

JICA's Humanitarian Mine Action



Aiming to create a safe society where people are free from the threat of landmines and unexploded ordnances

Realize Human Security through Mine Action



In 2022, the number of victims of landmines and unexploded ordnances (UXO) was reported to exceed 4,700 individuals across 49 countries, nearly half of whom were children. The detonation of landmines and UXO can result in fatalities, and

even if a person survives, the incident may lead to the loss of a limb or vision, significantly impacting their quality of life. While the burial of landmines and UXO is a relatively easy process, their subsequent removal is

time-consuming and complex process. As a result, a country's reconstruction and development is hindered, and the threat to peace and safety persists long after the conflict has ended.

Through the expansion of released area contaminated by landmines and UXO, and the promotion of mine risk education, JICA helps to build a safe, secure, and inclusive society in affected areas. JICA supports to reduce the risk of victimization from landmines and UXO, as well as provides various services to promote social participation of victims. In collaboration with international organizations, NGOs, the private sector and other various partners, JICA has worked on mine action in Cambodia and around the world.



* Released land that has been confirmed to be free of landmines and UXO through clearance and survey activities.

Towards Achieving Self-reliant and Sustainable Mine Action

Strengthening Cambodia's national capacity for mine action

Mine action involves (1) Mine/ Explosive ordinance risk education, (2) survey and clearance of landmines and UXOs, and (3) assistance to victims. Given that complete removal of these explosives can take several decades, it is essential for affected countries' national capacity to focus on policy planning, human resource development, and equipment maintenance in a self-reliant and sustainable manner. Additionally, it is crucial to consider and incorporate the voices of women, children, people with disabilities, poor communities, and other vulnerable groups. Based on these concepts, JICA has supported institutional capacity and human resource development as well as providing demining machines and detectors to promote safe and efficient survey and clearance activities in Cambodia and other countries.

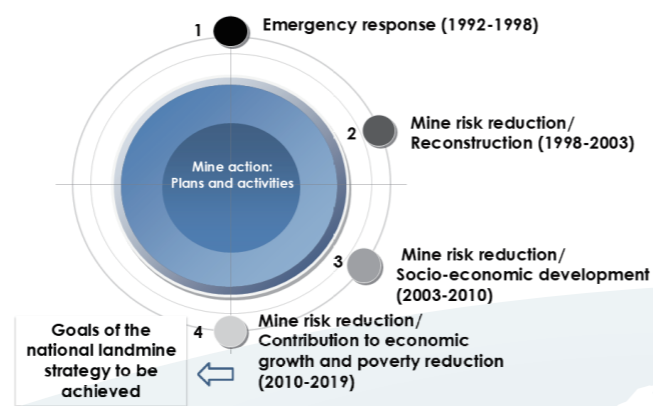
Cooperation with the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC)

The Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) was established in 1992 amid the protracted conflict in Cambodia.



In 1998, the conflict with the Khmer Rouge ended, and JICA started its cooperation with CMAC in Cambodia, which then had the highest number of casualties by landmines in the world. Previously, mine action had been considered as an emergency humanitarian response to mitigate immediate risks by either preventing people from accessing identified minefields or clearing the landmines. However, recognizing the need for mine action activities for Cambodia in the long term, JICA focused on strengthening CMAC's organizational capacity to ensure the sustainability of their activities. As a result, CMAC has expanded the released area and has contributed to reducing the number of casualties from over 2,000 per year in the 1990s to around 50 per year in recent years.

Priority change of Cambodia's mine action



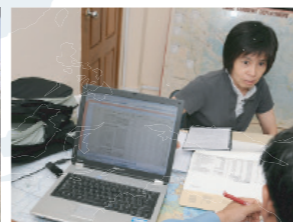
1998-2009

Promotion of landmine clearance in Cambodia

To ensure efficient and safe clearance activities by CMAC, JICA has provided machines and other equipment, as well as support to strengthen the management capacity necessary for operating and maintaining the equipment and conducting effective mine action.



Provision of equipment under the Grant Aid scheme (since 1998)



Organizational capacity development for CMAC through technical cooperation (since 1998)

2010 ~

Promotion of domestic clearance activities in Cambodia and the initiation of knowledge sharing with other countries.

In addition to providing continuous support for mine action in Cambodia, JICA has also facilitated CMAC's international cooperation, including training for third countries facing the challenges of landmines and UXO contamination.



