



**Lao People's Democratic Republic  
Peace Independence Democracy Unity and Prosperity**

Prime Minister's Office

**Ref 0.../pm  
Date ../09/2009**

**AMENDED RESOLUTIONS  
of the Lao PDR Government  
on National Strategic Plan for the UXO Programme  
in the Lao People's Democratic Republic  
2010 – 2020  
“The Safe Path Forward II”**

**Inputs from INGO Reference Group**

**INGOs involved: MAG, FSD, SODI, NPA, WE/Consortium, COPE and HI**

**INTRODUCTION**

**General statement**

**In principle the INGO group is in agreement with the overall document to guide the GOL and all operators in this sector and following the principles of the CMC. Due to time constraints, some NGOs were not able to comment on the entire document and we request the opportunity to comment again on a second revised version.**

**We acknowledge that the strategic document providing a general framework should remain concise and should not present too much detail. However we propose that each Technical Working Group (TWG) (Clearance , RE and VA) develop a detailed five- year plan with clear objectives, results, indicators and activities as well as needed resources to achieve their respective workplans.**

**We also propose the insertion of one paragraph to acknowledge that with input from all partners, the UXO sector in Lao PDR should change a great deal in the next five years and therefore it would be good to include the possibility to not only review the strategic plan but also to make amendments if necessary to better reflect the evolution and progress being made.**

**Reference should be made somewhere in the document to the importance of both gender and disability mainstreaming in all sectors (Clearance, RE and VA)**

## PART I.        CONTEXT

1. Under the authority of the Government of Lao PDR this National Strategic Plan for the UXO Sector is in line with the following documents:

1.1. National Poverty Eradication Programme

**The National Poverty Eradication Programme (NPEP) has been updated by the National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy (NGPES)**

1.2. National Socio Economic Development Plans

1.3. The Lao Millennium Development Goals

1.4. The MLSW Master Plan

1.5. The Vientiane Declaration on Aid Effectiveness

1.6. The Convention on Cluster Munitions

1.7. The Convention on the Rights of people with Disabilities

1.8. Prime Ministers Decree 33 on the National Regulatory Authority (NRA)

1.9. Deputy Prime Ministers Decree on the Organisation and Activities of the NRA

## PART II.        INTRODUCTION

2. The Lao PDR is, per capita, the most heavily bombed nation in the world. As a result of the broader conflict in Indochina during the 1960's and 1970's it was the scene of extensive ground battles and intensive aerial bombardment which left vast areas of the country contaminated with explosive remnants of war (ERW).

3. A strategic plan was promulgated as a Government Resolution called "the Safe Path Forward 2003 to 2013". It provided a structured framework for the sector with a Governmental National Regulatory Authority in charge of coordination and regulation of UXO Victim Assistance, Mine Risk Education and Clearance Operators.

4. This document represents the results of a consultative review and revision process involving all stakeholders to the UXO Sector carried out during the second and third quarter of 2009 before being approved by the NRA Board.

~~Fifteen years of war from the early 1960s to the mid 1970s left the economy of Lao PDR in shambles after the country was sprayed with some 2 million tonnes of unexploded ordnance (UXO), of which 10 to 30% are estimated to have failed to detonate on impact. In response to the resulting humanitarian crisis, the Lao National UXO Programme (UXO Lao) was established in 1996, under the umbrella of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.~~

~~Seven years and some 3,500 hectares of land cleared later, the Government recognises the need to develop a longer term view of the UXO problem, and to establish the proper linkages between unexploded ordnance and national development objectives.~~

~~In regards to the International Treaty governing Anti Personnel Landmines, the Ottawa Convention, the Government of Lao PDR will continue to consider the possibility of becoming a state party to the Convention.~~

Consequently, at the end of 2002, the Chairman of UXO Lao's National Steering Committee initiated a strategic planning process, involving consultations with a cross section of representatives from concerned ministries, within UXO Lao itself, with UN and other multi-lateral agencies, with donors, and with implementing partners. The result of this process is the present Plan, officially approved by the Government Meeting held on 29-31 July 2003, and which shall serve as the guide for all UXO/Mine Action activities in Lao PDR in the period 2003-2013.

### PART III. VISION

5. The vision of Lao PDR is to be free from the threat of Explosive Remnants of War.

It is suggested that the Vision statement be more people-focused; for example: 'The vision of Lao PDR is that people and communities live free from the threat and ongoing consequences of ERW (?UXO)'.

### PART IV. AIM

6. In line with priorities established in the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NPEP), the pursued end-state of this Plan is for "people from the most highly impacted communities to live free from the impacts of landmines and UXO".

The Aim is making reference to an End-State. Would it be more accurate to refer to an 'end-state' or possibly to a 'Strategic Goal'?

The paragraph should also describe the impacts which could be different from a clearance, RE and or VA perspective. Each TWG should define the relevant scope of work, based on the effects of UXO within each sector, with periodic review based on changing country context.

