

PARTNERSHIP PRINCIPLES

**FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE NATIONAL MINE ACTION STRATEGY 2010-2019
AS A SINGLE FRAMEWORK FOR MINE ACTION RELATED ASSISTANCE**

INTERPRETATION

“RGC” means the Royal Government of Cambodia, represented by the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) which is party to these partnership principles.

“Development Partners (DPs)” means the bilateral development partners, international and multilateral organizations/ institutions, regional and non-governmental organizations/ institutions which are parties to these partnership principles.

“NMAAS” stands for the National Mine Action Strategy 2010-2019.

The Partnership Principles represent a joint statement by the Royal Government of Cambodia and Development Partners and does not constitute a legally binding instrument.

INTRODUCTION

1. The RGC and Development Partners acknowledge that progress has been made by Cambodia in reducing the threat from mines and explosives remnants of war (ERW) which has led to a drastic reduction in casualty levels and increased amount of land released for productive use. However, the parties recognize that the mine/ ERW threat continue to present challenges. Those challenges must be addressed if the country is to meet its national development goals of reducing poverty and promoting socio-economic development through reducing casualties and providing land for agricultural and infrastructural development as inscribed in the Rectangular Strategy, the 2009-2013 National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) and Cambodia’s Ninth Millennium Development Goal (CMDG). Cambodia is also a state party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty (APMBT) promoting a world free of mines under which Cambodia has committed to destroy all anti-personal mines from its territory as outlined in its 2009 Extension Request of Article 5.
2. The NMAAS 2010-2019 was developed in 2009 in consultation with all mine action stakeholders and under the leadership of the CMAA with a view to enhance programme alignment to NSDP and harmonize and align development partners’ support to the sector. It builds on the previous strategies and plans and aims at bringing under a single framework activities related to demining, mine risk education, victim assistance and advocacy. The NMAAS is consistent with the partnership principles spelt out in the *Declaration by the RGC and DPs on Enhancing Aid Effectiveness* (2006) and sets the groundwork for adoption of a Programme-Based Approach (PBA). PBA is the RGC’s preferred means of strengthening ownership, promoting more coherent and sustainable capacity development; and integrating all resources in a comprehensive medium-term sector strategy¹. The NMAAS 2010-2019 provides the RGC and Development Partners with a strategic framework to organize and focus mine action related assistance under the areas identified by the NMAAS, namely:
 - Goal 1: Reduce Mine/ERW casualties and other negative impacts
 - Goal 2: Contribute to economic growth and poverty reduction
 - Goal 4: Ensure sustainable national capacities to address residual mine/ERW contamination
 - Goal 3: Promote stability and regional and international disarmament
3. The partnership principles are common understanding shared by the RGC and the DPs for implementing the NMAAS 2010-2019, to make mine action a driver of growth and poverty reduction within the context of the NSDP, and for improving the effectiveness and coordination

¹ 2010 Aid Effectiveness Report, p28

of activities and interventions to be developed through future bilateral and multilateral agreements and where possible through ongoing agreements.

4. The NMAS recognizes the existence of other mechanisms of the RGC where certain issues related to mine action may already be coordinated, planned and monitored (e.g. demining in support of infrastructure development; education). However, the CMAA and DPs will seek to ensure sharing of information, respect of standards and practices and coordination in order to promote relevant synergies and avoid duplication.

PRINCIPLES

The collaboration among RGC and DPs engaged in providing support to mine action related work is based on the following principles regardless of the financing modality, origin of resources, or the size of the contributions:

Ownership and Leadership

5. The DPs respect RGC's ownership and leadership in the formulation and implementation of RGC's mine action policy and strategy. The DPs will respect and support RGC to lead aid coordination at all levels and thereby recognize CMAA's leadership role in coordinating, monitoring and regulating the whole mine action sector.² The RGC will also support DPs in fulfilling their commitment by communicating in timely fashion information that may affect DP's programmes and projects.
6. The DPs support the capacity development of RGC's institutions and agencies at national and sub-national level involved in mine action related work such as the CMAA, CMAC, RCAF, the Police and provincial authorities (such as PMAC/ MAPU³).

