

### KEY DATA

#### APMBC ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2025

Not on track to meet deadline  
Five-year extension to 31 December 2030 requested

#### AP MINE CONTAMINATION: 524km<sup>2</sup>

Massive  
(National authority estimate)

### LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (km <sup>2</sup> )	Release in 2023 (km <sup>2</sup> )
Clearance	80.44	*129.70
Technical Survey	34.48	135.39
Non-Technical Survey	15.43	33.18
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks		
	2024	2023
AP Mines destroyed	10,534 (Incl. 2,902 in spot tasks)	19,229 (Incl. 2,056 in spot tasks)

\*Mine Action Review estimate

#### MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2024:

- Cambodia Mine Action Centre (CMAC)
- The HALO Trust (HALO)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

### KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Cambodia, which hosted the Fifth Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) in Siem Reap, released 130km<sup>2</sup> of mined area through survey and clearance in 2024, less than targeted but achieved without the previous year's level of government funding. Cambodia started a survey of mined areas on its border with Thailand in November 2024 intended to provide the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) with a national baseline estimate of anti-personnel (AP) mined area, but the survey was incomplete when it halted in June 2025 due mainly to escalating border tensions with Thailand. Cambodia requested a third extension of its Article 5 deadline in April 2025 and submitted a revised request in October 2025 updated to include the results of the partially completed border survey. Conflict with Thailand in July 2025 temporarily suspended some demining tasks close to their common border. Cambodia denied Thai accusations that Cambodia had newly emplaced AP mines.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Cambodia should prioritise mine clearance in its political, diplomatic, and military engagement with Thailand in discussions to resolve the conflict on their border.
- Cambodia and Thailand should precisely define the border area where they will not permit demining pending agreed demarcation and expedite clearance of the rest.
- The CMAA should prepare work plans detailing clearance priorities and its proposed timeline for tackling them.
- The Cambodian government should clarify the level of funding it will commit to mine action.

# ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2024)	Score (2023)	Performance Commentary
<b>UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION</b> (20% of overall score)	7	7	Cambodia reduced its estimate of contamination by 2% to 424km <sup>2</sup> at the end of 2024 but raised it to 524km <sup>2</sup> in 2025 to include results of a partially completed border survey. Cambodia does not disaggregate confirmed hazardous areas and suspected hazardous areas in line with international best practice.
<b>NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT</b> (10% of overall score)	8	8	The government did not repeat its 2023 allocation of US\$30 million to mine action in 2024, halting deployment of army deminers and leaving the sector reliant mainly on international donors. The CMAA worked closely with operators and provincial stakeholders on planning and tasking but authorities continued to restrict international demining organisations' access to border areas.
<b>GENDER AND DIVERSITY</b> (10% of overall score)	9	9	The CMAA introduced a national standard on mainstreaming gender and diversity in mine action in 2024, the first country to do so, establishing requirements for operators and reinforcing a commitment to promoting inclusion.
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION</b> (10% of overall score)	6	6	Cambodia has a national standard on environmental management but implementation is not strictly monitored and operators follow internal standard operating procedures (SOPs). Norwegian People's Aid rolled out a "Green Field Tool" in 2024, requiring environmental impact assessments of all survey and clearance tasks.
<b>INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING</b> (10% of overall score)	7	7	The CMAA updated Cambodia's Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database from New Generation to Core in 2023, but operating results recorded by the CMAA and operators suffer from persistent and significant discrepancies.
<b>PLANNING AND TASKING</b> (10% of overall score)	7	7	Cambodia asked for a five-year extension of its Article 5 deadline in April 2025 providing an annual work plan and costings but with the proviso that it would need to revise the plan to take account of the findings of its border survey.
<b>LAND RELEASE SYSTEM</b> (10% of overall score)	7	7	Cambodia has national standards that are broadly compliant with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and the CMAA continuously reviews and develops standards in consultation with operators.
<b>LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE</b> (20% of overall score)	7	9	Reduced funding for mine action led to land release in 2024 that was 60% the level of the previous year. Cambodia submitted a request to extend its Article 5 deadline but cross-border fighting with Thailand in 2025 further stalled border clearance and exposed Cambodia to Thai allegations of use, which it denied.
Average Score	7.2	7.6	Overall Programme Performance: GOOD

## AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

### MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA)

### NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC)
- Cambodian Self-help Demining (CSHD)
- Royal Cambodian Army (RCA)
- National Centre for Peacekeeping Forces, Mines and ERW 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

At the end of 2024, Cambodia assessed it had 3,917 mined areas with AP mines affecting 424km<sup>2</sup>,<sup>1</sup> 2% less than a year earlier. By 1 July 2025, it had raised its estimate to 524km<sup>2</sup> (see Table 1)<sup>2</sup> and it was likely that significant additional mine contamination remained to be identified.

