

Humanitarian Mine Action Support

“Landmine survey and clearance to facilitate community development in Cambodia”

Project Report Q1: April-June 2020



**MAG (Mines Advisory Group)
CAMBODIA**

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Project Overview

MAG has been a leading contributor to the Cambodian mine action sector since establishing operations in 1992, releasing over 83 million square meters of safe land back mine-affected communities, directly benefiting more than 1.9 million people. MAG works to reduce the impact of landmine and other Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) contamination, supporting mine-affected communities within Battambang province.

The generous funding from Terra Renaissance for the 12-month project '**Landmine survey and clearance to facilitate community development in Cambodia**', is enabling MAG to deploy one Mechanical Operations Unit (MOU) to conduct technical survey and clearance of prioritised areas. The project will release at least **250,000 square meters of safe land** back to communities, safely destroying **100% of landmines and other ERW** found, benefiting **4,148 people**.

GOAL

To contribute to sustained poverty reduction and socio-economic development in landmine affected communities in rural Cambodia, through the release of safe land.

OBJECTIVE

To support mechanical survey and clearance of suspected contaminated areas, in order to maximize community livelihood opportunities

Summary of Project Outputs

| Activity | Total Expected Outputs | Achieved Outputs (Q1) | Overall Percentage (%) |
|---|------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Land released through survey and clearance activities conducted by DIGGER D-250 Mechanical Operations Unit</i> | 250,000m ² | 63,537m ² | 26% |
| <i>Safe removal and destruction of 100% of landmines and other explosive remnants found within tasked areas</i> | N/A | 2 anti-personnel mines destroyed | N/A |
| <i>Beneficiaries (People)</i> | 4,148 | 644 | 16% |

Project Implementation

During quarter one all of MAG teams were on operational stand down during April due to COVID-19 mitigation measures to help prevent the spread of the virus. During the new work cycle at the beginning of May, MAG deployed one MOU team under this project to undertake survey and clearance activities at two task sites within Ou Tatiek village in Samlout district, Battambang province.

The MOU team utilised the DIGGER D-250 mechanical asset to release **63,537m²** in Ou Tatiek village, Samlout district, Battambang province.



While conducting the clearance activities, MOU team found and safely destroyed **two anti-personnel mines** from community land.



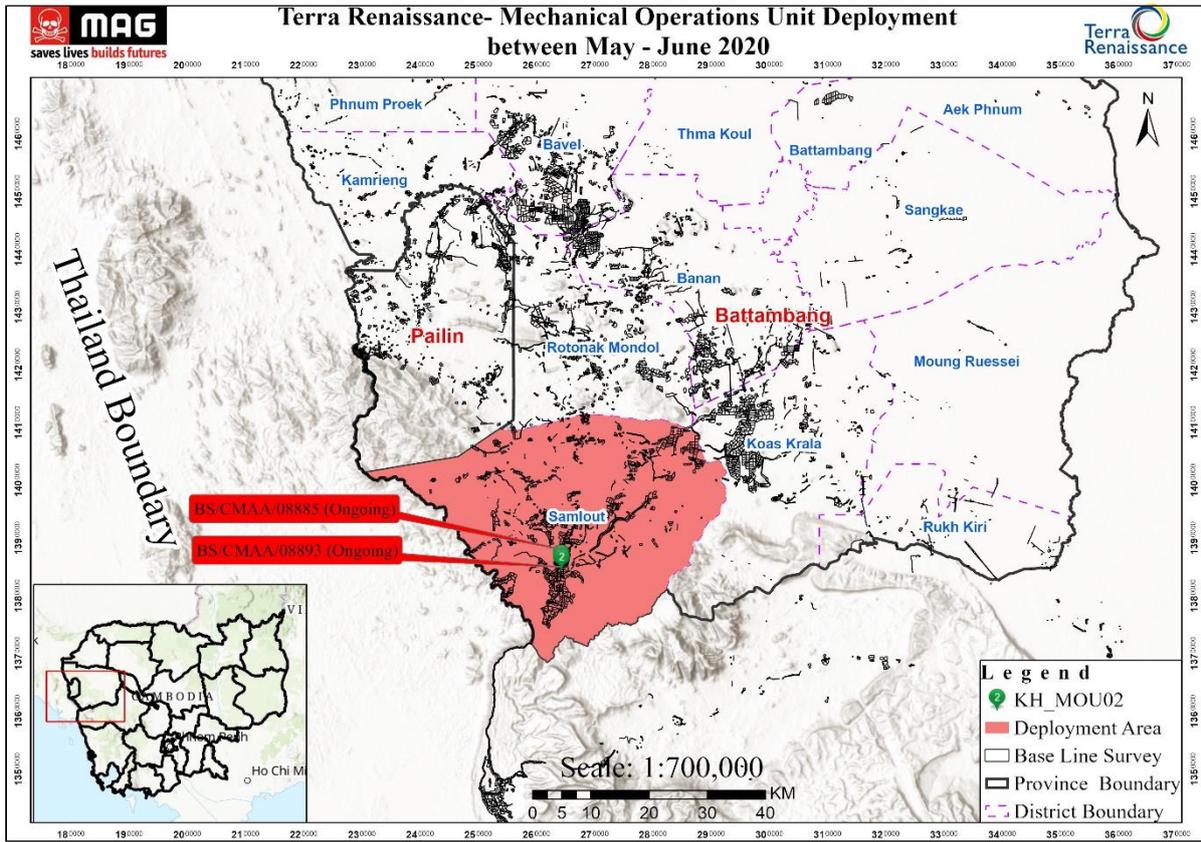
The released land has directly benefitted 23 people from four families and indirectly benefitted 621 people from 147 families.



