

**Donor Update by the Government of Japan  
Mine Action Support Group Meeting  
(October, 2016)**

**1. General Trend**

(1) The total amount of Japan's assistance to Mine Action in the **financial year 2015** (April 2015 - March 2016) amounted to **49.2 million USD for 35 projects in 20 countries and areas**. The top recipients of mine action assistance in FY 2015 were Cambodia, Lao PDR, Afghanistan, DR Congo, and Somalia.

(2) The total amount of Japan's international assistance to Mine Action **since 1998** has reached **670 million USD in 51 countries and areas**.

**2. Assistance to Mine Action through International Organizations**

Japan provides support bilaterally to individual countries or through international organizations.

Japan has been the top donor to the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action (UN-VTF). Japan's contribution to the UN-VTF in 2016 is currently 16.4 million US dollars to the projects in **Syria, Iraq, DR Congo, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Afghanistan and Palestine**, and to the UNMAS headquarters coordination costs.

In April 2016, Japan launched a 12-month project, namely Comprehensive Humanitarian Mine Action Support In Sudan, where has suffered long-lasting conflicts and consequently contaminated with anti-personnel mines, anti-tank mines and ERW. This project is expected to reduce the number of casualties and negative effect of mines/ERW among the Sudanese population and humanitarian field workers through clearance operations, survey, ERW/mine risk education, to provide assistance to the victims of landmines and ERW and to strengthen the capacity of the National Mine Action to deliver quality assurance and project management resulting in increased national ownership.

**3. Bilateral Support  
[Lao PDR]**

Lao PDR became one of the top recipients of mine/UXO-action related funds from Japan in recent years. Japan started to provide assistance to Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (Lao PDR), which is estimated to be dropped approximately 270 million cluster Submunition during the Second Indo-China War and still considered as the most affected country by cluster munitions, in 2005. Projects include clearance activities carried out by NGOs, dispatch of an UXO expert to UXO Lao, triangular cooperation project between Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC) and equipment procurement.

In August this year, the Government of Japan launched "Mechanical Cluster Submunition Clearance in Xiengkhouang Province", which is the world's first project to employ a machine to the clearance of cluster submunitions. This joint project by Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS) and UXO Lao aims at implementing the cluster submunition clearance efficiently with the material support such as demining equipment by Japanese private company for removing threat to the life of the people and fostering the development of the affected province in Lao PDR.