching an appeal for private donations which raised \$18.6 million and announcing the government would provide \$30 million for mine action. Operators released 191km² through survey and clearance, double the 2021 achievement. The government deployed deminers from the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) and the National Centre for Peacekeeping Forces (NPMEC) to accelerate clearance. Cambodia declared five provinces and Phnom Penh municipality mine free in 2022 as part of a strategy expected to complete clearance in another 13 provinces in 2023, leaving mine action operators to focus on seven provinces along the border with Thailand. Prime Minister Hun Sen said he had reached agreement with his opposite number in Thailand to allow clearance along the border without waiting for resolution of border demarcation disputes although no further agreements were concluded in the first half of 2023.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Cambodia should lay out a clear and transparent policy and programme of work for mine clearance on the border with Thailand.
- Cambodia should implement Prime Minister Hun Sen's statement that border clearance need not wait for agreement on border demarcation and seek agreement with Thailand on specific areas for clearance.
- The government should clarify the funding it will allocate for mine action from the national budget in 2024 and 2025.
- The CMAA should expand its quality assurance (QA) capacity to cope with the increased number of demining teams and ensure effective monitoring of RCAF and NPMEC as well as demining non-governmental organisations (NGOs).
- Cambodia should continue to improve information management capacity to cope with the increased volume of reporting generated by accelerating land release and eliminate persistent significant discrepancies between official and operator data.

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2022)	Score (2021)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	7	7	Cambodia sharply accelerated land release through extensive cancellation and area reduction as well as clearance in 2022 and by the end of 2023 expected to have declared all but 7 of its 25 provinces mine free. Its estimate of total contamination, however, dropped a modest 5% as a result of continued additions to the database of hazardous areas and it has yet to determine the extent of mined areas in un-demarcated areas of the border with Thailand, which are believed to be densely mined. Cambodia still does not disaggregate confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) and suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) in line with international best practice.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	8	8	The government's decision to allocate substantial funding from the national budget to mine action and deploy up to 2,000 deminers from RCAF and NPMEC underscored strong national ownership of mine action. The Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) convened regular meetings of a Technical Working Group on Mine Action (TWG-MA), which brings all stakeholders together, as well as a Mine Action Coordination Committee (MACC) and eight Technical Reference Groups (TRGs), including one on survey and clearance.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	8	8	The CMAA launched a new version of its action plan for gender mainstreaming which has undergone three updates. The CMAA's quality management teams and the mine action planning units (MAPUs) have all received training on implementing gender mainstreaming. The percentage of women employed by operators varies from around 18% in the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) to 49% in NPA but more women appear to be holding senior positions. The CMAA also has a Gender Mainstreaming Team (GMT) that was established to coordinate with the technical reference group on gender and in 2023 had drafted a national standard on gender and diversity.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	7	7	Strengthening information management is one of the goals of Cambodia's national mine action strategy and the CMAA has continued to make improvements in recent years. The Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database is upgrading to IMSMA Core with Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) support but in 2022 was still migrating data from the old to the new system. The CMAA requested reports from operators to try to synchronise reporting and eliminate discrepancies, but these continue to afflict land release data in particular. Cambodia submits Article 7 reports annually.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	7	7	Cambodia has a comprehensive National Mine Action Strategy 2018–25, a detailed three-year implementation plan 2021–23, and land release targets set out in its 2019 Article 5 deadline extension request. The announcement of more government funding and deployment of military deminers injected new momentum in the drive to complete clearance by the end of 2025.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (20% of overall score)	7	7	Cambodia has national mine action standards (CMAS) that are broadly compliant with the International Mine Action Standards. The CMAA is reviewing and developing standards in consultation with operators. It has also taken steps to accelerate land release through survey but also needs to strengthen quality management to cope with rapid expansion in the number of operational deminers.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	8	6	Cambodia more than doubled the amount of land released through survey and clearance in 2022, although Mine Action Review did not receive data directly from CMAC and therefore it has not been possible to assess the accuracy of the sharp increase in clearance output reported in Cambodia's Article 7 transparency report. Initial reports indicated that momentum has carried over into 2023. Most of the land cleared was lightly contaminated. A ban on international demining organisations working within 7km of Cambodia's borders has halted clearance of areas with the country's densest mine contamination and talks with Thailand have yet to open up access to disputed areas of their common border.
Average Score	7.4	7.0	Overall Programme Performance: GOOD

DEMINEING CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC)
- Cambodian Self-help Demining (CSHD)
- National Centre for Peacekeeping Forces Management, Mines and Explosive Remnants of War Clearance (NPMEC)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- APOPO
- The HALO Trust (HALO)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)

OTHER ACTORS

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre (ARMAC)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

Cambodia estimated it had 681km² of AP mine contamination in 12 provinces at the end of 2022 (see Table 1), down from 716km² in 22 provinces and Phnom Penh municipality at the end of 2021 and 801km² two years previously at the end of 2020.¹ Cambodia believes that 353km² or 52% of the remaining contamination is located within a 7km-wide zone along its borders, including 90km² of dense contamination, and 328km² (48%) lies outside the border zone.²

Despite a sharp acceleration in land released through survey and clearance in 2022, the 5% net drop in Cambodia's contamination estimate in 2022 was smaller than in the previous year because operators also identified 138km² of previously unrecorded mined area. This included 266 mined areas totalling 67km² reported in Preah Vihear and 38km² in Battambang province.³ As at May 2023, the newly identified mined areas remained on the database workbench pending CMAA verification.⁴

Table 1: AP mined area (at end 2022)⁵

Province or Region	SHAs	Area of SHA (m ²)
Banteay Meanchey	1,664	103,581,047
Battambang	1,251	112,751,444
Kampong Thom	410	37,589,564
Koh Kong	355	22,846,585
Kratie	103	15,903,394
Mondulkiri	62	8,399,249
Oddar Meanchey	1,011	90,303,393
Pailin	327	17,654,046
Preah Vihear	904	149,401,611
Pursat	722	72,308,226
Rattanakiri	15	2,288,674
Siem Reap	568	48,257,278
Totals	7,392	681,284,511

By a mixture of cancellation, reduction and clearance, Cambodia was able to declare five of its twenty-five provinces (including Phnom Penh, technically a municipality) free of mines in 2022.⁶ By the end of March 2023, Cambodia had declared five more provinces as mine-free (as well as Phnom Penh municipality),⁷ and by the end of the year it expected to be left with seven mine-affected provinces, all located along the border with Thailand. This achievement provides greater clarity on the challenge and gives impetus to its ambitious drive to complete clearance of all AP mined areas by its Article 5 deadline at the end of 2025.⁸

Three quarters of the remaining contamination is located in five provinces (Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Oddar Meanchey, Pursat and Preah Vihear). One of the major remaining challenges is that Cambodia does not have a clear determination of the extent of contamination along the border with Thailand, but it is clear that these areas holds the densest minefields and some of the most difficult terrain, and access remains problematic because of a long-running border demarcation dispute with Thailand.

