



# UXO Sector Annual Report 2009



## 2009 UXO Sector Annual Report

This document also acts as the Annual Report for the NRA

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The NRA Public Relations Unit would also like to acknowledge the support and effort put in by all Members of the NRA team in helping to compile the 2009 UXO Sector Annual Report.

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# 2009 UXO Sector Annual Report

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## Foreword:

### Chairman of the National Regulatory Authority

I am pleased to present to the reader, the 2009 Annual Report of the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action in the Lao PDR. In 2010 the Lao people in the whole country are preparing to celebrate the 450th anniversary of the foundation of Vientiane Capital, and the country has the honour to host the First Meeting of The State Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Vientiane Capital in November.

2009 was quite a satisfactory year for NRA. The most outstanding achievement was seeing the UXO National Strategy revised and updated for the period 2010-2020. Alongside this, the NRA successfully completed a National Survey of UXO Victims and Accidents, which is already helping Victims Assistance create new policy, and also providing Mine Risk Education operators additional knowledge to help activity and create new safety messages.

Unexploded ordnance still creates a vast threat to the communities and to the children living in effected areas and who face the constant danger of UXO. Moreover, the presence of UXO still represents a large obstacle for infrastructure building and the socio-economic development efforts in the Lao PDR. Hence, UXO activities are significant mission and still a vast challenge that we need to strive for many years yet to overcome.

The Lao PDR and other supporters in the international community have demonstrated their commitment to the Convention on Cluster Munitions by having signed and ratified this Treaty. The Government of Laos now encourages all countries, those effected by UXO and those not, to join this global movement and consider signing this very important Treaty. At the time of writing over 100 nations had signed and the important figure of 30 countries had ratified, meaning this Convention is soon to become international law.

Lao PDR is proud to be hosting the First Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in November 2010, in Vientiane. Furthermore, the Lao PDR will continue its commitment to this cause by presiding over convention the for the inaugural year of the Treaty and in the lead-up to the Second Meeting of States Parties.

In my capacity as the chair of NRA, and on behalf of the Lao Government, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the UXO/Mine Action Sector and acknowledge my personal great appreciation for all the UXO sector's achievements during 2009. The progress and outcomes achieved have involved operators, sector personnel and experts all demonstrating a high degree of commitment and care to this important cause. I thank the donors, UNDP, and all international organisations for their humanitarian aid and support given to the NRA and to operators for UXO/Mine Action work in the Lao PDR.

Lastly, I hope that the Lao PDR, and other States Parties to the CCM, can act together to help all the victims of UXO through providing emergency treatment and rehabilitation services for survivors, and to make clearance activities in contaminated areas more efficient. This will help guarantee the Lao multi-ethnic people, as well as other people in the world, can lead their lives in safety.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Douangchai Phichith', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Lt. Gen. Douangchai Phichith  
Deputy Prime Minister,  
Minister of National Defence,  
Chairman of the NRA



## Foreword:

**Director of the National Regulatory Authority**

I am pleased to present to readers the 2009 UXO Sector Annual Report, which also doubles as the Annual Report for the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action; the supervising body of the Sector in the Lao PDR.

2009 has been a year of great significance, dominated by the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The Government of the Lao PDR continued to demonstrate its leadership within this global disarmament process by quickly ratifying the Treaty in early 2009, and joining the global advocacy movement to encourage universalisation of the Convention. As I write this foreword in early 2010, I am very pleased to see the number of ratifications having reached the 30 mark to trigger the Treaty into international law. 2009 also witnessed Laos confirmed as host for the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, and the inaugural president of the Treaty. Thus, next year looms as a watershed moment for the Sector and NRA, when so much time and effort will culminate in a ban on cluster munitions coming to life.

The other major development throughout the year was an extensive review of the UXO Sector Strategy. This was a crucial task in order to update and modernise the strategic framework the Sector operates within. Over the years the Sector has changed greatly; new operators and partner organisations arriving, new operational methods and technologies employed, and new development agendas established, but just a few of the changes to have occurred.

The process to update the strategy known as the Safe Path Forward was an open, collaborative, and consensus driven exercise. The resulting document incorporates vital components such as gender, treaty compliance, and the most up-to-date sub-sector thinking, all of which taken as a whole, truly reflects the input and participation of the entire Sector. The Safe Path Forward II as it is known, is now undergoing final amendments and only requires endorsement by the NRA board for it to be the new strategic guide for all of our activities.

Operationally, 2009 was a year in pursuit of increased efficiency and greater impact within the Sector as it strives to make the Lao PDR free from the threat of UXO.

In Clearance, UXO operators are improving the efficiency and scope of their services, and seeking to harmonise their workplans in line with national development agendas. The Sector welcomed the additional of not only new international clearance agencies, but also significantly, the first National clearance organisations who have formally applied for operational accreditation. This is a landmark moment and highlights strengthening and maturing national ownership.

Mine Risk Education activities as always played a crucial role in addressing the UXO issue. Materials have been updated and teachers regularly trained to develop their ability to convey the message of the dangers of UXO.

And in Victim Assistance, the National UXO Accidents and Victims Survey Phase 1 was completed and the findings made available. This body of data accurately and comprehensively reveals for the first time the full nature and scope of the UXO problem in Laos, and in time will lead to improvements in prioritisation for all elements of UXO operations.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the various donors for their humanitarian support in terms of grants, material and equipment, and the technical personnel provided to NRA. Our sincere thanks also goes to all the different operators, and to all the Lao and Foreign experts within the UXO/Mine Action Sector for your efforts in addressing the UXO problem in many communities. UXO still poses a most serious threat to children and adults alike as they go about their everyday lives. I hope that everyone reading this report will continue to support the work that strives to achieve safety for the Lao multi-ethnic people, and contributes to the task of poverty elimination by 2020.

Dr. Malinga Saignavongs,  
NRA Director



## Foreword:

**UNDP Resident Representative,**

**Co-Chairperson of the UXO Sector Working Group**

The year 2009 was of great significance for the UXO Sector in the Lao PDR and I am pleased to reflect on some of our successes and achievements. At a global level, the Lao PDR has shown strong leadership in ratifying the Convention on Cluster Munitions in February 2009. In addition, the Government demonstrated its commitment to the Convention by agreeing to host the First Meeting of States Parties (1MSP) in late 2010, and is to assume the presidency of the Convention for one year thereafter.

Within the country, the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) further strengthened its capacity and consolidated its role as a coordinating and regulatory authority for the UXO Sector.

Firstly, the NRA led an extensive review of the UXO Sector Strategy, 'The Safe Path Forward 2003-2013', in an open and participatory manner. The extensive review was a crucial step necessary to update and modernise the strategic framework the sector operates within. The result is a revised strategy, "The Safe Path Forward II", incorporating vital components such as gender and treaty compliance, which truly reflects the input and participation of the Sector as a whole. It also clarifies the role UXO Clearance plays with regard to poverty reduction and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), since contamination with cluster munitions not only presents a threat to one's life but also great impediments to development in the affected areas. The revised strategy is currently waiting an endorsement by the NRA board.

Secondly, another significant achievement was the completion of the first ever nationwide victim survey, 'National Survey of UXO Victims and Accidents Phase 1'; collecting information on casualties and accidents from 1964 to October 2008. The results of the survey made comprehensive and accurate data available, and revealed the type and scope of the UXO problem in the country. The subsequent analysis has yielded insights to improve prioritisation of Clearance, Mine Risk Education, and Rehabilitation Service provision to victims. Phase 2, gathering information from 2008 onwards, has commenced and will contribute to showing a more accurate picture of UXO victims in the Lao PDR.

To conclude, let me once again emphasise the importance of partnerships among all stakeholders in the UXO sector in the Lao PDR. The UN will continue to work together as one in supporting the UXO Sector as a priority area. In doing so, it will improve the livelihoods of the millions of people affected by the scourge of cluster munitions and UXO. However, as the Government of Lao PDR is facing considerable challenges in achieving obligations of the Convention, the continued support of all development partners to the Government, with the goal of freeing the country from cluster munitions and UXO, as well as preventing any more people from becoming victims, is needed. The Government together with UNDP has recently established a UXO Trust Fund and we are jointly inviting all partners to generously contribute to this Fund, for since addressing the UXO issue is crucial to achieving the MDGs by 2015 and to further assist Laos to exit the Least Developed Country Status by 2020. I am looking forward to our continued collaboration and coordination in this regard.

Sonam Yangchen Rana  
UN Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative  
Co-Chairperson of the UXO Sector Working Group









# UXO Sector in the Lao PDR

The UXO/Mine Action Sector is made up of a number of organisations working throughout the Lao PDR to reduce the impacts of unexploded ordnance (UXO) on individuals and communities, and to enable national socio-economic development. The network includes the Government of Laos (GoL), United Nations Agencies, international donors, international non-government organisations (INGOs), domestic organisations, and commercial clearance operators.

This report will highlight the progress that has been collectively achieved throughout 2009 in realising the ultimate goal of making the Lao PDR free from the threat of UXO.

## 2009 Overview

2009 was another significant year for the UXO Sector in Laos. The Convention on Cluster Munitions dominated the start to the year, following on from the December 2008 Conference, and in early 2009 the Government of Laos was one of the first nations to ratify the Treaty. This early momentum continued to build throughout the year and it was forecast that by early 2010 the 30th ratification needed to trigger the Convention into international law would have been deposited with the UN. Furthermore, the Lao PDR was confirmed by the UN General Assembly as host for the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention (1MSP), anticipated to take place in late 2010, and as inaugural President of the Treaty, both pivotal roles and significant responsibilities for Laos. It proved to be a landmark year for the GoL, and one in which it further enhanced its credentials as a global leader in the cluster munitions disarmament process.

Within the Sector, a review and revision of the National UXO Sector Strategy was a pivotal activity throughout the year. The original strategy underwent an all-stakeholder driven process of analysis, discussion and modification. As a result, a 'Safe Path Forward II' was collectively produced and was only awaiting final endorsement by the NRA board at the end of 2009. Once finalised, this revised strategy will provide operations a more current and sophisticated framework to operate within.

During much of 2008 a project to compile over 40 years worth of historical UXO accident data was underway, Phase 1 of the National UXO Accident and Victim Survey,

and 2009 saw the completion thereof. The colossal task of entering over 50,000 casualty records and analysing the data within was finalised and this yielded the most comprehensive pool of information about UXO accidents, and the most sophisticated insights into these incidents, ever compiled in Laos. Despite the scale of this achievement, the next step is to begin utilising these findings in a manner that benefits all UXO activities. The sector has commenced this analysis and it will continue to be a major work focus in 2010

Additionally, the second phase of this survey, ongoing reporting of current accidents, commenced in earnest. A nationwide network of permanent focal points and system of regular data collection and reporting was established. This network is expected to mature in 2010.

The UXO Sector has been carrying out extensive clearance operations for many years aimed to reduce risk and enable safe development. The 'impact' of that valuable clearance effort has generally been assumed but to date has not been systematically or rigorously measured. How effective has been the risk reduction or how has the clearance of land changed social or development status, are questions that the Sector proposes to ask. The resulting answers could enhance future planning and prioritisation considerations.

With support funding from AusAID, through the UNDP, a project to design a process of 'Post-clearance Impact Assessment (PCIA)' was instigated during 2009. A project team was assembled, project scope determined, and three highly contaminated areas<sup>1</sup> identified, each with different economic and social profiles, in which a research pilot project was to be conducted in early 2010. Once complete, the results will be used to design a wider system and methodology that can be applied across the whole UXO programme.

Operationally, an important effort was made by operators to harmonise independent workplans with national and sub-national development agendas in order to eliminate inefficiencies and prioritise in more insightful and targeted ways. Collectively, the sector cleared over 76,000 items of UXO, and rendered over 4,000 hectares of land safe (a full breakdown of operations can be found in the Tables 1 and 2 below). This was in spite of 2009 being somewhat of a transitional year for the Sector, with the Swiss Foundation for De-mining ceasing clearance operations, but Norwegian Peoples Aid and Solidarity International commencing. Furthermore, of significance to the sector and the country, were the first applications received by the NRA for clearance accreditation, and the commencement of clearance work by Lao commercial companies. This represents a significant step forward in national capacity building and increased national ownership of the UXO/Mine Action Sector in the Lao PDR.





Risk Education and Victim Assistance operators also continued their impressive and crucial work with many different beneficiary groups. The MRE sub-sector was challenged in 2009 by Typhoon Ketsana<sup>2</sup>, and the resulting need to educate and/or remind communities affected by natural disasters about the dangers of UXO. Ketsana wreaked terrible havoc on the Southern provinces of Attapeu, Sekong, and Champasak, and in doing so unearthed or dislodged UXO creating a need for specific messaging in these situations.

The Victim Assistance witnessed a year in which outreach programs by some operators successfully commenced, a global advocacy network on behalf of victims and survivors was founded, and much work was done to formulate 6 key pillars of action and advocacy for all operators. And significantly, the VA sub-sector, but moreover the whole UXO Sector, celebrated a major landmark as the Government of Laos ratified the International Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities.

A major challenge facing the Sector continued to be resource mobilisation. A worrying downward trend in terms of donor money made available to Sector operators occurred during 2008<sup>3</sup>, right at the point when renewed awareness and attention of the UXO issue in Laos was being generated following on from the Convention process. The hope was that such interest would translate into an increase in resource pledges, but this proved not to be and much of 2009 was spent by both the NRA and operators lobbying the international community to help arrest that trend (see Graph 1).

The sector is hopeful that 2010 will see the international community expand its support in response to imminent treaty compliance needs, and as a sign of its commitment to see the Treaty produce meaningful and lasting impact in Laos.



## 2009 UXO Sector Highlights

- ☀️ **77,489 items of UXO cleared**
- ☀️ **4,114 ha of land cleared**
- ☀️ **385,000 plus people benefitted from MRE activities**
- ☀️ **Phase 1 of the National of UXO Victims and Accidents Survey - data entry and analysis - completed**
- ☀️ **Phase 2 of the Survey - capture of ongoing information - commenced**
- ☀️ **The UXO Sector National Strategic Framework reviewed and updated; 'The Safe Path Forward II' produced (awaiting Board endorsement)**
- ☀️ **UXO Sector National Standards one year old**
- ☀️ **'Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)' ratified by the Lao Government**
- ☀️ **Laos confirmed as host for the First Meeting of States Party to the Convention (1MSP) and inaugural President of the CCM**
- ☀️ **'Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' ratified by the Lao Government**



## 2009 Achievements: the numbers<sup>45</sup>

Table 1: The number and type of UXO cleared and method used - 2009

Organisation	Roving Operations				Total
	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	
FSD	24	936	0	78	1,038
HIB	21	626	0	194	841
MAG	5	1,429	0	5,114	6,548
PCL	0	127	0	80	207
SODI	0	463	0	238	701
UXO Lao	271	12,511	59	13,203	26,044
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>16,092</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>18,907</b>	<b>35,379</b>

Organisation	Clearance Operations and Technical Survey				Total
	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	
ASA	0	3	0	3	6
BACTEC	2	16	0	47	65
FSD	0	237	0	546	783
HIB	1	336	0	793	1,130
MAG	50	4,483	0	2,869	7,402
Milsearch	0	130	0	41	171
MMG (LXML)	0	3	0	1	4
MoD	2	82	0	29	113
NPA	0	90	0	22	112
PCL	4	1,595	34	336	1,969
PSD	0	471	0	57	528
SODI	0	726	0	0	726
UXO Lao	40	16,251	33	12,777	29,101
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>24,423</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>17,521</b>	<b>42,110</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>40,515</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>36,428</b>	<b>77,489</b>

Table 2: Breakdown of land clearance by use and method of clearance in 2009

Organisation	Land Release by Clearance for the Purpose of (in ha)		Total
	Agriculture	Development	
ASA	0	1.36	1.36
BACTEC	0	58.02	58.02
FSD	33.77	11.74	45.51
HIB	11.43	18.26	29.69
MAG	682.82	52.76	735.58
Milsearch	0	68.48	68.48
MoD	0	27.28	27.28
NPA	11.42	0.21	11.63
PCL	45.94	122.84	168.78
SODI	3.81	2.72	6.53
PSD	0	8.32	8.32
UXO Lao	2,339.99	218.35	2,558.35
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,129.18</b>	<b>590.34</b>	<b>3,719.52</b>



Land Release by Technical Survey for the Purpose of (in ha)			
Organisation	Agriculture	Development	Total
FSD	7.75	0	7.75
UXO Lao	318.54	68.81	387.35
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>326.29</b>	<b>68.81</b>	<b>395.10</b>