### PART V. SCOPE

~~Except where otherwise stated, this Plan covers more specifically UXO Lao operations in the following 9 provinces :~~

- |                             |                          |                             |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <del>1. Savannakhet</del>   | <del>4. Khammouane</del> | <del>7. Houaphan</del>      |
| <del>2. Xieng Khouang</del> | <del>5. Sekong</del>     | <del>8. Attapeu</del>       |
| <del>3. Saravane</del>      | <del>6. Champassak</del> | <del>9. Luang Prabang</del> |

7. Those impacts **described in the AIM** will be reduced by a combination of clearance operations, of Mine/UXO Risk Education activities, of assistance to survivors of mine/UXO accidents and their dependents, and of the marking off of lower-priority areas for later clearance.

8. **In compliance with the VISION this strategy will address all of the territory under Government of Lao PDR control without prejudice to ensuring the greatest impact of the UXO programme as a whole, the prioritisation of tasks will, amongst other factors, take into consideration the needs of communities living in the 46 47 districts identified as national priority development areas in the NPEP.**

Is it correct to limit UXO interventions to within the 47 districts? The position may have changed and is certainly likely to change during the forthcoming ten year period; could we refer to 'priority districts as set out in the NGPES? Meanwhile there have been a high number of accidents in districts not considered among the 47 poorest districts. Should the number be deleted?

## **PART VI. OBJECTIVES**

The list of objectives, activities, indicators etc. as listed on page needs should be expanded based on consultation within TWGs. For example, 9.2 should include all aspects of VA which have already been discussed in the VA TWG in terms of drafting position papers on legislation, emergency and continuing medical care, acute and continuing medical support, livelihoods and etc.

The main document should be accompanied for each sector by a more detailed workplan with all points indicated above for the next 5 years and needed resources (HR, equipment, support) and funding. This exercise should be done within each of the TWG.

NGOs operating in one or all of these three sectors should develop detailed 5 year plans which should be aligned with this strategy and which should support the government's strategy (and therefore under supervision and feedback from the NRA)

9. More specifically,

### **9.1. Reduce the number of victims of ERW**

- 9.1.1. Number of accidents reduced by 60%
- 9.1.2. MRE evaluated, improved and focused
- 9.1.3. Number of UXO destroyed by roving teams

### **9.2. Care for the survivors**

- 9.2.1. All survivors to receive rehabilitation assistance

### **9.3. Release productive land**

- 9.3.1. The scope of land impacted by ERW will be identified and quantified
- 9.3.2. Focus will be on 36 of 47 poorest districts in line with the NSEDP
- 9.3.3. Effective reporting and response system for spot tasks
- 9.3.4. Prioritized work based on provincial and district development plans

### **9.4. Build capacity for transition to full government ownership**

**The term 'full transition' is questioned**

Understanding by the GOL and particular ministries involved (NRA, MIC, MOH, MLSW, MOE, MOD, MOS) of full transition and the mechanism to reach it should be presented and discussed.

Meaning of transition for all sub-sectors should be defined as well as the role and the responsibilities of the government and particularly the concerned ministries in their relevant sector (policy, strategy, coordination and management or operations and implementation).

This clarification will help the overall process of capacity building (to who, by who, for what, how) as well as to come with a realistic time frame to do it properly.

This will also clarify in which sectors and for what kind of intervention the GOL still needs support either from international organizations (partnerships), individuals TAs to be attached to ministerial levels (capacity building) , local associations/organisations.

For example; in RE component the response to changing accident patterns and demographics requires a great deal of responsibility and to be able to respond flexibly with MRE messages and interventions based on identified target groups requires a progressive process within a participatory framework. As we know today that not all MRE is tailored towards in-school primary school children (children who drop out of school, farmers, scrap metal collectors, dealers, etc?)

In the clearance sector the majority of INGOs are today working as autonomous operators and not providing any direct technical assistance to UXO Lao. The GOL could establish pilots in certain districts where it provides roving services in preparation for taking them over in the long term.

This exercise (finalising objectives and presenting list of activities on all section 9) should be done asap within each of the TWG and it should be followed by a periodic situation analysis of what is being done in each sector by ALL stakeholders and how each sector should evolve/ and is evolving in an incremental fashion in building capacity.

Exit strategies need to be designed and incorporated into all plans in a participatory manner.

- 9.4.1. Lao trained to replace Technical Advisors (TAs) and TAs phased out
- 9.4.2. Full transition of MRE to MOE and MIC
- 9.4.3. Full transition of VA to MOH, MLSW, and MOE
- 9.4.4. Prepare transition of clearance to MOD or MOS and national operators
- 9.4.5. Increase proportion of resources provided by Lao government

#### **9.5. Collect, maintain and analyse data**

- 9.5.1. Create a regularized, system approach to collection and input into national database
- 9.5.2. All operators reporting
- 9.5.3. National database fully operational without full time TA
- 9.5.4. Regular reporting and special analysis on demand

#### **9.6. Pass national enabling legislation**

- 9.6.1. Develop and approve legislation that underpins the UXO Sector structure, Strategy and Treaty obligations
- 9.6.2. Scrap metal legislation, rules and procedures approved and implemented in all impacted provinces

Suggestion to remove 'all impacted provinces'; the scrap metal trade is wider than the impacted provinces and operates at a national level (and even cross-border).

