

Report on the Socio-Economic Contribution of Mine Clearance in Malai and Thma Puok Districts of Banteay Meanchey

Purpose and scope

The purpose of this report is to identify the socio-economic contribution of mine clearance to the livelihood of the people living in mine-affected areas.

This report provides a snapshot of the socio-economic contribution of clearing 121 minefields in Malai and Thma Puok districts. The socio-economic contribution of other minefields cleared in the two districts are not covered in this report as their data were not available.

Data collection

The collection of socio-economic data from the 121 cleared minefields was carried out from June to July 2019 by the Mine Action Planning Unit (MAPU) of Banteay Meanchey. The collected data was quality checked by the Socio-Economic Planning and Database Department (SEPD) of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) prior to its analysis and interpretation.



[photo by MAPU Banteay Meanchey]

Minefield clearance

Almost 100% of the 121 minefields were cleared in 2018 by the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) and the HALO Trust with funds from different donors. The total size of the 121 minefields is **520.44 ha**. Resulting from the clearance, **808** anti-personnel mines, **19** anti-tank mines, and **474** items of explosive remnants of war (ERW) were discovered and destroyed rendering the cleared land safe for productive use by the affected communities.

Beneficiaries of the cleared minefields

The clearance of the 121 minefields directly and indirectly benefited **80,574** households consisting of **354,986** people of which **49%** were women. Among the people, there were **3,106** persons living with disabilities. Of the total households, **7,777** households were headed by women.

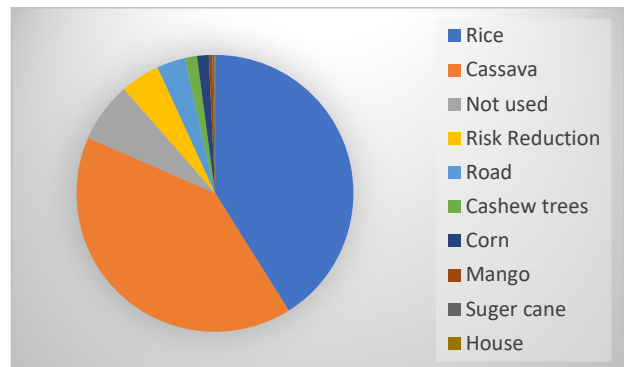
Price of the cleared land

On average, the price of the cleared land before clearance was **USD 1,397** per ha. After clearance the average price was **USD 9,701** per ha. This equates to a **694% increase** in land value. If the cleared land was sold before mine clearance, the total price of the cleared land would be **USD 669,345**. After clearance, the same land could be sold for a total value of **USD 4,649,417**. This calculation does not include the cleared land that was used for road and house construction and risk reduction. The increase in land price after clearance could be influenced by the increase in land price in the area in the recent years.

Utilization of the cleared land

At time of data collection, the MAPU observed the cleared land was used as follows:

- 213.74 ha (41.07%) was used for farming rice,
- 210.71 ha (40.49%) was used for farming cassava,
- 24.09 ha (4.63%) was used for risk reduction,
- 17.07 ha (3.28%) was used for constructing road,
- 7.54 ha (1.45%) was used for planting cashew trees,
- 7.07 ha (1.36%) was used for farming corn,
- 2 ha (0.38%) was used for planting mango trees,
- 1.5 ha (0.29%) was used for farming sugar cane,
- 0.24 ha (0.05%) was used for housing,
- 36.48 ha (7.01%) was not in use.



Clearance for risk reduction

24.09 ha (4.63%) of the cleared land was for risk reduction purpose—clearing contaminated land where people will walk through the land to carry out their livelihood activities.

Clearance for road

17.07 ha (3.28%) of the cleared land was used for road construction. The cleared land enabled the construction of **15.4 km** of road.



[photo by MAPU Banteay Meanchey]

Clearance for housing

0.24 ha (0.05%) of the cleared land was used for housing by seven families consisting of 26 people of which 14 are females. Out of the seven families, five were headed by women.

Rice farming

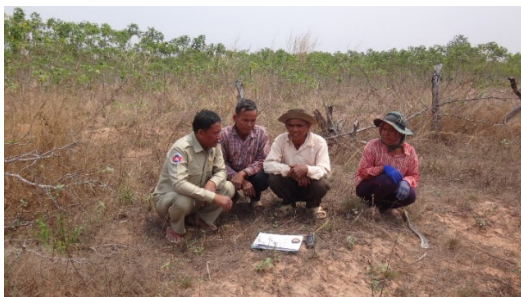
213.74 ha (41.07%) of the cleared land was used for rice farming. The rice harvest in the season before the data collection was **685,922 kg** of which **364,393 kg (53%)** was kept for household consumption and the rest was sold generating an income of **USD 70,747**. The average productivity of rice farming was **3,209 kg** per ha.



[photo by MAPU Banteay Meanchey]

Cassava farming

210.71 ha (40.49%) of the cleared land was used for cassava farming. The cassava harvest in the season before the data collection was **4,943,193 kg**, which was sold generating an income of **USD 250,568**. The average productivity of cassava farming was **23,460 kg** per ha.



[photo by MAPU Banteay Meanchey]

Corn farming

7.07 ha (1.36%) of the cleared land was used for corn farming. The corn harvest in the season before the data

collection was **34,337 kg**, which was sold generating an income of **USD 4,807**. The average productivity of corn farming was **4,860 kg** per ha.

Mango trees planting

2 ha (0.38%) of the cleared land was used for planting mango trees. Results from the mango trees will be realized in the next few years as the trees mature and bear fruit.

Sugar cane farming

1.5 ha (0.29%) of the cleared land was used for sugar cane farming. The sugar cane harvest in the season before the data collection was **1,500 kg**, which was sold generating an income of **USD 990**. The average productivity of sugar cane farming was **1,000 kg** per ha.

Cashew trees planting

7.54 ha (1.45%) of the cleared land was used for cashew trees planting. Like the mango trees, results from the cashew trees will be realized in the next few years.

Cleared land not in use

36.48 ha (7.01%) of the cleared land was not in use at time of data collection. Information shows that owners of the land could not put the land into productive use due to a lack of upfront investment capital.

Summary

After clearance, the price of the cleared land increased **694%** of the initial price before clearance. While the increase of land price, to some extent, could be influenced by the increase of land price in the area in the recent years; funding mine clearance is an investment benefiting rural communities living in mine-affected areas.

The total income generated from farming on the cleared land for just one season was **USD 327,112**. This figure does not include the value of rice that was kept for household consumption, nor the mango and cashew trees plantations for which the harvest will result in the next few years. The economic value of the **15.4 km** of road built on the cleared land, and the area cleared for housing and risk reduction purposes have also not been included in the above financial total. Additionally, the removal of **808** anti-personnel mines, **19** anti-tank mines and **474** items of explosive remnants of war have prevented the potential loss of lives and injuries to many people living in the two districts.

Contact person

For more information, please contact H.E. Tan Sara, Director of SEPD, CMAA.

Mobile: 011 292 527, Email: sara@cmaa.gov.kh