

Towards a world free from landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war 2010–14



Cover: Soeun Rem, 27, stepped on a mine while working with her father in their soy beans field in Pailin, Cambodia.

She now runs a grocery shop, started through a micro-loan from the Australian Government funded Landmine Survivor Assistance Program.

Photo: Somira Sao / Australian Red Cross

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These icons symbolise the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)—eight goals representing an agreement by world leaders to reduce poverty and enhance human development by 2015. More information about the MDGs is available online at www.ausaid.gov.au/keyaid/mdg.cfm

Ministerial foreword



Australia has made a significant contribution to global efforts towards a world free from landmines and other explosive remnants of war by providing more than \$175 million to mine action since 1997.

Australia has actively promoted universal participation in the Mine Ban Convention and other international instruments that prohibit the use of landmines and seek to minimise the risks and effects of explosive remnants of war.

In December 2008 in Oslo, I signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions on behalf of Australia. The Convention is a significant humanitarian achievement, prohibiting these abhorrent weapons that scatter battlefields with hundreds of explosive devices. Many of them fail to detonate and pose a long-term threat to civilians for years after hostilities have ceased.

In August 2009, Australia met its pledge to provide \$75 million through the aid program under the Mine Action Strategy 2005–10, almost one year ahead of schedule. Now we need to take the next step—to renew our commitment and to build on this foundation of success.

I am pleased to present Australia's new Mine Action Strategy for the Australian aid program 2010–14.

Under the Strategy, Australia pledges \$100 million to work towards a world free from landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war over the next five years.

This is the largest five-year commitment made by Australia to mine action.

We will seek to reduce deaths and injuries from these devices and improve the quality of life for victims, their adversely affected families and communities.

To further reduce the threat and social and economic impact of landmines and explosive remnants of war, Australia will support and encourage affected countries to increase their own national mine action efforts.

Victims will benefit from Australia's efforts to ensure that people with disability—often among the poorest and most vulnerable—are better supported by our aid. As part of our leadership role in this area, Australia ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in July 2008 and announced a new strategy for 2009 to 2014 for the Australian aid program, *Development for All*, to ensure that people with disability play an active and central role in development processes.

At the heart of Australia's mine action effectiveness is a network of partnerships that includes other governments, United Nations bodies, international mine action groups, aid donors, civil society, local communities, victims and people with disability.



We will continue to work with these partners and draw on their experiences, expertise and support to implement this strategy.

Our commitment will support Australia's objectives to reduce poverty, promote sustainable development and contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

We will build on the success of Australia's leadership in mine action, reflecting Australia's commitment as a good international citizen.



Stephen Smith MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Australia

Deminers at work in Iraq.
Photo: Victor Mello / UNDP Iraq



Contents

| | |
|--|------------|
| Ministerial foreword | iii |
| Summary | 1 |
| What is mine action? | 3 |
| International progress and Australia's contribution | 4 |
| What has been achieved and what challenges remain? | 4 |
| How does Australia contribute? | 5 |
| What have we learned? | 6 |
| What will we do? | 7 |
| Goal | 7 |
| Outcomes | 7 |
| What is our approach to implementation? | 12 |
| Guiding principles | 12 |
| Partners | 13 |
| How will we measure our progress? | 13 |
| Appendix | |
| Appendix 1: Mine action and the Millennium Development Goals | 15 |
| Appendix 2: Mine Action Strategy performance framework | 16 |
| Glossary of mine action terms | 18 |



A school teacher trained by the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) presents a mine risk education lesson to children in Bavel, Cambodia. Photo: Sean Sutton/MAG

Summary

Since signing the Mine Ban Convention in 1997, Australia has actively contributed to global efforts to protect civilians from the threat and impact of landmines and other explosive remnants of war. These weapons still contaminate more than 70 countries around the world and kill and injure more than 5000 people a year. They constrain development and bring devastating social and economic impacts to some of the poorest countries in the world—both during and after armed conflicts. Their presence can adversely affect broader political stability and security. In heavily affected developing countries, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals is under threat.

Australia has been a committed donor to partner governments in 16 affected countries across the Asia-Pacific, the Middle East and Africa. We have contributed more than \$175 million to mine action over the past 12 years. Our assistance has helped affected countries achieve their mine action goals and obligations.

The international framework for mine action has now expanded beyond a focus on anti-personnel landmines to include explosive remnants of war, cluster munitions and rights for people with disability who are victims of such weapons. The Australian Government remains committed to fulfilling its obligations under—and supporting developing countries to implement—the Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and other international instruments that aim to reduce the threat of explosive remnants of war and ensure the rights and needs of victims are addressed.

Australia's new Mine Action Strategy, with a pledge of \$100 million, will build on our successful past efforts and guide our assistance for the next five years. It will support the Australian aid program's overarching objectives of poverty reduction and sustainable development. It will also contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Our goal—to **reduce the threat and socioeconomic impact of landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war**—will be achieved through the following four outcomes:

1. Improved quality of life for victims of landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war.
2. Reduced number of deaths and injuries from landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war.
3. Enhanced capacity of countries to manage their mine action programs.
4. Effective leadership and advocacy by Australia on mine action.

The decisions of the Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World in 2009 will be taken into account in the implementation of the strategy. The strategy also supports the achievement of Australia's disability-inclusive development strategy for the aid program, *Development for All*. It sits within Australia's whole-of-government commitment to mine action and will complement the roles played by other Australian Government departments, particularly the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Defence.



Production of prosthetics in Iraq.
Photo: Victor Mello / UNDP Iraq

Australia's mine action assistance will focus on the most heavily affected countries in the Asia-Pacific region, while maintaining the flexibility to respond to emerging needs and priorities. We will retain a holistic approach to programming across the key areas of mine action and integrate mine action within broader development programs and activities.

The strategy will be delivered primarily through our bilateral country programs, targeting priorities identified by partner governments. It will also contribute to the work of multilateral bodies, such as the United Nations, and of Australian and international non-government organisations engaged in mine action at the country, regional and international levels. Australia will measure the success of action under the strategy against strong performance-based principles.

