



QUANG TRI: 10 YEARS ON

**Sustained Investment, Partnership and Impact
Addressing Cluster Munition Contamination**

September 2026

www.maginternational.org

Executive Summary

Over the past decade, Quang Tri has developed one of Vietnam's most coordinated provincial approaches to addressing the legacy of explosive ordnance (EO).

This report provides a snapshot of the impact of the mine action sector's work in Quang Tri over the past decade and reflects on some of the lessons learned, particularly around partnership and national ownership. It has been written by MAG's Vietnamese team, drawing on the experience and perspectives of the communities at the heart of this work.

Built on sustained government leadership, long-term partnership and investment, the province has progressively integrated systematic survey, prioritised clearance, explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), information management and socio-economic development planning within a shared provincial framework. Together, these elements have strengthened coordination, improved the targeting of resources and helped maximise both the humanitarian and development outcomes of mine action.

Introduced in 2014, the Quang Tri Integrated Survey and Clearance Approach provided a common framework through which provincial authorities, mine action operators and donors could coordinate survey, clearance and prioritisation.

Rather than representing a single project, it established a more coordinated way of planning and delivering mine action, built on shared information management, evidence-based decision-making and close collaboration with provincial authorities. Over time, this approach has become the foundation of Quang Tri's mine action response and has supported the province's wider ambition of becoming a 'Safe Province' by 2035^[1].

Since the introduction of the approach, substantial progress has been made in reducing the impact of EO across the province. As of June 2026, more than 623 million square metres of land has been released, 896 million square metres of confirmed hazardous area identified through the Cluster Munition Remnants Survey (CMRS), and 934,000 items of EO safely destroyed. More than 903,000 people have also benefited from EORE, contributing to a sustained reduction in accidents across the province.

Together, these achievements reflect sustained investment in evidence-based survey, prioritised clearance and long-term partnership between provincial authorities, national institutions, mine action operators and donors.

^[1] Quang Tri Provincial People's Committee, Decision No. 1065/QĐ-UBND dated 30 March 2026, issuing the Action Programme on Addressing the Consequences of Post-war Landmines and Explosive Ordnance in Quang Tri Province, 2026-2035. The Programme aims to reduce the risks and accidents caused by mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW); ensure a safe living environment for the people; and create favourable conditions for sustainable socio-economic development, while progressively realising the vision of a "Safe Province" in Quang Tri Province by 2035.

Quang Tri at a glance

The impact of humanitarian mine action extends well beyond the removal of EO. Safe access to land has supported agriculture, infrastructure, housing, tourism, local enterprise and private investment while strengthening provincial systems needed to manage both current and residual risk.

The community case studies presented in this publication bring these wider outcomes to life, illustrating how clearance has enabled communities to invest in their livelihoods, services and future development.

Drawing on Quang Tri's experience, this publication reflects on the factors that have underpinned the province's progress. It highlights the importance of sustained government ownership, evidence-based planning, long-term donor investment and strong partnerships between provincial authorities, mine action operators and affected communities. It also explores how a coordinated, government-led provincial approach can strengthen both the humanitarian and development outcomes of mine action, offering practical insights for authorities, donors and operators working to address large-scale EO contamination.

As Quang Tri progresses towards its vision of becoming a 'Safe Province' by 2035, the role of mine action will continue to evolve.

Alongside continued survey, clearance, and EORE, increased emphasis will be placed on strengthening government systems and ensuring communities retain the knowledge, confidence and local capacity needed to support safe, long-term sustainable development.



**623 MILLION SQUARE
METRES OF LAND
RELEASED**



**903,699 PEOPLE
REACHED
THROUGH EORE**



**896 MILLION SQUARE
METRES OF CONFIRMED
HAZARDOUS AREAS
IDENTIFIED THROUGH
CMRS**



**EO ACCIDENTS
REDUCED FROM AN
AVERAGE OF 60 PER
YEAR (2006 -2010)
TO 2 (2020-2024)**



**934,533 ITEMS OF
EO SAFELY
DESTROYED**



**56% OF ALL EO DESTROYED
WERE CLUSTER MUNITION
REMNANTS**

About this publication

For almost three decades, MAG has worked in partnership with the Government of Vietnam, provincial authorities, affected communities and international partners to address the legacy of EO in Vietnam. Throughout this period, the MAG programme has continued to evolve alongside Vietnam's mine action sector, contributing to increasingly coordinated, evidence-based approaches to survey, clearance, EORE and information management.