**Table 1: Estimated AP mined area by province (m<sup>2</sup>)<sup>3</sup>**

Province/Region	31 December 2024	1 July 2025
Banteay Meanchey	39,876,952	38,968,493
Battambang	81,342,637	209,791,037
Kampong Thom	823,924	3,510,164
Koh Kong	15,760,005	4,986,230
Oddar Meanchey	68,396,487	48,475,236
Pailin	12,208,822	21,097,546
Preah Vihear	100,338,423	62,712,711
Pursat	92,251,338	106,499,658
Ratanak Kiri	112,118	170,352
Siem Reap	13,127,530	28,068,982
<b>Totals</b>	<b>424,238,236</b>	<b>*524,280,409</b>

\*The small difference in total compared to the revised Article 5 extension request is due to rounding errors in the extension request.

The increase resulted from a survey conducted by the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) in collaboration with the Royal Cambodian Army (RCA) and coordinated by the CMAA which started in November 2024 along Cambodia's 508-mile border with Thailand. The survey was seen as a key step towards providing Cambodia for the first time with a comprehensive baseline estimate of AP mine contamination and a clear basis for preparing its Article 5 deadline extension request.

Cambodia's border provinces contain most of its remaining mine contamination and its densest minefields, a legacy of 30 years of armed conflict that ended in the 1990s. In 2023, Cambodia had assessed that 353km<sup>2</sup> of mined area was located within a 7km-wide zone along its border, including 90km<sup>2</sup> of dense contamination.<sup>4</sup> Many of Cambodia's 39 mine casualties in 2023 and 2024<sup>5</sup>—a remarkably low figure—are said to have occurred outside areas of recorded contamination.

The border survey was planned to revisit 21 districts, including some areas that had been covered by earlier non-technical survey (NTS) but also areas that had never been surveyed due to security concerns or difficult terrain. Due to increasing tensions with Thailand on the border and resource shortages, survey was completed in eight provinces and in 55% of the other 13 targeted districts. Cambodia planned to complete survey of these districts when the security situation permitted.<sup>6</sup>

In 2024, Cambodia had added to the database 466 previously unrecorded hazardous areas in nine provinces covering 75.8km<sup>2</sup>, underscoring the extensive gaps in the knowledge of mine contamination.<sup>7</sup> All of the areas were located in border provinces, notably Battambang (25.5km<sup>2</sup>), Pursat (20.9km<sup>2</sup>), and Prey Vihear (18.9km<sup>2</sup>).<sup>8</sup> The partially completed border survey added another 277 mined areas covering 149.8 km<sup>2</sup> (see Table 2).

**Table 2: Results of the partially completed comprehensive border survey<sup>9</sup>**

	Mixed AP/AV mined areas		Scattered mines		Total area (m <sup>2</sup> )
	No. of areas	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	No. of areas	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	
Banteay Meanchey	3	226,368	37	8,042,323	8,268,691

1 Email from Hean Kimsin, Director, Social and Economic Planning Department, CMAA, 16 May 2025; Article 7 Report (covering 2024), #4.

2 Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request (Revised), 30 September 2025, pp. 7 and 18.

3 Email from Hean Kimsin, CMAA, 16 May 2025; Article 7 Report (covering 2024), #4; and Cambodia's Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request (Revised), 30 September 2025, pp. 7 and 18.

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

5 UNDP, Clearing for Results IV, 2024 Annual Project Progress Report, p. 10.

6 Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request (Revised), 30 September 2025, p. 21.

7 Email from Hean Kimsin, CMAA, 16 May 2025.

8 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), #4.

9 Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request (Revised), 30 September 2025, p. 22.

Table 2 Continued

	Mixed AP/AV mined areas		Scattered mines		Total area (m <sup>2</sup> )
	No. of areas	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	No. of areas	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	
Battambang	20	11,348,228	85	74,359,314	85,707,542
Oddar Meanchey	8	2,246,560	11	2,993,269	5,239,829
Preah Vihear	2	493,926	58	13,903,785	*14,397,711
Pailin	0	0	26	16,546,149	16,546,149
Pursat	0	0	27	19,624,122	19,624,122
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>14,315,082</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>*135,468,962</b>	<b>*149,784,044</b>

\*Small differences in totals compared to the revised Article 5 extension request are due to rounding errors in the extension request.

