

JICA Global Agenda for No. 11 Peacebuilding

Strategy for Mine Action Summary



Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) works toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

1. Purpose

The objective of the Strategy is to reduce the risk of damage from landmines and UXOs by expanding the area released (land that has been confirmed free of landmines and UXOs through clearance and survey activities) and promoting EORE (explosive ordnance risk education), and to promote social participation of victims by providing necessary services. Through these efforts, the Strategy promotes the development of social infrastructure and the return of displaced people, thereby contributing to recovery and reconstruction after the conflict and for a safe, secure, and inclusive society.

While this Strategy aims to achieve Goal 16 of the SDGs "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions," particularly Target 16.1 "Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere," mine action contributes to other SDGs including poverty, hunger, and health. Moreover, mine action is an initiative to pursue human security since landmines and UXOs pose threats even after a conflict. Mine action protects peoples' lives and livelihoods and at the same time empowers people by promoting sustainable and inclusive reconstruction of society, and ultimately, contributes to the realization of a peaceful society.

2. Current Situation and Development Approaches

Landmines and UXOs threaten the lives and livelihoods of civilians, hinder the development of infrastructures and social and economic activities, and impede recovery and reconstruction. Mine action needs to be initiated during and/or immediately after conflicts. However, because the survey and clearance of landmines and UXOs takes time, medium to long-term efforts are required. The number of victims of landmines and UXOs around the world has remained around 5,000 per year in recent years. In 2022, at least 4,710 people in 49 countries and 2 regions reported casualties due to landmines and UXOs (5,544 in 2021).¹ In addition, the number of victims of unexploded cluster munitions in 2022 was 185 in 7 countries (149 in 2021).²

The international framework for landmines is provided by the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (the Ottawa Convention, entered into force in 1999, currently 164 parties), and for UXOs by the Convention on Cluster Munitions (the Oslo Convention, entered into force in 2010, currently 112 parties). As a Party to these Conventions, the Japanese government has been promoting the ban

¹ Landmine [Monitor 2023](#) ([Landmine Monitor 2023 | Reports | Monitor \(the-monitor.org\)](#))

² Cluster [Munition Monitor 2023](#) ([Cluster Munition Monitor 2023 | Reports | Monitor \(the-monitor.org\)](#))

of anti-personnel mines and support for mine clearance and victim assistance. In July 2024, then Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa announced a "Comprehensive Package of Assistance to Humanitarian Mine Action" and the "Japan-Cambodia Landmine Initiative." JICA has been assisting affected countries to improve their operational capacity in the field and the management capacity of organizations responsible for mine action so that they can implement mine action on their own. At the same time, JICA has been providing Japan-made equipment, such as bush cutter machines, demining machines and detectors. While many international organizations and NGOs conduct mine action as emergency and humanitarian assistance, JICA's assistance focuses on strengthening the national capacity of the affected countries as a part of medium and long-term reconstruction and development assistance.

3. Development Scenario and Key Concepts

The mine action includes (1) elimination of risk factors: survey and clearance of landmine and UXO, (2) avoidance of risk: EORE (explosive ordnance risk education), and (3) victim assistance. It is important that these activities are implemented in a safe (no damage to personnel involved), effective (no risk left behind) and efficient (cost-effective) manner.

To this end, the following approaches should be taken: (1) policy and planning (establishment of an organization to oversee mine action, formulation of national standards, plans and strategies), (2) situation analysis (survey of landmine and UXO contamination, information management), (3) clearance (clearance activities, provision of equipment and tools necessary for clearance), (4) reduction of risk (EORE) and (5) victim assistance (medical care and rehabilitation, technical training, employment promotion). For the clearance of landmines and UXOs, it is important to minimize negative environmental impacts such as soil contamination to the extent possible. Moreover, based on the concept of Women, Peace and Security (WPS), it is important to ensure substantive participation of women in any of the responses, and to take necessary measures to increase inclusion of women and children.

