**IMPACT ASSESSMENT SURVEY REPORT**

**CLEARING FOR RESULTS II PROJECT 2011-2015**

**CAMBODIA 2015**

Table of Contents

Acronyms and Abbreviations.......................................................................................................................

Executive Summary.......................................................................................................................................

Introduction...................................................................................................................................................

Methodology................................................................................................................................................

Findings of the survey……………………………………………………………………………………………..

Beneficiaries…………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Ownership of cleared land…………………………………………………………………………………………

Value Chain………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

Benefits of mine clearance…………………………………………………………………………………………

Land Rights.................................................................................................................................................

Land Disputes………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

Land Size and Value……………………………………………………………………………………………….

Land Use…………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

Income Generation.......................................................................................................................................

Expenditure..................................................................................................................................................

Livelihood ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Future plans for cleared land………………………………………………………………………………………

Mine Risk Education....................................................................................................................................

Fear of Contamination……………………………………………………………………………………………..

Loan and labor market………………………………………………………………………………………………

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)................................................................................................................

Conclusion and recommendations.................................................................................................................

Annex 1 – List of villages and number of respondents…………………………………………………………

Annex 2 – Household Questionnaire………………………………………………………………………………

Annex 3 – Village Checklist…………………………………………………………………………………………

Annex 4 – Survey Calendar and Team Composition……………………………………………………………

Acronyms and Abbreviations

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CMAA | Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority  |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme  |
| CFR  | Clearing for Results Project |
| DFID  | Department for International Development |
| PCM | Post Clearance Monitoring  |
| MDG | Millennium Development Goals |
| MAFF | Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fishery  |
| SBK  | Social Business and Khmer |
| ERW  | Explosive Remnants of War |
| UXO  | Unexploded Ordnance |
| MAPU | Mine Action Planning Unit  |
| TWG | Technical Working Group |
| HHQ | Household Questionnaire  |
| ID Poor Card  | Identification of Poor |
| FGD  | Focus Group Discussion |
| CMAC  | Cambodian Mine Action Center  |
|  |  |
| IMSMA  | Information Management System for Mine Action  |

Executive Summary

After nearly three decades of war and internal conflict, Cambodia remains severely affected by landmines and explosive remnants of war. In 2003, Cambodia has adopted a special ninth Millennium Development Goal (MDGs) to clear all affected land, reduce the casualty rate to zero, and improve survivor assistance by 2015. The Government estimated in 2009 that some 649 sq km of mines contaminated land required clearance over the next 10 to 13 years.

Clearing for Results II (CFRII) is a five-year project that aims to enhance national structures and mechanisms that will ensure demining resources are effectively allocated, promoting the release of land for productive use by the poor. To achieve this, the United Nations Development Programme and other development partners are supporting the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) in leading and managing the implementation of CFRII.

This project is shared with key stakeholders through the Mine Action Technical Working Group (TWG) in line with the Royal Government of Cambodia’s principles on aid effectiveness to increase transparency and harmonization of the resources allocated to the sector. The key deliverables for the project is: (1) to ensure all resources are effectively allocated to national priorities as defined by local planning processes and maximize the land available for local development; (2) the CMAA is equipped with the technical and functional capacities required to manage, coordinate, regulate and monitor the sector within an evolving environment; (3) at least 35 sq km of contaminated land is mapped, cleared and released for productive use through local planning which promotes efficiency and transparency.

Under CFRII, the project has achieved a cumulative total of about 79 km2 of land released (May 2011 – March 2015). This represents 225% of the CFR II project target of 35 km2. CFRII has also been contributing to the decline in landmine casualties in the three western provinces it operates where contamination and a history of reported casualties had been the highest.

The project technical monitoring reports state that released lands used for agriculture (more than 88% in 2014) for housing and infrastructure such as: construction of roads, schools, temples and historical sites.

To measure impact of the CFRII II project against Cambodia’s National Mine Action Strategy (2010-2019) to reduce poverty and enhance economic growth and assess achievements of the project key deliverables the Impact Assessment survey is designed to identify the changes in human livelihoods after release of land.

The study should identify changes in livelihoods, community infrastructure and local development in the three targeted provinces: Battambang, Banteay Meanchey and Pailin.

In addition, findings and recommendations of the survey will be integrated into mine action sector evaluation in Cambodia.

INTRODUCTION

For communities living in contaminated areas, mine action sector has enabled safe access to means of production, use of public schools, settlements and better use of infrastructure and shelter. Land releasem including through mine clearance regenerated safe and sustainable livelihoods in the affected areas.

Clearing for Results II project reported its results in mine action traditional terms based on cleared square meters and number of removed unexploded ordnance or mines. Even though such quantitative information is needed for measuring the effectiveness and efficiency of mine field operators and technical achievements, they are not meaningful qualitative indicators of outcomes, particularly livelihood impact and development. The Impact Assessment should address this information gap and provide clear indicators for monitoring and evaluation and livelihood and community development aspects. Analysis of impact, especially understanding the linkages between mine action and development is still in its early stages in Cambodia, therefore the study is considered as a pilot and lessons learned for the future UNDP project Mine Action for Human Development (MAHD).

The impact assessment tools were designed to capture households and community development outcomes due to the project intervention rather than technical outputs e.g. cleared square meters or lifted mines and ERWs.

OBJECTVES

The primary objective of an Impact Assessment Survey is to provide comprehensive assessment and explore the effects of land release on human livelihoods based on evidence. These are: socio-economic benefits to communities, safety and security and the link between mine action and development processes. The study is intended to assess the changes before and after mine clearance intervention by answering the following questions:

* How cleared land is being used by beneficiaries?
* Did land clearance affect their income?
* What are future plans for released land?
* If land disputes and ownership are the issues
* Households behavior if their lands are not safe to use

 The specific objectives of the impact assessment are as follows:

* Value of land before and after clearance
* Land use
* Income generation
* Gender and labor effects
* Safety and security

METHODS

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

The survey was designed to provide statistically represented information. Data was collected from three provinces Battambang, Bantey Meanchey and Pailin. The study applied random selection technique in 21 urban and rural villages, which implies that larger village have higher probability for more interviews than smaller villages. A total of 491 households were interviewed in 21 villages. (Annex 1)

The study applied quantitative and qualitative approaches. Three main methods were applied such as: (a) household interviews, (b) focus group discussions and (c) study of relevant documents.

