

# Midterm Review Report Clearing for Results IV: Mine Action for Human Development



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FINAL REPORT for UNDP

Colleen McGinn and Mia Chung  
Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (ISET)



<b>Project/outcome Information</b>		
<b>Project/outcome title</b>	Clearing for Results IV: Mine Action for Human Development	
<b>Corporate outcome and output</b>	<p><b>UNDAF/CPD Outcome:</b> By 2023, women and men in Cambodia in particular those marginalized and vulnerable, benefit from expanded opportunities for decent work and technological innovations; and participate in a growing, more productive and competitive economy, that is also fairer and environmentally sustainable.</p> <p><b>CPD Output 1.3:</b> Left-behind, &amp; mine-affected, communities have access to mine-free land for better livelihoods (GEN 2)</p>	
<b>Country</b>	Cambodia	
<b>Region</b>	Southeast Asia	
<b>Date project document signed</b>	26 July 2019 (original) 7 October 2022 (amendment)	
<b>Project dates</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Planned end</b>
	01 January 2020	31 December 2025
<b>Project budget</b>	US\$ <b>20,827,863</b>	
<b>Implementing party<sup>1</sup></b>	Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA)	
<b>Evaluation information</b>		
<b>Evaluation type (project/outcome/thematic/country program, etc.)</b>	Project	
<b>Final/midterm review/other</b>	Midterm review	
<b>Period under evaluation</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>
	01 January 2020	31 December 2022
<b>Evaluators</b>	Colleen McGinn	
<b>Evaluator email address</b>	colleenmcginn@hotmail.com	
<b>Evaluation dates</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Completion</b>
	18 October 2022	31 January 2023

<sup>1</sup> It is the entity that has overall responsibility for implementation of the project (award), effective use of resources and delivery of outputs in the signed project document and workplan.

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## List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

APMBC: Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

CFR: Clearing for Results

CFRIII: Clearing for Results Phase 3

CfRIV: Clearing for Results Phase 4

CMAA: Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority

CMAC: Cambodian Mine Action Centre

CMAS: Cambodian Mine Action Standards

CPD: Country Program Document

DFAT: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia)

ERW: Explosive Remnants of War

FGDs: Focus Group Discussions

GEDSI: Gender Equality Disability and Social Inclusion

GMAP: Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan

GMS: General Management Support

IMAS: International Mine Action Standards

KIIs: Key Informant Interviews

KOICA: Korean International Cooperation Agency

MAG: Mines Advisory Group

MAPU: Mine Action Planning Unit

MEL: Measurement, Evaluation and Learning

NMAS: National Mine Action Strategy

NSDP: National Strategic Development Plan

NTS: Non-technical Survey

NZAid: New Zealand Agency for International Development

ODA: Official Development Assistance

PMS: Performance Monitoring System

Prodoc: Project Document

RGC: Royal Government of Cambodia

RS: Rectangular Strategy

ToR: Terms of Reference

UNDAF: United Nations Development Assistance Framework

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

UXO: Unexploded Ordnance

VA: Victim Assistance

## Executive Summary

<b>Quality Standards and Assurance Ratings</b>
<b>Relevance:</b> <i>Satisfactory</i> (3 points)
<b>Effectiveness:</b> <i>Exceeds Expectations</i> (4 points)
<b>Efficiency:</b> <i>Satisfactory</i> (3 points)
<b>Sustainability:</b> <i>Less Satisfactory</i> (2 points)
<b>Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion:</b> <i>Satisfactory</i> (3 points)

### **Background**

Cambodia's landmine contamination stems from protracted conflicts that affected the country from the mid-1960s until the end of 1998. More than 65,000 human casualties in Cambodia since 1979 can be attributed to mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), and the number of casualties has increased in the past decade. Poverty and landmine contamination overlap in Cambodia, landmine contamination often correlates with poverty. The mine action sector is well-developed in Cambodia, dating to 1992. Now in its fourth phase, the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) project Clearing for Results (CfR), implemented by the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA), has been supporting the Royal Government of Cambodia's (RGC) mine action efforts since 2006.

### **Purpose of Review**

This midterm review of the UNDP project, Clearing for Results Phase IV (CfRIV) has assessed its relevance, effectiveness, results, efficiency, impact, sustainability, gender and other cross-cutting issues, and partnerships. The review draws from diverse sources of evidence, and is intended to inform the remainder of this phase of the intervention, including by making recommendations and identifying lessons learned, good practice and strategies, based on evidence to be used to further improve results and project delivery. The primary audience for the results of the review are CfRIV project staff, donors (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia [DFAT], Korean International Cooperation Agency [KOICA], New Zealand Agency for International Development [NZAid], and UNDP), and partner CMAA.

### **Findings**

Overall, CfRIV is strong, sound, effective, and is delivering results. Stakeholders are to be commended for their dedication and commitment to ridding Cambodia of its remaining landmines. The project has matured over a generation of mine action partnership. Trust, teamwork, and professionalism is high, and Cambodia is recognized worldwide for its work in the landmine arena. The project also exhibited adaptive management and flexibility to meet the unexpected demands posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Output 1: Support land release of 73.85 m<sup>2</sup> of mine affected land through survey and clearance.* The project has effectively and efficiently cleared landmines. The cost of demining is subsidized

via donated equipment, which gives a sense of greater economic efficiency than is perhaps warranted. Use of non-technical surveys (NTS) can further enhance efficiency. The national commitment to be mine-free by 2025 should be regarded as aspirational. Reaching this target remains in reach, but is not likely to be met without an increase in funding. Future planning should take this into account.

One area for improvement in landmine removal is greater prioritization on the environment. The new Cambodian Mine Action Standards (CMAS) draft chapter on the environment is welcome, but many stakeholders are unaware of the contents of this document. Moreover, it focuses on issues within minefields themselves (e.g., if a landmine is tangled in a tree root). There is opportunity to better address the negative unintended consequences of landmine removal on the environment broadly: for example, if a pathway is cut through a forest to enable access to a minefield; doing so may enable illegal logging. As mine action in Cambodia necessarily shifts from agricultural areas to ones that are less settled, environmental considerations will become increasingly paramount.

*Output 2: Affected and vulnerable populations provided with expanded opportunities for decent livelihoods, inclusion, and wellbeing in accordance with national development priorities.* The interest in linking mine action to development pathways is well recognized. While project documents articulate *ambition* toward forging broader pathways toward sustainable human development benefits, these have not been translated into practice. However, the project has made important, targeted strides toward improving its work on gender equality, disability, and social inclusion (GEDSI). The project has especially expanded its work on victim assistance, including social services and livelihood training for landmine victims and their families. Strides have been made to make gender mainstreaming more meaningful across the project.

*Output 3: Strengthened mine action sector management and national capacities that address residual threats.* Technical assistance alongside financial resources has yielded powerful and diverse results. With the Cambodian authorities set to take the lead on demining in the country, there is opportunity to ensure that learning is reaching middle, technical, and provincial levels, to ensure sustainable and long-term operation. The chief current constraint is not technical capacity, but realistic planning, especially regarding timeframes, resources, and the gap between aspirational goals and operational practicalities.

### **Lessons Learned**

As the sun sets on the landmine sector in Cambodia, it is imperative to begin transition planning in a thoughtful, strategic, and realistic way. There are signs that the landmine sector is unprepared to systematically downsize operations, or to raise or manage funds independently.

Aspirational targets may inspire, but operational targets must be grounded in practical constraints and existent budgets. It may be useful to distinguish between the principled aims in the Maputo Declaration, and realistic projections about when Cambodia will be mine-free with reference to current resources.

The current strategy to declare villages, districts, and provinces mine-free is sensible, and moreover it yields important development dividends. However, the dissenting minority position

that priority should be driven by landmine contamination is also valid. The split within the landmine sector in Cambodia is unhelpful and all parties are encouraged to work together more constructively. Moreover, clearing the K5 belt is imperative and urgent within the Cambodian context, as this is currently the greatest concentration of landmines – and landmine accidents. The Prime Minister’s recent statements to open up K5 are welcome indeed.

Investing in GEDSI yields important dividends, from both victim assistance and broad-based development perspectives. The “whole family” approach to victim assistance has been suitable and warmly welcomed by families affected by landmines.

Data collection – including on the development impacts of mine clearance – *must* be accompanied by data analysis and pro-active pursuit of opportunities to improve the effectiveness of mine action – and to magnify development impacts. However, as the landmine sector in Cambodia is transitioning to a residual risk context, it is probably too late to pursue new initiatives to improve linkages between mine action and sustainable development.

While the humanitarian benefits of landmine clearance are unequivocal, there are side effects and unintended consequences that may cause harm. It is arguable that chief among these – especially in the Cambodian context – is potential environmental impact. While the sector has made improvements in recent years, it deserves higher priority.

Roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis various parties are not always clearly delineated, and structures may not be fit-for-purpose as the landmine sector downsizes in Cambodia. While this has not been a source of major problems to date, as UNDP transitions from mine action in Cambodia, it is likely that subtle tensions may be exacerbated. Moreover, important issues are being sidestepped by all parties. For example, CMAA has enjoyed senior-level government support for a generation, but it has become top-heavy for a phase-out and residual risk context, and the separation of policy/coordination and operations has arguably become inefficient. The separation between government landmine agencies (including CMAA, the Cambodian Mine Action Centre [CMAC], and military) may not be fit-for-purpose for a sector that is, happily, shrinking. While UNDP focuses on technical assistance, it is arguable that the more important priority going forward should be change management and consolidation, but this is seen as outside of UNDP’s mandate.

## **Recommendations**

Please see Table 1 below.

Table 1: Table of Recommendations

Recommendation	Proposed Entity	Timeframe
1. CfR is highly recommended to continue in the coming years.	UNDP and donors	Medium
2. NTS is highly effective and efficient and should be embraced as a key to Cambodia's landmine sector.	CMAA, donors	Immediate
3. Recent statements by Prime Minister Hun Sen which imply re-opening of the K5 belt to landmine clearance are welcome. All parties are encouraged to engage in high-level advocacy and practical planning to address K5 as a matter of priority.	All parties involved in mining sector, including UNDP, CMAA, donors,	Immediate
4. Cambodia's new CMAS draft chapter on the environment has the potential to guide more effective safeguarding within the landmine sector. However, environmental considerations deserve higher priority and awareness among national stakeholders. UNDP and CMAA should revisit and improve its risk management and safeguarding materials, which do not adequately recognize the harmful 'side effects' that landmine removal poses for the environment. It also does not address environmental impacts of demining beyond minefields themselves, for example that clearing pathways to access them may indirectly encourage deforestation.	UNDP	Immediate
5. In regard to linking mine action to sustainable development, there is a mismatch between the ambitions and the actual scope of the CfRIV project. UNDP and its partners are encouraged to better articulate development ambitions, and with it the expected CfR budget, workplan, and partners for "area" programming. However, it should also consider the timeliness of programming around these linkages; it may be more appropriate to invest in transition planning than expanding at this time.	UNDP, donors, CMAA	Immediate
6. As the sun sets on the landmine sector in Cambodia, it is imperative for the next phase of the project to prioritize sustainability and handover, including through the development of an transition strategy. While arguably outside the scope of CfR and UNDP's sphere of control, it is nevertheless important to consider whether national institutions and structures fit a residual risk context, and if not, how to 'rightsize' them.	CMAA, UNDP	Now to 2025



<p>7. Landmine clearance operations in Cambodia have been highly effective. Nevertheless, Cambodia is <i>not</i> on track to be mine-free by 2025. All parties are encouraged to distinguish between aspirational and operational aims, and to consider resource implications of various scenarios.</p>	<p>All parties, including CMAA, UNDP, and donors</p>	<p>Now to 2025</p>
<p>8. Efforts should continue to ensure that capacity building and institutional strengthening are properly reaching technical, middle-level, and provincial staff.</p>	<p>CMAA</p>	<p>Now to project end</p>
<p>9. CfR should consolidate and further build upon its work to strengthen gender, disability, and social inclusion programming</p>	<p>UNDP, CMAA</p>	<p>Now to project end</p>



Figure 1: Warning signs in Khmer and English. Photo by Colleen McGinn

## I. Introduction

The review was conducted to assess United Nations Development Programme’s (UNDP) project, Clearing for Results, Phase IV (CfRIV, or “the intervention”) for relevance, effectiveness, results, efficiency, impact, sustainability, gender and other cross-cutting issues, and partnerships. This is a midterm review, as indicated by the project Measurements, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) plan, which is intended to inform the remainder of the implementation of the intervention, including by making recommendations and identifying lessons learned, good practice and strategies, based on evidence to be used to further improve results and project delivery. The project review addressed these issues as per the terms of reference (TOR), and modified by client input. The primary audience for the results of the review are CfRIV project staff, donors (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade [DFAT], Korean International Cooperation Agency [KOICA], New Zealand Agency for International Development [NZAid], and UNDP), board members, and partner Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA).

This report begins with a description of the background context and intervention, followed by a summary of the review scope and objectives, as well as the approach and methods. An analysis and findings follows, and the report concludes with conclusions, recommendations, and lessons learned. Report annexes are referred to within the body of the report, and appear at the end of the report.

## II. Background, Context and Description of the Intervention

### Background and Context

Cambodia’s landmine contamination is the result of a protracted sequence of internal and regional conflicts that affected the country from the mid-1960s until the end of 1998.<sup>2</sup> The northwestern regions bordering Thailand – known as the K5 belt – have some of the highest concentrations of anti-personnel (AP) mines in the world. This region is especially highly concentrated with landmines, and where most landmine accidents currently occur.<sup>3</sup> Other areas of the country, mainly in the east, have been impacted primarily by the presence of explosive remnants of war (ERW), including cluster munitions.

More than 65,000 human casualties in Cambodia since 1979 can be attributed to mines and ERW. In the past decade, the number of casualties increased, reportedly due to agricultural expansion to previously wild areas, and increased use of tractors. This underscores the continued risk mines and ERW pose to farmers. Clearing potential agricultural areas has significant potential to reduce rural poverty for local populations.<sup>4</sup> Indeed, there is strong overlap between landmine contamination and hardship in Cambodia. Landmine contamination often coincides with highly

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<sup>2</sup> Parts of this chapter have been adapted directly from CfR’s internal documents.

<sup>3</sup> Swiss Development Cooperation, 2022. Mine Clearance in Cambodia (Phase II). Available at: [https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjzLfPyy78AhVrSGwGHauIB-sQFnoECBEQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.eda.admin.ch%2Fcontent%2Fdam%2Fcountries%2Fcountries-content%2Fcambodia%2Fen%2Fmine-action-factsheet\\_2022\\_EN.pdf&usg=AOvVaw1g-Cy464oNrqaJfJm9a7X](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjzLfPyy78AhVrSGwGHauIB-sQFnoECBEQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.eda.admin.ch%2Fcontent%2Fdam%2Fcountries%2Fcountries-content%2Fcambodia%2Fen%2Fmine-action-factsheet_2022_EN.pdf&usg=AOvVaw1g-Cy464oNrqaJfJm9a7X)

<sup>4</sup> UNDP, 2015.

populated poor provinces, including Pailin, Battambang, and Banteay Meanchey. Thus, clearance can enable sustainable human development.

The humanitarian mine action sector in Cambodia is mature, dating back to 1992. With support from the international donor community, over the past thirty years the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has prioritized addressing landmines and ERW throughout the country. To ensure proper management, effectiveness, and efficiency of the mine action sector, the RGC established the CMAA by Royal Decree in 2000. The CMAA is mandated to coordinate, monitor, and regulate demining and ERW clearance activities and assistance to mine/ERW victims. Demining activities were fully operational by 2000 with four main operators: the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC), the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and HALO Trust. Development partners have also entered the sector by financing clearance operators and technically supporting the CMAA.

Cambodia has a strong and sound policy framework to address landmines and other ERW. The RGC has embraced the following mine-specific commitments:

- The Maputo +15 Declaration<sup>5</sup>, aiming to “intensify efforts to complete the country time-bound obligations with the urgency that the completion work requires.” With this, Cambodia “aspires to meet the goals [of the Maputo +15 Declaration] to the fullest extent possible by 2025”.
- In 2015, the RGC committed to a country-specific Sustainable Development Goal – Cambodian Sustainable Development Goal 18 (CSDG 18) to “end the negative impact of mines/ERW and promote victim assistance”.<sup>6</sup>
- In December 2017, the government approved a National Mine Action Strategy (NMA) 2018-2025, aligning itself with the Maputo +15 Declaration. The NMA is also in line with the Government Rectangular Strategy 2019-2023 (RS) and the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2019-2023, both approved a year later. The RS places good governance center-stage, and prioritizes human resource development, economic diversification, private sector implementation and inclusive and sustainable development. The NMA outlines eight goals that aim by 2025 to release all known mine and prioritized cluster munitions contaminated areas, minimize the residual risks caused by ERW, and advocate for the rights and services of landmine and ERW survivors and indirect victims. The NMA is clustered around two phases with Phase I covering 2018 to 2022 and Phase II covering 2023 to 2025. The NMA is implemented through its three-year implementation plans (current 2021-2023).

Cambodia’s global commitments to landmine removal have been applied to national development strategies. Five pillars of mine action are laid out in the NSDP 2019-2023. They are:

- Education about landmines and ERW;
- Mine and ERW clearance;

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<sup>5</sup> Mine Action Review, 2021. Clearing the Mines 2021. Accessed on May 20, 2022. Available at: [https://www.mineactionreview.org/assets/downloads/Cambodia\\_Clearing\\_the\\_Mines\\_2021.pdf](https://www.mineactionreview.org/assets/downloads/Cambodia_Clearing_the_Mines_2021.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> Open Development Cambodia, 2020. SDG Cambodia Mine/ERW free (online). Accessed on May 23, 2022. Available at: <https://opendevelopmentcambodia.net/topics/sdg-18-cambodia-mine-erw-free/>.

- Victim assistance;
- Supporting the fighting with the use of mines against humans; and
- Destruction of the warehouse of mines against humans.

Mine action is placed under the banner “Section 6.1: Promotion of Agriculture Sector and Rural Development,” the goal of which is “to strengthen the role of the agriculture sector in generating jobs, ensuring food security, reducing poverty, and developing rural areas.” Although ERW are not explicitly mentioned in this section, it is nevertheless included as a focal area within the document including “strengthening the management of economic land concessions; continuing the clearing of landmines and unexploded ordinances; and carrying on work related to the grant of social concession lands to poor households for family-based farming” as a key focus of the RGC. This grouping of priorities suggests that the RGC frames demining within the context of economic development. Meanwhile, the NSDP authorizes the CMAA with oversight of mine action in Cambodia.