- a. ~~In terms of community awareness, UXO/Mine Risk Education (MRE) teams will visit and deliver MRE training to all impacted communities in Lao PDR (as identified in the 1997 National Impact Survey), and UXO/mine accidents will be reduced to a national accident rate not exceeding 100 persons/year;~~
- b. ~~In terms of survey and clearance, all agricultural areas considered to be “high priority” will be cleared, as well as a sizeable portion of other areas identified as “medium priority” for a total of no less than 18,000 hectares (180 km<sup>2</sup>) of land cleared by UXO Lao alone;~~
- c. ~~In terms of victim assistance, a national database on Mine/UXO accidents (covering all 18 provinces) will be developed and updated regularly, to feed into the prioritisation of clearance and MRE tasks. The specific needs of survivors of UXO/mine accidents, in terms of both physical rehabilitation and socio-economic integration, will be factored in all national/local public health initiatives;~~

## **PART VII.**      **INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

2. The Government of Lao PDR proposes to re-structure the UXO/Mine Action sector, as follows (see Organisational Chart 1 attached) : **Add Ministry Of Finance**

- (a) A National Regulatory Authority (NRA) ~~will be established and will report reports~~ directly to the Office of the Prime Minister. The NRA ~~will be~~ **is** composed of representatives of all line ministries concerned with or affected by UXO/landmines, by the ~~CPC~~ **Ministry of Planning and Investment** as well as of observers from the donor community. It will be responsible for:
- The periodic review and implementation of this Strategic Plan,
  - **Monitoring of performance against the Strategic Plan and compiling a sector-wide annual report, etc.**
  - The definition and provision of policy direction **including criteria for the prioritisation of all UXO/Mine Action operations,**
  - ~~The a~~ **Accreditation, licensing, and oversight of all UXO/Mine Action operators (in clearance operations, in MRE Community Awareness, and in Victim Assistance),**
  - The management of the **National Database** ~~database and, as such, the prioritisation and related tasking of all UXO/Mine Action operators,~~
  - The coordination of all UXO/Mine Action activities throughout the country,
  - The external Quality Assurance **and Quality Control** of all UXO/Mine Action activities,
  - The conduct of ~~Post-Clearance~~ **Impact Assessments etc. and other relevant studies.**
  - **Representing the Government of Lao PDR at international UXO/Mine Action related fora.**
  - **Providing a secretariat function for UXO/Mine Action related International Treaties.**
- (b) All UXO/Mine Action operators will work under ~~the tasking orders~~ **the direction and oversight of the National Regulatory Authority.**

**This wording should reflect that the NRA is the focal point for the UXO Sector and will act as the liaison office for communication with all other government ministries and departments. The NRA should be recognized as the intermediary government office for matters relating to the administration of the activities - such as facilitating expat visa**

processes, securing tax-free importation, free licenses (ex radios and repeaters) and other necessary documentation.

However a number of INGOs actually have mainstreamed UXO into overall intervention (ex COPE on VA, WE/Consortium on education, CARE or WV on food security). These NGOs deal directly and sign MOUs with corresponding line ministries and MoFA (under the rules of the NGO decree). What would the role of the NRA be in this situation and what are the obligations of these NGOs in regards to the NRA?

Each operator will act as a self-standing entity and will be fully accountable to its funder(s) as well as to the National Regulatory Authority. ~~In and through their work, international operators will be expected to support the establishment and development of national UXO/Mine Action entities, and.~~ They will conduct all their operations in accordance with national standards as promulgated by the NRA. Operators will be grouped into sub-sectoral components as below :

- i. UXO/Mine Risk Education operators. national and international as relevant,
- ii. Clearance operators, whether humanitarian, commercial or military, national and international as relevant. UXO Lao will remain the a “preferred national humanitarian UXO/mine clearance operator”, and
- iii. Victim Assistance operators, national and international, as relevant;

Operators will actively take part in ~~sector~~ Technical Working Groups (TWG) responsible for the coordination and planning of activities in the sub-sectors of MRE, Clearance, VA. ~~each sector.~~ TWG meetings will be convened on a regular basis, and will be chaired by the National Regulatory Authority.

- (c) Multilateral agencies (UN, EU, International Financial Institutions, and others) will be invited to support any aspect of this Plan, and may be called upon to collaborate with the Government in the established decision-making bodies;
- (d) Donors will be invited to actively take part in the design and execution of the programme, and will also be called upon to take part in **the UXO Sector Working Group**. ~~Steering Committee of UXO Lao and in the work of the National Regulatory Authority.~~

10. The UNDP Trust Fund ~~established in 1996~~ will be maintained and will be the preferred vehicle to support all aspects of UXO/Mine Action in Lao PDR. Its resources may be used to support the implementation of all aspects of this Plan. A revised Trust Fund Agreement will be entered into between UNDP and the Government in order to reflect this change. The Trust Fund will continue to be managed by UNDP and executed by the Government of Lao PDR under the national execution (NEX) modality, according to internationally-accepted financial standards, as will all activities funded through the Trust Fund.