PRIMARY DATA: THE HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

The household questionnaire (HHQ) utilized for the household survey was designed and finalized through participation of several stakeholders. The Cambodia Social Business and Khmer Research and Development (SBK), under the supervision of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was responsible for conducting survey. Specifically, a total of 3 teams – each composed of four enumerators and one team supervisor – conducted the field work in each province. The teams participated in 2 days training course prior to data collection, including pilot testing of the household questionnaire. The HH questionnaire contained 11 sections: (1) screening - ID Poor Card information, ownership of released land and type of beneficiary; Section (2) housing; Section (3) household information and labor; Section (4) mine and ERW information, perception and benefits; Section (5) land use and productivity; Section (6) agricultural labor; Section (7) livestock; Section (8) expenditure based on additional income from released land; Section (9) assets acquired based on income from released land; Section (10) land disputes and future plan for land use; Section (11) change of occupation after mine clearance; Section (12) loan.

VILLAGE CHECK LIST

The survey gathered information from key informants using a focus group discussion (FGD) checklist. This information provided a useful context to the data collected through HHQ. The FGD contained both open-ended and coded system to score key informant answers. The FGD included 4 sections: (1) village background; (2) land contamination, risk and prioritization criteria’s; (3) impact/benefits of mine clearance; and (4) mine risk education.

In each team, facilitator was responsible for leading focus group discussion consisting of village chief, commune council, school director or teacher, village volunteers and other key informants. Note taker recorded FGDs for preparation of narrative report.

STATISTICAL ANALYSES TOOLS

The SBK was responsible for the data entry of the household questionnaire and preparation of narrative report based on FGDs. UNDP prepared format on CSPro software and then converted into SPSS for data analyses. Data cleaning and analyses were performed by UNDP using SPSS software.

Notwithstanding, the overall survey design and methodology were prepared based on the prior field visits, household interviews and discussions with community representatives to capture all aspects of land use after mine clearance and identify the value chain of livelihoods after release of land.

Some limitations need to be noted:

* **Baseline Data**

In Monitoring and Evaluation activities, the baseline study is an early element of monitoring plan. The baseline survey provides data upon which project’s progress in the generation of outputs and outcomes and impact is assessed. Information on the household level (livelihoods) was not available at the baseline stage to measure changes. Therefore, the study relied on the information provided by households on the changes in livelihoods based on the increased size of safe and usable residential or agricultural lands as a result of mine clearance. FGDs provided information on the changes and affects of land release into community development.

* **Identification of Beneficiaries**

The IMSMA (information management system for mine action) records data on the size of cleared land, number of beneficiaries based on sex and children, infrastructure and etc. However, recorded information were found inconsistent and inaccurate. Therefore, study did not rely on IMSMA and involved provincial Mine Action Planning Units (MAPUs) for identification of households/beneficiaries. Beneficiary identification were based on MAPUs land prioritization and post clearance monitoring reports (PCM).

FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY

Findings of the survey are presented below:

**ID Poor Card**

* Out of 491 respondents, only 37 percent has been identified as poor.

**Ownership of released land**

* Households and farmers own released land (nearly 97.8 percent).

**Benefits of Land Release**

* The key benefits of land release for households are safety: (1) safe land for farming; and (2) safe land for housing; and for community: (1) confidence investing in land.

**Land Disputes and Land Titles**

* Land disputes and grabbing has not been observed in any province. Hence land deputes is found to be not an issue.
* Majority of households hold Land Ownership Certificates (Soft or Hard Titles). However, 19.2 percent of respondents did not have any land titling.

**Use of released land**

* Released land is used for agricultural purposes (nearly 99.5 percent) growing crops. Types of crops cultivated on the released land are rice and cassava. Rice is cultivated for household consumption mostly and cassava for sell. The data on raising livestock is not significant.

**Income Generation**

In all three provinces, the main income from agricultural production comes from cassava while rice and maize are also income generating crops. The small share of income is from selling fruits too.

* In Battambang, the estimated average household income from agricultural production on the released land is 3,141 USD per year, which corresponds to 261.75 USD per household, per month.
* In Bantey Meanchey, the average household income is highest compared to other two provinces which is 3,969 USD per year, equivalent to 330.75 USD per household, per month.
* In Pailin, the estimated household’s average income is 3,248 USD per year, this is equivalent to 270.66 USD per household, per month.

**Expenditure**

* Food, clothes and health are the main priorities for households expenditures.

**Livelihood and Future Plans for the Use of Released Land**

* As a result of land release, majority of households started to cultivate different types of crops. Future plans for the use of released land is to use for agricultural purposes.

**Use of Land that was thought to be contaminated / fear of contamination**

* Household interviews confirmed that the majority of villagers already used land that they feared or thought was contaminated. People follow what their relatives or neighbors do. The local practice of checking if the land is safe is burning grass or letting animals to graze in the suspected land or plowing the land. The ways of addressing fear issue were reported as: (1) inform village chief and (2) inform operator MAPU. Field work from the Final Project evaluation suggests that use of suspected hazardous land, is often facilitated by informal mine clearance (referred to as threat reduction as it is not to national standards, nor done by accredited operators).

**Loan and Labor Market**

* Land certificates are the main documents that make farmers eligible for getting a loan. The amount of loan depends on the utilizable safe land. Hence, after release of safe land farmers were able to borrow more to buy agricultural inputs and hire more agricultural labor.

**Mine Risk Education**

* Households are aware of risks of mines through MAPUs and Village Chiefs. However, women awareness about risks of mines is very low as they do not attend village meetings or any other gatherings related to community issues.

