Australia’s mine action activities
2012–2013
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Above: Steve Ballinger clearing unexploded ordnance on a beach in Palau
Photo: Cleared Ground and Todd Essicks
Introduction

Landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of violent conflict kill and injure civilians long after conflict in which they were used has ended. The presence of these devices undermine the economic potential of affected areas by making land and resources unusable for growing food or generating income, and restricting access to market routes and infrastructure. They also hamper efforts to improve health, education and poverty, directly preventing countries from achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The Landmine Monitor 2012 reported that landmines, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war cause some 4,000 casualties in the 72 countries confirmed or suspected to be contaminated by explosive remnants of war. A significant challenge remains.

Mine action is more than removing landmines from the ground—it includes educating people of the risks of these weapons and how to protect themselves from danger in a mine-affected environment, supporting victims and advocating for a mine-free world.

Australia is a strong contributor to international mine action efforts. We are a State Party to the relevant instruments of humanitarian law including the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and their Destruction; the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons and the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Australia’s mine action assistance focuses on the most heavily affected countries in the Indo-Pacific region, while maintaining the flexibility to respond to emerging needs and priorities in other regions.

Under the Mine Action Strategy for the Australian Aid Program 2010-14, the Australian Government pledged $100 million to mine action over the period 2010 to 2014 and achieved this commitment in 2012, some two years ahead of schedule. The Mine Action Strategy for the Australian Aid Program 2010–14 focuses on four areas:

1. Improving the quality of life for victims, their families and communities
2. Reducing the number of deaths and injuries
3. Helping countries to develop the capacity to manage their own mine action programs
4. Providing effective leadership and advocacy.

Australia’s mine action assistance is delivered primarily through bilateral country programs, targeting mine action priorities identified by partner governments. Australia also works with both multilateral bodies, such as the United Nations, and non-government organisations (NGOs) engaged in mine action at country, regional and international levels.
Recent highlights include:

- clearing 5,702 unexploded remnants of war weighing more than 25,000 kilograms, from both land and sea in Palau since August 2012;
- delivering mine risk education to 118,166 people in Afghanistan; and
- playing a leading role in regional forums including the Pacific explosive remnants of war workshop in Brisbane and the Symposium on Cooperation and Assistance in Bangkok.

This document summarises the achievements of mine action activities funded by Australia during the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 through its bilateral and global mine action programs.
Support to Mine Action in Afghanistan

2012–13 contribution: $5 million
Total contribution: $20 million (2011 to 2014)
Partner: United Nations Mine Action Service and the Mine Action Coordination Centre for Afghanistan

In 2011, Australia and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) signed a $20 million partnership to support mine action in Afghanistan between 2011 and 2014. Australia is supporting the coordination and implementation of activities to meet the annual objectives set out by the Mine Action Coordination Centre for Afghanistan (MACCA). This includes mine clearance, training Afghan people in mine action activities, increasing awareness of mines and other explosive remnants of war within local communities, and improving services for mine victims and people with disability. In 2013, Australia’s funding has helped shift mine action responsibilities from the MACCA to the Afghan Government’s Department of Mine Clearance.

In 2012–13, Australia’s contribution has resulted in 4.14 square kilometres of contaminated land being cleared, directly benefiting 102,465 people. Australia’s assistance also delivered mine risk education to 118,166 people, supported the livelihood activities of 20 landmines or explosive remnants of war survivors, improved access to those with disabilities to government buildings and provided physiotherapy, orthotic and prosthetic services to 1,218 patients.

