



Australian Government

AusAID

Australia's Mine Action Activities 2006–2007



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COVER: A Cambodian girl receives materials raising awareness of the dangers of unexploded ordnance. Mine risk education activities aim to prevent deaths and injuries from landmines and other explosive remnants of war through information and education promoting safer behaviour. PHOTO: Kevin Evans

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Introduction

It is 10 years since the international community adopted the Mine Ban Convention, aiming to rid the world of the scourge of landmines. Australia is currently President of the Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention. Australia is using its Presidency year to advance international mine action efforts and implementation of the Convention worldwide.

Much has been achieved in this decade - use of landmines has reduced significantly, stockpiles have been destroyed, land has been cleared, the number of new victims has fallen, and survivors and their communities have been supported. However significant challenges remain, and Australia is committed to a leading role in mine action.

Aid to mine-affected countries makes a difference – it reduces the threat of landmines, provides supports to victims and their communities, helps rebuild livelihoods and promotes economic development.

Australia has enabled mine-affected communities to reduce the scourge of mines and provided support to survivors through \$21.9 million of mine action funding over the last twelve months, as part of our 5-year \$75 million pledge. The majority of Australia's assistance has been provided to mine-affected countries in our region. Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and Sri Lanka have been a particular focus. We have also helped build peace and security through clearance of landmines and other explosive remnants of war in Afghanistan, Iraq and Lebanon.

This publication is a summary of mine action activities Australia has supported in the 2006-07 financial year. It details Australia's mine action partnerships with other governments, non-government organisations, multilateral organisations and civil society. It is a record of Australia's timely on-going commitment to practical action on this important issue.

Global activities

ADVOCACY/UNIVERSALISATION

INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO BAN LANDMINES – GLOBAL NETWORK

Landmine Monitor Report 2007

Funding amount: \$250,000

Australia is supporting the International Campaign to Ban Landmines – Global Network to produce the 2007 edition of the *Landmine Monitor Report*. This key report monitors and documents the various dimensions of the global landmine problem, including the use, production, transfer, and stockpiling of landmines. It tracks the number of new landmine casualties, and records progress in mine clearance, mine risk education and survivor assistance.

Universalisation Strategy in Asia

Funding amount: \$37,000

Australia is supporting the advocacy work of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines in Asia. The Campaign encourages governments of the Asian region to accede to the Mine Ban Convention. Through regular contacts with non-party governments, it is promoting universalisation of the Convention, and raising government and public awareness of the landmine/unexploded ordnance issue.

GENEVA CALL

Geneva Call Asia Program

Funding amount: \$200,000

Geneva Call is an international humanitarian organisation focusing on persuading armed non-State Actors to commit to the prohibitions in the Mine Ban Convention regarding use, manufacture and stockpiling of landmines. As a number of non-State Actors in Asia are known to use landmines, Geneva Call's advocacy work is key to eliminating landmine stockpiling and use, and reducing the risk to civilians in conflict-affected areas.

GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING

Implementation Support Unit

Funding amount: \$80,000

The Centre is an independent inter-governmental organisation which supports international mine action through providing operational assistance, creating and disseminating knowledge, improving quality management and standards, and supporting instruments of international law. Australia provides core funding to the Implementation Support Unit within the Centre, which provides essential secretariat support to the Mine Ban Convention. The Unit also helps developing countries to meet their obligations and administrative requirements under the Mine Ban Convention.

Mine Ban Convention Sponsorship Program

Funding amount: \$50,000

Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Sponsorship Program

Funding amount: \$20,000

These two Conventions are the major treaties tackling the humanitarian challenges posed by landmines and other explosive remnants of war. The support of the sponsorship programs allows mine-affected developing countries to attend key international meetings and participate in the active life of these Conventions.

Victim Assistance Specialist Position

Funding amount: \$105,000

Australian funding supports a Victim Assistance Specialist position within the Implementation Support Unit providing advisory services to mine-affected countries. The position helps raise awareness on the rights and needs of landmine survivors, and the need for adequate and appropriate assistance for the physical rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration of landmine survivors and other people with a disability.