What is mine action?

Mine action includes activities aimed at reducing the social, economic and environmental impact of landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war. The objective is to ensure that people can live safely, in an environment where economic, social and health development occurs free of the constraints imposed by these weapons, and in which victims' needs are addressed.¹

The 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (the Mine Ban Convention) is the principal international instrument prohibiting the use of anti-personnel landmines. It recognises that mine action is not just about removing dangerous landmines from the ground; it is also about understanding how people interact with mine-affected environments. The Convention identified five pillars, or key areas, for action: mine clearance, mine risk education, victim assistance, stockpile destruction and advocacy.

A country affected by landmines and other explosive remnants of war can benefit from intervention at any stage along the spectrum from conflict to stability. Mine action can help to meet urgent humanitarian needs during a conflict. It can contribute to peace-building and stabilisation efforts in the aftermath of a conflict. And it can be a key component of longer term reconstruction and development.

Through its aid program, Australia undertakes mine action in both conflict and post-conflict situations. Because progress from conflict to stability is not always linear, and may proceed at different rates in different parts of a country, we carefully analyse the context to ensure our work can proceed safely.



Puth Sothe, ex-soldier and landmine victim, from Chrok Porn in Cambodia, is able to plant his own vegetables and carry water from the spring because of the prosthetic leg he was given.
Photo: AusAID



Nineteen year-old Ponchan has been working for the Mines Advisory Group in Cambodia for nearly four months: 'There is so much unexploded ordnance around and it is a big problem. I am very happy that I have this job, I can support my family and at the same time clear the fields and villages and save lives.'
Photo: Sean Sutton/MAG

International progress and Australia's contribution



What has been achieved and what challenges remain?

Considerable progress has been made in the 10 years that the Mine Ban Convention has been in force. Forty-four million stockpiled landmines have been destroyed² and 11 countries have fulfilled their obligation to destroy all landmines under their jurisdiction and control.³ Tens of thousands of square kilometres of once-contaminated land have been freed from landmines, bringing significant socioeconomic benefits in many countries. The number of recorded casualties from landmines and explosive remnants of war has steadily declined.⁴ And more than US\$4 billion in funding has been provided for activities consistent with the Convention since 1996.⁵

In recent years, the international framework for mine action has expanded beyond a focus on anti-personnel landmines. Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons⁶ came into force in 2006, focusing on removing explosive remnants of war and providing assistance to victims. In December 2008, the Convention on Cluster Munitions was opened for signature. This new convention prohibits cluster munitions, which scatter battlefields with sometimes hundreds of submunitions that pose a threat to civilians for years after hostilities have ceased. In May 2008, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities entered into force, setting out the fundamental human rights of people with disability, with implications for victims of landmines and explosive remnants of war.

These achievements are the result of a strong partnership between governments, civil society and international organisations. However, much remains to be done:

- > Landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war continue to contaminate more than 70 countries around the world and kill and injure more than 5000 people a year.⁷
- > In the past decade, new use of landmines has been reported in some parts of the world, including by non-state armed actors.
- > Multiple factors—technical, environmental and financial—impede the ability of countries to meet their mine clearance deadlines under the Mine Ban Convention—19 countries have applied for extensions to their mine clearance deadlines, 15 of which were granted in 2008.⁸
- > Twenty-six countries under the Mine Ban Convention have indicated that they provide ongoing care and support to significant numbers of landmine survivors—ranging from hundreds to thousands.



Unexploded ordnance found in Oruzgan province in Afghanistan.
Photo: Jacob Simkin / MACCA

For many of the poorest countries, these weapons also constrain development and threaten the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.⁹ They can prevent poverty-stricken families and communities from developing land resources, safely accessing basic services and effectively participating in economic opportunities. Poor individuals in vulnerable situations may place themselves at risk to meet their survival needs—such as men and boys who collect unexploded ordnance for scrap metal. This contamination has such a serious impact on development in heavily affected countries that some, including Afghanistan and Cambodia, have included mine action as an additional Millennium Development Goal in their poverty reduction and development plans. Appendix 1 summarises the links between mine action and the Millennium Development Goals.

Ensuring universal adherence to the international framework for mine action is crucial to guaranteeing the protection of civilians. Although 156 states are parties to the Mine Ban Convention, 39 countries remain outside its provisions.¹⁰ There are only 61 States Parties to the Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.¹¹ And the Convention on Cluster Munitions is a new international instrument. Maintaining interest, cooperation and support for mine action will be vital to ensuring that the momentum gained over the past decade is not lost.

How does Australia contribute?

Australia has long supported action to eradicate landmines, reduce the threat and impact of other explosive remnants of war and ease the suffering of affected individuals and communities. We have pursued our international obligations under the Mine Ban Convention and Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. And we have actively participated in efforts to expand the international framework for mine action, including negotiation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, to which Australia was one of the original signatories in December 2008, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which Australia ratified in July 2008. We have actively engaged in international forums related to these conventions, seeking progress and solutions.

Australia has made consistent and tangible contributions to mine action. In 2008, we were the 11th largest donor to mine action,¹² and since 1997 we have provided \$175 million. We have adopted a multi-year approach to the provision of our assistance. This has allowed us to commit to long-term mine action strategies and programs, which has improved the sustainability of outcomes in the countries where we have worked. This approach has also given our partners greater budgetary certainty and flexibility, allowing for effective strategic planning and resource allocation.

In 2008, a mid-term review of the previous Mine Action Strategy 2005–10 found that Australia's mine action program had made a significant contribution to global efforts to address the needs of survivors, support their rehabilitation and reintegration, and reduce the threat of landmines and other explosive remnants of war to civilians.¹³ Working with partner governments and international organisations, Australia has assisted 16 mine-affected countries, mainly in the Asia–Pacific region but also in the Middle East and Africa. One area where Australia is seen as a leader is integrated mine action—an approach to improving the social and economic well-being of mine-affected communities that involves undertaking complementary programming across more than one of the five pillars of mine action and incorporating mine action activities into development programs.