**Land Prioritization Process**

* Prioritization process is well known to villagers such as informing village chiefs or MAPUs during village meetings. However, village meetings are held only one time per year. Also, FGD results records showed that women do not participate in land prioritization process due to being busy with household works.

**Gender**

* Land Titles: Soft Titles (92.3 percent) are joint titles with spouse, while Hard Titles are less joint titles (58.8 percent).
* Labor Market: due to increase of utilizable safe land, farmers hire more labor and majorities hire women for certain agricultural work, 91.7 percent of farmers reported hiring women on a seasonal basis.
* Assets: Decision for buying assets based on the additional income from released land are joint decisions with spouses (85.9 percent of households take joint decisions).

SURVEY BENEFICIARIES

The Impact Assessment interviews were conducted with households who benefitted from the CFR II project from 2011 to 2013. It was necessary to ask households at least two or three years after land release in order to measure the impact of changes. Table 1 shows the percentage of household covered in the HH interviews based on the year of land release.

**Table 1: Interviewed households based on year of land release**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Province  | **Year of Land clearance** |
| **2011** | **2012** | **2013** |
| Battambang | 62,9% | 14,1% | 23,0% |
| Banteay Meanchey | 44,2% | 47,3% | 8,5% |
| Pailin | 14,1% | 11,3% | 74,6% |
| **Total** | **50,9%** | **22,4%** | **26,7%** |

Interview respondents were 50.8 percent male and 49.2 percent female. The criteria’s for interviewing households were set as: preferably head of households and female to achieve gender balanced survey. Table 3 represents the percentage of male and female respondents:

**Table 2: Gender**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Province** | **Male** | **Female**  |
| Battambang | 44,5% | 55,5% |
| Bantey Meanchey | 55,5% | 44,5% |
| Pailin | 67,6% | 32,4% |
| **Total** | **50,8%** | **49,2%** |

In Cambodia, ID Poor Card is issued by the Ministry of Planning. The programme regularly updates information (every three years) on poor and most vulnerable households across the country. The objective of programme is to provide government and non-governmental agencies updated information about the number of poor households in the country. The identification of poor households is based on the income, assets, land size and ownership, farming, livestock, and other aspects measuring socio-economic status of households. The ID Poor Card is issued with the unique number to identified poor households. Table 3 illustrates that out of 491 households, nearly 37 percent have an ID Poor Card (in Battambang 120 out of 281, in Bantey Meanchey 34 out of 128, in Pailin 22 out of 71 households).

**Table 3: Households with ID Poor Card**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Province** | **Yes, ID Poor Card (seen)** | **Yes, ID Poor Card** **(not seen)** | **NO** **ID Poor Card** |
| Battambang | 16,8% | 25,8% | 57,4% |
| Banteay Meanchey | 6,2% | 20,2% | 73,6% |
| Pailin | 8,5% | 22,5% | 69,0% |
| Total | **12,8%** | **23,8%** | **63,3%** |

The CfR Mid-Term Review’s (MTRs) assertion that the project was relevant because it gave beneficiaries the ability to make use of previously unused or partially used land is not quite as straightforward as suggested (in part due to the numbers using suspect land as mentioned above), but the Final Evaluation and this Household Impact Study confirm that clearance *‘was vital in raising the family income’*, although not in most cases above subsistence as asserted by the MTR, bearing in mind that roughly only one third of the beneficiaries identified by the Household study were ID poor, and the vast majority were using some or all of the land cleared under CfR II, again a function of the informal private sector, and self-help village demining.

**The relevance of focusing a land release mine action project on the poor, on attempting to make it ‘pro-poor’ is questionable since the evidence revealed by both this evaluation and the UNDP household study is that almost by definition the real ‘poor’ are landless, or have only very small subsistence plots, and with only one possible exception[[1]](#footnote-1) at no time did any evidence occur to suggest that land release was ‘for the poor’[[2]](#footnote-2).** In fact to the contrary, most beneficiaries were seen to be either ‘middle class’ or ‘rich’, findings that have also been observed by other recent donor evaluations[[3]](#footnote-3). This does not make CfR II any less relevant, but rather suggests **the conceptual assumptions underpinning the project’s central output is unrealistic, and not relevant given the actual conditions existing in mine-affected villages.** CfR II, and no mine action in Cambodia, exists as a form of land / income re-distribution to the poor (who would likely either not to use sell their land anyway once cleared as they lack the capital to exploit it in an economically efficient way[[4]](#footnote-4)), and high levels of retention of land by CfR II beneficiaries shows they have the capital to benefit from clearance . This would require some form of agreed land distribution mechanism, which with the exception of the SLC procedure[[5]](#footnote-5), that is rarely enacted[[6]](#footnote-6). This also implies that there is free land, not being used because of its contaminated state. **Neither of these conditions exist in reality, and as has been seen the need to claim, clear and cultivate land to gain title is a motive for risk-taking informal clearance at village level.** Furthermore, as discussed below in the effectiveness section, the bottom-up prioritization and planning, especially the task selection processes within the commune and village, are driven more by technical considerations[[7]](#footnote-7) than any reference to social situation of the beneficiaries

ONWERSHIP OF RELEASED LAND

Figure 1 shows that out of 491 interviewed households, nearly 98 percent owned released land. For households (nearly 2 percent) who did not own released land the reason was reported as selling out land to repay loan.

**Figure 1: Do you still own cleared land?**

BENEFITS OF MINE CLEARANCE FOR HOUSHEOLDS AND COMMUNITY

The major effect of mine clearance at the household level has been reported as safety. However, safe farming (85.2 percent) is the most valued outcome as majority of households use released land for farming.