Cambodia announced that mine clearance in Kratie province had been completed, bringing the number provinces declared mine-free to 15 (from the total of 25). Before the end of 2025, Cambodia expected to declare three more provinces—Kampong Thom, Ratanak Kiri, and Siem Reap—mine free.<sup>10</sup>

## OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

Cambodia's mine hazards are a legacy of 30 years of conflict that ended in 1998 concentrated in, but not limited to, 21 north-western districts along the border with Thailand, which also left significant contamination from explosive remnants of war (ERW). This includes an estimated 681km<sup>2</sup> affected by unexploded submunitions dropped by the United States (US) during the Vietnam War (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2025* report on Cambodia for further information).<sup>11</sup>

## NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The CMAA, which was established by royal decree in 2000, has a mandate to regulate, monitor, and coordinate mine action in Cambodia. The Authority has Prime Minister Hun Manet as its President and a government minister, Ly Thuch, as first vice president. Its Secretary General, Ly Panharith, who was appointed in December 2022, manages CMAA's planning and operations.<sup>12</sup> CMAC, which had previously combined the roles of regulator and operator, has concentrated since 2000 on conducting humanitarian and commercial survey and clearance.<sup>13</sup> It remains Cambodia's largest mine action operator.<sup>14</sup>

Since 2004, Cambodia has created Provincial Mine Action Committees (PMACs) and Mine Action Planning Units (MAPUs) in mined and cluster munition-contaminated areas. These bodies prepare work plans for the CMAA's priority areas in consultation with affected communities to ensure that clearance addresses their housing, agricultural, and infrastructure needs.<sup>15</sup> MAPUs meet regularly with all demining operators to plan annual activities.<sup>16</sup>

The Cambodian government established a Technical Working Group on Mine Action (TWG-MA) as a consultative mechanism

to facilitate coordination between the government and implementing partners.<sup>17</sup> The Mine Action Coordination Committee (MACC) and seven Technical Reference Groups (TRGs) have been established by the CMAA to facilitate coordination and feedback at a strategic and technical level in areas such as survey and clearance, risk education, victim assistance, information management, gender, and capacity development.<sup>18</sup> The CMAA convened several meetings of the TRG on survey and clearance in 2024.<sup>19</sup>

The CMAA receives technical support from a range of international organisations. The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) has supported the upgrade of the CMAA's information management system, gender mainstreaming, and the development of Cambodian national mine action standards (CMAS).<sup>20</sup> Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), with funding from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, provided financial and technical support for the CMAA database unit, including paying the salaries of seven employees, and supported the CMAA's quality management (QM) department, funding seven of the CMAA's QM teams.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Email from Hean Kimsin, CMAA, 16 May 2025.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> CMAA, "Legal framework and mandate", at: <http://bit.ly/2W7r3dJ>.

<sup>13</sup> CMAC, "20 Years' Achievement in Mine Action 1998-2018 and Path Ahead", 2018.

<sup>14</sup> Interview with Heng Rattana, Director General, CMAC, Phnom Penh, 25 April 2019.

<sup>15</sup> Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request (Revised), 30 September 2025, p. 10; and Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), "Landmines and Land Rights in Cambodia", December 2010, pp. 9 and 13.

<sup>16</sup> Email from Zlatko Vezilic, Programme Manager, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), 5 May 2020.

<sup>17</sup> CMAA, National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025, p. 24; and email from Tong Try, National Mine Action Adviser, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 18 June 2019.

<sup>18</sup> CMAA, National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025, p. 24; and emails from Tong Try, UNDP, 18 June 2019 and 27 July 2021.

<sup>19</sup> Emails from Alexey Kruk, Country Director, MAG, 22 April 2025; and Hans Risser, Country Director, NPA, 16 May 2025.

<sup>20</sup> Email from the GICHD, 1 July 2020.

<sup>21</sup> Email from Sron Samrithea, Programme Manager, NPA, 6 May 2023.

## FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

Between 2020 and 2024, international donors provided almost three quarters (73%) of funding for the mine action sector.<sup>22</sup> The government provided nearly US\$32 million in 2023 as well as \$20 million raised in 2022 from private contributions (see Table 3), which enabled deployment of military deminers. Former Prime Minister Hun Sen had envisaged “similar payments” in 2024 and 2025, but these did not materialise. The government provided \$200,000 for demining in Siem Reap province in 2024 and pledged \$5 million for 2025.<sup>23</sup>

Donor support in 2024 included \$5 million provided through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)’s “Clearing for Results” programme by Australia, New Zealand, and South Korea, and including \$0.5 million in government matching funds.<sup>24</sup> Other donors included Belgium, Canada, China, Germany, India, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.<sup>25</sup>

**Table 3: Mine action funding (US\$)<sup>26</sup>**

Year	Cambodian Government	International donors	Private sector	Total funding
2022	4,458,086	32,210,589	20,046,596	56,715,271
2023	31,771,454	40,562,455	1,723,680	74,057,589
2024	2,260,900	57,523,175	873,000	60,657,075
<b>Totals</b>	<b>38,490,440</b>	<b>130,296,219</b>	<b>22,643,276</b>	<b>191,429,935</b>

## GENDER AND DIVERSITY

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, focusing on training, inclusive participation, and gender-responsive action. In September 2024, it adopted a national mine action standard on mainstreaming of gender and diversity in mine action, the first country to do so.<sup>27</sup>

The CMAA established a Gender Mainstreaming Team (GMT) in 2019 to coordinate with the TRG on Gender (TRG-G), which is composed of representatives from UNDP, the Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MoWA), the Ministry of Social

Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY), MAPUs, operators, and organisations working in risk education and victim assistance.<sup>28</sup> The TRG-G met twice in 2024 to review the CMAS on Gender.<sup>29</sup> Cambodia’s Article 5 deadline extension request said mine action operators will follow up the 2024 introduction of a national standard on gender mainstreaming by developing standard operating procedures (SOPs), and that the CMAA Gender Team plans to develop reporting forms, and a work plan, as well as conducting field monitoring of how the CMAS is implemented and making recommendations to strengthen compliance.<sup>30</sup>

**Table 4: Gender composition of operators in 2024<sup>31</sup>**

Operator	Total staff	Women staff	Total managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Total operational staff	Women operational staff
CMAA	181	40 (22%)	76	13 (17%)	N/A	N/A
CMAC <sup>32</sup>	2,115	423 (20%)	N/R	N/R	N/R	NR
CSHD	37	14 (38%)	2	1 (50%)	35	13 (37%)
APOPO	102	39 (38%)	7	2 (29%)	84	18 (21%)

22 Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request (Revised), 30 September 2025, p. 17.

23 Email from Hean Kimsin, CMAA, 16 May 2025.

24 UNDP, Clearing for Results IV 2024 Annual Report, p. 19.

25 Email from Hean Kimsin, CMAA, 16 May 2025.

26 Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request (Revised), 30 September 2025, p. 17.

27 Email from Hean Kimsin, CMAA, 16 May 2025.

28 CMAA, National Mine Action Strategy 2018–2025, p. 22.

29 Email from Hans Risser, NPA, 16 May 2025.

30 Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request (Revised), 30 September 2025, p. 27.

31 Emails from Hean Kimsin, CMAA, 16 May 2025; Alexey Kruk, MAG, 22 April 2025; Ung Sokcheng, Director, CSHD, 2 June 2025; Tobias Hewitt, Programme Manager, HALO, 7 July 2025; and Hans Risser, NPA, 16 May 2025.

32 Third 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request (Revised), 30 September 2025, p. 15. In 2023, women reportedly held 5% of CMAC managerial or supervisory positions (2 out of 38) and made up 16% of its operational staff (204 out of 1,072).

Table 4 Continued

Operator	Total staff	Women staff	Total managerial or supervisory staff	Women managerial or supervisory staff	Total operational staff	Women operational staff
HALO	1,190	483 (41%)	108	15 (14%)	978	443 (45%)
MAG	523	199 (38%)	28	10 (36%)	449	174 (39%)
NPA	117	56 (48%)	10	3 (30%)	111	53 (48%)
Totals	4,265	1,254 (29%)	231	44 (19%)	1,657	701 (42%)

N/A = Not applicable N/R = Not reported

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

The CMAA issued a national 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.<sup>33</sup> The CMAA held a two-day workshop with operators in 2024 on environmental management.<sup>34</sup>

Demining organisations also follow internal SOPs on managing the environmental impact of their operations. HALO, which adopted use of solar-powered charging stations for detectors in 2023 among measures to exploit renewable energy, appointed a dedicated water and sanitation officer to develop best practice for waste management in remote camps.<sup>35</sup> Mines Advisory Group (MAG) follows the organisation’s Global Technical Standards,<sup>36</sup> while NPA applies its Climate and Environmental Policy along with the organisation’s Green Office Tool and Green Field Tool launched in March 2025 and designed to help staff identify and manage environmental risks.<sup>37</sup> CMAC’s environmental management policies are unknown.

Table 5: Environmental policies and action

Operator	Environmental policy in place	Environmental assessments conducted to support planning and delivery of survey and clearance	Environmental focal point at country programme level
APOPO	Yes	No	No
CMAC	N/R	N/R	N/R
MAG	Yes	Yes	No
NPA	Yes	Yes	Yes

N/R = Not reported

## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

The CMAA began upgrading its database from Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) New Generation to Core in 2023, which is now used by most operators. This has helped to keep the database up to date with the progress of survey and clearance. It retains IMSMA NG as an interim platform to receive data from CMAC. International operators submit reports directly through digital platforms using Survey123.<sup>38</sup>

In 2023, the CMAA temporarily suspended survey in order to clear a backlog of more than 1,100 survey reports accumulated on the workbench pending quality assurance checks. In 2024, it sought to streamline the process requiring operators to inform the CMAA before surveying tasks to facilitate quality assurance (QA) and then allowing checked results to be uploaded to the database.<sup>39</sup>