1 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), #4.

2 2019 Article 5 Extension Request, Revised Work Plan, submitted 10 May 2023, p. 4; and email from Tep Kallyan, Deputy Secretary General, CMAA, 3 May 2023.

3 Email from Tep Kallyan, CMAA, 29 April 2023.

4 2019 Article 5 Extension Request, Revised Work Plan, submitted 10 May 2023, p. 1.

5 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), #4.

6 The provinces declared mine-free in 2022 were Kep, Preah Sihanouk, Prey Veng, Stung Treng, and Tbung Khmum, together with Phnom Penh, a municipality.

7 Provinces declared mine-free in the first quarter of included 2023 Kampong Cham, Kampong Chhnang, Kandal and Svay Rien.

8 Additional provinces due to be declared mine-free by the end of 2023 included Kampong Thom, Kratie, Mondulkiri, Rattanakiri, and Siem Reap.

Cambodia's mine hazards are a legacy of 30 years of conflict that ended in the 1990s concentrated in, but not limited to, 21 north-western districts along the border with Thailand, which have accounted for the large majority of mine casualties. The conflict also left significant contamination from explosive remnants of war (ERW), including hundreds of square kilometres affected by unexploded United States (US) submunitions (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2023* report on Cambodia for further information).

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) was established by royal decree in 2000 to regulate, monitor, and coordinate the mine action sector in Cambodia. The CMAA has Prime Minister Hun Sen as its President and Senior Minister, Ly Thuch, as first vice president. Its Secretary General, Ly Panharith, appointed in January 2023, manages CMAA's planning and operations.⁹ The CMAA has noticeably strengthened in recent years, and its roles and responsibilities have become more clearly defined.¹⁰ The Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC), established in 1992, had been responsible for regulating and coordinating the sector in addition to undertaking clearance. After 2000, however, CMAC relinquished its role as regulator and coordinator and concentrated on conducting demining, risk education, and training.¹¹ CMAC, which conducts both humanitarian and commercial survey and clearance, is Cambodia's largest mine action operator.¹²

Since 2004, Cambodia has had Provincial Mine Action Committees (PMACs) and Mine Action Planning Units (MAPUs) in mine-impacted areas tasked with establishing clearance priorities in consultation with affected communities to ensure that clearance addresses their housing, agricultural, and infrastructure needs.¹³ MAPUs meet regularly with all mine action operators to plan annual mine action activities.¹⁴ Through village visits and questionnaires collected from communities the MAPUs also conduct post-clearance monitoring to collect socio-economic data on use of cleared land which is passed on to the CMAA. This data, with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), produced five performance monitoring reports in 2022.¹⁵

The Cambodian government established a Technical Working Group on Mine Action (TWG-MA) as a consultative mechanism facilitating coordination between the government and implementing partners.¹⁶ TWG meetings were suspended in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic¹⁷ but resumed online in 2021 and in-person in 2022.¹⁸ The CMAA also chairs a Mine Action Coordination Committee (MACC) which convened in March 2022 with 42 participants from the CMAA, operators and international organisations, including UNDP and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), discussing issues that included the challenges of border clearance and the timeline for deployment of Royal Cambodian Army deminers.¹⁹ Additionally, the CMAA convened eight Technical Reference Groups (TRGs) to facilitate coordination and feedback at a strategic and technical level in survey and clearance, explosive ordnance risk education, victim assistance, information management, gender, performance monitoring, cluster munitions, and capacity development.²⁰

The mine action sector receives technical support from a range of international organisations. UNDP's Clearing for Results programme has supported Cambodian mine action since 2006, aiming to ensure clearance supports development priorities. The programme, now in its fourth phase (1 April 2020 to 31 December 2025), focuses on releasing mined areas in the most affected provinces through Land Reclamation Non-Technical Survey (LR-NTS) and clearance, supporting victim assistance, risk education, and gender mainstreaming, and strengthening the CMAA's capacity to lead the sector and support the development of national sustainable capacity to address residual threats.²¹ UNDP and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) also share the cost of the CMAA database unit.²²

9 CMAA, "Legal framework and mandate", at: <http://bit.ly/2W7r3dJ>.

10 Interviews with Su Yeon Yang, Project Coordination Officer, and Tong Try, UNDP, 23 April 2019; and Rebecca Letven, Programme Manager, MAG, Phnom Penh, 25 April 2019.

11 CMAC, "20 Years' Achievement in Mine Action 1998-2018 and Path Ahead", 2018.

12 Interview with Heng Rattana, Director General, CMAC, Phnom Penh, 25 April 2019.

13 Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), "Landmines and Land Rights in Cambodia", December 2010, pp. 9 and 13.

14 Email from Zlatko Vezilic, Programme Manager, NPA, 5 May 2020.

15 UNDP Briefing Paper, Post-Clearance Monitoring, undated but 2022.

16 CMAA, National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025, p. 24; and email from Tong Try, National Mine Action Adviser, UNDP, 18 June 2019.

17 Email from Matthew Hovell, Head of Region South-East Asia, HALO, 9 April 2021.

18 Emails from HALO, 25 March 2022 and 16 May 2023; phone interview with Portia Stratton, NPA, 13 May 2022.

19 UNDP, Clearing for Results Phase IV, Annual Project Progress Report 2022, p. 19.

20 CMAA, National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025, p. 24; and emails from Tong Try, UNDP, 18 June 2019 and 27 July 2021; Article 5 Extension request, Revised Work Plan, submitted 10 May 2023, p. 7.

21 Emails from Tong Try, UNDP, 28 July 2021; and Naomi Konza, Project Coordination Specialist, UNDP, 18 April 2022; UNDP Clearing for Results Phase IV, Annual Project Progress Report 2022.