**It is understood that the text is to be reviewed but it is submitted that a UNDP Trust Fund is not the ‘preferred vehicle’ to support the Sector.**

## **PART VIII.**

## **COORDINATION**

11. In exercising effective leadership in aid coordination at the macro and sectoral levels through an ongoing process of dialogue; the Government uses mechanisms such as the Round Table Implementation Meetings (RTIM), Sector Working Groups (SWG) and sub-sector Technical Working Groups (TWG). This has been articulated in the Vientiane Declaration (VD) and in line with the principles of the VD, the UXO SWG will seek to enhance the impact of UXO/Mine Action activities in Lao PDR in reducing poverty, increasing growth, building the capacity of human resources and institutions, and accelerating the achievement of the Lao Millennium Development Goals.

12. SWGs are under direction of the Department of International Cooperation in the Ministry of Planning and Investment. Each sector works in the context of the NPEP and the five Year National Socio Economic Development Plans. The UXO SWG will provide the linkage between thematic sub-sector UXO TWGs, the other SWGs and the RTIMs.

13. The UXO SWG promotes aid effectiveness through integration of UXO/Mine Action plans and private sector input into broader Government strategies. Membership will comprise representatives from all NRA Board Ministries, all UXO/Mine Action operators, donors and interested stakeholders, (governmental and non-governmental), working in the UXO/Mine Action sector and other related development sectors. The UXO TWG will be chaired by the Director of the NRA and a representative of UNDP. There will be two meetings of members annually.

**It is proposed that the NRA *coordinate* all activities – at the provincial level. Therefore there is a need for NRA presence in all those provinces where UXO operations are being conducted. This can be as minimal as a single desk officer and does not need full-scale office capacity. This issue is raised because in some provinces it seems that the de facto coordinator is UXO Lao. In other cases it is not clear as to whether the Provincial Governor or the Head of Labour and Social Welfare is the Point of Contact**

***One of the UXO Sector Evaluation recommendations was that a new prioritisation system should be developed. The system below is one possible idea. It will need significant explanation, discussion and input from all stakeholders so should be viewed as only one of several possibilities.***

## **PART IX.      PRIORITIES**

**THE INGO GROUP DID NOT COME TO A CONSENSUS ON THAT SPECIFIC CHAPTER**

It is proposed that Part IX is significantly reduced and minimised to words which reflect that priorities will be in accordance with Provincial Development Plans (these will tie in with any National Plans).

14. The 1997 Impact Survey recorded a total of 2,861 villages (i.e. 25% of all villages in Lao PDR) reporting UXO contamination either within the residential perimeter of the village, or in immediate outlying areas - 2,636 of those villages are in the 9 provinces of **Savannakhet, Champassak, Xiengkhuang, Houaphan, Saravane, Attapeu, Khammouane, Luang Prabang, Sekong**, where UXO Lao currently operates. The Survey does not however provide an estimated size of contaminated areas, neither in individual villages nor in aggregate terms. A reasonably accurate estimate of total suspected contaminated areas will be determined as a matter of priority, through stepped-up Technical Surveys. (THIS NEEDS THE SCOPE IDENTIFYING/QUANTIFYING)

~~Furthermore, there is a need to further define and prioritise contaminated areas. Technical Surveys will therefore also focus on categorising land use in three broad categories, each composed of a number of sub-categories, as listed in Table 1 below.~~

15. Furthermore there is a need to define and prioritise actions in contaminated areas by UXO/Mine Action operator (Governmental/NGO & Commercial). Surveys should focus on ensuring that UXO/Mine Actions fall within one or more of the broad categories and at least one of the sub-categories with an increasing importance when more than one sub-category is covered.

16. The following table shows priority themes for clearance. When prioritising tasks if:

- a. 5 to 7 boxes can be ticked the task is HIGH priority,
- b. 3 to 4 boxes are ticked it is MEDIUM priority
- c. 1 to 2 boxes ticked it is LOW priority.

**Table 1: UXO/Mine Clearance Priority**

**The following table shows priority themes for clearance**

**Proposition is to review the priorities table for the clearance sector and see if this presentation reflects the reality and will best guide operators**

**A similar prioritization exercise should be done for RE and VA components as much as possible. This work should be done under each of the TWG**

Themes:

	Actions in High Contamination Areas
	Actions in High Casualty Areas
	Actions in support of development (National, Provincial & District Development Plans)

	Actions in support of Poverty Reduction (National, Provincial & District Development Plans)
	Actions supporting Food Security
	Actions in poor areas
	Actions in poorest areas

Humanitarian/donor funded priority areas:

	Agricultural Land
	Public service Utilities (Medical/public health, water points etc...)
	Educational Facilities
	Grazing land and Non timber forestry areas
	Communal Facilities (markets, religious/cultural sites, recreational areas, etc...)
	Pro-poor Tourism sites
	Government facilities and offices
	Communal 'profit making areas' (Collective fields/farms)
	Public infrastructure work (Roads, bridges, dams, irrigation systems in support of the above)

