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Mine Action and Resilient Communities In Cambodia

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OUTLINE

- ❖ History of humanitarian mine action in Cambodia;
- ❖ Integration of MA in the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP);
- ❖ MA and Resilient Communities in Cambodia:
 - Definition
 - Contributions of MA to resilient communities, and
 - Conclusion

History of HMA In Cambodia

Background:

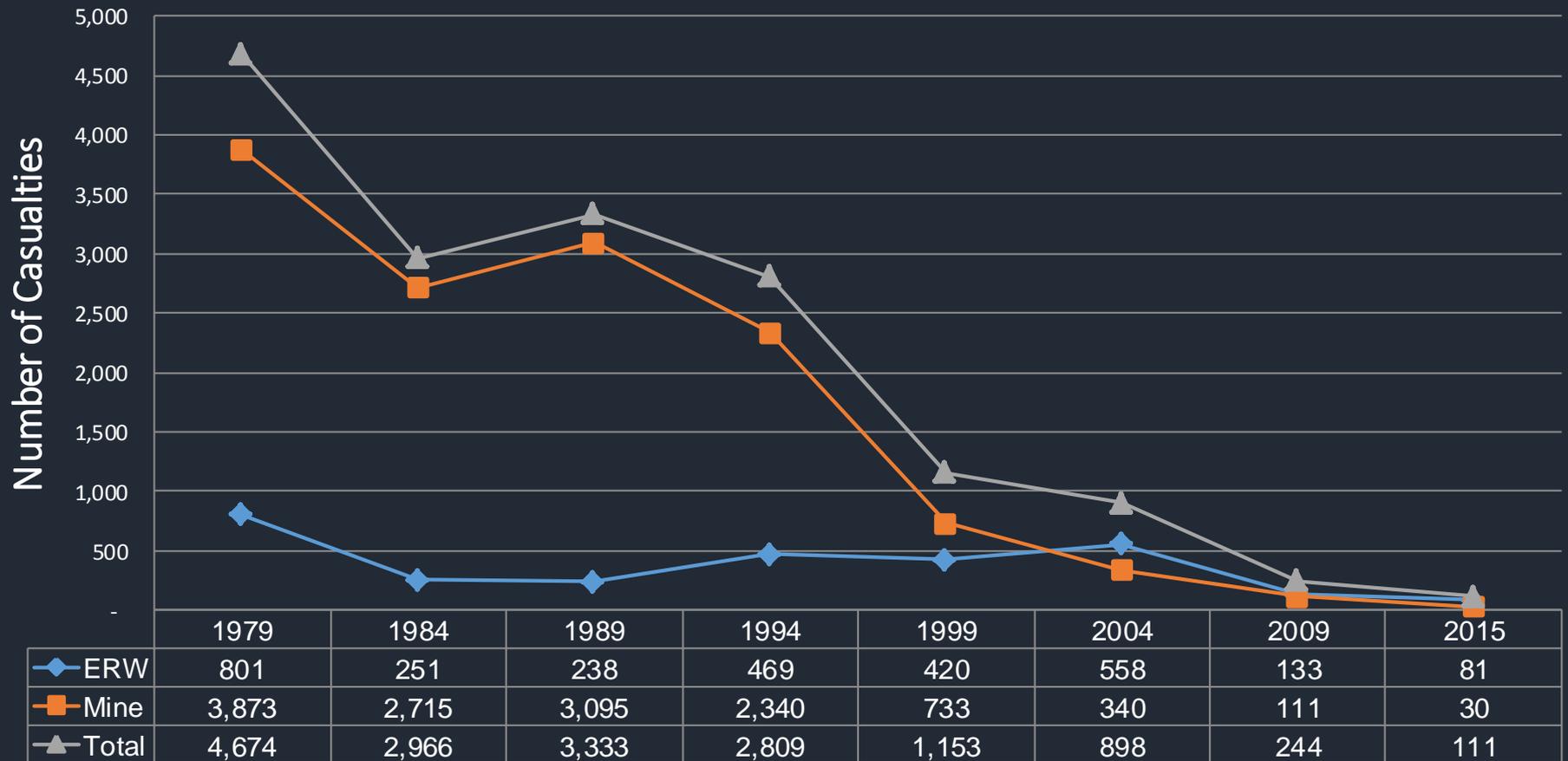
- 1965-1998, regional and internal conflicts;
- HMA started in 1992;
- 1997—signatory, 2000—state party;
- BLS started late 2009;
- Since 2011, NTS and TS added;
- Operators: CMAC, NPMEC, HALO, MAG, NPA, CSHD, APOPO and Companies;

Achievements:

- Over 1,428 Km² cleared/released from 1992-2015;
- 2,189 casualties (mine and ERW) in 1992, and 111 in 2015.