**Figure 2:** Benefits of mine clearance FOR HOUSEHOLDS

Field work undertaken in the course of the CfR II Final evaluation revealed that in all three provinces the impact of both mines and mine action (land release) were perceived to be equally concerned with human security and well-being as well as ‘livelihoods and development’. **To talk of ‘mine action for development’, as if this was isolated and entirely different to humanitarian mine action (for security and individual well-being and peace of mine – freedom from fear), would make absolutely no sense to anyone in the 12 CfR II villages surveyed in the course of the final evaluation. These findings fit perfectly with the outcomes of this Household Impact survey.** In fact, even responses received during field work on the Final Evaluation that were classed as ‘livelihoods and development’ (as revealed in Annex 3 of the final evaluation), really also contained a human security / safety aspect, since as noted in the results of this household impact study, people often referred to *more safe* land (not merely more land). In the results of the Final Evaluation this was recorded as a livelihoods impact response, but also clearly relates to security too. Not only is this in line with this HH Impact Study, but also with the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office 2015 study on the impact of mine action supported by the organization globally, cited above. **Together these results show comprehensively that the single most important outcome and impact is related to enhanced safety and security of communities threatened by landmines hazards.**

The major impact on the community has been reported as increased confidence for investing in land (55 percent). This is in line with DFID (Department for International Development) which has defined impacts of mine clearance on the local economy as: where clearance of specific sites will bring the greatest benefit to the local economy, as indicated by market development and investment in land and infrastructure. Other major impact recorded as raising more animals (45.7%).

Other 10.1 percent stated benefits such as: (1) people can farm more than before; (2) improved and easy farming; (3) feeling happy that the lands are mine free and (4) feeling safer.

**Figure 3:** Benefits of mine clearance FOR COMMUNITY

As above, an enhanced sense of security and confidence in the land, which as this study reveals translates into greatly increased land values, naturally feeds into great confidence in investing in the land.

LAND RIGHTS

In Cambodia, there are two types of land title classification such as: Hard Titles and Soft Titles. Hard titles are the strongest form of ownership and duly recognized at a national level by the cadastral office and the Ministry of Land Management. The hard title is issued by the Land Management and Planning office. Soft titles are provided by the District Office or Local Sangkat and are not registered at a national level but still considered as a possessory status. However, in practice majority of property transactions occur with soft titles to avoid ownership transfer fees and taxes.

Soft Title

The household information shows that majority of households (49 percent) hold Soft Titles, in most of the cases issued by the Local Sangkats. And 51 percent reported that do not have soft titles, major reasons were recorded as: (1) do not know the process of getting it; (2) do not need soft title; (3) applied and it’s under process.

Hard Titles

The information below illustrates that 44.2 percent of households are having a Hard Title. Interestingly, Battambang have highest number of households with hard titles (69.4 percent). Mainly, (98.6 percent) Hard Titles are issued by the Provincial Governor. Those households who did not have hard titles reported reasons such as: (1) applied under the process; (2) don’t know the process of getting a hard title; (3) too expensive; (4) cannot afford it; and (5) do not need it.

**Figure 4:** Percentage of household having HARD AND SOFT TITLES

Households without Land Titles

Figure 5 illustrates that 80.8 percent of households hold soft or hard titles. However, 19.2 percent do not own any land titles which means they don’t have any land ownership certificate.

**Figure 5:** Percentage of households with and without land titles

Figure 6 shows that nearly 92.3 percent of Soft Titles are joint title with spouses, while Hard Titles are only 58.8 percent.

**Figure 6**: Is Soft Title is a joint title with your spouse?

**Figure 7**: Is hard title is a joint title with your spouse?

LAND DISPUTES

Figure 8 illustrates that land disputes is not an issue in the three provinces. In total, 95.8 percent respondents stated that they have not experienced land disputes, grabbing or other related problems. Only 4.2 percent of households mentioned that they have experienced disputes (1) due to cash of claim with neighbor; (2) lack of valid legal documents and (3) cash of claim with local authorities.

**Figure 8** - Disputes on the released land

Field work from the CfR II Final Evaluation also revealed similar evidence. However, in one village, Ta Mang in Kouk Romiet commune, Thmar Pouk district, Banteay-Meanchay an economic concession had led to a major land dispute with local villagers. UNDP had prior knowledge of this, and had evidence that it had affected 19 suspected areas that were originally included for release in the 2014 work plan, and some of these sites affected the village of Prasant Tbaeng in Banteay Chhmar commune immediately to the north of Ta Mang village. Although FGDs were held in the course of the Final Evaluation in both village, the land dispute was only mentioned in Ta Mang. UNDP removed the sites from the 2014 work plan, although some suspected areas within the economic concession had been cleared previously under both CfR II (by CMAC) and by other operators with donor funding in the area. Some of the economic concession was converted on appeal to social concession land, and handed back to the villagers, and further research is currently being undertaken on this issue (due to be completed by end of December 2015).

LAND SIZE AND VALUE BEFORE AND AFTER THE CLEARANCET

There was no baseline study on the exact size and value of household’s utilizable land before clearance. However, people had fresh memories (from 2011 to 2013) on their lands size before the land release. Farmers stated that the value of their land is higher due to increased productivity as they can use their entire land, thanks to clearance. Hence, clearance enabled households to utilize their land in its full potential, subsequently increasing agricultural productivity, that in turn affected value of their lands.

**Table 4:** Size of land before and after clearance

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|   | province |
| Battambang | Banteay Meanchey | Pailin | Total all provinces |
| Mean | Mean | Mean | Mean |
| Size of residential usable land before clearance | 0,3 | 0,1 | 0,2 | 0,2 |
| Size of residential usable land after clearance | 0,4 | 0,3 | 0,2 | 0,3 |
| Size of agricultural land before clearance | 1,4 | 1,1 | 1,7 | 1,3 |
| Size of agricultural land after clearance | 2,6 | 3,3 | 2,6 | 2,8 |