Universalisation: Small States Workshop – Pacific Islands

Funding amount: \$95,000

Australia funded a Small States Strategy Workshop for Pacific Island countries in Vanuatu in May 2007 as part of our Mine Ban Convention universalisation strategy. It addressed the practical challenges facing Pacific Island countries in implementing the obligations of the Convention, including the forms of assistance available. The workshop also addressed broader issues relating to explosive remnants of war, and international humanitarian law.

STANDING TALL AUSTRALIA INTERNATIONAL REHABILITATION AND RESEARCH SUPPORT SERVICES

Landmine Victim Assistance in 2006 Overview

Funding amount: \$21,300

This annual publication reports on progress made by mine-affected countries with the greatest responsibility for assisting landmine survivors. The Overview is an important tool for mine action planners in prioritising and delivering survivor assistance programs. It covers areas such as: landmine casualties and data collection; emergency and continuing medical care; physical rehabilitation; psychological support and social reintegration; economic reintegration; and status and implementation of disability legislation.

Country-specific activities

AFGHANISTAN



SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE

UNITED NATIONS MINE ACTION CENTRE FOR AFGHANISTAN

Mine Risk Education and Victim Assistance

Funding amount: \$2,500,000

Afghanistan is one of the most heavily mine and unexploded ordnance (UXO)-contaminated countries in the world, and has large numbers of mine and UXO survivors. Reducing injuries and casualties related to mines and UXO in Afghanistan requires raising risk awareness among all the sectors of Afghan society, with a special emphasis on groups with the highest victim rates, and promoting safe behaviour in affected communities. This program is helping reduce injuries and casualties through integrating mine risk education into government structures and community activities. It also provides fundraising, capacity development and advocacy support to landmine accident survivors.

AUSTCARE

Inclusive Livelihoods for Persons with Disabilities in Kabul

Funding amount: \$150,000

Austcare is working with Afghan Amputees Bicyclists for Rehabilitation and Recreation to support people with disabilities toward physical rehabilitation and socio-economic integration. The project is providing education and vocational training to people with disabilities in Kabul and increasing the income generating capacity of mine survivors. The program is also helping provide job placement to people with disabilities, and micro-credit support for those starting their own business.

MINE RISK EDUCATION

THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)

Mine Risk Education

Funding amount: \$15,664

UNICEF supports Afghanistan's Department of Education to train teachers in child-focused mine risk awareness. The project has delivered mine risk education to at least 20,000 pupils in over 50 schools throughout Afghanistan. UNICEF's focus on child to child and child to family contact has had a direct and positive influence on raising community awareness on mine risk issues.

ANGOLA



MINE RISK EDUCATION

UNICEF

Mine Risk Education and Victim Assistance in Angola

Funding amount: \$1,000,000

Angola is the most mine affected country in sub-Saharan Africa. Mines and other explosive remnants of war pose significant threats to civilian populations. The project aims to reduce risks to mine-affected communities through mine risk education, and conduct research to identify the needs of mine victims.

CAMBODIA



INTEGRATED MINE ACTION

AUSTCARE

Integrated Mine Action in Banteay Meanchey

Funding: \$955,763 (approx \$2.46 million for 3 year period 2006-2009)

The program, which commenced in 2006, seeks to improve the livelihoods of people living in mine-affected villages in Banteay Meanchey Province. The program is improving socio-economic conditions through an integrated approach of clearing mines, providing water and community infrastructure, and agricultural and vocational skills training for vulnerable groups, particularly landmine survivors. In 2007, Austcare is conducting a pilot project aimed at strengthening land tenure for poor beneficiaries of cleared land. This will serve as a model to improve land security for mine-affected communities.