<b>Summary</b>	<b>3,455.47</b>	<b>659.15</b>	<b>4,114.62</b>
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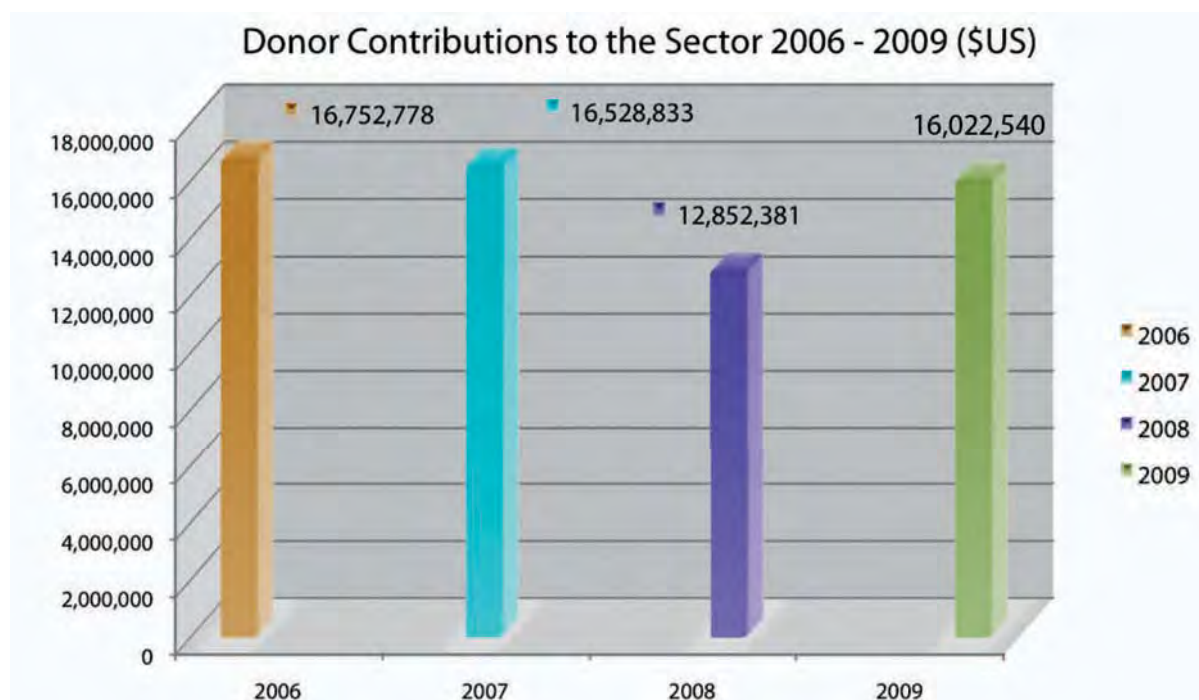
Table 3: Breakdown of Beneficiaries from UXO/MRE activities in 2009

UXO MRE Operations				
Organisation	Total Villages Visited	Child Beneficiaries	Adult Beneficiaries	Total Beneficiaries
FSD	10	245	280	525
HIB	191	2,025	4,084	6,109
MAG	166	19,021	22,568	41,589
UXO Lao	617	76,818	81,330	158,148
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>98,109</b>	<b>108,262</b>	<b>206,371</b>

UXO MRE Operations				
Organisation	Total Schools Visited	Child/Student Beneficiaries	Adult/Teacher Beneficiaries	Total Beneficiaries
WEC*	1,726	173,192	5,736	178,928
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,726</b>	<b>173,192</b>	<b>5,736</b>	<b>178,928</b>

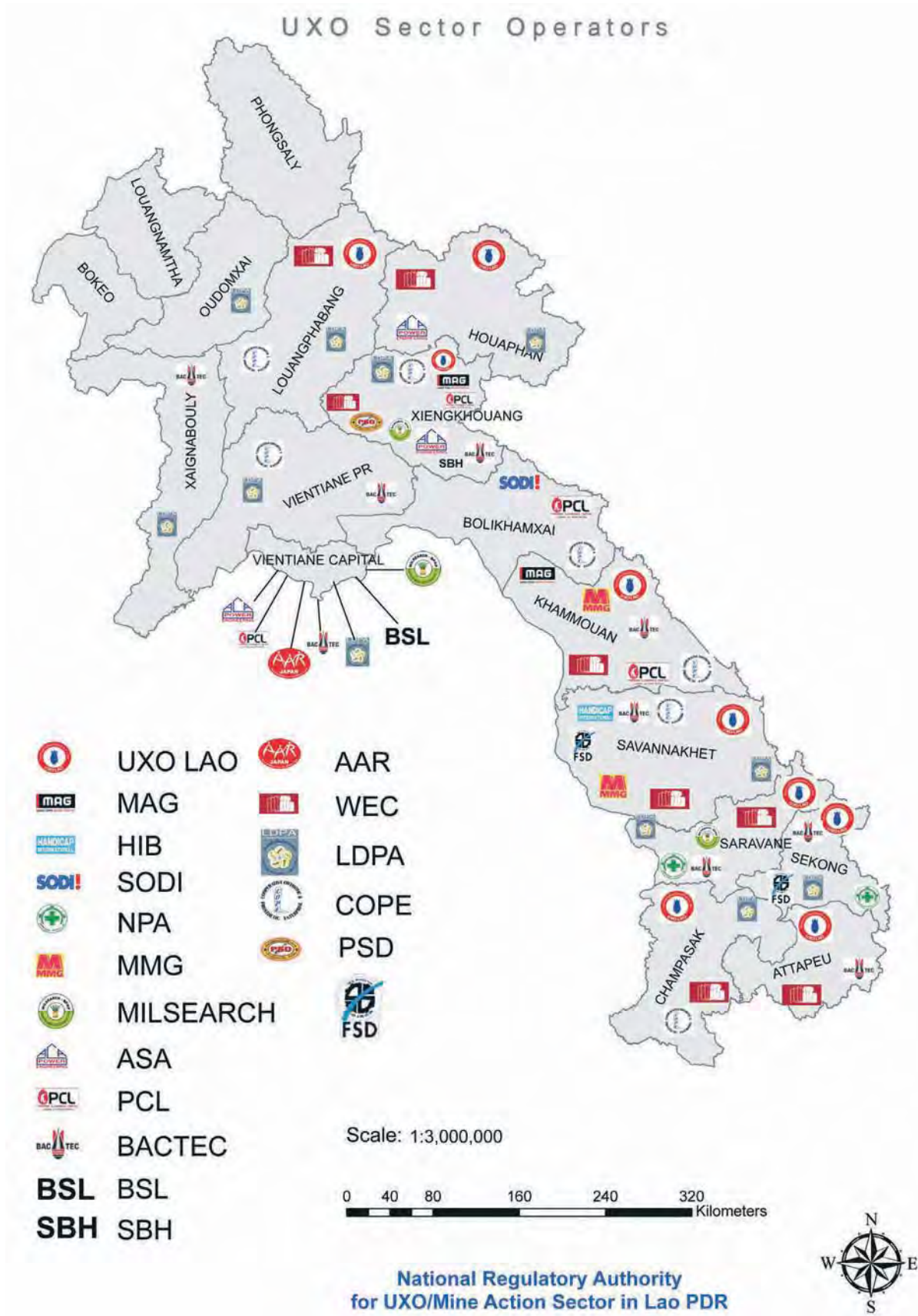
\*UXO Education and Awareness Programme conducted by the Ministry of Education in conjunction with WEC.

Graph 1: Donor Contributions<sup>6</sup> to Not-for-profit UXO Sector Operators 2006 -2009





Map 1: UXO Sector Activities by Operator and Location – map showing where each operator is working





## What is UXO?

Unexploded ordnance, or UXO, are explosive weapons that failed to detonate when they were fired, dropped, launched or projected, and still pose the risk of exploding<sup>7</sup>. UXO contamination in the Lao PDR consists of large bombs, rockets, grenades, artillery munitions, mortars, landmines and cluster munitions and submunitions.

A cluster munition is a conventional weapon that consists of an outer canister that is designed to disperse or release smaller bombs (submunitions or bomblets) that weigh less than 20 kilograms each<sup>8</sup>. These submunitions are known throughout the Lao PDR as 'bombies'. The cluster munition is dropped from a plane or launched from the ground into the air, where it ejects the bombies over a wide area. Bombies that were dropped on the Lao PDR had a high failure rate, leaving an estimated 30 percent unexploded and scattered across vast areas of land. When disturbed, even decades later, bombies and other UXO can explode, injuring and killing civilians as they carry out their daily activities.

The Lao PDR today is one of the most heavily UXO and cluster munitions affected countries in the world, with up to 25 percent of the country's 10,000 villages blighted by the presence of these remnants of war<sup>9</sup>. More than 270 million bombies were dropped over the Lao PDR during the nine years of conflict and an estimated 80 million failed to detonate, remaining live and scattered throughout the country. In addition, over four million large bombs were dropped and extensive ground battles in predominantly the Northern provinces left behind substantial amounts of other unexploded weaponry and munitions.





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DANGEROUS AREA

## A Snapshot of the UXO Issue

- Laos is the most heavily bombed country, per capita, in history
- 25% of villages in Laos are contaminated with UXO
- All 17 provinces of Laos suffer UXO contamination
- Over 2 million tons of ordnance was dropped on Laos between 1964 and 1973
- 580,000 bombing missions were flown over Laos
- Cluster submunitions or 'bombies' are the most common form of UXO remaining
- More than 270 million bombies were dropped on Laos
- Up to 30% failed to detonate
- Approximately 80 million unexploded bombies remained in Laos after the war
- Over 50,000 people have been killed or injured since 1964
- There are approximately 300 new casualties each year
- In the last decade 40% of all casualties were children
- In the last decade accidents caused by bombies increased to 30% of all casualties







## The Impact of UXO on Communities

Laos is considered a least-developed country, in which the majority of the population is living a subsistence-farming based lifestyle. In its most fundamental form, the impact of UXO contamination is to endanger crucial social activities, like farming, labour, or travel to markets. This leaves communities facing a terrible dilemma; either being unable to perform those basic tasks necessary for survival, or forced to take serious risks with their physical safety in order to meet those needs.

From a development perspective, the presence of UXO undermines programmes aimed at spurring growth for it imposes conditions counteractive to development initiatives. At all levels of community, UXO contamination can result in:

- Fertile or valuable land being either unusable because of the risks involved cultivating it, or unable to be farmed as efficiently as it could be if it were not contaminated.
- Food insecurity caused by districts facing shortages of land safe for agriculture, and/or the inability to expand existing agricultural areas.

- Local trade and market access being diminished, both on account of restricted crop yields, and possible dangers of transporting goods and services in contaminated areas.
- Infrastructure projects such as building or improving roads and schools being delayed by having to clear UXO (which also adds additional costs to the projects).
- Investment opportunities in areas such as tourism and mining being delayed by having to clear UXO (which also add additional costs to the projects).
- National health institutions struggling to meet the wide range of rehabilitation needs of so many victims.
- Individual communities and families suffering significant physical, emotional, social and financial trauma. Often, both the survivor and their family suffer stigmatisation and marginalisation in their communities, and survivors can have great difficulty in integrating back into the labour force.

Complicating the whole picture even further is the Lao terrain and climate; remote, rugged and mountainous landscapes, and a protracted wet season make more difficult all efforts to eliminate the UXO threat and remove barriers to development.

*Beneficiary of COPE (photo copyright: Dominique Wilkins)*





*“We used to hide in the jungle, in caves or bunkers, depending on the situation. Often we got stuck in the cave because of the continuous bombing day and night.”*

## Case Study

### **War Memories** are all that remain

Photo: copyright Sean Sutton/MAG

“I am 61 years old. It is hard for me to walk all day up a steep mountainside to my paddy field like before!” says Ten, with a smile.

Ten is smiling because he no longer has to walk for a whole day to reach the field that provides his livelihood. In the past, he could not farm the land close to his village due to the high level of unexploded ordnance (UXO) in the ground. His field “on the other side of the next mountain”, he says, was the closest safe land he could find.

Mr. Ten’s family, one of the poorest in Khuanpho Village, Khammuane Province, was selected for clearance by MAG’s Community Liaison staff in conjunction with the village authorities. MAG cleared land for a new paddy field for Ten in late 2007, just half a kilometre from his house. More than 20 items of unexploded ordnance were found and destroyed in the process.

“Many of them were bombies. One bomb was as big as my leg, I don’t know what type it was, but it must have been dropped by a plane during the war,” he says. “Last year I grew 20 sacks of rice [about 1,400kg], an increase of five sacks compared to my previous paddy field,” he says.

Ten also says that as his family does not have to spend so long traveling to their field, they have more spare time and this gives them the opportunity to sell their labour to others during harvest time.

His memories of the war remain vivid.

“I was a young farmer during the war,” he recalls. “We used to hide in the jungle, in caves or bunkers, depending on the situation. Often we got stuck in the cave because of the continuous bombing day and night.”

The last physical reminder of the war, the unexploded ordnance lying in the ground, has finally gone.

“The work MAG has done in our community is very helpful. We feel safer now,” he says. Case

Case Study Courtesy of MAG







## The Safe Path Forward II

The UXO Sector in Laos is governed by a national strategic document called the 'Safe Path Forward'. This was originally issued as a Prime Ministerial Resolution in 2004, and was focused on formalising and institutionalising the existing UXO Sector activities, namely Clearance, Victim Assistance and Risk Education, in order to strengthen their overall effectiveness and impact. It also attempted to provide a long-term definition of the direction and activities needing to occur for the UXO threat in Laos to be removed.

By 2008 the strategy was in need of revision, in order to account for the expansion of activities and actors, and the many new developments and changes to the whole sector since it was written. An independent evaluation of the UXO sector carried out by UNDP contracted consultants in 2008<sup>10</sup> also called for such a move. Thus in 2009, a formal process of review and revision commenced, facilitated by the NRA, to update the strategy and ensure that it remained relevant and up-to-date.

A series of all-stakeholder workshops were held in which all parts of the strategy were discussed and debated. The collective input was then consolidated and formatted by the NRA, redistributed for further comment and consultation, and lastly finalised as a revised draft, 'The Safe Path Forward II', to be submitted to the NRA board for endorsement.

The SPF II is the result of a process of open dialogue and collaboration from all sector stakeholders. This unified and consensual approach has yielded a strategic vision that is both ambitious and achievable, and a set of objectives, targets and actions that reflect operational realities, respond to village level needs, and promote a concerted effort to strengthen national ownership and capacity.

The revised strategic vision within the SPF II calls for...

*"... a Lao PDR free from the threat of UXO, where individuals and communities live in a safe environment contributing to development and where UXO victims are fully integrated into their societies and their needs are met"*

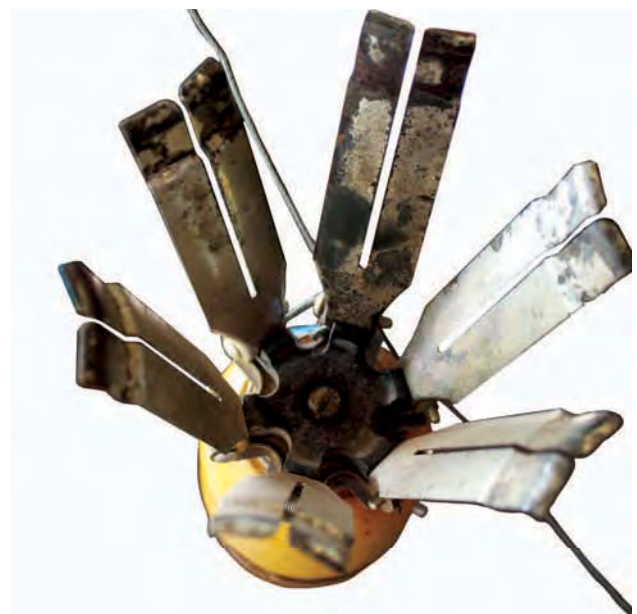
Within the 10-year life of the strategy the goal will be to reduce the humanitarian and socio-economic impact to such a level that Lao national institutions can sustainably manage all remaining UXO related challenges.

## To do this 6 key objectives have been agreed upon:

1. Reduce the number of UXO casualties from 300 to less than 75 per year
2. Ensure that the medical and rehabilitation needs of all UXO Survivors are met in line with treaty obligations
3. Release priority land and clear UXO in accordance with National Standards and treaty obligations
4. Ensure effective leadership, coordination and implementation of the national programme
5. Establish sustainable national capacity fully integrated into the regular set-up of the Government
6. Meet international treaty obligations.

To monitor and measure annual progress against these objectives, a sector-wide annual work plan will be produced starting from 2010. This will be an instrument used to map-out year-to-year activities and measure achievements in an accountable and smart way. This will help guide future policy direction, resource allocation, prioritisation, and strategy formation.

The SPF II at the time of writing is awaiting final endorsement by NRA board. Once that has been completed, it will be issued as Prime Ministerial Resolution, and thus formalised as the new UXO Sector strategy.





# International Treaties

## The Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)

*Purpose: to comprehensively ban the use and stockpiling of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians and secure adequate provision of care and rehabilitation to survivors and clearance of contaminated areas.*

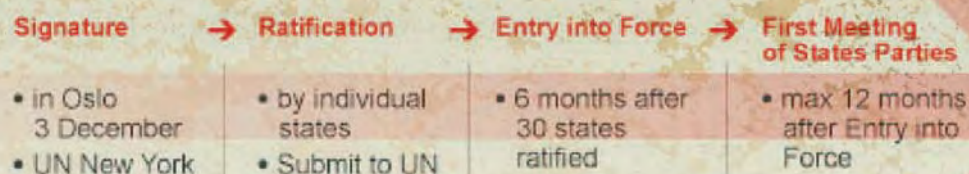
Following the historic summit of nations in Oslo 2008, in which the Lao PDR was the 2nd signatory to the Convention on Cluster Munitions behind the host nation Norway, the Government of Laos further demonstrated its commitment to this Treaty by swiftly ratifying it. Laos deposited the instrument of ratification at UN Headquarters in New York on March 18th, 2009 becoming the 5th nation to do so.