In Afghanistan, Australia’s aid program has delivered;

- mine risk education to 118,166 people (a third of who are women and girls);
- training for 961 teachers and headmasters and 1,241 parents of children with disabilities on inclusive education;
- support for the construction of 30 ramps in public buildings in Kabul province;
- 500 people with a disability with prosthetic and orthotic services;
- 400 people with physiotherapy services;
- supported the training of 24 health service providers from 21 provinces in Disability Awareness and Physical Rehabilitation Training of Trainers;
- 80 community volunteers on victim assistance trained and deployed in Panjwayee and Arghandab Districts; and
- disability awareness programs to 2,707 community members (891 male, 663 female, 733 boys and 420 girls) with and without disability through 134 sessions.
Above: An implementing partner of Australia’s mine action support to Afghanistan shows Australian aid program officials the contaminated area adjacent to a village in the Panjsher Valley and explains the clearance process being undertaken.

Photos: Paul Lehmann/Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Danish Demining Group
Cambodia

Clearing for Results - Phase II (calendar years 2011 to 2015)

2012–13 contribution: $2 million
Total contribution: $6.2 million (2011 to 2014)
Partner: United Nations Development Programme

Clearing for Results is a multi-donor funding facility for mine action. It helps develop the capacity of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority to coordinate, regulate and monitor all mine action activities. The fund assists the Government’s community-driven landmine clearance process. The facility is helping to integrate mine clearance activities into national and provincial development plans and programs. In 2012, approximately 13.8 million square metres of land were cleared and/or released for community use and 46 districts were completely surveyed by the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority. It is estimated that approximately 80 per cent of cleared land was being used for agricultural or housing purposes before. Casualty rates in the three project target provinces (Battambang, Banteay Meanchey and Pailin) have declined significantly from 100 in 2011 to 55 in 2012, a 45 per cent decrease.

Laos

Reducing UXO Risk and Improving Livelihoods of Ethnic Communities in Sekong Province

2012–13 contribution: $350,000
Total contribution: $3 million (Sep 2012 to June 2014)
Partner: CARE

Operating in two districts of Sekong Province, this initiative addresses the vulnerability of 20 lower income villages affected by large-scale unexploded ordnance contamination. It incorporates unexploded ordnance clearance, community-based planning and land use allocation, mine risk education, and small scale rural development initiatives to enhance livelihood security. From July 2012 to June 2013, Australia supported the clearance of 28 sites, allowing paddy field expansion— an area of 165,599 square metres.

Support for the Institutional Strengthening of the National Regulatory Authority for the Unexploded Ordnance/Mine Action Sector and of the Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme in Lao PDR

2012–13 contribution: $2.6 million
Total contribution: $5.4 million (May 2013 to Dec 2016)
Partner: United Nations Development Programme

This initiative contributes to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Cluster Munitions Trust Fund, providing both program and policy direction. It supports the Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Program (UXO Lao) to better manage and implement the clearance and
risk education programs for communities at risk. Also supported is the National Regulatory Authority for the unexploded ordinance/Mine Action Sector enabling them to effectively provide policy guidance, coordination, and regulation in support of national development goals and international treaty obligations. Under the new Rural Development Program (Laos–Australia Rural Livelihoods Program), there has been an increase to economic security and community resilience. To achieve this, the initiative is providing poor rural families, in particular women, with greater and inclusive access to social protection, financial services, productive assets and opportunities to generate income.

**UXO Clearance under the Laos Australia Rural Livelihood Program**

2012–13 contribution: $600,000

Total contribution: $1,800,000 (June 2013 to Dec 2016)

Partner: United Nations Development Programme

Support for this initiative is building the operational and management capacity of UXO Lao to provide direct support to the Australian aid program’s Rural Livelihoods Program in three provinces. These include Phine and Sepone districts in Savannakhet; Sukhum and Moonlapamok in Champasak; and Lao Ngarm and Saravane in the Saravane province. The clearance will support the implementation of the activities of the Laos-Australian Rural Livelihood Program, increase both the safety of the people living in unexploded ordinance impacted communities as well as the amount of safe land available for food production and other socio-economic development activities. Risk education activities continue to build community awareness of the dangers posed by unexploded ordnance, reducing the risks of accidents as a result of unexploded ordnance.