It is noticeable that in two provinces the size of residential land increased, and in all provinces the size of agricultural land increased after land release, represented here as clearance. These results are likely to be the result of actual clearance, as usually where land has been cancelled (through NTS) or released (through TS) there would be little discernible difference in land area being used (since even suspect land is often used, as documented above). The fact that formal clearance by CfR II has resulted in such an increase in agricultural land is highly significant, and illustrates that although the informal private sector may have opened up sufficient land for subsistence, clearance by the formal sector has made a substantial further contribution. The informal sector, that includes self-help demining by farmers themselves, as well as the work of paid private contractors, may avoid high-risk minefields and many examples were found in the course of the field-work for the final evaluation where the informal sector had cleared part, but not all of a farmer’s land. Evidence from field work in the final evaluation suggested that part-clearance of a farmer’s contaminated land, in order to give ‘enough land’ to subsist on, was quite common, and would explain why formal clearance can add value, and release still more land, increasing the land area available. There were other examples however where villagers either through self-clearance or by paying the private sector, established large plots on hazardous areas as a means of staking a claim to the land (it had to be under cultivation and occupied in order to establish such a claim during the 1998-2001 window before the passing of the Land Law.) **These findings are highly significant though, and illustrate that although farmers have both self-cleared, and used the private informal mine action sector to access land, and continue to farm land they consider hazardous (often with evidence of mines turning up, especially during ploughing), the formal mine action sector does contribute and have impact in terms of increasing the availability of safe land for farming.** In other cases, evidence from the field work on the final evaluation suggested that villagers using suspect land, cultivated in ways designed to limit the risks, and that once clearance by the formal sector had taken place they were confident to cultivate the land differently, especially with regards to the use of power ploughs and tractors. In turn these changes greatly enhanced efficiency and productivity of farming undertaken on the land. Therefore, even in instances like these where there is no increase in the area of land available for agriculture, the way in which it is being farmed may be far more efficient, directly enhancing livelihoods and community development.

Collected information illustrates significant increase on the value of land after the release of safe lands. This also shows the link between size and value of released land – bigger portions of land clearance resulted in higher value of residential and agricultural lands. Table 4 & 5 illustrate changes in prices after project intervention, in each province.

**Table 5:** The value of Residential Land before and after clearance

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Province  | Price (before) clearance (per ha) - USD | Price (after) clearance (per ha) - USD | Increase %  |
| Battambang | 455 | 2837 | 524% |
| Bantey Meanchey  | 158 | 1524 | 865% |
| Pailin | 696 | 3396 | 388% |

**Table 6:** The value of Agricultural Land before and after clearance

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Province  | Price (before) clearance (per ha) - USD | Price (after) clearance (per ha) - USD | Increase %  |
| Battambang | 446 | 2454 | 450% |
| Bantey Meanchey  | 298 | 1925 | 546% |
| Pailin | 597 | 3244 | 443% |

LAND USE

Table 7 demonstrates that nearly 100% of households use released land for agricultural purposes. Raising livestock reported more in Battambang while people in Bantey Meanchey and Pailin do not practice much raising livestock. The data below represents both housing and agricultural beneficiaries.

**Table 7: Use of Released Land**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Land Use** | **Battambang** | **Bantey Meanchey** | **Pailin** |
| Count | % | Count | % | Count | % |
| growing crops | 205 | 99,5 | 121 | 99,2 | 54 | 100,0 |
| raising livestock | 49 | 23,8 | 4 | 3,3 | 6 | 11,1 |
| renting to other farmers | 1 | 0,5 | 0 | 0,0 | 0 | 0,0 |
| other | 2 | 1,0 | 1 | 0,8 | 0 | 0,0 |

Rice is the most important agricultural commodity in Cambodia and the staple food of the Cambodian people. Figure 9 and Table 8 show that rice cultivation is dominant in Bantey Meanchey (71.9 percent) and Battambang (44.8 percent) while in Pailin, people grow more cassava (45.1 percent). This could be explained by close proximity of Pailin to Thai borders. Farmers reported that there is high demand for cassava from Thailand for the last two years, therefore farmers cultivating more cassava on a seasonal basis and selling the crop through intermediaries.

**Figure 9:** Cultivated crops on the released land, in all provinces, for the last 12 months

**Table 8**: Cultivated Crops on the cleared land, by province, for the last 12 months

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Battambang** | **Banteay Meanchey** | **Pailin** | **Total all provinces** |
| Rice | 44,8%19,9%33,5%2,5%37,0%26,7% | 71,9%55,5%2,3%0,0%8,6%4,7% | 19,7%45,1%26,8%2,8%56,3%42,3% | 48,3%33,1%24,2%1,9%32,3%23,1% |
| Cassava |
| Maize |
| Sesame |
| Fruit tree |
| Other |

INCOME GENERATION

To estimate income generation on the released land, farmers were asked the proportion of cultivated crops for sell and for household consumption.

Currently cassava is identified as one of the priority export strategy by the MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries). The data indicates that cassava comprises the largest share of crops for sell in all three provinces. According to the UNDP Need Assessment Report 2014, the total production in the top six provinces (Battambang, Pailin, Kampong Cham, Banteay Meanchey, Kratie and Kampong Thom) represents about 76% of the total national production. Market opportunities in China, Vietnam and Thailand are major driving forces for these changes. Tables 10; 11 and 13 represent crops for sell in each province, income has been calculated per household , per month based on total yield and price per kg.

In Battambang, the estimated average household income from agricultural production on the released land is 3,141 USD per year, which corresponds to 261.75 USD per household, per month.

**Table 10:** Battambang – cultivated crops for sell, for the last 12 months

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Crops | BattambangTotal yield (Kg)(average) | Price kg USD(average) | ValueUSD(average) |
| Rice | 551 | 0.54 | 302 |
| Cassava  | 10707 | 0.11 | 1247 |
| Maize  | 4340 | 0.19 | 862 |
| Sesame  | 182 | 1.82 | 235 |
| Fruits  | 320 | 0.46 | 148 |
| Other  | 429 | 0.80 | 347 |
| **Total** | **3,141** |

In Bantey Meanchey, the average household income is highest compared to other two provinces which is 3,969 USD per year, equivalent to 330.75 USD per household, per month.