Project Outcomes and Impacts

The land released and dangerous items removed during this quarter will have a significant impact on the livelihoods and socio-economics of the community in Samlout district. Without the clearance of contaminated areas, communities are unable to utilise their land preventing families from expanding their crops, unable to undertake crop diversification and remain in danger of their lives.

Areas cleared by MAG provide safe access, not only to communities, but also to government departments and development agencies. These groups will be able to provide long-term support and rehabilitation to the region, enabling them to recover from conflict and escape poverty.



Additional Information

COVID-19 outbreak update

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Cambodia increased from 109 on 1 April to 141 on 30 June 2020. This is equivalent to approximately one new confirmed case every three days. As of June 30th 2020, Cambodia has 11 active cases of COVID-19. All active cases were contracted abroad and brought in to the country. COVID-19 tests are available in all provinces. Transmission rates of the virus remain low in Cambodia.

Restrictions imposed by the government include prohibiting gatherings of 50 or more people and the continued closure of schools and cinemas. In order to reduce public movement and gatherings, the government postponed all Khmer New Year celebrations scheduled to take place between 13 – 16 April to later in the year.

In response to the outbreak, MAG has worked proactively with internal staff and closely with relevant stakeholders to monitor developments and implement appropriate prevention and mitigation measures. MAG provided significant support to staff including disseminating relevant information, providing hand sanitizer, masks, chlorin tablets and gloves as well as forming a Coronavirus Focal Point at operational bases.

Following a rapid uptick in COVID-19 cases in Cambodia in March, including in MAG's operational areas in Battambang province, MAG took the decision not to deploy teams in the field for the short April operational cycle for the following reasons:

- Criteria for the testing of suspected COVID-19 cases was (and continues to be) very limited, and as such the likelihood of cases going undetected was high, with little information available on the likely spread of the virus. As team members returned to their communities at the end of the March work cycle, an outbreak of COVID-19 in shared team accommodation represented a significant risk.

- Due to entry restrictions imposed by neighbouring countries and travel restrictions within Cambodia; it was unclear how Medevac/Casevac procedures would function in the event of an accident at an operational task site.
- Most international staff members were out of country and unable to return due to travel restrictions imposed in their home countries and regionally, or due to medical and safety concerns; resulting in severely reduced managerial oversight.
- MAG's operational cycle in April was only 8 days long due to Khmer New Year celebrations in mid-April. As such, the number of lost operational days was not significant, and there is the potential to compensate for these lost days in further work cycles later in the year.

Project Photos

Images below show activities undertaken by MOU team in Samlout district of Battambang province during this quarter.