**Local Rehabilitation Services for People with Disabilities in Lao PDR**

2012–13 contribution: $177,821

Total contribution: $600,000 (May 2010 to May 2014)

Partner: Cooperative Orthotic and Prosthetic Enterprise (COPE)

Australian support is continuing to have a wide effect in these communities, ensuring that people with disabilities have local, free access to a quality, nationally managed rehabilitation service. Victim assistance for UXO survivors (and their families) is given high priority in the support provided through the COPE project.

**Mozambique**

**Mine clearance in Mozambique**

2012–13 contribution: $1 million

Total contribution: $3 million over three years (2011–12 to 2013–14)

Partner: United Nations Development Programme

The United Nations Development Programme supports mine clearance under Mozambique’s Mine Action Programme. Australian funding is helping Mozambique meet its commitments.
under the *Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention*, clearing all known mined areas by March 2014 in accordance with its commitments under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Clearance and assessment work supported by Australia during 2012 assisted the National Demining Institute to declare 20 districts free of all known mined areas and hand these areas over to the local communities for socio-economic development activities. Australia’s assistance also supported the completion of 166 quality assurance monitoring missions of all demining operators.

Myanmar

**Mines Advisory Group**

2012–13 contribution: $500,000  
Total Contribution: $500,000 (2012 to 2013)

Partner: Mines Advisory Group

Australia is supporting the Mines Advisory Group to undertake mine risk education training and outreach in Kayah (Karenni State), Myanmar. It is believed that 10 out of 14 of Myanmar’s divisions are contaminated with mines, leading to an estimated five million people in 41 communities at risk. This program is helping to raise awareness and understanding about landmines amongst these risk communities to make them safer until the mines can be removed.
Jordan

Northern Border Mine Clearance Project

2012–13 contribution: $1 million
Total contribution: $1.75 million (2010 to 2013)
Partner: National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation

Jordan is the first country in the Middle East to have cleared it territory of all known landmines, in accordance with its international obligation to the *Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention*. Australia is continuing to assist Jordan as it undertakes quality assurance work to verify complete clearance within its minefields, supporting a total of 120 quality assurance visits to be carried out during the year.

Iraq

Victim Assistance

2012–13 contribution: $1 million
Total contribution: $5 million (2009 to 2012)
Partner: United Nations Development Programme

Australia is supporting the manufacture, repair and distribution of prostheses for victims of landmines. The funding supports the Prosthetic Limbs Centre to provide victims and disabled people with ortho-prosthetic devices and physiotherapy. The activity also supports income generation activities and vocational training opportunities in carpentry, sewing, computing, and livestock herding. It also provides psycho-social and reintegration support services. In total Australian funding has helped more than 10,000 people received ortho-prosthetic devices, 22,000 people benefited from physiotherapy services, provided more than 4,500 people with mobility aids and benefited 19,000 people with out-patient services, mostly in the Kurdistan region. In addition, approximately nine million square meters of land has been cleared of mines and other explosive remnants of war, a direct result of aid provided by Australia.

Mines Advisory Group

2012–13 contribution: $1.2 million
Total contribution: $2.5 million (2011 to 2013)
Partner: Mines Advisory Group

Australia’s contribution is helping Iraq to increase its national and regional capacity to manage and conduct mine action activities and meet its obligations under the *Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention*. Australia’s funding assists the Mine Advisory Group to clear 1.2 million square metres of suspected hazardous land in total, clear 12 minefields and six battle areas, survey and demarcate 20 extra minefields and identify, remove and safely destroy all explosive remnants of war found within these areas. As of 30 June 2013, approximately 426,000 square meters of land
were cleared in northern Iraq, benefitting more than 22,000 people through increasing their capacity for food production and other income development activities.