**Table 11:** Bantey Meanchey – cultivated crops for sell, for the last 12 months

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Crops | Bantey MeancheyTotal yield (Kg)(average) | Price kg USD(average) | Value  USD(average) |
| Rice | 1524 | 1.76 | 2684 |
| Cassava  | 15817 | 0.06 | 1051 |
| Maize  | 100 | 0.25 | 25 |
| Sesame  |  0 | 0 | 0  |
| Fruits  | 1004 | 0.20 | 209 |
| Other  | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **3,969** |

In Pailin, the estimated household’s average income is 3,248 USD per year, this is equivalent to 270.66 USD per household, per month.

**Table 12:** Pailin – cultivated crops for sell, for the last 12 months

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Crops | PailinTotal yield (Kg)(average) | Price kg USD(average) | Value  USD(average) |
| Rice | 214 | 0.24 | 52 |
| Cassava  | 18243 | 0.09 | 1755 |
| Maize  | 5463 | 0.15 | 835 |
| Sesame  | 50 | 1.26 | 63 |
| Fruits  | 165 | 1.04 | 173 |
| Other  | 597 | 0.61 | 370 |
| **Total** | **3,248** |

Crops for household consumption, for the last 12 months

Rice is the largest part of cultivated crops for household consumption. According to the Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey (2004) rice is the most important food item in the daily diet of Cambodians. Rice accounts for almost two‐thirds of the total caloric intake, following by fish (8% of caloric intake). Hence, the project provided basic ground for increasing agricultural productivity. Farmers reported that advances in productivity – are a result of improvements made in seed quality, fertilizer application, and as well as the provision of agricultural extension services and technical assistance provided by the project.

**Figure 10**: Total yield (Kg) for household consumption, for the last 12 months

EXPENDITURE

Figure 11 shows households expenditures based on their priorities, people consider food as the main priority for the expenditure (97.6 percent). Also, clothes (48 percent); female health care (43.0 percent) and male health care (42.7 percent) were reported as the main income expenditures.

**Figure 11**: Income spent based agricultural income, all provinces for the last 12 months

The results of the households expenditure shows that 40 percent of households spent their additional income from land clearance based on the assets.

**Figure 12:**  Have you bought any assets based on the additional income from released land, for the last 12 months.

**Figure 13:** Type of assets purchased based on the additional income from land clearance

Respondents were asked if buying assets were joint decision with the spouses, for which 85.9 percent reported that assets acquired were based on the joint decision with their spouses. Figure 14 provides evident data on the decision making within households.

**Figure 14** : Who made decision to buy these assets?

CHANGES IN LIVELIHOOD

Data below presents that 74.9 percent of respondents started to grow different types of crops as a result of land clearance, 38.8 percent of stated increase in rice harvest and 30.1 percent raising more livestock, 25.3 percent stated growing more vegetables and fruits and only 2 percent started to raise fish.

**Figure 15:**  As a result of land clearance, have you changed your livelihood?

HOUSEHOLDS PLANS FOR THE USE OF CLEARED LAND IN 5 YEARS

In the future, majority of households plan to use their land for agricultural purposes. Qualitative information on households showed that due to decreasing soil fertility, crop cultivation characterized by shorter rotations compared to traditional system, therefore farmers change type of cultivated crops due to land exhaustion (55 percent of households).

**Figure 16:** Households plans for the use of cleared land in 5 years

MINE RISK EDUCATION

Cambodian Mine Action Authority conducts series of educational activities aimed at raising awareness about mines and ERWs danger, promotes behavior changes through training and liaison with communities. Objectives of awareness campaign is to reduce risk to people, environment and properties. Households were asked about awareness of mine and ERWs risk and sources of campaigns to verify the level awareness in contaminated areas. Figure 17 demonstrates that in the average 98 percent of households received information about the risks of mines and ERWs.

**Figure 17** Have you received any information about the risks of mine/ERW?

These figures reveal the saturation of MRE in mine affected communities, such as would be expected at such a mature phase of the Cambodian programme. The Final Evaluation recommends that UNDP and its donors do not support any further MRE in the target provinces, as those who remain vulnerable to mine and ERW hazards are highly unlikely to adjust their risk-taking behavior solely on the basis of information that leads to changes in knowledge. Studies that recommend more MRE to mitigate the risks of incidents with ATMs (resulting on taking old roads or ploughing suspect areas) are seen as naively optimistic. Such risk-taking is engaged in for economic reasons, often in full knowledge of the risks. It is therefore unlikely that MRE will have any impact, or change behavior in this regard. MRE is still required for children, to mitigate against vulnerability that does come from sheer ignorance of the risks, and should be mainstreamed through the school curriculum such as has been the practice in Cambodia for many years.

Figure 18 indicates that as a sources of information, mine clearance operators are the main players (76.5 percent), village chiefs and/or commune councils (nearly 61 percent), and relatives/friends (32.1 percent) and posters, signposts and leaflets (31.8 percent) are also one of the main awareness raising actors in the field.

**Figure 18**: Source of information

FEAR OF CONTAMINATION

Collected information illustrates that people are still not free from the fear of landmines. The reasons for having a fear was recorded as lack of confidence that the land is safe (84.5 percent), have seen or found suspicious item (51.2 percent) and heard of accidents in the neighborhood (28.6 percent) and other reasons (12.6 percent).

**Figure 19**: Fear that community land or areas are still contaminated

ADDRESSING A FEAR ISSUE

Respondents were asked if they know how to address the fear or risk issues. Majority of households mentioned: (1) inform village chief (79.4 percent), (2) inform operator MAPU (18.7 percent), and (3) don’t know what to do (0.4 percent).

USE OF LAND THAT WAS THOUGHT TO BE CONTAMINATIED

This question was included as many farmers during field visit interviews mentioned that they still use or have used their land that they feared or thought was contaminated. The local practice of checking if the land is safe is burning the grass, letting animals to graze in the suspected land or ploughing the land. The information received from household’s interviews confirmed that 83.5 percent of household used their lands that they feared or thought was contaminated.

