

Humanitarian Mine Action Support

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

Project Report Q4: January-March 2021



**MAG (Mines Advisory Group)
CAMBODIA**

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Project Overview

Since establishing operations in Cambodia in 1992, MAG has released over 95 million square meters of land back to mine-affected communities and destroyed more than 350,000 dangerous items for the direct benefit of more than 1.9 million women, girls, boys, and men. 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's work which is supported by the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) with close collaboration with local authorities to allow land to be used for 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.

GOAL

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

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 (Q4)	Total Achieved Outputs	Overall Percentage (%)
<i>Land released through survey and clearance activities conducted by DIGGER D-250 Mechanical Operations Unit</i>	250,000m ²	237,536m ²	324,833m ²	130%
<i>Safe removal and destruction of 100% of landmines and other explosive remnants found within tasked areas</i>	N/A	6 anti-personnel mines destroyed	9 anti-personnel mines destroyed	N/A
<i>Beneficiaries (People)</i>	4,148	1,406	5,554	139%

Project Implementation

During Q4, MAG deployed a MOU to undertake clearance activities in Koas Krala and Rotonak Mondol districts of Battambang province, as shown in the map below. The team released 237,536m² of contaminated land and found and destroyed six anti-personnel mines. The land released during this quarter has directly benefitted 10 people from three families (four men, two women, three boys and one girl) and indirectly benefitted a further 1,396 people from 321 families (501 men, 433 women, 168 boys and 294 girls).

The MOU's clearance output in Q4 is almost four times of the outputs reported in Q3. This is primarily due to the team's operations being at full capacity during this quarter without any interruption as well the team was able to release 138,418m² of land through reduction.

Additional Information

At mid-March 2021, MAG submitted a proposal to Terra Renaissance for further funding to support the deployment of the DIGGER D-250 mechanical asset; a fully-armoured remote-controlled machine, operated by an Mechanical Operations Unit. MAG received confirmation of this generous continuation funding on 19th March 2021.

As of 31 March 2021, the number of Covid-19 confirmed cases reached 2,440, a significant uptick since January 2020. The increase is primarily due to the COVID-19 community outbreak which began on 20 February 2021 when four foreigners bribed a security guard at a local hotel to release them from their quarantine facility shortly after arriving in Cambodia. The Cambodian government rapidly enacted a number of restrictions and preventative measures across the country to curb the spread of COVID-19. As a result, MAG decided to suspend pre-and post-clearance assessments, opening ceremonies, and task handovers for much of the March operational cycle, as all of these activities require community meetings. Although, the team under this grant is not largely affected, the in-country team continues to closely monitor developments, and implement appropriate prevention and mitigation measures relating to COVID-19, including wearing masks and using hand-sanitizer, maintaining social distancing, and avoiding mass gatherings. In addition, all staff continue to undergo a medical self-declaration and temperature check prior to deployment at the start of each operational cycle, as well as undergoing twice-daily symptom and temperature checks whilst in the field.

By the end of February 2021, despite the COVID-19 related travel restrictions, with the arrival of the new Country Director, MAG was able to deploy all international staff members within the program. The arrival of all international staff will improve the overall project management, and support the achievement of overall outputs.

Project Photos

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