CARE AUSTRALIA

Cambodia Integrated Mine Action Project

Funding amount: \$1,326,669 (approx \$2.90 million for 3 year period 2006-2009)

Working in Pailin Province and partnering with a range of government and non-government agencies, this integrated mine action program aims to reduce landmine deaths and supports local communities to help themselves through community development activities. Its three key areas of focus are land clearance, land access and sustainable land use for poor communities. The project is working with local government to improve the delivery of services for mine-affected communities. The project also aims to address unexploded ordnance-tampering issues and reduce the rate of casualties from explosive remnants of war through community education.

WORLD VISION AUSTRALIA / INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Community Strengthening and Gender Mainstreaming in Integrated Mine Action

Funding amount: \$720,243 (approx \$2 million for 3 year period 2006-2009)

This project is addressing the immediate needs of mine affected communities in Battambang and Preah Vihear Provinces, and identifying effective strategies to better incorporate gender in mine action. The strategies for gender mainstreaming are then shared with partner organisations involved in integrated mine action. In addition to mine clearance the project activities include health interventions, education activities including improved access to schooling and livelihood training, improvement of community infrastructure, strengthening communities and enhancing resources to promote leadership, improve harvests, diversify crops, keep livestock healthy and maintain clean water supplies.

SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE

VARIOUS NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

Landmine Victim Assistance Fund

Funding amount: \$582,588

This small grants fund commenced in 2004. Funding is provided to non-government organisations supporting the physical, psychological, social and economic reintegration of landmine survivors in Cambodia. In 2007 funding was granted to four international organisations and six local non-government organisations in order to strengthen civil society's role in the mine action sector. Activities include providing prostheses and physical rehabilitation, providing basic health facilities such as latrines, water filters and mosquito nets, livelihood training, awareness-raising of rights of people with disabilities, sports activities, providing small grants and loans for starting small businesses, and strengthening community leadership and local government capacity to deliver services to landmine survivors, particularly in isolated rural areas.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS

Landmine Survivor Assistance Program

Funding amounts: \$63,415

Funding for Australian Red Cross to design a landmine survivor assistance program that will integrate AusAID's survivor assistance activities under a single umbrella. The components of the program include management and coordination of the Landmine Survivor Assistance Fund; strengthening Cambodian Red Cross capacity to manage emergency assistance, data collection of landmine and UXO casualties and provision of mine risk education and reduction programs in rural areas; and strengthening of government capacity through the Cambodian Disability Action Council to develop and implement a National Strategy for Survivor Assistance. The program will commence in September 2007, with funding of approximately \$1.2 million per annum.

MINE CLEARANCE / MINE ACTION MANAGEMENT

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP)

Clearing for Results

Funding amount: \$3,000,000 (\$14 million for five year period 2006-2010)

Clearing for Results is a multi-donor mine clearance fund supporting Cambodia's mine clearance efforts. Managed by the UNDP, the funding is directed to priority mine clearance tasks in accordance with Cambodia's national and provincial development plans. The program has proved its effectiveness, exceeding its land clearance target for 2006. In 2006, 8.7 million square metres of land were cleared of mines – the annual clearance target was 5.9 million square metres. The program also has a Quality Assurance component which has been effective in improving mine clearance standards. *Clearing for Results* supports improved donor coordination and strengthening of Cambodian Government systems and processes.

AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEERS INTERNATIONAL

Technical Support to Mine Action Planning Units in Cambodia's Most Mine-Affected Provinces

Funding amount: \$690,322 (\$1.5 million for 4 year period 2004-2008)

Australia supports five Australian GIS/Community Planning experts to build the capacity of local Mine Action Planning Unit officials in the most mine-affected provinces in Cambodia. The Units are well recognised in the sector for coordination of mine action planning at provincial level, ensuring transparent decision-making on issues such as mine clearance prioritisation; planning amongst development agencies in support of mine-affected communities; and ensuring that cleared land is distributed to people in need and that these people receive secure title to this land. In addition, the project has a key role in strengthening the National Mine Action Database Unit with the Cambodian Mine Action Authority.