As noted above, beneficiaries have routinely accessed and used suspect land prior to formal land release, including clearance. Often this has been because they know the area has been ‘threat-reduced’ [[8]](#footnote-8)by the informal sector, either by the farmers themselves through burning or informal clearance, or through hiring paid private deminers. There is much evidence from previous research and reports (such as a study commissioned by HI in 2005) about the work of this informal private sector. However, threat-reduced areas are not ‘cleared’ to National Standards, and the residual risk in these areas is far higher than land that has been released according to proper processes specified in National Standards, Thus, whilst threat-reduced land is safer, hence the relatively very low accident rates given that the vast majority of people have been using suspect land for agricultural purposes, it is still land that people fear, or use differently (no power ploughs or tractors, only hoes etc) to mitigate perceived risks. Finally, it should be noted, as stressed in the Final Evaluation that *some* classes of mines (such as the Type 69, POMZ etc) now have very low levels of functionality. Operators report that hazardous areas with such low risk mines are routinely being farmed across. However, other mines – such as the PMN or PMN2 – should be considered high-risk mines and remain highly functional.

**Figure 20**: Were you using you land that you feared or thought was contaminated by mines or ERWs before clearance?

The main reasons of using contaminated lands before clearance were recorded as: (1) neighbor or other village residents are doing the same (34.1 percent); (2) used some parts of land that thought was not contaminated (32.7 percent); (3) due to farming needs (28.6 percent); (4) thought that the risk was not serious (13.6 percent); and (4) other reasons (33.2 percent).

These findings indicate that despite of knowing the danger and mine risks, households still use locally practiced traditional ways that they believe reduces the risk.

 LOAN AND LABOR MARKET

Questions on Loan and Labor Market were included into HHQ as field interviews prior to the design of the survey showed connection of these aspects with mine clearance and land release. Majority of farmers (78.1) percent get a loan on a regular basis from the local financial institutions. One of the main documents of getting a loan is land certificates. The size of utilizable safe land make farmers eligible for certain amount of loan. As farmers practice borrowing money from financial institutions for many years this shows that farmers have positive loan repayment records.

**Figure 21:**  Do you get a loan on a regular basis?

Main three reasons for taking loan were as follows: (1) to buy agricultural inputs (80 percent), (2) hire agricultural labor (22.4 percent) and (3) to cover health expenses (20 percent).

**Figure 22**: Reasons for getting a loan

Nearly 81.9 percent of households said that their loan amount depends on their loan size and data shows that 78.8 percent stated that they have been able to borrow more as a result of land clearance. As mentioned above, there is strong correlation between increase in land size and loan amount. Micro Finance Institutions and banks are the main sources for the loan.

**Figure 23**: Does your loan amount depend on your land size?

Figure 25 shows that land titles are the main document required by micro finance institutions and banks. Thus, loan amount depends on the size of utilizable safe land. As “Other” required document which made 25.3 percent households mentioned: (1) family book; (2) nationality ID card; and (3) group loan.

**Figure 24**: Main document required for getting a loan

Agricultural Labor

Disaggregated data by province shows that in all provinces farmers hire more labor due to improved agricultural productivity resulted from the increased size of utilizable safe land. Quantitative information revealed that farmers hire more labor for for cultivating cassava on a seasonal basis.

**Figure 25** - Do you hire more labour since your land was cleared?

Field observation and interviews revealed that farmers hire women for certain agricultural works on the released land. Figure 26 supports this observation through quantitative data, which shows that 91.7 percent of farmers hire women for farming works.

**Figure 26**: Do you hire women labor for agricultural/farming works?

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were held with community representatives such as: village chiefs; commune councils, school teachers and directors, village volunteers and other community representatives in Battambang, Bantey Meanchey and Pailin. Each FGD consisted of 9 to 12 community representatives. FGDs were organized and held by facilitators and note takers. The subjects for discussions were as follows: (1) livelihood constraints (2) land prioritization process; (3) benefits of mine clearance; (4) role of women in land prioritization process; and (5) mine risk education.

Livelihood constraints

Community representatives mentioned livelihood constraints such as: natural disasters, effects of climate change and decreased demand for rice. People from Bantey Meanchey stated that natural disasters caused less agricultural production which consequently affected farmer’s abilities to repay their loans. In Bantey Meanchey and Pailin land contamination was not mentioned as livelihood constraint but people mentioned that they don’t have confidence that community roads are safe to use as they still hear of accidents in neighborhood or find suspicious items. Also, Battambang community representatives stated that Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC) did not clean all mines and they suggest that CMAC should address this issue.

Land prioritization process and role of woman in land prioritization process

Representatives from Pailin, Battambang and Bantey Meanchey highlighted the process of land prioritization. In practice, village or commune chief invite people to join village meeting where discussion held about contaminated or suspected areas and proposal for land clearance is submitted to CMAC or MAPU for demining. However, Battambang and Bantey Meanchey representatives reported that village meetings held only one time a year. Also, FGDs participants mentioned that women does not participate in land prioritization process and do not attend village and other community gatherings due to being occupied with household works.

Benefits of mine clearance

Construction of new roads, short proximity to health centers and construction of new schools - increased access to education in villages, cultivation of different types of crops, increased income due to improved agricultural productivity and feeling safer - were mentioned as community benefits from mine and ERW clearance.

Mine Risks and Awareness

FGDs information shows that villagers believe that men is in more in danger compared to women, as men does most of the agricultural works and have an increased exposure through going to forests and cultivating contaminated lands. Records show that villagers do not have confidence that agricultural and other community lands are fully safe to use.

Community representatives believe that awareness for risks and mine education is higher in men compared to women as majority of men in the villages used to be soldiers and they know about danger of mines and how to address the risks, while women are not equally aware and educated about risks. However, they believe that women education is important as they could pass the knowledge or message about risks of contamination and danger to children.

The results of scoring women mine risk education were rated in all three provinces as - poor.

Suggested methods of awareness campaigns were as follows: posters and leaflets in schools, TV or radio broadcasts, and campaigns during local festivals. And recommended regularity for awareness campaigns was - three times a year.