22 Emails from Rune Dale-Andresen, Country Director, NPA, 26 September 2020; and Portia Stratton, NPA, 21 June 2021.

The GICHD supported the upgrading of the CMAA's information management system as well as gender mainstreaming and the development of Cambodian national mine action standards.²³ NPA, funded by Norway, conducts capacity development of the CMAA on gender equity and mainstreaming, information management, knowledge management, planning and prioritisation, quality management (QM), and strategic planning.²⁴

The Cambodian government has contributed regular funding for clearance and management of the sector²⁵ but in 2022 announced a sharp hike in funding to support its goal of completing AP mine clearance by the end of 2025.²⁶ Previous support included covering the expenses of the CMAA and providing funds to support planning and prioritisation, Quality assurance (QA)/quality control (QC), database management, the Cambodia mine/ERW victim information system (CMVIS), and risk education.²⁷ Cambodia has also funded mine and ERW survey and clearance by the National Centre for Peacekeeping Forces Management, Mines and Explosive Remnants of War Clearance (NPMEC).²⁸ The Cambodian government reported contributing just under

30% of the total funding to the mine action sector (US\$99.49 million of US\$340.2 million) in 2010-18.²⁹ In 2022, it provided \$4,458,086 for mine action.³⁰

Prime Minister Hun Sen appealed to the private sector in July 2022 to provide financial support for mine action and by the end of the year had raised \$18.6 million.³¹ The Prime Minister said he had appealed to China for funds and for China to send deminers to help Cambodia achieve its end-2025 clearance target but at the time of writing there was no indication of the response.³²

In December 2022, Prime Minister Hun Sen announced the government would allocate \$30 million for mine clearance in 2023³³ and "similar" payments in 2024 and 2025.³⁴ In December 2022, he created the Foundation for Mine-Free Cambodia to channel funding for the sector and announced disbursement would be overseen by the Minister of Finance. The Prime Minister also appealed to the private sector for financial support for mine action which raised an additional \$18.6 million.³⁵

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

The CMAA issued a national Cambodian standard, CMAS 20, on "Environmental Management in Mine Action" in 2022. This requires operators to minimise the adverse impact of their operations on the environment, identify steps necessary to mitigate harm, and ensure that land is left in a suitable condition for its intended use. Operators are required to take account of: erosion or soil degradation; possible pollution of air, water, or soil; and damage to infrastructure, wildlife, and vegetation, while also dealing with litter, debris, and other waste as well as damage to heritage sites or objects.³⁶ Operators noted that a workshop held by the GICHD in November 2022 had proposed amendments to the standard,³⁷ but the CMAA said it did not foresee any changes to the CMAS in 2023.³⁸

In the meantime, operators already apply their own environmental standard operating procedures (SOPs). Mines Advisory Group (MAG) rolled out its Global Technical Standards in 2022, including a chapter on environment, which set out an International Mine Action Standard (IMAS)-compliant, minimum baseline for all programmes to update their SOPs.³⁹ APOPO, drawing on experience of post-mine clearance agricultural development, planned to develop a syntropic farm combining reforestation and food production.⁴⁰

23 Email from the GICHD, 1 July 2020.

24 Emails from Portia Stratton, NPA, 21 April 2021; and Rune Dale-Andresen, NPA, 7 September 2023.

25 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 12.

26 Lay Samean, "Mine-free kingdom 2025 goal gets big funding boost via new decree", *Phnom Penh Post*, 5 December 2022.

27 Email from Prum Sophakmonkol, CMAA, 1 July 2020.

28 Email from Ros Sophal, on behalf of Prum Sophakmonkol, CMAA, 14 May 2021.

29 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 6.

30 Email from Tep Kallyan, CMAA, 29 April 2023.

31 Cambodia statement to the MBT Intersessionals, 21 June 2023.

32 C. Sokny, "Hun Sen asks China for support to achieve 2025 mine free target", *Phnom Penh Post*, 26 December 2022.

33 "Government decides to release additional \$30 million for mine clearance", *Khmer Times*, 2 December 2022.

34 Statement of Cambodia, APMBC Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 19 June 2023.

35 Statement of Cambodia, Intersessional Meetings, 21 June 2023.

36 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 6; and CMAS 20.

37 Emails from Tony Fernandes, Technical Operations Manager, MAG, 31 March 2023; Miles Hawthorn, HALO, 16 May 2023; and Sron Rithea, NPA, 6 May 2023.

38 Email from Tep Kallyan, CMAA, 9 May 2023.

39 Emails from Tony Fernandes, MAG, 31 March 2023.

40 Email from Mikael Bold, Programme Manager, APOPO, Zimbabwe, 12 May 2023.

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

The CMAA established a Gender Mainstreaming Team (GMT) in 2019 to coordinate with the Technical Reference Group on Gender (TRG-G), one of eight TRGs ensuring coordination of the sector. The TRG-G is composed of representatives from UNDP, Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA), Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY), MAPU, operators, and international and national organisations working in risk education and victim assistance.⁴¹

The CMAA is implementing a Gender Mainstreaming in Mine Action Plan (GMMAP) in line with the objectives of the National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025. Two earlier GMMAPs covered the periods 2013–15 and 2018–22. The latest version, covering 2021–25, was approved at the end of 2021 and launched by CMAA First Vice-President Ly Thuch at a workshop in March 2022.⁴² It sets out three strategies building on the earlier plans: developing implementation of GMMAP guidelines through monitoring and evaluation of the performance of MAPUs and operators; building capacity of CMAA gender teams, MAPUs, and operators, and collecting data on the mine action needs of women; promoting inclusive participation in mine action, including through collecting sex, age, and disability disaggregated data (SADDD); developing a CMAS on gender mainstreaming; and advocating for more women in decision-making positions.⁴³

The CMAA followed up in 2022 by drafting revised gender mainstreaming guidelines to promote equal and inclusive participation of women, men, girls, boys, and persons with disabilities and by drafting a national standard gender mainstreaming with support from the GICHD, NPA, and UNDP, believed to be the first country to develop a standard on this issue. It conducted a workshop on GMMAP for mine

action stakeholders and organised two courses conducted by the GICHD for CMAA staff and for MAPUs and operators in August 2022.⁴⁴ The CMAA also convened a TRG meeting on gender mainstreaming with participation by operators and MAPUs. With support from UNDP and NPA, the CMAA made a video, "Women are the catalyst for success in Mine Action in Cambodia", which was based on a number of case studies and released in December 2022.⁴⁵

Women represented a little over a quarter of the CMAA's 157 employees at the end of 2022, up from 20% a year earlier, and made up 18 of the CMAA's 75 management staff (19%) as well as 20 of the 25 office staff (44%). But women occupied only 4 of the 57 field staff (6%) working on quality management and victim assistance. MAPUs also employed a low number of women (10 of 83 posts: 11%).