The CMAA itself is guided by its own documents, including a Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan (GMAP) which was updated in 2021 and now runs the period of 2021-2025. The GMAP is operationalized through the revised 2021 Guidelines on Gender Mainstreaming in Mine Action in Cambodia, and is linked to Goal 8, Objective 3 of the NMAS 2018-2025, as well as the Operational Guidelines on Mine Clearance Operations and Social Development Management, which sets out roles and responsibilities of relevant players in the sector as well as a workflow, protocols, and standard forms for actions. CMAA has been leading the revision of the nationalized Mine Action Standards (CMAS), which now includes draft chapters on gender, the environment, and victim assistance. CMAA has also developed Mine-Free Village Guidelines, a briefing paper on baseline survey and non-technical survey, a briefing paper on quality assurance and quality control, and a briefing paper on post-clearance monitoring.



*Figure 2: Rice. Photo by Colleen McGinn*

As of April 2022, Cambodia’s mine action sector had collectively cleared and released 2,379 km<sup>2</sup> of contaminated land; and destroyed 1,136,494 anti-personnel mines, 26,014 anti-tank mines, and 2,997,328 items of ERW, including cluster munitions. However, the deadly legacy of unexploded ordnance and other ERW contamination has restricted livelihood activities, hindered development, and caused more than 65,000 human casualties, including nearly 20,000 deaths and over 9,000 amputations since 1979.



## Description of the Intervention

Nationally implemented through the CMAA, the Clearing for Results (CfR) project has been supporting the RGC's mine action efforts since 2006, clearing and releasing 306.77km<sup>2</sup> of mine affected land for use by communities for livelihoods and service provision, representing over 12% of the sector's achievements over 30 years. CfR's Phase 1 began in 2006; over the years, its work has encompassed mine clearance, institutional strengthening to Cambodia's government mine action efforts, victim assistance (VA), and related endeavors.

CfRIV (2020-2025), financed by the RGC, Australia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, and UNDP, has committed to support the transition of a humanitarian-driven mine action sector to one that utilizes the results of mine action to support targeted action for poverty reduction and human development. The project embraces support for mine/ERW clearance and land release, forging of pathways for accelerated development in villages that have been declared mine-free, and capacitating the national regulation and coordination capacity in the demining sector for sustainable residual threat management. It is aligned with the NMAS 2018-2025. The expected next phase of CfR may be the final one, serving as a transitional strategy as the Cambodian government assumes full leadership.



Figure 3: CMAA team members. Photo by Colleen McGinn

Nationally, mines and ERW are still present across 1,992 km<sup>2</sup>, of which 716km<sup>2</sup> is contaminated by landmines. In addition to threatening lives and limbs, landmines and ERW compromises development opportunities. CfRIV currently focuses on Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, and Pailin; these three provinces are all pocketed with landmines, are highly populated and characterized by poverty. The pressure to cultivate risky land and/or encroach forest areas puts these populations at high risk of landmine-caused casualties. Indeed, these provinces collectively account for 48% of all reported casualties in Cambodia since 1996.

Cambodia has made impressive achievements in landmine removal, under CfRIV and other funding sources. However, international best practice in landmine action increasingly recognizes that clearance is a necessary but not sufficient condition for catalyzing development investments, and that development benefits are magnified when landmine operations are coordinated with development agencies. This means recognizing that discrete demining action, while necessary, may not be a sufficient condition to trigger socioeconomic development.

Developed at the request of the RGC, and building on the achievements and lessons learned from previous phases, CfRIV focuses its work around the following three workstreams:

- Output 1: Support land release of 73.85 m<sup>2</sup> of mine affected land through survey and clearance;
- Output 2: Affected and vulnerable populations provided with expanded opportunities for decent livelihoods, inclusion, and wellbeing in accordance with national development priorities; and
- Output 3: Strengthened mine action sector management and national capacities that address residual threats.

The project approaches this through two channels:

- 1) The provision of technical and advisory assistance for survey and clearance, quality assurance, data collection and capacity building on technical issues such as data analysis and gender mainstreaming in mine action; and
- 2) Financial assistance from UNDP and donors for land release, victim assistance, and livelihood development to supplement available resources from the Government.

CfRIV has reached towards such national commitments as: Mine Free Cambodia by 2025: NMAS Goals 1, 2, and 3; Mine Action as a Catalyst for Development: NMAS Goals 4, 5, and 8. Cambodia has enhanced institutional capacity to address residual threats post 2025 and pursue the 2030 Agenda: NMAS Goals 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8. It is also intended to contribute to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2019–2023 Outcome 2: By 2023, women and men in Cambodia, in particular those marginalized and vulnerable, benefit from expanded opportunities for decent work and technological innovations; and participate in a growing, more productive and competitive economy, that is also fairer and environmentally sustainable; and the UNDP Country Program Document (CPD) Output 1.3: Left-behind and mine-affected communities have access to mine-free land for better livelihoods. In other words, the project is aligned with national strategies.

The project assumes no change in the operating and policy environments (e.g., government policy and support around mine action stays the same, assets not misappropriated, trained staff remain, CMAA continuing to prioritize in the same manner), and that there are no unintended outcomes as a result of land clearance (e.g., communities are able to use released land; intended beneficiaries do in fact receive benefit).

CfRIV fundamentally represents a partnership between CMAA and UNDP. Other stakeholders include:

- Development partners (including Australia, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea);
- Landmine clearance operators (especially CMAC, and to a lesser extent MAG, Norwegian People's Aid, and HALO);
- NGO implementing partners (Cambodia Disabled People Organization, Battambang Disabled People Organization, People with Disabilities Foundation, International Committee of the Red Cross, Trauma Care Foundation);
- Royal Cambodian Armed Forces; and
- Regional and international bodies, most significantly ASEAN Regional Mine Action Centre and ASEAN – Department of Political and Peacekeeping Affairs.

The CfRIV project has a budget of USD 20,827,863. The breakdown of allocations is indicated in Table 2 below. The bulk of the financial resources have been directed toward landmine clearance operations. This is in line with evaluations of CfRIII, which has indicated both that the value for money of the land release and clearance portion of the project was strong<sup>7</sup>, and that resources should not be redirected *away* from clearance.<sup>8</sup>

*Table 2: Total Resource Allocations*

<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount (USD)</b>
TRAC <sup>9</sup>	504,952
AUS/DFAT	5,317,818
DFAT (balance from CfRIII)	151
KOICA	9,146,628
New Zealand	3,858,314
Government (10%)	2,000,000
Unfunded	N/A

Prime Minister Hun Sen has made recent and critical statements that imply that the K5 minefield belt along the Thai border will be re-opened for more intensive landmine clearance.<sup>10</sup> This location has been off-limits to operators since 2020, when a ban on landmine operations along the Thai border (initially within 5 km, later expanded to 7 km) was instituted, with border sensitivities cited. The expulsion of operators from K5 has been a source of widespread frustration in the landmine sector, especially as K5 is where both landmines and casualties are most heavily concentrated. Moreover, achieving commitments to be mine-free are impossible without intensive operations across this belt. As one stakeholder commented, “if we’re not clearing K5, then we’re not clearing Cambodia at all.”

### Design Weaknesses and Implementation Constraints

The chief constraint encountered during CFRIV was the COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted operations, strategizing, and policy development across Cambodia’s landmine sector and beyond. Nevertheless, CMAA and its partners demonstrated adaptive management. Targets were met despite intermittent interruptions, and operators report clear and specific measures to maintain national and international health and safety standards and protocols. The second operational constraint was the ban on operating in K5, which has undermined all attempts to reach the Maputo Declaration commitment.

UNDP project design is centered around transitioning the Cambodian mine sector in two ways. One intention is to shift from humanitarian demining towards an integrated approach that addresses poverty reduction and human development. There is, however, a mismatch between

<sup>7</sup> Denika Blacklock and Chey Tech. 2018. Clearing for Results Phase III (CfRIII): Mine Action for Human Development – Mid-term Review.

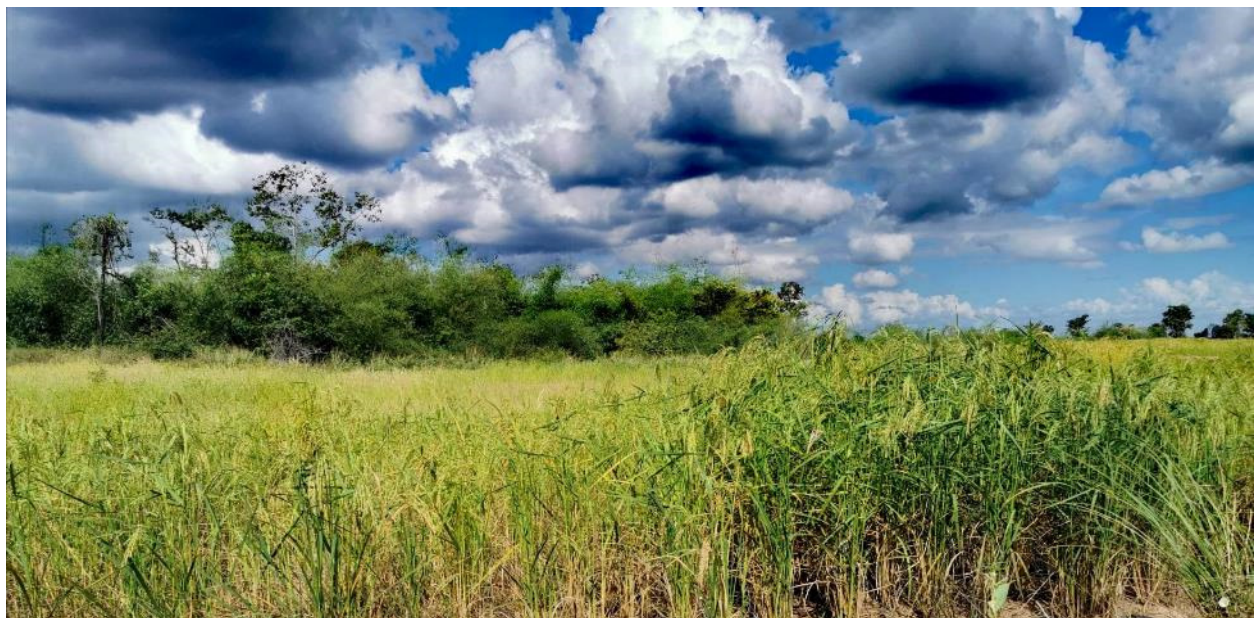
<sup>8</sup> Colleen McGinn. 2019. Final Evaluation Report: Clearing for Results – Phase 3.

<sup>9</sup> UNDP. 2020. ProDoc Amended. Donor totals rounded up to the nearest dollar.

<sup>10</sup> UNDP. 2022. Clearing for Results IV: Quarter 2 Progress Report – April-June 2022.

ambition and implementation. While the original Project Document (“ProDoc”, signed July 2019) indicates a commitment to enabling and enhancing development, and the amended ProDoc (signed October 2022) expands on this commitment somewhat, CfRIV’s Results Framework, funded workstreams and indicators reflect a more traditional, narrowly focused landmine agenda. The project does, however, include a greatly expanded VA workstream which includes medical, social services, and livelihood training opportunities for landmine-affected families. Secondly, the project is intended to transition the Cambodian government into full leadership of the Cambodian demining program. As the Cambodian government increasingly assumes responsibility for landmine action and international technical and financial support declines, it is appropriate to prepare national stakeholders for independent action to address residual risks beyond 2025, including international fundraising and reporting. Yet it is also important to note that at this stage of mine action in Cambodia, the emphasis is on winding down. It may well be too late to intensify efforts to bridge mine action with UNDP development planning, especially given that CMAA does not yet have any mandate within the Cambodian government to do so.

The Results Framework includes indicators for all levels of expected outputs, including at the UNDAF outcome level, the UNDP Strategic Plan Output level, and at the project level. Output indicators are consistently specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound or SMART, but need to be interpreted alongside qualitative evidence to evaluate the higher-order results. The Theory of Change is straightforward and clear, as is the results framework. However, there is a mismatch between the narrative aspirations about CfR being a “catalyst for development” and the much more modest and bounded workstreams that support that aim. Gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) mainstreaming, VA including livelihood training, and documenting socioeconomic impact are all important efforts. Moreover, they are performing well and delivering results. They do not, however, constitute a bundle of interventions that represent a “catalyst for development.” The project Theory of Change and Results Framework can be found in Annex 5.



*Figure 4: Former minefield cleared under CfRIV. Photo by Colleen McGinn*



### III. Review Scope, Objectives, and Methods

#### Review Scope and Objectives

The objectives of this review (as specified in the TOR, attached as Annex 1) are to:

- Assess the relevance, effectiveness, results, efficiency, impact, sustainability, gender and other cross-cutting issues; and
- Identify the lessons learned, good practice/strategies and recommendations which can be used to further improve results and project delivery.

The specific objectives of the midterm review are to:

- Review the relevance of the CfRIVs strategy, design and implementation arrangements in today's development context while also considering future challenges. This includes overall relevance of the CfRIV in the national and local context;
- Evaluate the effectiveness of CfRIV in achieving its objectives and mitigated risk during each year of its three years of implementation to date;
- Provide practical recommendations concerning the improvement of future project effectiveness;
- Assess the results achieved by CfRIV;
- Assess efficiency of the project by comparing benefits of CfRIV with the budget. The review will provide practical recommendations regarding how to improve the efficiency, as required;
- Analyze how capacity has been developed and how project achievements contribute to future strengthening of capacities;
- Assess how the project's achievements contribute to sustainability through engaging appropriate government, non-government and community level stakeholders;
- Review how the project engaged other partners on potential synergies and strengthened sectoral coordination; and
- Assess the project's contribution of and visibility to strengthening gender equality, disability, and social inclusion across institutional, operational, and beneficiary levels.

#### Review Methods

This midterm review (MTR) focuses on assessing the relevance, effectiveness, results, efficiency, impact, sustainability, gender and other cross cutting issues namely human rights and disability, and partnerships of the project, particularly in terms of:

- Development context;
- Project implementation and risk management;
- Project intended results;
- Budget;
- Capacity building;
- Stakeholder engagement;
- Synergetic engagement; and
- GEDSI.

Evaluation research, in general, seeks to address two overarching questions (Pringle 2011)<sup>11</sup>:

- *Are we doing things right?* Is implementation going smoothly, are targets being met, is money being managed appropriately and so forth? These questions demonstrate *accountability*, i.e., that the program is doing what it is expected to. This question can be largely answered by *monitoring*, for example in quarterly and annual progress reports, and sound management practices.
- *Are we doing the right things?* Is this intervention really making a difference? Is the underlying strategy strong and sound? How is this intervention effectively addressing adaptation? What have we learned from this program that can be useful to others? They are more like applied research studies which tackle bigger questions and generate evidence which is useful to others. These questions are well beyond the scope of monitoring; they should instead be the focus of an evaluation.

This project review emphasizes the second question (“are we doing the right things”) by focusing on higher-order results, impact, and lessons learned which can be applied to remainder of the project by CfRIV’s various partners going forward. The review rests on a strong evidence base and is led by qualitative inquiry, particularly key informant interviews with stakeholders in Phnom Penh, Banteay Meanchey, and Battambang, but triangulated with available documents and secondary quantitative data. It has been noted that the logframe includes clear quantitative indicators, but they do not fully capture project’s “soft” components. Data was analyzed both inductively and deductively.

### ***Document Review***

The following key documents were reviewed:

- Project documents (ProDoc, annual reports, etc.);
- Technical reports produced by project affiliates (e.g., Performance monitoring system report, baseline impact assessment report);
- National strategies (namely NMAS), with review of alignment with other national and international policies; and
- Relevant published papers and literature.

The Evaluator was stricken with dengue fever partway through the review, and so her Indonesia-based qualified colleague, Mia Chung, stepped in to assist with desk review, interview scheduling, editing, and other tasks, so that the review could still meet its contracted timeframe. Ms. Chung also assisted with addressing comments on the December draft. A full list of documents is available as Annex 4.

### ***Fieldwork and Data Collection***

Key Informant Interviews (KIIs): were primarily conducted in early November, and included in-person and online interviews, together with a brief field trip to Banteay Meanchey and

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<sup>11</sup> P. Pringle. 2011. *AdaptME Toolkit for monitoring and evaluation of adaptation activities*, [online]. United Kingdom Climate Impacts Program (UKCIP), Available from: <http://www.seachangecop.org/node/116>

Figure 5: Minefield. Photo by Colleen McGinn



knowledgeable about. The Evaluator transcribed each interview nearly verbatim, in order to preserve the participants' perspectives most authentically. All Phnom Penh-based interviews were conducted in English. A translator accompanied the Evaluator in the provinces. The Evaluator processed interview notes systematically utilizing simplified grounded theory conventions to highlight key insights, add analytic "memos", and distilling each into a short list of main messages, findings, and recommendations from each separate interview. Findings were triangulated with available quantitative data, gleaned from project monitoring and other reports, the CMAA database, and online sources.

### ***Ethical Considerations***

This review was mindful not to distress participants by treading on sensitive personal information or experiences. Informed consent was verbally introduced at the beginning of each conversation. Participants were informed about how data (and photos) would and would not be used, and that they could leave at any time or decline to answer any questions.

### ***Limitations of the Methodology, Data, and Framework***

Qualitative inquiry is a highly interpretive exercise, grounded in the Evaluator's expertise in listening to a diverse set of voices and crafting a coherent single narrative and set of concrete recommendations triangulated from across informants and sources. A *limitation* of qualitative research, of course, is that it is difficult to pinpoint precise numeric achievements beyond those which appear in existing project documents and databases. The review was also necessarily restricted by available resources – for instance, this review was *not* resourced for independent quantitative data collection. In addition, time was a limited resource – made more limited when

Battambang. The KII sample was purposive, i.e., informants were selected because of their knowledge of the project. KIIs included a spectrum of stakeholders, including the implementing and other partners, UNDP, donors, and other agencies active in Cambodia's landmine sector. In most cases, two or three representatives from each unit or agency attended each meeting. It is suggested that UNDP take a more pro-active role to support evaluation fieldwork.

This review was not resourced for primary collection of quantitative data.

### ***Data Collection Procedures, Instruments, and Analysis***

The Evaluator is highly trained and experienced in qualitative research methods. The interviews were supported by a semi-structured guide (see Annex 3), but each interview was unique, and focused on what the participant(s) was most

the Evaluator was struck with dengue fever – and so she focused on the most salient points to strike an appropriate balance between depth and breadth.