Alignment

7. The NMAS 2010-2019 is recognized as the coordinating instrument for all mine action related activities and delivery of mine action related assistance out of bilateral, multilateral, current and future, national and regional initiatives. The DPs will formulate their programmes and projects based on the goals, objectives and activities as outlined in the NMAS 2010-2019 which reflects current goals of Cambodia's mine action programme and incorporates corresponding objectives and activities as per the NMAS indicator matrix.
8. The DPs will support the RGC, as and when requested, in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of mine action related policy, strategy, plans and programmes with the purpose of acting together for the reduction of the mine/ ERW threat and increased contribution to growth and poverty reduction.
9. The RGC acknowledges its responsibility in bringing additional DPs and stakeholders to support the implementation of the NMAS 2010-2019. The DPs will assist the CMAA, as and when requested, in their responsibilities to translate the NMAS into Annual Workplans. The Workplan will present a comprehensive mapping of all planned and ongoing priority mine action related activities that will guide and facilitate coordination among all actors and monitor the overall implementation of the NMAS. The CMAA is responsible to prepare the Annual Workplan in consultation with relevant stakeholders and with the support of the Mine Action Technical Working Group (MA-TWG).

² Outlined in Royal Decree 160 of 4 September 2000

³ PMAC and MAPU stand respectively for Provincial Mine Action Committee and Mine Action Planning Unit (MAPU)

10. The RGC, through the CMAA will prepare annual NMAS Progress Reports. The Annual NMAS Progress Report will be used as the basis for preparing the relevant reports of the NSDP, Rectangular Strategy and CMDGs.
11. No mine action programme, project, annual workplan or new initiative should be implemented without prior agreement from the CMAA. The RGC through the CMAA agrees to maintain a system and mechanisms in place for their review and approval as well as to provide a feedback to DPs in a timely fashion.
12. Only operators accredited by the CMAA are allowed to be engaged in clearance activities funded by DPs. The CMAA is committed to promoting accreditation of all demining units of the RGC for all clearance activities.
13. The RGC and DPs support enhanced integration of gender equity, disability mainstreaming, pro-poor approaches, improved governance and environment sustainability in all policy, strategy, plans and programmes, data collection and monitoring systems, budgets, and other arrangements of the CMAA.

Harmonization

14. The DPs will avoid creating parallel project implementation units and management structures within the RGC. In addition, based on progress in the reform and strengthening of RGC's procurement, financial management and audit systems, norms and procedures, the DPs will align mine action technical assistance support with the structures and systems of the RGC in order to reduce transaction costs of development cooperation.
15. The DPs will provide appropriate, disaggregate levels of financial and technical support and make an effort to increase predictability of future financial support and technical assistance in order to address the challenges identified in the NMAS 2010-2019.
16. The RGC and DPs will deepen coordination and improve effectiveness of all mine action related technical assistance through the MA-TWG and the CMAA.

Management for Results

17. The CMAA and DPs will support the RGC in the development of transparent and simplified information mechanisms to monitor policies, strategies contributions, plans and interventions related to mine action and measure their contribution to development and poverty alleviation goals.
18. More specifically, the CMAA and DPs will support the development and implementation of a monitoring and evaluation framework to measure implementation of the NMAS and its contribution to poverty reduction and growth.
19. As such, the RGC and DPs will carry out regular joint program evaluations of the NMAS 2010-2019 with the first one planned for 2013, at the latest, to coincide with the end of the current NSDP cycle (2009-2013). The purpose of these evaluations is to assess the degree of achievement of the planned targets and the efficiency of the NMAS. These evaluations will serve as a basis for the periodical updating of the NMAS 2010-2019. Parties will decide on the timing, terms of reference and composition of these valuations and the NMAS updating. The evaluations will make use of and coordinate with other relevant evaluations, including regional evaluations, undertaken in conjunction with other processes, programmes, and projects.

Mutual accountability

20. The RGC and DPs will decide on a limited number of indicators for joint monitoring of mine action related plans and programmes which are consistent with relevant policy and strategy documents such as the NSDP and CMDGs.
21. The RGC and DPs will strengthen the availability of information through exchange mechanisms on mine action activities, and ensure relevant information is available to the RGC, civil society and Development Partners.
22. The RGC and DPs will ensure up-to-date information on project activities and financing is provided to the Cambodian ODA Database as maintained by Cambodian Rehabilitation and Development Board/Council for Development of Cambodia on behalf of RGC.
23. The RGC will ensure that information on project activities and financing of all national entities involved in mine action are made available to stakeholders of relevant sectors.
24. The Mine Action Technical Working Group Secretariat will monitor and report periodically adherence to these partnership principles to the Mine Action Technical Working Group.
25. In recognition of the impact of mine action work on development and poverty alleviation and the need for a Government-led effort to achieve greater coordination and alignment of the mine action sector, the RGC will commit annually a heightened level of support from its own budget resources.

THESE PARTNERSHIP PRINCIPLES ARE COMMON UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

*The Royal Government of Cambodia represented by:
H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Vice President of CMAA*

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The Australian Government represented by:

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*The Canadian Government represented by:
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