Among operators, The HALO Trust (HALO) employed the most women deminers, who comprised more than 440 of its roughly 1,000 operations staff.⁴⁶ HALO said it aims to maintain a 50:50 balance among its operations staff and in 2023 aimed to increase the number of women in managerial positions. CMAC, Cambodia's biggest operator, employed 204 women of a total of 1,276 deminers and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) staff (16%) while women accounted for 5% of its management and 20% of office staff. Women made up 38% of MAG's total workforce, including 57% of management support staff and one-third of management's technical staff.⁴⁷ NPA reported women made up about half of its total staff and management and 28 of 52 field jobs (54%), and it was seeking to increase the proportion of female staff in senior technical positions.⁴⁸ The armed forces (RCAF) and peacekeeping forces (NPMEC) did not employ any women deminers.⁴⁹

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

The CMAA's database unit (DBU) is responsible for collecting, storing, analysing, and disseminating data in support of planning and prioritisation.⁵⁰ The DBU previously used the Information Management System for Mine Action New Generation (IMSMA-NG) but in 2022 continued the installation of, and migration of data to, IMSMA Core.⁵¹ The process was expected to be completed in 2023. Risk education and EOD reports were reportedly uploaded to IMSMA Core in 2022 but operators said land release reports were still submitted in IMSMA NG and also noted that accelerating non-technical survey (NTS) and the large

41 CMAA, National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025, p. 22; and email from Tong Try, UNDP, 27 July 2021.

42 Voun Dara, "CMAA lauds female deminers", *Phnom Penh Post*, 10 March 2022.

43 Gender Mainstreaming in Mine Action Plan 2021–25, December 2021, pp. 6–7.

44 Email from Tep Kallyan, CMAA, 9 May 2023; UNDP Clearing for Results Phase IV, Annual Project Progress Report 2022, p. 16.

45 Ibid.

46 HALO reported employing 450 women deminers among 939 operations staff (48%). Email from Miles Hawthorn, HALO, 16 May 2023. SADDD statistics reported by UNDP CfRIV showed HALO had 441 female deminers among 1,029 field staff (43%); UNDP CfRIV, Annual Project Progress Report 2022, p. 15.

47 Email from Alexey Kruk, MAG, 30 August 2023.

48 Emails from Sron Samrithea, NPA, 6 May 2023; and Rune Dale-Andresen, NPA, 2 July 2023. SADDD data showed NPA employed 17 women among 32 office staff (52%) and women held 22 of 47 deminer/EOD positions (47%). UNDP Clearing for Results Phase IV, Annual Project Progress Report 2022, p. 15.

49 UNDP, Clearing for Results Phase IV, Annual Project Progress Report 2022, p. 16.

50 Email from Ros Sophal, on behalf of Prum Sophakmonkol, CMAA, 10 May 2022.

51 Email from Tep Kallyan, CMAA, 9 May 2023.

volume of polygons being added to the database was causing delays and underscored the need for more data QA capacity.⁵² The DBU receives financial and technical support from Norway through NPA, which pays the salaries of seven of its staff.⁵³

The CMAA convenes meetings of its TRG on information management to identify solutions for data reporting and sharing challenges. These were conducted online in 2021 in accordance with COVID-19 regulations but in 2022 CMAA organised an in-person meeting which agreed on action to improve data quality. This included CMAA distributing a data verification check list and arranging a quarterly call with operators to verify data and resolve any issues.⁵⁴ Operators said the need for quality management team field visits and checks resulted in delays uploading results to the database.⁵⁵

PLANNING AND TASKING

Cambodia launched a National Mine Action Strategy for 2018–2025 in May 2018 which set eight goals for clearance of mines, cluster munition remnants (CMR), and other ERW. The first goal was to release all known mined areas by 2025 through planned land release of 110km² a year from 2020. The CMAA also issued Three-Year Implementation Plans setting out activities and indicators to implement the strategy.⁵⁶

Cambodia's Article 5 deadline extension request submitted in 2019 revised land release targets for 2019–25 in a work plan that proposed a rise in the area released from 110km² a year in 2020–21 to 146km² for the remainder of the extension period when additional deminers were projected to come on board and become operational.⁵⁷ Cambodia did not achieve those targets. Following up the Prime Minister's initiative, Cambodia aims to release 345km² in 2023 and 168km² in each of the two remaining years.⁵⁸ A revised work plan submitted in 2023 said Cambodia would release 356km² in 2023 and 168km² in each of 2024 and 2025. It said the CMAA would coordinate clearance of mined areas located outside the 7km-wide border zone in 2023 and address the remaining mined areas on the border from late 2023 until the end of 2025.⁵⁹

The CMAA discussed general plans for clearance with operators in technical working group meetings in 2022 but operators said it needed more information on available mine clearance capacity in order to develop more detailed plans. The CMAA said the government planned to mobilise significant military capacity to help accelerate land release, including some 910 personnel from RCAF and 805 personnel from NPMEC.⁶⁰

Cambodian authorities had halted clearance of the K5 mine belt on the border with Thailand in July 2020 and then banned international operators from working within a 7km-wide zone along all international borders. CMAC continued to have access to border areas and the CMAA established a task force with RCAF in early 2023 to conduct a joint inspection of minefields in each of the border provinces to assess options for assigning operators to clear them. RCAF was expected to produce a report for CMAA recommending the next steps towards border clearance.⁶¹ The CMAA said RCAF and NPMEC had been tasked to clear border areas.⁶²

In 2022, Cambodia embarked on a strategy of completing clearance of the remaining AP mined areas in less-contaminated provinces in order to declare them mine free and concentrate resources in areas posing the biggest challenge to completion. The process started with the south-eastern province of Kep in February 2022 and by the end of the year seven provinces and Phnom Penh municipality were declared free of mines. Provinces earmarked by the CMAA for being declared mine free in 2023 included Kampong Thom, Kratie, Mondulkiiri, Rattanakiri, and Siem Reap, which, at the end of 2022, had a total of 113km² of confirmed and suspected mined areas.⁶³ By the end of 2023, Cambodia planned to have released all known mined areas from 18 provinces, leaving seven provinces along the border with Thailand to clear.⁶⁴

Cambodia has followed a top-down and bottom-up approach to planning and prioritisation. The CMAA drew up a list of priority villages based on agreed criteria and national priorities while MAPUs coordinated with operators at the provincial level to develop a list of clearance tasks for their annual work plans using agreed criteria.⁶⁵

52 Email from Miles Hawthorn, HALO, 16 May 2023.

53 Email from Sron Samrithea, NPA, 6 May 2023.

54 Email from Tep Kallyan, CMAA, 9 May 2023.

55 Emails from Tony Fernandes, MAG, 31 March 2023.

56 Email from Ros Sophal, on behalf of Prum Sophakmonkol, CMAA, 14 May 2021.

57 Statement of Cambodia, Fourth Review Conference, Oslo, 27 November 2019.

58 Statement of Cambodia, Intersessional Meetings, 19 June 2023.

59 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Revised Work Plan, submitted 10 May 2023.