At the time of signing, Laos also indicated that it would be willing to host the First Meeting of Member States Parties (1MSP) to the CCM upon it becoming international law. In October 2009, at a UN Special Event on the CCM, Ireland tabled a resolution to the UN General Assembly in support of the Lao offer, which was adopted, and Laos was formally recognised as the host country for the 1MSP, and subsequently, also the inaugural president of the Convention.

Throughout 2009 the number of ratifications ever increased and by year's end 26 countries had ratified, 103 had signed, and the Treaty stood on the brink of becoming international law. It is anticipated that by early 2010 the magical 30th ratification would have been deposited. Six months after this is when the CCM will become international law, and no more than a year after the entry of into force should the 1MSP be held (see Diagram 1).

**Diagram 1: Process of CCM entry into force**

courtesy of [www.clusterconvention.org](http://www.clusterconvention.org)







The Government of Laos took active steps during 2009 in anticipation of being confirmed as Meeting host. The GoL established a Working Group, chaired within The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), to act as lead for the Meeting organisation and facilitation, and also participated in a number of meetings abroad with supporter countries of the Convention. This domestic working group met in the latter half of 2009 to tentatively discuss the requirements needed in order to successfully host a First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention.

Additionally, preparations commenced for the imminent requirements of treaty compliance. MOFA was established as the focal point for treaty implementation and compliance, with the NRA providing broad secretarial and substantive support to it.

The key obligations of the CCM for the Government are;

- Clear all land suspected to be contaminated with cluster munitions and submunitions within 10 years of the treaty coming into force for that country. Where this is not feasible, affected states can apply for 5-year extensions
- To conduct risk reduction education to ensure awareness among civilians living in cluster munition affected areas
- Appoint a focal point in Government for Victim Assistance
- Collect reliable relevant data with respect to cluster munition victims and provide assistance to victims, including medical care, rehabilitation and psychological support, as well as provide for their social and economic inclusion.

Such obligations provide a substantial challenge, which the Government of Laos will be looking to work in partnership with donors to achieve.

*A one-page summary of the CCM is annexed to this report.*

## **The Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

*Purpose: to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.*

Laos signed the Convention on January 15th, 2008 and deposited its instrument of ratification on September 25th, 2009. This Convention has significant implications

particularly for the Victim Assistance side of UXO activities. Domestic Legislation will need to be drawn up in order to integrate treaty obligations into the local judiciary. This process has already commenced with the handing down of a Prime Ministerial Decree regarding the 'National Commission for Disabled People' in September 2009. The Decree, which replaces the formative 1995 version, outlines the expanded mandate of this existing body and identifies it to be the focal point for the domestic integration and implementation of the Disabilities Treaty. Accordingly, it will also play a lead role in forming the legal instruments needed to ensure full Treaty compliance. Importantly, VA providers in Laos can begin to harmonise their own strategies with the principles of the Convention, in the knowledge that the Government of Laos is committed to meeting the obligations of the Treaty.

*One-page summaries of both the CRPD and the PM Decree on the National Commission for Disabled People (unofficial translation) are annexed to this report.*



*Beneficiary of COPE (photo copyright: Dominique Wilkins)*





## The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty (Ottawa Convention)

Purpose: *to comprehensively ban the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines.*

The Government of the Lao PDR continued its engagement with the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, otherwise referred to as the Ottawa Convention, by attending the Second Review Conference of the Convention in 2009. At this meeting Laos described its

preparations to meet the obligations of Ottawa including national steps on demining, workshops to promote awareness of the Treaty, instructions to military personnel on compliance, and voting in favor of the UNGA resolution on the treaty. Importantly, it also reiterated it was in process of drafting a voluntary Article 7 report to help the world understand better the facts and reality on the ground, and the intention of the Lao PDR<sup>12</sup>. Laos also stated it was confident it would be able to become a party to the Treaty in coming years, however, noting that international assistance would need to be sought in order to comply fully.

*A one-page summary of the APMBT is annexed to this report.*



Laos has not yet signed or acceded to Additional Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War.

## National Regulatory Authority for UXO/ Mine Action in Lao PDR (NRA)

The National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action in Lao PDR is a public institution of the Lao Government. Established in 2004 and operational since April 2006, the NRA coordinates overall management of the Sector and is responsible for:

- Operator accreditation
- Coordination of operational activities
- Strategic direction and policy formation
- Building individual and institutional capacity within the Sector
- Information management and analysis
- Quality control of all operations
- International treaty support.

The NRA is a high-level inter-ministerial Board composed of representatives from eleven Government ministries: Agriculture and Forestry, Defense (Chair), Education, Foreign Affairs, Health, Information and Culture, Labor and Social Welfare (Vice-Chair), Planning and Investment, Finance, Telecommunications and Transportation, and Security.

The NRA Office provides comprehensive secretarial and administrative support for the Board, as well as implements required operational activity.

The NRA was established in partnership with the UNDP and continues with its ongoing support.

Throughout 2009 the NRA Office had 34 permanent national staff in its employ, assisted by 7 international technical advisors.

The structure of the NRA Office is divided into three departments: The Executive, Policy, Administration and Standards, and Operations. There are a number of sub-Units housed under these sections, supervised by two Deputy Directors respectively. The diagram below shows the structure of the NRA office.

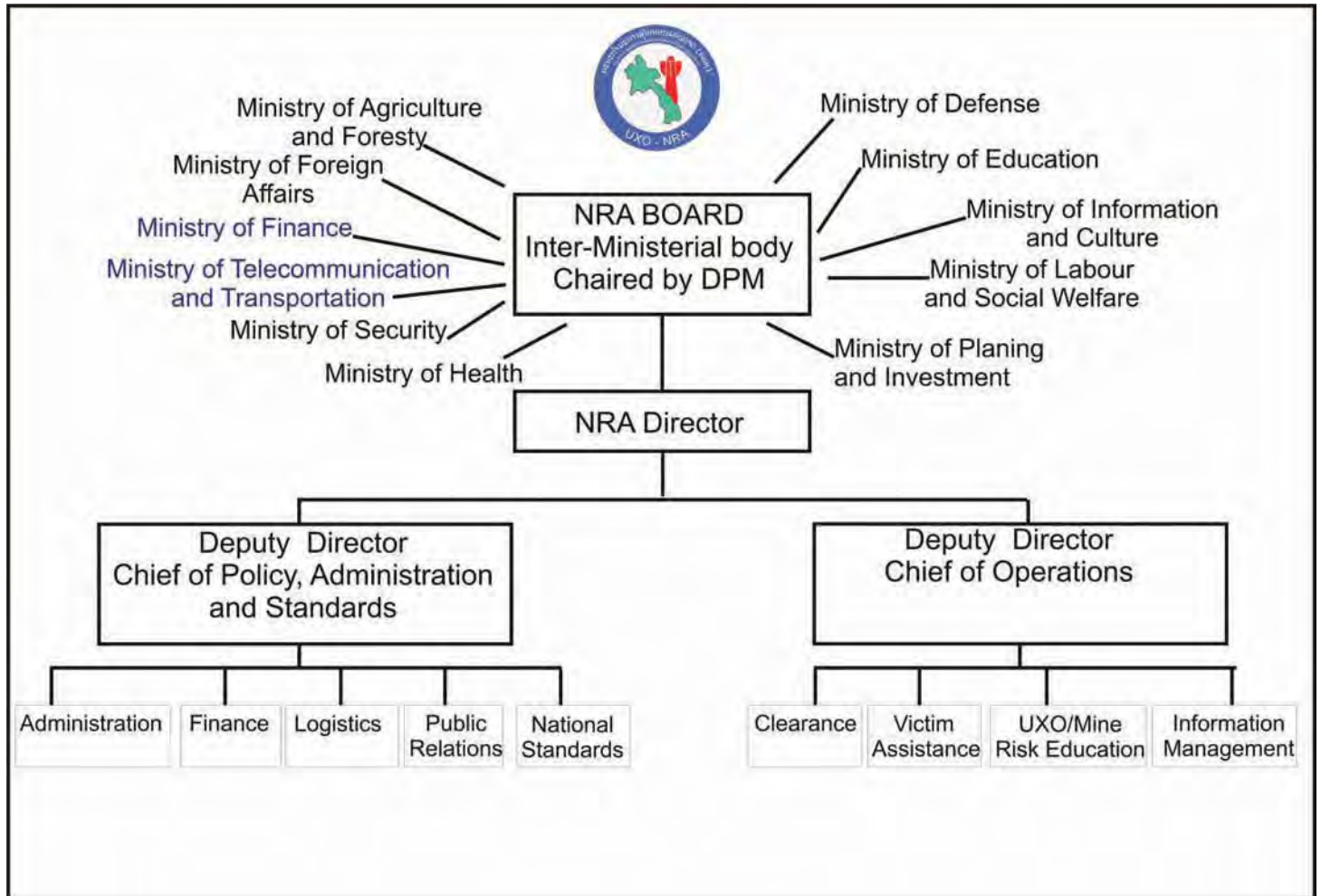
## The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

Purpose: *seeks to prohibit or restrict the use of certain conventional weapons which are considered excessively injurious or whose effects are indiscriminate.*

Laos has signed this Convention and its Additional Protocol, and deposited the instrument of Accession on January 3, 1983. This convention is already International Law and Laos has been pursuing its reporting and treaty compliance obligations.



Diagram 2: Organisational Structure of the NRA



## The NRA Office: unit-by unit

### Policy Administration and Standards

#### Administration, Finance and Logistics

These Units are responsible for the ongoing organisational and administrative requirements of the NRA, and are crucial in supporting externally focused Units in achieving their mandates.

Each Unit continued to manage its area successfully throughout 2009, and provided invaluable support roles for the existing and new projects undertaken by the NRA.

#### Public Relations Unit

The PR and Communications Unit of the NRA works with all other Units of the organisation and UXO sector in order to raise the profile, locally and internationally, of UXO issues in the Lao PDR and the efforts undertaken to combat resulting problems.

The Unit built upon the effective work done in 2008 and continued to evolve into a focal point for sector information.

Aside from updating relevant NRA publications and advocacy materials, including publishing the full text of the CCM Treaty in both Lao and English, the Unit also was very engaged in coordinating donor and government reporting; in effect it took on a programme management function as it both produced and supported other Units complete a number of reporting tasks.



It helped coordinate many key events over the course of the year including a public concert and exhibition at the National Cultural Hall to celebrate International UN Day for Mine/UXO Action, the series of UXO Sector Strategy revision workshops, the Sector Working Groups, meetings of the NRA board, and a twelve-year Review of the UXO Sector hosted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

It also facilitated a range of regional workshops with varying purposes including; establishing an official national media network dedicated to the UXO issue, communicating with sub-national authorities the functions of the NRA, and media seminars to keep the issue current and in the public domain.



Onlookers at a UXO Exhibit during International Mine/UXO Awareness Day

2010 looms as year when the PR Unit will be very active in the lead-up to the First Meeting of States Parties to the Oslo Convention, and the latter part of 2009 was spent preparing for that eventuality. It took part in initial meetings of the Government of Laos' 1MSP Working group. Additionally, work was done to strengthen ties with domestic and international media outlets; an upgrade of the current website commenced in anticipation of increased usage; and new materials were being prepared to document the impact of this new Treaty for Laos.

## Standards Unit

The National Standards Unit has the responsibility of preparing and maintaining the "Lao PDR National UXO/ Mine Action Standards" and for ensuring that they are applied by UXO organisations within the country. Today, the Unit comprises of two core staff members and will expand in the future to include a number of mobile teams who can assist with compliance verification

The National Standards continued to be the main area of focus for the Unit. In 2008, work was done to establish this set of accepted best practices, and one year on from their inception, a review was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness and impact thereof. The conclusions were that the Standards were theoretically very sound, with only a few minor amendments recommended, and were being successfully applied in operations; a resounding endorsement for all the work gone into their creation. Complementing this periodic on-site inspections of a number of different clearance operators were conducted.

Operator accreditations also occupied much of the Unit's attention. The application process was accelerated throughout the year, partly in response to an increase in the number of agents involved in the sector. By the end of 2009 13 separate entities had either received, applied for, or were in the process of applying for UXO operational accreditation.

A full breakdown of the organisations and their stage of accreditation as at the end of 2009 can be seen in Table 4 below.

The last major development in 2009 was the conception of a mobile Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) capacity to be coordinated by the NRA but implemented by the Swiss Foundation for De-mining (FSD) and bi-laterally funded by ArmourGroup North America to FSD. The design and preparation for two roving QA/QC teams was completed in 2009, with these team due to be deployed in early 2010. This additional Quality Management resource increases the NRA's overall capacity to examine first-hand operational levels and to thus ensure National Standards are being met.

**Table 4: Summary of UXO Operator Accreditation Progress as at the end of 2009**

Accreditation Stage	Operators
Full Accreditation	BACTEC, Milsearch, Phoenix (PCL), FSD
Provisional Accreditation	MMG (formerly LXML), NPA, SODI, BSL*, PSD*, ASA*
Process Ongoing	UXO Lao, MAG, HIB,
Preparing to Apply	SBH CL CO. *
Not Yet Applied	Lao Army

\* National Commercial Clearance Organisations





MAG Clearance team member Mrs  
Phitsamai Sinxay, Khammuane Province





## Operations

### Clearance

The NRA Clearance Unit's responsibilities can be summarised into two main areas; oversight of the technical process of land release, through clearance or survey and dealing with the UXO encountered, and coordination of clearance resources so that they are deployed in the areas of prioritised need.

During 2009 the two-person Unit arranged and chaired regular technical working group meetings of clearance operators and interested parties, meeting on a monthly basis to share information and discuss technical issues. Important topics covered included: training standards; issues with detectors, standardising render-safe procedures, work planning, impact assessments and prioritisation.

The Unit Staff undertook or participated in field monitoring visits to all provinces where operations are in progress, and to others in the North where they are required but not yet established. It also assisted in the start up and introduction of new projects in Bolikhamxay, Saravane, Sekong and Attapeu Provinces, and made time to train in GIS systems and to participate where possible in regional trainings

Throughout 2009 the Unit was more focused on coordination of clearance resources to ensure they are deployed in areas of prioritised need (this will continue to be the case in 2010). Also, as the NRA's confidence has grown, the Clearance Unit began to explore innovative ideas for more practical approaches to meeting clearance requirements; topics under reconsideration included empowering more community or district management of the UXO threat, village based clearance, increasing the number of mobile response teams, and regulating/supporting the scrap metal trade.

One such innovation progressed significantly in 2009 with the commencement of management of a study into 'Post-clearance Impact Assessment (PCIA)'. This will research both the 'assessment' and the design of longer term systems to progressively measure the impact of clearance. This study will continue in 2010.

It is also closely involved in the forward planning and identification of clearance needs in line with local priorities and national obligations under the CCM.





## Information Management

The IM Unit performs a critical area of the NRA mandate, data collection and management, and receives/houses information flows on all major areas of UXO Mine/action. The NRA uses a specialised Information Management System to efficiently and accurately handle the volume and scope of information. This system was purpose built for the global Mine Action issue and is called IMSMA (Information Management System for Mine Action). The four-person permanent staff is complemented by a number of contractors at any given time to handle the vast workload that is the Unit's responsibility.

The IM Unit had a stellar year in 2009. It grew markedly in confidence, capacity and efficiency, and also expanded its range of activities and the number of staff in its employ. It lost the support of its TA during the year, however, this proved to be no distraction in the fulfillment of core daily activity, advancing intensive sub-projects, and proceeding with expansion plans.

Throughout the year there were a number of noteworthy outputs.

A series of field reporting formats, which had been designed or revamped the previous year, were activated and inculcated into the Sector. The standardisation of reporting formats was a significant achievement, for it yields a greater benefit in the form of operational information being transmitted in a consistent and hence

more reliable, accurate, and interpretable way. These forms were upon receipt and verification digitised into the NRA's database.

Furthermore, the Unit also rolled out a programme of IMSMA software installation and operator training to clearance operators UXO Lao, MAG, and MMG. Training consisted of understanding and using the software, and how to correctly enter and send data. This will allow in the future reporting on activities to be done digitally at the site of operations via laptops, which reduces a reliance on hard copies, bridges the spatial divide between field operations and the NRA, and reduces the time needed for reporting.

Core daily activity also was performed successfully over the course of 2009. Regular tasks comprised of responding to requests for information, producing general and specialised maps, monthly progress reports, sub-sector information reports, trend analyses, spatial analyses, updating and maintaining the NRA website, internal system upgrades, general IM infrastructure maintenance, and overall information management.

## UXO/Mine Risk Education Unit

The MRE Unit, which is tasked with overseeing, regulating and coordinating the work of all operators engaged in risk education, continues to be a very effective Unit responsible for a crucial thematic area of the UXO Sector.

2009 was another successful year of information sharing and coordination via the Technical Working Group system and a range of joint activities with partner organisations. However, it was also a challenging year. Typhoon Ketsana asked questions about how the Sector should deal with UXO in an emergency situation, and a Prime Ministerial notice on the regulation of the scrap metal trade generated much debate and discussion on the right safeguards needed for the industry.