**Lebanon**

**Battle Area Clearance in Southern Lebanon through the Mines Advisory Group**

2012–13 contribution: $500,000  
Total contribution: $1 million (2010 to 2014)  
Partner: Mines Advisory Group

Australia’s funding is helping clear unexploded ordnance and cluster munitions in southern Lebanon. In 2012–13, a total of 118,679 square metres of priority land has been cleared or verified clear of explosive remnants of war benefitting 2,531 people in two villages. Clearance teams removed 264,478 pieces of explosive ordnance fragmentation in the period April 2012 to April 2013. In addition, a total of 271 explosive remnants of war were found and destroyed, including 185 cluster sub-munitions and 86 other unexploded ordnances.

**Battle Area Clearance in Southern Lebanon**

2012–13 contribution: $397,354  
Total contribution: $697,354 (2010 to 2013)  
Partner: Norwegian People’s Aid

As well as the battle area clearance being undertaken by the Mine Advisory Group, Australia supported Norwegian People’s Aid to clear an additional 716,814 square metres of land and clear and destroy 1,259 cluster munitions in southern Lebanon. Australia’s funding mobilised a battle area clearance team, which consisted of eight searchers. The team cleared 716,815 square metres of land, destroying 1,259 cluster munitions, benefitting some 22,350 people living in the vicinity or travelling regularly through the area.

**Republic of Palau**

**Clearance and Advocacy**

2012–13 contribution: $1,012,666  
Total contribution: $2.35 million (2012 to 2013)  
Partner: Cleared Ground Demining

Australia’s support has cleared 5,702 unexploded remnants of war weighing more than 25,000 kilograms, from both land and sea since August 2012. Australian support has also focused on the extension of an existing jungle trail on Pelelui Island, which allows visitors to safely access key World War II battle points. The primary objective of which is to improve economic opportunities from tourism in Pelelui and the safety of local communities. In addition, a national Explosive Remnants of War working group was established through the Ministry of State.
Above: One of the 27 aircraft bombs located and removed from the access channel to Peleliu South Dock, Palau, being towed to the Central Demolitions Site for final destruction.
Photo: Cleared Ground Demining.

Above: Controlled demolition in Palau
Photo: Cleared Ground Demining
Republic of the Marshall Islands

Clearance and Advocacy
2012–13 contribution: $23,640
Total contribution: $23,640 (2012 to 2013)
Partner: Cleared Ground Demining

Australia supported the assessment of unexploded World War II ordnance, as well as conducted public awareness on the atolls of Jaluit and Wotje in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Determining the location of these unexploded ordnance is a critical step in allowing the Marshall Islands to commence planning how it will address and implement a national clearance program.

Sri Lanka

Support to Mine Action Programme
2012–13 contribution: $427,936
Total contribution: $4.98 million (Dec 2009 to Dec 2013)
Partner: United Nations Development Programme

Australia’s support continues to build national capacity in mine action coordination and quality assurance. This increase is being achieved through the ongoing placement of a Mine Action Technical Advisor in the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) and the training of quality assurance and information management staff in regional mine action offices in effected districts. Once completed, the project aims to strengthen local capacity allowing the coordination and quality assurance activities to be implemented by NMAC staff. NMAC staff will, in-turn, be absorbed into a Government of Sri Lanka managed structure. The project is also working with the Government to encourage state resources to be allocated for the continuation of mine action coordination through the government’s Humanitarian Demining Unit.

Mine Clearance in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu Districts
2012–13 contribution: $1.44 million
Total contribution: $1.44 million (March 2011 to Dec 2014)
Partner: Delvon Assistance for Social Harmony (DASH)

Australia’s funding is building the capacity of local demining organisation DASH, enabling the purchase of 40 Minelab detectors to support clearance efforts. From December 2011 to June 2013 approximately 1.78 square km of land were cleared and released. A total of 2,987 antipersonnel mines, three anti-tank mines, 378 unexploded ordnance and 22,257 small arms ammunition were recovered and disposed of. More than 100 square km of productive land were cleared and released for cultivation and other livelihood activities. As a result of land clearance, 900 people were directly benefited, with a further 3,565 indirectly. The clearance allowed these communities to return to their homes and lands and re-establish their socioeconomic and livelihood activities, such as agriculture, fishing and trade.
Above: Australian aid program officers (centre) Janelle Denton and Rani Noerhadhie, with DASH de-miners in Sri Lanka. Photo: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Above: Recovered mines in Najikuddiyanaru, Mullaitivu district, Northern Province, Sri Lanka. Photo: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Above: Frequent unscheduled incident drills are conducted to ensure de-miners are familiar with medical emergency procedures in Sri Lanka.
Photo: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Australia’s global mine action assistance