33 Email from Tep Kallyan, CMAA, 9 May 2023; and CMAS 20.

34 Email from Hean Kimsin, CMAA, 16 May 2025.

35 Email from Tobias Hewitt, HALO, 7 July 2025.

36 Email from Alexey Kruk, MAG, 22 April 2025.

37 Email from Hans Risser, NPA, 16 May 2025.

38 Email from Tobias Hewitt, HALO, 7 July 2025.

39 Emails from Hean Kimsin, CMAA, 16 May 2025; and Tobias Hewitt, HALO, 7 July 2025.

The CMAA database is operated by an information management unit of 15 staff with the support of Norway through NPA. In March 2025, it assigned a technical advisor to the unit.<sup>40</sup>

## PLANNING AND TASKING

Cambodia's plans were in a state of flux in 2025 because of uncertainty about the scale of remaining mine contamination pending the outcome of a survey of border minefields or the resources available to address it. The CMAA submitted a provisional Article 5 deadline extension request in April 2025 and a revised request in October for consideration by the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of States Parties in December 2025. It also planned to complete a 10-year policy for 2026 to 2035 by the end of 2025.<sup>41</sup> As noted above, Cambodia has declared 15 of its 25 provinces mine-free in the past three years with three more expected to be added to the list in the course of 2025.<sup>42</sup>

A work plan submitted by the CMAA in 2023 said Cambodia would release 356km<sup>2</sup> in 2023 and 168km<sup>2</sup> in each of 2024 and 2025. It said the government planned to mobilise significant military capacity to help accelerate land release, including 910 personnel from the RCA and 805 personnel from the

National Centre for Peacekeeping Forces, Mines and ERW Clearance (NPMEC).<sup>43</sup> Funding shortfalls in 2024 prevented Cambodia from deploying any RCA deminers.

The CMAA submitted its third Article 5 deadline extension request in April 2025 and an update in October aiming to complete clearance of all AP mined areas by the end of 2030 at a projected cost of US\$146.7 million. A work plan updated to include contamination identified in the partially completed border survey projected cancellation through NTS would make up 16% of total land release and area reduction through TS for 30%, with clearance accounting for 54% of the total (see Table 5).<sup>44</sup> Completing the border survey may identify significant additional contamination but the CMAA considered Cambodia would still be able to tackle all remaining mined areas within the requested five-year extension.<sup>45</sup>

**Table 6: Land release targets (m<sup>2</sup>)<sup>46</sup>**

	Cancellation through NTS	Reduction through TS	Clearance	Total land release
2025 (1 July-31 Dec)	12.83	24.06	43.31	80.20
2026	20.80	39.00	70.20	130.00
2027	12.56	23.56	42.40	78.52
2028	12.56	23.56	42.40	78.52
2029	12.56	23.56	42.40	78.52
2030	12.56	23.56	42.40	78.52
<b>Totals</b>	<b>*83.87</b>	<b>*157.30</b>	<b>283.11</b>	<b>*524.28</b>

\*Small differences in totals compared to the revised Article 5 extension request are due to rounding errors in the extension request.

Cambodia has followed both a top-down and a bottom-up approach to planning and prioritisation. The CMAA prepares a list of priority villages based on agreed criteria and national priorities while MAPUs coordinate with operators at the provincial level to develop a list of local communities' priority clearance tasks for their annual work plans using agreed criteria.<sup>47</sup> The CMAA introduced a Mine Free Village policy in May 2022 designed to mobilise funding from development organisations, the private sector, and individuals to support clearance of specific villages.<sup>48</sup>

## LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

### STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

Mine action is conducted according to CMAS, which are broadly consistent with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).<sup>49</sup> The CMAA revised the standard for baseline survey for mines in late 2023 to increase accuracy by clarifying different evidence requirements for mines and cluster munitions and putting more emphasis in mine survey on post-clearance land use.

40 Emails from Hean Kimsin, CMAA, 16 May 2025; and Hans Risser, NPA, 16 May 2025.

41 Interview with Ly Panharith, Secretary General, CMAA, in Geneva, 17 June 2025.

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

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

44 Third Article 5 Extension Request (Revised), 30 September 2025, p. 22.

45 Interview with Ly Panharith, CMAA, in Geneva, 17 June 2025.

46 Third Article 5 Extension Request (Revised), 30 September 2025, p. 22.

47 Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request (Revised), 30 September 2025, p. 10.

48 Email from Hean Kimsin, CMAA, 15 June 2024.

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

In 2024, it introduced the world's first standard on gender mainstreaming.<sup>50</sup>

To keep up standards, the CMAA deployed six QM teams in 2024 which conducted a combined total of 3,901 inspections – 2,806 for QA and 1,095 for quality control (QC).<sup>51</sup>

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

The total capacity operating in 2024 is unclear. CMAC, Cambodia's biggest operator, did not report its activities for 2024 although its integrated work plan for the year indicated it planned to deploy operational teams with a total staff of 1,446. These included 600 deminers divided between 4 manual demining platoons with 68 personnel and 76 technical survey (TS) and clearance teams with 532 personnel.<sup>52</sup> The RCA reportedly had 35 teams and 910 trained deminers available in 2024,<sup>53</sup> but the government did not provide the funding that supported RCA demining in 2023 and they do not appear in land release results for 2024.