Some of the key achievements of the year included:

- A UNICEF sponsored workshop attended by all MRE operators in Laos, focused on strengthening 'Communication for Behavioural Impact'
- The NRA Board attending MRE monitoring exercises to gain better insights of operations





- Coordination with The Ministry of Information and Culture to broadcast 4,050 MRE radio spots, of which the GoL paid for 2,050
- Production of materials and guidelines on MRE in emergency situations. These were developed, printed and distributed in the typhoon effected provinces of Attapeu, Sekong, Saravane, Champasak and Savannakhet, with support from UNICEF
- Procurement and distribution of loudspeaker equipment to Nong, Sepone and Vilabuly districts in Savannakhet Province. The equipment will be used to broadcast UXO information in community centres
- A workshop with Lao National Tourism Administration to raise awareness of the UXO issue with tourist entrepreneurs within Xiengkhuang Province<sup>13</sup>
- A series of consultative meetings with related ministries and local authorities to discuss the draft Prime Ministerial Notice on scrap metal trade, funded by UNICEF
- The reprint and distribution to operators of MRE materials for at risk groups; posters for farmers, scrap metal collectors/dealers and children; and t-shirts, jackets, and bags for schools.



Risk Education session

Some of these activities are a continuation of programmes in place and others filling a pre-existing gap. The sub-sector continues to demonstrate excellent coordination and innovation. A combination of frequent monitoring and evaluation of operations, and receptiveness by operators to act upon message insights, is producing more informed and refined MRE messages. Encouragingly, the sub-sector employs very participatory methods; at-risk groups are involved directly in shaping the behaviour-changing messages.

The MRE Unit was supported for part of the year by a TA provided by MAG. The focus of that role was to support the Unit's core staff in completing key projects relating to the development of MRE strategies, resources and materials.

The MRE Unit continues to be generously supported by UNICEF and MAG.

### Victim Assistance

The Victim Assistance Unit's is charged with developing and maintaining a national database on Mine/UXO accidents, to be used for prioritisation of operational activities, and with promoting the specific physical rehabilitation and socio-economic integration needs of survivors in all national/local public health initiatives.

The work of the VA Unit during 2009 had the twin focus of Phase 1 and 2 of the National UXO Accident and Victim Survey, and further developing position papers detailing six key areas of VA in Laos, the so-named 'Six Pillars of Victim Assistance'.

With regards to the former, work included completing data entry into the Lao Victim Information System (LVIS) for the Phase 1 Survey, establishing a reporting service for all stakeholders who are now able to specify what reports they need, wide-ranging analyses of Phase 1 database, preparing the Final Report on the Phase 1 Survey (due for publication early in 2010), and continuing on Phase 2 by finalising the system for securing accident and casualty data from January 1st 2008 onwards (see sidebox).

Excellent progress was also made on the development of six position papers on the pillars of VA. These being:

1. Data Collection
2. Medical Care
3. Physical Rehabilitation
4. Psychosocial Rehabilitation
5. Economic Rehabilitation and Vocational Training
6. Advocacy.





These Position Papers should act as a guide to facilitate any organisation wishing to help strengthen the provision of services to UXO survivors. It is anticipated they will be completed and ready for launch by mid 2010

### **Phase 2: Ongoing victim and Accident Collection Method**

- A District-level VA Focal Point (DFP) is identified within the Departments of Labour and Social Welfare.
- DFPs must contact all village Chiefs in their District and receive information from each one on whether an accident has occurred in that village during the period January 1st 2008 to date, and report any new accident that occurs anytime henceforth.
- DFPs report to Provincial Focal Points (PFP), who then deliver that information to the NRA VA Unit.
- After an accident has occurred and news thereof has arrived at the NRA, Victim Assistance Phase 2 Enumerators (VAPE) travel to the location of each accident and gather detailed information about the casualty/casualties and the accident for entry into LVIS.



By the end of 2009, the system was in place throughout the country, however, it will require regular reinforcement through provincial level trainings and refreshers.

The PFP/DFP system is the first nation-wide network of contacts for the NRA and it is thought that it will serve as a basis for other Operational Units of the NRA.

Photo: Survey Staff visiting with community members in Saravane Province

### **Technical Advisors**

2009 hailed the departure of two long-serving Technical Advisors from the NRA. Information Management TA Mr. Beat Schoch, and Senior TA Mr. Tim Horner both left their posts after having made significant and lasting contributions.

Mr. Schoch, was seconded to the NRA by the Swiss Government, and spent over two years as an Information Management Advisor to the Office. Major projects he was able to support included an initial upgrading of IT Hardware in the NRA, the introduction and final instituting of the IMSMA mine action management system, the introduction of GIS (Geographical Information System) as an analysis tool, the integrating of IMSMA with a purpose built system for the National UXO Victim and Accident Survey; LVIS (Lao Victim Information System), and finally, a great deal of capacity building for the Unit.

Mr. Horner was the second Senior Technical Advisor to the NRA and deployed via the UNDP. He was in the role for over three years and was instrumental in supporting the overall strengthening of the NRA's institutional capacity from an organisation in its infancy, to one with a current-day stature as a robust, effective and progressive regulator. Mr. Horner advised on everyday coordinating activities and was key in donor liaison and resource mobilisation. He also played a pivotal role in all major achievements over the last three years including the creation of UXO Sector National Operational Standards, the institutionalisation of the TWGs and SWGs, the Convention on Cluster Munitions Process, and the Revision of the Sector Strategy 'The Safe Path Forward'.

Both men's efforts were invaluable and the NRA Board and Office acknowledge their contributions, and thank them greatly for their service.

## **Sector Capacity Development and Support**

A number of international organisations working in the Lao PDR provide technical assistance to build capacity of national staff in local organisations. Those active in 2009 were the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), ArmorGroup North America (AGNA), Mines Advisory Group (MAG), The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and Japanese Mine Action Service (JMAS).

### **The United Nations Development Programme**

The UNDP provides a key role within the UXO Sector, providing strong mentoring and capacity building support, and effective institutional mechanisms for international support into the Sector. The UNDP-administered Sector Trust Fund has long been used by the international community to channel financial support into UXO activities, but more than that, the UNDP helps to coordinate and integrate a range of strategies and activities.

More directly, it also deployed four international technical advisors. Two were deployed to UXO Lao until mid-year when a third was added, a full-time finance TA, and one to the NRA in the form of the Senior Technical Advisor role.

### **ArmorGroup North America**

2009 was the final year of a three-year bi-lateral programme the US Government provided to the NRA and UXO Lao through ArmorGroup North America. The project provided US\$50,000 of funding to the NRA for operations and coordination, and US

\$1,197,203 for UXO Lao to support provincial operations in Savannakhet and Champasak, and to improve and reinforce infrastructure needs in both stated provinces.

In addition, it provided international technical advisors to support the capacity development of the UXO Sector via an integrated project that supports regulation development through to operational implementation. In the NRA, a technical advisor was provided to work in the areas of quality management and operational coordination. While in UXO Lao, assistance was provided in quality management, support to field operations, and until mid-year finance, but this role was subsequently transitioned to a UNDP posting. The technical advisor support was structured in a progressive way to ensure that capacity development, both organisationally and individually, can be measured.

By mutual agreement the ArmorGroup North America Project, originally due to conclude in September 2009, was extended through to April 2010, with





a view to a more long-term contract extension to be worked upon in that timeframe.

The ArmorGroup North America country manager also provided an oversight and monitoring function for USD \$100,000 of bilateral funding to UXO Lao from the Swiss Foundation World Without Mines, which was donated in support of UXO Lao operations in Khammuane Province.

### **Mines Advisory Group**

Two MAG Technical Advisers supported UXO Lao in the provinces of Huaphanh, Savannakhet and Champasak. The TAs provided technical and management advice to provincial coordinators and their teams. Another MAG TA supported the NRA MRE Unit for some of the year. The focus of that role was to support the Unit's core staff in completing key projects relating to the development of MRE strategies, resources and materials.

### **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**

UNICEF provided considerable support to the MRE Sector in 2009. During the year, the NRA MRE Unit was supported in the development and distribution of a wide range of Risk Education materials including posters, school materials, UXO primary school textbooks, audio CDs focusing on behaviour change, MRE radio spots,

and broadcast equipment. Training was also provided for MRE managers on communication for behaviour change.

UNICEF supported workshops to develop emergency risk education messages for provinces affected by Typhoon Ketsana, and to develop a draft notice for the regulation of scrap metal collection.

UNICEF also supported the NGO Handicap International, working in Savannakhet Province, with Risk Education, Clearance operations, and special programmes for UXO contaminated villages affected by Typhoon Ketsana; 'household gardens for families with persons with disabilities'

Lastly, UNICEF provided funding to the Lao Disabled People's Association in the development of a disability rights training package, which will be used in four provinces in 2010.

### **Japanese Mine Action Service (JMAS)**

JMAS continued in 2009 to provide operational support to UXO Lao; the focus of that was EOD instruction and support to operations in Xiengkhuang Province.





# Financials

**Table 5: Total Financials Contributions to the NRA (USD)**

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2009 (USD)</i>
Armour Group North America (AGNA)	49,900
DFID	298,507
MAG	43,235
Switzerland	459,950
UNDP (TRAC Resources)	200,000
UNICEF	25,359
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,076,951</b>

**Table 6: Expenditure of UNDP Administered Funds (USD)**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount (USD)</i>
Personnel & Consultants (National/International) costs	404,163
Operational costs	388,815
Equipment costs	35,065
Running costs	46,138
ISS and GMS Fees	63,900
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>938,080</b>

**Table 7: Expenditure of AGNA Funds (USD)**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount (USD)</i>
Workshops costs	12,058
Translation and Interpretation costs	3,390
Operational and Staff Development costs	19,445
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34,893</b>

**Table 8: Expenditure of MAG Funds (USD)**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount (USD)</i>
MRE Activities	43,235
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43,235</b>

**Table 9: Expenditure of UNICEF Funds (USD)**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount (USD)</i>
MRE Materials	8,575
Additional Equipment	4,706
Workshop costs	11,002
Mine Awareness Day costs	1,074
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,359</b>





**Table 10: Financials Contributions to UXO Sector Not-for-profit Operators - 2009 (USD)<sup>14</sup>**

<i>UXO Sector Operator</i>	<i>Total Donor Contribution Received in 2009 (USD)</i>
Association for Aid and Relief Japan (AAR)	129,073
COPE	640,000
Handicap International Belgium (HIB)	472,702
Lao Disabled People's Association (LDPA)	174,455
MAG (Mines Advisory Group)	3,741,626
Norwegian People's Aid (NPA Lao PDR)	2,515,000
Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD)	862,000
Solidarity Service International (SODI)	718,560
Lao National UXO Programme (UXO LAO)	5,489,819
World Education/Consortium	202,354
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,945,589</b>

**Table 11: Expenditure in the UXO Sector by all operators - 2009 (USD)<sup>15</sup>**

<i>UXO Sector Operator</i>	<i>Total Expenditure on UXO Operations in 2009 (USD)</i>
Association for Aid and Relief Japan (AAR)	105,539
COPE	466,000
Handicap International Belgium (HIB)	457,058
Lao Disabled People's Association (LDPA)	162,268
MAG (Mines Advisory Group)	3,531,467 <sup>16</sup>
Norwegian People's Aid (NPA Lao PDR)	2,515,000
Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD)	861,800
Solidarity Service International (SODI)	718,560
Lao National UXO Programme (UXO LAO)	6,709,518
World Education/Consortium	201,855
ASA Power Engineering Co. Ltd.	55,596
Bactec Lao Limited	548,841
Milsearch BPKP EOD Joint Venture Ltd.	453,871
MMG (Mineral Mines Group)/LXML	2,306,485
Phoenix Clearance Ltd. (PCL)	278,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19,371,858</b>



**Association for Aid and Relief Japan (AAR)**  
**COPE Cooperative Orthotic Prosthetic Enterprise (COPE)**  
**Handicap International Belgium (HIB)**  
**Lao Disabled People's Association (LDPA)**  
**Mines Advisory Group (MAG )**  
**Norwegian People's Aid (NPA Lao PDR)**  
**Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD)**  
**Solidarity Service International (SODI)**



# Operator Report

**Lao National UXO Programme (UXO LAO)**

**World Education/Consortium (WEC)**

**ASA Power Engineering (ASA)**

**Bactec Lao Limited**

**Milsearch-BPKP**

**MMG (Mineral Mines Group)/LXML**

**Phoenix Clearance Ltd. (PCL)**

**Clarification:** a number of operators identified in annual Clearance and Survey figures for 2009 (BSL, PSD, and SBH CL CO<sup>17</sup>) are not included in the following section compiling operator activities for 2009. The reason for this is that they commenced operations in late 2009 and were not fully established and in a position to submit a thorough and comprehensive annual progress report for the calendar year 2009 at the time of writing. They will be invited to do so for the 2010 report.



## Association for Aid and Relief Japan (AAR Japan)

<http://www.aarjapan.gr.jp/english/>

### Activities in 2009

In 2009 the project produced 285 wheelchairs and 185 hand-propelled tricycles, a total of 470 devices at the National Rehabilitation Center (NRC) Wheelchair Workshop, and these were distributed to people with disabilities residing in all 16 provinces and Vientiane municipality. The following activities were the main focuses of 2009:

- Provided assessment trainings to NRC and Provincial Rehabilitation (PRC) staff with particular priority on being assessing the living environment and evaluating body functions
- Developed a new type of wheelchair fit for outside and rough surfaces
- A Thai consultant twice delivered training in the areas of administrative work and wheelchair manufacturing technology. Two workshop staff were also sent to Thailand to consolidate this training given in Laos
- Provided training on operational management and manufacturing technology of wheelchair to NRC staff
- Established a repair system and provided basic repair training to 10 PRCs
- Provided training on administrative work for future handover of the project.

### Achievements in 2009

- From the assessment training, PRC staff has improved their level of assessment in order to provide wheelchair services.
- A new type of wheelchair fit for outside and rough surfaces was developed and put in to regular production system.
- A number of beneficiaries received the repair service from PRCs to have their devices fixed locally.
- NRC staff is gradually becoming in charge of the administrative work to take initiative of the wheelchair service.

- Distributed 470 devices (282 wheelchairs and 188 tricycles) to person with disabilities in 2009.

### Case study

Ms. Baoly, 79 years old, lives in the rural outskirts of Vientiane capital. Being a victim of UXO, she is not able to stand and walk. She visited the NRC to get a tricycle so she can move around her house by herself. She was provided with a standard tricycle and asked to try out the vehicle, so as to discern what personal modifications needed to be made. The project modified the device by lowering the base so that she could propel the cycle by her leg strength instead of her weak arms.



*Mrs Baoly receiving her tricycle*

### 2010 Challenges and/or Opportunities

In 2010 the project will continue the activities from 2009, and special focus will be given to transferring the administrative management over to the NRC.

### Implementing Partners or Clients

- AAR Japan works directly with the NRC and PRC or rehabilitation section of provincial hospitals
- The operational budget (training, administration, staff, field trips, etc.) is supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- The production costs of wheelchairs are supported by various international and local organisations.





**Table 1: AAR Geography of Operations**

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces of Lao PDR implementing Activity in</i>
Victim Assistance	Distributed wheelchairs and tricycles to 16 provinces

## Financials

**Table 2: AAR Expenditure for 2009 (USD)**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount (USD)</i>
Personnel costs	41,154
Operational costs	25,299
Special Operational costs	0
Equipment – expendable	38,171
Equipment – non-expendable	915
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>105,539</b>

**Table 3: AAR Donor Contributions for 2009 (USD)**

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution Received in 2009 (USD)</i>
JICA	65,925
AAR Internal Fund	39,614
External Sponsorships (Production Costs)	21,350
Beneficiary Contribution	1,621
General Donation	207
Others	356
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>129,073</b>

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## COPE (Cooperative Orthotic Prosthetic Enterprise)

<http://www.copelaos.org/>

### Activities in 2009

2009 saw the initial funding for and the continued development of the COPE Connect outreach programme with visits into seven provinces including training with over 400 staff from provincial and district health services. 531 people were identified for referral and of these 270 were assessed for devices. Patient referrals continue to be sent to the COPE office in Vientiane and assessment visits are being planned to start in early 2010.

The visitor centre continues to develop with numbers of visitors increasing despite the drop in tourist numbers in the region. Visitors to the centre have been steady all year with an average of about 540 visitors each month. Despite greater visitor numbers the average intake of the centre was on average \$1.25 less per person per month. There was a peak in the spending in December, which we hope sees a return of confidence in spending among our patrons. During the year COPE assumed responsibility for the management of the Karma Café and held a community children's to celebrate the opening.

There was a delay in implementation of physiotherapy training during the first half of the year. The physiotherapy mentor was able to conduct successful sessions with the team of 13 trainers from the National Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) and Provincial Rehabilitation Centres (PRCs) in addition to performing audits at the NRC and Laungprabang and Xiengkhuang PRCs.

During the year the P&O team held an intensive quality control course which focused on device production and check out, we continue to monitor the impact of better check out procedures on finished devices in the NRC and PRCs. Patient numbers have been constant with last years presentation, with the commencement of the outreach programme we have expected an increase in overall patient numbers, the team at the NRC believe that lower patient numbers, especially in the latter half of the year are a result of better quality control and also the extremely bad crop market experienced during 2009 which has limited patients ability to travel, etc.