Annex 1 – Survey list of provinces, villages and number of respondents

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **province** | **village** | **Number of Respondents** | **Percent** |  |  |  |  |
| **Battambang** |  Prey Pen | 13 | 4.6 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  Kilo | 24 | 8.5 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  Pchev | 41 | 14.6 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  O Trav chou | 21 | 7.5 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  Chrang Kpos | 23 | 8.2 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  Ta Toak | 40 | 14.2 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  Veal Rolim | 25 | 8.9 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  O Nonoang | 18 | 6.4 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  Plov Meas | 23 | 8.2 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  Kork Roka | 53 | 18.9 |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Total** | **281** | **100.0** |  |  |  |  |
| **Banteay Meanchey** |  Tamang | 31 | 24.2 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  Prasat Tbeng | 16 | 12.5 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  Dong Rek | 22 | 17.2 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  Khvav Lech | 7 | 5.5 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  Domnak Kokos | 8 | 6.3 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  Banteay Timuy | 24 | 18.8 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  Don Noy | 20 | 15.6 |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Total** | **128** | **100.0** |  |  |  |  |
| **Pailin** |  Veal Cheng | 20 | 28.2 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  Kon Damrei | 10 | 14.1 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  Sre Anteak | 11 | 15.5 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  Kro Chab | 30 | 42.3 |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Total** | **71** | **100.0** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. In Chaeng Village, Chay Meanchay, Banan, a local official suggested that land was given ‘to the handicapped, the rich and the poor with no discrimination’ which was taken to be evidence of some form of distribution of cleared land for the poor, but in fact appears possible to read as another statement of the fact that clearance tasks are typically selected on technical, and not socio-economic factors, and that even in mine-affected areas there is no free land, apart from at extremities of what remains of the ‘frontier’. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The poorest typically constitute 5-10% of village populations in the target areas of the project, and these were the proportions observed during the course of field work, although in some villages – such as Tamang, in Thmar Pouk district, Banteay-Meanchay – as many as 45-50% of families were described as having no or not enough land, and having to make a living by foraging in risky areas. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *Mostly cash crops (corn and cassava are being cultivated in decontaminated and released land and most of the produce is being sold into the Thai market through local traders. The increase in available land is also said to be providing higher profit to traders and to agri-shops who are local retailers of agribusiness products. The people surveyed believed that the “middle class” and “rich families” are the ones who are benefitting most from this development. Poor households are seen to be receiving indirect benefit through increased opportunities for agricultural labour, closer to their homes. Labourers were also said to have benefitted from the demining of the land of “middle class” families because they see their exposure to risk of mine accidents diminish’*, 3. Community Impact of MA Programme, 3.1 Key Fundings, Cambodia DFID Country Mission Report, 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. *‘There are instances where land is released but remains unused despite handover to poor and/or landless beneficiaries. In some cases, beneficiaries engage in seasonal labour migration, leaving the land temporarily due to, for example, a lack of irrigation or developmental support, and then return when weather conditions are more conducive to cultivation. In other cases, households opt to move permanently due to the lack of infrastructure or other agricultural support in place, post-land release. These households are simply too poor to cultivate or otherwise use the released land to sustain their livelihoods. The vacated land is left vulnerable to seizure or competing claims by the State or third parties’.* p. 14, *Doing No Harm? Mine Action and Land Issues in Cambodia* GICHD Report, September 2014 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. It is possible that the Phnom Teckar Phnom Chaa 317 site in Svay Chek District, Banteay-Meanchay province, that has consumed so many CfR II resources, is such a SLC, although it appears to be still under the control of the military. See discussion of this in Annex 6 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. *There are cases where landless families have settled on State property that is contaminated. They reside on and/or cultivate the land despite knowing the risk of mine/ERW contamination, in order to meet their socio-economic needs. People who have settled on State private property after the legislative cut-off date (i.e. August 2001 cannot claim possession/ownership rights. In other cases, people have settled on contaminated land that is classified under the Land Law as State public property, such as forests or riverbanks, which means it cannot be privately owned. Mine actors continue to encounter problems in releasing this type of land only to find it cannot be officially allocated to intended beneficiaries during the handover process. The beneficiaries thus remain highly insecure and vulnerable to forced eviction despite the considerable survey/clearance assets used to provide them with safe land for their housing and/or livelihood needs.* ***In rare instances, State property has been allocated to landless households through a Social Land Concession (SLC .*** *For State public property, it is necessary to first reclassify the land as State private property – an additional slow administrative step. While CMAA has intervened in a small number of cases to have State property reclassified and allocated as an SLC to intended beneficiaries of clearance, this mechanism has been used only in exceptional circumstances and is not standard practice. Indeed, few SLCs have been granted in Cambodia to date due to lack of political will and the high cost of supporting poor families to productively use newly allocated land. SLCs could, however, be granted more systematically to provide tenure security post clearance for households already using the land in question, as it is unlikely to require the same level of developmental support as would be necessary for families newly resettled on allocated land.* p. 12, *Doing No Harm? Mine Action and Land Issues in Cambodia* GICHD Report, September 2014 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Distance of SHA from the residential area was the most important criteria mentioned, although as the DFID study reveals as well, issues of operator access, safety and site suitability for technical assets seemed to be more important than community need in determining actual allocation of tasks. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Threat reduction is used here in reference to the work of the ‘informal private’ mine action sector (individual private de-miners, sometimes called village deminers, and more organized groups working commercially within a low-priced Cambodian market place for mine action services . Threat-reduction refers to the physical elimination of threat items (mines and items of ERW from an area, but without the level of confidence that comes from clearance to national standards. Threat-reduction in mine action was the way HALO Trust referred to its mobile teams focused on reducing the risks of travel on roads in Angola and elsewhere in the mid-2000s. The did not claim their processes were road clearance as such, but rather sought to reduce the number of threat items on the roads, and therefore the overall risk, to broadly acceptable levels, whilst accepting there remains a residual risk. The advantage of this type of process is that it can make a rapid difference risk levels over a far greater amount of road network, in a relative short period of time. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)