Figure 6: CMAC staff in Banteay Meanchey. Photo by Colleen McGinn

## IV. Analysis and Findings

### Analysis

#### **Key 2022 Project Targets from CfRIV**

Area of mine-affected land released: 73.85km<sup>2</sup>  
 Percentage of annual minefield’s size surveyed through Non-Technical Survey as per LR-NTS contract: 21%  
 Number of people benefitting from cleared and released land (disaggregated by gender) 150,440 (1,169,698 / 50% female)  
 Number of mine/ERW victims or family members benefitting from livelihood development opportunities through access to skill training: 495 (20% women)  
 Number of students registered to study physiotherapy (PT) course at the University of Health Sciences and prosthetic and orthotic (PO) course at the Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics: 34 (30% women)

*See Annex 8 for complete table of indicator data*



Globally, mine action programs aim to contribute to four broad goals:

1. Reduction of mine/ERW casualties;
2. Poverty reduction;
3. Socio-economic development; and
4. Compliance with international commitments and norms.<sup>12</sup>

Overall the project is strong, sound, and mature. It is achieving important results: removing landmines is a humanitarian imperative, and one that constitutes a necessary (although not sufficient) condition for poverty alleviation and integrated rural development in some of Cambodia's poorest and most remote communities. The CfR project has made important strides to support Cambodia's mine action sector, although there are opportunities for improvement. This review concludes with a brief summary of the project's performance against UNDP's standard evaluation criteria. A rating (ranging between 1 and 4 points) is awarded based on the Evaluator's overall assessment of the project's performance.

*Relevance: Satisfactory (3 points)*

The CfRIV project concept is highly relevant to RGC and UNDP's aims and policies. Communities that inhabit areas with landmines are literally and figuratively crippled. In addition to the threat to lives, limbs, and peace of mind, landmines inhibit development. Examples include:

- It may be impossible to construct basic infrastructure like roads, water systems, electricity connections, and schools;
- Children cannot play freely;
- Animals must be fenced and fed rather than allowed to roam and subsist naturally;
- Property values are marginal; and
- Farmers are unable to fully use their land.

Cambodia's remaining landmines endanger the lives and compromise the livelihoods of the people living in their midst. Although CfRIV is not a typical UNDP development project – nor should it be – it does indeed *enable* sustainable human development. Moreover, development considerations do influence key decision-making, namely which areas are prioritized for landmine operations. There is, however, something of a mismatch in expectations surrounding whether and to what extent CfRIV can, should, or is prepared to build more explicit pathways from landmine clearance to private or public development interventions. Doing so would reflect trends within the global landmine arena, and be more consistent with UNDP's own aspirations. In sum, we have a ProDoc with sweeping declarations (e.g., being a “catalyst for development”), but modest scope of work to advance it. This can be seen as a flaw in the theory of change rather than the project itself. Moreover, it is arguable that as Cambodia moves towards a residual risk context, now is not the right moment to broaden the scope of action. Moreover, CMAA is not the right government vehicle to pursue broad-based sustainable development. Stakeholders are encouraged to critically

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<sup>12</sup> Paterson, Samriteha, & Vanny 2017.

consider how CfRIV can and should fit within these wider agendas, who would be the right partners, and to align expectations with resources.

*Effectiveness: Exceeds Expectations (4 points)*

The CfR project is highly effective. Landmine removal is, ultimately, the heart of the project and in this arena CfRIV excels. Significant contaminated areas have been completely cleared of landmines; other areas with suspected contamination have been released to communities based on NTS. The project has exceeded expectations on its core metric: square kilometers of landmined areas that are now confirmed to be safe. Stakeholders are rightfully proud of this achievement. Going forward, there is opportunity to consolidate and build upon these gains through enhanced use of NTS to released settled areas that do not exhibit evidence of current risk, and to intensify operations in the K5 belt.

CfRIV has contributed ongoing support to CMAA which is widely appreciated. This work encompasses formal capacity building, technical advisors, financial oversight, and monitoring/reporting. Meanwhile, field-level operations include community-level outreach and landmine education, but these results are not captured by the current reporting structure.

The NMAS is a strong document, and the process of developing it demonstrates strong leadership, ownership, and capacity at senior national levels. However, the aim to clear Cambodia of all known landmines by 2025 should be regarded as aspirational rather than operational. It is possible to meet this target, but not probable – a point which stakeholders exhibit mixed understanding about, and appear unprepared to plan for this scenario.

*Efficiency: Satisfactory (3 points)*

CfR is widely (although not universally) considered to be financially efficient, particularly because the cost of landmine clearance is below global rates. There are, however, confounding factors that are likely to exaggerate this, including equipment subsidies that artificially deflate the financial accounts. There are dissenting voices that CfR is inefficient insofar as the areas that are prioritized for landmine clearance are *not* usually those with the most landmine contamination (nor the most accidents). Ultimately, there is no right or wrong answer to these questions, but rather complex choices. As Cambodia moves towards mine-free status we can be confident that all will be cleared within the near future.

The prioritization process is clear and defensible. However, it is undeniable that development-led prioritization does imply certain economic inefficiencies simply because there are operations in locations with low risk or casualty rate. NTS can and should be used to increase efficiency. Meanwhile, it is imperative to address K5 promptly and aggressively within the existent strategies. This is a delicate matter, but all signs are that key stakeholders are sidestepping rather than addressing what is quite possibly the most important matter in Cambodian mine action today. A second opportunity to improve efficiency is to better coordinate data collection and information sharing on the development impacts of demining *with* other government agencies; it is a common problem in Cambodia for multiple government agencies to duplicate data collection and analysis efforts.

### *Sustainability: Less Satisfactory (2 points)*

Landmine clearance itself is highly sustainable: although operations are expensive, benefits are permanent and enable development over the long term. There are no questions about the sustainability of landmine operations or their impact. UNDP and CMAA have also made efforts to invest in capacity building and institutional strengthening. In retrospect, the capacity building efforts have yielded strong reviews across CfRIV stakeholders, and so there is no performance problem per se. There are nevertheless signs that sustainability is a relative weak spot within the project in terms of sufficiently preparing CMAA and others for the international community's inevitable exit from intensive engagement in Cambodia's landmine sector. The chief concern is that stakeholders at all levels express diverse and often unrealistic expectations surrounding timeframes and resources for this eventuality, and are avoiding rather than confronting sensitive issues that do need to be addressed from a management standpoint. These include that Cambodia is unlikely to meet the goal of being mine-free by 2025, and *certainly* will not do so if the K5 belt is not tackled aggressively. There are also issues that are well outside of UNDP's sphere of control, but are nevertheless compromising sustainability. It is also arguable that the national structures are too dispersed and top-heavy for a residual risk context. While this is not UNDP's responsibility, its institutional strengthening efforts might better reflect these complex considerations and better equip its counterparts vis-a-vis change management. While CfR has delivered strong and sound results, the time has come for systematic transition planning in order to smooth the transition to a very different future.

### *Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion: Satisfactory (3 points)*

CfRIV is to be commended for broadly strengthening its work on GEDSI. In terms of gender, a Gender Action Plan and Gender Focal Point are both in place, and it appropriately spans key areas including human resources, training, and data disaggregation. UNDP and CMAA have both taken steps to make gender a priority rather than an add-on. However, there are signs that the gender work remains quite dependent on support from UNDP, compared to other technical areas. Interviews highlight that intensive engagement, mentoring, and guidance has been needed, particularly vis-a-vis national-level gender mainstreaming around issues like women in the workplace. Gender is too often seen as a "village problem", and while stakeholders well understand the importance of making sure that Mine Risk Education reaches women, approaching GEDSI at the national level in a nuanced way has reportedly been more challenging. UNDP has identified this as a priority for its own support, which is to be commended.

CfRIV has also very deliberately enhanced the scope of its disability work in recent, which was previously identified as a gap that was troubling for a topic that is so obviously linked to disability issues. Specifically, CfRIV has expanded its work on VA with funding from KOICA, financing medical and social services, livelihoods training opportunities for families – not individuals – who have been disabled by landmines. Although in some situations it would be problematic that livelihoods opportunities are directed to non-disabled relatives rather than disabled people themselves, the fact of the matter is that many landmine injury survivors in Cambodia are now elderly and have few employment prospects or ambitions regardless of their disability. Interviews highlight that they are pleased to stay at home and watch their grandchildren while younger relatives benefit from skills training. The "whole household" approach is thus commendable and

welcomed by beneficiaries themselves. There is nevertheless opportunity for the project to pursue disability inclusion beyond landmine survivors. CMAA offices (including toilets), for example, are not fully accessible. CMAA has the potential to model disability inclusion for the Cambodian government – with technical support from UNDP – but this is unfortunately not being pursued.

International trends increasingly emphasize intersectional approaches to social inclusion in a way that recognizes intersectionality and other drivers of inequality and marginalization. While the project operates in poor, remote, and marginalized parts of Cambodia, it has not built pathways between cleared areas and other development programming. It is arguable that is MAPU's responsibility rather than CMAA's. However there is opportunity to better mainstream landmine action within the commune investment plans, UNDP's area-based strategies, and other development planning.

## Findings

### Output 1 – 73.85 km<sup>2</sup> of suspected hazardous areas in targeted villages are released through survey and clearance activities

It is arguable that “getting landmines out of the ground” constitutes the heart and soul of CfRIV. In this sense, the project has been highly effective, as well as efficient. Landmine clearance has proceeded at a steady pace throughout, meeting targets despite the exigencies posed by COVID. Stakeholders agree that strong leadership was a major determinant of this, including rapid but comprehensive health and safety protocols, alongside such efforts as having landmine operators designated as “essential workers” eligible for the first round of vaccines. Generally speaking, landmine clearance operations are widely regarded as effective and professional, meeting international standards while reflecting the Cambodian context.

Landmine clearance in Cambodia is recognized as being cost-effective compared to many other parts of the world; the price per hectare cleared and per landmine cleared is reportedly less than in many other countries. Nevertheless, there are signals that economic efficiency has been exaggerated, and stakeholders are encouraged to not be overconfident in this regard. The vast majority of clearance contracts are won by CMAC, and while the bidding process is transparent and meets international standards, they are easily able to underbid competitors because equipment separately funded by another donor. In other words, landmine clearance is not necessarily cheaper than other countries, it is subsidized.

There are signs that economic efficiency can be improved, especially through greater use of NTS. NTS has been used by the CfR project since 2015, and in its current phase IV since 2021, a third of the way through the phase. Yet, in a context that prioritizes population rather than landmine concentration, the rate of hectares cleared via NTS (20 – 25% annually across the current phase of CfR) is lower than might be expected. While it is noted that NTS is being used in CfRIV in the most densely contaminated provinces, reducing the proportion of minefield eligible for release through NTS, it is also true that there is no evidence of current risk in some areas marked on the contamination map. Interview data flagged that some stakeholders have been reluctant to engage in NTS in areas that are arguably best released through this method. A generation on from active violent conflict, it is indisputable that some areas that were identified at-risk in the past currently pose little threat. Remaining on the landmine map torpedoes land values, dissuades private sector investment, and makes large areas ineligible for government infrastructure investments. There is



room for this project to increase the rate of hectares cleared by NTS to better support the national prioritization process, especially as doing so also delivers development benefits. Indeed, prioritizing *population* concentrations over landmine concentrations *only* makes sense if NTS is utilized to verify that occupied areas are not currently at risk. More troublingly, some quietly expressed concerns that operators discourage NTS because it pays less. This is one of several signs that national stakeholders are stressed about the resource implications of moving towards a mine-free Cambodia.

Although Cambodia has made impressive progress on an *absolute* level, it is not meeting its ambitions to be mine-free by 2025 as per the Maputo Declaration and the NMAS. While many government representatives affirm the official commitment to this aim, the policy clearly states that achieving it is contingent upon various conditions. Unfortunately, operators have not had access to K5 or sufficient resources to achieve the Maputo commitment. While there are welcome moves toward opening K5, international ODA to Cambodia is declining, and the landmine sector is no exception. In other words, despite impressive mine action in Cambodia and the best efforts of diverse stakeholders, at time of writing it is unlikely that the 2025 target will be met. As such, it should be recognized as an aspirational aim, but not an operational target. Planning for the future needs to be grounded in this likely scenario.

One opportunity for further improvement in landmine clearance is placing greater priority on environmental considerations. This was also identified as a concern in the CfRIII evaluation, and we acknowledge some improvements in this regard. For example, there is now a CMAS draft chapter on environment, which is aligned with international standards. However, stakeholders seem largely unaware of the new draft chapter, much less able to explain its contents. The document itself focuses on environmental damage that may result from direct demining, for example digging up topsoil or what to do if a landmine is tangled in tree roots. These are important issues, yet it is arguable that in Cambodia, the greater issue is not so much the justifiable sacrifice of an occasional tree, but the fact that laying an access pathway through a forest or other remote area may enable deforestation. Moreover, the risk and safeguards materials included in the prodoc fail to recognize any of these issues. Indeed, it exaggerates the risk that landmines pose to the environment, while underplaying the environmental damage that demining can cause. There is opportunity to better address the negative unintended consequences of landmine removal on the environment.

*“We Are Happy Farmers Now”*



*Photo by Colleen McGinn*

This is the last of our land that was released. You see that grove of bamboo trees? Before, there were landmines. And over there, by the pond. The paramilitary soldiers occupied this area, and the main camp for soldiers was near the market. This was the front line, and they laid the mines all through here, to prevent tanks from invading. It was mostly forest and bush back then, with only one pathway. There was some farming before the war, but during Pol Pot, all the people were evacuated. They returned later, starting in 1994, and they started to grow rice. It was dangerous, but people need to eat.

I came here in the 1990s, my wife is from here. The Khmer Rouge forced them to leave, but she wanted to go home after the war. We have 8 hectares. I grow rice, and a bit of cassava for selling, in the spots that aren't right for rice.

Demining began in 2003, and just finished this year. They have detector machines, and they checked it. The operators are very polite, no problems, and they always let us know what was going on. I don't think they found any mines here. When I started growing rice, I found six myself! But by the time deminers came, the mines were gone already. I have been farming this land since 2000, with no accidents. If I find something suspicious, I know that I am supposed to call HALO. The villagers here, we know about landmines, what to do if something turns up

while ploughing. We had to clear them ourselves in the past, but we didn't feel secure because we are not experts, and we never quite trusted the local ex-soldiers who would do it. They don't really know about mines, and their equipment was old.

Landmine removal has many benefits! For me, the best one now is that I am not afraid anymore. It was so scary. Even though I have not had any accidents, I was afraid. Now we know that we are safe. We are happy farmers now.

## Output 2 - Affected and vulnerable populations provided with expanded opportunities for decent livelihoods, inclusion, and wellbeing in accordance with national development priorities.

The humanitarian benefits of landmine clearance are unequivocal; indeed one of the *challenges* within the mine action arena is that this is so rarely interrogated with a constructive criticism lens, to inform improved performance. Landmine clearance not only saves lives, it advances livelihoods. Even when locals are confident that an area is safe (which can be confirmed via NTS), appearing on the “landmine map” can torpedo private sector and government investments within an area, and releasing land thus opens up diverse opportunities. The development benefits of landmine clearance are capably documented by CMAA data and communications.

International trends in the landmine sector recognize that clearance is a necessary – but not sufficient – condition for sustainable development. The CfRIV project documents recognize this, as do many key stakeholders. However, it must be noted that this aspect of the project has not been translated into practice. The ProDoc indicated that the project would partner with other existing UNDP projects. These have not been named, and interviews and reports indicate that these have not manifested in terms of concrete projects. The intention of mainstreaming mine clearance into local planning and frameworks is a useful – and welcome – goal, but has so far been limited by capacity. Efforts were made, particularly in 2021, to hire three Provincial Mine Action Coordinators and a Regional Development Coordinator. However, there was only one successful candidate who met the criteria for these and other positions, and recruitment for these positions was cancelled. The 2021 Annual Report states that efforts to apply a new development model to address these shortfalls would be made in 2022. However, it is unclear from the 2022 reporting what this new model is, and what steps have been taken so far.<sup>13</sup> Interviews, meanwhile, suggest that Cambodian government representatives at all levels do not see development planning as their mandate or responsibility.

CfRIV is making significant progress – and improvement – towards the development benefits that it most explicitly embraces. With funding from the Republic of Korea, it has strengthened its VA programming, and embraced livelihoods opportunities alongside medical treatment for landmine survivors, other amputees, and their families. We particularly applaud the “whole family” approach insofar as beneficiaries themselves praise these efforts for being flexible and sensible within a household context. For example, the skills training opportunities may be directed to someone else in the family – not only the amputee. Landmine survivors in Cambodia are often older, and interviewed beneficiaries expressed great satisfaction with arrangements that allow

<sup>13</sup> UNDP. 2021. Clearing for Results IV: Mine Action for Human Development. Annual Project Progress Report 2021.

them to stay home and look after grandchildren while a younger adult in the family benefits from skills development. This should not be seen as undermining opportunities that are meant for the disabled: many of these amputees were unable to educate their now-adult children due in part to the disadvantages posed by their disabilities, and they are now too old for skills training to be helpful over the long term. Livelihoods training for another family member is seen as ‘win-win.’ This workstream balances CfRIV’s reach, which in previous phases overlooked people with disabilities in a way that was both odd and concerning for a landmines project. However, while the VA referral systems are certainly a way to capitalize on existing partnerships, it should be noted that without more investment, this has limited impact for the unique development needs of the community at large. VA represents intensive targeted services for a specific disadvantaged population, but it is not a substitute for broad-based community development programming.

Strides have also been made to make gender mainstreaming more meaningful. Indeed, this has been a priority under CfRIV, and there is ample documentary evidence to support it (e.g., a gender action plan). Gender mainstreaming enjoys high-profile status and technical assistance from UNDP, and is clearly no longer seen as an easy afterthought. That said, governmental stakeholders are often unable to articulate *why* gender is important, nor discuss contents of materials beyond “we follow the workplan.” Meanwhile, UNDP representatives confirm that GEDSI requires intensive support. Together, the evidence points to strong efforts to prioritize GEDSI and ‘raise the bar’ on what that means, but these efforts have not yet matured. Country ownership and leadership will take time to cultivate.