60 Email from Tep Kallyan, CMAA, 3 May 2023.

61 Emails from Tep Kallyan, CMAA, 29 April and 3 May 2023; Miles Hawthorn, HALO, 16 May 2023; and Alexey Kruk, MAG, 30 May 2023.

62 Email from Tep Kallyan, CMAA, 3 May 2023.

63 Ibid.

64 Statement of Cambodia, Intersessional Meetings, 19 June 2023.

65 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 7.

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Mine action is conducted according to the CMAS, which are broadly consistent with IMAS.⁶⁶ The National Mine Action Strategy (NMAS) 2018–2025 emphasised the need for efficient use of resources and the CMAA has worked on developing CMAS with support from NPA and in consultation with other clearance operators.⁶⁷

Cambodia reported in June 2022 that it had approved 17 standards for implementation.⁶⁸ CMAA data in August 2022⁶⁹ showed 18 standards to have been approved and in use, although seven of these were listed as due to be updated.⁷⁰ Newly approved standards included a CMAS chapter on explosive ordnance risk education and a standard for the protection of the environment. A new standard for mechanical demining was ready in final draft but awaiting comments from CMAC. Drafts of standards for Gender and Victim Assistance required further discussion and standards for Management of Training and Underwater Clearance required development.⁷¹ CMAA said three standards covering baseline survey (CMAS 14), land release (15), and cluster munition remnant survey (16) would be revised in the course of 2023 in order to expedite and accelerate survey and clearance of mines and CMR.⁷²

In a bid to accelerate land release, the CMAA launched a "ground data verification" project in December 2020 which involved revisiting mined areas that had already been surveyed to confirm whether they required clearance, had been reclaimed for agricultural use, or could be cancelled through NTS. A pilot project by NPA in 2021 visited mined areas totalling nearly 73km² and found that 25.6km² could be cancelled through NTS.⁷³ In 2022, NPA said it visited 90.9km² leading to the release of 12.9km², of which 12.7km² was land already reclaimed for use and the remaining 0.2km² was cancelled.⁷⁴

The CMAA operated in 2022 with eight three-person quality management teams, which aimed to visit each demining team roughly once a month.⁷⁵ The surge in operational capacity with the planned addition of up to 2,000 RCAF and NPMEC deminers has posed a challenge for CMAA quality management. In response, the CMAA planned to increase the number of teams to 12 in 2023 by downsizing the size of the teams to two people and by doubling field deployments from 10 days a month to 20 days monthly.⁷⁶

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Mine clearance in Cambodia continued to be led in 2022 by national operator CMAC and two international NGOs HALO and MAG. Smaller operators active in 2022 included APOPO, working with CMAC and MAG, and national operator Cambodian Self-help Demining (CSHD). The main change in 2022 was the additional capacity deployed by RCAF in response to Prime Minister Hun Sen's drive to mobilise the funding and manpower needed to complete AP mine clearance by the end of 2025.

Land release targets set in Cambodia's Article 5 extension request assumed the addition of 2,000 RCAF deminers and their absence from operations in 2020 and 2021 left a significant question mark against the prospects for completion by 2025. The Prime Minister's December 2022 announcement of substantial additional funding for mine action changed the outlook. By December 2022, Cambodia's

military had mobilised 25 platoons with approximately 675 personnel, including 16 platoons of RCAF engineers and nine platoons from NPMEC.⁷⁷ Plans to deploy additional military capacity depended on mobilising detectors, personal protective equipment (PPE) and training but in April 2023 the CMAA reported RCAF had mobilised 35 platoons with a total of 910 personnel, of which 16 platoons were operational.⁷⁸ A revised Article 5 extension request work plan submitted in May 2023 identified RCAF as providing 1,150 deminers and NPMEC providing 806 deminers.⁷⁹

The capacity of international operators in 2022 remained broadly similar to the previous year. MAG's capacity remained unchanged in 2022 and was expected to continue at the same level for most of 2023. This included two MDD teams subcontracted from CMAC and a mine detection rat team operated in partnership with APOPO.⁸⁰ APOPO added

66 Emails from Rebecca Letven, MAG, 7 April 2020; and Zlatko Vezilic, NPA, 19 March 2020.

67 Emails from Prum Sophakmonkol, CMAA, 11 September 2019; and Zlatko Vezilic, NPA, 4 April 2019.

68 Statement of Cambodia, Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 20 June 2022.

69 Email from Ros Sopha, on behalf of Prum Sophakmonkol, CMAA, 5 September 2022.

70 Seven standards due for updating were: Reporting for investigation of demining incidents; Safety and occupational health (two standards); Personal Protective Equipment; Baseline survey; Land release; and Cluster munition remnant survey (CMRS).

71 Email from Ros Sopha, on behalf of Prum Sophakmonkol, CMAA, 5 September 2022.

72 Email from Tep Kallyan, CMAA, 29 April 2023.

73 Email from Ros Sopha, on behalf of Prum Sophakmonkol, CMAA, 26 July 2022.

74 Email from Sron Samritha, NPA, 6 May 2023.

75 Interview with Prum Sophakmonkol, CMAA, Phnom Penh, 7 December 2022; "Quality Assurance and Quality Control", UNDP-CMAA Briefing Paper, 2022.

76 Email from Tep Kallyan, CMAA, 29 April 2023.

77 Interview with Prum Sophakmonkol, CMAA, Phnom Penh, 7 December 2022.

78 Email from Tep Kallyan, CMAA, 29 April 2023.

79 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Revised Work Plan, submitted 10 May 2023, p. 5.