### Achievements in 2009

Comprehensive outreach strategy implemented in seven provinces – COPE Connect



*Cluster munitions display at COPE Visitor Centre*

- COPE Connect – Assessment visits in Nine locations seeing 531 people and referring 270 for orthopaedic treatment; Club Foot surgery training in Xiengkhuang including treatment for 10 children
- COPE Connect – Provincial Outreach establishment meetings with more than 400 provincial and district staff
- COPE Connect – Provincial Coordinators capacity development meeting in all provinces
- Coordination meeting with CARE, LDPA and NRC for LANGOCA project
- Overall an increase in visitor numbers coupled with a reduction in actual spending
- Development of the Cafe at the visitor centre
- New PT Mentor recruited





- Completion of the Anatomy course, two TOT courses at the NRC with 13 staff (including four provincial staff).
- Physiotherapy infrastructure audits in Xiengkhuang and Luangprabang
- Production of a total of 1,293 devices (one less than device production for 2008)
- Provided a total of 78 children with clubfoot in the NRC and PRCs with 176 treatment interventions
- Provided a total of 357 UXO survivors with devices during the year
- P&O Training courses:
  - Quality Control with NRC and PRCs July
  - Internal audit at NRC and PRCs
  - Review Training with international staff for Club Foot in November
  - Club Foot training in Luangprabang December
- Commenced P&O rotation scheme to improve knowledge of paediatric conditions
- P&O staff rotations:
  - One PO from Luangprabang to NRC; One PO from Xiengkhuang to NRC six weeks in July.
  - Staff swap between Savannakhet and NRC for six weeks in September
  - Staff swap between Pakse and NRC for six weeks in November
- Successful funding applications submitted to UNDP, AAR and the Lonely Planet Foundation
- Attended a CBR conference in Bangkok
- Film crews from Sky News Australia, Swiss Television and a Japanese film crew visited the project and recorded the work of the centre
- Completion of COPE's contribution to a responsible tourism brochure in conjunction with Lao Women's Union
- Completion of a book in partnership with Big Brother Mouse telling the story of a young amputee named Santar, illustrating road safety, accepting children with disabilities. This was used as a communication channel to raise awareness of the project.





## Case Study

Norvaly – Lower Limb Prosthesis

Norvaly is 37 years old. He is single and lives with mother and brothers in Namphan village, Khamkeuth District in Bolikhamxay Province. He has just has been fitted with his second prosthesis on July 7th, 2009.

In February 1992, Norvaly was looking for food in the forest when he stepped on unexploded ordnance (UXO). The impact of the bomb's explosion injured his leg terribly. After the accident he had to travel six hours to his home where his mother treated him with traditional medicine. She used herbs to do the amputation and cure his wound. This was the only option they had as his family had little money.

For 15 years, Norvaly got around with a wooden leg he had made himself. When he found out about COPE's service in 2009, he was thrilled to travel to Vientiane. Norvaly told us he was very excited because he had never thought he could get a proper prosthesis free of charge.

"I'm very happy to get the prosthesis. In the past I felt rejected from my community because I looked different from others, but now I'm more confident and ready to participate in a normal life"

He now enjoys helping his family to work in the rice field and feeding livestock.



## 2010 Challenges and/or Opportunities

COPE will continue its emphasis on capacity development during 2010. Additional support for the organisation at a management level will also be provided. COPE will increase media and public relations activities in preparation for the 1MSP Meeting to be held in November. Increasing the COPE donor base will continue to be a focus and a challenge for the team.

## Implementing Partners or Clients

All activities implemented through the COPE programme are done in complete collaboration with the staff from the National Rehabilitation Centre.

COPE continues to see a variety of people with disabilities, including specific targets groups or children with club feet and UXO survivors. The COPE Connect outreach program continues to identify new persons in need of referral for rehabilitation services especially those living in remote areas.

*Mr Norvaly receiving treatment at the COPE centre*





**Table 1: COPE Geography of Operations**

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces of Lao PDR implementing Activity in</i>
Victim Assistance	Rehabilitation Services and/or COPE Connect outreach disability identification and referral - Vientiane, Laungprabang, Savanakhet, Champasak, Xiengkhuang  COPE Connect - outreach disability identification and referral - Bolikhamxay, Khammuane

## Financials

**Table 2: COPE Expenditure for 2009 (USD)**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount (USD)</i>
Personnel costs	189,000
Operational costs	277,000
Special Operational costs	0
Equipment – expendable	0
Equipment – non-expendable	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>466,000</b>

**Table 3: COPE Donor Contributions for 2009 (USD)**

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution Received in 2009 (USD)</i>
AusAID	271,000 (brought forward)
POWER (UK)	45,000
DIC	8,300
CBM	53,000
AAR	13,000
ICRC (SFD)	46,000
AAM	48,000
ISC	27,000
GDG	50,000
NRA / UNDP	19,000
Cost Recovery	1,000
Local Contributions (Visitors Centre)	54,000
Other income	4,700
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>640,000</b>

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[http://en.handicapinternational.be/Laos\\_r271.html](http://en.handicapinternational.be/Laos_r271.html)

### Activities in 2009

With European Union funding, HIB cleared 30 hectares of land of UXO to make way for development benefiting 30 communities in three districts in Savannakhet. Roving Teams were greatly employed and destroyed 21 Aircraft bombs and 841 UXO. Ongoing training support of UXO technicians is provided to maintain a high standard of work. HIB has also been conducting Community Liaison activities to involve the community as much as possible.

There has been close collaboration between the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) and HIB towards the opening of a provincial wing of the NRA in Savannakhet. A TOR has been drafted for the staff and a room reserved at the Provincial Government Office in Savannakhet.



HIB technician – Nong District  
Photo – Jim Holmes

The Risk Education (RE) component of HIB intervention has been expanding. 44 Community Based volunteers have been selected and trained from the three districts (including 14 female volunteers) and are receiving ongoing coaching and monitoring by HIB personnel. The volunteers are a vital link between HIB and villagers.

HIB carried out Community Mapping exercises to gain perspective of the community and to identify resources that may be beneficial to program. RE materials sponsored by UNICEF have been developed and utilised with target communities. Posters were widely utilised to facilitate safety briefings and focus group discussions. Women and girls were encouraged to participate by hosting separate meetings. The UNICEF sponsored Parenting Techniques Module was also widely used with target parents and children.

In cooperation with UNICEF and the NRA, HIB produced an educational film, which will contribute to raising children's awareness of safe behaviour in UXO-affected environments. The film contains four different stories with re-enactments told by children survivors of UXO. The film entitled "Surviving the Bombs" will be used during community events to educate children and adults about the danger of UXO.



Handicap International Technical Clearance and  
Operations Manager Nong District.  
Photograph by Tim Dirven (2009)

HIB has been working on home gardening with vulnerable and at-risk households in three Districts. Food Production via household gardens is promoted as an alternative to reduce family dependence on scrap metal collection, to assist victims of UXO, and to provide food security for poor families. HIB carries out clearance of household plots prior to soil preparation and planting and inputs and training are provided to the families.

HIB has carried out KAP surveys to measure knowledge, attitude and practices of target communities about UXO.

HIB is also working with a group of survivors from Laos as part of an international campaign to ban cluster munitions, called Ban Advocates. HIB is working with other civil society organisations that share a common goal of preventing the humanitarian and development impacts from cluster munitions, providing assistance to victims and survivors, and ensuring their inclusion in society. An important focus has been to ensure those affected by cluster munitions play a key role in shaping the outcome of the campaign. In Laos a group of eight survivors have been brought together to learn more about the Convention and how they can use their voices in the campaign.





## Achievements in 2009

From Post-clearance Assessments and monitoring visits it is revealed that HIB activities have led to an increase in land available for use, an increase in agricultural activities being carried out leading to improved food security, an increase in productivity of the land through better irrigation systems, a greater diversification of land use, the removal of obstructions to normal daily activities, greater security of property and livestock, and a greater feeling of safety amongst target communities.

HIB supported 45 villages with area clearance:

- 297,260 m<sup>2</sup> of land cleared
- 1,087 items UXO destroyed
- 11,527 direct beneficiaries
- Roving sections visited 14 villages & destroyed 841 UXO including 21 aircraft bombs
- 118 Level 2 surveys for area clearance
- 17 level 2 surveys for roving tasks
- 91 level 3 area clearance completion reports
- Post-clearance Assessments (PCA) on 76 cleared sites
- Medic training in September 2009
- HIB SOPs & CASEVAC/Medivac Procedures updated in line with National Standards
- Training exercises on SOPs and practical CASEVAC exercises conducted regularly
- QM tests and assessments carried
- 30 village reports completed
- Three large billboard/notice boards established in each district capital
- Educational film with RE messages and information on the dangers of UXO developed and used
- 800 T-shirts with RE messages distributed
- 800 caps with RE messages distributed
- 100 vests with RE messages used

- 1000 pens with RE messages distributed
- 1000 cups with RE messages distributed
- 21 focus group discussions with 79 boys, 73 girls, 61 men and 55 women
- 1500 KAP surveys conducted
- 83 safety briefings – 861 males, 786 females, 253 girls and 322 boys
- Two training workshops for Community Volunteers
- 117 monitoring visits by HIB staff to volunteers
- Eight Village presentations (to the entire village)
- 30 household garden projects established.

While it is recognised that homestead food production alone will not eliminate scrap metal collection, it is anticipated that in conjunction with other RE activities, participating families will modify their behaviour to prevent their children from undertaking this extremely dangerous activity. A final report on the findings from the KAP survey demonstrate there has been increased knowledge in HIB target areas and positive changes in behaviour by communities targeted by RE. In said KAP survey carried out in 2008, only 26% of parents stated they forbid their children from using a metal detector and 75% said they do not. In 2009, over 71% of parents said they forbid their children from using a metal detector and 29% said they did not.

## 2009 Case study

Thanks to Handicap International Risk Education the children of Savannakhet are learning that danger can be underneath their feet.

“We know about UXO and that they can explode” 7 year old Sonevilay says. “This is how my friend lost his hand and eye. We are afraid of UXO and we know they are still all around us.”

The damage caused by UXO in Laos extends beyond loss of life and limbs. UXO can deprive an entire family of its livelihood. The fear of UXO puts severe restraints on the ability to feed, clothe and send children to school. In addition, parents live in fear knowing that UXO litters the land where their children are playing.

Tragically, many victims are children. Child injuries are particularly devastating, for they damage young lives and make school and games difficult.



"I feel sad for my classmate Keurk, who lost his hand and an eye two years ago in a bombie explosion," Sonevilay says. "He stands watching from far away because he cannot join us in sports and play. Children in our village have to be very careful or they will be hurt."

Sonevilay's village is particularly affected, as it was the scene of extensive ground battles and intensive aerial bombardments. Many of Sonevilay's village members have lost limbs because of UXO. For children like Sonevilay, education is the best defense against injury. HIB is working with communities in Laos to run Risk Education programmes in the worst affected areas. These programmes help children understand how to avoid UXO, and inform them of the warning signs they should watch for. Children receive Risk Education information through games, books and film, and messages on posters, hats, t-shirts, cups and pens.

Sayalack, is the team leader of HIB, UNICEF-supported RE programme in Laos. He joined the programme to make a contribution toward the children in his province. "I thought it was an obligation to help save many lives by these simple measures," says Sayalack, whose work reaches 4,500 children in most risky areas. "Children are able to express their fears and also learn about the risk of playing with UXO" he adds.

Sayalack believes education should be fun, so he helps children learn through games, quizzes, art and songs. Together, they sing songs and tell stories about the risks of picking up unexploded ordnance.

"I get pleasure from knowing I am helping them have fun as well as maybe saving their lives," says Sayalack. "Truly, I find this programme as essential for the well being of our Laos children."

## 2010 Challenges and/or Opportunities

HIB will be focusing on a district wide approach to the UXO threat and accordingly it is anticipated that HIB will expand its roving capacity in 2010.

Equitable participation by all members of a village in local meetings continues to be problematic. For example younger women generally participate more actively than older women. HIB will continue to strive for all peoples within our beneficiary communities, taking into account age, gender and ethnic background, to be engaged in the activities being conducted.

Investing in volunteers is an effective way to mobilise communities and with appropriate support, volunteers can effectively promote behavioural change and

entrench risk education activities. However, extensive monitoring is required and training of volunteers is crucial. HIB staff will continue to work closely with volunteers to ensure communities are fully engaged in the Risk Education program.

There has been great interest in a household gardens project and there is potential to expand in 2010.

## Implementing Partners or Clients

Handicap International is partnering with the NRA, which plans to establish a provincial office in Savannakhet, with the aim of improving coordination and management of the UXO response in the Southern region. It is expected that the NRA provincial office will open in 2010.

HIB also has an excellent relationship with the district authorities in Savannakhet and will continue to work with the authorities to reduce the threat of UXO there.

Beneficiaries are the population of the three districts of Nong, Sepone and Vilabuly: 77,077 people primarily rice farmers, and supplement their income by selling scrap metal. They comprise a mixture of ethnic groups including Mungkhong, Ta Oi and Phu Tai. The villages where HIB is working are extremely remote and suffer poor communication infrastructure, which deteriorates even more during the rainy season when most villages become difficult, or even impossible to access. The villages selected have been prioritised as they are the poorest, are severely or highly contaminated by UXO, and families' living conditions have strongly been affected by UXO.



UNICEF-supported educational materials help children in Laos learn about UXO and how to avoid harm (photo copyright: Jim Holmes)





**Table 1: HIB Geography of Operations**

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces of Lao PDR implementing Activity in</i>
Area Clearance	Savannakhet
Survey and Roving Clearance	Savannakhet
Risk Education	Savannakhet
Victim Assistance	All of Laos
Other	Ban advocate project – All of Laos

## Financials

**Table 2: HIB Expenditure for 2009 (USD)**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount (USD)</i>
Personnel costs	299,058.40
Operational costs	115,430.07
Special Operational costs	0
Equipment – expendable	42,569.33
Equipment – non-expendable	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>457,057.80</b>

**Table 3: HIB Donor Contributions for 2009 (USD)**

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution Received in 2009 (USD)</i>
AusAID	81,424
European Union	267,864
UNICEF	123,414
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>472,702</b>

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## Lao Disabled People's Association (LDPA)

<http://www.ldpalaos.org/>

### Activities in 2009

The activities undertaken by the LDPA in 2009 were many and varied. They included the first year of a two-year project funded by the AusAID Human Rights Small Grants Scheme. This project seeks to build human and disability rights institutions in the Lao PDR through several approaches; the most prominent of which was a series of workshops held at district and provincial level.

The LDPA also undertook the first year of a two-year project they are working on in collaboration with UNICEF. This project is working to promote the rights of children with disabilities by working with LDPA Provincial Branch Secretaries and representatives from Child Protection Networks. This has involved the development of disability rights materials, which have contributed to disability rights training.

2009 also saw the continued production of monthly television programs and weekly radio programs, which aim to educate and inform communities across the nation about disability and mental health news, issues, activities and services. This is a media project that is worked on by the LDPA media unit in collaboration with BasicNeeds Laos.

As well as these news-based programs, LDPA also produced a series of eight disability rights dramas for radio, which were then adapted for television. These were produced in partnership with Handicap International Belgium (HIB). This activity was part of a larger project in which the LDPA and HIB staff worked closely together to provide disability rights education and training to LDPA Provincial Branch Secretaries with the intention that they will go forward to train 45 disability rights village committees throughout the end of 2009 and into 2010.

LDPA's partnership with HIB also extended to two other projects: One entitled "Linking Employers and Employees with Disabilities" (LEED) and one entitled "Improved Livelihoods to Empower People with Disabilities" (ILED). Both projects seek to financially empower people with disabilities and ensure that they have better access to livelihoods. The LEED project has sought throughout 2009 to link people with disabilities and employers. The ILED project has provided microfinance to people with disabilities at the village level.



*LDPA staff Vilaxay Khodmontry and Bounchanh Phasouk preparing a weekly radio show about disability issues (photo copyright: Tracie Williams)*

The LDPA has also worked in collaboration with the Swedish Organisations of Persons with Disabilities International Aid Association (SHIA) to provide sign language training for LDPA deaf members and for their families. They have also provided similar training to government representatives from the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Information and Culture, as well as representatives from the police force. The LDPA deaf unit has also provided leadership training to a large number of their members.

### Achievements in 2009

LDPA's achievements throughout 2009 were many. In 2009 the LDPA produced eight educational disability rights dramas for national radio and television, and the ongoing broadcasting of educational disability news programs on national radio and television throughout the year.

The LDPA and HIB linked 19 people with disabilities to employers – all of whom are now gainfully employed.





*LDPA staff Suphin Somsana and Nouaneta Latsavongxay at LDPA office in Vientiane*

2009 has seen the completion of six draft disability rights action plans in collaboration with six Government departments at the provincial level (including the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Public Transportation, the Ministry of Information and Culture, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Justice) and the completion of a disability rights mainstreaming guide to be used by NGOs and government agencies working in development in Laos.

The LDPA completed disability rights training workshops with representatives of Child Protection Networks at the provincial level, as well as the production of disability rights training materials, which focus specifically on the rights of children with disabilities.

And finally, a significant step forward has been taken by the LDPA to strengthen, enable and consolidate the deaf community in Laos.

### **2010 Challenges and/or Opportunities**

The Lao Government's ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (which occurred in September 2009) has spurred the LDPA into action to ensure that the Convention is quickly and effectively implemented. Although the process

required in the implementation of the Convention is already well underway in Laos, 2010 presents the LDPA with the opportunity to participate in advancing national recognition, respect of, and as access to disability rights.