The UNDP project documents (and other documents) exhibit ambition about forging pathways towards sustainable development benefits and human development within landmine-riddled communities. However, in all, to date, the ‘human development’ aspect of the CfR project has been primarily through the presenting the development impact of demining through collecting, analyzing and communicating evidence via the Performance Monitoring System (or PMS). While useful, this is ultimately a means of *documenting* rather than pursuing development impact. We do note that the PMS appears more efficient and focused than during CfRIII, and that stakeholders are better collaborating with relevant line ministries.<sup>14</sup> Yet, in all, despite the ProDoc indicating that “the Project is applying the power of integration and UNDPs Strategic Plan 2022-2025”, the PMS essentially serves a monitoring function rather than one which generates knowledge and innovation.

The ‘mine-free village’ agenda piloted in Phase III aimed to create pathways to reduce poverty, enhance socio-economic development and livelihoods for the most vulnerable households. This approach is in line with the CMAA approach to prioritization according to diverse criteria, using a “top-down and bottom-up” approach.<sup>15</sup> It also prioritizes areas which are densely populated over those with the densest landmine concentration, which remains a controversial topic within Cambodia’s landmine sector. Previous evaluations have noted that the disadvantage to this approach is that “some of the areas of reported landmine contamination actually pose little or no risk, and clearing them wastes precious resources. Moreover, most contemporary landmine accidents are in hinterlands rather than agricultural fields.”<sup>16</sup> It is worth noting again that there

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<sup>14</sup> UNDP. 2022. Clearing for Results IV: Quarter 2 Progress Report – April-June 2022.

<sup>15</sup> CMAA and UNDP. 2021. Cambodian Mine Action Sector Briefing Paper Series – Planning and Prioritization.

<sup>16</sup> Colleen McGinn. 2019. Final Evaluation Report: Clearing for Results – Phase 3.



are no clear-cut right or wrong answers, only choices that need to be made. NTS is key to making this strategy work.

The CfRIII final evaluation in 2019 concluded at the time that “the current CMAA’s approach is appropriate”, because it was approved by villagers and that due to an underdeveloped set of environmental safeguards in the landmines sector operations in sensitive habitats (e.g., forests should be avoided). However, in the time since the 2019 evaluation, the Cambodian mine action sector has continued to progress and evolve, including the drafting of a CMAS Chapter 20 on environmental management in mine action.<sup>17</sup> Further, the efforts toward land release (with 254% of target reported in 2021, and 41/42 project-tasked minefields in Banteay Meanchey approved for clearance<sup>18</sup>) of the CfR project have seen continued success, with the handing over of mine-free villages continuing on schedule. Meanwhile, the K5 belt along the Thai border – where recent newspaper reports suggest at least 40m<sup>2</sup> of land<sup>19</sup> suspected to be extremely densely mined– has been largely off-limits during the reporting period. This area is, at present, outside of the CfRIV project area. As at-risk agricultural areas are cleared, the landmine sector will inevitably pivot toward less-settled areas, including forests and K5. The time is now to start strategically pivoting toward supporting demining in these more remote and challenging locations.



I was a soldier in Pursat, where I stepped on a landmine. I was treated at the hospital in Battambang and got a prosthesis. Now I live in Battambang, and I come to this clinic regularly, every 2 or 3 years, when I need a new leg. I see them more often at the outreach program, like four times a year. They visit the commune, repair my leg. I live with my family, I have five children! I look after my grandkids; their parents are all working.

*Photo by Colleen McGinn*

<sup>17</sup> CMAA. 2020. Evaluation Report of the Three-year Implementation Plan 2018-2020 of the National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025.

<sup>18</sup> UNDP. 2021. Clearing for Results IV: Mine Action for Human Development. Annual Project Progress Report 2021.

<sup>19</sup> Neang Sokunthea and Samban Chandara. 2022. Cambodia-Thailand agree to clear all mines in border areas.

### Output 3 – Strengthened mine action sector management and established national capacities that address residual threats.

National stakeholders consistently praise UNDP for delivering technical assistance alongside financial resources, and they say that UNDP provides the right support, at the right time. Institutional strengthening has yielded powerful and diverse results. The technical and training relationship between RGC and UNDP is strong and mature. Perhaps one of the most significant testaments to the results of this is that Cambodia is globally known for its exceptionally strong national landmine institutional capacity. While there are many contributing factors, it is clear that UNDP has supported and capacitated national institutions, and paved the way for them to engage at the international level. Indeed, Cambodia is seen as one of the most exemplary locations for South-South cooperation and peer learning. In other words, Cambodia is not simply a passive recipient of institutional capacity building; although evidence is anecdotal, there are signs that investing in Cambodian national institutions is generating global results.

Capacity building is notoriously complicated to evaluate: it simply does not yield crisp metrics at the results level, and so, more nuanced exploration is necessary. CMAA and other stakeholders express both praise and specific examples of suitable capacity building that has helped them in their everyday work. Notably, they point to mentoring over formal training as being most useful, and the topics that are most typically mentioned are financial management, reporting, and GEDSI. In terms of opportunities for improvement, it is important to ensure that opportunities and learnings are reaching middle, technical, and provincial levels. Although some stakeholders point to specific ways that is being done, others express concern that benefits from this workstream is not sufficiently “trickling down.” The overall top-heavy structure of CMAA may well be the core issue, rather than the scope of capacity building efforts per se.

Although the capacity building work under CfRIV appears strong, sound, appreciated, and impactful, there are signs that it needs to be significantly reshaped if it is to be fit-for-purpose for the future. As Cambodia approaches mine-free status, the national mine action sector expects to be more independent in terms of both operations and funding. However, conversations with diverse national stakeholders at all levels reveals widely varying views, expectations, and preparedness to actually do so. Two issues complicate anticipated handover. The first is that Cambodia is unlikely to meet its aspirational goal of being mine-free by 2025 without additional funding, as has been discussed above; exacerbating this issue is that this goal will not be met without intensive focus on the K5 belt which is not yet open despite recent statements. In interviews, many national stakeholders seem reluctant to confront this and other sensitive issues, and many express unrealistic expectations. Unfortunately, Cambodia’s landmine sector’s avoidance of key matters appears to be interfering with practical planning. While outside of UNDP’s responsibility, it is important that institutional strengthening be better synced with the most pressing institutional management matters. Moreover, while donors to CfRIV are satisfied with landmine clearance progress, there is demand for greater transparency around timeframes, workplans, projections, and budget implications. Indeed, while internal stakeholders seem afraid to admit discordance with formal commitments, the donors themselves indicate that they are more than willing to fund beyond 2025, but are frustrated by what are seen as empty promises. In sum, it appears that key stakeholders are unprepared for when and how the sun will set on landmine removal in Cambodia. In this context, the chief impediment is not technical capacity

but rather realistic planning, especially in regard to timeframes, resources, and the gap between aspirational goals and operational expectations. UNDP is encouraged to re-think its capacity building and handover approach to better address these issues.

### *We Don't Have to Work in Thailand Anymore*

We don't know the history of the mines, that was in our parents' time. We are married to two brothers who are from here, we are not. We came here as farmhands, working on other people's rice fields for daily pay. We inherited some land now, from our in-laws and our fields are next to each other. When we came here, we knew a lot about landmines already. And there were places that were not farmed, it was too dangerous. And we worked with worry. Our land was cleared in the last couple of years. We are so relieved that professionals came to clear our land. We don't know which operator came here, we never saw them because we were working in Thailand at the time. We couldn't farm our land then because of the landmines, and we needed money so we were migrant farm workers across the border. We could only farm our own land after they cleared our land. And yes, we do know how to report anything suspicious that we might find. We know that we should never touch or investigate it ourselves, instead we should call the authorities right away and someone will come to check it out. We have been to landmine workshops in the village, yes.

Before, we had land but it was unsafe to farm it, so we had to work as farmhands in Thailand! So many benefits. We are farmers of our own land now. We plant fruit trees, rice. It was only this year, we could grow rice! Before, we did not dare to plough. Our income is better before. The price of rice goes up and down, so it's confusing to figure out in terms of money. But before, we only produced two or three buckets, but now it is *seven*! And this year we think it will be even higher! So much rice we can grow this year! And our rice grows so well, because the land is fresh and fertile. And we don't have to go work in Thailand.



*Photo by Colleen McGinn*

## V. Recommendations and Lessons Learned

### Recommendations

1. CfRIV is a strong and sound project which represents the culmination of many years of partnership. All stakeholders are to be commended for their commitment and professionalism. CfR is highly recommended to continue in the coming years.
2. NTS is highly effective and efficient. Some stakeholders lack enthusiasm for NTS, but many areas identified as being at risk pose no evidence of current threat. Landmine clearance poses many development benefits, but manual operations are extremely expensive. NTS should be embraced as enhancing the cost-effectiveness of Cambodia's landmine sector, and ultimately enables operators to focus on minefields that threaten lives and livelihoods.
3. Recent statements by Prime Minister Hun Sen which imply re-opening of the K5 belt to landmine clearance are welcome. The vast majority of landmines and casualties in Cambodia are along this belt, but it has largely been off-limits in recent years, due to security/border considerations. It will be impossible for Cambodia to meet its landmine clearance goals unless K5 is tackled quickly and systematically. All parties are encouraged to engage in high-level advocacy and practical planning to address K5 as a matter of priority.
4. Cambodia's new CMAS draft chapter has the potential to guide more effective environment safeguarding within the landmine sector. However, environmental considerations deserve higher priority and awareness among national stakeholders. For example, the draft chapter focuses on minefields themselves (e.g., damage to topsoil), but one of the chief risks is that clearing pathways through forest and other natural environments to reach potential mines opens the pathway for deforestation. UNDP should revisit and improve its risk management and safeguarding strategy and protocols, which do not adequately recognize the harmful 'side effects' that landmine removal poses for the environment.
5. Global trends in mine action increasingly emphasize approaches which coordinate demining with development planning, in order to fully realize the development benefits of mine action. UNDP embraces this in principle, but in Cambodia there is a mismatch between the ambitions stated in the UNDP prodoc preamble, and the more narrow scope of action within CfRIV. There have been missed opportunities for integrated approaches. On the other hand, it is arguable that as Cambodia transitions to a residual risk context, it is not the right moment for UNDP to expand the scope of its support to Cambodia's landmine sector. UNDP and its partners are encouraged to more consistently articulate and operationalize its ambitious vis a vis coordination with development programming, and with it the expected CfR budget, workplan, and partners for "area" programming.
6. As the sun sets on the landmine sector in Cambodia, it is imperative for the next phase of the project to prioritize sustainability and handover, including through the design of a practical transition strategy. This will include managing highly diverse and in some cases unrealistic expectations among stakeholders. While arguably outside the scope of CfR and UNDP's



sphere of control, it will be important to consider sensitive issues, such as whether current national institutions and structures fit a residual risk context, and if not, how to ‘rightsize’ them.

7. Landmine clearance operations in Cambodia have been highly effective, and CfR targets were met despite the exigencies posed by COVID-19. Nevertheless, Cambodia is *not* on track to be mine-free by 2025. While many stakeholders acknowledge this, it is clear that the commitment to be mine-free by 2025 is confounding realistic planning. All parties are encouraged to distinguish between aspirational and operational aims, and to consider implications of various scenarios.
8. Efforts should continue to ensure that capacity building and institutional strengthening are properly reaching technical, middle-level, and provincial staff.
9. CfR should consolidate and further build upon its work to strengthen gender, disability, and social inclusion programming. To ensure buy-in and independence of the gender work in particular, UNDP should ensure sufficient resources are directed toward CMAA for their work in this area, including building sufficient capacity and buy-in. The VA workstream adds strong value to CfR and balances the portfolio, and the ‘whole household’ approach is to be commended.

## Lessons Learned

As the sun sets on the landmine sector in Cambodia, it is imperative to begin transition planning in a thoughtful, strategic, and realistic way. There are signs that the landmine sector is unprepared to systematically downsize operations, or to raise or manage funds independently.

Aspirational targets may inspire, but operational targets must be grounded in practical constraints and existent budgets. It may be useful to distinguish between the principled aims in the Maputo Declaration, and realistic projections about when Cambodia will be mine-free with reference to current resources.

The current strategy to declare villages, districts, and provinces mine-free is sensible, and moreover it yields important development dividends. However, the dissenting minority position that priority should be driven by landmine contamination is also valid. The split within the landmine sector in Cambodia is unhelpful and all parties are encouraged to work together more constructively. Moreover, clearing the K5 belt is imperative and urgent within the Cambodian context, as this is currently the greatest concentration of landmines – and landmine accidents. The Prime Minister’s recent statements to open up K5 are welcome indeed.

Investing in GEDSI yields important dividends, from both victim assistance and broad-based development perspectives. The “whole family” approach to victim assistance has been suitable and warmly welcomed by families affected by landmines.

Data collection – including on the development impacts of mine clearance – *must* be accompanied by data analysis and pro-active pursuit of opportunities to improve the effectiveness of mine action – and to magnify development impacts. However, as UNDP moves towards transitioning to residual risk management in Cambodia, it is probably too late to pursue new initiatives to improve linkages between mine action and sustainable development.

While the humanitarian benefits of landmine clearance are unequivocal, there are side effects and unintended consequences that may cause harm. It is arguable that chief among these – especially in the Cambodian context – is potential environmental impact. While the sector has made improvements in recent years, it deserves higher priority.

Roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis various parties are not always clearly delineated, and structures may not be fit-for-purpose as the landmine sector downsizes in Cambodia. While this has not been a source of major problems to date, as Cambodia transitions to residual risk management, from mine action in Cambodia, it is likely that subtle tensions may be exacerbated. Moreover, important issues are being sidestepped by all parties. For example, CMAA has enjoyed senior-level government support for a generation, but it has become top-heavy for a phase-out and residual risk context, and the separation of policy/coordination and operations has arguably become inefficient. The separation between government landmine agencies (including CMAA, CMAC, and military) may not be fit-for-purpose for a sector that is, happily, shrinking. While UNDP focuses on technical assistance, it is arguable that the more important priority going forward should be change management and consolidation, but this is seen as outside of UNDP's mandate. Reframing “change management” as a *technical* topic may be useful.

The chief challenge facing the landmine sector in Cambodia has been *avoidance* of important but sensitive issues, including K5; outdated, top-heavy, and dispersed institutional arrangements in the landmine sector; contradictions between enhancing landmine-development linkages alongside downsizing landmine action in Cambodia; signals of impending resource conflict amidst a shrinking resource base; the contradictions between aspirational and operational targets; tensions between agencies and actors in the landmine sector; realistic transition planning; signs that some stakeholders have ‘checked out’ of landmines whereas others are frantic to marshal resources; and uncertainties over the scope of UNDP's “technical” role amidst these public administration challenges. In sum: it is important to confront these issues in a thoughtful, professional, and problem-solving way.

## Annex 1: Terms of Reference

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### Individual Contractor

##### 1. Assignment Information

<b>Assignment Title:</b>	International Consultant for Midterm Review (MTR)
<b>UNDP Practice Area:</b>	Land Mine Clearance
<b>Cluster/Project:</b>	Programme and Results Cluster/Clearing for Results, Phase IV (CfRIV): Mine Action for Human Development
<b>Post Level:</b>	Senior Specialist
<b>Contract Type:</b>	Individual Contractor (IC)
<b>Duty Station:</b>	Homebased and Phnom Penh, with travel to Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, and Pailin provinces
<b>Expected Place of Travel:</b>	Phnom Penh (3 days) and selected provinces (5 days, including travel) in Cambodia
<b>Contract Duration:</b>	30 working days (from 14 October to 31 January 2023)

##### 2. Project Description

Cambodia's landmine contamination is the result of a protracted sequence of internal and regional conflicts that affected the country from the mid-1960s until the end of 1998. Anti-personnel mine contamination in the north-western regions bordering Thailand are amongst the highest concentrations in the world. Other areas of the country, mainly in the east, have been impacted primarily by the presence of explosive remnants of war (ERW), including cluster munitions.

Humanitarian mine action in Cambodia started in 1992. To ensure proper management, effectiveness, and efficiency of the mine action sector, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) established the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) by Royal Decree in 2000. The CMAA is mandated to coordinate, monitor, and regulate demining and ERW clearance activities and assistance to mine/ERW victims.

As of April 2022, Cambodia's mine action sector had collectively cleared and released 2,379 km<sup>2</sup> of contaminated land, destroyed 1,136,494 anti-personnel mines, 26,014 anti-tank mines, and 2,997,328 items of ERW, including cluster munitions. However, the deadly legacy of unexploded ordnance and other ERW contamination has restricted livelihood activities, hindered development, and caused almost 65,000 human casualties, including nearly 20,000 deaths and over 9,000 amputations since 1979.

The CMAA estimates that Cambodia still has 1,991 km<sup>2</sup> of contaminated land, of which 736 km<sup>2</sup> is contaminated by landmines. The Cambodian mine action sector efforts are currently guided by the National Mine Action Strategy (NMAS) 2018-2025 and its respective three-year implementation plans (current 2021-2023). The NMAS is envisioned towards achieving a known-mine free Cambodia by 2025, while the RGC has also adopted a localised Sustainable Development Goal 18 (CSDG 18: End the negative impact of Mine/ERW and promote victim assistance) in pursuit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Nationally implemented through the CMAA, the Clearing for Results (CfR) project has been supporting the RGCs mine action efforts since 2006. Clearing for Results, Phase IV (CfRIV: 2020-2025), financially funded by the RGC, Australia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, and UNDP, has been designed to support the transition of a humanitarian-driven mine action sector to one that utilizes the results of mine action to support targeted action for poverty reduction and human development. The project aims to support mine/ERW clearance and land release, create pathways for accelerated development in villages that have been declared mine-free, and strengthen the national regulation and coordination capacity in the demining sector for sustainable residual threat management.

CfRIV contributes to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2019–2023 Outcome 2: By 2023, women and men in Cambodia, in particular those marginalized and vulnerable, benefit from expanded opportunities for decent work and technological innovations; and participate in a growing, more productive and competitive economy, that is also fairer and environmentally sustainable; and the UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD) Output 1.3: Left-behind and mine-affected communities have access to mine-free land for better livelihoods.

The CfRIV project has the following three outputs:

**Output 1:** The prioritized mine-impacted villages are declared mine-free

**Output 2:** Affected and vulnerable populations provided with expanded opportunities for decent livelihoods, inclusion, and wellbeing in accordance with national development priorities

**Output 3:** Strengthened mine action sector management and national capacities that address residual threats

CfRIV is now looking to hire a qualified and experienced International Consultant to conduct an MTR of the project.