Table 7: Operational clearance capacities deployed in 2024<sup>54</sup>

Operator	Manual teams	Total deminers	Animal Detection and handlers	Machines	Comments
APOPO			4 MDR teams 39 rats/37 handlers 1 TSD team 4 dogs/4 handlers	4	1 MDR team, 10 rats/9 handlers, working with MAG in Battambang. 1 MDR team (10 rats/9 handlers) in Siem Reap; 2 MDR teams 19 rats/19 handlers) in Prey Vihear with CMAC. 4 TSD dogs and 4 handlers in Prey Vihear with CMAC.
CMAC	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	
CSHD	1	16	0	0	Also 2 EOD teams/8 personnel.
HALO	82	740	0	3	Also 12 NTS teams with 60 personnel.
MAG	17	136	2 MDD teams, 8 dogs, 8 handlers (in partnership with CMAC)	5	Also 5 CL/NTS teams with 10 personnel. 1 EOD team/5 personnel in Battambang responding to call-outs by the community.
NPMEC	17	476	0	0	
			39 rats/37 handlers		
Totals	117	1,368	12 dogs/12 handlers	12	

International operators worked with largely the same capacity in 2024 as the previous year. APOPO discontinued one manual team with five deminers but its TS dogs, operated in conjunction with CMAC and MAG, using digital track and trace technologies on all areas they worked, which accelerated survey. It also reported trialling use of integrated GPS technology to track and map areas explored by hand-held detectors.<sup>55</sup> MAG stood down two mechanical teams as there were no remaining tasks suitable for their assets, including a Mini MineWolf and a digger.<sup>56</sup>

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2024

Table 8: Summary of land release outputs in 2024<sup>57</sup>

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (km²)	Comments
Clearance	80.44	

50 Emails from Hean Kimsin, CMAA, 15 June 2024 and 16 May 2025.

51 UNDP, Clearing for Results IV, 2024 Annual Report, p. 9.

52 CMAC, Integrated Work Plan 2024, undated, accessible at: <http://bit.ly/3JoXumv>.

53 Email from Hean Kimsin, CMAA, 16 May 2025.

54 Emails from Michael Raine, APOPO, 8 April 2025; Ung Sokcheng, CSHD, 2 June 2025; Tobias Hewitt, HALO, 7 July 2025; Alexey Kruk, MAG, 24 June 2025; and Hean Kimsin, CMAA, 16 May 2025.

55 Email from Michael Raine, APOPO, 8 April 2025.

56 Email from Alexey Kruk, MAG, 24 June 2025.

57 Email from Hean Kimsin, CMAA, 21 October 2025.



Table 8 Continued

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (km <sup>2</sup> )	Comments
Technical Survey	34.48	
Non-Technical Survey	15.44	
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	
AP mines destroyed	10,534	Includes 2,902 during spot tasks

Cambodia, according to official data, released 130km<sup>2</sup> in 2024 (see Table 8), 62% of it through full clearance. Three-quarters of what was released was area contaminated by scattered AP mines. The result was little more than a third of the 362km<sup>2</sup> released in the previous year. A total of 32km<sup>2</sup> was released under the UNDP-managed Clearing for Results programme, 12km<sup>2</sup> through survey, and 20km<sup>2</sup> through clearance.<sup>58</sup> The CMAA also reported a sharp drop in AP mines destroyed to 10,534 in 2024 from 19,229 in 2023.<sup>59</sup>

The downturn reflected the financial squeeze the mine action sector has experienced since 2023 when the government had provided \$30 million from the national budget and private sector contributions.<sup>60</sup> However, persistent, significant discrepancies between results recorded by the CMAA and by operators left uncertainty about the exact outcomes.

### SURVEY IN 2024

Cambodia recorded high levels of land release through survey in the past two years (103km<sup>2</sup> in 2022 and 169km<sup>2</sup> in 2023) as the sector focused on recorded hazardous areas already reclaimed for use or sparsely contaminated. In 2024, the area released through survey dropped to just under 50km<sup>2</sup> (see Table 9) partly due to funding constraints but also the shrinking amount of reclaimed land left to be released.

Table 9: Release of mined area through survey in 2024 (CMAA)<sup>61</sup>

Operator	Area	Area cancelled (m <sup>2</sup> )	Area reduced (m <sup>2</sup> )
CMAC	Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Kampong Thom, Kandal, Oddar Meanchey, Preah Vihear, Pursat, Siem Reap	167,668	31,964,322
CSHD	Siem Reap	68,858	91,190
HALO	Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Pursat	905,300	434,822
MAG	Battambang	2,130,934	1,164,971
NPA	Battambang, Koh Kong, Oddar Meanchey	12,131,743	14,063
NPMEC	Koh Kong, Siem Reap	31,533	807,830
Totals		15,436,036	34,477,198

As a result, the amount of land cancelled in 2024 amounting to 15.4km<sup>2</sup> was less than half the previous year's level and largely conducted by NPA which accounted for more than three-quarters of the area cancelled. CMAC, which largely shuns cancellation through NTS as insufficiently safe and focuses instead on TS, accounted for nearly two-thirds of the total area released through survey.<sup>62</sup> Official 2024 data, however, attributes higher amounts of land release through survey to the four other NGOs than they reported (see Table 10).