The First States Parties Conference will also provide the LDPA opportunity to draw further international attention to the issues faced by people with disabilities in the Lao PDR, both UXO and non-UXO accident survivors. The LDPA hopes that the coming year will attract further donor support, which will inevitably develop the sustainability of the organisation.

### **Implementing Partners or Clients**

The LDPA is a membership-based organisation. It consists of just over 5000 members, all of whom are people with disabilities from each of the eleven provinces in which the LDPA has a Provincial Branch.

The LDPA acts to advocate for the rights of their members as individuals, as well as advocating for the rights of people with disabilities in Laos. Throughout 2009, it has done this in partnership with Handicap International Belgium, AusAID, UNICEF, SHIA and BasicNeeds.



**Table 1: LDPA Geography of Operations**

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces of Lao PDR implementing Activity in</i>
Victim Assistance	Xiengkhuang, Laungprabang, Oudomxay, Xayabury, Huaphanh, Savannakhet, Champasak, Sekong, Saravane, Vientiane Province and Vientiane Capital.

## Financials

**Table 2: LDPA Expenditure for 2009 (USD)**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount (USD)</i>
Personnel costs	69,284.05
Operational costs	92,983.66
Special Operational costs	
Equipment – expendable	
Equipment – non-expendable	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>162,267.71</b>

**Table 3: LDPA Donor Contributions for 2009 (USD)**

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution Received in 2009 (USD)</i>
AusAID	70,364.45
HIB	31,001.32
UNICEF	38,605.78
Basic NEED	12,200
SHIA	22,283.96
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>174,455.51</b>

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## MAG (Mines Advisory Group)

<http://www.maginternational.org/laopdr/Activities>

### Activities in 2009

In 2009 MAG was successful in achieving the twin objectives of UXO Clearance for development actions and supporting the growth of capacity in Lao national UXO sector bodies, UXO Lao and the NRA. These actions directly support the Lao Government's National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy (NGPES) and the Millennium Development Goals.

In support of these objectives, MAG implemented the following activities:

#### UXO Clearance for Development Action

MAG undertakes all UXO Clearance in line with the development priorities outlined in the NGPES. MAG conducts UXO Clearance that benefits remote and vulnerable communities. Where possible this work is conducted in collaboration with development partners implementing activities such as school feeding programs, water and sanitation projects, market gardens, agricultural expansion, and road construction.

#### Operations

MAG deployed eight Unexploded Ordnance Clearance teams (UCT), four Roving Teams and ten Community Liaison teams in Xiengkhuang and Khammuane Provinces, though numbers have varied a little during the year.

#### Community Liaison (CL)

In collaboration with MAG development partners, MAG CL teams worked with targeted communities to assess survey, map, prioritise, clear and return land to the community. This participatory process forms the basis of MAG's clearance operations and ensures that the needs of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged households are prioritised.

#### Village Assistance Clearance (VAC)

VAC is a process whereby local villagers are employed on a temporary basis to remove vegetation at task sites in preparation for clearance activities. The aim of VAC is to enable benefits to be channeled to target communities through an increase in income and ownership of the process. In 2009 MAG moved from an individual contract to a community based contract system. A MAG VAC Officer liaises directly with villages to coordinate scrub clearance at task sites.

#### Capacity Building of National UXO Sector Bodies

In 2009 MAG completed three projects in support of UXO Lao and the NRA. Two MAG Technical Advisers (TAs) supported UXO Lao in Huaphanh, Savannakhet and Champasak provinces. The TAs provided technical and management advice to provincial coordinators and their teams. Another MAG TA worked for some of the year with the NRA MRE Unit, completing the final phase of a three projects, which supported the development of MRE strategies, resources and materials.

### Achievements in 2009

MAG was successful in exceeding project targets in 2009. A summary of programme outputs is given below.

**Table 1: MAG Programme Outputs 2009**

Target Areas	2009
Communities accessed by CL teams	337
MRE sessions held	230
Direct beneficiaries of MRE messaging	28,576
Land cleared of ERWm <sup>2</sup>	7,405,854
Emergency / Spot tasks completed	481
UXO Destroyed	13,958
Direct beneficiaries of clearance	35,095
Number of community members hired to cut scrub (Village Assisted Clearance)	5,356
Percentage of female staff as at December 2009	34%



## 2009 Case Study

### *Twice the rice – in safety*



Photos: copyright Sean Sutton/MAG

Air and his wife Mai have just started harvesting their rice crop. Their farm is in Naweang village in Khammuane Province, Central Laos.

“Every year when I tried to plough the land I would find bombies,” recalls Air. “I would collect them in my T-shirt and put them at the edge of the field. It was dangerous and I was scared but it was safer than hitting them with my trowel. The biggest issue for me was the children. I was worried that they would play with the bombies.” In 2008, MAG cleared the land and found a further 300 bombies.



Photos: copyright Sean Sutton/MAG

Following this work, MAG’s partner Triangle (a rural development NGO) was able to build an irrigation channel and a pumping system that brings water from a

nearby river. This enables families in the area to grow two rice crops per year instead of one. Previously, there was insufficient water to grow rice during the dry season.

MAG works in partnership with organisations like Triangle in order to ensure that UXO clearance produces maximum benefits for communities.

“This paddy field supports nine people including our two children, two orphans we look after and our parents,” says Air. “The land is safe to farm, it is safe for my children and we get two rice crops of rice a year. This means we get more rice and it is fresher, so it tastes much nicer. We are in a much better situation and we are very grateful.”

## 2010 Challenges and/or Opportunities

MAG recognises the following challenges and opportunities for the UXO Sector in 2010.

- MAG welcomes the opportunity to work with the Government of the Lao PDR in implementing the Convention on Cluster Munitions, including the First States Parties Meeting to be hosted in Laos
- A key challenge is to ensure benefits of the new Convention can be directed to maintaining resources at the current levels and indeed increasing them
- There remains the need for a mechanism to accurately measure the impact of HMA in development
- Another key challenge is to continue the dialogue on area reduction methodologies
- MAG intends to continue increasing the clearance output of each team at roughly the same rate as in the past two years
- MAG intends to increase the number of its clearance teams and trial new approaches, which could lead towards one potential definition of an end state.





**Table 2: MAG Implementing Partners or Clients**

<i>Partner</i>	<i>Action</i>
<b>Xiengkhuang</b>	
Concern Worldwide	Irrigation construction, paddy extension
WFP	Gravity fed water systems, roads, buildings
Helvetas	MRE for selecting aluminum from war scrap to make spoons
ADRA	Agriculture and pro-poor tourism development Xiengkhuang
Terra Firma	School compounds
Poverty Reduction Fund	Roads, water piping, village hall, schools
Khoun District Authority	Town water supply
<b>Khammuane</b>	
IRD	School maintenance & construction, school feeding programme , market gardens, agricultural land, wells, boreholes, latrines
Triangle	Irrigation systems and paddy extension
Poverty Reduction Fund	Hospital construction
US Embassy, Lao PDR	School construction

**Table 3: MAG Geography of Operations**

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces of Lao PDR implementing Activity in</i>
Area Clearance	Xiengkhuang, Khammuane
Survey and Roving Clearance	Xiengkhuang, Khammuane
Risk Education	Xiengkhuang, Khammuane

## Financials

**Table 4: MAG Expenditure for 2009 (USD)**

<b>MAG Expenditures</b>	
<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount (USD)</i>
Personnel costs	1,727,088
Operational costs	423,041
Special Operational costs	351,923
Equipment – expendable	69,254
Equipment – non-expendable	198,098
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,769,404</b>

### **Support to the NRA and UXO Lao**

NRA	43,235
UXO Lao	718,828
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>762,063</b>

**Table 5: MAG Donor Contributions for 2009 (USD)**

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution Received in 2009 (USD)</i>
Armor Group (cost recovery)	68,939
JOAC	43,235
AusAID	80,997
Irish Aid	605,000 (multi-year grant from Aug 08)
HDI (USDA)	1,000,000 (one year grant from Oct 08)
DfID	590,331 (for 09 - multi-year grant from Mar 07)
MAG America (U.S. State Department/WRA)	623,194 (one year grant started in May 09)
European Commission	700,000 (EUR 500,000 for 2 years from Apr 09)
ITO Supporting Community	21,930
CRS	8,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,741,626</b>



<http://www.npaid.org/>

## Activities in 2009

- Establishment of operational programme in Lao PDR
- Establishment of Survey and Clearance capacity in provinces of Saravane and Sekong
- Dialogue with the province of Attapeu with a view to start-up in 2010
- Achievements in 2009
- Provisional Accreditation was awarded in time for the start of operations in Saravane Province on 1st of September 2009
- NPA Lao PDR responded to requests from the NRA and a number of external agencies to assist with the Typhoon Ketsana response. NPA Lao PDR conducted risk assessment, survey and clearance activities in affected parts of Saravane and Sekong provinces
- NPA Lao PDR advised Oxfam Australia on Risk Education practices (in relation to the Typhoon Ketsana response)
- NPA Lao PDR assisted UN Habitat with mapping support (also in relation to the Typhoon Ketsana response).

## 2009 Case Study

### ***NPA assists in the aftermath of Typhoon Ketsana***

NPA contributed to the efforts to assist thousands of Lao farmers to resettle after more than 9,600 households were displaced when Typhoon Ketsana hit the country in September.

Many farmers faced great uncertainty where to rebuild their villages and start a new life as large parts of the region are heavily contaminated with bombs and other ordnance originating from the last Indochina war.

NPA were in the process of establishing a cluster munition clearance programme in Lao PDR when the typhoon hit, and were asked by the Authorities to assist with the resettlement of the population in the affected areas.

NPA has field bases in the Saravane and the Sekong Provinces and response plans were made together with the emergency committees there.



*NPA staff training on-site*

In Laos, NPA's field of expertise is the surveying and clearance of areas affected by unexploded ordnance (UXO), such as large air-craft bombs weighing up to several thousands of pounds or smaller sometimes almost unidentifiable cluster bombs that have been dropped in numbers of thousands over both small and large areas.

On Thursday 3rd December NPA's Saravane Field Base received its list of tasks from the Saravane Province Ketsana Emergency Committee. Ongoing Clearance tasks were suspended for the interim, and by the next day NPA teams had left the main field base for the emergency areas.

Working in Ban Saneng and Ban Phobeuy, Ta-oy District, the NPA teams surveyed the land looking for UXO displaced by Ketsana, and ultimately cleared areas of land within these villages. Having finalised the Clearance activities the District Authorities were able to continue on with emergency response measures, and ultimately,





resume the building of planned infrastructure projects including new schools, medical clinics, and village meeting halls.

## 2010 Challenges and/or Opportunities

Following a period of establishment during 2009, NPA Lao PDR looks forward to continuation training for all staff.

Opportunities for the programme include:

- Maximising land release
- Increasing productivity through technical innovation and efficiency measures
- Capturing impact
- Making a projection on the resources required in the NPA operational provinces

## Implementing Partners or Clients

NPA Lao PDR has had a historical partnership with UXO Lao dating back to 1997. Interventions were initially based



MOU signing at the NRA

in the provinces of Attapeu and Sekong. Thereafter, NPA worked with UXO Lao in relation to 'Clearance Systems' and then 'Enhanced Technical Survey'.

Most recently, as of October 2008, NPA has provided technical and financial assistance to UXO Lao operations in Khammuane Province. Between October 2008 and September 2009, a Technical Adviser worked closely with the provincial and operational management team in order to improve operational efficiency. A grant of ca. \$330,000 was awarded during 2009. The partnership continues in 2010.

Table 1: NPA Geography of Operations

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implementing Activity in
Area Clearance	Saravane, Sekong
Survey and Roving Clearance	Saravane, Sekong

## Financials

Table 2: NPA Expenditure for 2009 (USD)

Item	Amount (USD)
Personnel costs	750,000
Operational costs	250,000
Special Operational costs	15,000
Equipment – expendable	250,000
Equipment – non-expendable	1,250,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,515,000</b>

Table 3: NPA Donor Contributions for 2009 (USD)

Donor	Contribution Received in 2009 (USD)
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA)	2,415,000(not including grant to UXO Lao)
United States Department of State (USDOS)	100,000 (pro-rated figure)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,515,000</b>

<http://www.fsd.ch/>

## Activities in 2009

In 2009, FSD conducted UXO Clearance and Mine Risk Education operations in rural, poor districts of the Southern provinces of Savannakhet and Sekong with funding support from the Australian Agency for International Development, CARE Australia's LANGOCA project, and the United States Department of State, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement.

In Savannakhet Province FSD operated two clearance teams from a field office in the town of Sepone. These teams conducted battle area clearance and spot UXO clearance tasks in the poor districts of Vilabouli, Nong and Sepone. FSD worked in partnership with the District Authorities and the World Food Programme to target clearance activities to priority land.

In Sekong Province FSD had one clearance team supporting development initiatives by District Authorities, CARE International, and the World Food Programme. One FSD clearance team traveled throughout the poor and often isolated districts of Dakcheung and Lamarm. They performed roving tasks, battle area clearance, technical survey and mine risk education.

In both locations land released by FSD was used by communities and individuals to improve livelihoods opportunities and increase food security. Typical uses of cleared land included communal facilities (schools, markets, temples etc), agricultural production, fish ponds, roads, and earth dams. Post-clearance Assessments conducted by FSD show that approximately 87.5% of cleared land was used as intended.

In addition to UXO Clearance, FSD has worked closely with the NRA to assist in the development of the administrative documentation necessary for the regulation of the UXO/ Mine Action Sector. In 2007 FSD assisted the NRA with the production of National Standards. In 2008/2009 the support continued with assistance to the NRA in drafting the Training Standards, which standardise training requirements in the Sector.

At the end of 2009, due to funding constraints, FSD ceased UXO Clearance activities. FSD focused the remaining months of 2009 on two UXO Sector support projects involving planning and preparing Senior Explosive Ordnance Technician's training and assisting the NRA

in developing its Quality Management capability. These sector support activities are not new to FSD, however in the past they have been side-components to the core clearance work. By making Sector support activities the core of FSD's operations in Laos, FSD expects to capitalise on the knowledge and experience of our specialists, and work to increase the capacity of individual Lao people and the Government of Lao PDR (GoL) to conduct quality UXO/Mine Action now and into the future.

## Achievements in 2009

FSD met all targets set along with partners. Total figures for 2009:

- FSD conducted 211 battle area clearance tasks and 41 roving tasks
- 532,576 m<sup>2</sup> was released for use by poor communities and individuals
- 1,841 UXO were destroyed including 24 aircraft bombs
- 1,709 households benefited.



Photo- Jim Holmes - TL Vanny Southasee in Sekong Province





A fundamental component of the FSD's programme in Laos is capacity building of national staff. Since commencing work in Laos in 2005, FSD has steadily built up the knowledge, skill and experience of its EOD technical staff to a point where five Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) level 3 team leaders are ready for training as EOD Level 4 Senior EOD Technicians (SEODT) in 2010.

EOD Level 4 SEODT training represents the epitome of capacity building in UXO/Mine Action in Laos. The training is highly technical, comparable to the training received by International Technical Advisors (TAs), who successful graduates will eventually replace. Many International TAs have already been replaced by SEODTs trained on previous courses.

## 2009 Case study

Ms. Manichanh Bouthaphanh is 23 years old and comes from the Southern province of Savannakhet. When FSD started working in her province she applied with the organisation to become a deminer. She had just finished agricultural school but had not yet found a job. Manichanh participated in a three-week training course and was soon working as a deminer with FSD.

Over the next 4 years Manichanh developed her skills as an explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) technician through training courses run by FSD and is now a Level 3 EOD technician. Manichanh says she and her family are happy that she has found work and can help her family and the community by making their lives safer.

In 2010 Manichanh and other Level 3 EOD technicians will participate in an EOD Level 4 training course run by FSD on behalf of the UXO Sector. As a Level 4 she will join a select band of Senior EOD technicians, Lao and international, qualified to defuse bombs, manage large-scale clearance operations and formulate and apply innovative solutions to complex technical problems. FSD is committed to building the capacity of Lao people to empower them to become agents of change in their own communities.

## 2010 Challenges and/or Opportunities

In 2010 FSD will focus on UXO Sector support activities including a Senior Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician Level 4 training course, which will take place from February to May. This course will increase Laos' national UXO clearance capacity through the addition of up to 18 highly trained EOD level 4 Senior Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technicians. More highly qualified Lao staff reduces the UXO Sector's reliance on international EOD technical assistance. It will also be an exercise in the

application of the Lao Training Standards, which were developed in 2008/2009.

FSD will also be assisting the NRA to establish its Quality Management (QM) capability. QM includes Quality Assurance, which verifies processes, i.e. all aspects influencing how the clearance is carried out, and Quality Control, which checks the product and that for clearance involves checking the released land. FSD will be involved with training and equipping two QM teams on behalf of the NRA and developing and implementing systems and procedures for the conduct of QM inspections. The QM teams will work to schedules determined by the NRA and visit UXO clearance operators in the field to conduct inspections. Results of inspections will then be reported to the NRA. The QM inspections will give the NRA confidence that UXO Clearance is being carried out safely, efficiently and in accordance with National Standards and GoL priorities.

FSD will continue to explore partnership opportunities within and without the UXO/Mine Action Sector. The needs perceived by FSD, the GoL and the donor community continue to align; however, coordination will become increasingly important in the coming year. FSD looks forward to participation in and support of the First Meeting of States Parties at the end of the year.