<b>Project Information</b>	
Project Title	Clearing for Results, Phase IV (CfRIV): Mine Action for Human Development
Project Number	00096338
National Priority	Mine Action
Cambodia's Sustainable Development Goal	CSDG 18
UNDP/CPD outcome	By 2023, women and men in Cambodia in particular those marginalized and vulnerable, benefit from expanded opportunities for decent work and technological innovations; and participate in a growing, more productive, and competitive economy, that is also fairer and environmentally sustainable.
Country	Cambodia
Region	Asia Pacific
Date Project Document was signed	26 July 2019. A revised Prodoc to be signed before the evaluation date
Project Dates	Start: 01 January 2020 End: 31 December 2025
Project Budget	USD 20,772,485
Project Expenditure	USD 7,495,014 (as of April 2022)
Funding Sources	Australia (DFAT), Republic of Korea (KOICA), New Zealand (NZ), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) as parallel funding.
Implementing Partner	Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA)

### 3. Objectives of the MTR

The MTR will assess progress towards the achievement of CfRIVs strategic objectives and goals and assess early signs of success or challenges/failures, with the purpose of identifying the necessary measures to be taken in order to support the achievement of the RGCs goal of clearing know mine-affected areas by 2025. Moreover, the MTR will cover the assessment on the project's strategy for effective and efficient land release to be put to productive use within mine free villages and create pathways for other government and non-government organizations - including other UNDP projects - to facilitate an integrated area-based development approach. The MTR will also assess what the project has done to address gender equality and women empowerment and other cross cutting issues within its scope, its progress to date and recommend areas of improvement.

Below are the specific areas of focus on this MTR:

- Review and assess the overall achievements of the project against its intended outputs, outcomes, and to the extent possible at this stage, impacts.
- Assess the extent to which the CfRIV contributes to the national priorities, development goals, strategies and plans, and the UNDP CPD 2019-2023.
- Assess how the CfRIV is related to, or complements, the National Mine Action Strategy (NMAS) 2018-2025, aligning itself with the Maputo +15 Declaration.
- Based on the evidence generated from the assessment, identify opportunities and challenges related to design, implementation, and management of CfRIV and provide

recommendations on any changes in approach that may be considered in the remaining three years of the CfRIV, and/or should be factored in the project exit strategy. The following elements under each project's output will be considered:

- Land release, including Non-Technical Survey (LR-NTS) and Clearance
- Quality Assurance and Quality Control of mine clearance/land release activities
- Mine free village programme
- Victim assistance
- Mine risk education
- Mine action performance monitoring system (PMS)
- Gender mainstreaming activities in mine action
- Capacity Development Plan (CDP) activities recommended by Capacity Development Needs Assessment (CDNA) in 2019
- Sector capacity development activities
- South-south and triangular cooperation activities
- Project's development approach to identify the organizational and financial needs of the RGC to manage residual threats
- Review the relevance and suitability of the indicators in the results framework.
- Review the extent to which the planned project activities can lead to programme outputs/outcomes by project completion and suggestions on adjustments if required.
- Review the actions taken against the recommendations provided by the final evaluation of the previous phase project, CfRIII; and
- Identify lessons learned (including unsuccessful practices) in relation to the design, implementation, monitoring and management of the CfRIV, and any best practices which should be fed into national or sectoral policies or have shown significant potential for replication, and inform the design of the new UNDP Cambodia CPD.

The direct target audience of this MTR are the National Implementing Partner of the project, donor agencies, and UNDP management. The report will also be shared in public through UNDP evaluation public portal.

#### 4. Scope of the MTR

The MTR will be conducted in such a way to ensure that the key principles of UNDP Evaluation are fully respected. The review shall be independent, impartial, transparent, ethical, and credible.

This MTR will mainly focus to assess the relevance, effectiveness, results, efficiency, impact, sustainability, gender and other cross cutting issues namely human right and disability, and partnerships of the project. The following are guiding questions within the framework of the MTR criteria (to be reviewed/elaborated in the evaluation inception report):

**A. Relevance:** to review the relevance of the CfRIVs strategy, design and implementation arrangements in today's development context while also considering future challenges. This includes overall relevance of the CfRIV in the national and local context.

- Outline to what extent does the CfRIV intervention meet the needs of local mine affected communities and does the intervention align with national priorities.
- Assess if the activities and outputs of CfRIV are consistent with the overall project objectives and goal.
- Related to activities and capacity level, assess if the project timeframe (including each result) is reasonable to achieve the outputs and outcomes.

**B. Effectiveness:** to evaluate how effective CfRIV was in achieving its objectives during each year of its three years of implementation. The evaluation will also look at how the project identified, managed, and mitigated risks and will provide practical recommendations concerning the improvement of future project effectiveness.

- Assess to what extent were the project objectives achieved/are likely to be achieved by end of December 2025.
- Define what were the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the objectives.
- Identify to what extent has the project's capacity building process has been effective in helping the CMAA to effectively manage and coordinate Cambodia's national mine action programme, including implementation of the management response from the 2019 Capacity Development Needs Assessment and in delivering the expected commitments under the project (including planning, implementing, monitoring, information management, quality assurance, and mainstreaming gender etc.).

**C. Results:** assessment of intended results elaborated in the project document shall be conducted to measure to what extent CfRIV has achieved the stated results in the project document.

- Define what the main factors are that have affected the achievement of CfRIV outputs.
- Assess how Covid 19 impact the performance of the project in delivering toward the expected results.
- Assess the extent to which CfRIV has achieved its outputs and how have these have contributed to the CfRIV outcomes.
- Identify the lessons learned, good practice/strategies and recommendations which can be used to further improve results and project delivery.
- Assess the extent to which CfRIV has implemented the recommendations from the various reviews conducted (CfRIII final evaluation, CDNA, and gender mainstreaming assessment) and the extent to which these were incorporated into the CfRIV project design and implementation.
- Assess the extent to which CfRIV contributes the UNDAF Outcome 2, UNDP CPD 2019-2023 Output 1.3 as reflected in the current project Result Resources Framework. Assess how the project can link to the new UNDP Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025. Where possible, from the lens of project result contribution, propose additional indicator(s) at the output and/or outcome levels as relevant.
- Recommend revisions and/or adjustments to the content of the project document including the project Theory of Change and Monitoring and Evaluation framework, as deemed necessary.

**D. Efficiency:** to the extent possible, the MTR will compare the benefits from CfRIV with the budget to assess how efficient the project is. The review will provide practical recommendations regarding how to improve the efficiency, as required.

- Assess the extent to which the current service mobilized through the demining contracts contributes to the efficiency in delivering the high-quality clearance to meet the target set under the project, and/or the sub-subsequent national level target as relevant.
- Assess if project annual outputs are achieved on time and how the project managed to reduce delays associated with COVID restrictions.

**E. Impact:** while CfRIV releases mine/ERW contaminated land to promote agricultural and livelihood development, a key component of the project is on building the national capacity of the CMAA to manage the mine action sector. The review should analyse how capacity has been developed and how project achievements contribute to future strengthening of capacities.

- Assess what were the changes resulting from CfRIV intervention in the way in which Cambodia is addressing Cambodia's national mine action programme issues.
- Identify what were the impacts of CfRIV on developing the institutional capacity of CMAA.
- Ascertain if the intended beneficiaries benefited from the project and disaggregate how many people have directly and indirectly benefited in what way, articulating how the project can maximise its impact.

**F. Sustainability:** assess how the project's achievements contribute to sustainability by engaging appropriate Government, non-government and community level stakeholders.

- Assess the extent that the benefits of CfRIV are likely to continue after its completion of activities.
- Identify a strategic approach for a gradual handover of project implementation responsibilities (transition strategy) from UNDP to CMAA.
- Present the major factors which influenced the achievement or non-achievement of sustainability.
- Identify CMAA capacity for securing funding through the governmental cost-sharing and/or domestic financial resources to fund mine action/RGC Sustainable Development Goal 18.

**G. Partnership:** to review how the project engaged other partners on potential synergies and strengthened sectoral coordination.

- Assess partnership effectiveness amongst all key project partners (CMAA, UNDP, donor agencies) in achieving the project's intended results. The International Consultant may consider the effectiveness on assurance support, strategic guidance, etc.
- Assess to what extent has the project established partnerships, or lack thereof, with other key stakeholders, especially through sector coordination mechanisms, e.g. Technical Working Group – Mine Action and Mine Action Coordination Committees, and Technical Reference Groups, ARMAC and how this has impacted the achievement of project's intended results.
- Assess to what extent has the CfRIV intervention forged new or strengthened partnerships among different stakeholders (government institutions, development partners, civil society/academia, international/sub-regional organizations, etc)

**H. Cross cutting issues - Gender, human rights, and disability:** assessment of the project's contribution of and visibility to strengthening gender equality and social inclusion across institutional, operational, and beneficiary levels.

- Assess how the CfRIV ensured the integration of a gender lens in its activities.



- Identify good practices and challenges in promoting gender mainstreaming efforts at all levels.
- Present areas of opportunity for the project to maximise an inclusive approach.
- Assess the extent to which the relevant disadvantaged and marginalized groups, including women, persons with disabilities, Indigenous populations, villagers living within mine affected communities of the project's target provinces, etc., have benefited from the work of UNDP in the country through the project.
- Assess the extent to which the project supports to address the challenges for persons with disabilities under its scope of interventions.
- Assess the extent to which women and persons with disabilities were consulted and meaningfully involved in programme planning and implementation.

## 5. Methodology

The methodology should be participatory, inclusive and gender responsive. Evaluation should employ a combination of qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods and instruments. The methodology should include sampling methods for selecting stakeholders and methods for assessing results stated in the results frameworks. Some data collections would need to be done virtually as appropriate.

At the beginning of the assignment, the International Consultant will produce an inception report that contains a main section on the methodology to deliver the assignment. The methodology section shall entail the specific proposal by the International Consultant in the following areas:

- **Desk reviews:** At the beginning of the assignment, the International Consultant will need to review the key documents as listed below:
  - Project document (contribution agreement).
  - Theory of change and results framework.
  - Programme and project quality assurance reports.
  - Annual workplans.
  - Activity designs.
  - Consolidated quarterly and annual reports.
  - Results-oriented monitoring report.
  - Highlights of project board meetings.
  - Technical/financial monitoring reports.
- Complete set of documents will be shared once the International Consultant is on board.
- **Interviews and meetings:** With key stakeholders (men and women) such as key government counterparts, development partners, national and international operators, beneficiaries, representatives of key civil society organizations, United Nations country team (UNCT) members and implementing partners:
  - Semi-structured interviews, based on questions designed for different stakeholders based on evaluation questions around relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability.
  - Key informant and focus group discussions with men and women, beneficiaries, and stakeholders.

- All interviews with men and women should be undertaken in full confidence and anonymity. The final evaluation report should not assign specific comments to individuals.
- **Surveys and questionnaires:** This evaluation is not resourced to conduct surveys, however the evaluator will utilize existent quantitative data that is available.
- **Field visits** and on-site validation of key tangible outputs and interventions.
- **Other methods** such as outcome mapping, observational visits, group discussions, etc.
- **Data review and analysis** of monitoring and other data sources and methods. To ensure maximum validity, reliability of data (quality) and promote use, the evaluator will ensure triangulation of the various data sources.
- **Gender and human rights lens.** All evaluation products need to address gender, disability, and human right issues. Hence, the International Consultant will need to design the tool allowing the collection of the data to provide the evaluation from those lenses.

**All conclusions, judgments and opinions must be qualified by evidence and not be based on opinions.**

## 6. MTR Deliverables

**Inception Report (7-10 pages):** The inception report should be carried out following the desk review and based on preliminary discussions with UNDP and national partners as relevant. It should detail an understanding of what is being evaluated and why, showing how each evaluation question will be answered by way of proposed methods, sources of data, and data collection procedures. The inception report should include a proposed schedule of tasks, activities, and deliverables and provides. The inception report must include the detailed data collection tools and line of questions to be asked of the different stakeholders.

**Debrief of preliminary evaluation result:** Immediately following the completion of fieldwork and data collection, the International Consultant is expected to provide a preliminary debriefing and findings to UNDP and key stakeholders via a debriefing meeting.

**Draft MTR Report (35-40 pages):** The content of the MTR Report should consist of the following:

- List of Acronyms and Abbreviations
- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- MTR Scope and Objective/s
- MTR approach and methodologies

- Data analysis
  - MTR findings and conclusion, including a table of progress against targets outlined in the Implementation Plan/s
  - Recommendations
  - Lessons learned
  - Annexes.
- UNDP will coordinate with key stakeholders to review the draft MTR report and provide comments to the evaluator within an agreed period (within two weeks after receiving the document), addressing the content required (as agreed in the TOR and inception report) and quality criteria as outlined in these guidelines.

**MTR report audit trail.** Comments and changes by the evaluator in response to the draft report should be retained by the evaluator to show how they have addressed comments in this Audit Trail Report.

**Final Evaluation Report:** The International Consultant will revise the draft based on inputs provided and submit the final report within two weeks after receiving the comments. The evaluator is expected to develop a brief power point presentation and present the evaluation results (max two times) to UNDP, project board or relevant stakeholders as suggested by the project team.

<b>N</b>	<b>Deliverables/Outputs</b>	<b>Estimated Duration to Complete</b>	<b>Target Due Dates</b>	<b>Review and Approvals Required</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Deliverable 1:</b> Inception report produced with detailed review methodology, including timelines.	4 working days	By 20 October 2022	UNDP Evaluation Manager (Head of RBM unit) following reception of the required internal clearance within UNDP and with key stakeholders.
<b>2</b>	<b>Deliverable 2:</b> A presentation of preliminary findings and recommendations by International Consultant to CMAA, UNDP, DFAT, KOICA, and NZ.	15 working days	By 05 December 2022	
<b>3</b>	<b>Deliverable 3:</b> A draft version of the MTR report and recommendations circulated to CMAA, UNDP, DFAT, KOICA, and NZ for review/comments.	6 working days	By 16 December 2022	

<b>N</b>	<b>Deliverables/Outputs</b>	<b>Estimated Duration to Complete</b>	<b>Target Due Dates</b>	<b>Review and Approvals Required</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Deliverable 4:</b> A final review report, addressing consolidated findings and recommendations, to be submitted within one week of receipt of the consolidated comments on the draft report.	5 working days	By 16 January 2023	
<b>Total estimated number of days:</b>		<b>30 working days</b>		

#### 7. Timeframe for the MTR Process

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>ESTIMATE D # OF DAYS</b>	<b>DATE OF COMPLETION</b>	<b>PLACE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE PARTY</b>
<b>Phase One: Desk review and inception report</b>				
Meeting briefing with UNDP (Evaluation Manager, Project Coordination Specialist, Programme Analyst, and project staff as needed)	0.5	14 October 2022	Phnom Penh	Evaluation Manager - UNDP
Sharing of the relevant documentation with the International Consultant	-	14 October 2022	Online	Evaluation Manager - UNDP
Desk review, evaluation design, methodology and updated workplan including the list of stakeholders to be interviewed	3	17 - 19 October 2022	Home-based	International Consultant
Submission of the inception report (10 pages maximum)	-	20 October 2022	Email	International Consultant
Comments and approval of inception report	0.5	03 November 2022	Virtual	Evaluation manager - UNDP
<b>Phase Two: Data Collection</b>				
Consultations and meetings, in-depth interviews, and focus groups, including in-person meetings and site visit (week of November 7)	14	First week of November, and the week of 14 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	Phnom Penh and province	UNDP to organize with local project partners, project staff, service providers, beneficiaries.

Debriefing to UNDP and key stakeholders	2	05 December 08 December	Phnom Penh	International Consultant
<b>Phase Three: Drafting and Finalization of the MTR report</b>				
Preparation of draft evaluation report (40 pages maximum excluding annexes, executive summary)	6 days	5 - 15 December 2022	Home- based	International Consultant
Draft report submission	-	16 December 2022	Home- based	International Consultant
Consolidated UNDP and stakeholder comments to the draft report	-	09 January 2023	Home- based	Evaluation Manager and evaluation reference group
Finalization of the evaluation report incorporating additions and comments provided by project staff and UNDP country office and Power Point Presentation of key evaluation finding, and Audit Trail report	4	16 January 2023	Home- based	International Consultant
Submission of the final evaluation report, Audit Trail Report, and power point presentation to UNDP country office (40 pages maximum excluding executive summary and annexes)	1	16 January 2023	Home- based	International Consultant
<b>Estimated total days</b>	<b>30 days</b>			

## 8. Institutional Arrangements

The International Consultant will work closely with the UNDP CfRIV project team and the CMAA. The International Consultant will be working under overall coordination of the Evaluation Manager – whose function is performed by UNDP’s Cambodia’s Head of Result-Based Management (RBM) unit, to ensure that the evaluation is conducted in accordance with established policies and standards on evaluation.

The National Project Manager - CMAA and Project Coordination Specialist - UNDP will be the focal points contact for day-to-day interactions and for liaisons during the assignment. Project Implementing Partners, donors and relevant stakeholders are consulted throughout the evaluation process and ensure the quality of evaluation deliverables in line with evaluation policy and standards and agreed terms of reference.



The CfRIV team will work closely with the International Consultant to facilitate the process, including providing relevant documents related to the desk review, identifying stakeholders and sources of information, assisting in organizing meetings with stakeholders, assisting in arranging field visits and resolving any issues arising during the assignment period to the extent possible.

The deliverables will be reviewed by the Evaluation Manager who also facilitates inputs from the relevant stakeholder identified by the UNDP focal team. Inputs will be consolidated by the Evaluation Manager before sharing them back with the International Consultant. The deliverables are to be cleared by the Evaluation Manager to ensure evaluation objectives are met, reports are at acceptable quality standards and that relevant stakeholder are duly consulted.

The International Consultant is required to provide their own logistical and support arrangements to complete the assignment. The International Consultant will be responsible for all costs and arrangements needed for the implementation of the project. This includes professional fees, living allowances, travel, accommodation, transportation, and other support the International Consultant deems necessary to deliver the expected outputs. However, the project/CMAA will provide the International Consultant with transportation when travelling to the provinces. The International Consultant shall cover their own food and accommodation costs during travel to the provinces. The interpreter will be provided by the project based on the number of working days needed by the International Consultant.

The Individual Contractor is expected to adhere to all RGC COVID-19 mitigation measures.

The International Consultant is required to undertake the *Basic Security in the Field (BSIF) training* prior to travelling (<https://dss.un.org/dssweb/WelcometoUNDSS/tabid/105/Default.aspx?returnurl=%2fdssweb%2f>).

Payment release will be approved by ARR-Programme upon confirmation of the deliverables by the Evaluation Manager.