58 UNDP, Clearing for Results IV 2024 Annual Report, pp. 8–9.

59 Emails from Hean Kimsin, CMAA, 16 May and 21 October 2025.

60 Ibid.

61 Ibid.

62 Ibid.

**Table 10: Release of mined area through survey in 2024 (Selected operator data)<sup>63</sup>**

Operator	Area cancelled (m <sup>2</sup> )	Area reduced (m <sup>2</sup> )
CSHD	160,048	148,860
HALO	907,225	313,261
MAG	1,603,693	235,524
NPA	12,025,046	14,063
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14,696,012</b>	<b>711,708</b>

## CLEARANCE IN 2024

Cambodia's heavy investment in demining in 2023 pushed up mined area released through clearance to 193km<sup>2</sup> in official data and nearly 130km<sup>2</sup>, according to the Mine Action Review's estimate.<sup>64</sup> In 2024, with reduced funding and operating capacity, official figures show operators cleared 80km<sup>2</sup> (see Table 11 ). At the same time, only six tasks covering 158,099m<sup>2</sup> were cleared without finding any mines, a big improvement compared with the 25 tasks covering more than 2km<sup>2</sup> that yielded no mines in 2023.<sup>65</sup> Operator reports, however, suggest official data may understate the area that was actually cleared in 2024.

CMAC accounted for 87% of the cleared area in official data, most of it in the three provinces of Prey Vihear, Banteay Meanchey, and Battambang. Official results also credited CMAC with destroying 8,846 AP mines in clearance and EOD operations, representing 84% of the 2024 total.<sup>66</sup> Official data also attributes destruction of 899 AP mines to EOD tasks by CSHD, MAG, HALO, and NPA (see Table 12), a higher figure than they report.

**Table 11: Mine clearance by operator in 2024 (CMAA data)<sup>67</sup>**

Operator	Region	Area cleared (m <sup>2</sup> )	AP mines destroyed in clearance	AP mines destroyed in EOD tasks
CMAC	Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Oddar Meanchey, Prey Vihear, Pursat, Rattanak Kiri, Siem Reap	69,831,220	6,843	2,003
CSHD	Siem Reap	148,860	16	184
HALO	Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Oddar Meanchey, Pursat	4,626,857	490	630
MAG	Battambang, Ratanak Kiri	991,559	149	84
NPA	Ratanak Kiri	33,784	28	1
NPMEC	Koh Kong	4,812,362	106	0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>80,444,642</b>	<b>7,632</b>	<b>2,902</b>

CMAA data, however, showed clearance by CSHD, HALO, and MAG amounting to only 5.8km<sup>2</sup> in 2024 whereas the three operators recorded 50% more clearance (see Table 12). The discrepancy reflects the fact that official data recorded only clearance tasks confirmed by CMAA QA teams for handover to land owners rather than tasks completed by operators.

<sup>63</sup> Emails from Ung Sokcheng, CSHD, 2 June 2025; Tobias Hewitt, HALO, 7 July 2025; Alexey Kruk, MAG, 22 April 2025; and Hans Risser, NPA, 16 May and 10 October 2025.

<sup>64</sup> For explanation of the Mine Action Review clearance estimate, see *Clearing the Mines 2024*, p. 91.

<sup>65</sup> Emails from Hean Kimsin, CMAA, 15 June 2024 and 16 May 2025.

<sup>66</sup> Emails from Hean Kimsin, CMAA, 16 May and 14 October 2025.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid.

Table 12: Mine clearance in 2024 (operator data)<sup>68</sup>

Operator	Area cleared (m <sup>2</sup> )	AP mines destroyed in clearance	AP mines destroyed in EOD tasks
CSHD	308,908	16	110
HALO	5,286,722	448	641
MAG	3,138,113	330	43
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8,733,743</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>794</b>

## ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE



Under Article 5 of the APMBC (and in accordance with the second extension of 5 years and 11 months, granted by States Parties in 2019), Cambodia was required to destroy all AP mines in areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 31 December 2025. Despite a government-funded drive to accelerate land release in 2023, Cambodia acknowledged in 2024 it would not meet the deadline and in April 2025 requested a new extension of five years to the end of 2030.

