

CLEARING FOR RESULTS' NARRATIVE REPORT
Fourth Quarter 2009

Introduction

This narrative provides a summary of *Clearing for Results* activities undertaken during the Fourth Quarter of 2009. These activities were informed by the strategic objective of the project, i.e. efficient, results oriented mine clearance which supports poverty reduction strategies, in line with the two programme outputs. A detailed breakdown of progress in Q4 can be found in the attached table.

Summary

The CMAA has considerably gone forward in ascertaining its role as authority by defending with brio its Extension Request and promoting Cambodia mine action programme among key donors in Cartagena, as well as developing a National Mine Action Strategy in an open and consultative process. The CMAA is also more aware of the challenges ahead and has therefore responded positively to the conduct of a capacity assessment of its institution and by initiating key discussions on planning and prioritization processes. Providing further support and assistance to the CMAA will be essential to ensure that the strategy remains a guiding document; that results of the BLS are fully used to effectively improve mine action and more broadly that Cambodia is able to report progress on the implementation of its Extension Request and on achieving development goals. The first quarter of 2010 will be marked by the finalization of the 2010 workplan and furthering the work on the capacity assessment, the NMAS and the BLS. The project will also start brainstorming and holding consultations regarding the next project phase beyond 2010. Risks associated with the termination of salary supplements to civil servants and the impact on achieving CFR outputs will also be carefully monitored and alternatives such as non-financial incentives will be discussed between UNDP and CMAA.

Performance review

Capacity Development

- Quality Assurance (QA): Six QA teams are now deployed. Three new vehicles purchased by the project have been delivered and have just obtained State plate registration; unfortunately this process has taken a very long time and resulted in the two new QA teams remaining with the existing teams until the vehicles can be deployed in the field.
- CMAS: The CMAS for Accreditation is completed and being followed. The CMAS Test and Evaluation remains for approval. CMAS Dogs has been completed and is awaiting final review. CMAS Land Release was completed and pending approval.
- Baseline Survey (BLS): The BLS continued as planned though the Manager resigned after two months. A new Manager has been appointed and the process of familiarization training has commenced again.
- Socio-Economic (SE) monitoring: Financial support was provided to MAPU in eight provinces (Battambang, Pailin, Banteay Meanchey, Otdor Meanchey, Preah Vihear, Pursat, Kompong Thom and Siem Reap) to conducted post-clearance land use monitoring for the period Oct-Dec 2009. The Planning and Prioritization brainstorming resulted in the preparation of a directive for the 2010 clearance plans whereby most clearance assets should be allocated to high impact villages.
- Article 5 Extension Request (ER): Cambodia was officially granted a ten-year extension of its Article 5 deadline at the Second Review Conference of APMBT held in Cartagena, Colombia. The Conference noted the positive steps such as the commencement of a BSL, the consultative process in developing the ER, the development of the NMAS and steps towards the accreditation of RCAF.
- APMBT Review Conference, Cartagena (Colombia): The CMAA's Vice-President, H.E. Prak Sokhonn, led the Cambodian delegation to Cartagena where he had bilateral meetings with most mine action donors to Cambodia including Australia, CIDA, Japan, USDOS, Germany, Norway and Ireland. The delegation also met with the GICHD's Director, the ICBL and the CMC.
- National Mine Action Strategy (NMAS): The NMAS was finalized just in time for the Cartagena Review Conference after rounds of consultations with stakeholders including a donor meeting on 17th November. Formal approval by the PM will be sought during the first quarter of 2010.
- Land release: CMAA finalized a CMAS on Land Release which awaits preliminary approval.

- RCAF Accreditation: One platoon of the RCAF was successfully accredited. This is a major achievement and a positive step towards achieving the requirements of the NMAS and ER.
- Capacity assessment: The capacity assessment of the CMAA was conducted during the month of November 2009 by CMAA with the support of a UNDP-hired consultant. A draft report has been finalized and is now with the CMAA for consideration. The SE team with support of UNDP also conducted a mini-assessment of MAPU to define their gaps and strengths.
- Mid-Term Review: The Mid-Term Review report was finalized and shared with PEG members.

Mine Clearance

- During the period October-December 2009, CMAC cleared a further 928,869 square meters of land contaminated by mines and ERW bringing the total mass of land cleared in 2009 to 7,811,856 square meters.
- UNDP also worked closely with CMAC on the formulation of CMAC 2010 project including greater use of land release methodologies for greater impact and higher productivity, in order to target clearance assets onto area where it is technically needed.
- UNDP through its Procurement Department launched early November a Request for Proposal to the three accredited operators for the provision of Baseline Survey services. The evaluation of the proposal took place on 12th January with the participation of CMAA.