MINES ADVISORY GROUP

Area Reduction

Funding amount: \$100,000

The Mines Advisory Group field small Technical Survey teams skilled in mapping to reassess cultivated land that has been previously suspected of contamination with landmines. Data collected by these survey teams is fed into a national database containing information on suspected mine-affected land. The project has increased the efficiency and effectiveness of mine clearance in Cambodia, as it assists with directing resources to areas of land in most need of mine clearance. This activity is aligned with the Cambodian Mine Action Authority's Strategy on Reclaiming Land, which recognises the need to reclassify land suspected of being landmine-contaminated, but which is now under continuous cultivation. More than 187 million square metres of land was declared safe from mines over a 12 month period under this program.

IRAQ



MINE RISK EDUCATION

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)

Mine Risk Education & Victim Assistance

Funding amount: \$1,000,000

Iraq is heavily contaminated with explosive remnants of war, posing a threat to affected communities, impeding the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and constraining economic development. This activity is increasing national capacities for implementing and integrating mine risk education into the overall national mine action effort; developing risk education strategies and services; training and equipping teachers, health workers and social workers; and supporting national efforts to establish victim surveillance and reintegrate survivors. The project targets 2,000 teachers and 1,500 community volunteers serving around 4 million children.

MINE CLEARANCE / MINE ACTION MANAGEMENT

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP)

Capacity Development for Clearance and Victim Assistance

Funding amount: \$2,000,000

UNDP supports national and international mine action organisations to develop their capacities and deliver mine action services. Focusing on southern and central Iraq it supports explosive ordnance disposal; trains regional operational management on planning and clearance; trains and equips retired Iraqi soldiers in demining; and establishes a nationwide victim surveillance system.

JORDAN



MINE CLEARANCE/MINE ACTION MANAGEMENT

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP)

Northern Border Mine Clearance Project

Funding amount: \$1,000,000

This UNDP-managed project is addressing the single largest outstanding demining task remaining in Jordan. The mine clearance project will have substantial socio-economic impacts, including releasing over 7 million square metres of land and removing the landmine threat for a local population of 50,000. Australia's funding will support the quality control and quality assurance component of the project, including post-clearance sampling and certification to ensure clearance has been conducted to the required quality standards.

ADVOCACY

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR DEMINING AND RECONSTRUCTION

Support for Hosting the 8th Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention

Funding amount: \$30,000

Jordan will take over from Australia as President of the Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention in November 2007. This funding will assist Jordan in its hosting of the 8th Meeting of States Parties in November 2007, including advocacy activities in the Middle East region.

LAOS



MINE CLEARANCE / MINE ACTION MANAGEMENT

SWISS FOUNDATION FOR MINE ACTION

Community-based Unexploded Ordnance Clearance

Funding amount: \$729,828 (total funding \$1.9 million from 2005-2007)

Australia works with the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action to deliver community-based unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance in support of the World Food Program's 'food for work' activities in Southern Laos. The primary aim is to reduce people's risk to UXO and to expand agricultural lands for sustainable improvements to people's livelihoods. Australia is supporting the Foundation's continuing UXO/mine clearance work in Savannakhet province, the most severely UXO-impacted province in the country, and contributing to its new operations in Sekong province.

LAOS NATIONAL REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Technical Advisors Support to the National Regulatory Authority

Funding amount: \$170,172

Australia provides technical support to the National Regulatory Authority through the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action to improve the Authority's capacity to regulate the mine action sector. The funding supports Technical Advisors working with NRA staff in developing UXO/Mine Action National Standards, and developing a UXO/Mine Action Database and information system, two priority areas for the Authority.

UXO LAO

Support to UXO Lao in Khammouane Province

Funding amount: \$300,000

Australia supports UXO Lao, the National operator for Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)/Mine Action in the Lao PDR, to undertake humanitarian mine action activities, including UXO/Mine clearance and Mine Risk Education in Khammouane province. Khammouane is one of the most UXO-contaminated provinces in Laos, seriously impacting on the lives of its inhabitants. Support to UXO Lao contributes to the national goal of poverty eradication, particularly in terms of the social and economic development of rural communities hampered by UXO contamination.