Victim assistance activity in Iraq.
Photo: Victor Mello / UNDP Iraq

The mid-term review also found that a flexible approach to programming has allowed Australia to respond to emerging needs. For example, our support for mine clearance in Afghanistan, Iraq and Lebanon has helped to create a secure environment for humanitarian operations and early recovery. In Afghanistan, we have supported a large-scale, community-based initiative to tackle the problem of mines and explosive remnants of war in Oruzgan and border provinces. The initiative has been deemed an innovative approach for insecure areas. Successful program features included engaging local communities in the scoping and implementation of plans and using demining teams composed of appropriately trained villagers from affected communities.

What have we learned?

Australia's engagement in mine action to date has enabled us to identify what works well and what can be done better. Through our mine action assistance, we have learned that a key to sustainability is for affected countries to have ownership of their mine action programs. Also crucial is building the capacity of partner governments and local organisations. This is particularly the case in countries that have high levels of contamination and a significant number of people who will require long-term assistance.

In the area of mine clearance, impact surveys that combine hazard assessment with an analysis of the socioeconomic impact on communities, including through community consultation, allow for better prioritisation of mine action activities based on the severity of impact. In addition, the focus of mine risk education should be expanded beyond one-way mass communication. While such approaches can be relevant and useful in emergency situations, they do not provide long-term solutions. Sustained community participation in mine risk education and reduction activities is essential.

Gender equality must also be considered in the development and implementation of mine action activities to ensure they meet the needs of those who are most vulnerable or at highest risk. Strategies and programs must take into account the different roles of men, women, boys and girls. Disability considerations need to be integrated into programming to ensure greater access and participation by people with disability, including victims, in all aspects of mine action. The context in which mine action assistance is delivered must also be clearly understood and a 'do no harm' approach adhered to in the delivery of aid to conflict-affected states.¹⁴

Training of school teachers in mine risk education in Oruzgan province in Afghanistan.
Photo: Jacob Simkin / MACCA



Our approach is reflected in the strategy's goal and intended outcomes.

To reduce the threat and socioeconomic impact of landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war.

1. Improved quality of life for victims of landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war

Australia will also support victims' access to appropriate medical care, physical and sensory rehabilitation, psychosocial support, education and skills training, and income-earning opportunities. We will seek to ensure that these services are available to all, regardless of gender, age or socioeconomic status. We will encourage and assist partner governments to integrate such assistance for victims into their national policy frameworks on healthcare, social services and disability-inclusive development, in order to foster more sustainable and socially inclusive development.



The International Committee of the Red Cross is producing low-cost prosthetics for landmine victims in Cambodia.
Photo: AusAID

A holistic approach to victim assistance and disability services

The Royal Government of Cambodia has recorded more than 63 000 casualties from landmines and explosive remnants of war since 1979. Though the number of new casualties has fallen significantly in recent years, there are still thousands of survivors who require ongoing assistance to meet their rehabilitation needs. People with disability in Cambodia are among the poorest—most live below the poverty line.

Cambodia recognises the importance of interministerial cooperation and collaboration to ensure a holistic approach to addressing the rights and needs of landmine survivors. In 2006, an interministerial Steering Committee for Landmine Victim Assistance was established, co-chaired by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation and the Cambodia Mine Action Authority, with secretariat support from Cambodia's Disability Action Council. The committee agreed that victim assistance should be integrated into broader national disability policies and planning to ensure disability inclusion across all ministries and sectors.

Australia is supporting the Royal Government of Cambodia to implement the National Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities including Landmine and Explosive Remnants of War Survivors, adopted in July 2009. This plan will assist Cambodia to meet its victim assistance obligations under the Mine Ban Convention. Responsibility for implementing the plan rests with the newly formed National Disability Coordination Committee, in consultation with key actors in the disability sector, mine survivors and other persons with disability.

Source: Based on Royal Government of Cambodia, 'Statement by Cambodia on Victim Assistance', presented to the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration, 3 June 2008, Geneva.

To achieve this outcome, Australia will work with relevant partners to:

- > give priority to initiatives that integrate services for victims and people with disability generally, into partner government development policies and programs, and health, education and socioeconomic services and budgets, particularly in heavily affected countries
- > support the care, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims, with an emphasis on improving livelihoods and well-being.

2. Reduced number of deaths and injuries from landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war

Only by clearing land of mines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war can the risk to individuals, households and communities be removed. Eliminating these hazards also frees land for access and development to support livelihoods and community needs. In keeping with our commitment to assist developing countries meet their mine action obligations under relevant international instruments, the Australian aid program will support partner governments achieve their clearance targets on time. This will include assistance for technical and non-technical land release surveys which have a proven track record for declassifying land previously suspected to be contaminated and restoring it to productive use.

Australia will continue to support activities to reduce the risk of death or injury to people living in areas affected by landmines and other explosive remnants of war. Priority will be accorded to identifying contaminated land and assessing its impact on the population; marking and fencing off contaminated areas; providing mine risk education and supporting risk-reduction activities, such as alternative income sources for those dependent on high-risk sources of income (for example converting unexploded ordnance into scrap metal); and removing the risk of the future use of such weapons by a state's armed forces or non-state actors by destroying stockpiles of landmines and caches of abandoned ordnance.

Making steady progress in Afghanistan

Australia's mine action assistance is making a significant contribution to one of Afghanistan's Millennium Development Goals: to destroy all anti-personnel landmines and other explosive contaminants by 2015. Since 2008, Australia has provided more than \$17 million for demining, mine risk education and victim assistance activities to the United Nations Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan, one of the oldest and largest mine action programs in the world.

The Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan has supported the Government of Afghanistan to achieve 84 per cent of its mine clearance goal under the Afghan Compact (a five-year international cooperation agreement from 2006–11, between the Government of Afghanistan and the international community), and 38 per cent of the total clearance required under the Mine Ban Convention by 2013. The number of people falling victim to landmines and other explosive remnants of war in Afghanistan has declined steadily, from 100 per month in 2005 to 62 per month in 2007 and 58 in 2008. This progress has been made despite the current civil conflict and the discovery of new mine-affected areas in recent surveys.