This Strategy is based on the knowledge accumulated through JICA's cooperation with the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC), which was established in 1992. JICA has provided equipment to improve the efficiency of mine action and technical cooperation to strengthen the organizational capacity of CMAC since 1998. As a result, until the early 2000s, CMAC's annual land release area was about 10 km² per year, but it reached 20 km² in 2005, 50 km² in 2010, 100 km² in 2015, and over 150 km² in 2022. The number of landmine and UXO victims, which had exceeded 2,000 persons per year until 1998, declined to less than 1,000 after the year 2000, and has continued to decline since 2012, when the number dropped below 200. It has remained around

50 persons per year in recent years.

4. Implementation Direction

(1) Strengthening the national capacity of the affected countries is at the core of JICA's assistance in mine action. National capacity encompasses the organizational and managerial capacity such as policy formulation, planning, information and data management and technical capacity, such as survey, clearance, and EORE.

(2) Support for capacity development is provided through Mine Action Platform and in collaboration with CMAC which is the leading government institution with the capacity for mine action³. JICA assists CMAC to share its knowledge and experience with other affected countries. The Platform is utilized to promote capacity building and the development of new technologies and equipment, as well as to promote knowledge sharing among the affected countries. The Platform welcomes the participation of international organizations, private companies and researchers.

- Cooperation with Cambodia: In order for CMAC to provide training to other institutions in the affected countries, JICA supports CMAC to establish and strengthen an international cooperation team and to establish a center for technologies development (trial of new technologies and equipment, preparation of SOPs and certification).
- Cooperation with countries with functioning national systems for mine action: Technical cooperation and financial assistance will be considered. Eg., ASEAN region including Laos and Vietnam, Colombia, and Ukraine.
- Cooperation with countries yet to establish functioning national systems for mine action: Trainings and CMAC's knowledge sharing opportunities will be offered for capacity building of officials of the relevant institutions. Eg., Countries in Africa.

(3) JICA's cooperation is often a combination of technical cooperation and grant aid (provision of equipment). In order to conduct surveys and clearance safely and efficiently, equipment is provided through grant aid (Japan-made mine detector and demining machine), along with operational training and support for formulating SOPs. Other schemes including loans, grassroots technical cooperation, private-sector partnership projects and volunteers will be utilized where possible.

(4) JICA strongly promotes collaboration with international organizations, including United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), UNDP as well as NGOs and the private sector.

³ With the support of JICA, CMAC has provided knowledge to Colombia, Laos, Angola, Iraq, Ukraine, and other countries since 2010, and more than 500 people have received training by 2024.

(5) Since the new technologies and equipment is expected to further improve the efficiency, safety, and quality of survey and clearance, JICA encourages and supports the development, demonstration and commercialization of new technologies and equipment by private companies, research institutions, NGOs, etc.

(6) JICA intends to contribute to discussions and advocate for mine action at occasions such as international conferences. The importance of strengthening the national capacity and the outcomes of JICA's cooperation will be shared widely together with counterparts.

5. Targets and Indicators

Final target (2040)	<p>➤ Decrease in the number of landmine and UXO victims worldwide. (Indicator) Number of victims in affected countries in which JICA is cooperating.</p>
Interim target (2035)	<p>➤ Expansion of released area in the world. (Indicator) Annual released area in countries where JICA is cooperating.</p>
Direct target (2030)	<p>➤ Information management and data systems are in place, and baseline surveys (BLS) and non-technical surveys (NTS) are conducted. ➤ Toolbox is operational, and survey and clearance are implemented effectively. (Indicators)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Operational status of information management and data systems in countries where JICA is cooperating (improvement of the quantity and quality of information and data) ✓ BLS and NTS activities in countries where JICA is cooperating (area, number of municipalities, etc.) ✓ Survey and clearance activities in countries where JICA is cooperating (area, number of municipalities, etc.)

