

**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND  
CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS – INTERSESSIONAL MEETING**

Agenda item 3e: International Cooperation and Assistance

Monday 16 May 15:00 – 18:00

The UK is a leading supporter of global mine action, and continues to invest heavily in mine action programmes, covering cluster munitions, anti-personnel mines, and other explosive remnants of war. Our Global Mine Action Programme (GMAP) remains our main vehicle for this work. GMAP's second iteration, GMAP2, invested £146million in 14 countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia over four years from 2018 to March 2022. As of end December 2021, GMAP2 had cleared and confirmed safe 464.9 million square metres of land and delivered risk education messages to over 3.84 million people in communities affected by mines. A number of countries contaminated by cluster munitions, including Afghanistan, Cambodia, Laos, Yemen and Vietnam, have benefited from GMAP2 interventions. We are currently wrapping up GMAP2, but we have commenced delivery of GMAP3, which is already active in seven countries, including Cambodia and Laos.

To illustrate the impact of this work we can look at the outcomes of clearance of cluster munitions in a village called Labokang, in Laos. The rice farming communities there had lived with the deadly threat of unexploded ordnance for forty years. With no other alternative, local farmers were forced to continue accessing contaminated land to tend to cattle and farmland. With UK funding, the HALO Trust began clearance of this contaminated area in November 2020, and by June 2021, 38,112 square metres had been made safe, with 130 items of cluster munitions and canon rounds destroyed. We understand that four families of 40 people have benefited from the clearance, and are now able to reclaim the contaminated land, and work free from the threat posed by cluster bombs and other UXO.

The UK also has bilateral mine action programmes, including in Ukraine, where we have been active since 2014. Russia's latest illegal invasion, which the UK condemns in the strongest terms, has seen the threat of explosive remnants of war, including cluster munitions, increase significantly. We are therefore prioritising mine action in Ukraine and will continue this much-needed work during this critical time.