As Quang Tri marks more than a decade since the introduction of the Quang Tri Integrated Survey and Clearance Approach, MAG has produced this publication to reflect on that journey, the outcomes it has supported and the factors that have underpinned its progress. Drawing on operational data, programme experience and community perspectives, this publication documents the evolution of Quang Tri's mine action response over the past decade. In doing so, it recognises the collective contribution of provincial and national authorities, mine action operators, donors and affected communities in developing a coordinated, government-led approach to humanitarian mine action. While MAG has been an integral part of this journey, the publication reflects the broader partnership through which Quang Tri's mine action response has evolved.

The Government of the United States deserves particular recognition for its significant and sustained contribution to mine action in Vietnam over the past three decades, complemented by support from other donors. Without this support the work highlighted in this publication would not have been possible.

Alongside provincial statistics and programme data, the publication includes community case studies that illustrate how these changes have been experienced by affected communities. While quantitative data helps measure operational progress, the experience of communities provides an equally important perspective on how mine action has strengthened confidence, supported livelihoods, enabled investment and contributed to wider socio-economic development.

A note on geographical scope

In 2025, as part of Vietnam's wider programme of administrative reform, the former Quang Tri and Quang Binh provinces were merged to form the new Quang Tri Province. This publication spans that transition and therefore refers to both the former provinces and the newly established Quang Tri Province.

The coordinated provincial approach described in this publication was initially developed in the former Quang Tri Province, before being expanded into the former Quang Binh Province. Following the administrative reforms, it continues to be implemented across the new Quang Tri Province, reflecting the evolution of the partnership.

Unless otherwise stated, references to Quang Tri Province relate to the former Quang Tri Province, prior to the 2025 administrative reforms. References to the new Quang Tri Province are used when describing activities or developments following the administrative merger, including combined mine action data covering both former provinces. Where activities, operational data or case studies relate specifically to the former Quang Binh Province, this is identified in the text.

Table of contents

A province living with the legacy of war	7
Building a coordinated response	8
A decade of progress	11
From clearance to development	13
Community case studies	14
Contributing to Quang Tri's vision of a 'Safe Province' by 2035	17
Reflections from Quang Tri	18
Looking forward	19

A province living with the legacy of war

Understanding Quang Tri's mine action response begins with understanding the scale and nature of the challenge that has shaped it. Decades after the end of the Vietnam War, EO continues to affect communities across the province, shaping patterns of land use, development and recovery. Addressing widespread cluster munition contamination has required more than large-scale clearance alone. It has driven the development of increasingly systematic approaches to survey, prioritisation, information management and community engagement that are explored throughout this publication.

Quang Tri Province experienced some of the heaviest aerial bombardment of the Vietnam War. Large numbers of submunitions failed to detonate as intended, leaving widespread contamination across agricultural land, forests, villages, and infrastructure corridors. Available U.S. bombing data shows that more than 15,400 cluster munition bombing sorties were conducted across present-day Quang Tri Province, representing approximately 26.8% of all recorded cluster munition sorties dropped in Vietnam.

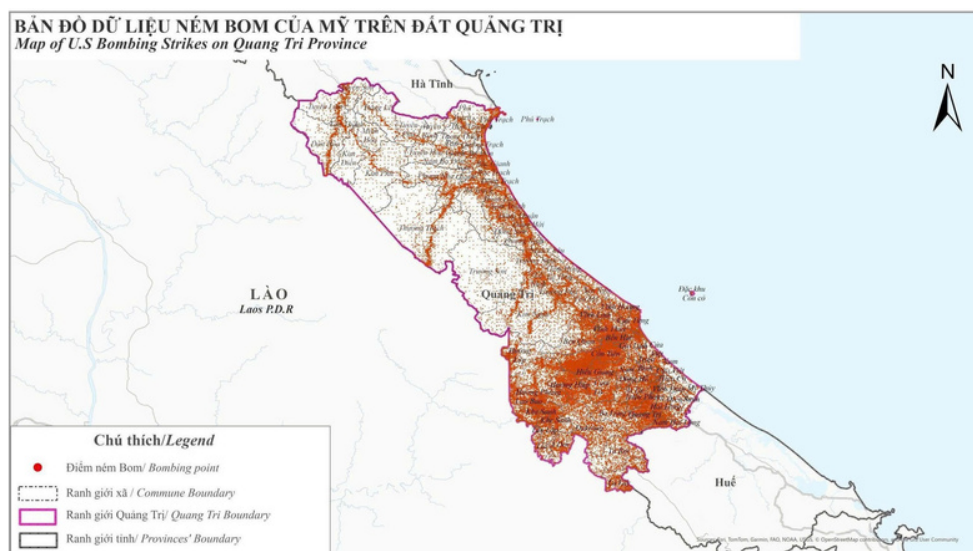
According to the Government of Vietnam, 6,110 square kilometres of the newly established Quang Tri Province remains contaminated[2], affecting almost half of the province's land area. Although EO contamination affects many provinces across Vietnam, Quang Tri has consistently ranked among the country's most heavily contaminated areas and has therefore been a major focus of national and international mine action efforts.