**United Nations Mine Action Service**

2012–2013 contribution: $300,000  
Total Contribution: $900,000 (2011 to 2013)  
Partner: United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

Australia is supporting UNMAS to fulfil its role as a focal point for mine action within the United Nations and broader mine action community. In 2012, UNMAS supported programs in 17 countries including Afghanistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and the Western Sahara, organising and leading large-scale clearance operations and risk awareness campaigns to facilitate freedom of movement and public safety. In Syria, UNMAS provided critical expertise on explosive hazards to the United Nations Supervision Mission and provided risk awareness and counter-IED training to more than 400 UN military observers and UN civilian staff. In South Sudan, UNMAS released more than 900 square kilometres of land for agricultural development and infrastructure reconstruction. Continued advocacy efforts, global communications and outreach, threat assessment and monitoring, and donor liaison activities were also supported by Australia’s contribution to UNMAS.

**Mine Action Research, Evaluation and Advocacy**

2012–13 contribution: $740,000  
Total contribution: $2.73 million (2010 to 2013)  
Partner: Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

Australia is supporting the GICHD’s leading role in mine action research and evaluation. Research topics include land release after clearance, stockpile destruction, technology and detector trials, victim assistance, gender in mine action and the connection between mine action and development in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. Our funding also supports the *Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention* Implementation Support Unit, prioritising regional cooperation on mine action, providing victim assistance services and producing a guide to help countries assist the victims of landmines and other explosive remnants of war. In 2013, GICHD is working with Afghanistan to explore how land rights can be mainstreamed into mine action operations. On behalf of UNMAS, the GICHD manages the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). IMAS provides a framework for planning, implementation and management of global mine action programs, governing accreditation and activities of commercial, NGO and military operators. IMAS has been developed to improve safety and efficiency in mine action.
Bangkok Symposium on Cooperation and Assistance: Building synergy towards effective anti-personnel mine ban convention implementation

2012–13 contribution: $64,000
Total contribution: $64,000 (2012 to 2013)
Partner: Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit and The government of Thailand

The Symposium explored opportunities to create a sustainable solution for resource mobilisation and international cooperation and assistance for mine-affected countries. More than 100 representatives from 49 states and 18 non-governmental and international organisations participated in the Symposium. Australia’s support enabled the participation of 25 delegates from mine affected countries. Discussion topics included the *Incheon Strategy to Make the Right Real for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific* and its relationship to the *Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention*, the needs and rights of landmine survivors, regional approaches to cooperation in mine action and the United Nations Mine Action Strategy.

Above: Delegates at an Australia aid program sponsored three-day Symposium in Bangkok to enhance cooperation and assistance among mine-affected State parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Dignitaries included Prince of Jordan Mired Raad Zeid Al-Hussein, an advocate for Mine Action.

Photo: Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit
Above: Delegates at an Australian sponsored three-day Symposium in Bangkok to enhance cooperation and assistance among mine-affected State Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention including Christine Pahlman (left), the Australian aid program’s Mine Action Coordinator.
Photo: Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit.