## Implementing Partners or Clients

District Authorities – FSD has worked in direct support of District Authorities in the Savannakhet Districts of Sepone, Vilabouly and Nong and the Sekong District of Lamarm.

CARE Australia – FSD provided UXO clearance and Mine Risk Education to CARE Australia's project: Reducing UXO Risk and Improving Livelihoods of Ethnic Communities in Sekong Province funded by the Lao Australia NGO Cooperation Agreement Program (LANGOCA). FSD also had inputs into the medical training components of the project.

World Food Programme (WFP) – FSD provided UXO clearance to the WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation's Food for Work component in Savannakhet and Sekong Provinces.



**Table 1: FSD Geography of Operations**

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces of Lao PDR implementing Activity in</i>
Area Clearance	Savannakhet, Sekong
Survey and roving Clearance	Savannakhet, Sekong
Risk education	Sekong
Other	National Level input in the Lao PDR Mine Action Training Standards

## Financials

**Table 2: FSD Expenditure for 2009 (USD)**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount (USD)</i>
Personnel costs	574,000
Operational costs	170,700
Special Operational costs	103,600
Equipment – expendable	13,500
Equipment – non-expendable	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>861,800</b>

**Table 3: FSD Donor Contributions for 2009 (USD)**

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution Received in 2009 (USD)</i>
Australia Agency for International Development	551,000
United States Department of State, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement	186,000
CARE Australia	125,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>862,000</b>

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<http://www.sodi.de>

## Activities in 2009

In July 2009 SODI started a new Integrated Programme of Humanitarian UXO and Mine Clearance Projects for Poverty Alleviation and Development in Khamkeuth District, Bolikhamxay Province. Khamkeuth, situated at the border to Vietnam and northern end of the former “Ho-Chi-Minh-Trail”, is a highly UXO contaminated area, severely bombed especially with cluster bombs, and at the same time one of the 46 poorest districts of Lao PDR.

The aim of the SODI Programme is to clear the District of Khamkeuth from ERW within five years time to the extent that they do no longer pose an immediate threat to the life and health of the population in their daily activities. To overcome the impediments of development caused by ERW and to improve living conditions of the local population, UXO clearance has to be followed and complemented by development activities.

The establishment phase of the new programme (July – December 2009) was characterised by the following main activities:

- Selection and training of all programme staff
- Establishment of the programme’s infrastructure (offices, staff accommodation, stores, steering committees at district and provincial levels etc.)
- Import and local purchase of detection and EOD equipment, vehicles, PPE and others
- Detailed needs assessments in 14 contaminated villages named as priorities for UXO clearance by the district authorities
- Technical survey of all areas to clear in 2010 in the villages of Khouan Chanh and Nadeua
- Selection and training of 32 villagers from Ban Khouan Chanh and Ban Nadeua and start of their integration into the clearance works
- Clearance of small areas and carrying out roving tasks as training-on-the-job of all clearance staff



*SODI staff after successfully completing the basic instruction course at UXO Lao Training Centre*

- Preparation of the project proposals for the construction of a primary school in Ban Khouan Chanh and a clean water supply system in Ban Nadeua.

The SODI programme concentrates on UXO clearance in Khamkeuth as the most heavily contaminated district in Bolikhamxay Province. Battlefield Area Clearance has started first in the two villages of Khouan Chanh and Nadeua and will be extended to other highly contaminated villages of Khamkeuth District. The Mobile Team of the programme is prepared to carry out roving and small area clearance tasks also in villages of other districts on request of provincial and local authorities or of the population of affected villages. The establishment phase of the programme in 2009 has created a solid basis for the further development of the Villager Assisted Clearance concept and for developing a sustainable system of clearing residual UXO contamination after the end of the programme in 2014.

## Achievements in 2009

The fundamental achievement of SODI’s integrated programme in 2009 was to having provided all necessary assets to establish a fully operational UXO/Mine Action Programme (human resources, equipment and programme infrastructure).

The most important achievement of the establishment phase was to having set up a highly motivated team



that has received professional instruction and successful training. The team consists of:

- 19 clearance technicians (EOD level 1) and three medics, trained at the UXO Lao Training Centre in Ban Ilay
- Five trained section commanders and with several years of professional experience in similar positions in other UXO clearance organisations
- Two ex-pat SEOD-experts with the highest international degrees for humanitarian UXO/Mine Clearance
- 32 villagers trained as clearance assistants
- Four management staff and seven support staff.

After successful completion of the basic instruction course at UXO Lao Training Centre and under guidance of the two international SEOD-experts of the programme, further development and training of the SODI clearance team started in October 2009.

Focusing on practical training in technical survey and clearance operations under real working conditions in highly contaminated areas, the team attained considerable results. They cleared from late October to mid December 2009 a total area of 6.5 ha and destroyed 1,427 items of UXO; 726 items during battlefield area clearance and 701 items in the course of 22 roving tasks in 12 villages. Nearly 85 % of all destroyed UXO were submunitions of cluster bombs; the main threat throughout the whole district of Khamkeuth.

Another very important achievement during the establishment phase of the integrated SODI programme was the increasing acceptance of aims, priorities and working principles by the local population and authorities. The main factors for the rising consent have been:

- More than 90 % of the technical staff of the programme was recruited locally in the district
- Prioritisation for clearance tasks was made in close cooperation with the local communities
- The integrated approach of UXO Clearance and support to poverty alleviation and development of the SODI programme resulted in a very close cooperation of all stakeholders from the beginning.

## 2009 Case Study

The villagers and especially the mothers of the school children in Ban Nadeua were very concerned about the safety of the school yard.

Mrs. Khankeo CHANTHASONE, mother of 2 children, active member of the Lao Woman Union in Ban Nadeua and Deputy Village Chief explained to SODI at the beginning of the programme:

“The parents of the students like me we are very worried about the situation at the school yard. Cows and buffaloes are invading the place continuously disturbing the children while learning and playing and causing very bad hygienic conditions. We would like to build a new fence to keep them away, but we don’t dare to dig into the ground. We know from incidents in the past, that there are a lot of bombies.”

The SODI-staff cleared the school yard as one of the first tasks still during the time of their further practical training in November 2009. They located and destroyed a total of 54 bombies.



*Mrs. Khankeo CHANTHASONE poses with her children at Ban Nadeua School, Bolikhamxay Province*



## 2010 Challenges and/or Opportunities

2010 is the first year of regular implementation of the integrated programme of SODI. The Team will make strenuous efforts to further develop the concept of Villager Assisted Clearance (VAC) and to make it work in practice. It will be a year of collecting experiences, of developing further the Lao leading field staff, and of creating the conditions for the extension of the programme to new villages. MRE will become a part of the practical work.

## Implementing Partners or Clients

Steering Committees for the SODI programme have been established in Bolikhamxay Province and Khamkeuth District under direction of the Deputy Governors of the province and the district, involving the departments/offices of Labour and Social Welfare, Education, Public Health, Planning and Investment, Administration Office, the Army and the Police. The programme is collaborating very closely with the Lao Woman Union at provincial, district and local levels, especially regarding development projects.

18 members of the clearance staff including medics are women. Special attention is given that the work of the programme benefits ethnic minorities.



SODI Clearance team member in the field, Bolikhamxay Province

**Table 1: SODI Geography of Operations**

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implementing Activity in
Area Clearance	Bolikhamxay
Survey and roving Clearance	Bolikhamxay

## Financials

**Table 2: SODI Expenditure for 2009 (USD)**

Item	Amount (USD)
Personnel costs	207,024.41
Operational costs	55,916.59
Special Operational costs	5,880.63
Equipment – expendable	38,880.27
Equipment – non-expendable	410,857.96
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>718,559.86</b>

**Table 3: SODI Donor Contributions for 2009 (USD)**

Donor	Contribution Received in 2009 (USD)
German Foreign Office	718,559.86
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>718,559.86</b>



## Lao National UXO Programme (UXO LAO)

### Activities in 2009

In 2009 UXO Lao continued its mandate to increase more safe land for agriculture, increase available land for development activities, and reduce the number of UXO casualties. To achieve its goal UXO Lao implements five activities: Community Awareness, Survey, Roving, Clearance and Technical Survey; those activities are carried out in the 9 most impacted provinces.

### Achievements in 2009

#### 1 .Key Achievements

##### Technology

Due to the Global Financial Crisis and other pressing activities it was decided to forgo the planned Technology tour in 2009, however:

- UXO Lao was able to work with Vallon GmbH to improve the Vallon detectors sensitivity to ensure all Bombie types can be detected at a depth of 25cm.
- UXO Lao operationalised the Magnex 120 & Large Loop Data logger systems in the Technical Survey Teams and will continue to expand and improve this form of clearance



##### Procurement

##### Detectors:

- Vallon VMXC1 detector: 127 units
- Ebinger UPEX 740M large loop detectors: 02 units
- Ebinger Magnex 120L magnetometer with data logger: 02 units

##### Vehicles:

- Ford Everest and Ranger pick-up: 05 units
- Toyota Hard Tops: 04 units



UXO female Clearance team in Xiengkhuang Province





## Other Initiatives

- Gender – continued promotion of gender perspectives in Community Awareness, Survey and UXO Clearance; one team of female UXO Clearance was formed in Xiengkhuang Province, as well as promotion of female staff in management positions.
- Technical survey – Implemented in all provinces
- Pre- and post-clearance impact assessment – Procedures and systems being finalised
- Accreditation – In progress
- Quality Assurance/Quality Control – Regional Quality Control Teams formed.
- QM TA's in country and will deploy in 2010

## 2. Operations

- Community Awareness: 617 villages of the 631 villages to be visited
- Area Clearance: 2,552 hectares of the 2,543 hectares of land to be cleared
- Survey Tasks: 1,828 tasks of the 1,316 tasks to be completed
- Roving Tasks: 1,320 tasks of the 1,372 tasks to be completed
- Enhanced Technical Survey: 387 hectares of 405 hectares of land to be cleared.

**Table 1: UXO Lao Detailed Achievements in 2009**

Province	Community Awareness		Survey		Roving	
	Visits	Beneficiaries	Villages	Visits	Villages	Visits
Luangprabang	73	30,816	82	121	71	112
Hauphanh	65	20,066	100	182	82	133
Xiengkhuang	93	11,737	170	226	155	211
Khammuane	69	21,210	99	129	72	130
Savannkhet	64	15,464	149	219	103	120
Saravane	64	19,566	143	155	163	225
Sekong	71	10,050	78	116	42	57
Champasak	60	16,374	231	555	117	232
Attapeu	58	12,865	84	125	69	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>158,148</b>	<b>1,136</b>	<b>1,828</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>1,320</b>

Province	Clearance				Technical Survey			
	Agriculture	Others	Total Area	Beneficiaries	Agriculture	Others	Total Area	Beneficiaries
Luangprabang	215.1703	6.5187	221.6890	4,792	49.0242	3.7786	52.8028	10,481
Hauphanh	216.8356	5.0010	221.8366	19,083	33.3397	10.2693	43.6090	2,327
Xiengkhuang	451.2919	53.3968	504.6887	13,326	44.2035	0.6735	44.8770	16
Khammuane	190.3580	24.8272	215.1852	12,513	48.3556	3.9974	52.353	1,041
Savannkhet	336.6874	11.8350	348.5224	4,509	44.5738	0.0000	44.5738	130
Saravane	286.1398	45.0032	331.143	20,406	30.4185	11.2400	41.6585	11,368
Sekong	175.9270	36.3315	212.2585	8,495	26.964	1.7291	28.7255	4,025
Champasak	245.6173	4.5761	250.1934	4,783	12.1473	34.1155	46.2628	196,295
Attapeu	221.9666	24.8642	246.8308	43,394	29.4801	3.0094	32.4895	8,861
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,239.9939</b>	<b>212.3537</b>	<b>2,552.3476</b>	<b>131,301</b>	<b>318.5391</b>	<b>68.8128</b>	<b>387.3519</b>	<b>234,544</b>



### UXO Found, Removed and Destroyed Statistics

Task	UXO Removed/ Destroyed				Total
	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other	
Roving	271	12,511	59	13,203	26,044
Clearance	35	16,235	33	12,630	28,933
Technical Survey	5	16	0	156	177
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>28,762</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>25,989</b>	<b>55,154</b>

### Training

Course	Course Count	Number of Participations
UXO Clearance	3	94
Medic Review	1	6
Magnetometer and Data Logger	1	9
Detector Maintenance(Vallon and Ebinger)	1	32
Computer Training for DPC and Ops Assistance	1	18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>159</b>

## 2010 Challenges and/ or Opportunities

The main challenge for UXO Lao in 2010 is the funding shortfall for the operating budget that is over US\$6 million. The global financial crisis has impacted on donor contributions, and as of January 2010 UXO Lao is short some US\$2 million. If this shortfall is not met the first item to drop from the budget will be new equipment, which is planned to help increase productivity and thus helping UXO Lao to contribute to the targets set by the Cluster Munitions Treaty. This is not ideal considering in November 2010 the Lao Government will host the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Furthermore, UXO Lao needs to replace much equipment in the southern provinces that was damaged in Typhoon Ketsana and re-locate the office in Attapeu to higher ground.

4. IFAD
5. Poverty Reduction Fund
6. JICA, Japan
7. World Vision
8. OXFAM
9. Lao Government (rural development)
10. UNDP

## Implementing Partners or Clients

1. Armor Group North America (AGNA)
2. Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS)
3. Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
4. Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)

## Clients

1. World Food Programme
2. ACF
3. UNICEF



UXO female Clearance team in Xiengkhuang Province





**Table 2: UXO Lao Geographic Operations**

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces of Lao PDR implementing Activity in</i>
Area Clearance	Attapeu, Champasak, Khammuane , Huaphanh , Luangprabang, Saravane, Savannakhet, Sekong, Xiengkhuang
Survey and Roving Clearance	Attapeu, Champasak, Khammuane , Huaphanh , Luangprabang, Saravane, Savannakhet, Sekong, Xiengkhuang
Risk Education	Attapeu, Champasak, Khammuane , Huaphanh , Luangprabang, Saravane, Savannakhet, Sekong, Xiengkhuang
Victim Assistance	All of Laos

**Table 3: UXO Lao Expenditure for 2009 (USD)**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount (USD)</i>
Personnel Expenses	3,536,521
Operating Expenses	1,197,457
Special Operating Expenses	265,402
Non-Expendable Equipment	1,037,721
Expendable Equipment	454,010
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,491,111</b>
<b>Support Costs</b>	
UNDP GMS Support Costs LAO/95/A12	13,845
UNDP GMS Support Costs LAO/03/M12	31,766
UNDP GMS Support Costs LAO/03/O12	172,796
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>218,407</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>6,709,518</b>

**Table 4: UXO Lao Donor Contributions for 2009 (USD)**

<b>1- UNDP Managed Trust Fund</b>	<b>1996-2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Total Funds Received</b>
<b>Lao/95/A12</b>			
United Kingdom	138,020	0	138,020
Netherlands	2,901,220	0	2,901,220
Norway	2,874,201	0	2,874,201
New Zealand	1,213,077	0	1,213,077
Sweden	394,176	0	394,176
Australia	1,341,193	0	1,341,193
Canada	607,982	0	607,982
Finland	1,589,348	0	1,589,348
United States of America	3,103,086	0	3,103,086
Belgium	555,734	0	555,734
Denmark (UXO Lao)	1,973,022	0	1,973,022
Denmark (MAG)	3,539,360	0	3,539,360
Japan	442,924	0	442,924
Luxembourg	1,724,747	0	1,724,747
South Korea	48,584	0	48,584
Trust Fund Interest	912,505	0	912,505
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,359,179</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23,359,179</b>

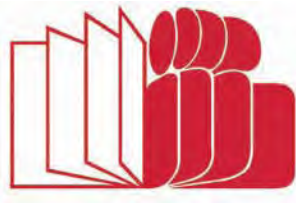


<b>Lao/02/H12</b>			
United Kingdom	194,175	0	194,175
UNDP Trac Fund 2007	27,027	0	27,027
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>221,202</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>221,202</b>
<b>Lao/03/M12</b>			
United Kingdom	1,003,729	143,062	1,146,790
Canada	595,118	0	595,118
Japan	194,001	0	194,001
Germany	1,189,102	351,617	1,540,719
South Korea	90,000	0	90,000
Italy	161,464	0	161,464
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,233,413</b>	<b>494,679</b>	<b>3,728,092</b>
<b>Lao/03/O12</b>			
UNDP for CTA/ NRA	559,505	0	559,505
New Zealand (NRA)	39,690	0	39,690
Germany	840,000	0	840,000
UNDP Trac Fund 2004	427,375	0	427,375
UNDP Trac Fund 2005	657,153	0	657,153
UNDP Trac Fund 2006	504,878	0	504,878
UNDP Trac Fund 2007	346,760	0	346,760
UNDP Trac Fund 2008	500,000	-4,590	495,410
UNDP Trac Fund 2009	0	400,000	400,000
Ireland	1,348,601	1,367,093	2,715,694
AusAid	247,934	0	247,934
Switzerland	2,209,910	250,000	2,459,910
Japan Phase 1	741,806	0	741,806
Japan Mine Action Service	1,665,598	574,277	2,239,875
Japan Phase 2	875,239	0	875,239
Japan Phase 3	861,280	0	861,280
Japan Phase 4	0	618,774	618,774
Luxembourg	1,007,666	0	1,007,666
Poland	11,100	0	11,100
Japan Asean Integration Fund	913,264	0	913,264
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,757,760</b>	<b>3,205,553</b>	<b>16,963,314</b>
<b>TOTAL 1</b>	<b>40,571,554</b>	<b>3,700,232</b>	<b>44,271,787</b>





<b>2- Other Funding Sources</b>			
<b>Funding channeled through Partners</b>			
United States of America via ArmorGroup	1,297,648	897,017	2,194,665
United States of America via NPA/MAG	3,491,712	0	3,491,712
Ireland via MAG	1,158,638	411,625	1,570,263
AusAid via MAG	175,251	-20,957	154,294
Norwegian People's Aid	202,583	269,362	471,944
Australian Embassy Donation	10,203	0	10,203
European Commission	186,050	0	186,050
Poland Embassy	0	15,025	15,025
Foundation World Without Mines	230,000	88,170	318,170
ITO Supporting Comity	0	53,600	53,600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,752,085</b>	<b>1,713,842</b>	<b>8,465,927</b>
<b>Direct Funding to UXO Lao</b>			
UNICEF	495,358	0	495,358
Australia Direct Aid	2,880	0	2,880
United States of America	176,013	0	176,013
United Kingdom	344,497	0	344,497
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,018,747</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,018,747</b>
<b>Other Funding Sources</b>			
UNDP	2,120,000	0	2,120,000
Mennonite Central Committee	25,000	0	25,000
Private Contributions	66,564	11,255	77,818
Government donation	1,706	1,262	2,968
Exchange Rate Rev. Reserve	-51,287	17,275	-34,012
UXO Lao Operation Account	6,401	0	6,401
Sale of UXO Lao Assets	49,381	6,390	55,771
Reimbursable Operations	34,228	39,564	73,792
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,251,993</b>	<b>75,745</b>	<b>2,327,738</b>
<b>TOTAL 2</b>	<b>10,022,826</b>	<b>1,789,587</b>	<b>11,812,413</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>50,594,380</b>	<b>5,489,819</b>	<b>56,084,199</b>



## World Education/Consortium

<http://laos.worlded.org/>

### Activities in 2009

Victim Assistance – World Education/Consortium's Victim Assistance activities include upgrading skills in emergency and surgical care, providing funding for emergency and continuing medical care and livelihoods development. Through the War Victims Medical Fund 60 UXO survivors in seven provinces received financing for emergency and surgical care. The costs covered include all medication, hospital fees, diagnostic services, transportation and a small living allowance.