Decades after the end of the conflict, EO continues to threaten lives, restrict access to land and constrain sustainable socio-economic development. Although the number of accidents has declined over time, the threat has not disappeared. Since 1975, landmines and EO have caused 8,640 casualties in Quang Tri, including 3,369 fatalities and 5,271 injuries. According to the Quang Tri Mine Action Centre (QTMAC), between 2014 and July 2026, Quang Tri recorded 37 EO-related accidents, resulting in 33 deaths and 12 injuries. In addition, 5,271 EO survivors are living with disabilities. This demonstrates the continued threat from contamination despite decades of clearance and EORE.

In the decades following the war, the Government of Vietnam, the military, and Quang Tri provincial authorities invested considerable efforts in addressing the legacy of conflict. While these efforts reduced the immediate humanitarian impact in many areas, the scale and complexity of the contamination meant that EO continued to present humanitarian and development challenges. Against this backdrop, humanitarian mine action became an increasingly important component of Quang Tri's long-term recovery.

[2] Vietnam National Mine Action Centre (VNMAC), Report on the Current Status of Residual and Contaminated Mines and Explosive Ordnance in Vietnam, Based on the Implementation of the Project on Surveying and Mapping Mine and Explosive Ordnance Contamination Nationwide – Phase 1. The report presents the results of the nationwide survey and mapping of mine/ERW contamination and was published in 2018.

Building a coordinated response



When international mine action organisations first began working in Quang Tri in the mid-1990s, they operated as individual projects supporting provincial efforts to address the humanitarian and development impacts of the legacy of the conflict. Over the following three decades, those relationships matured into a far more coordinated and sophisticated way of working, bringing together government, mine action operators and donors around shared priorities, information and planning.

1996 – 2012: Laying the Foundations

Following Government approval in 1996, the Quang Tri Department of Foreign Affairs (DoFA) was designated by the Provincial People's Committee (PPC) to coordinate international humanitarian mine action programmes in collaboration with the Provincial Military Command and other relevant departments.

The Vietnam National Mine Action Centre and the Provincial Military Command have also played an important role in Quang Tri's mine action response, undertaking their own clearance and EOD activities, while supporting humanitarian operators through facilitation and active participation in provincial coordination structures including the Legacy of War Coordination Centre (LWCC) and QTMAC.

Over the following years a number of mine action organisations established a presence across the province, including MAG, Project RENEW, PeaceTrees Vietnam and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA). Together, these organisations brought complementary technical expertise across survey, clearance, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) and EORE, information management and community liaison, making a significant contribution to addressing the legacy of conflict.

As humanitarian mine action expanded, provincial authorities and international partners increasingly recognised opportunities to strengthen coordination through shared information management, evidence-based planning and more consistent prioritisation.

This period also coincided with important developments at the national level, notably the approval of Vietnam's first National Mine Action Programme (Programme 504) in October 2010, providing a strategic framework for mine action between 2010 and 2025.

Collectively, these developments laid the foundations for a more integrated provincial approach, strengthening relationships between government authorities and humanitarian operators while creating the institutional basis on which later reforms would build.

2012-2018: Developing an Integrated Provincial Approach

In 2012, the Quang Tri DoFA and NPA established the Database Unit (DBU), providing the province with a centralised information management system to support planning and prioritisation. The success of the DBU led to the establishment of the LWCC, with the DBU serving as its technical and analytical arm.