History of HMA In Cambodia (cont'd)

Casualties of Mine/ERW from 1979 to 2015



Integration of MA in NSDP

The Benefit:

- CMDG9 integrated into NSDP
- MA is taken into consideration by the development projects;
- MA is integrated into local development projects at provincial and community levels;

The Impact:

- Post-clearance development project is better supported and more efficient;
- Development and casualty reduction of the affected communities is better responded to;
- Cleared/released land is mostly used;
- Most benefit can be derived from.

MA and Resilient Communities In Cambodia

Definition

Based on the Strategic National Framework on Community Resilience published by Cabinet Office, UK in 2011,

Resilience is defined as:

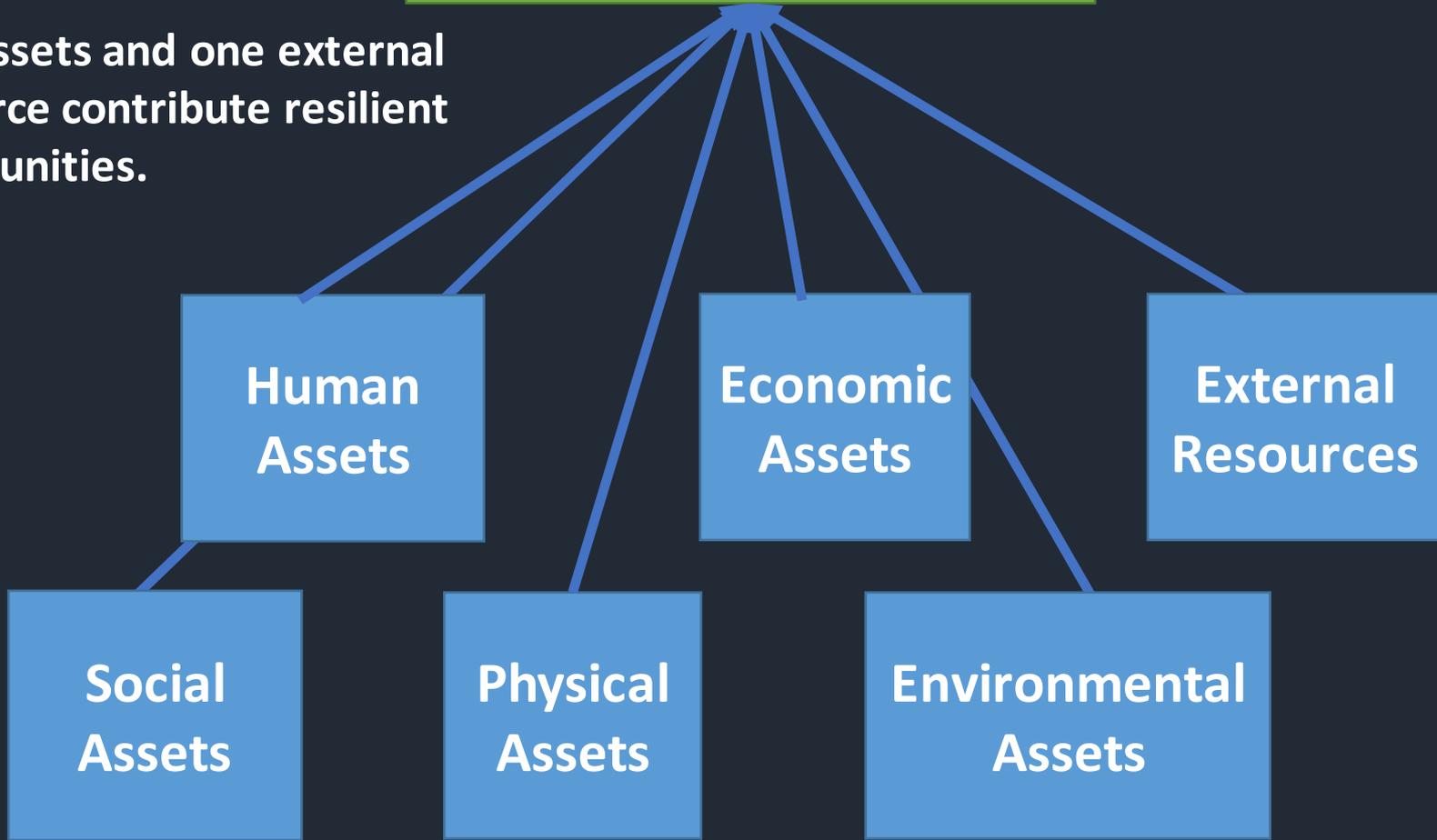
“The capacity of an individual, community or system to adapt in order to sustain an acceptable level of function, structure, and identity.”