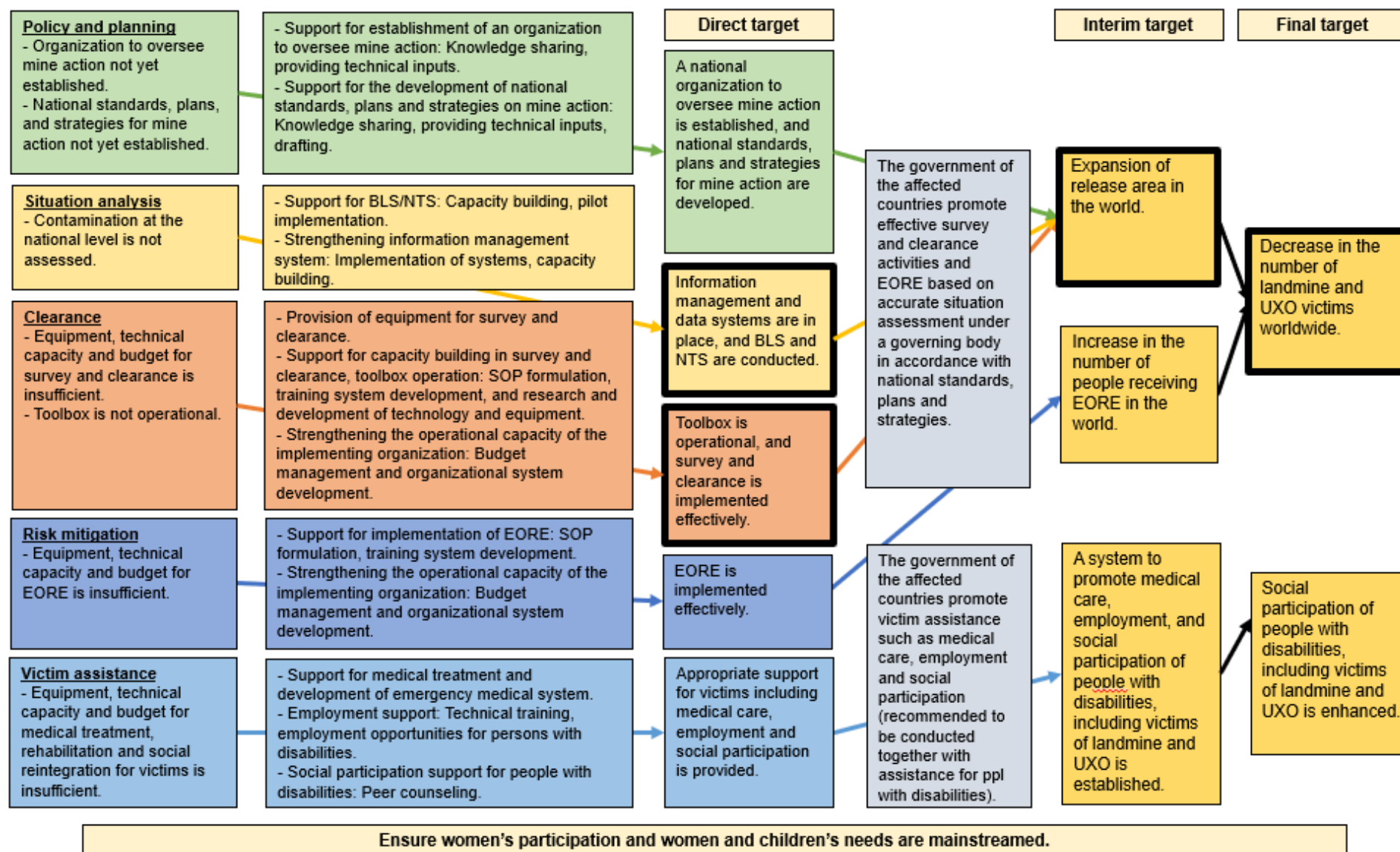


Figure 1: Conceptual diagram of the Strategy
(Bolded boxes indicate the performance targets)