Commercial priority areas

	Hydro Power projects
	Mining
	Infrastructure Development
	Private Investment Projects (Plantations etc...)
	Light Industry

<b>PRIORITIES</b>	<b>TYPES OF TASKS</b>
<i>Priority I (High)</i>	<i>1. Agricultural tasks</i> <i>2. Roving tasks</i> <i>3. Public service utilities (medical/public health, water points, etc.)</i> <i>4. Educational facilities</i>
<i>Priority II (Medium)</i>	<i>1. Grazing land and forested areas</i> <i>2. Communal facilities (religious/cultural sites, markets, recreational areas, etc.)</i> <i>3. Government facilities and offices</i>
<i>Priority III (Low)</i>	<i>1. Public infrastructure work</i> <i>2. Communal "profit making" areas</i> <i>3. Tourism sites</i> <i>4. Commercial/private business sites</i>

17. For the purpose of this Plan, humanitarian UXO/mine clearance operations will focus strictly on **High and Medium** Priorities I and II, with a marked preference for **High** Priority I tasks. By the end of year 2013, **2020** all **High** Priority-I tasks shall have been dealt with (i.e. either cleared or marked).

18. Few, if any, **Low** Priority tasks will be addressed in the context of this Plan by operators funded through humanitarian assistance programmes. These will be dealt primarily by commercial operators.

## **PART X. Planning Assumptions**

~~This Plan adheres to the recommendations of the Impact Survey (1997) as well as to the objectives of the NPEP.~~

~~There currently exists only limited comprehensive and up-to-date “hard data” on all aspects the UXO issue, e.g. on the number of victims nationwide, on trials of new methodologies and technologies in Lao PDR, or on the impacts of more streamlined planning processes.~~

19. **Information is constantly improving in the UXO Sector**; this plan will therefore be reviewed on an annual basis as new information is collected and as new developments happen.

~~This Plan is based on the continued deployment by UXO Lao of 24 area clearance teams in the nine provinces outlined under para. 5 above. The workforce of UXO Lao will remain in the range of approx. 1100 personnel, of which over 1000 will be based in the Provinces, involved directly in the conduct of and support to clearance operations.~~

20. It is assumed that the UXO/mine clearance sector will be composed of the full range of autonomous UXO/mine clearance operators, including UXO Lao, the military (which has been involved in a number of commercial-type contracts), local as well as international operators, both humanitarian and commercial. **What do we mean by local operators ?**

21. **All operators will be compliant with the Decreed Lao PDR National UXO/Mine Action Standards with no exceptions.**

**Are there clear standards for RE and for VA? This should be referred to the TWG.**

**Do all Operators apply to the UXO Decree if they are not directly under a MOU with the NRA for their action ex VA?**

~~The proposed clearance objective of this Plan, approx. 180 km<sup>2</sup>, is based solely on UXO Lao output; clearance output by other operators will be in excess of the objectives of this Plan.~~

~~The projected increase in the yearly output of UXO Lao from 850 hectares (2002) to a peak of 2000 hectares in year 2008 will be accounted for by, amongst others, the following:~~

- ~~a. Improvements in prioritisation and tasking of clearance assets~~
- ~~b. The strengthening of the organisation’s internal management processes (e.g. budgeting, procurement, logistics, etc.) through the introduction of Quality Management practices (2003);~~
- ~~c. The streamlining of practices in procurement, in equipment maintenance and in general support functions, in order to ensure optimal use of all assets;~~
- ~~d. The widespread introduction of new clearance methodologies and procedures (e.g. Villager Assisted Clearance) in order to maximise the use of technically trained personnel;~~
- ~~e. The on going training/capacity building of the organisation’s personnel through the continued deployment of both short and long term international advisors; etc.~~

~~22. More streamlined planning and tasking of UXO/Mine Action assets during the rainy season will be done, which may involve, amongst others, the following :~~

- ~~(a) As an integral part of the provincial planning process, “dry area tasks” will be earmarked for operations during the monsoon season;~~
- ~~(b) A portion of Area Clearance resources will be re-directed towards Roving Tasks; and~~
- ~~(c) Increased Technical Survey capacity will be constituted from Area Clearance resources otherwise under utilised;~~

~~Equipment replacement costs are factored in the estimated costs outlined under Section IX below.~~

~~Productivity of UXO Lao deminers will reach a peak of 235 square meters per day per deminer in year 2005 from a current national average of 133 sqm/day/deminer.~~

~~The UXO Programme will gradually introduce new clearance methodologies and technologies (e.g. Villager Assisted Clearance (VAC), Explosive Detection Dogs, bio-sensor technology, etc.). The increase in yearly output by of UXO Lao accounts *only* for improvements brought about by the introduction of new work methodologies, not of new technology. This may be properly accounted for in future reviews of the Plan.~~

**23. All operators in the sector will work autonomously from one another, and will report directly to the National Regulatory Authority in compliance with the Lao PDR National UXO/Mine Action Standards.**

24. UXO Lao will continue to operate under the umbrella of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

~~By the end of year 2003, all Mine/UXO Risk Education will be conducted under the umbrella of the Ministry of Information and Culture. MRE activities will continue to be funded through the Trust Fund.~~

~~The Ministry of Health has expressed an interest in establishing a National Victim Assistance programme. UNDP will support such an initiative, as may other bilateral and multilateral agencies. The Trust Fund will also support activities in this sector.~~

~~The mandate of UXO Lao will be modified to reflect its new responsibilities as strictly a UXO/mine clearance operator. The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, in consultation with donors, will determine the best modality for the oversight of UXO Lao's operations.~~

25. The Training Centre currently operated by UXO Lao will be maintained, **transferred to become and will serve as the national training facility for all UXO programme-related needs. The long term objective will be for a nationally owned and funded training centre using the national curricula to license personnel under Lao PDR National UXO/Mine Action Standards. UXO Lao. The National Training Centre will thus train and license deminers and support staff of all independent operators on a cost-recovery basis.**

~~In the course of year 2003, UXO Lao will complete a comprehensive internal Management Review, in order to rationalise its structure and management practices. This Review will include recommendations on the nature and expected duration of technical support required.~~

~~For planning purposes, UXO Lao's clearance capacity will remain at the levels of June 2002, i.e.:~~

<u>Province</u>		<u>Province</u>	
<del>Savannakhet :</del>	<del>4 teams</del>	<del>Champassak :</del>	<del>2 teams</del>
<del>Xieng Khouang :</del>	<del>4 teams</del>	<del>Houaphan :</del>	<del>3 teams</del>
<del>Saravane :</del>	<del>3 teams</del>	<del>Attapeu :</del>	<del>2 teams</del>
<del>Khammouane :</del>	<del>2 teams</del>	<del>Luang Prabang :</del>	<del>2 teams</del>
<del>Sekong :</del>	<del>2 teams</del>		

~~The above allocation of UXO Lao resources per province may later be amended in accordance with the findings of Technical Surveys, in order to ensure the optimal allocation of clearance resources.~~

26. The National Regulatory Authority will bear ultimate responsibility for the implementation of this Plan, for the prioritisation **principles** of UXO/Mine Action tasks, and for the related tasking of all operators.

~~Operators will eventually deploy their own UXO/Mine Action capacity, over and above those currently deployed by UXO Lao. In terms of clearance statistics, the output of operators will add to the stated objectives of this Plan.~~

## **PART XI. Projected Achievements**

27. In line with PART VIII, Coordination; an ANNUAL WORKPLAN will be developed by the end of each year for the following year from 2010 to 2020. The UXO/Mine Action Sector WORKPLAN will set projected achievements that can be measured from a defined baseline to a target using indicators that are specific, measureable, accurate, relevant and timebound.

28. A total of 2,636 UXO contaminated villages were identified in the Impact Survey (1997) in the ~~above~~ **9 most impacted** provinces. By first focusing on the conduct of Technical Surveys in ~~those~~ the villages **that are in the 47 poorest districts**, a clearer picture of the total areas to be dealt with **in support of the priorities laid down in the NSEDP can be addressed while not ignoring the other priorities of casualty reduction in high casualty and contamination villages in districts not classified as poor.** The most pressing needs in each community/district/province, and ultimately of the total resources required to address the problem will emerge.

**Again, reference is made to the 47 poorest districts; this should be left more open to be in line with GoL plans**

29. Technical Survey procedures and **risk management modelling should be used to ensure accurate targeting of assets** ~~will be modified in order to classify all clearance tasks~~ according to the Priority Chart under Table 1 above. All technical survey/**risk modelling data of land released** will be entered into the national database, on the IMSMA (Information Management System for Mine Action) platform.

~~yet to be installed), which will become the primary tool for prioritisation of tasks and for the recording of progress against the present Plan.~~

~~In order to complete the technical surveys by the end of June 2005, the following survey capacity in each Province will be established, drawing from existing clearance capacity where required:~~

<u>Province</u>	<u>Province</u>
Savannakhet : 8 teams	Champassak : 4 teams
Xieng Khouang : 8 teams	Houaphan : 6 teams
Saravane : 6 teams	Attapeu : 4 teams
Khammouane : 4 teams	Luang Prabang : 4 teams
Sekong : 4 teams	

Drawing from their respective clearance assets, provinces will increase their Technical Survey capacity during the monsoon months, until completion of the Surveys.

Taking into account the above assumptions, yet excluding any extra capacity that will be set up and deployed under the control of other operators, the UXO Programme will achieve the outputs outlined in Table 2 below.