UNDP Cambodia reserves the right to maintain regular communication with the International Consultant and to engage/visit/monitor the implementing activities where needed.

## 9. Duration of Work

The assignment is expected to be completed within 30 working days. In Cambodia, the working week is from Monday to Friday. The International Consultant is expected to start the assignment from 14 October 2022. It is expected that the final report will be submitted by 16 January 2023.

## 10. Duty Station

The International Consultant's homebased and at the CfRIV office at CMAA in Phnom Penh with some travel to the selected provinces to validate and/or collect information (field visit interviews with partners, beneficiaries, and key stakeholders).

It is expected that the International Consultant will be on mission to Cambodia for 8 working days (total of 3 days in Phnom Penh and 5 days traveling to selected provinces), tentatively starting from 14 October to 07 November 2022.

## 11. Evaluation Ethics

This MTR will be conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the UNEG 'Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation'. The International Consultant must safeguard the rights and confidentiality of information providers, interviewees, and stakeholders through measures to ensure compliance with legal and other relevant codes governing collection of data and reporting on data. The International Consultant must also ensure security of collected information before and after the evaluation and protocols to ensure anonymity and confidentiality of sources of information where that is expected. The information knowledge and data gathered in the review process must also be solely used for the review and not for other uses with the express authorization of UNDP and partners. The International Consultant is responsible for ensuring the report is clearly written and factors in aspects of Gender and Leave No One Behind.

## 12. Minimum Qualifications of the Individual Contractor

<b>Education:</b>	Minimum of an advanced university degree i.e. Master's Degree in the field of Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Intervention, Impact Evaluation for International Development; Social Science, International Relations, Development Studies or related field demonstrably relevant to the position.
<b>Experience:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At least 10 years of relevant experience, including experience in conducting monitoring and programme reviews or evaluation of development projects in the field of mine action and/or related field.</li><li>• Strong technical background in mine action (experience of the Cambodia context an advantage).</li><li>• Good experience in results-based project management, gender mainstreaming, and capacity development.</li><li>• Good experience in data collection, analysis and evaluation report writing.</li><li>• Previous work experience with UNDP or UN agency will be an asset.</li></ul>
<b>Competencies:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively with various partners including the government, civil society, private sector, UN and other development donors and high-quality liaison and representation at local and national levels. Sense of diplomacy and tact.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent evaluation skills, including organizational and time management skills and capacity to produce high quality and constructive reports within short timeframes.</li> <li>• Demonstrated analytical skills, ability to assess complex situations, to succinctly and clearly distill critical issues, and to draw practical conclusions.</li> <li>• Excellent English report writing skills.</li> <li>• Excellent organizational and time management skills and ability to deliver quality products within short timeframe.</li> <li>• Good facilitation and presentation skills.</li> <li>• Ability and willingness to travel to provincial areas.</li> <li>• Computer literate (MS Office package).</li> </ul>
<b>Language Requirement:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English (fluent)</li> <li>• Knowledge of Khmer would be an asset</li> </ul>

### 13. Criteria for Evaluation of Level of Technical Compliance of Individual Contractor

Please find below, for transparency and information purposes, the general criteria which will be used in evaluating the acceptability and level of technical compliance of the candidates, as well as their corresponding weight.

<b>Technical Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>Obtainable Score</b>
At least 10 years of relevant experience, including experience in conducting monitoring and programme reviews or evaluation of development projects in the field of mine action and/or related field.	30
Experience in data collection, analysis and evaluation report writing. Excellent evaluation skills, including capacity to produce high quality and constructive reports.	30
Experience in results-based project management, gender mainstreaming, and capacity development.	15
Strong technical background in mine action (experience of the Cambodia context an advantage).	15
Relevant country, regional and/or UNDP/UN experience	10
<b>Total obtainable score:</b>	<b>100</b>

## Annex 2: Guiding Questions

1. Relevance:
  - a. How does the CfRIV intervention meet the needs of local mine affected communities?
  - b. Does the intervention align with national priorities?
  - c. Are the activities and outputs of CfRIV consistent with the overall project objectives and goal?
  - d. Related to activities and capacity level, is the project timeframe (including each result) reasonable to achieve the outputs and outcomes?
  
2. Effectiveness:
  - a. How were the project objectives achieved?
  - b. How are the project objectives likely to be achieved by end of December 2025?
  - c. What were the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the objectives?
  - d. How has the project's capacity building process has been effective in helping the CMAA to effectively manage and coordinate Cambodia's national mine action programme, including implementation of the management response from the 2019 Capacity Development Needs Assessment and in delivering the expected commitments under the project (including planning, implementing, monitoring, information management, quality assurance, and mainstreaming gender etc.)?
  
3. Results:
  - a. What are the main factors that have affected the achievement of CfRIV outputs?
  - b. How has Covid 19 impacted the performance of the project in delivering toward the expected results?
  - c. How has CfRIV achieved its outputs and how have these contributed to the CfRIV outcomes?
  - d. What are the lessons learned, good practice/strategies and recommendations which can be used to further improve results and project delivery?
  - e. How has CfRIV implemented the recommendations from the various reviews conducted (CfRIII final evaluation, CDNA, and gender mainstreaming assessment)?
  - f. How were these recommendations incorporated into the CfRIV project design and implementation?
  - g. How does CfRIV contribute to the UNDAF Outcome 2, UNDP CPD 2019-2023 Output 1.3 as reflected in the current project Result Resources Framework?
  - h. How can the project link to the new UNDP Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025?
  - i. Where possible, from the lens of project result contribution, what additional indicator(s) at the output and/or outcome levels are relevant?
  - j. What revisions and/or adjustments to the content of the project document including the project Theory of Change and Monitoring and Evaluation framework are necessary?

4. Efficiency:
  - a. How does the current service mobilized through the demining contracts contribute to efficiency in delivering high-quality clearance to meet the target set under the project, and/or the sub-subsequent national level target as relevant?
  - b. Were project annual outputs achieved on time?
  - c. How did the project manage to reduce delays associated with COVID restrictions?
  
5. Impact:
  - a. What are the changes in the way in which Cambodia is addressing Cambodia's national mine action programme issues, as a result of the CfRIV intervention?
  - b. What are the impacts of CfRIV on developing the institutional capacity of CMAA?
  - c. Did intended beneficiaries benefit from the project?
  - d. How many people have directly and indirectly benefited and in what way?
  - e. How can the project maximise its impact?
  
6. Sustainability:
  - a. How are the benefits of CfRIV likely to continue after its completion of activities?
  - b. What is a strategic approach for a gradual handover of project implementation responsibilities (transition strategy) from UNDP to CMAA?
  - c. What are the major factors which influenced the achievement or non-achievement of sustainability?
  - d. What is the CMAA capacity for securing funding through the governmental cost-sharing and/or domestic financial resources to fund mine action/RGC Sustainable Development Goal 18?
  
7. Partnership:
  - a. How effective are partnerships amongst all key project partners (CMAA, UNDP, donor agencies) in achieving the project's intended results, including on assurance support and strategic guidance?
  - b. How has the project established partnerships, or lack thereof, with other key stakeholders, especially through sector coordination mechanisms, e.g. Technical Working Group – Mine Action and Mine Action Coordination Committees, and Technical Reference Groups, ARMAC and how this has impacted the achievement of project's intended results?
  - c. How has the CfRIV intervention forged new or strengthened partnerships among different stakeholders (government institutions, development partners, civil society/academia, international/sub-regional organizations, etc)?
  
8. Cross cutting issues - Gender, human rights, and disability:
  - a. How has the CfRIV ensured the integration of a gender lens in its activities?
  - b. What are good practices and challenges in promoting gender mainstreaming efforts at all levels?
  - c. What are areas of opportunity for the project to maximise an inclusive approach?
  - d. How have the relevant disadvantaged and marginalized groups, including women, persons with disabilities, Indigenous populations, villagers living within mine affected communities of the project's target provinces, etc., benefited from the work of UNDP in the country through the project?



- e. How does the project support addressing the challenges for persons with disabilities under its scope of interventions?
- f. How were women and persons with disabilities consulted and meaningfully involved in programme planning and implementation?

### Annex 3: Fieldwork Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
16 Nov	0700hrs	Travel from PNH to BMC	
	1500hrs	Meeting with MAPU BMC	MAPU Chief (Mr. Ranin): 012-245 416 MAPU Deputy (Mr. Leng): 012-224 439
17 Nov	Start 0700hrs	Visit a minefield released by clearance and meeting with its beneficiaries. The minefield was released by CfRIV (2020 onward)	MAPU to accompany
		Meeting with people using the minefield released by NTS (NPA). The minefield was NTS by CfRIV (2020 onward)	MAPU to accompany
		Meeting with CMAC BMC (clearance operator)	MAPU to accompany
	1600hrs	Meeting with Official from the Department of Agriculture of BMC	MAPU to accompany
18 Nov	0700hrs	Travel from BMC to PNH	

## Annex 4: List of Key Informants (excluding provincial visits)

Agency/Name	Appointment Title
<b>CMAA</b>	
H.E. Ly Touch	Senior Minister and First Vice President
H.E. Prum Sophakmonkol	Secretary General and CfRIV Project Director
H.E. Sreng Sorphea	Head of Gender
H.E. Chhim Chansideth (Deth)	CMAA Quality Control, Gender
H.E. Mol Roeup Seyha	Deputy secretary general for TWG on mine action
H.E. Tan Sara	Director of Socio-Economic Planning and Database Management Department
H.E. Mao Bunnhath	Director of Victim Assistance
<b>BRPC</b>	
Mr. Layheang	Director
<b>CDPO</b>	
Mr. Vuth Touch	Project Coordinator
<b>TCF</b>	
Mr. Yang Vanheng	Manager
<b>Australia/DFAT</b>	
Ms Sokunthea Nguon	Program Manager
Mr Ryan Tierney	First Secretary and Consul
<b>New Zealand</b>	
Ms Natthanun (Nan) Patcharapunchai	Program Development Coordinator
<b>UNDP - CfRIV Project Team</b>	
Tong Try	National Mine Action Advisor
Naomi Konza	Project Coordination Specialist
Sonali Dayaratne	Deputy Resident Representative
Allissar Chaker	Resident Representative
Ratana Norng	M&E Specialist
<b>KOICA</b>	
Ms. Shin Jun Yeon	Deputy country director
Hort Sreou	Senior Program Specialist
<b>ARMAC</b>	

Mr Prum Suonpraseth	Executive Director
<b>Operators</b>	
<b>Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC)</b>	
<b>Norwegian Peoples' AID (NPA)</b>	

# Annex 5: Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation – Pledge



## ETHICAL GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATION PLEDGE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT IN EVALUATION



By signing this pledge, I hereby commit to discussing and applying the UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation and to adopting the associated ethical behaviours.



### INTEGRITY

I will actively adhere to the moral values and professional standards of evaluation practice as outlined in the UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation and following the values of the United Nations. Specifically, I will be:

- **Honest and truthful** in my communication and actions.
- **Professional**, engaging in credible and trustworthy behaviour, alongside competence, commitment and ongoing reflective practice.
- **Independent, impartial and incorruptible**.



### ACCOUNTABILITY

I will be answerable for all decisions made and actions taken and responsible for honouring commitments, without qualification or exception; I will report potential or actual harms observed. Specifically, I will be:

- **Transparent regarding evaluation** purpose and actions taken, establishing trust and increasing accountability for performance to the public, particularly those populations affected by the evaluation.
- **Responsive** as questions or events arise, adapting plans as required and referring to appropriate channels where corruption, fraud, sexual exploitation or abuse or other misconduct or waste of resources is identified.
- **Responsible** for meeting the evaluation purpose and for actions taken and for ensuring redress and recognition as needed.



### RESPECT

I will engage with all stakeholders of an evaluation in a way that honours their dignity, well-being, personal agency and characteristics. Specifically, I will ensure:

- **Access to** the evaluation process and products by all relevant stakeholders – whether powerless or powerful – with due attention to factors that could impede access such as sex, gender, race, language, country of origin, LGBTQ status, age, background, religion, ethnicity and ability.
- **Meaningful participation and equitable treatment** of all relevant stakeholders in the evaluation processes, from design to dissemination. This includes engaging various stakeholders, particularly affected people, so they can actively inform the evaluation approach and products rather than being solely a subject of data collection.
- **Fair representation** of different voices and perspectives in evaluation products (reports, webinars, etc.).



### BENEFICENCE

I will strive to do good for people and planet while minimizing harm arising from evaluation as an intervention. Specifically, I will ensure:

- **Explicit and ongoing consideration of risks and benefits** from evaluation processes.
- **Maximum benefits** at systemic (including environmental), organizational and programmatic levels.
- **No harm**. I will not proceed where harm cannot be mitigated.
- **Evaluation makes an overall positive contribution** to human and natural systems and the mission of the United Nations.

I commit to playing my part in ensuring that evaluations are conducted according to the Charter of the United Nations and the ethical requirements laid down above and contained within the UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation. When this is not possible, I will report the situation to my supervisor, designated focal points or channels and will actively seek an appropriate response.

*Colin O'Leary*

23 January 2023

(Signature and Date)



## Annex 6: Indicator Data

The ProDoc was revised in October 2022, and included revisions and additions to targets. Some indicators were removed. Baseline and target data is taken from the 2022 revised ProDoc, and data is aggregated from various relevant reports. Reports written prior to this revision may include data for indicators that have not been aggregated here, and assessments of progress indicated in previous reports may differ from conclusions that may be drawn from this table, as targets have changed.

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline (2019) (total)</b>	<b>Target (2025) (total)</b>	<b>Year 1 (2020) Actual/target</b>	<b>Year 2 (2021) Actual/target</b>	<b>Year 3 (2022) Actual/target</b>	<b>Progress status</b>
2.5: Percentage of people in EORE campaign targeted villages who report an increased awareness of mine/ERW risks post EORE campaigns (50% women/girls) (2022)	0 (2022)	80% (50% women/girls)	0	0	Post test not yet conducted (June 2022) / 80% (50% women/girls)	Data not yet available for end of year but no sign for cause for concern.
2.7: Extent to which the GMAP 2021-2025 annual implementation achieved (scale [0] not implemented, [1] less extent <sup>20</sup> , [2] some extent <sup>21</sup> , [3] great extent (revised 2022)	0 (2019)	3	n/a / 0	n/a / 1	Scale 2 / 2	On track
3.1: Percentage of agreed activities of the capacity development plan (CDP)	0 (2019)	100%	100%	100%	Implementation in process / 100%	On track

<sup>20</sup> [1] Less extent is defined by: a) GMAP 2021-2025 developed, b) functional review of Gender Team, c) Gender Team ToRs developed, d) gender disaggregated data collected and reported, e) Gender Team capacity development as per GMAP 2021-2025 implementation plan.

<sup>21</sup> [2] Some extent is defined by: a) annual workplan developed and implemented, b) gender disaggregated data collected and reported, c) Institutional capacity development as per GMAP 2021-2025 implementation plan, d) gender is mainstreamed in NMAS mid-term review report in 2022, e) mid-term review completed on the GMAP implementation in 2023.

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline (2019) (total)</b>	<b>Target (2025) (total)</b>	<b>Year 1 (2020) Actual/target</b>	<b>Year 2 (2021) Actual/target</b>	<b>Year 3 (2022) Actual/target</b>	<b>Progress status</b>
by CMAA implemented based on UNDP added-value)						
3.2: Residual threat management activities completed in line with NMAS 2018-2025 three-year implementation plan/s (Yes/No) (revised 2022)	No (2019)	Yes	No / No	No / No	Implementation in process / Yes	On track
3.3: Percentage of management responsive actions to the NMAS mid-term review recommendations implemented	No	100%	N/a	N/a	Review commenced August / 25%	On track
Area of mine-affected land released (target increased 2022)	244.19 km <sup>2</sup> (2019)	318.04 km <sup>2</sup>	11.42km <sup>2</sup> /11.42.km <sup>2</sup>	26.33/26km <sup>2</sup>	10.24 km <sup>2</sup> (June)/15.50km <sup>2</sup>	Data not yet available for end of year but no sign for cause for concern
No. of communes where Performance Monitoring System data is collected (revised 2022)	0 (2019)	17	Data collection processes of the 1 commune and 121 minefields completed and two PMS reports produced / 1	3/3	Data collection processes completed for 3 communes (June) / 4	Data not yet available for end of year but no sign for cause for concern
Number of EORE Training of Trainer	0 (2022)	320 teachers	n/a	0	48 (17% women) (June) / 80 teachers	Not on track (except in

Indicator	Baseline (2019) (total)	Target (2025) (total)	Year 1 (2020) Actual/target	Year 2 (2021) Actual/target	Year 3 (2022) Actual/target	Progress status
participants with increased understanding, demonstrated through pre- and post-testing (Disaggregated by gender and profession) (2022)		(30% women)  320 police (10% women)			(30% women)  80 police (10% women) <sup>22</sup>	terms of % female and police). TOTs were suspended amidst covid.
Number of mine/ERW victims or family members benefiting from livelihood development opportunities through access to skill training (20% women, disaggregated by type of benefits – direct/indirect) (2022)	0 (2022)	(a) 495 mine victim survivors or their family members enrolled in skills training (20% women)	n/a	0	136 (57% women) (June) / 175 mine victim survivors or their family members enrolled in skills training (20% women)	Data not yet available for end of year but no sign for cause for concern
Number of people benefitting from cleared and released land (disaggregated by gender) (target reduced 2022)	1,019,258 people (50% women) (2019)	150,440 (1,169,698) <sup>23</sup> (50% women)	28,979 / 28,979 people (1,048,237) (50% women)	32,570 / 32,570 people (1,080,807) (50% women)	17,874 (June) / 37,824 (1,118,631) (50% women)	Data not yet available for end of year, but as previous years' targets were reduced there is a concern that current targets may not be met

<sup>22</sup> Lower gender target due to lower numbers of women employed as police, i.e. no women are working as police in the target area of Battambang

