



AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Mine Action Support Group Meeting

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Australia's mine action assistance seeks to reduce the threat and socioeconomic impact of landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war. Australia's mine action assistance focuses on the most heavily affected countries in the Indo-Pacific region, whilst maintaining the flexibility to respond to other emerging needs and priorities against four outcomes:

- Improved quality of life for victims and their affected families and communities;
- Reduced number of deaths and injuries;
- Enhanced capacity of countries to manage their mine action programs; and
- Effective leadership and advocacy by Australia on mine action.

Since signing the Mine Ban Convention in 1997, Australia has provided over \$300 million for mine action.

Australia is in the final year of implementing a five-year *Mine Action Strategy 2010 – 2014 for the Australian aid program* which committed Australia to provide \$100 million to mine action over the five-year period. Australia has already exceeded this commitment through the provision of over \$120 million in mine action assistance since 2010.

Australia's funding for mine action is drawn from multiple sources, including bilateral, humanitarian, security and disability budgets. Over eighty per cent of Australia's mine action funding is sourced from bilateral aid budgets (primarily Afghanistan, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Laos).

To complement mine action supported through bilateral programs, Australia maintains funding for initiatives that deliver a global or regional benefit including for advocacy and universalization of the disarmament conventions; research, monitoring and evaluation; coordination by the United Nations Mine Action Service; and victim assistance work of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Australia is working with partners and donors to coordinate and pool resources to strengthen national mine action programs with a focus on those with long-term mine action challenges including Afghanistan, Laos and Cambodia. Australia also promotes linkages between victim assistance and disability-inclusive development, including under relevant humanitarian disarmament treaties and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to ensure that support is of benefit to victims as well as other people with a disability.

A review of our *Mine Action Strategy for the Australian aid program (2010 to 2014)* is planned for the later part of 2014 to inform our future directions in and engagement in mine action. We expect to position any future mine action assistance to continue to make a real and measurable contribution to increasing stability and prosperity amongst the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in our region.