

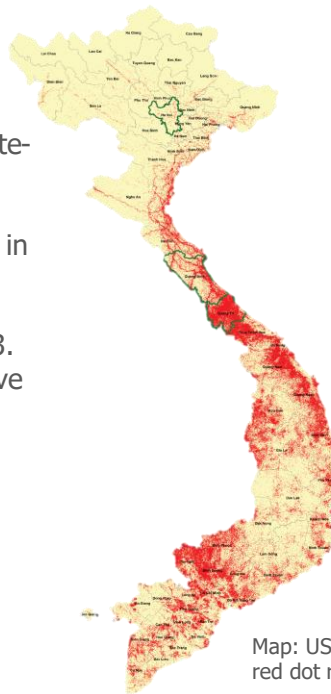
# Food Security in Vietnam

Since the war ended in 1975, more than 104,000 people have been killed or injured due to explosive ordnance accidents in Vietnam.

Vietnam ranks 46th out of 113th countries in the 2022 Global Food Security Index. It performs best in the Affordability pillar, and its weakest performance is in the Sustainability and Adaptation pillar. Vietnam's performance suggests that the food security environment in Vietnam remains highly vulnerable to risks associated with climate change. To address these gaps, Vietnam needs to focus on protecting its natural resources and strengthening political commitment to adaptation, for example by implementing environmental economic accounting and deploying early-warning measures and climate-smart agriculture.

Vietnam is the most heavily bombed country in the world. According to US bombing data, more than five million tons of bombs were dropped on Vietnam between 1964 and 1973. Nearly 50 years after the war ended, explosive ordnance contamination remains a threat to people's lives and hinders socio-economic development. Numerous studies have confirmed the negative effects of the contamination on people's lives and health, including direct physical, psychological and other social and economic effects.

The Mines Advisory Group (MAG) is a global humanitarian and advocacy organization that finds, removes and destroys landmines, cluster munitions and unexploded bombs from places affected by conflict. Established in the UK in 1989, MAG has helped millions of people in conflict-affected communities across more than 70 countries to rebuild their lives and livelihoods after war.



Map: US Bombing Data for Vietnam, each red dot represents a bombing mission

In Vietnam, MAG started operations in 1999 and is currently operating in Quang Tri and Quang Binh provinces. Since 1999, MAG in Vietnam has cleared 235 square kilometers of land cleared and found and destroyed more than 384,355 unexploded bombs; bringing safe land for cultivation and construction. More than 90% of land MAG has cleared is used for agriculture.

Photo: A MAG deminer clearing explosive ordnance from agricultural land in central Vietnam



In post-clearance impact assessment surveys, as well as reporting a reduction the fear or danger of unexploded bombs following clearance, communities also report that following clearance they experience increased productivity from their land, increased income and also an increase in opportunities for livelihood diversification.

# Impact



Following MAG's clearance of nearly 495,000 square meters of contaminated land in the village in 2019, the commune authorities and Village 2 Cooperative distributed the land to local farmers for crop cultivation. "There is nothing better than planting chives on this land. Every year, we plant chives during the six months of the rainy season. It has been a lot more profitable to grow chives," said Mr Phuc.

**"Let me calculate for you, 500 square meters of chives make a profit of approximately ten million Viet Nam Dong. The area here is 250,000 square metres for chives, so our combined income is over five billion a year. In the past, the whole area was used to grow cajuput, and after 16 years of harvesting, we made only 30 million Viet Nam Dong," he explained.**



Photos: Residents of Village 2 harvesting chives

The area has become a chive-producing hub and this has been a major game-changer for many people. They can now make a living off their land and provide a better future for their families. The success of this venture has inspired other villages to adopt similar agricultural practices. In addition, the new crops have improved the soil quality after four years of planting and cultivating them, according to Mr Do, the Cooperative Head.

"The best way to get high quality chives is to plant them with bio-fertilizers. Chives will also die if chemicals are applied to kill fungus. We use lime powder instead. By using this farming method, the soil has become more porous and the plants have grown organically. A lot of sand has turned into porous soil. Herbs like chives are soil treatments."



## Achievements



**234,330,498 sqm** of land cleared, bringing safe land for cultivation and construction



**2,695** RE sessions delivered and **6 digital** RE campaigns launched, reaching more than **one million** people with life-saving messages



**384,355** items of explosive ordnance found and safely destroyed



**1,102,489** women, men, girls and boys directly benefited from MAG's work in Vietnam, bringing them safer lives and a brighter futures.

Since 1999, thanks to the support of the U.S Government, the Embassy of Japan, and other donors, MAG Vietnam has achieved: