

Landmines: The Devil's Weapon

Three Reasons Why They Are Called the Devil's Weapon

1. Residual effects

Once buried, landmines remain active for decades, causing harm long after wars have ended. Designed to disrupt enemy economic activities, landmines are often placed in fertile fields, water sources, forests used for harvesting wood or fruit, and communal gathering spaces, forcing people into hardship and restricting access to vital resources.

2. Indiscrimination

Anti-personnel landmines do not discriminate. Areas such as frontlines or military bases, where only soldiers would approach during wartime, often become civilian living spaces once the conflict ends. As a result, landmines target victims without distinction—soldiers and civilians, men and women, adults and children alike—robbing those who step on them of their limbs and lives.

3. Brutality

Anti-personnel landmines were designed not to kill but to maim, inflicting maximum suffering. The injuries caused by landmines create psychological trauma and fear among witnesses while forcing significant resources to be diverted for rescuing and treating the wounded. This imposes a heavy economic burden on the enemy for subsequent medical care and rehabilitation. Victims often lose limbs, are blown apart, or suffer blindness from shrapnel. These weapons strip people of their dreams and hope for the future, making them one of the most inhumane tools of war.



This is Komrit, who lost his right leg to a landmine (age 11 at that time). Komrit, born into a poor family, was unable to attend school and had to work to support his household. Tragically, he stepped on a landmine, resulting in the loss of his right leg. Following the accident, he was abandoned by his family and placed in an orphanage. Even after receiving treatment, he endured relentless pain as the growing bones in his amputated leg pierced through the surrounding tissue. Each time, he had to undergo excruciating surgeries to shave the bones and repair the flesh, a cycle repeated until his growth ceased. In addition to the physical agony, Komrit faced further hardships, suffering from malaria and diabetes. Despite his courage, he passed away in his teenage years, leaving behind a harrowing reminder of the cruelty of landmines.



Cambodia Mines-Remove Campaign (CMC)

History:
 1998 May: Founding of the Cambodia Mines-Removal Campaign
 1998 May: First study tour held (subsequently held annually)
 2004 February: Japanese office established in Battambang, Cambodia
 2004 July: CMC Bopui Abe Elementary School completed
 2005 February: The Radio program *Voice of Heart* launched to provide emotional support for landmine victims and raise awareness of landmine issues
 2008 September: CMC Komtrei Yume Junior High School completed
 2010 December: CMC Toul Ponglo Junior High School completed
 2017 November: CMC Bopui Miyoshi Elementary School completed
 2019 June: CMC Sek Sok Hayashida Elementary School completed
 2022 November: The second building of CMC Komtrei Yume Junior High School completed

Awards:
 Asia Contribution Award (2006 March)
 Chairman's Award from the United Nations Association of Japan (2006 November)
 Social Contribution Award (2008 November)
 Fukuoka Citizen International Contribution Award (2008 November)
 Asia Human Rights Award (first Japanese recipient, 2008 December)
 Certificate of Appreciation from Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Kingdom of Cambodia (2017 November)
 Commendation by the Fukuoka City Board of Education (2018 November)
 Commendation by the Foreign Minister of Japan (2021 August)
 Royal Order of Monisaraphon (2023 November)

Books:
Caricatures and Photographic Records of Landmines by Kenji Otani (2000 July)
 Practical Actions to Provide Mental Support to Landmine Victims Through Radio (2008 May)
Even Without My Left Hand, I Won't Lose by Urara Takahashi (2009 October)
Together with the Children of the Minefields by Kenji Otani (2011 May)

Did You Know?

For just **100yen**, approximately 1 square meter of landmine-affected area can be transformed into safe land!



Scan here to **donate**

Donation Bank Accounts

Mitsubishi UFJ Bank, Fukuoka Branch, Account: 0640522
 Fukuoka Bank, Head Office, Account, 6135576
 Japan Post Bank, Code 01770-0, Number 38559
 Account Name: Cambodia Mines-Remove Campaign (CMC)

Miswritten Postcard Collection Program

Unused, miswritten postcards, stamps, or telephone cards lying unused at your home or workplace can make a difference! Please send them to the address below. The collected items will be converted into funds to support landmine removal efforts and the operation of schools in Cambodia.

International NGO Cambodia Mines-Remove Campaign (CMC)
 Head Office: Room 702, 1-7-10 Nishijin, Sawara-ku, Fukuoka City, Fukuoka Prefecture 〒814-0002 Japan

Regional Offices: Battambang (Cambodia), Nagasaki Sasebo Branch, Tohoku, Aichi, Oita

☎ **092-833-7575**

✉ **cmc5963@gmail.com**



To the children of Cambodia
 A future free of **landmines**
 A future with **clean water**
 and access to **education**



Our mission is:

- **To eliminate landmine victims.**
- **To support the employment of landmine survivors.**
- **To provide educational support for children in landmine- affected areas.**