Source: 'Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan Fast Facts', Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan, June 2009.



Mine clearance activity in Oruzgan province in Afghanistan.
Photo: Jacob Simkin / MACCA

To achieve this outcome, Australia will work with relevant partners to:

- > support the clearance of landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war, where it has a high potential to reduce casualties, enhance livelihoods, reduce poverty and vulnerability, promote peace and security in conflict situations, and allow refugees and displaced people to regain safe access to their land
- > support and promote the use of additional methods to physical mine clearance such as land release and the incorporation of mine action into broader land use planning
- > involve communities in the process of prioritising areas for mine clearance and in planning development and poverty reduction activities after clearance
- > provide assistance for mine risk education that is carried out in coordination with mine clearance activities and includes appropriate community consultation
- > support the development of national and local mine risk education programs, including their integration into school curricula in highly affected countries
- > assist partner governments to identify alternative income sources for individuals and communities in vulnerable situations who are dependent on high-risk occupations.

3. Enhanced capacity of countries to manage their mine action programs

Primary responsibility for mine action rests with affected states. In poor, heavily contaminated countries, it can be expected to take several years to clear all mines and other explosive remnants of war and meet the needs of victims. Australia is committed to assisting partner governments in such countries build their capacity to manage their own mine action activities.

This strengthening of national ownership requires political will, and for national authorities, local organisations and civil society to assume responsibility for all five pillars of mine action. The aim is for the government of the affected country to have in place the institutional mechanisms and the operational capability to continue whatever mine action it considers necessary on its own, in accordance with relevant international instruments.

Many local mine action organisations, including disabled people's organisations, already play a valuable role in national efforts. However, many of these organisations still need considerable support to become more capable and self-sufficient. Australia will assist by providing such organisations with equipment and training, in both technical and program

management skills, with a view to the gradual withdrawal of external support as capacity is built. At the same time, we recognise that investing in capacity building, while bringing benefits and savings in the longer term, is likely to increase the costs and timeframe for mine action in the shorter term.

Supporting national ownership in Laos

Laos is the country most affected by cluster munitions in the world, and 18 out of its 19 provinces are contaminated with unexploded ordnance. Australia has provided technical support to the National Regulatory Authority in Laos to improve its capacity to regulate the mine action sector through improved standards and quality assurance. Technical advisers have worked with the authority's staff to develop national standards on unexploded ordnance and mine action, as well as an unexploded ordnance database and information system. At present, the government's national clearance agency, UXO Laos, and eight non-government organisations and commercial clearance companies, are undergoing accreditation processes using these standards.

Australia also assisted the National Regulatory Authority in strengthening its Information Management System on Mine Action by providing support to the National Victim Survey in 2008. This survey is helping the government to gather accurate, credible and verified data on unexploded ordnance and landmine casualties and, where accidents have occurred, to assist in planning and prioritising resources. The initial results have indicated a possible 50 000 deaths or injuries from these devices since the war ended. From 1998 to 2007, it was further estimated that there is an average of 300 deaths or injuries a year from unexploded ordnance-related accidents. The Government of Lao PDR has further plans to establish a national surveillance system for unexploded ordnance and landmine casualties.

Sources: Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining website (2009); United Nations Mine Action Service E-Mine website (2009); and UXO Laos website (2008).

To achieve this outcome, Australia will:

- > work with partner governments to help them meet their national mine action priorities where possible, as set out in national mine action strategies, poverty reduction strategy papers and the Millennium Development Goals, or other measures that clearly demonstrate their commitment to mine action
- > continue to support partner governments to build efficient and appropriate national and subnational mine action structures with an effective technical and managerial capacity
- > build partner government capacity to integrate mine action into national development policies, plans and programs
- > support partner governments to strengthen mine action monitoring and evaluation systems and capacity, including the development of Information Management Systems for Mine Action¹⁶ linked with national injury and disability surveillance systems and the production of data that is disaggregated by gender
- > work with local and international organisations to develop tools and methodologies, provide training and capacity building and offer technical expertise in support of national efforts.

4. Effective leadership and advocacy by Australia on mine action

Australia will continue to play a strong and proactive role in advocating for mine action, with a focus on building links between victim assistance and disability-inclusive development. Advocacy has been a major factor in achieving a comprehensive international framework for the prohibition of landmines and cluster munitions, and has promoted the commitment of resources by the international community to mine action.

The Australian Government has played a key role in promoting universal participation in the Mine Ban Convention and other international instruments that seek to minimise the risks and effects of explosive remnants of war. Where appropriate, we have supported organisations that promote adherence to the humanitarian objectives of these instruments by non-state actors. Australia also played an active and constructive role in negotiations of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and we will continue to strongly support their universalisation.

Research into trends and developments in mine action is also vital to assessing progress and guiding future approaches and priorities. Australia will maintain its support for such research, where appropriate.

To achieve this outcome, Australia will:

- > support the efforts of Australian and international mine action partners to advocate for universal accession and adherence to the international mine action conventions
- > work with Australian and international partners involved in mine action and disability-inclusive development to advocate for universal accession and adherence to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Stephen Smith signs the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Oslo, Norway, on 3 December 2008.

From left to right: Steve Martin, Head of Australian Defence Staff, London; Rachel Moseley, Acting Adviser in Mr Smith's office; Sharyn Minahan, Australian Ambassador to Norway; Caroline Millar, Australian Ambassador for Disarmament; Minister for Foreign Affairs Stephen Smith; Mr. Peter Taksøe-Jensen, Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, UN Office for Legal Affairs.
Photo: The Commonwealth of Australia

What is our approach to implementation?