80 Email from Alexey Kruk, MAG, 30 May 2023.

a technical survey dog (TSD) team in early 2023 which was deployed in Siem Reap province's Koh Ker temple, an area where it already had five TSDs working.⁸¹ NPA did not conduct mine clearance but deployed four Land Release NTS (LR-NTS) teams, each four-strong, funded by UNDP's Clearing for Results programme. The teams contributed to land release by revisiting nearly 91km² to verify the status of previously surveyed areas and releasing 12.7km².⁸²

The number of HALO manual clearance teams dipped from 85 teams with 765 deminers in 2021 to 83 teams and 747 deminers in 2022 but it added another NTS team.⁸³ HALO added around 20 dual-sensor Handheld Standoff Mine Detection System (HSTAMIDS) detectors to its inventory and also field tested VMX10 large-loop detectors used on mixed AP and anti-vehicle (AV) mine tasks. By August 2022, it also equipped all manual clearance teams with tablets enabling

them to report from the field direct to HALO's database rather than the previous procedure which involved radioing in results to a location office that then uploaded the results to the database.⁸⁴

CMAC deployed seven demining units, including a Pailin Frontline Demining Unit, which employed a total of 1,121 full-time personnel in 2022 and another 137 so-called short service agreement staff out of a total staff of 1,725⁸⁵ but CMAC did not provide details requested of the number of manual clearance teams and deminers or its NTS and technical survey (TS) capacity. CMAC also deployed an unspecified number of mine detection dogs and, after performance trials conducted with APOPO, it deployed 19 mine detection rats.⁸⁶

Table 2: Operational clearance capacities deployed in 2022

Operator	Manual teams	Total deminers	Animal detection and handlers	Machines	Comments
APOPO	3	19	4 MDR teams 62 rats/32 handlers 1 TSD team 4 dogs/4handlers	4	Total of 62 rats/32 handlers: 1 MDR team (10 rats with 8 handlers) worked with MAG; 3 MDR teams with 36 rats and 24 handlers working in partnership with CMAC; 16 rats working in the visitors centre/retired rats; 4 TSD dogs and 4 handlers worked in partnership with MAG.
CMAC	N/K	*1,121	N/K	11	*The total number of staff CMAC reported as employed on full-time contracts in seven demining units. ⁸⁷
CSHD	1	12	0	0	
HALO	83	747	0	3	Also 12 NTS teams with 36 personnel
MAG	17	136	2 MDD teams, 8 dogs, 8 handlers (in partnership with CMAC)	5	Also 5 NTS teams with 10 personnel
RCAF	N/K	N/K	N/K	N/K	
Totals	104	2,035	62 rats/32 handlers 12 dogs/12 handlers	23	

81 Emails from Michael Raine, Programme Manager Cambodia, APOPO, 24 May and 2 August 2023.

82 Email from Sron Samrithea, NPA, 6 May 2023.

83 Email from Miles Hawthorn, HALO, 16 May 2023.

84 Interview with Claire Fearn, Deputy Programme Manager, HALO, in Siem Reap, 5 December 2022.

85 CMAC Annual Report 2022, Part 2, p. 45.

86 Ibid., p. 44.

87 Ibid., p. 45.

DEMINEER SAFETY

Three CSHD deminers were killed and another injured in January 2022 during clearance of an AV mine in Prey Vihear province. The CMAA said it conducted an investigation, but no further details were available. Shortly before the accident, a local villager was reportedly killed by the detonation of unexploded ordnance as he burned vegetation.⁸⁸

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2022

Cambodia reported release of 191.5km² through survey and clearance in 2022,⁸⁹ well over double the 81.3km² it said was released in 2021. The result was led by a massive jump in area released through TS as well as more than doubling the amount of land that was cleared, to more than 88km². A total of 34.25km² was released under UNDP's Clearing for Results programme.⁹⁰

SURVEY IN 2022

Cambodia released 103km² through survey in 2022,⁹¹ more than triple the 2021 result (37.61km²) underscoring the greater emphasis put on releasing land where possible by means other than full clearance in the drive for completion by 2025.

The CMAA reported 32km² cancelled through NTS in 2022⁹² (see Table 3), 13% more than the area it recorded as cancelled in the previous year. Official data attributed most of the area cancelled to international NGOs. However, significant discrepancies with the results reported by operators left uncertain which organisation conducted it and whether it included results from before 2022 as a result of delays uploading operator results to the database.⁹³

The result included almost 12km² identified by NPA's four LR-NTS teams as land already reclaimed for use.⁹⁴ The teams, funded by UNDP's Clearing for Results programme, visited 1,031 minefields in Battambang, Banteay Meanchey and Pailin with a total size of 90.93km², releasing 11.8km², 13% of the areas surveyed.⁹⁵

Table 3: Release of mined area through NTS in 2022⁹⁶

Province	Area cancelled (m ²)
Banteay Meanchey	1,081,369
Battambang	2,526,043
Kampong Speu	1,278,546
Kampong Thom	7,134,833
Kampot	642,668
Kratie	1,213,921
Oddar Meanchey	9,386,187
Phnom Penh	1,380,306
Preah Vihear	1,428,594
Pursat	254,794
Rattanakiri	132,897
Siem Reap	5,493,757
Takeo	189,703
Tboung Khmum	133,164
Total	32,276,782

88 Email from Tep Kallyan, CMAA, 29 April 2023; S. Cheang, "Anti-tank mine kills three demining experts in Cambodia", *Associated Press*, 10 January 2022.

89 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), #4.

90 UNDP, Clearing for Results Phase IV, Annual Project Progress Report 2022, p. 7.

91 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), #4.

92 Ibid.

93 Emails from Tep Kallyan, CMAA, 29 April 2023; Miles Hawthorn, HALO, 16 May 2023; and Alexey Kruk, MAG, 30 May 2023. Official data attributed more than half the total area cancelled to HALO, including a large area in Oddar Meanchey province, but HALO reported cancelling 8,944,649m² in 2022, mostly in Siem Reap, Kampong Speu, and Kratie. Official data also attributed cancellation of approximately 2km² to MAG, while MAG reported cancelling 9,066,006m² in 2022, mostly in Battambang province.

94 Emails from Tep Kallyan, CMAA, 29 April 2023; and Sron Samrithea, NPA, 6 May 2023.

95 UNDP, Clearing for Results Phase IV, Annual Project Progress Report 2022, p. 7.

96 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), #4.