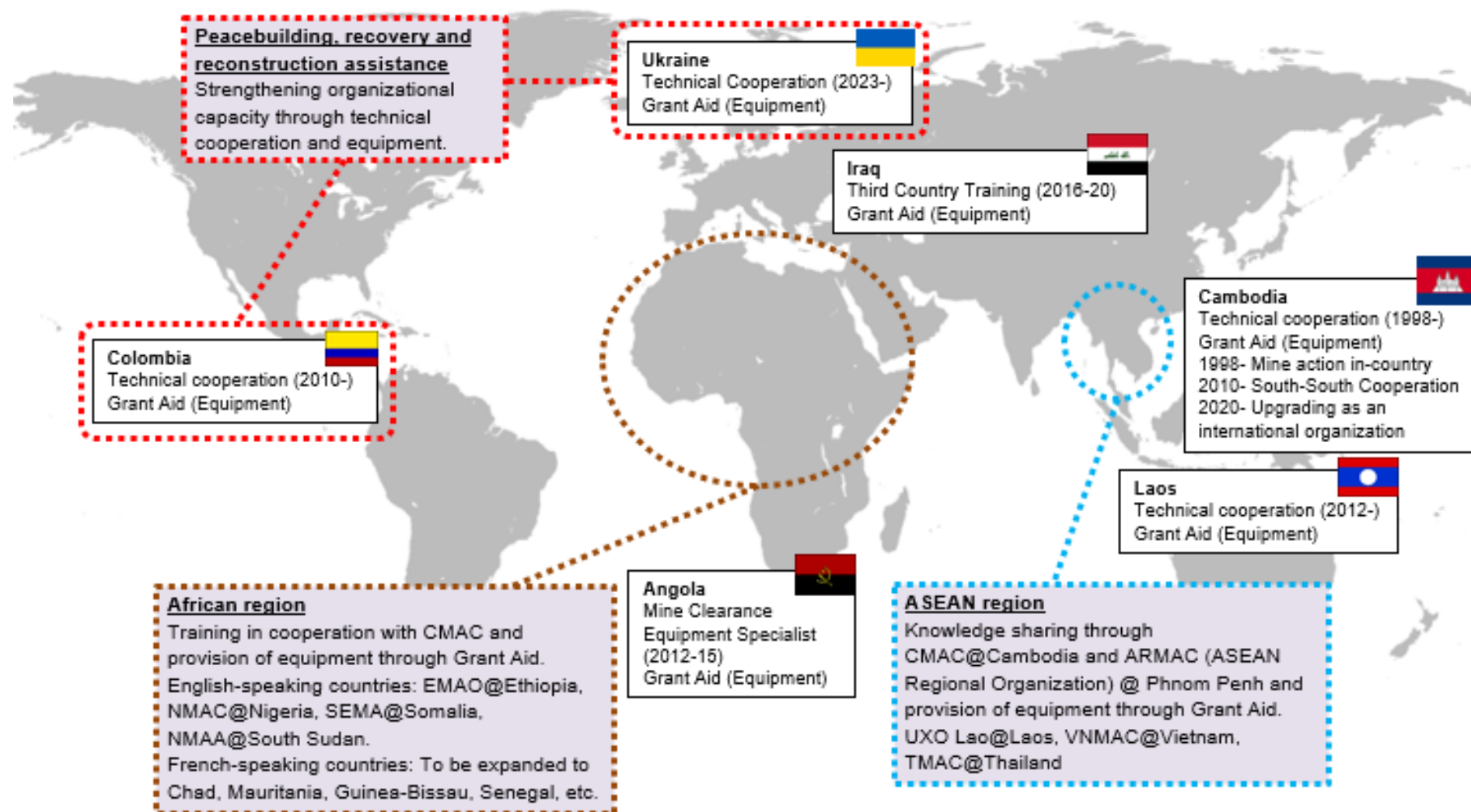


Figure 2: JICA's regional intervention on mine action (Mine Action Platform)