The Mines Advisory Group recruits and trains deminers from the very same communities that are mined. Battambang Province, Cambodia.
Photo: Sean Sutton/MAG

The Australian Government will provide \$100 million over the next five years to advance assistance under the Mine Action Strategy. We will deliver this support primarily through our bilateral programs targeting priorities identified by partner governments. We will also contribute to the work of multilateral bodies, such as the United Nations, and Australian and international non-government organisations engaged in mine action at the country, regional and international levels.

Australia will continue to focus on supporting the countries most heavily affected by landmines and explosive remnants of war in the Asia–Pacific region while retaining the flexibility to respond to emerging needs and priorities globally. We will retain an emphasis on integrating mine action with broader development programs. We will also look for ways to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of mine action in all our programming.

While assistance under the Mine Action Strategy will be delivered primarily through the Australian aid program, the strategy sits within the broader framework of Australia's whole-of-government commitment to mine action. Activities under the strategy will complement the work of other Australian Government agencies. In particular, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade plays a key role in policy coordination, representation and advocacy,¹⁷ and the Department of Defence¹⁸ provides technical support and assistance on the operational elements of mine action, including stockpile destruction and mine clearance.

Guiding principles

Australia's mine action assistance, delivered in collaboration with our partners, will be guided by the following principles:

1. A state's commitment to the international mine action conventions and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will be a factor in deciding whether Australia will provide mine action assistance, with allowances made for exceptional circumstances, humanitarian need and progress towards ratification and implementation.
2. We will demonstrate and promote gender equality in our mine action assistance, with reference to the United Nations Gender Guidelines for Mine Action and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security,¹⁹ and in accordance with the gender policies of the Australian aid program.
3. We will seek to ensure that mine action is socially and economically inclusive and meets the needs of the most vulnerable people and communities. Our work will recognise, respect and promote rights and build understanding of diversity as a basis for inclusive and stable societies.
4. We will promote and enable the active participation of victims and people with disability in mine action policy development, programming, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

5. We will deliver Australia's mine action assistance in line with the principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship, as outlined in our policy on humanitarian assistance.²⁰
6. We will work with our implementing partners to ensure that the 'do no harm' approach is adopted in line with our policy on peace, conflict and development.
7. We will work in partnership with mine action stakeholders, where possible aligning our support with existing partner government policies, priorities and systems and also harmonising our efforts with other donors, in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action.²¹

Partners

We will work with a wide range of partners to implement the Mine Action Strategy 2010–14, including governments, multilateral agencies such as the United Nations, international and regional organisations, other donors, non-governmental organisations, the private sector, civil society groups, disabled people's organisations and—most importantly—organisations representing the victims of landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war.

Australia will advocate with our partners to deepen and strengthen their commitment to coordination and cooperation. This will involve creating defined roles and divisions of labour based on comparative advantage, to ensure a comprehensive response. At the country level, efforts will be made to coordinate funding through national planning and reporting mechanisms, where possible and appropriate. Within this context, we will promote the use of the International Mine Action Standards, and other relevant standards, to guide mine action by all.

How will we measure our progress?

Strong performance-based principles will underpin the way Australia measures the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of action under the strategy. Investments will need to demonstrate that funds are being used appropriately and delivering a lasting impact. To achieve this, Australia will:

- > review the strategy at its mid-term point and on its completion, using the performance framework at Appendix 2. The recommendations from these reviews will be shared with key stakeholder groups and used to further improve and develop the strategy and Australia's mine action assistance
- > develop and refine appropriate data collection and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms that align with the strategy's performance framework, including among our implementing partners
- > seek to ensure that people with disability and victims of landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war, including their representative organisations, are involved in performance assessment processes and feedback mechanisms related to Australia's mine action assistance
- > give increased emphasis to documenting and sharing examples of good practice and enhancing learning opportunities on mine action, both within Australia's aid program and internationally.

In addition, Australia will fulfil its reporting obligations under the framework of international mine action conventions, including on steps taken to implement these instruments.²²



A Mines Advisory Group (MAG) community liaison session. The team discussed the priorities for clearance determined by the community. Amongst other things, this involved drawing a community map, explaining MAG's methodologies and unexploded ordnance awareness discussions. Khammouane province, Cambodia. Photo: Sean Sutton/MAG

In Oruzgan province in Afghanistan, the Australian Government is supporting a community-based demining program in collaboration with the United Nations.
Photo: Jacob Simkin / MACCA