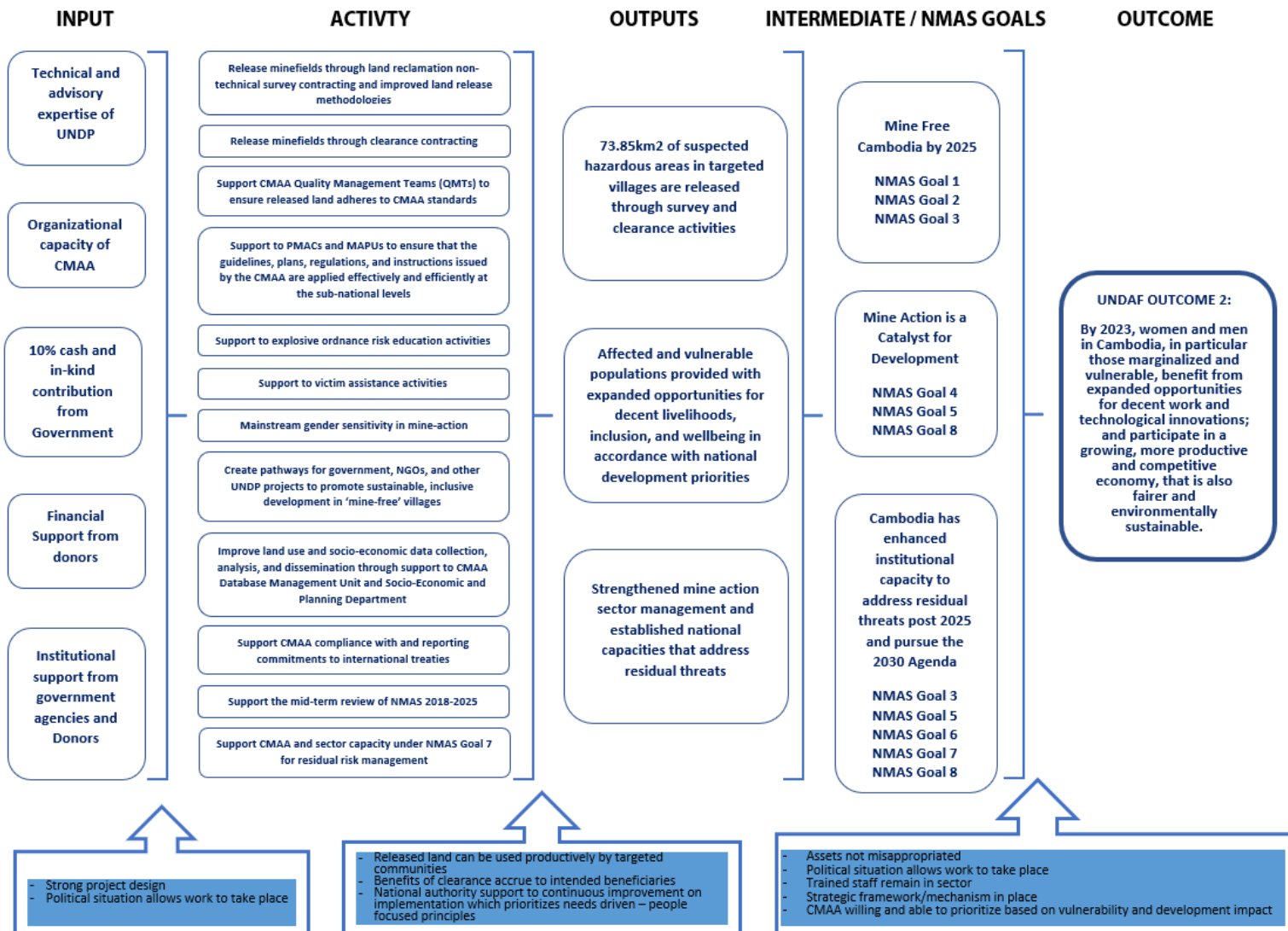
<sup>23</sup> Original ProDoc target of 301,664 cumulative beneficiaries was projected based on historical data of an estimated average of 5,541 beneficiaries per km<sup>2</sup>. New target of 1,169,698 cumulative beneficiaries is based on actual results from 2020 and 2021. Additional contributing factor is the historical clearance of highly populated areas, while current clearance is removing pockets of contamination on land largely used for agricultural purposes, which sees a reduction in persons per square meter.

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline (2019) (total)</b>	<b>Target (2025) (total)</b>	<b>Year 1 (2020) Actual/target</b>	<b>Year 2 (2021) Actual/target</b>	<b>Year 3 (2022) Actual/target</b>	<b>Progress status</b>
Number of people benefitting from UNDP assisted mine action programme	1,019,258 (50% women) (2019)	1,169,698 (50% women)				n/a; it is unclear why data is not reported or how exactly this indicator differs from previous one.
Number of persons with phantom limb pain who received the training on mirror therapy techniques and treatment (5% women) (2022)	0 (2022)	500	0	200 (5% women)	212 (3% women) (June) / 500 (5% women)	Data not yet available for end of year but no sign for cause for concern
Number of QA/QC Inspections completed annually by CMAA (target reduced 2022)	1,399 (2019)	8,700 (<5% critical issues identified)	1,580/1,500	1,333/1,500 (<5% critical issues identified)	728 (June) / 1,425 (<5% critical issues identified)	Data not yet available for end of year but as previous years' targets were reduced there is a concern that current targets may not be met
Number of students registered to study physiotherapy (PT) course at the University	0 (2022)	34 (4 PO, 30 PT)	0	0	4 PO students recruited, 3 withdrew, one current student; PT	Data not yet available for end of year but present

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline (2019) (total)</b>	<b>Target (2025) (total)</b>	<b>Year 1 (2020) Actual/target</b>	<b>Year 2 (2021) Actual/target</b>	<b>Year 3 (2022) Actual/target</b>	<b>Progress status</b>
of Health Sciences and prosthetic and orthotic (PO) course at the Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics (disaggregated course and gender) (2022)		(30% women)			recruitment underway (June) / 34 (4 PO, 30 PT) (30% women)	enrolment is significantly under target. Greater attention to recruitment strategy required.
Percentage of annual minefield's size surveyed released through Non-Technical Survey as per LR-NTS contract (2022)	0% (2022)	21% of total minefields surveyed via LR-NTS	n/a / 0%	n/a / 25%	13% (June)/20%	Data not yet available for end of year but no sign for cause for concern



# Annex 7: Theory of Change



## Annex 8: Results Framework

**Intended Outcome as stated in the UNDAF/Country Programme Results and Resource Framework:**

**UNDAF Outcome 2:** By 2023, women and men in Cambodia, in particular, those marginalized and vulnerable, benefit from expanded opportunities for decent work and technological innovations; and participate in a growing, more productive and competitive economy, that is also fairer and environmentally sustainable.

**Outcome indicators as stated in the Country Programme Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets:**

**UNDAF SUB-OUTCOME 2.3:** Social norms, policies, laws and institutions promote economic inclusion, especially of women, people with disabilities, women and men living in remote areas and the extreme poor.

**UNDAF Outcome Indicator 2.3.2:** Economic Inclusion of poor, people living remote locations and other marginalized groups, (number participating in RGC targeted UN-supported poverty eradication/ economic inclusion programmes - including SP & mine action)

Baseline: 0

Target: 100,000 (UNDAF target)

**UNDP Strategic Plan Outputs 2022-2025:**

Signature Solution 1: Poverty and Inequality

SP output 1.3: Access to basic services and financial and non-financial assets and services improved to support productive capacities for sustainable livelihoods and jobs to achieve prosperity

Indicators:

1.3.1 Number of people accessing basic services:

- Persons with disabilities
  - 2021 Baseline: 4,834 persons with disabilities<sup>24</sup>
  - 2022 Target: 5,317 persons with disabilities<sup>25</sup>
  - 2023 Target: 7,985 persons with disabilities<sup>26</sup>
  - 2024 Target: 7,985 persons with disabilities

<sup>24</sup> PWDF statistic on PRCs in 2021. This figure is only for Battambang PRC.

<sup>25</sup> Added 10% to the 2021 statistic after discussion with BPRC Manager who expects increased services in 2022 due to resumption of services despite covid

<sup>26</sup> The 2023- 2025 figure is to be determined and is based on people accessing 6 PRCs: BPRC= 5,317 PwD; Prey Veng PRC = 633 PwD; Kratie PRC= 213 PwD; Kien Khleang PRC = 928 PwD; Siem Reap PRC= 194 PwD; and Takeo PRC= 700 PwD. In 2022, CfrIV currently only supports BPRC, however, a 2022 needs assessment anticipates service expansion to these other PRCs given their limited resources vs community demand.

- 2025 Target: 7,985 persons with disabilities

### 1.3.3 Number of people accessing non-financial assets:

- Female
- Male
- 2021 Baseline: 32,570 (51% women)<sup>27</sup>
- 2022 Target: 39,327 (50% women)
- 2023 Target: 21,277 (50% women)
- 2024 Target: 17,352 (50% women)
- 2025 Target: 14,470 (50% women)

SP output 3.3: Risk informed and gender-responsive recovery solutions, including stabilization efforts and mine action, implemented at regional, national and sub-national levels,

Indicator 3.3.3: Number of institutions with gender-responsive resilient recovery strategies or plans in crisis and post-crisis settings, including stabilization and mine action, informed by joint assessments:

- National governments
- 2021 Baseline: 4<sup>28</sup>
- 2022 Target: 4
- 2023 Target: 4
- 2024 Target: 4
- 2025 Target: 4

**UNDP CPD Output 1.3 (Project Outcome 1):** Left-behind and mine-affected communities have access to safe land for better livelihoods

### **UNDP CPD Output indicators (with baselines and targets):**

**1.3.1:** a) Area of mine-affected land released (km<sup>2</sup>); (b) Number of people benefitting from UNDP assisted mine action programme

***Baseline (2019):***

(a) 244.19 km<sup>2</sup>;

(b) 1,019,258 (50% women);

<sup>27</sup> Figures taken from 2021 results and targets in ProDoc

<sup>28</sup> 0 = Not in place, 1 = Work started, 2 = Work in progress, 3 = Work almost complete, 4 = Endorsed

**Target (2025):**(a) 318.04 km<sup>2</sup>;

(b) 1,169,698 (50% women)

**Project title and Atlas Project Number: 00096338 Clearing for Results Phase 4 (CfRIV): Mine Action for Human Development**

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE VALUE	TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)							DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
				Year 1 (2020)	Year 2 (2021)	Year 3 (2022)	Year 4 (2023)	Year 5 (2024)	Year 6 (2025)	Total 6 years	
<b>CPD: Output 1.3.</b> Left-behind and mine-affected communities have access to safe land for better livelihoods.	Indicator: 1.3.1: Area of mine-affected land released (73.85 km <sup>2</sup> )  (Target increased)	CMAA / UNDP records	244.19 km <sup>2</sup> (2019)	11.42km <sup>2</sup> (255.61 km <sup>2</sup> )	26km <sup>2</sup> (281.61km <sup>2</sup> )  CDP 2023 Target of 281km <sup>2</sup> Achieved	15.50 (297.11 km <sup>2</sup> )	8.39 (305.50 km <sup>2</sup> )	6.84 (312.34km <sup>2</sup> )	5.70 (318.04 km <sup>2</sup> )	73.85 (318.04 km <sup>2</sup> )	Contract reports
<b>Project Output 1: 73.85km<sup>2</sup> of suspected hazardous areas in targeted villages are released through survey and</b>	1.1: Percentage of annual minefield's size surveyed released through Non-Technical Survey as	CMAA / UNDP records	0% (2020)	0%	25%	20%	20%	20%	20%	21% of total minefields surveyed via LR-NTS throughout course of project	Contract reports  2021 target of 25% as reported in the CfRIV 2021 annual report.  2022-2025 target of 20% based on

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE VALUE	TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)							DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
				Year 1 (2020)	Year 2 (2021)	Year 3 (2022)	Year 4 (2023)	Year 5 (2024)	Year 6 (2025)	Total 6 years	
clearance activities	per LR-NTS contract  (New)										assessment of 2021 achievement.  6 year total is the average of the 5 years of the activity (105/5=21)
	1.2: Number of QA/QC Inspections completed annually by CMAA <sup>29</sup>  (Target reduced)	CMAA / UNDP records	1,399 (2019)	1,500	1,500 (<5% critical issues identified)	1,425 (<5% critical issues identified)	1,425 (<5% critical issues identified)	1,425 (<5% critical issues identified)	1,425 (<5% critical issues identified)	1,425 (<5% critical issues identified)	8,700 (<5% critical issues identified)

<sup>29</sup> In 2021, a reduction of Government budget from June resulted in a reduction of QMT from 8 to 5 teams. In May 2022, CMAA set a new target of 1,425 annual QA/QC inspections which has resulted in an overall decrease of annual and project life targets.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE VALUE	TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)							DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
				Year 1 (2020)	Year 2 (2021)	Year 3 (2022)	Year 4 (2023)	Year 5 (2024)	Year 6 (2025)	Total 6 years	
											authority, member of the public, other stakeholders/interested party, or the environment /Infrastructure.
	1.3: Number of people benefitting from cleared and released land (disaggregated by gender)  (Target reduced)	CMAA / UNDP records	1,019,258 people (50% women) (2019)	28,979 people (1,048,237) (50% women)	32,570 people (1,080,807) (50% women)  CDP 2023 Target of 1,064,302 (50% women) Achieved	37,824 (1,118,631) (50% women)	20,463 (1,139,094) (50% women)	16,688 (1,155,782) (50% women)	13,916 (1,169,698) (50% women)	150,440 (1,169,698) <sup>30</sup> (50% women)	Contract reports
<b>Project Output 2: Affected and</b>	2.1: Number of mine/ERW victims or family	CMAA / UNDP / RP records	0	N/A	0	(a) 175 mine victim survivors or their family members	(a) 155 mine victim survivors or their family members	(a) 165 mine victim survivors or their family members	0	(a) 495 mine victim survivors or their family members	CDPO reports  20% women as per agreement with Cambodia

<sup>30</sup> Original ProDoc target of 301,664 cumulative beneficiaries was projected based on historical data of an estimated average of 5,541 beneficiaries per km2. New target of 1,169,698 cumulative beneficiaries is based on actual results from 2020 and 2021. Additional contributing factor is the historical clearance of highly populated areas, while current clearance is removing pockets of contamination on land largely used for agricultural purposes, which sees a reduction in persons per square meter.



EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE VALUE	TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)							DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
				Year 1 (2020)	Year 2 (2021)	Year 3 (2022)	Year 4 (2023)	Year 5 (2024)	Year 6 (2025)	Total 6 years	
<b>vulnerable populations provided with expanded opportunities for decent livelihoods, inclusion, and wellbeing in accordance with national development priorities</b>	members benefiting from livelihood development opportunities through access to skill training (20% women, disaggregated by type of benefits – direct/indirect)  (New)					enrolled in skills training (20% women)	enrolled in skills training (20% women)	enrolled in skills training (20% women)		enrolled in skills training (20% women)	Disabled People's Organisation
	2.2: Number of persons with phantom limb pain who received the training on mirror	CMAA / UNDP / RP records	0	0	200 (5% women)	300 (5% women)	0	0	0	500 (5% women)	TCF reports

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE VALUE	TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)							DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
				Year 1 (2020)	Year 2 (2021)	Year 3 (2022)	Year 4 (2023)	Year 5 (2024)	Year 6 (2025)	Total 6 years	
	therapy techniques and treatment (5% women)  (New)										
	2.3: Number of students registered to study physiotherapy (PT) course at the University of Health Sciences and prosthetic and orthotic (PO) course at the Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics (	CMAA / UNDP / RP records	0	0	0	34 (4 PO, 30 PT) (30% women)	34 (4 PO, 30 PT) (30% women)	34 (4 PO, 30 PT) (30% women)	0	34 (4 PO, 30 PT) (30% women)	Exceed Worldwide reports

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE VALUE	TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)							DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
				Year 1 (2020)	Year 2 (2021)	Year 3 (2022)	Year 4 (2023)	Year 5 (2024)	Year 6 (2025)	Total 6 years	
	disaggregated course and gender)  (New)										
	2.4: Number of EORE Training of Trainer participants with increased understanding, demonstrated through pre- and post-testing (Disaggregated by gender and profession)  (New)	CMAA / UNDP records	0	N/A	0	80 teachers (30% women)  80 police (10% women) <sup>31</sup>	80 teachers (30% women)  80 police (10% women)	80 teachers (30% women)  80 police (10% women)	80 teachers (30% women)  80 police (10% women)	320 teachers (30% women)  320 police (10% women)	CMAA Public Relations Department reports  Pre and post training surveys will be used to measure participants understanding of the dangers of explosive ordnance and EORE

<sup>31</sup> Lower gender target due to lower numbers of women employed as police, i.e. no women are working as police in the target area of Battambang

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE VALUE	TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)							DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
				Year 1 (2020)	Year 2 (2021)	Year 3 (2022)	Year 4 (2023)	Year 5 (2024)	Year 6 (2025)	Total 6 years	
	2.5: Percentage of people in EORE campaign targeted villages who report an increased awareness of mine/ERW risks post EORE campaigns (50% women/girls)  (New)	CMAA / UNDP records	0	0	0	80% (50% women/girls)	80% (50% women/girls)	80% (50% women/girls)	80% (50% women/girls)	80% (50% women/girls)	Annual village volunteer surveys  Pre and post campaign surveys will be used to measure attendees understanding of the dangers of explosive ordnance and EORE
	2.6: No. of communes where Performance Monitoring System data is collected  (Revised)	CMAA / UNDP records	0	1	3	4	3	3	3	17	CMAA SEPD reports

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE VALUE	TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)							DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
				Year 1 (2020)	Year 2 (2021)	Year 3 (2022)	Year 4 (2023)	Year 5 (2024)	Year 6 (2025)	Total 6 years	
	2.7: Extent to which the GMAP 2021-2025 annual implementation achieved (scale [0] not implemented, [1] less extent <sup>32</sup> , [2] some extent <sup>33</sup> , [3] great extent <sup>34</sup> )  (Revised)	CMAA / UNDP records	0	0	1	2	2	3	3	3	CMAA Gender Team reports
<b>Project Output 3: Strengthened mine action sector</b>	3.1: Percentage of agreed activities of the capacity development	CDNA Recommendation Report	0	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	CDNA Management Response update report  Target measures

<sup>32</sup> [1] Less extent is defined by: a) GMAP 2021-2025 developed, b) functional review of Gender Team, c) Gender Team ToRs developed, d) gender disaggregated data collected and reported, e) Gender Team capacity development as per GMAP 2021-2025 implementation plan.

<sup>33</sup> [2] Some extent is defined by: a) annual workplan developed and implemented, b) gender disaggregated data collected and reported, c) Institutional capacity development as per GMAP 2021-2025 implementation plan, d) gender is mainstreamed in NMAS mid-term review report in 2022, e) mid-term review completed on the GMAP implementation in 2023.