INTEGRATED MINE ACTION

CARE AUSTRALIA

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

Funding amount: \$1,075,587 (Approx \$3.07 million over five years 2007–2012)

This program aims to reduce the multi-faceted vulnerability of poor ethnic communities affected by UXO contamination in two districts of Sekong Province. It incorporates UXO clearance, community-based planning and land use allocation, mine risk education, and small scale rural development initiatives to enhance livelihood security. CARE is implementing the activity in partnership with the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action.

WORLD VISION AUSTRALIA

Integrated UXO Action Activity in Khammouane Province

Funding amount: \$649,812 (\$2 million over five years, 2007–2012)

This program is creating an enabling environment for poverty reduction and livelihood security in 24 UXO-impacted villages in Mahaxay District. The project will strengthen the capacity of vulnerable communities to mitigate and manage livelihood risks of food insecurity and UXO. World Vision is implementing the activity in partnership with the Mines Advisory Group.

LEBANON



MINE CLEARANCE / MINE ACTION MANAGEMENT

UNITED NATIONS MINE ACTION SERVICE (UNMAS)

Humanitarian Mine Action Response

Funding amount: \$1,500,000

Following the 2006 conflict in southern Lebanon, there is widespread contamination from unexploded ordnance, primarily cluster munitions. The UXO contamination threatens the safety of civilians, presents a significant obstacle to humanitarian efforts, and impedes economic recovery. Australia is helping UNMAS to address these challenges through mine and unexploded ordnance awareness and safety training, explosive ordnance disposal, battle area clearance, and technical survey operations.

SRI LANKA



MINE CLEARANCE / MINE ACTION MANAGEMENT

SWISS FOUNDATION FOR MINE ACTION

Landmine/ERW clearance in Vavuniya and Mannar districts

Funding amount: \$250,000 (Total funding \$1,647,866 from 2005-2007)

This activity focuses on the clearance of mines and explosive remnants of war from resettlement areas, transit areas and war torn areas. As a result of recent military confrontations there are currently over 200,000 internally displaced people in north-eastern Sri-Lanka. The program is clearing battle-damaged villages and agricultural surrounds to facilitate the safe return of these people to their homes.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP)

Support to Mine Action in Sri Lanka Project

Funding amount: \$100,000 (Total funding \$670,000 from 2005-2008)

The UNDP engages directly with Sri Lanka's National Mine Action Program. This program involves developing local and national capabilities to deliver mine action activities that target the resettlement and reconstruction goals of the country. In addition the UNDP provides technical expertise to the National Mine Action Program to enhance the quality and impact of mine action programs.

THAILAND



MINE RISK EDUCATION

AUSTCARE

Mine Risk Education in Schools Project

Funding amount: \$160,000

Austcare, in partnership with Handicap International, is implementing a mine risk education project in Thailand (on the Thai-Burma Border) for Burmese refugees. The project aims to inform teachers and students attending refugee camp-based schools about the dangers of landmines. The project will develop and distribute a mine risk education kit to up to 30,000 teachers and students.

UGANDA



MINE CLEARANCE / MINE ACTION MANAGEMENT

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP)

Mine Action Needs Assessments in Uganda

Funding amount: \$500,000

The United Nations Development Program aims to reduce the threat of landmines and unexploded ordnance in affected areas of Uganda by conducting mine action needs assessments to facilitate the safe return of refugees and internally displaced people.

VIETNAM



SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)

Special Fund for the Disabled

Funding amount: \$500,000 (\$1.5 million for three year period 2007-09)

This activity supports nine rehabilitation centres in Vietnam for the disabled, many of them landmine victims. The project has three components: developing significant quantities of prosthetic and orthotic appliances, ensuring a high standard in the production of these appliances, and training local counterparts in achieving internationally recognised standards. The ICRC also works closely with the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs to strengthen support for landmine victims.