And Resilient Community is

“is a healthy community capable of *bouncing back* from adverse situations by actively influencing and preparing for economic, social and environmental change.”

Resilient Communities

Five assets and one external resource contribute resilient communities.



Human Assets

❖ **Education:** The community agreed that mine clearance increases construction of new schools, higher enrollment, and accommodate higher grades in their communities;

48 % of respondents said the top expenses of earning generated from cleared land were: 1. Food, 2. Health care, 3. Education.

❖ **Knowledge:** Affected communities are aware of livelihood constraints: mine contamination , accidents;

Most of people living in affected community have knowledge of mine risks and how to avoid themselves from taking risk in particularly men who relatively work more in the field comparing to women.

❖ **Skills:** community based demining,

❖ **Health:** Mine clearance shortens travel to health care centers. Communities feel happier and safer after their land get cleared. Reduce potential death and injuries.

Social Assets

- ❖ Cleared land used for construction of roads connecting communities and outsiders and facilitating transportation of agriculture produces to markets;
- ❖ The presence of development organizations and microfinance institutions increases in affected communities after clearance;

Physical Assets

❖ **Public Facilities:** access to roads, schools, irrigations, pagodas, historical sites and temples, health centers, administrative buildings, markets, etc.

❖ **House:**

- 50% of respondents had their contaminated residential land cleared;
- 95% of respondents own their houses;

Economic Assets

❖ *Employment & Incomes:*

- >90% of the respondents can earn about US\$2,000/ha/year from their crops, mainly cassava;
- >80% of the respondents have their household members earn additional incomes—seasonally/annually outside their household farms;
- >60% of respondents confirmed that their livelihood has changed after mine clearance—growing more crops, higher yield due to change in land preparation technique, raising more livestock and growing more fruit trees;
- 28% of respondents used to work for others (in country and cross-boarder) for incomes. And 60% of which are now working on their land.

Economic Assets (Cont.)

❖ Loan /Saving:

- 78% of respondents have accessed to loan from microfinance institutions, banks, private lenders, relatives, friends, etc. for agriculture investment, health care expenses.
- Allow them to access more loan due to the increased in size and value of land.
- >40% of the respondents have earned the additional incomes from the cleared land and used it to purchase household and agriculture assets.

Environmental Assets

- ❖ Provide access to natural water sources, forests for forest-by products,
- ❖ In some areas, clearance enable the communities to protect their conserved forest against illegal access and destruction.

External Resources

❖ *Connection and Information*

- *Transportation & Infrastructure:* After clearance new roads constructed providing affected communities with better connection to outsiders and better transportation assess;
 - *Communication and Information:* Over 90% of respondents received the information related to mine risks from internal actors—local authority, local people; external actors—deminers, MAPU; development org.; others—posters, TV, radio => various means of communication & info. receiving.
 - *Technical Advice & Support:* Mine clearance connecting communities with outsiders. Therefore, they can have access to technical advice and support from organizations and institutions working with the communities for mine related issues & others.
- ## ❖ *Services:* Affected communities can access to local health centers, private clinics and urgent demining services.

External Resources (Cont'd)

❖ *Natural Resource:*

Land

- >90% of respondents still own their released land and >80% of which have land title and this provides them access to loan;
- Allow them to expand their farm land 1-1.5ha and housing land about 0.1ha resulted in increase of production and incomes.

Water

Clearance enable construction and rehabilitation of water sources: wells, ponds, and irrigation systems for household consumption and agriculture.

Conclusion

HMA contributes to Resilient Communities in Cambodia.

**Thanks so much
for your attention!**