<sup>34</sup> [3] Great extent is defined by: a) annual plan developed and implemented, b) gender disaggregated data collected and reported, c) gender related findings from NMAS mid-term review implemented, d) GMAP mid-term review findings implemented, e) final evaluation on GMAP in 2025.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE VALUE	TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)							DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
				Year 1 (2020)	Year 2 (2021)	Year 3 (2022)	Year 4 (2023)	Year 5 (2024)	Year 6 (2025)	Total 6 years	
management and national capacities that address residual threats	nt plan (CDP) by CMAA implemented based on UNDP added-value)										based on the number of CDP recommendations CMAA agreed (1) and partially agreed (1) to in its management response
	3.2: Residual threat management activities completed in line with NMAS 2018-2025 three-year implementation plan/s (Yes/No)  (Revised)	NMAS 2018-2025	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Residual threat strategy monitoring report
	3.3: Percentage of management responsive	NMAS 2018-2025	No	N/A	N/A	25%	50%	75%	100%	100%	NMAS Mid-Term Review Management Response update report



EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE VALUE	TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)							DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS
				Year 1 (2020)	Year 2 (2021)	Year 3 (2022)	Year 4 (2023)	Year 5 (2024)	Year 6 (2025)	Total 6 years	
	actions to the NMAS mid-term review recommendations implemented.										

## Annex 9: Social and Environmental Screening

### Project Information

<b>Project Information</b>	
1. Project Title	Clearing for Results, Phase IV – Mine Action for Human Development
2. Project Number (i.e. Atlas project ID, PIMS+)	Atlas ID: 00096338
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	Cambodia
4. Project stage (Design or Implementation)	Implementation
5. Date	2020 - 2025

### Part A. Integrating Programming Principles to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability

#### **QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Programming Principles in Order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?**

##### ***Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams the human rights-based approach***

Between the mid-1960s until the end of 1998, Cambodia faced a series of internal and regional conflicts which left a legacy of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), including cluster munitions, across the country. Since 1979, mines and ERW have claimed nearly 20,000 lives and injured over 45,000 others, causing unprecedented suffering to individuals, their families and communities, and severely impeding rural livelihood development.

Mine clearance is a core enabler of development and poverty reduction, creating economic opportunities through agricultural production on released land and reducing health and safety costs. In Cambodia, rural poor located in the north-west are directly affected by casualties and deprived of the use of the land for farming and basic social services infrastructure such as schools, wells for drinking water and rural roads.

UNDP recognizes the centrality of human rights to sustainable development, poverty alleviation, sustaining peace and ensuring fair distribution of development opportunities and benefits and is committed to supporting "universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all."

As such, Clearing for Results IV: Mine Action for Human Development (CfRIV) is strategically designed around the humanitarian, development, peace nexus, with a focus on integrated land clearance and release activities, victim assistance, explosive ordnance risk education and gender

mainstreaming in mine action efforts and broader national and international frameworks, while supporting enabling factors which will allow for development in villages declared mine free.

The main target groups for the project include 1) rural and remote mine-impacted communities for output 1 and 2, centering on creating 'mine-free villages' and 2) CMAA and targeted Mine Action Planning Units (MAPU) for Output 2 and 3 in relation to their capacities to implement the National Mine Action Strategy (NMAS) 2018-2025 and manage residual threats after 2025.

Throughout implementation, the key guiding principles of the project are to ensure accountability of the duty-bearers to provide safe land for local communities through improving their institutional and individual capacity, to empower local communities living in mine affected areas and survivors through improved access to information, access to skill development and other assistances without discrimination, and to ensure the meaningful, effective and informed participation of stakeholders. Stakeholders include government institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, local communities, indigenous peoples, women and persons with disabilities. This will be facilitated through the following activities.

- Developing and institutionalizing national and sub-national consultation and participation mechanisms.
- Organizing consultation and information sharing meetings with stakeholders to inform about and seek inputs for any proposed measures prior to official decisions.
- Planning and prioritization processes for the identification of minefields for clearance is founded in the principles of a needs driven and people centered approach, involving consultations starting at the village level to identify priority clearance areas, with full recognition of beneficiaries land and tenure rights. Pre- and Post-Clearance monitoring is also undertaken to monitor how released land is used and if it is in line with its intended purpose.
- Clearance and land release also contribute to savings lives and limbs, upholding the right to life, liberty and security of person and enhancing the right to freedom of movement and residence. It creates safe land which can be put to productive use for agricultural and infrastructure purposes, including the restoration of basic social services.
- Victim assistance activities which uphold the rights of mine/ERW victims to access required physical and psycho-social supports to support recovery and reintegration into social and economic life and promotes rights in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

***Briefly describe in the space below how the project is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment***

Mines and ERW, including cluster munitions, pose a significant threat to the lives, well-being and economic development of individuals and communities in Cambodia. While mines/ERW do not

discriminate, the specific threats and impacts vary according to gender, age, and other aspects of diversity. Beyond the immediate threat to people's lives, mines/ERW affects livelihoods and access to infrastructure, social services and natural resources required for socio-economic activity. Gender and diversity influence peoples' level of exposure and risk of becoming a victim, affecting their ability to access education or skill development, medical and psychological services, and employment.

Gender mainstreaming is not just increasing the number of women engaged or the empowerment of women, but a commitment to identifying the differential impacts of mines/ERW on the lives of women, men, girls, and boys, and to proposing practical solutions to respond to the specific needs identified.

In adherence with UNDPs principle on gender equality and women's empowerment, the design and implementation of CfRIV was informed by a gender analysis which identified target villages under the 'mine-free village' strategy and prioritized villages with higher numbers of female-headed HH and HH consisting of the elderly and HH below the poverty line. To identify and integrate the different needs, constraints, contributions and priorities of women, men, girls and boys, the project developed village level consultation guidelines to provide guidance to Village Chiefs on the inclusion of women and marginalized populations in planning and prioritization of minefields for clearance.

Under Output 2, and in accordance with the Gender Mainstreaming in Mine Action Plan 2021-2025 and Gender Guidelines in Mine Action, the project strengthens interventions across the institutional (in national and sub-national project planning), operational (promotion of female deminers), and beneficiary (gender disaggregated indicators to target and track project activities, including access to victim assistance, livelihoods, EORE, etc.) levels.

***Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams sustainability and resilience***

In a post conflict environment, mines/ERW continue to terrorize affected communities and prevent recovery efforts. Mine action is the first step in sustainable development, promoting resilience by addressing psycho-social trauma which is pervasive within affected communities as a result of the constant threat of injury and death. Mine/ERW clearance in itself is highly sustainable, as once a landmine is removed from the ground it is gone for good. Building on the safe land, affected communities can increase agricultural productivity and enhance access to infrastructure, which has a multiplier effect on the resilience of the community to future shocks or disasters by creating socio-economic safety nets which reduce vulnerabilities.

There is not only a humanitarian imperative to clear mines/ERW, but an environmental necessity given the negative impact unexploded ordnance can have on the natural environment. The project's clearance efforts are undertaken in accordance with the Cambodian Mine Action Standard – Environment chapter and supports the CMAA to implement the National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025 (NMA) Goal 8, which is to ensure mine action activities are supported by

enhanced quality management system, effective information management, and are gender and environmental protection sensitive.

CfRIVs efficient and effective land release activities supports the mitigation of negative environmental impacts by ensuring that clearance assets are only used on contaminated land while pre- and post-clearance monitoring also supports effective land use planning. Through UNDP and other development partners, CfRIV is also aligning mine free villages with development opportunities, including for example solar mini grids for unelectrified villages and solar water pumps for irrigation.

***Briefly describe in the space below how the project strengthens accountability to stakeholders***

As noted above, a key guiding principle of the project is to ensure the full and effective participation of all relevant stakeholders. The project supports needs driven, people centred planning and prioritization processes to enable active local community engagement and participation in decision-making, particularly those at risk of being left behind.

To ensure effective monitoring, the project implements quality assurance and quality control mechanisms through quality management teams who visit clearance sites and report on any minor<sup>35</sup>, major<sup>36</sup> or critical<sup>37</sup> non-compliance with Cambodian Mine Action Standards, building assurance within affected communities and development partners alike that release land is indeed safe for its intended use.

Pre- and post-clearance monitoring is also undertaken to ensure that released land is used as planned and communities have a means to communicate their concerns and have access to rights-compatible complaints redress processes and mechanisms.

At a sectoral level, the project provides support to the CMAA to hold its sector coordination efforts across the Technical Working Group – Mine Action (TWG-MA), the Mine Action Coordination Committee (MACC), and the various Technical Reference Groups (TRGs), to ensure engagement and sector accountability across technical, operational and political spheres.

While under Output 3, the project also supports the CMAA in its international treaty obligations and efforts for evidence-based information management and reporting.

<sup>35</sup> Minor non-conformity includes, but is not limited to, isolated instances of not meeting non-critical requirements, incorrect or missing pieces of non-critical information, and problems where the consequences are limited to internal inefficiencies, but the people are not affected.

<sup>36</sup> Major nonconformity includes, but is not limited to a major element of the quality management system (QMS) (or other system subject to monitoring) is not being implemented, something that affects everything or everyone in the operating operator/element, significant problems may result if the non-conforming product (e.g., cleared land) is released to public use, and problems carrying a significant risk to an organization, its people, or other interested parties.

<sup>37</sup> Critical non-conformity is a major non-conformity that additionally implies an immediate and significant safety, environmental and/or serious risk to any worker, visitor, authority, member of the public, other stakeholders/interested party, or the environment/infrastructure.

**Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks**

<p><b>QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks?</b>  <i>Note: Complete SESP Attachment 1 before responding to Question 2.</i></p>	<p><b>QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks?</b>  <i>Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5 below before proceeding to Question 5</i></p>			<p><b>QUESTION 6: Describe the assessment and management measures for each risk rated Moderate, Substantial or High</b></p>
<p><b>Risk Description (broken down by event, cause, impact)</b></p>	<p><b>Impact and Likelihood (1-5)</b></p>	<p><b>Significance (Low, Moderate, Substantial, High)</b></p>	<p><b>Comments (optional)</b></p>	<p><b>Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High</b></p>
<p><b>Risk 1:</b> There is a risk that duty-bearers (e.g. government agencies) do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the project</p>	<p>I = 3 L = 3</p>	<p>Moderate</p>		<p>The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) have committed 10% Government Parallel Funding (GPF) to the project. Any change in government policy to its regular budget allocated for mine action, including 10% GPF would result in failure to reach project targets.</p> <p>CfRIV is maintaining an on-going dialogue and advocacy with CMAA and RGC for stable implementation of the GPF budget plans and allocations.</p> <p>Under output 3, the project focuses on developing institutional capacity and preparing sector efforts towards residual risk management. CfRIV is providing on-going information management and institution development support to CMAA. E.g. Performance Monitoring System support to the Socio-</p>



				Economic Planning Department, standardizing reporting templates and procedures, and following-up on management responses to CfRIII, CDNA, and gender capacity assessment to ensure CMAA is equipped to fulfill its mandate.
<b>Risk 2:</b> There is risk that the project could involve or lead to adverse impacts to habitats and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services; adverse impacts on soils; and significant agricultural production.	I = 4 L = 2	Moderate		<p>The process of mine clearance has an adverse impact on habitats and ecosystems including through vegetation removal and ground preparation, mechanical systems, worksites and waste, and explosive ordnance disposal.</p> <p>To minimize these factors, the project’s clearance efforts are undertaken in accordance with the Cambodian Mine Action Standard – Environment chapter and supports the CMAA to implement the National Mine Action Strategy 2018-2025 (NMAS) Goal 8, which is to ensure mine action activities are supported by enhanced quality management system, effective information management, and are gender and environmental protection sensitive.</p> <p>The mine-fields selected for clearance by the project are mostly the fields being used by local communities. Therefore, the risk of vegetation removal is low. What is more, the Pre- and Post-Clearance monitoring is in place to ensure released lands are being used for its intended purpose, largely agriculture and infrastructure.</p> <p>The project clears mine/ERW contaminated land with the purpose of releasing safe land for productive use within affected communities. In 2022, it’s</p>

			<p>anticipated that 76% of the land released through the project will be used for agriculture, 17% for risk reduction and 75 for other purposes, including infrastructure development.</p>
<p><b>Risk 3:</b> There is risk that the project could involve or lead to construction and/or infrastructure development (e.g. roads, buildings, dams); air pollution, noise, vibration, traffic, injuries, physical hazards, poor surface water quality due to runoff, erosion, sanitation; transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials; adverse impacts on ecosystems and ecosystem services relevant to communities' health.; the release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts; the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous); and the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous materials and/or chemicals</p>	<p>I = 3 L = 3</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>The project clears mine/ERW contaminated land with the purpose of releasing safe land for productive use within affected communities. In 2022, it's anticipated that 76% of the land released through the project will be used for agriculture, 17% for risk reduction and 75 for other purposes, including infrastructure development.</p> <p>Toxic pollutants may be released into the environment when ordnance detonates. Along with the explosives are their breakdown products and other munition components such as heavy metals, each of which is a possible carcinogen. As ordnance degrades over time, casings corrode and hazardous chemicals can leak into the soil and groundwater, posing a threat to the health of humans, animals, and flora alike.</p> <p>Located mines and unexploded ordnance must also be disposed of. Open burning or open detonation (OBOD) remains a basic and widely used disposal method, but it releases explosive residues into the environment. TNT, a common explosive, when absorbed into soil, slowly leaches and degrades to form degradation products. Explosive ordnance is most often destroyed by "second order" demolition, which is when a</p>

			<p>donor charge is used to trigger a detonation in the main charge. The contamination risk is highest in bulk demolition sites, where repeated “second order” demolitions occur, which are in areas of substantial precipitation with sandy porous or loam soils, a shallow groundwater table and that are adjacent to marshes, swamps, or estuaries. OBOD may include transmission through air (the pathway) to cause local air pollution and nuisance from black smoke generation (the source), as well as ground pollution from deposition of explosive, carbonized, and heavy metal residues (other sources).</p> <p>To minimize the unavoidable environmental impacts of mine clearance, the NMAS 2018-2025 Goal 8, Objective 4: Mainstream environmental protection in mine action called for the development of a Cambodia Mine Action Standards (CMAS) on environment in line with the International Mine Action Standard on environment.</p> <p>The project undertakes clearance activities in accordance with these standards, particularly in relation to the safety procedures necessary for detonation.</p>
<p><b>Risk 4:</b> There is a likelihood that project could be undertaken in areas where indigenous peoples are present; on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples; and may have positive or negative</p>	<p>I = 3 L = 1</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>The project targets the most vulnerable communities in remote, rural areas in Battambang, Banteay Meanchey and Pailin where the percentage of indigenous people is very low.</p> <p>The planning and prioritization process implemented by the MAPUs is based in the principles of</p>

<p>impacts to the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples</p>			<p>a needs driven, people centred approach. This involves consultation with affected communities, with a specific guideline developed to support consultation with marginalized populations, including indigenous people, women and persons with disabilities.</p> <p>The CfR project has a long-standing practice, together with CMAA, in its quality assurance activities and monitoring of land clearance operations. Mechanisms exist through the sub-national Provincial Mine Action Committee to resolves disputes on cleared land.</p>
<p><b>Risk 5:</b> There is risk that the project could involve or lead to occupational health and safety risks due to physical, chemical, biological and psychosocial hazards (including violence and harassment) throughout the project life-cycle</p>	<p>I = 5 L = 1</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Globally, International Mine Action Standards are the standards in force for all mine action operations. Within Cambodia, these standards have been contextualized for the national operating environment into chapters of Cambodian Mine Action Standards. These standards set the requirements for operators working in Cambodia to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to comply with and include topics such as Storage, Transportation and Handling of Explosive, Worksite Safety, Personal Protective Equipment, Mechanical Demining, Clearance Marking System, Baseline Survey, Land Release, Cluster Munitions Remnants Survey, Clearance Requirement Demining, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Reporting and Investigation, Application of CMAS, etc.</p>

				All project operations are undertaken in line with these standards to minimize the risks associated largely with clearance operations by deminers.
	<b>QUESTION 4: What is the overall project risk categorization?</b>			
	<b>Low Risk</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<b>Moderate Risk</b>	X		The social and environmental risks and impacts identified are well understood, and clearly circumscribed noting that the project has been in effect since 2006, with ongoing risk management and mitigation incorporated throughout M&E efforts and integration of lessons learned into each subsequent phase of project design, development and implementation. The project has strong institutional, sectoral and stakeholder partnerships in place which provide additional risk management strategies along with practice which aligns to national and international standards in mine action. The management measures identified in the above Section B, Question 6, have been incorporated into the project budget, risk log, and monitoring framework.
	<b>Substantial Risk</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<b>High Risk</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<b>QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are triggered? (check all that</b>			

apply)				
Question only required for Moderate, Substantial and High Risk projects				
<b><u>Is assessment required? (check if "yes")</u></b>				<b>Status ? (completed, planned)</b>
<i>if yes, indicate overall type and status</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Targeted assessment(s)	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	ESIA (Environmental and Social Impact Assessment)	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	SESA (Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment)	
<b>Are management plans required? (check if "yes")</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<i>If yes, indicate overall type</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Targeted management plans (e.g. Gender Action Plan, Emergency Response Plan, Waste Management Plan, others)	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	ESMP (Environmental and Social Management Plan which may include	



			range of targeted plans)
		<input type="checkbox"/>	ESMF (Environmental and Social Management Framework)
	<b>Based on identified risks, which Principles/Project-level Standards triggered?</b>		<b>Comments (not required)</b>
	<b>Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>Human Rights</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>Accountability</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>2. Climate Change and Disaster Risks</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>3. Community Health, Safety and Security</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>4. Cultural Heritage</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>5. Displacement and Resettlement</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>6. Indigenous Peoples</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>7. Labour and Working Conditions</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>8. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

### Final Sign Off

Final Screening at the design-stage is not complete until the following signatures are included

<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
QA Assessor		UNDP staff member responsible for the project, typically a UNDP Programme Officer. Final signature confirms they have "checked" to ensure that the SESP is adequately conducted.

QA Approver		UNDP senior manager, typically the UNDP Deputy Country Director (DCD), Country Director (CD), Deputy Resident Representative (DRR), or Resident Representative (RR). The QA Approver cannot also be the QA Assessor. Final signature confirms they have “cleared” the SESP prior to submittal to the PAC.
PAC Chair		UNDP chair of the PAC. In some cases PAC Chair may also be the QA Approver. Final signature confirms that the SESP was considered as part of the project appraisal and considered in recommendations of the PAC.