**Table 2 : Yearly Outputs of the UXO Programme**

Year	Activity	Completion Date	Remarks
2003	1. Feasibility of national Victim Database	30 Sept. 2003	HI, involving Min. Health  By UNDP, to be taken over by National Regulatory Authority  Min. Info & Culture, Min. Education, LWU, LYU, etc.  Per approved UXO Lao Work Plan CA teams of UXO Lao Min. Health, Operators
	2. Review of UXO Lao Management	30 Sept. 2003	
	3. Initiation of Post Clearance Impact Assessments (PCIA)	01 Oct. 2003	
	4. Establishment of increased Tech Survey capacity	31 Dec. 2003	
	5. Establishment of Regulatory Authority	31 Dec. 2003	
	6. IMSMA installed and running	31 Dec. 2003	
	7. Transfer of CA capacity to other IPs	31 Dec. 2003	
	8. Tech. Survey of 500 villages	31 Dec. 2003	
	9. 942 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao	31 Dec. 2003	
	10. 60 "new" villages visited by CA	31 Dec. 2003	
	11. Victim Assistance Plan of Action	31 Dec. 2003	
2004	1. New CA curriculum developed	30 June 2004	Min. Info & Culture, Min. Education  Increased output due to introduction of QM and new methodology
	2. Review of Strategic Plan	31 Aug. 2004	
	3. CA outreach to 300 "new" villages	31 Dec. 2004	
	4. Tech. Survey of 1300 villages	31 Dec. 2004	
	5. 1300 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao	31 Dec. 2004	
2005	1. Tech. Survey of 840 villages	30 June 2005	All Tech Surveys completed
	2. Review of Strategic Plan	31 Aug. 2005	
	3. CA outreach to 450 "new" villages	31 Dec. 2005	
	4. 1500 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao	31 Dec. 2005	
2006	1. Review of Strategic Plan	31 Aug. 2006	
	2. CA outreach to 450 "new" villages	31 Dec. 2006	
	3. 1800 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao	31 Dec. 2006	
2007	1. Review of Strategic Plan	31 Aug. 2007	
	2. CA outreach to 450 "new" villages	31 Dec. 2007	
	3. 1800 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao	31 Dec. 2007	
2008	1. Review of Strategic Plan	31 Aug. 2008	
	2. CA outreach to 450 "new" villages	31 Dec. 2008	
	3. 2000 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao	31 Dec. 2008	
2009	1. Review of Strategic Plan	31 Aug. 2009	All UXO affected villages visited at least once by CA
	2. CA outreach to 450 "new" villages	31 Dec. 2009	
	3. 2000 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao	31 Dec. 2009	
2010	1. Review of Strategic Plan	31 Aug. 2010	
	2. 2000 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao	31 Dec. 2010	
2011	1. Review of Strategic Plan	31 Aug. 2011	
	2. 2000 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao	31 Dec. 2011	
2012	1. Development of new Strategic Plan	31 June 2012	As required

	2. 2000 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao	31 Dec. 2012	
2013	4. 2000 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao	31 Dec. 2013	

**PART XII. PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS**

**30. It is impossible to budget for 10 years with any level of accuracy. However, all aspects of the UXO Sector totalled approximately \$20,000,000 in 2007, 2008 and 2009.....**

**31. The UXO Sector ANNUAL WORKPLANS will estimate the cost of each successive year for the duration of this strategy .....**

**It is recognized that it is difficult to set budget figures for the ten year period so could an initial three or five year projection be presented and updated thereafter**

~~32. In year 2003, the budget of the UXO Programme, as approved by the National Steering Committee in February 2003, stands at a total of US\$ 4,2 million. It is expected that, for future years, and with the establishment of the NRA and the establishment of new programming in Victim Assistance, UXO Programme needs as implemented by the Government of Lao PDR will remain relatively constant.~~

~~33. Planning assumptions for programme requirements are as follows :~~

- ~~(a) An equipment replacement cost of \$400,000 for replacement of non-serviceable mine detectors and other equipment of UXO Lao is budgeted in each programme year;~~
- ~~(b) The costs related to the introduction of new technologies is not included in the following projections (for example, the cost of setting up and of operating an Explosive Detection Dog capacity could require as much as an additional US\$ 600,000 per year);~~
- ~~(c) Training in Technical Survey is estimated at US\$ 20,000 budgeted in years 2003/2004;~~

~~34. For the foreseeable future, the Government of Lao PDR will maintain its annual contribution in cash to the overall UXO Programme at US\$ 50,000.~~

~~35. The start up cost (equipment, establishment of offices, etc.) of the National Regulatory Authority is expected to be in the range of approx. US\$ 215,000. The yearly operating costs of the NRA, with a maximum staff of 25, is expected to be in the range of US\$ 175,000, excluding the costs related to the deployment of Technical Advisors to support the development of the organisation (estimated at 3,5 full-time equivalent for no less than the first three years).~~

~~36. The yearly cost of UXO Lao operations is estimated to be in the range of US\$ 3,5 million.~~

~~37. The yearly cost of the nationally-executed activities in Mine/UXO Risk Education is expected to be in the range of US\$ 750,000.~~

~~38. The yearly cost of the nationally-executed activities in Mine/UXO Victim Assistance is expected to be in the range of US\$ 700,000.~~

39. ~~In summary, the yearly cost of the nationally executed UXO Programme is expected to be as follows :~~