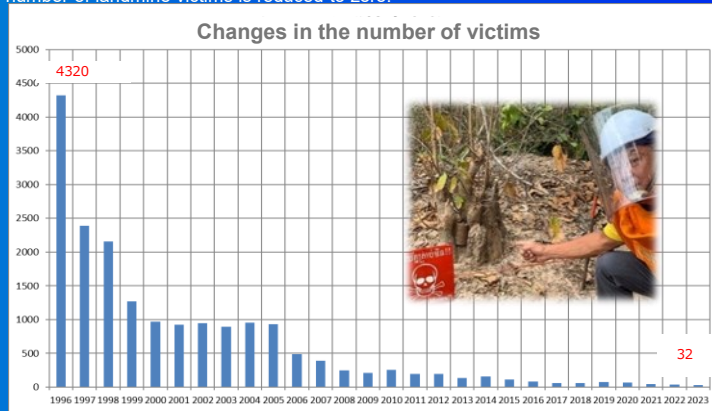


International NGO
Cambodia Mines-Remove Campaign (CMC) since 1998

Cambodia Mines-Remove Campaign (CMC) Philosophy and Goals

■ Eliminating Landmine Victims

Cambodia was once one of the countries most severely affected by landmines in the world. In 1996, landmine casualties peaked at 4,320 people (according to the Cambodian Mine Countermeasure and Victim Assistance Authority). By 2023, this number had drastically decreased to 32 people, marking a reduction to less than one-hundredth of the original figure over 27 years. However, the total number of victims recorded up until 2023 still stands at 65,037, making Cambodia one of the most heavily impacted countries globally. To advance landmine clearance efforts, CMC has been providing continuous financial support for demining activities since 1998. These efforts are carried out in collaboration with Cambodia's governmental mine clearance organization, CMAC, as well as international NGOs such as the UK-based MAG and CSHD. CMC remains committed to continuing these efforts until the number of landmine victims is reduced to zero.



■ Building Schools in Former Minefields Focusing on Education

Responding to local requests, CMC conducts surveys of minefields, clears the land, builds and operates schools on the now-safe ground. These areas often lack basic infrastructure such as electricity, gas, and water, making it a significant challenge to settle in teachers. However, thanks to the dedicated efforts of CMC's local staff, children in these regions are now growing and thriving through access to education.



During the brutal Pol Pot regime, it is estimated that one-fourth of Cambodia's population fell victim to genocide. The scars of this dark period remain evident even today, as reflected in the country's young average age of 26.5 years (2023). While the rapidly developing capital city of Phnom Penh showcases development progress, rural areas—especially former minefields—still suffer from a lack of adequate education systems, which were decimated during the Pol Pot era. For many children in these regions, access to quality education remains a distant reality. Education is crucial for expanding future opportunities for children. At CMC, we believe it is one of the most important investments for their future. Beyond building schools, we are committed to addressing challenges such as poverty that prevent children from receiving an education. We will continue our support from multiple angles to help improve these conditions.

■ Support for Landmine Victims and Residents of Former Minefields

While economic development progresses in Cambodia's capital and urban areas, residents of former minefields and landmine victims continue to suffer from widening economic disparities. To address this, CMC is dedicated to supporting the self-reliance of victims and improving the livelihoods of villagers. Efforts include promoting employment opportunities in special economic zones and teaching skills such as Saori weaving. Since 2005, CMC has also been running a radio program, Voice of Heart, which goes beyond offering emotional support to victims. It raises awareness about the dangers of landmines and educates listeners on risk avoidance.



■ Reservoirs and Water Tanks

After constructing schools, CMC builds reservoirs and water tanks to ensure access to clean drinking water in those areas. This provides a safe and reliable environment where children can have access to potable water without worry.



■ Other Activities (International Cooperation Events)

Participating in events with volunteers, including setting up booths.



■ On-Site Study Tours

Held annually, these 10-day programs provide participants with a firsthand opportunity to learn about Cambodia, including visits to former minefields.



Fostering "Global Citizens" in Japan

■ Peace Education and Lectures for Schools, Businesses, and Communities

CMC conducts peace education and lectures on topics such as human rights and international cooperation for audiences ranging from elementary schools to universities, businesses, government bodies, and other organizations.



In Japan, we raise awareness about landmine issues, which are often overlooked in the news, through engaging lessons using landmine replicas and models. As an international NGO actively working on-site, we share firsthand insights about the realities in affected regions and the types of support that are truly needed. Understanding that the comfortable environment we take for granted is not a reality for everyone, even within the same continent or on the same planet, can profoundly impact the future lives of children.



For lecture requests, click here →

Children from schools where we've held classes have expressed their desire to contribute to solving the landmine issue. They have taken the initiative with activities such as collecting aluminium cans, rice farming, and fundraising. These actions reflect their growing awareness and commitment as global citizens.

■ Miswritten Postcard Collection Program

Thanks to the cooperation of prefectural government agencies (from Hokkaido to Okinawa), mass media, local citizens and schools, miswritten postcards, stamps, telephone cards, and similar items are collected and sent to the CMC office, which can be converted to cash, aiding the activities in Cambodia.



■ University Student Internships

We offer on-site internship programs for university students.