The introduction of the Cluster Munitions Remnants Survey (CMRS) by NPA/RENEW in 2012 marked another important step in strengthening evidence-based mine action. Building on this survey methodology, MAG, NPA and provincial partners developed a more integrated approach, linking systematic survey with prioritised clearance.

The concepts underpinning this approach were documented through collaboration with James Madison's 'The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction' in 2015 and provided the basis for the Quang Tri Integrated Survey and Clearance Approach.

This brought together provincial authorities, humanitarian operators and donors within a shared framework for survey, clearance and prioritisation. PeaceTrees Vietnam subsequently joined the partnership, further strengthening the integrated approach.

During this period, the province also established the Quang Tri Provincial Steering Committee for Mine Action and developed the Quang Tri Mine Action Centre (QTMAC) into Vietnam's first provincial mine action coordination body. Building on the approval of Programme 504 in 2010, Quang Tri became the first province to develop and approve its own Provincial Mine Action Programme (2016 -2025), which was formally endorsed in October 2016.

Together, these developments marked a shift from individual projects towards a coordinated provincial approach, supported by shared information, common prioritisation and increasingly strong government leadership. This strengthened provincial leadership, reduced duplication, improved operational coordination and aligned mine action more closely with provincial socio-economic development priorities.

2019-2026: Consolidating and Expanding the Approach

Building on the experience gained in Quang Tri, the partnership expanded into the former Quang Binh Province through a formal consortium of MAG, NPA and PeaceTrees Vietnam, supported by funding from the Government of the United States.

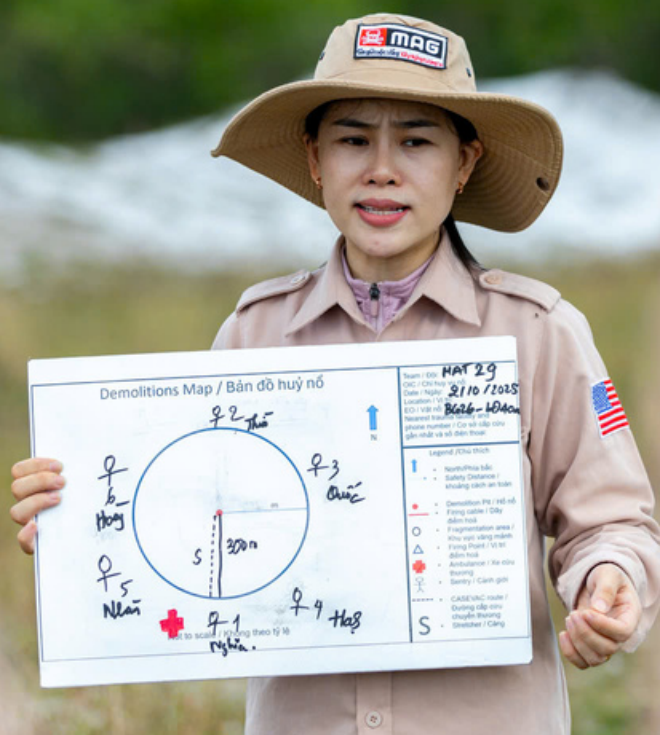
The consortium adopted the integrated approach developed in Quang Tri, combining survey, clearance, EORE and information management within a shared operational framework. This enabled partners to work towards shared provincial priorities while maintaining complementary operational roles.

Alongside this operational expansion, provincial leadership continued to strengthen. Following several years of consultation and development, the former Quang Tri Province approved its 'Safe Province' Guidelines in December 2024, establishing a long-term vision for addressing the remaining threat of EO and supporting sustainable socio-economic development. The subsequent administrative merger of Quang Tri and Quang Binh created an opportunity to extend this vision across the newly established province.

In March 2026, the new Quang Tri Provincial Mine Action Programme (2026-2035) was approved, providing a strategic framework for mine action across the merged provinces.

While the draft strategy for the former Quang Tri Province had set a more explicit objective of completing mine action by 2035, the revised programme adopted a broader ambition of gradually realising the vision of a 'Safe Province' in Quang Tri.

Together, these developments provide a foundation for harmonised information management, common prioritisation methodologies and coordinated delivery across the new Quang Tri Province while continuing to strengthen government leadership and long-term planning.



A decade of progress

Over the past decade, the integrated provincial approach has delivered substantial progress in reducing the impact of EO across Quang Tri.

As of June 2026, 623,879,302 square metres of land had been released across the province, with 934,533 EO items safely destroyed. Since the introduction of CMRS in 2012, 896,339,080 square metres of confirmed hazardous area (CHA) has been identified, of which 379,245,787 square metres (42%) has been cleared.

Together, these achievements reflect sustained investment in evidence-based survey, prioritised clearance and long-term partnership between provincial authorities, national institutions and humanitarian operators.

Indicator	Province Total
Land released (square metres)	623,879,302
CHA identified through CMRS (square metres)	896,339,080
EO items destroyed (#)	934,533
EORE beneficiaries (#)	903,699

These achievements reflect the collective efforts of all provincial authorities, national institutions and international partners working in partnership over the past decade. As one of the province's principal operators, MAG has made a significant contribution to these collective results.



Since commencing operations in the former Quang Tri Province in 1999, and expanding into the former Quang Binh Province in 2003, MAG has released 333,649,418 square metres of land (53% of the provincial total), safely destroyed 413,556 explosive items (44% of the provincial total), and delivered in-person explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) to more than 77,000 people.

Since the introduction of CMRS in 2019, MAG has surveyed 37,867,500 square metres of land. Together, these contributions have supported the province's transition towards a more integrated, evidence-based approach to addressing EO contamination.

The data also highlights the continuing nature of the contamination challenge. According to the statistics provided by QTMAC, cluster munition remnants accounted for 56% of all EO items destroyed over the past decade, underlining that they remain the predominant contamination type across the province. Whilst significant progress has been made, these figures reinforce the continued importance of evidence-based survey, prioritised clearance and sustained investment to address the remaining contamination safely and efficiently.



From clearance to development

While land release and explosive ordnance disposal provide important measures of operational progress, the longer-term value of humanitarian mine action is reflected in the socio-economic opportunities created once land can be accessed and used safely. Across Quang Tri the release of safe land has supported agricultural production, infrastructure development, private investment and improved livelihoods, contributing to sustained socio-economic development across the province.

According to the Provincial Steering Committee for Mine Action, humanitarian mine action has significantly reduced the threat posed by EO, released land for productive use, improved community safety, supported persons living with disabilities, and created employment for more than 1,000 local people. Collectively, these achievements have helped create conditions for poverty reduction and wider socio-economic development, with mine action programmes implemented in close alignment with local socio-economic development plans and poverty reduction initiatives. In parallel, EORE has been integrated into the formal curriculum for primary and lower secondary schools, contributing to a dramatic reduction in accidents – from an average of 60 incidents per year during 2006-2010 to just two incidents during 2020-2024.

MAG's post-clearance monitoring since 2014 provides further insight into the long-term benefits of clearance. Based on post-clearance land use, the overwhelming majority (95%) of released land is being used for agricultural and forestry purposes, supporting rice cultivation, cash crops, fruit orchards and commercial tree plantations. Released land has also supported the development of roads, schools, hospitals, parks, community centres, and cultural heritage sites (4%), while a smaller proportion (1%) has supported residential development and the sustainable use of natural resources.

Communities also report significant improvements in their quality-of-life following clearance. The greatest perceived benefit was an increased sense of safety and confidence to access previously contaminated land, identified by almost one quarter (24.6%) of respondents. Others highlight wider benefits, including improved transport networks and public services (10.5%), and increased household productivity and income (9%) as land is returned to productive use.

EORE has also contributed to lasting changes in how communities understand and manage EO risks. Retention surveys found that more than two-thirds of participants (70.7%) achieved higher knowledge scores following training and almost all (99%) reported adopting safer behaviours, including reporting suspicious items, avoiding contact with explosive ordnance, marking areas and sharing safety information with others. Reflecting these changes, 94.3% of participants also reported feeling safer in their daily lives.

Community case studies

While provincial statistics and programme monitoring data demonstrate overall trends, stories of change illustrate how these have been experienced by communities, showing how the removal of EO has created opportunities for safer livelihoods, investment and long-term development.

Cu Nam Commune: Restoring Livelihoods and Confidence

Over eight years of clearance between 2015 and 2023, Cu Nam Commune underwent a profound transformation. More than 22,000,000 square metres of contaminated land, equivalent to approximately 71% of the commune's total area, was released and 12,789 EO items safely destroyed during clearance, technical survey and EOD activities.