The biggest jump in land release results was in area reported as reduced through TS, which increased to almost 71km² in 2022⁹⁷ (see Table 4) from 9km² reported in 2021, almost all of it attributed to CMAC, which says it does not cancel land on the basis of NTS, with the remaining reduction attributed to HALO, MAG, and RCAF.⁹⁸

HALO, which roughly doubled the amount of reduction it conducted in 2022 to 0.95km², noted that it had worked on a large number of A4 (scattered or nuisance mines) tasks in Banteay Meanchey and Siem Reap where the smaller number of mines offered more scope for area reduction.⁹⁹ MAG also increased the amount of reduction to 3.1km² using mechanical and animal detection assets.¹⁰⁰

Table 4: Release of mined area through TS in 2022¹⁰¹

Province	Area reduced (m ²)
Banteay Meanchey	3,070,578
Battambang	12,518,487
Kampong Speu	16,334,706
Kampong Thom	5,050,598
Kampot	14,801,408
Kandal	30,595
Kep	847,609
Pailin	2,858,016
Preah Sihanouk	1,922,013
Preah Vihear	63,811
Pursat	4,665,437
Rattanakiri	221,848
Siem Reap	4,648,406
Takeo	3,756,147
Total	70,789,659

CLEARANCE IN 2022

Cambodia reported release of 88km² through clearance in 2022,¹⁰² a record-setting result and more than double the area cleared in 2021 (see Tables 5 and 6). In the process, operators destroyed 13,048 AP mines, also more than double the 6,087 in 2021, and 132,456 other items of explosive ordnance. But reported clearance of 9.6km² in Svay Rieng yielded only 678 AP mines while reported clearance of 7.6km² in Preah Vihear destroyed only 532 AP mines.

Operators also destroyed large numbers of AP mines in the course of spot tasks. HALO destroyed 17,339 AP mines and 25 AV mines during EOD operations. This included 16,155 AP mines cleared from a military store in Kampong Speu province (which are thus stockpiled not emplaced mines), therefore only the remaining 1,184 are included in Mine Action Review's total for 2022.¹⁰³ MAG destroyed 170 AP mines in EOD tasks.¹⁰⁴

Official data indicated the area cleared included 25 tasks covering a total of 1,567,548m² that were found to have no mines.¹⁰⁵ HALO recorded 35 AP mine tasks covering 694,460m² that contained no AP mines and MAG recorded the same result from nine tasks totalling 276,500m².¹⁰⁶

Table 5: Mine clearance in 2022¹⁰⁷

Province	Area (m ²)	AP mines destroyed
Banteay Meanchey	9,696,037	916
Battambang	31,842,709	5,983
Kampong Cham	475,355	30
Kampong Chhnang	1,488,577	209

97 Ibid.

98 Email from Tep Kallyan, CMAA, 29 April 2023.

99 Email from Miles Hawthorn, HALO, 16 May 2023.

100 Email from Alexey Kruk, MAG, 30 May 2023.

101 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), #4.

102 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), #4.

103 Email from Miles Hawthorn, HALO, 16 May 2023.

104 Email from Alexey Kruk, MAG, 30 May 2023.

105 Email from Tep Kallyan, CMAA, 29 April 2023.

106 Emails from Miles Hawthorn, HALO, 16 May 2023; and Alexey Kruk, MAG, 30 May 2023. HALO recorded another 13 A2-2 tasks (scattered mixed AP and AV mines) covering 1.4km² which had no AP mines but contained 15 AV mines.

107 Article 7 Report (covering 2022), #4.

Table 5 Continued

Province	Area (m ²)	AP mines destroyed
Kampong Speu	6,915,542	1,118
Kampong Thom	557,227	306
Kampot	414,111	625
Kandal	25,627	37
Kep	31,051	1
Oddar Meanchey	4,203,560	254
Pailin	4,582,062	550
Preah Sihanouk	0	31
Preah Vihear	7,636,653	532
Prey Veng	5,900	0
Pursat	6,261,024	958
Rattanakiri	105,291	1
Siem Reap	3,615,509	502
Svay Rieng	9,646,085	678
Takeo	288,082	312
Tboung Khmum	684,789	5
Totals	88,475,191	13,048

Most of the clearance is attributable to CMAC, much the biggest of the operators but it did not provide Mine Action Review with the requested details of its demining operations in 2022 and therefore it has not been possible to assess the accuracy of the sharp increase in CMAC's reported clearance output in 2022.¹⁰⁸ CMAC won three contracts awarded under UNDP's Clearing for Results programme in Battambang, Banteay Meanchey and Pailin, clearing 22.45km² (see Table 6), a more than 50% increase on the 14.86km² cleared under the programme in 2021 which resulted in destroying nearly 3,000 AP mines compared with 1,723 in 2021.¹⁰⁹

Table 6: UNDP Clearing for Results 2022¹¹⁰

Operator	Provinces	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
CMAC	Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Pailin	22.45	2,922	9	2,706

HALO reported clearing 4,661,915m² in 2022, mostly in Banteay Meanchey, Battambang and Oddar Meanchey, destroying 685 AP mines but it did not have access to border areas where it worked before authorities' 2021 decision to close a 7km-wide border zone.¹¹¹ MAG cleared 5.2km² in 2022, double the 2.6km² cleared the previous year, although the number of AP mines destroyed, amounting to 357 in 2022, was almost one third less than in 2021.¹¹²

¹⁰⁸ CMAC's 2022 annual report said it released 194km² of land contaminated by mines and explosive remnants of war in 2022 and destroyed 17,667 AP mines and 98 AV mines.

¹⁰⁹ UNDP, Clearing for Results Phase IV, Annual Project Progress Report 2022, p. 7.

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹¹ Interview with Claire Fearn, HALO, in Sim Reap, 6 December 2022.

¹¹² Emails from Alexey Kruk, MAG, 6 May 2022 and 30 May 2023.

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBBC (and in accordance with the second extension, of 5 years and 11 months, granted by States Parties in 2019), Cambodia is required to destroy all AP mines in areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 31 December 2025.

At the end of 2021, with 716km² of confirmed and suspected AP mined area to release, Cambodia's prospects of meeting its Article 5 deadline looked highly improbable. Land release in the first three years of the extension period consistently fell well short of targets.¹¹³ A year later, with at least 641km² still to be released, the goal looked ambitious, but not impossible. The outlook changed with the Prime Minister's 2022 announcement that the government would allocate \$30 million to mine action in 2023 as well as mobilising \$18.6 million in private contributions which has enabled deployment of RCAF and NPMEC deminers.