Appendix 1 Mine action and the Millennium Development Goals

| Millennium Development Goals | How landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war may affect these goals | Mine action can help achieve these goals by: |
|---|--|---|
| Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger | <p>The presence of, or fear of the presence of, landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war increases poverty and hunger as farmers cannot use their land, vital livestock is destroyed through accidents, people cannot reach their workplaces or markets to buy or sell goods, and key supporting services, such as transport, may be inaccessible.</p> <p>Important sectors of the economy—such as tourism, which employs many poorer people—can be affected, with people wary of investing in businesses or visiting famous sites in areas suspected of contamination. The victims of accidents, including their families and communities, can suffer loss of their livelihoods due to death or disability.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Physically removing landmines, cluster munitions, and other explosive remnants of war › Reducing the risk of accidents through marking and fencing off contaminated areas, mine risk education and reduction, and stockpile destruction › Providing quality emergency medical services to reduce the impact of accidents and physical rehabilitation for victims › Providing social and economic opportunities for victims |
| Achieve universal primary education | <p>Child survivors with disability may face social and physical barriers to education. If a family member is killed or disabled by an accident, children may be withdrawn from school to become carers, or to help the family earn an income.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Building or adapting school structures and systems to be accessible to children with disability › Educating children, families, teachers and communities on disability-inclusive development › Providing social safety nets (e.g. disability pensions) and income-earning opportunities for victims › Physically rehabilitating victims |
| Promote gender equality and empower women | <p>Men and boys suffer the most from landmine, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war accidents. At the same time, girls are more likely to be withdrawn from school and/or enter the workforce to support a family affected by an accident.</p> <p>Women and girls with disability also can face increased stigma. Understanding the differences in roles and risks by gender and age is critical to designing appropriate mine action activities that protect lives and provide rehabilitation services for all victims.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Ensuring that mine action systematically and adequately takes into account gender and age differences and considerations, including consultation with different gender and age groups in affected communities about their roles, risks and coping mechanisms |
| Reduce child mortality | <p>Children are particularly vulnerable to accidents from landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war, which reduce or prevent access to important health services (e.g. immunisation against major childhood diseases and clean water and sanitation), as access to roads, bridges and the facilities themselves may be destroyed or become contaminated.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Physically removing landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war, particularly from and around wells and other water and sanitation access points › Providing quality emergency medical services to reduce the impact of accidents › Accounting for the needs of children for specialised physical rehabilitation services, such as changing prostheses as they grow › Building or adapting health structures and systems to be accessible to children with disability |
| Improve maternal health | <p>Landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war reduce or prevent access to prenatal care and safe birthing environments, as access to roads, bridges and the facilities themselves may be destroyed or become contaminated.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Removing landmines, cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war, particularly from health centres and access roads › Providing safe birthing environments for women in mine-affected areas › Building or adapting health structures and systems to be accessible to women with disability |
| Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases | <p>The prevention and treatment of contagious diseases like malaria can be disrupted by lack of access to health services. Poverty that is worsened by the impact of landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war may put people at greater risk of HIV/AIDS infection by forcing more women into sex work and increasing the vulnerability of people with disability to physical and sexual abuse.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Incorporating HIV/AIDS education and disability-inclusive approaches into public health systems and messages › Providing livelihood security to those affected to prevent impoverishment and vulnerability to sex work and abuse |
| Ensure environmental sustainability | <p>Contamination from landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war can damage the environment and prevent access to safe drinking water. Many such devices contain toxic substances that leach into the soil over time. In addition, landmine accidents have killed endangered animals.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Removing landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war using environmentally safe techniques |
| Develop a global partnership for development | <p>The Mine Ban Convention was born from a civil society movement that developed into a strong partnership between government, civil society, non-government organisations, international organisations and the private sector. The partnership has continually strengthened and extended its reach to include dealing with explosive remnants of war and making development work inclusive of disability, all with the broader objectives of meeting a compelling humanitarian need and contributing to poverty reduction and sustainable development.</p> | |

Appendix 2 Mine Action Strategy performance framework

| Goal To reduce the threat and socioeconomic impact of landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Outcome | Performance questions | Information to consider* | Sources of information |
| 1. Improved quality of life for victims of landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Are men and women affected by landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war participating on an equal basis with others in the social and economic life of their communities? > To what extent has Australia's assistance under the Mine Action Strategy contributed to the development of sustainable services for victims, both male and female? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Extent to which males and females who are victims report that they are able to participate in meaningful ways in the social and economic life of their communities. > Changes, for both men and women victims, in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – education and health outcomes – income levels or livelihoods sources – access to and quality of services. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Annual mine action progress reports for AusAID-funded activities > AusAID annual program performance review reports > AusAID quality at implementation reports > Landmine Monitor reports > United Nations reports > National country reporting |
| 2. Reduced number of deaths and injuries from landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Are men and women at less risk of death or injury from landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war? > How has Australia's assistance under the Mine Action Strategy contributed to the prevention of deaths and injuries? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Number of new deaths and injuries. > Amount of land and/or social and economic infrastructure (e.g. schools, health centres, roads, access to water and sanitation) restored to productive use. > Number of refugees or internally displaced people able to return to their land. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Annual mine action progress reports for AusAID-funded activities > AusAID annual program performance review reports > AusAID quality at implementation reports > Landmine Monitor reports > United Nations reports > National country reporting |
| 3. Enhanced capacity of countries to manage their mine action programs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > How has the capacity of partner governments and associated stakeholders (e.g. civil society, private sector) to effectively implement, monitor and evaluate mine action changed? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Partner government policies, strategies and programs for mine action. > Partner government resource allocation to mine action programs. > Participation of other stakeholders in national mine action strategies and programs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Annual mine action progress reports for AusAID-funded activities > AusAID annual program performance review reports > AusAID quality at implementation reports > National country reporting |
| 4. Effective leadership and advocacy by Australia on mine action | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > How have country, regional and international commitments to mine action been influenced by Australia? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Progress of states that have been supported by Australia in their efforts to become party to the Mine Ban Convention and/or other complementary international instruments and/or to support their principles. > Implementation of the obligations under the Mine Ban Convention and/or other complementary international instruments. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Annual mine action progress reports for AusAID-funded activities > AusAID annual program performance review reports > United Nations reports > Landmine Monitor reports > Feedback from relevant international agencies, donors, mine action and disability organisations, non-government organisations and other stakeholders > National country reporting |

* Information will be disaggregated and analysed by gender, age and disability, where possible.

| Guiding principles | Performance questions | Sources of information |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Consider a state's commitment to the Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities | > How has the design and implementation of initiatives taken into account a state's commitment to the Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Protocol V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities? | AusAID quality at entry reports Partner government strategies, plans and reports |
| 2. Ensure that mine action is designed and implemented using gender-sensitive approaches | > Has gender-sensitive data been collected, analysed and used to inform mine action programming decisions? > Have women and men equally participated in, contributed to and benefited from Australia's mine action assistance? | AusAID quality at entry reports AusAID quality at implementation reports AusAID quality at completion reports |
| 3. Ensure that mine action is socially and economically inclusive and meets the needs of the most vulnerable | > Have mine action programs and initiatives used appropriate analysis procedures for design and implementation – in particular, analysis of vulnerability? > How have mine action programs addressed social and economic inclusion? > Do vulnerable populations, including people with disability, report that their rights are promoted, recognised and respected in mine action assistance and that mine action assistance has demonstrated an understanding of diversity in its approach? | AusAID quality at entry reports AusAID quality at implementation reports AusAID quality at completion reports |
| 4. Promote and enable the active contribution and participation of victims of landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war, and people with disability | > Do victims of landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war, and people with disability, report that they are active and central participants and contributors to Australia's mine action assistance? > To what extent have mine action programs actively included people with disability and victims in planning, decision making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation? | AusAID quality at entry reports AusAID quality at implementation reports AusAID quality at completion reports |
| 5. Follow principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship | > Do new and ongoing initiatives in mine action reflect attention to key humanitarian donorship principles? | AusAID quality at entry reports AusAID quality at implementation reports |
| 6. Follow the 'do no harm' approach | > Do new and ongoing initiatives in mine action comply with the 'do no harm' approach? | AusAID quality at entry reports AusAID quality at implementation reports AusAID quality at completion reports |
| 7. Align support with partner government priorities and harmonise our efforts with those of other donors | > Have mine action programs and initiatives sought to align the support provided with existing partner government plans, policies and priorities? > Have the coordination and harmonisation of needs/impact assessments, resource mobilisation, and monitoring and evaluation improved? > Have donors and partner governments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – conducted quality and participatory hazard and impact assessments to identify priority areas for mine action and target resources accordingly? – developed complementary or joint mine action support programs and/or funding mechanisms? > Have common donor-government reporting formats and mechanisms been adopted? | AusAID quality at entry reports AusAID quality at implementation reports AusAID quality at completion reports Partner government strategies, plans and reports Donor government strategies, plans and reports |