As safe land became available, the proportion of usable land increased from 60% in 2015 to 98.8% in 2024, giving households the confidence to reclaim land, invest in new livelihoods and plan for the future.

Land that had once been avoided or used in less productive ways because of contamination has been brought back into fruitful use. Families expanded cultivation onto previously inaccessible land and diversified from low-risk, low-value crops to higher value crops including peppers, fruit trees, coconuts and medicinal plants, increasing both productivity and household incomes.



The local medicinal plant cooperative expanded its cultivation area from six hectares to more than 10 hectares, grew to over 40 members, more than half of whom are women, and generated annual revenues of VND five billion in 2023.

The benefits extend well beyond agriculture. Safe land enabled the construction of new homes, supported small businesses and created opportunities for community-based tourism. Since 2021, Cu Nam has welcomed more than 341,000 visitors, generating over VND 33 billion in tourism revenue, with tourism now accounting for around 60% of the commune's income structure. Local authorities identified EO clearance as a critical enabler of this transformation, providing the confidence needed for long-term investment and development. Residents consistently described one of the greatest changes as being able to cultivate their land, build homes and allow their children to play without fear of EO.



To develop tourism, safety must come first. We are proud that 71% of our commune, especially the residential areas, has been cleared of EO. That's a very important condition in this land that was once contaminated. In the past, Cu Nam was only known for farming, and most of us couldn't imagine anything different. Now, thanks to safe land, we're building a tourism economy that helps the whole community.

Luong, Chairman of the Cu Nam Commune People's Committee



The prospect of a new home in a bomb-free area fills us with hope and excitement, knowing our children and grandchildren will be able to live and work without the risks that once defined our lives.

Nguyen Thi Hoa, a farmer in Cu Nam commune

Vinh Ninh Commune: Creating the Conditions for Investment

While Cu Nam illustrates how humanitarian mine action restored livelihoods, Vinh Ninh demonstrates how safe land created the conditions for wider economic development. Between 2015 and 2023, more than 17 million square metres of contaminated land was released and over 9,660 EO items safely destroyed during MAG's interventions, including clearance, technical survey and EOD spot task responses, opening the way for new investment, infrastructure and employment.

Households expanded cultivation and diversified production, including the development of cajuput plantations for essential oil production. One family doubled its income after converting a newly cleared 20,000 square metres plantation from timber production into essential oil cultivation, demonstrating how access to safe land can unlock new economic opportunities. The impact extended beyond household livelihoods. Cleared land supported the development of a resettlement area for more than 100 families, improved access to roads, schools and attracted private investment.



Quang Binh's largest wood pellet factory was established on 30,000 square metres of previously contaminated land, creating employment for 70 workers, more than 70% of whom are local residents, while providing a reliable market for locally grown cajuput and eucalyptus.

These changes were reflected in the commune's wider economic development. Average annual income increased from USD 890 per person in 2015 to USD 2,400 in 2023, illustrating how the removal of EO can help create the confidence and conditions needed for sustained investment, employment and long-term economic growth.

Together, these examples illustrate how humanitarian mine action contributes not only to reducing risk but also to creating the confidence and conditions needed for communities to invest, diversify livelihoods and support long-term socio-economic development.

Contributing to Quang Tri's vision of a 'Safe Province' by 2035

Quang Tri's ambition to become a 'Safe Province' by 2035 recognises that achieving this vision extends beyond large-scale clearance.

As contamination levels decrease, success will increasingly depend on ensuring that government institutions, local communities and public services have the knowledge, systems and confidence needed to manage residual EO risks while continuing to support sustainable development.

MAG's Community Focal Point (CFP) initiative reflects this transition by empowering trusted local leaders to promote EO safety within their own communities.

By embedding risk awareness into everyday community life, CFPs help ensure that knowledge and safe behaviours are maintained long after clearance operations have concluded.

Since its introduction, the initiative has delivered EORE messages to nearly 19,000 people across Quang Tri, with MAG continuing to expand the CFP network to strengthen community ownership and extend its reach into additional communities.

This community-led approach complements continued government leadership by strengthening local ownership, supporting the long-term management of residual risk and helping ensure that the benefits of mine action are sustained beyond the completion of large-scale clearance.