Advocacy

- *Impact*, the Art Exhibit about landmines in Cambodia officially opened on 30th September and to the public on 1st October. It was relayed in a number of media in Cambodia. The Art Exhibit was then shipped to Colombia where it was displayed at the Cartagena Conference. It was officially opened during a side event by H.E. Prak Sokhonn, Ms. Caroline Millar (Australian Disarmament Ambassador in Geneva), Mr. Miguel Bermeo (UNDP-BCPR Senior Deputy Director), and Cambodian survivor Tun Channareth. The exhibit was then shipped to the UN Headquarters in New York to be exhibit on International Day for Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action (4 April)
- UNDP facilitated the production by CMAA of its Report on 2008-2009 achievements which was distributed in Cartagena.

Implementation and management review

- Staffing: The project assistant went on maternity leave mid-January and was replaced. Senior Project Officer, Mr. Tong Try started in December a two-year master degree through distance learning.
- Partnerships: Continued partnership with GICHD (land release, NMAS), NPA (database, Land Release), Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC), donors, operators and the APMBT Implementation Support Unit.
- Resource mobilization: UNDP supported visits from CIDA, Ireland, Finland and NZaid.

Key challenges

1. Early December, the project was informed of RGC's decision to terminate all incentives and salary supplements. A number of civil servants at CMAA have been receiving salary supplements from UNDP under the previous scheme. The 2010 Annual Workplan is in line with UNDP's position to terminate all incentives to civil servants from January 1st and to seek non-financial incentives opportunities with government counterparts.
2. Although key milestones were met, the CMAA continues to be challenged by operators on its mandate, or on strategic and technical issues. This is inevitable as the CMAA strives to take on its role as an authority. Continued technical and policy support as well as outreach is needed to Government and donors to affirm the role of the CMAA as the National Authority.
3. The sector has mobilized fewer resources in 2009 compared to previous years and the prospects for 2010 are not encouraging. Fewer resources in 2010 might jeopardize achieving the Baseline Survey target of completing 21 districts by the end of 2010.
4. Some logistical challenges remain for the CMAA to carry out key functions. This includes administrative processes such as obtaining license for vehicles.

5. The directions taken in 2009 such as the need to allocate most clearance resources to high impact areas and the commencement of a Baseline Survey highlight the need for better planning and prioritization mechanisms and thus the requirement to review CMAA, MAPU/ PMAC mandate and functions in this area.
6. Changes in the requirement of CMAC under the Clearing for Results Project in 2010 should enhance project delivery and the inclusion of CMAA as a key stakeholder will allow CMAA to ascertain its mandate even more. It will however require close coordination and communication between all partners.
7. The RCAF accreditation for a single team was finalized. More work is now needed to assist RCAF with the development of its Technical Survey capacity as well as achieve accreditation for more teams.
8. Only one commercial company is conducting clearance work in Cambodia (Bactec International) on the railway rehabilitation project with TSO. QA Teams will start to check this work. It remains a challenge to have visibility on commercial work that is ongoing in Cambodia. Attempts have been made to engage with the Oil and Gas sector to explain the role of the CMAA and the requirements for accreditation.

Preview of First Quarter of 2010

The First Quarter will be dominated by the finalization of the 2010 Annual Workplan and its approval at a Project Executive Group meeting taking place on 11th of February. The project will also launch the process of formulating the next project cycle based on the two MTRs, the NMAS, the capacity assessment and with the assistance of UNDP's HQ Mine Action Team Leader who shall visit Cambodia in Feb-March. The First Quarter will also see the launch of the NMAS provided it has been approved by the PM, and the articulation of the NMAS into a set of actions for 2010. During the first quarter, the CMAA also shall discuss and start building on the recommendations of the capacity assessment conducted in November as well as the capacity assessment of the MAPU. The first Quarter shall also see the contracting of CMAC for its 2010 contribution to Clearing for Results and the finalization of the contracting arrangements for the Baseline Survey. UNDP will continue supporting the CMAA in other areas including defining gaps and needs in mine action planning and prioritization mechanisms to be addressed in 2010 and beyond; monitoring & evaluation; global outreach and resource mobilization efforts. UNDP will also continue supporting the PCM activity and QA teams. The First Quarter of 2010 should see CMAS on land release, dogs and machines approved. Monitoring trips are already planned for the first six weeks of the quarter. Heavier focus will be applied to the ability of the R&M department to strategically monitor quality through the QA team reports. It is expected that engagement with the RCAF shall increase particularly in the area of Technical Survey. Measures shall be undertaken to develop the Quality Control capacity at CMAA particularly to assist with any liability challenges presented by the application of Land Release standards. CMAA will conduct a mission to Laos to review ERW matters from the perspective of an Authority.

Further details are provided in the complementary Excel table