

**Suggestions concerning the request submitted by Cambodia  
Committee on Article 5 Implementation  
(the Netherlands, Colombia, Austria and Canada)**

1. The request indicates that targets during the previous extension request were exceeded due to improved land release procedures and Cambodian Mine Action Standards (CMAS), including the integration of mechanical and animal detection systems into operations. **The request would benefit from further information on any planned review and improvement of CMAS over the new extension period and the timeline for these improvements.**

**Response**

CMAA plans to develop additional CMAS on Animal Detection System (ADS), Mechanical Demining, Information Management, Quality Management, Environment, Victim Assistance and Mine Risk Education from 2020-2021 and plans to review CMAS Chapters 2 *“Accreditation of demining organizations and licensing of operations”*, Chapter 3 *“Monitoring of demining organizations”*, Chapter 14 *“Baseline Survey”* and Chapter 15 *“Land Release”* from 2021 to 2022.

2. Table 13 in Cambodia’s request indicates that 9,804 suspected hazardous areas to be contaminated with anti-personnel landmines measuring 890,437,236 square metres remain to be addressed. **The request would benefit from a clear disaggregation between Suspected Hazardous areas and Confirmed Hazardous areas employing the annexed sample table from the Guide to Reporting.**

**Response**

The Baseline Survey to take stock of mine and ERW contaminated areas in Cambodia implemented from late 2009 to present does not classify minefields (or mined areas) as suspected hazardous or confirmed hazardous areas. Therefore, in the extension request, we indicated the minefields as ‘areas known or suspected to contain AP mines.’ Those minefields were classified as A1 (land containing dense concentration of AP mine), A2 (land containing mixed of AP and AT mines), A4 (land containing scattered or nuisance presence of AP mines) and B2 (land with no verifiable mine threat). This classification is specific to Cambodia. As such, we cannot disaggregate them as requested.

3. The request indicates that Cambodia’s Baseline Survey (BLS) activities led to the identification of an anti-personnel mine problem that went beyond the original estimate outlined in the extension request. **Given the importance of ensuring a strict and evidence-based survey process, the request would benefit from Cambodia indicating its quality control and assurance process when it comes to land release, and the identification of suspected hazardous areas, to ensure that no additional suspected hazardous areas are registered in the national database without clear evidence. The request would further benefit from**

**Cambodia indicating how it ensures a consistent approach is taken by all operators within Cambodia.**

**Response**

The issue has been spotted and appropriate action has been taken. In addition to the internal QA/QC by operators, the CMAA's Department of Regulation and Monitoring and quality management teams (QMT) deployed to conduct quality assurance and quality control of all mine action activities have been tasked to increase their focus on inspections of baseline survey activity to ensure that additional mined areas registered in the national database are supported by strong and clear evidence and appropriately sized. Additionally, the Database Unit of the CMAA will review newly captured and verification will be conducted by QMT on polygons that are questionable. The CMAA also plans to organize every year a meeting to discuss baseline survey and resurvey activity to ensure that the survey standard as stated in the CMAS 14 is strictly maintained and applied. The meeting will also cover land release methods (non-technical survey (NTS), technical survey (TS) and clearance) as stated in the CMAS 15 to strengthen their application and to ensure a consistent approach is taken by all operators; for example, should a mined area, which has been reclaimed for productive use, meeting criteria to be released through NTS, it should be released as such without undertaking unnecessary activity like TS.

4. The request indicates that baseline survey will be completed by 2020. **In this regard the request would benefit from Cambodia's commitment to submit an updated work plan by the end of 2021, following thorough analysis of the results of the BLS, for the remainder of the extension request period containing a clear plan for implementation indicating what geographical and quantified results are expected when, how, by whom and at what cost.**

**Response**

The suggestion is taken, and Cambodia will revise extension request workplan before end of 2021 considering results from the baseline survey to be completed by 2020.

5. The work-plan in support of the extension deadline includes a possible agreement with the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) to provide an estimated 2,000 deminers. **The request would benefit from clear information on the progress of this agreement, including detailed plans and timelines for the recruitment, training, equipping and deployment of RCAF teams and confirmation on the use of CMAS to guide this work.**

**Response**

There have been two meetings with Commander of Royal Cambodian Army (RCA) in the first six months of 2019. In responding to CMAA's request for additional 2,000 deminers, the Commander of the RCA has expressed his strong interest and willingness to contribute to make Cambodia mine-free by 2025. It was agreed, during the second meeting in June 2019, to establish a **Task Force** comprising of officials from CMAA and RCA and to formulate a **Memorandum of Understanding** (MOU) to push forward the work related to additional RCA deminers. The MOU has been drafted and shared for review at time of preparing this response. It was mentioned in

the MOU that RCA deminers will follow CMAS and are subjected to QA and QC by the CMAA QMT. Cambodia will update states parties the progress on this effort at the meeting of States Parties.

6. The request indicates that Cambodia approved the Gender Mainstreaming in Mine Action Plan (GMAP 2018-2022) in 2018. **In this regard, the request would benefit from further information on how additional deminers will be recruited to ensure gender balance, in line with Cambodia's GMAP. The request would further benefit from disaggregation of Tables 18, 19, and 20 by gender to identify gender balance in the current capacities of operators.**

#### **Response**

The GMAP 2018-2022 tasks the CMAA to develop the gender mainstreaming in mine action guidelines which instruct mine action operators to take appropriate steps to seek for gender balance in survey and clearance teams by ensuring that vacancy announcements for survey and demining job opportunities are accessible to women and men and do not contain requirements that unnecessarily discourage female applicants or preclude their employment. The guidelines also include a checklist of activities to promote the gender balance of deminers, including:

- Make vacancy announcements accessible to women and men,
- Ensure that vacancy announcements clearly identify services offering to enable women to work, such as provision of lodging, child care, parental leave etc.
- Encourage the employment of women deminers wherever possible,
- Track the sex of training session participants and periodically review whether women and men have equal access to job training opportunities, and
- Make all possible arrangements to accommodate the needs of both women and men within the work environment.

