

Donor Update by the Government of Japan
Mine Action Support Group Meeting
(October, 2015)

1. General Trend

- (1) The total amount of Japan's assistance to Mine Action in the **financial year 2014** (April 2014 - March 2015) amounted to **49.1 million USD for 35 projects in 19 countries and areas**. The top recipients of mine action assistance in FY 2014 were Lao PDR, Cambodia, South Sudan, Iraq and Afghanistan.
- (2) The total amount of Japan's international assistance to Mine Action **since 1998** has reached **622 million USD in 50 countries and areas**.

2. Support to International Organizations

- (1) **UN-VTF**: Japan contributed 15 million US dollars to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action (UN-VTF) to **DR Congo, Somalia, South Sudan, Afghanistan and Palestine**, and to the UNMAS headquarters coordination costs.
- (2) **UNICEF**: Japan provided a total of 1.99 million USD for UNICEF towards **Mine Risk Education in South Sudan, Yemen and Palestine**.

3. Bilateral Support

【Triangular cooperation between Lao PDR and Cambodia】

Lao PDR and Cambodia became the top recipient of mine/UXO-action related funds from Japan in FY 2014, and received a total of over 21 million USD for 9 projects. These projects included supporting the governments of Cambodia and Lao PDR in implementing their mine action programs, grant aid to Japan's NGO, JMAS(Japan Mine Action Service) dispatch of an UXO expert and a 3-year triangular cooperation project between CMAC and UXO Lao from 2012-2014. In this project Cambodia shares with Lao PDR expertise and knowledge on mine action with support by Japan.

Japan started to provide assistance to Lao PDR, which is considered as the most affected country by cluster munitions, in 2005. And since then Japan has conducted projects with a particular focus on three points, namely, dispatching of

JICA experts, provision of equipment and south-south cooperation.

South-south cooperation has come to draw attention in the field of clearance of mines and UXO in recent years as it is carried out in a way that affected countries share their expertise and know-how in clearance, thereby building confidence and contributing to peace building at the regional level. Japan commenced the so-called triangular cooperation projects for Cambodia and Lao PDR in 2012, and held workshops on various topics such as techniques, training, making of national standards, victim assistance; and dispatched JICA experts as advisors for management capacity enhancement in UXO clearance and promotion of poverty eradication. In April this year, the JICA and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) organized a joint seminar on south-south cooperation in mine action in New York within the framework of the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. At the seminars where representatives of national clearance agencies from Cambodia and Lao PDR were also invited, reports on achievements made by relevant organizations and benefits of south-south cooperation were emphasized.