Together, these efforts contribute to Quang Tri's vision of becoming a 'Safe Province' by 2035.



Reflections from Quang Tri

Several characteristics have underpinned Quang Tri's progress over the past decade, offering insights into building a coordinated, government-led approach to humanitarian mine action.

First, sustained government ownership has been fundamental. Long-term leadership by provincial authorities, supported by consistent donor investment and strong partnerships between government, operators, donors and communities has enabled the province to strengthen local capacity, improve information management and progressively integrate mine action into wider socio-economic development planning.

Second, the province highlights the value of evidence-based planning. Systematic survey, shared information management and data-driven prioritisation have enabled resources to be directed towards areas of greatest humanitarian and development need.

Quang Tri has also demonstrated that integrating mine action into wider socio-economic development planning requires more than aligning objectives.

It depends on the institutional arrangements, information systems and partnerships needed to translate those objectives into coordinated action. Integrating survey, clearance and EORE within this broader framework has strengthened reporting, improved operational coordination and contributed to a significant reduction in accident risk.

Third, Quang Tri's experience highlights the importance of viewing humanitarian mine action as more than a technical intervention.

While land release and EOD remain essential, the greatest long-term value lies in the outcomes they enable.

Safe access to land has supported livelihoods, infrastructure development, public services, private investment and wider socio-economic development, while continued community engagement and local ownership will remain essential to managing residual contamination beyond the completion of large-scale clearance.



Looking forward

As Quang Tri progresses towards its vision of becoming a 'Safe Province' by 2035, the role of humanitarian mine action will continue to evolve. While survey, clearance and EORE will remain priorities in contaminated areas, increasing emphasis will be placed on strengthening government systems, managing residual contamination and ensuring that communities retain the knowledge, confidence and local capacity needed to support safe, long-term sustainable development.

Government leadership will remain central to this transition. The Government of Vietnam and provincial authorities have demonstrated sustained ownership by integrating mine action into socio-economic development planning and coordinating national and international partners. As contamination decreases, this leadership will become increasingly important in setting priorities, allocating resources, managing residual risk, and ensuring that mine action remains aligned with broader development objectives.

The role of humanitarian mine action operators will also continue to evolve. Alongside continued survey, clearance and EORE, operators will increasingly support government institutions through technical advice, capacity strengthening, information management, evidence-based prioritisation, and community engagement. Community Focal Point networks, together with integrated EORE, will help ensure that communities retain the knowledge and local systems needed to manage residual contamination safely long after clearance operations conclude.

The recent provincial administrative restructuring also presents new opportunities. Bringing together larger geographic areas, additional development priorities, and broader institutional capacity provides an opportunity to further harmonise survey data, clearance planning, information management, and risk education across the newly established province. Embedding mine action more firmly within this new administrative structure will further strengthen coordination, improve strategic prioritisation and ensure mine action continues to support economic growth, infrastructure development, climate resilience, and community safety.

Every context is different, but Quang Tri's experience offers useful inspiration for other countries affected by large-scale explosive contamination. Long-term government ownership, sustained investment, evidence-based planning and meaningful community partnerships can bring the largest possible impact for people. As Quang Tri continues its journey towards becoming a 'Safe Province', we don't propose it as a blueprint, but an example of how values and partnership can grow to achieve better futures.

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With thanks to the donors whose support over the years has made the work highlighted in this publication possible: the Government of the United States, the Government of Japan, the United Kingdom, the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Irish Aid, the Australian Government, the Government of Canada, the Government of New Zealand, the Government of Norway and the Government of Korea.

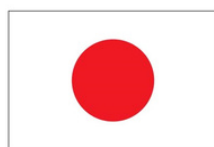
We also thank Sarah Goring, Country Director, MAG Vietnam; the wider MAG Vietnam programme team; and colleagues from Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), PeaceTrees Vietnam (PTVN), the Quang Tri Provincial People's Committee (PPC), Department of Foreign Affairs (DoFA) and Quang Tri Mine Action Centre (QTMAC), for their contributions to and review of this publication.

Donors

With thanks to the generous donors who have supported humanitarian mine action work in Quang Tri province:



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With thanks to the Government of New Zealand and the Government of Canada for supporting the publication of this report:

Activity supported by the
Canada fund for Local Initiatives
Activité réalisée avec l'appui du
Fonds canadien d'initiatives locales

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