The disaggregation by gender to identify gender balance in the current capacities of operators is presented in the revised table 18, 19, and 20 as attached.

7. The request indicates that a 'mine-free village policy' will be implemented that aims to release 500 prioritised known mine affected villages by 2021, and the remaining villages by 2025. **The request would benefit from further information on the prioritisation mechanism in place to ensure that deployment of teams is made to high density and high impact minefields.**

#### **Response**

The 500 priority villages targeted from 2020-2021 were identified based on the following criteria:

- a. Size of mine contamination in village,
- b. Number of mine casualties in village,
- c. Number of people in village, and
- d. Percentage of poverty of village (ID poor).

Resulting from applying the criteria, CMAA sent the villages initially identified to MAPU of each province to allow them to discuss with clearance operators. The purpose is to allow them to discuss and to take their local knowledge into consideration in order to finalize the 500 priority villages. We believe the approach we took to identify the 500 villages is meaningful and make sense. We believe that high density minefields should not be the deciding factor for prioritization. Mine action is more than taking mines out of the ground. It is about addressing the needs of the affected communities that is in line with the principle of 'needs-driven, people-centered'.

8. The request indicates that a key component of Cambodia's work plan will be to work with Thailand to address anti-personnel contamination on border areas. **Given the important nature of this effort to enabling implementation, the request would benefit from further information on these efforts including a clear outline of Cambodia and Thailand's agreement, the national bodies involved in this effort, including clear information on any joint operations, including the process of this work and annual milestones.**

### Response

A 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of Cambodia-Thailand General Boarder Committee was held in Siem Reap (Cambodia) on 30 March 2017. The meeting agreed to support cooperation on demining by Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC) and by Thailand Mine Action Center (TMAC). The meeting took note of the Thai proposal to cooperate on demining in Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in the border areas for the successful implementation of the SEZ development. All demining operations along the border areas between Cambodia and Thailand shall be without prejudice to the rights and duties of Thailand and Cambodian with regard to the land boundary under international law. The meeting encouraged CMAC and TMAC to convene the meetings on a regular basis to strengthen their cooperation.

Government Decision No. 53, dated 17 January 2019, tasks CMAA to continue discussion and consultation with Commander of Royal Cambodian Army to study feasibility of additional participation of Royal Cambodian Army in humanitarian demining in Cambodia, particularly, demining on border areas to contribute to the implementation of the National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025. Progress on this is presented at point 5 above. Cambodia will update States Parties the progress on demining along the Cambodian-Thai border areas at the meeting of States Parties.

9. The request indicates that Cambodia will require US \$165.3 million to release all known mine affected areas during the extension period. The request further indicates that Cambodia has drafted a resource mobilisation strategy. **In this regard the request would benefit from a detailed action plan with regard to mobilisation of private sector funding/investment, or fundraising through trusts and foundations. The request could further benefit from information on the development of a communications plan to assist in generating interest and momentum amongst key national and international stakeholders, the donor community, and the Cambodian population.**

## Response

To support the NMAS 2018-2025, a Resource Mobilization Strategy was developed to target different donors (past, present, potential, private sector, and Royal Government of Cambodia). With support from the Committee on the Enhancement of Cooperation and Assistance of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the CMAA plans to hold a side event (under the framework of individualized approach) at the Fourth Review Conference in Oslo in November 2019 to bring together the donor community, partners for South-South and regional cooperation, mine action operators and other stakeholders to hold a frank and open discussion on the current status of Cambodia's national programme and to seek support needed to enable Cambodia to achieve its 2025 target. The CMAA also plans to develop proposal to seek funds from local wealthy individuals and businesses to support clearance of minefields in villages with small-medium sized mine-contamination in order to make the villages mine-free as soon as possible. In addition, the CMAA plans to host a Gala Dinner from 2020 to raise funds to support mine-free village strategy.

- 10.** The request indicates that if capacity and funding is available, Cambodia will aim to complete its Article 5 implementation obligation by 2025. **The request would benefit from information concerning how Cambodia intends to structure its organisational capacities to respond to residual contamination following completion. The request would also benefit from further information on winding down of demining activities up until 2025, including contingency plans in response to the possible negative impact on such rapid demobilisation of staff.**

## Response

The issue on the national capacity to respond to residual threats after 2025 was considered during the development of NMAS 2018-2025. Goal 7 of the NMAS aims to establish a sustainable national capacity to address the residual threats after 2025. Two enabling objectives—1) to review by 2020 the legal, institutional and operational framework, strategy and capacity needed to address the residual threats; and 2) to develop, strengthen and maintain a sustainable national capacity to effectively address the residual threats after 2025—were established. By 2025, Cambodia will have an appropriate national legal, institutional and operational framework, and capacity available to address residual threats. As such, it is too premature to define structure of national capacity and framework for residual threats at this stage. As the Royal Cambodian Army is committed to participate in humanitarian demining to achieve the 2025 target, it is likely that the Royal Cambodian Army will be the national capacity remains to address the residual threats.

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has recently decided to absorb CMAC deminers who reach the age of retiring under government pension scheme. At an appropriate opportunity, the CMAA will seek support from the RGC to extend this to deminers who are working for other humanitarian demining organizations in Cambodia. In addition, the CMAA will seek support from the Royal Government of Cambodia to absorb deminers who are still active after 2025 into the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces or institutions that can benefit from their experience.