

Humanitarian Mine Action Support

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

Project Report Q4: January-March 2022



**MAG (Mines Advisory Group)
CAMBODIA**

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Picture: Medium Mine Wolf undertaking minefield clearance in Koas Krala district, Battambang province in September 2021.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Since establishing operations in Cambodia in 1992 in the wake of decades of internal and regional conflict, MAG has been a leading contributor to the country's mine action sector, releasing over 118 million square meters of land back to impacted communities for the direct benefit of more than two million women, girls, men and boys. In a country where 80% of the population live in rural areas and are highly vulnerable to economic shocks, the presence of mine contamination continues to impede poverty reduction and development initiatives in mine-affected communities. MAG work in support of the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) to put land back into safe and productive use, and in support of the Landmine Free 2025 initiative.

With the generous 12-month funding from Terra Renaissance for the project 'Landmine survey and clearance to facilitate community development in Cambodia', MAG has deployed a Mechanical Operations Unit (MOU) to conduct technical survey and clearance of prioritized areas in Battambang province.



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.



PROJECT UPDATE

In the Q1 report submitted in July 2021, MAG requested Terra Renaissance to continue its co-support¹ of the Medium Mine Wolf (MMW) MOU in Battambang province due to the need of the Digger-250 MOU to undertake the clearance in Ratanakiri province. Terra Renaissance accepted MAG's request allowing MAG to transfer the support provided to co-support the Digger-250 MOU to MMW MOU starting from July 2021. MAG remains very grateful for the support and flexibility of Terra Renaissance.

SUMMARY OF PROJECT OUTPUTS

Activity	Total Expected Outputs	Q4 Achieved Outputs	Total Achieved Outputs	Overall Percentage (%)
Land released through survey and clearance activities conducted by Medium Mine Wolf ² Mechanical Operations Unit	380,000m ²	121,452m ²	595,896m ²	156%
Safe removal and destruction of 100% of landmines and other explosive remnants found within tasked areas	100% of all found	10 Anti-personnel mines	39 Anti-personnel mines	100%
Direct and indirect beneficiaries (People)	2,805	10,348	12,563 direct and indirect beneficiaries	448%

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

¹ Kindly note - Outputs are co-shared by all donors contributing

² As per requested approval, MAG deployed only DIGGER-250 Mechanical Operations Unit in the first quarter and only Medium Mine Wolf Mechanical Operations Unit from second quarter till the end of the grant.

Released **121,452m²** of mine-contaminated land
Destroyed **10** anti-personnel mines
Directly benefitted **615** women, men, boys and girls from **140** different households

Project Outcomes and Impacts

Cassava has become Cambodia's second largest crop after rice and contributes over USD 1 billion to the economy each year. In 2021, Cambodia exported 2,793,729.92 tonnes of cassava, representing a 22.1 per cent increase from the previous year³. Battambang province is the country's leading producer of this industrial crop, employing tens of thousands of people in its farming and processing.

Battambang remains the most mine-affected province in Cambodia, as well as one of the poorest, with an estimated 85.5km² of land contaminated by landmines. The majority of those benefitting from MAG's clearance operations are dependent on subsistence agriculture (the cultivation of rice, cassava, beans, maize, mango, cashew, corn and pepper) and collection of non-timber forest products as their primary livelihood activities. Communities live predominantly in remote areas with poor infrastructure, and have therefore very limited access to services. Restricted availability of agricultural land due to the presence of mine and explosive remnant of war contamination further impedes poverty reduction and development initiatives.

Funding from Terra Renaissance has made it possible for MAG's MOU to carry out the lifesaving clearance in Samlout and Koas Krala districts of Battambang province where majority of community members is heavily dependent on the cassava farm. The land released over the course of this project (April 2021-March 2022) is 595,896m² of contaminated land in communities across Battambang province, having a great impact on the livelihood of the impacted communities. According to MAG's pre-clearance impact assessment conducted by a non-technical survey team, the released land will be used in its entirety to plant cassava and other crops.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

MAG has over the course of the pandemic adapted to mitigate adverse effects of the pandemic (restrictions/outbreaks) and specifically the impact they may have on our operations by ensuring we maintain flexibility in changing operational cycles and implementing precautionary measures as guided by the Dept of Health, and we will continue implementing this in the following quarters.

Project Photos

The images below show activities undertaken by the MMW MOU in Samlout and Koas Krala districts of Battambang province during this quarter.

Picture 1: MMW MOU team conducting clearance on a minefield (BS/CMAA/09378) in Ou Choam Kraom village of Samlout district, Battambang province.

³ Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries data released on January 13, 2022

⁴ Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority – Shapefile Remaining Area by Province, February 2022.



Picture 2: MMW MOU team conducting clearance on a minefield (BS/CMAA/07141) in Prey Totueng village of Koas Krala district, Battambang province.



Picture 3: An anti-personal mine found and destroyed by MMW MOU team during the operation on the minefield in Prey Totueng village