	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Annual Cost</b>
01.	National Regulatory Authority <del>– (Plus one-time start-up cost of approx. US\$ 215,000)</del>	US\$ <del>175,000</del>
02.	<del>UXO Lao Clearance Operations</del>	US\$ <del>3,500,000</del>
03.	<del>Mine/UXO Risk Education</del>	US\$ <del>750,000</del>
04.	<del>Mine/UXO Victim Assistance</del>	US\$ <del>700,000</del>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>US\$ <del>5,125,000</del></b>

40. For the foreseeable future, the Government of Lao PDR will maintain its annual contribution in cash to the overall UXO Programme at US\$ 50,000. In addition to its own contribution to the Programme; which may be increased as and when state revenues increase, the Government of Lao PDR will seek the continued support of the international community in the execution and the funding of this Strategic Plan.

**UXO Operators within the INGO Working Group feel that the GoL contribution to the Sector is insufficient. Examples include the charging of radio licenses for operations and additional costings incurred for procurement and storage of explosives. The latter should be made available at cost; storage and delivery should be free.**

### **PART XIII. IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN**

41. ~~The National Steering Committee~~ **Regulatory Authority** introduces the National Strategic Plan for UXO Programme in the Lao PDR uniformly and coordinates with various agencies in the formulation of plans, programmes, projects and activities related to UXO problem in the Lao PDR.

42. Ministries, ministerial level organisations, provinces, municipalities and special zones are the key organisations to successfully implement the National Strategic Plan for UXO Programme in the Lao PDR.

**43.** This strategic plan has been considered and approved in the government meeting held on 29–31 July 2003 **(..... date to be decided)** according to the document proposed by **(to be decided)**

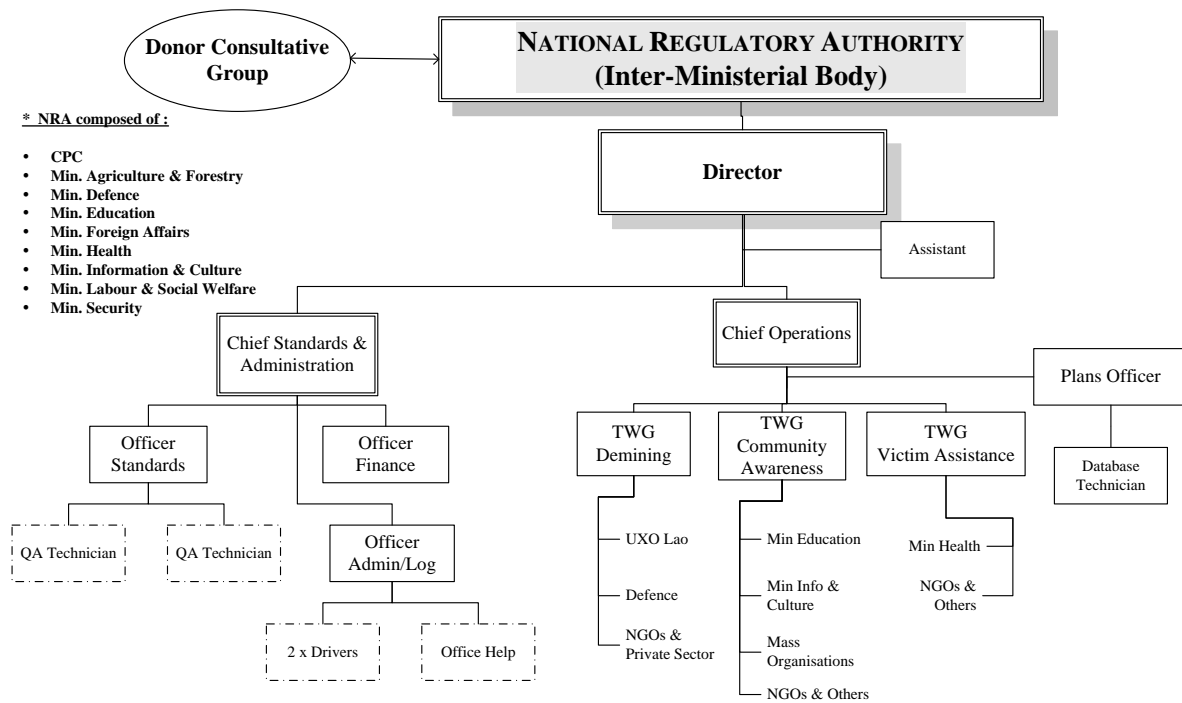
~~the Minister of Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Chairman of the National Steering Committee of UXO Lao Programme No. 2480/LSW dated 25 August 2003).~~

**The Prime Minister**

**Signed  
Bouyung Vorachit**

The UXO Sector structure chart will be revised as appropriate.

**Organisational Chart of the National Regulatory Authority**



\* NRA composed of :

- CPC
- Min. Agriculture & Forestry
- Min. Defence
- Min. Education
- Min. Foreign Affairs
- Min. Health
- Min. Information & Culture
- Min. Labour & Social Welfare
- Min. Security

\* TWG = Chair of Sectoral Technical Working Group