Cambodia's 2019 request for an extension of just under six years was based on the deployment of 2,000 additional deminers from the armed forces.¹¹⁴ Without the additional

military capacity, the CMAA calculated in 2020 that it would need 11 years to achieve completion.¹¹⁵ Since the funding boost announced in July 2022, the government has developed plans to deploy 910 RCAF and 810 NPMEC deminers. By April 2023 the CMAA reported the government had mobilised 35 platoons of RCAF deminers of which 16 platoons were already operational.¹¹⁶ With the additional funding and capacity and building on the accelerating land release results in 2022, Cambodia set ambitious targets aiming to release 345km² in 2023 and 168km² a year in 2024 and 2025.¹¹⁷

CAMBODIA'S FUTURE RATE OF PROGRESS WILL BE INFLUENCED BY A NUMBER OF CHALLENGES:

- The rapid acceleration in land release since 2021 partly reflects the predominance of A2 and A4 category tasks consisting mainly of low levels of contamination in relatively easy terrain. Heavily contaminated A1 tasks made up less than 1% of the area cleared in 2022 and barely half of one per cent of the total area released (see Table 7).¹¹⁸

Table 7: Land release (m²) by land classification in 2022

Land Classification	C1	C2	C3	Totals
A1	43,287	382,839	737,911	1,164,037
A2	752,729	0	2,118,037	2,870,766
A2.1	8,408	0	63,110	71,518
A2.2	3,297,705	4,652,370	45,640,571	53,590,646
A3	477,060	206,992	13,547,699	14,231,751
A4	18,494,127	64,409,512	38,049,585	120,953,224
B2	9,680,526	1,344,938	1,865,977	12,891,441
Totals	32,753,842	70,996,651	102,022,890	205,773,383

C1 = Area cancelled by NTS C2 = Area reduced by TS C3 = Area cleared.

113 Mine Action Review recorded land released through survey and clearance totalling 55.3km² in 2019, 78.7km² in 2020, and 81.3km² in 2021.

114 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 45.

115 Interview with Prum Sophakmonkol, CMAA, Geneva, 11 February 2020.

116 Email from Tep Kallyan, CMAA, 29 April 2023.

117 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Revised Work Plan, submitted 10 May 2023, p. 4.

118 Email from Tep Kallyan, CMAA, 29 April 2023.

- Cambodia is likely to continue to find previously unrecorded mined areas to add to the database of contamination to be cleared, although the CMAA expects that as a result of the survey and verification already carried out this will not be as much as in previous years.¹¹⁹
- The pace of clearance may slow towards the end of the extension period. On the basis of past experience, Cambodia still estimates that approximately 20% of its mine contamination may be cancelled through NTS but survey by LR-NTS teams in 2022 resulted in release of 13% of the surveyed area and operators indicate there are fewer remaining tasks that meet the criteria for cancellation. After the drive to release land that has been reclaimed operators will increasingly face denser contamination and tasks located in more difficult terrain on the border with Thailand.
- Cambodian authorities excluded international operators from a 7km-wide border zone and have yet to clarify which operators will be tasked for clearing an area estimated to hold more than half Cambodia's remaining contamination and the most difficult hazardous areas.¹²⁰ HALO applied to the CMAA to return to work on tasks where it worked until the border ban came into effect.¹²¹ The CMAA has indicated border clearance will be limited to national operators, including CMAC, RCAF and NPMEC.¹²²
- Cambodia and Thailand need to negotiate agreement on access to mined areas located in disputed border areas. Both governments say they are interested in cooperation but despite years of discussion they have agreed so far on just one pilot project. This was conducted in 2020,

resulting in release of 95,000m², but without destroying any mines.¹²³ Cambodia reportedly proposed two pilot projects covering several square kilometres to be conducted in 2023 with Thailand.¹²⁴ Prime Minister Hun Sen declared in November 2022 that he had agreed with his Thai counterpart that mine clearance should take precedence over border demarcation.¹²⁵ The Cambodian government subsequently set up a joint border task force including representatives of the CMAA, CMAC, and RCAF to engage with Thailand on the issue but no agreement had emerged as of August 2023. Thai mine action authorities said Cambodian troops had blocked access by Thai deminers to certain border locations and they were waiting for Cambodian authorities to engage on the issue.¹²⁶ It was unclear whether the change of government leadership in both nations in 2023 would affect their approach to the border.

Table 8: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance

Year	Area cleared (km ²)
2022	88.48
2021	43.73
2020	49.99
2019	*45.62
2018	41.00
Total	268.82

* May include significant AV mine clearance

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL RISK AFTER COMPLETION

Goal 7 of Cambodia's National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025 calls for establishing sustainable national capacity to address residual threats after completion. Additional information provided to Cambodia's 2019 Article 5 deadline extension request said that by 2025 Cambodia would have the necessary legal, institutional, and operational framework in place for dealing with residual risks and said "it is likely the Royal Cambodian Army will be the national capacity [that] remains to address the residual threats."¹²⁷ The CMAA partnered with the GICHD in a report making 10 recommendations on the legal, normative, structural, and procedural issues to be addressed in setting up residual risk management capacity.¹²⁸ The CMAA said it is developing a National Mine Action Transition Policy for managing residual mine contamination and expected to finalise the plan in 2023.¹²⁹

119 Interview with Prum Sophakmonkol, CMAA, Phnom Penh, 7 December 2022.

120 Ibid.

121 Email from Miles Hawthorn, HALO, 16 May 2023.

122 S. Chandara, "Five provinces, capital, reach 'mine free' status as year ends", *Phnom Penh Post*, 21 December 2022.

123 See Mine Action Review, *Clearing the Mines 2021*, p. 256.

124 Interview with Heng Rattana, Director General, CMAC, Phnom Penh, 12 December 2022.

125 "Cambodia, Thailand agree to clear all mines in border areas", *Phnom Penh Post*, 23 November 2022.

126 Interview with Thailand Mine Action Centre, Geneva, 23 June 2023.

127 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Additional Information, 8 August 2019, p. 5.

128 UNDP, *Clearing for Results Phase IV, Annual Project Progress Report 2022*, p. 18.

129 Email from Tep Kallan, CMAA, 29 April 2023.