Special Fund for People with Disability

2012–13 contribution: $1 million
Total contribution: $4 million (2011 to 2014)
Partner: International Committee of the Red Cross

Australian funding supported the International Committee for the Red Cross’s (ICRC) Special Fund for the Disabled (SFD). The fund provides physical rehabilitation services in low-income countries and emergency assistance and protection to those affected by conflict and complex emergencies. Maintaining and increasing access to quality rehabilitation services is a priority. In 2012, the SFD organised 17 refresher courses, on-site courses and seminars benefiting 178 participants. Overall, the SFD supported 54 rehabilitation centres in 26 countries in 2012. The services provided by the SFD-supported centres included the production of 6,276 prostheses and 10,957 orthoses and the provision of 307 wheelchairs and 3,828 pairs of crutches.

Landmine and Cluster Munitions Monitoring, Reporting and Advocacy

2012–13 contribution: $450,000
Total contribution: $1.35 million (2011 to 2013)
Partner: International Campaign to Ban Landmines and the Cluster Munitions Coalition

Australia is supporting the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and the Cluster Munitions Coalition to develop and publish annual editions of the Landmine Monitor and the Cluster Munition Monitor. These reports detail the global landmine and cluster munitions problem, including the use, production, transfer and stockpile of landmines and cluster munitions. The reports track both the number of new landmine and cluster munitions casualties, and progress in mine clearance and countries’ compliance with the Convention’s requirements in relation to clearance, stockpile destruction, mine risk education and victim assistance. Australia’s
contribution also supports activities to encourage and assist countries to become State Parties to the *Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention* and the *Convention on Cluster Munitions*.

**Reducing the Threat and Impact of Landmines**

2012–13 contribution: $209,162  
Total contribution: $627,000 (2011 to 2013)  
Partner: Geneva Call

Many of the anti-personnel landmines deployed today are by armed non-state militants fighting internal armed conflicts. By influencing non-state actors, Geneva Call has directly contributed to the universalisation of the anti-personnel mine ban norm in Myanmar, India, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand, resulting in the enhanced protection of civilians. Geneva Call is increasing the overall knowledge of stakeholders in relation to the importance and effectiveness of engagement with non-state actors. Australia’s assistance has enabled Geneva Call to open and progress dialogue with non-state actors, to promote adherence to Geneva Call’s Deed of Commitment for Adherence to a total ban on anti-personnel mines and for cooperation in mine action.

**Delivering Efficiency, Effectiveness and Innovation in Mine Action**

2012–13 contribution: $166,453  
Partner: Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

Australia is supporting MAG’s International Development and Evaluation Team to monitor and evaluate their programs and develop performance frameworks and results reporting in mine action. This is a central mechanism for achieving maximum efficiency and effectiveness in MAG operations and maintaining its organisational drive for innovation. The MAG promotes efficiency and effectiveness in mine action operations by identifying and sharing lessons learned from the operational monitoring and evaluation process with the mine action community, and developing strategies to improve methodologies and approaches through a process of structured engagement.

**Regional Pacific UXO Action Plan Workshop**

2012–13 contribution: $70,000  
Total contribution: $70,000 (2013)  
Partner: Safe Ground

In June 2013, with the support of Australia, Safe Ground and the Pacific Islands Forum hosted the Pacific Regional Explosive Remnants of War Workshop. The focus of the workshop was to assist affected Pacific Island countries to develop comprehensive and effective national action plans to deal with explosive remnants of war. The national plans will include the necessary steps and deadlines to achieve the ultimate goals of eradicating these remnants and meeting the obligations of the *Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention* and the *Convention on Cluster Munitions*. 
International Committee of the Red Cross Special Mine Action Appeal

2012–2013 contribution: $500,000

Total Contribution: $2 million (2012 to 2016)

Partner: International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The ICRC’s Special Mine Action Appeal supports preventative action and victim assistance. Activities undertaken include incident surveillance/data gathering, risk education, risk reduction and clearance. The ICRC actively participated in the work of the *Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention* through advocacy. The ICRC is also playing a direct role in mine action. During 2012, 1,662 mine victims were admitted to ICRC-supported hospitals in 30 countries. Some 7,528 prostheses and 717 orthoses were provided as well as physical therapy for 10,139 mine/explosive remnants of war survivors.