Glossary of mine action terms

Note: Definitions are based on the International Mine Action Standards 04.10, *Glossary of mine action terms, definitions and abbreviations*, 1 January 2003, 2nd edition, with the exception of the definitions of ‘cluster munition’, ‘explosive submunition’ and ‘unexploded submunition’ which are taken from Article 2 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

abandoned explosive ordnance—Explosive ordnance that has not been used during an armed conflict, that has been left behind or dumped by a party to an armed conflict and that is no longer under the control of the party that left it behind or dumped it. It may or may not have been primed, fuzed, armed or otherwise prepared for use.

anti-personnel landmine—A mine that is designed to be exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a person and that will incapacitate, injure or kill one or more people. Command-detonated munitions, such as the M18 Claymore, are not considered anti-personnel landmines.

anti-vehicle mine—Mines designed to be exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a vehicle, also known as ‘mines other than anti-personnel mines’. Anti-vehicle mines are outside the scope of the Mine Ban Convention and are regulated through the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

cluster munition—A conventional munition that is designed to disperse or release explosive submunitions each weighing less than 20 kilograms. The term includes the explosive submunitions. It does not mean any of the following:

- a. A munition or submunition designed to dispense flares, smoke, pyrotechnics or chaff; or a munition designed exclusively for an air defence role;
- b. A munition or submunition designed to produce electrical or electronic effects;
- c. A munition that, in order to avoid indiscriminate area effects and the risks posed by unexploded submunitions, has all of the following characteristics:
 - i. Each munition contains fewer than 10 explosive submunitions;
 - ii. Each explosive submunition weighs more than four kilograms;
 - iii. Each explosive submunition is designed to detect and engage a single target object;
 - iv. Each explosive submunition is equipped with an electronic self-destruction mechanism;
 - v. Each explosive submunition is equipped with an electronic self-deactivating feature.

confirmed hazardous area—An area identified by a non-technical survey in which the necessity for further intervention through either technical survey or clearance has been confirmed.

defined hazardous area—An area, generally within a confirmed hazardous area, that requires full clearance. A defined hazardous area is normally identified by a thorough survey.

demining—Activities that lead to the removal of mines and explosive remnants of war hazards, including technical surveying, mapping, clearance, marking, post-clearance documentation, community mine action liaison and the handover of cleared land.

demining organisation—Any organisation (government, non-government, military or commercial) responsible for implementing demining projects or tasks.

explosive remnants of war—Unexploded ordnance and abandoned explosive ordnance.

explosive submunition—Means a conventional munition that in order to perform its task, is dispersed or released by a cluster munition, and is designed to function by detonating an explosive charge prior to, on, or after impact.

impact survey—An assessment of the socioeconomic impact caused by the actual or perceived presence of landmines and explosive remnants of war, in order to assist the planning and prioritisation of mine action programs and projects.

Information Management System for Mine Action—The United Nations' preferred information system for the management of critical data in United Nations-supported field programs. The system provides users with support for data collection, data storage, reporting, information analysis and project management activities. Its primary use is by the staff of mine action centres at national and regional level, however the system is also deployed in support of the implementers of mine action projects and demining organisations at all levels.

integrated mine action—Action that aims to improve the social and economic well-being of mine-affected people through complementary programming involving more than one of the five pillars of mine action and by incorporating mine action activities into broader development programs and budgets.

International Mine Action Standards—Standards developed by the United Nations on behalf of the international community. They aim to improve safety and efficiency in mine action by providing guidance, establishing principles and, in some cases, defining international requirements and specifications.

land release—The process of applying all reasonable effort to identify or better define confirmed hazardous areas and remove all suspicion of mines and other explosive remnants of war through non-technical survey, technical survey and/or clearance.

mine action—Activities that aim to reduce the social, economic and environmental impact of anti-personnel landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war. Mine action comprises five complementary groups, or pillars, of activities: mine clearance; mine risk education; victim assistance, including rehabilitation and reintegration; stockpile destruction; and advocacy against the use of anti-personnel landmines and to promote the clearance of explosive remnants of war.

mine risk education—Activities that seek to reduce the risk of injury from landmines and other explosive remnants of war by raising awareness and promoting behavioural change, including public information dissemination, education and training, and community mine action liaison.

mine risk reduction—Actions that lessen the probability and severity of physical injury to people, property or the environment. Mine risk reduction can be achieved by physical measures such as clearance, fencing or marking, or through behavioural changes brought about by mine risk education.

mined area—An area that is dangerous due to the presence or suspected presence of landmines or other explosive remnants of war.

non-technical survey—A survey activity that involves collecting and analysing new and/or existing information about a suspected hazardous area. Its purposes are to determine whether there is evidence of a hazard; to identify the type and extent of hazards within any hazardous area; and to define, as far as possible, the perimeter of the actual hazardous areas without physical intervention. A non-technical survey does not normally involve the use of clearance and verification assets.