2020 ~

Institutional development of CMAC as an international mine action organization

JICA has procured equipment and upgraded a training center to efficiently clear contaminated areas as well as renovated the Peace Museum of Mine Action to share history of the conflict and contamination of landmines for future generations. Furthermore, JICA has supported the institutional development of CMAC to assist other countries as an international mine action organization.



Expansion of Cooperation with Countries Affected by Landmines and UXO

Leveraging Cambodian knowledge and Japanese technology

While the international community is making efforts in mine action, many countries and regions continue to suffer from the contamination, which has expanded in some areas. Building on the achievements of cooperation in Cambodia, JICA has worked with CMAC to support organizational capacity building in countries contaminated by landmines and UXO, as well as to introduce new technologies that enhance the safety and efficiency of landmine and UXO surveys and clearance.

Promoting international cooperation in collaboration with CMAC



Colombia

Human resource development to implement comprehensive mine action

In 2016, the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) signed a peace agreement; however, landmines still remain in approximately 60% of the country's municipalities. Since 2010, JICA has worked with CMAC to provide training sessions on safe and efficient mine action. Furthermore, since 2023, JICA has supported improvement of the efficiency of demining through the amendment of standards and regulations in Colombia and trainings.



Laos

Support to Lao National Unexploded Ordinance Program (UXO Lao)

Laos is the most heavily bombed country per capita in the world, with an estimated 80 million unexploded bombs still remaining. Since 2010, JICA has supported UXO Lao in establishing a mechanism for prioritization of clearance sites and enhancing IT systems for asset and human resource management. CMAC contributes by sharing its expertise in technical and organizational capacity building.



Ukraine

Strengthening capacity for emergency response under conflict

In Ukraine, a country still in war, the survey and clearance of landmines and UXO have become urgent issues. To enhance Ukraine's mine action capabilities, Japan has provided Japanese mine detectors and demining machines, and, in cooperation with CMAC, has conducted training on the operation and maintenance of the equipment.



Africa

Support to affected countries in Africa through knowledge sharing

Conflict-affected countries in Africa need to strengthen mine action, but they face challenges to develop functional systems and institutions. In 2024, government organizations responsible for mine action in Ethiopia, Nigeria, Somalia, and South Sudan visited Cambodia to learn from CMAC's operations. JICA has established a platform to enhance their partnerships for future cooperation.



Towards a World Free of Landmines and UXO

Comprehensive package of assistance to humanitarian mine action

In 1997, the Government of Japan proposed the "Zero Victim Program," initiating efforts for an anti-personnel mine ban, demining, and victim support. In July 2024, the Foreign Minister of the Japanese government announced a "Comprehensive Package of Assistance for Humanitarian Mine Action" and "the Japan-Cambodia Landmine Initiative". The package consists of three pillars: mine risk education, humanitarian demining, and victim assistance, while the initiative includes joint support with Cambodia for humanitarian mine action in third countries and the development of equipment using the latest technology.

Human Security and Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

Mine action contributes to the achievement of human security by promoting "protection" against threats to people's lives and livelihoods, as well as "empowerment" of individuals through the reconstruction and restoration of a sustainable and inclusive society. It is also essential to incorporate the perspective of the "humanitarian-development-peace nexus," which encompasses medium- and long-term recovery, reconstruction, and development efforts from the emergency humanitarian assistance phase during and immediately after a conflict.

Collaboration with other actors in the international community

The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Landmines and on their Destruction (Ottawa Treaty) addresses landmines, while the Convention on Cluster Munitions (Oslo Convention) aims to eliminate cluster munitions that often become UXO. The Japanese Government is a signatory to both conventions. JICA promotes cooperation with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), which directly implements mine action activities in countries during and immediately after conflict, as well as with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which coordinates the sector as a whole, and various NGOs and other donors.

Japanese technologies contribute to the survey and demining



ALIS, a Japanese landmine detector



A remotely operated demining robot



Awareness raising of residents



Victim assistance

Video link: JICA's peace building in Cambodia



Bridging towards
Peacebuilding
-Achievement of CMAC
and South-South
Cooperation facilitated
by JICA



Mine Action for Peace:
Rise of CMAC as Major
Partner of South-South
Cooperation and
JICA's Role



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The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is the primary international cooperation agency responsible for implementing bilateral assistance as part of Japan's Official Development Assistance. JICA collaborates with approximately 150 countries and regions worldwide.