Cambodia submitted its initial request for an extension in April 2025 and updated the request in October 2025 to take account of the findings of a partially completed survey of heavily mined border districts. Cambodia had planned to complete the survey by the end of June 2025 but had to suspend operations due to escalating tensions with Thailand that erupted into open conflict in July 2025.<sup>69</sup>

As a result, Cambodia's estimate of 524km<sup>2</sup> of remaining AP mine contamination and the land release targets based on it are incomplete and the extension request work plan will need further amendment when border tensions have eased sufficiently to allow it to complete the survey. In the meantime, implementation of the 2025 extension request faces a number of risks:

- **Security:** Clashes on the border with Thailand in July 2025 underscored decades-old border demarcation tensions that have held back demining of some of Cambodia's most densely mined areas for years and threaten to put a brake on border mine clearance for years to come. Cambodia and Thailand launched a Joint Coordinating Task Force on 24 September 2025 to oversee and coordinate humanitarian demining on the border. A joint statement

said "this task force reflects the shared commitment of both countries to address the lingering danger of landmines for border communities and to strengthen cooperation on humanitarian grounds."<sup>70</sup> Cambodia subsequently accused Thailand's military of further attacks on the border.<sup>71</sup>

- **The scale of AP mine contamination:** The CMAA believes that the modest clearance required in the last two years of the work plan submitted with its initial extension request has left sufficient room to accommodate additional contamination identified within a five-year extension.
- **Funding and capacity:** Cambodia's extension request does not give details of the capacity required to achieve land release on the level set out in its work plan or project costs of completion. The manpower available will depend partly on the whether the government provides funding to deploy RCA and NPMEC deminers.
- **Known unknowns:** Accident data for the decade to 2024 shows nearly half mine incidents occurred in areas not recorded in the mine action database.<sup>72</sup> Survey of non-border areas added 176km<sup>2</sup> to the database in the past two years underscoring the expectation that Cambodia's contamination estimate will continue to rise.
- **Terrain:** High rates of clearance in recent years have been helped by the light levels of contamination. Densely mined areas made up 19% of Cambodia's contamination at the end of 2024 but accounted for less than 3% of the area released that year.<sup>73</sup> The pace of clearance is likely to slow as operators complete release of sparsely contaminated areas and face more heavily mined tasks. The border with Thailand includes some of Cambodia's most densely mined areas and most difficult terrain.

68 Emails from Ung Sokcheng, CSHD, 2 June 2025; Tobias Hewitt, HALO, 7 July 2025; and Alexey Kruk, MAG, 22 April 2025.

69 Third Article 5 deadline Extension Request (Revised), 30 September 2025, p. 7.

70 "Coordinating Task Force on border demining," *Khmer Times*, 24 September 2025.

71 Ministry of National Defence press release, 27 September 2025.

72 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, April 2025, p. 31.

73 Email from Hean Kimsin, CMAA, 16 May 2025.

■ **Border access:** Authorities also have to clarify how far they will allow access to border minefields by international demining organisations which say they have been excluded from operating within a 7 kilometre-wide belt since 2020. The CMAA said that restriction had already been eased and in 2025 it had issued 33 clearance tasks covering 4,835,803m<sup>2</sup> to HALO and MAG within 7km of the border, although MAG reported it had not received any tasks in the 7km zone.<sup>74</sup>

**Table 13: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance<sup>75</sup>**

Year	Area cleared (km <sup>2</sup> )
2024	80.44
2023	*129.70
2022	88.48
2021	43.73
2020	49.99
<b>Total</b>	<b>392.34</b>

\*Mine Action Review estimate

**PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL RISK AFTER COMPLETION**

Cambodia's 2019 Article 5 deadline extension request said that "it is likely the Royal Cambodian Army will be the national capacity [that] remains to address the residual threats."<sup>76</sup> It said Cambodia would have the necessary legal, institutional, and operational framework in place for dealing with residual risks by 2025. It did not fulfil that objective and Cambodia's third Article 5 extension request submitted in April 2025 and subsequently revised in October, said the issue would be a "key component" of a National Mine Action Policy 2026–2035, which was said to be in the final stages of development at the time of writing.<sup>77</sup>

With respect to establishment of a sustainable national capacity and framework to manage residual contamination, Cambodia planned to start with a comprehensive review of the existing institutional framework, to clearly define roles and responsibilities and identify the key institutions responsible for managing residual contamination by 2030. Cambodia plans for a national capacity for managing residual contamination to be in place by 2035.<sup>78</sup>

74 Ibid; and email from Alexey Kruk, MAG, 6 October 2025.  
75 In September 2024, the CMAA provided different figures for AP mine clearance in 2019–21: 2021: 74.90km<sup>2</sup>; 2020: 60.13km<sup>2</sup>; and 2019: 35.44km<sup>2</sup>. Email from Kol Vireak (on behalf of the Secretary General), CMAA, 8 September 2024.  
76 2019 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Additional Information, p. 5.  
77 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request (Revised), 30 September 2025, p. 29.  
78 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request (Revised), 30 September 2025, p. 30.