technical survey—A detailed intervention with clearance or verification assets into a confirmed hazardous area, or part of a confirmed hazardous area. It should confirm the presence of mines or explosive remnants of war leading to the definition of one or more defined hazardous area and may indicate the absence of mines or explosive remnants of war which could allow land to be released when combined with other evidence.

unexploded ordnance—Explosive ordnance that has been primed, fuzed, armed or otherwise prepared for use or used in an armed conflict. It may have been fired, dropped, launched or projected, yet remains unexploded either through malfunction, or design, or for any other reason.

unexploded submunition—An explosive submunition that has been dispersed or released by, or otherwise separated from, a cluster munition and has failed to explode as intended.

victims—In the mine action context, people who have suffered physical, sensory or psychological injury, economic loss, social marginalisation or substantial impairment of the realisation of their rights caused by the use of landmines, cluster munitions or other explosive remnants of war. This includes the people directly impacted as well as their affected families and communities.

victim assistance—All aid, relief, comfort and support provided to victims, including survivors and their affected families and communities, with the purpose of reducing the immediate and long-term medical and psychological implications of their trauma.

Endnotes

- 1 Source: IMAS 4.10 Glossary of mine action terms, definitions and abbreviations, Second edition, 1 January 2003.
- 2 States parties to the Mine Ban Convention have collectively destroyed about 44 million stockpiled anti-personnel landmines. *Landmine Monitor Report 2009*, p. 16.
- 3 Under the Mine Ban Convention, 52 states parties have reported mined areas under their jurisdiction or control. Eleven of these parties—Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Djibouti, France, Guatemala, Honduras, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malawi, Suriname, Swaziland and Tunisia—have indicated that they have fulfilled their clearance obligations. Mine Ban Convention website, <http://www.apminebanconvention.org> (accessed 18 November 2009).
- 4 *Landmine Monitor Report 2009*, p. 46.
- 5 *Landmine Monitor Report 2009*, p. 78.
- 6 The full name of the convention is the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.
- 7 More than 70 states were believed to be mine affected as at August 2009. In 2008, there were 5197 recorded casualties from mines, explosive remnants of war and victim-activated improvised explosive devices. *Landmine Monitor Report 2009*, pp. 1, 46.
- 8 In 2008, 15 states parties with deadlines in 2009 submitted requests for extensions which were considered at the November 2008 Ninth Meeting of the States Parties. In 2009, four states parties with deadlines in 2009 (Argentina, Cambodia, Tajikistan and Uganda) submitted requests for extensions to be considered at the November–December 2009 Second Review Conference. Mine Ban Convention website, <http://www.apminebanconvention.org> (accessed 18 November 2009).
- 9 The Millennium Development Goals are eight agreed targets/goals set by the world's nations to reduce poverty by 2015. See Appendix 1.
- 10 Mine Ban Convention website, <http://www.apminebanconvention.org> (accessed 18 November 2009).
- 11 The United Nations Office at Geneva website, <http://www.unog.ch> (accessed 18 November 2009).
- 12 *Landmine Monitor Report 2009*, p. 82.
- 13 *Mine Action Strategy Mid-term Review*, Dr Linda Kelly (November 2008).
- 14 The 'do no harm' analytical framework provides a tool for mapping the interaction between development assistance and violent conflict. It can be used to plan, monitor and evaluate aid interventions and to assist in identifying opportunities to foster peace and stability—ensuring that aid interventions do not contribute unwittingly to instability and further violence. Collaborative for Development Action, *Do No Harm Handbook: The Framework for Analyzing the Impact of Assistance on Conflict* (November 2004).
- 15 Article 2(1) of the *Convention on Cluster Munitions*.
- 16 The Information Management System for Mine Action, or IMSMA, is the United Nations' preferred information system for the management of critical data in UN-supported field programs. IMSMA provides users with support for data collection, data storage, reporting, information analysis, and project management activities. Its primary use is by the staff of mine action centres at the national and regional level; however, the system is also deployed in support of the implementers of mine action projects and demining organisations at all levels. Source: IMAS 4.10 Glossary of mine action terms, definitions and abbreviations, Second edition, 1 January 2003.
- 17 The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) coordinates Australia's whole-of-government policy with regard to the negotiation, implementation and development of treaties and international agreements (including the Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) and the wider United Nations process. In consultation with other stakeholder agencies, DFAT represents Australia's position in multilateral forums—such as the Annual Meetings of States Parties, and Review Conferences—and institutional matters such as paying Australia's assessed contribution. DFAT is also the lead agency for mine action advocacy, which is generally managed through Australia's bilateral relationships.
- 18 The Department of Defence is an implementing agency for the operational elements of mine action and works closely with DFAT and AusAID on mine action issues. Defence provides technical support to other government agencies on the implementation of the Mine Ban Convention, in the areas of stockpile destruction and mine clearance. The Australian Government considers requests from other countries for technical assistance on stockpile destruction on a case-by-case basis.
- 19 United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security was adopted by the Security Council at its 4213th meeting, on 31 October 2000. The text of the resolution calls for all parties to ensure that mine clearance and mine awareness programs take into account the special needs of women and girls.
- 20 The Good Humanitarian Donorship initiative provides a forum for donors to discuss good practice in humanitarian financing and other shared concerns. Under the initiative, 36 donor bodies have signed up to a set of 23 principles and standards that provide both a framework to guide official humanitarian aid and a mechanism for encouraging greater donor accountability.
- 21 The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, endorsed in 2005, is an international agreement to increase efforts in harmonisation, alignment and managing of aid for results with a set of monitorable actions and indicators. The Accra Agenda for Action was the major outcome of the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in Accra, Ghana in 2008. The purpose of the forum was to review progress in implementing the commitments made in the Paris Declaration. The agenda commits donors and recipient countries to take action to further improve aid delivery.
- 22 This currently includes Australia's obligations under the Mine Ban Convention and Amended Protocol II and V of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.