Once people have left the hospital, the Department of Health staff (through the Quality of Life Rehabilitation Working Groups) in the target provinces follow them up in their villages, fill out a socio-economic survey form, and recommend further care, education support or vocational training/grants. 36 UXO survivors received continuing medical care, which included wound care or removal of shrapnel. In Huaphanh, Xiengkhuang, Saravane provinces 144 UXO survivors or family members attended seven sessions of training in animal raising and 164 families of UXO survivors received grants for strengthening family incomes.

In Saravane and Champasak Provinces, medical and nursing staff received training from Vientiane-level institutions during 2006 to 2008. During 2009, many of these students trained other staff at provincial and district levels. Training topics included district level nursing technical training, medical equipment maintenance, and surgical team refresher courses.

UXO Education and Awareness – Activities improved both management skills of education supervisors, training of trainers, training of school directors and teacher mentors who assist classroom teachers in presenting the activities of the curriculum. There are currently 5,736 teachers teaching 173,192 students in 1,726 primary schools in the programme. They are located in the 37 districts in nine provinces.

### Achievements in 2009

Victim Assistance – The War Victims Medical Fund (WVMF) pays costs of emergency and continuing medical treatment for UXO survivors. Additional funding through DoS/ WRA allowed the expansion of the fund to Khammouane and Sekong Provinces in addition to the existing areas of activity in Xiengkhuang,

Huaphanh, Savannakhet, Saravane, and Champasak Provinces. Activities involved in expanding the WVMF include setting up a province-based working group, determining province-based policies on use of the fund, training for medical, nursing and administration staffs in implementing the fund, collecting and summarising data and billing, and planning for continuing treatment and follow-up. Provinces also disseminate the availability and policies of the fund so people injured by UXO incidents know they can receive immediate treatment when they go to hospitals in the target areas. The WVMF has also provided funding for treatment services for UXO survivors outside of target areas when the NRA or other partners have requested assistance.

World Education/Consortium works closely with government counterparts so they implement the work in order to promote sustainability. For the medical program, medical and nursing staff continue to provide the services for which they received training; this includes services necessary for emergency treatment such as diagnostic services (laboratory, x-ray) and rehabilitation skills for nurses while caring for people with disabilities in the hospital setting.

UXO Education and Awareness - UXO Education and Awareness has been working with the Ministry of Education to develop a UXO Education Strategy and sustainability plan. Plans for 2010 include expansion to three new districts (Thathom, Mok, and Samakhixay) as well as continued development of technical and management skills to education staff at the province and district levels, teaching training. Additional primary school puppetry teams will be trained, starting with four new teams in Khammouane Province.

### 2009 Case study

Ye-ah Lee lost all hope after he lost both lower legs in a cluster bomb incident in August, 2008, in which he had struck a bombie buried in the ground while hoeing in an upland rice field. Living in a remote area, it took several hours to arrive at the province hospital by tok-tok. His wife, who was pregnant at the time, stayed with him throughout his treatment.

The War Victims Medical Fund provided all costs for his treatment. He returned to his home village for the birth of his youngest child then returned to the rehabilitation center for prosthetic legs. The Quality of Life Rehabilitation (QoLR) Working Group members (which oversee livelihoods development) surveyed him at home, where

the family requested assistance in raising animals. Ye-ah Lee's brother attended a training session and the family received a grant for raising pigs. In December 2009, the QoLR Working Group invited Ye-ah Lee to attend the animal raising training himself.

"When I was first injured, I felt very depressed. I have six children and I thought if I could not provide for them, I'd rather die," Ye-ah had told staff. "Now, that I can walk and have funds for raising animals and helping my family, I feel hope."

### 2010 Challenges and/or Opportunities

**Victim Assistance** - In 2010, the challenge is to continue to develop and expand the full-range of Victim Assistance interventions within current provinces and expand to other provinces that have UXO incidents. The continuing challenge remains in developing systems that will give hospital and Department of Health staff the ability to treat and provide funding for UXO survivors. Another challenge is developing the technical skills in new target areas for providing emergency care.

**UXO Education and Awareness** – The focus will be on developing a ten-year strategy and the systems that will build the capacity of Ministry of Education staff to take over management of the program and to also expand to other communities and districts with UXO contamination and related incidents.

### Implementing Partners or Clients

The National Rehabilitation Center is our partner for UXO Victim Assistance activities.

The Department of Pre- and Primary School Education is our partner for UXO Education and Assistance.

Departments of Health and Education at the provincial and district levels are both beneficiaries and partners for providing services to UXO survivors and teachers.



*Mr Ye-ah Lee receiving animal husbandry training*



*Mr Ye-ah Lee working in his home village*

**Table 1: WEC Geography of Operations**

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implementing Activity in
Risk Education	Huaphanh, Xiengkhuang, Luangprabang, Khammuane, Savannakhet, Saravane, Champasak, Attapeu
Victim Assistance	Huaphanh, Xiengkhuang, Luangprabang, Khammuane, Savannakhet, Saravane, Champasak, Attapeu





## Financials

**Table 2: WEC Expenditure for 2009 (USD)**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount (USD)</i>
UXO Education	94,280
Medical training	49,475
Training and grants for UXO Survivors	43,107
UXO survivor medical treatment and continuing medical treatment	8,871
Office rent and information center	6,122
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>201,855</b>

**Table 3: WEC Donor Contributions for 2009 (USD)**

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution Received in 2009 (USD)</i>
United States Agency for International Development: Support for War Victims and People with Disabilities Project in Saravane and Champasak Provinces	49,475
US Department of State/ Weapons Removal and Abatement: Sustainable Economic Funds for UXO Survivors	14,116
US Department of State/ Weapons Removal and Abatement: UXO Education and Awareness	94,280
Association through Aid and Relief (AAR)	3,317
McKnight Foundation	16,799
Economic Assistance for UXO and Landmine Survivors in Laos (Dutch Embassy)	21,367
Grapes for Humanity	3,000
<b>TOTAL (these are funds out of total grants for 2009 only)</b>	<b>202,354</b>

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# ASA Power Engineering Co.Ltd.

## Activities in 2009

In 2009 ASA Power Engineering Co. Ltd undertook Survey and Clearance operations in the areas designated for the installation of electricity foot posts and a proposed 115 KW transmission line easement from Phonsavanh District, Xiengkhuang Province to Samnua District, Huaphanh Province.

## Achievements in 2009

16,963 Kilometers were surveyed and cleared and this included area for 43 electricity posts. Land for 192 electricity foot posts was planned to be surveyed, however this was only 45% completed. Eleven access tracks were also surveyed and yielded 387 UXO, including 112 bombs and 115 other of varying types.

## 2010 Challenges and/or Opportunities

The location of activities is a difficult mountainous terrain and subject to high UXO contamination. It is also prone to extreme weather, and can often experience volatile shifts bringing on heavy storms or thick fog, which complicates the working conditions further.

## Implementing Partners or Clients

Our major partners are the line easement teams working on the 115 KW high transmission line easement project, who benefit from the removal of the UXO threat. Additionally, the local communities benefit by receiving improved security as UXO contamination is removed.

**Table 1: ASA Geography of Operations**

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implementing Activity in
Area clearance	Xiengkhuang, Huaphanh
Survey and Roving clearance	Xiengkhuang, Huaphanh
Other	Xiengkhuang, Huaphanh, Vientiane Capital

## Financials

**Table 2: ASA Expenditure for 2009 (USD)**

Item	Amount (USD)
Personnel costs	34,227
Operational costs	6,745
Special Operational costs	1,000
Equipment – expendable	12,277
Equipment – non-expendable	1,347
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55,596</b>

**Table 3: ASA Donor Contributions for 2009 (USD)**

Donor	Contribution received in 2009 (USD)
Lao Government Loan	800,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>800,000</b>

<http://www.bactec.com/>



*Level 3 Students undergoing DGPS Training*

A subsidiary of the BACTEC group of global companies has been established in Lao PDR to provide high quality professional Explosive Ordnance and Mine Action Services to the region, including the Pacific Rim. BACTEC has extensive experience in the survey, investigation, consultancy, training, and clearance of areas contaminated with explosive remnants of war and mines, both on land and underwater. BACTEC provides high quality, independent services on all matters relating to explosives.

## Activities in 2009

Throughout 2009 BACTEC Lao Limited conducted the following activities:

1. BACTEC was awarded a two-year contract for Unexploded Ordnance Remediation services to the Sepon Gold and Copper Operation commencing in July 2007. Due to the worldwide economic downturn 2009 saw a dramatic reduction in UXO clearance, however, at the end of the contract on 31 July 2009 BACTEC had cleared 7.3 million m<sup>2</sup> and destroyed 1,603 hazardous items of UXO within the LXML MEPA without major incident or accident
2. Supporting mineral exploration by supervising the vegetation reduction and visually searching more than 300km of magnetometer survey lines in extremely remote and rugged locations of Sekong
3. 61,692m<sup>2</sup> area clearance supporting gas drilling operations in Saravane
4. Level 1 Survey and Risk assessment and UXO clearance of 22,950m<sup>2</sup> in Hongsa District, Xayabury Province
5. BACTEC conducted a Level 1 Survey and Risk Assessment in Attapeu and Sekong. As part of BACTEC's strong commitment to supporting the communities in which it works, BACTEC conducted Mine Risk Education (MRE) presentations and gave donations of essential goods such as salt in 26 villages
6. Supporting NTPC's commitment of assistance to the villages in its downstream area BACTEC UXO cleared an area of 15,443 m<sup>2</sup> for a school construction site and conducted 258 small area clearances to facilitate the safe construction of toilets and water wells. More of this work including MRE is planned for 2010
7. Pathfinding in support of downstream sediment sampling in Sekong
8. Supervising the vegetation reduction and visually searching more than 150km of magnetometer survey lines again in Sekong
9. Small area clearance task of 3,830 m<sup>2</sup> in Vientiane Province
10. Pathfinding services in support of mineral exploration in Sekong
11. BACTEC conducted a Level 1 Survey and Risk Assessment in support of seismic oil exploration. Although this project took place in Nong Khai Thailand, it was however a BACTEC Lao Limited project and as such resulted in a capital input into the Lao PDR
12. BACTEC Lao personnel were utilised to survey 405 hectares of seabed in Manila Bay after dredging operations uncovered WW II Japanese projectiles. As with Hess, whilst this project did not take place in Lao, BACTEC Lao personnel were utilised and therefore there was a capital input into the Lao PDR





13. Based on cost recovery only, BACTEC conducted 48 days of training and QA/QC in support of Handicap International's excellent work
14. BACTEC raised \$383 in T-Shirt sales that was donated to C.O.P.E.

## Achievements in 2009

With the challenging economic climate of 2009, BACTEC Lao has certainly noticed the downturn in the commercial economy and as a result did not achieve the amount of cleared land handed back, it had hoped to achieve. However, and of more important and long term value, BACTEC has been able to increase its number of high quality Lao staff and has been able to continue with its development of these staff through its training program.

BACTEC has provided GIS staff with external Data Base Entry Courses, our senior EOD Technicians with cash book accounting training, Level 3 EOD training, spot tracker and communications training, and first aid refresher courses.

One of the most important achievement with regards to improving safety for 2009 was driver training. BACTEC Lao realised that driving to and from tasks was undoubtedly the most dangerous aspect of our work here in Laos. Despite the harsh economic climate seven drivers (three permanent and four casual) were put through an extensive driving course. This has been the single biggest improvement in safety for BACTEC Lao in 2009 and represents a great achievement against the backdrop of economic downturn.

Additionally, BACTEC Lao has purchased a number of breathalyzer units and in line with its zero tolerance policy conducts regular and random tests of all staff.



Random Breath Testing of all BACTEC Personnel

## 2009 Case study

Undoubtedly, BACTEC's biggest achievement for 2009 was not only surviving the global economic downturn but being able to expand its operations and staffing. A case study of achievement is presented by our senior Lao staff member Somsueth (Victor) Souliya. Victor has with the exception of a three-year hiatus as a Team Leader for LXML's Sepon Emergency Response Team, been involved in the UXO Clearance Industry in Lao since 1994. Since joining BACTEC in March 2008, he has completed the BACTEC Level 3 EOD technician's course, advanced driving training and has conducted computer and cashbook accounting training. Victor has conducted two international tasks for BACTEC and his current position is the BACTEC Senior Operations Supervisor reporting directly to the Country Manager.

Victor's assessment of work quantities and clearance rates is extremely accurate and his sense of humor and easy going nature make him ideal for community relations. He has a strong interest in the database and GIS aspect of BACTEC's work and is extremely quick to embrace new technology. However, BACTEC believes that Victor's achievements so far have only scratched the surface of his abilities and have further plans for him in 2010. Victor is one of four brothers all of whom are high achievers working within the UXO Sector. Two of Victor's brothers are also BACTEC Lao Limited employees.

## 2010 Challenges and/or Opportunities

The world economic downturn has presented the BACTEC Global Group of Companies with many challenges. BACTEC Lao Limited saw a dramatic reduction in business with many projects being postponed or not started. In addition to this many companies have opted for "cheaper options" as opposed to reputable and accredited UXO clearance companies. Despite this BACTEC Lao limited has been able to increase its number of permanent Lao Staff and continue its training programs in order to develop them. As the economy now improves BACTEC is placed in a solid position to take advantage of the increasing opportunities.

## Implementing Partners or Clients

**MMG LXML** - Sepon Gold and Copper Operation

**Hebei Province Construction and Investment Company** – Mineral Exploration.

**Salamander Energy (Lao)** - Oil and gas exploration in Central Lao PDR.

**Banpu Power** - Hongsa Power Project.



**Rio Tinto Exploration** - Rio Tinto is one of the world's leading mining and exploration companies

**NTPC** - Nam Theun II Hydropower Project in Khammuane Province in Laos

**Geomap Laos** - Mineral systems mapping and exploration company

**Phu Bia Mining** – Xaisomboun Gold and Copper

**Logantek** – Geophysical Exploration Services

**Lao Agar Int'l Development Co. Ltd.** – Agar Wood

**Hess Oil & Gas** - Malaysian based independent energy company

**International Container Services Incorporated** – Port Facilities

**Handicap International** - NGO providing technical assistance, training and counselling services to local organisations of disabled people

**C.O.P.E.** – NGO providing of prosthetic, orthotic and rehabilitation services



Victor Conducting Level 1 Survey in Attapeuc

**Table 1: BACTEC Geography of Operations**

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in
Area Clearance	Attapeu, Savanakhet, Saravane, Xayabury, Khammuane, Vientiane, Xiengkhuang
Survey and Roving Clearance	Attapeu, Sekong, Xayabury, Khammuane
Risk Education	Attapeu, Sekong, Saravane
Other	Mapping in Attapeu and Sekong

## Financials

**Table 2: BACTEC Expenditure for 2009 (USD)**

Item	Amount (USD)
Personnel costs	421,494.93
Operational costs	108,244.82
Special Operational costs	0
Equipment – expendable	12,734.00
Equipment – non-expendable	6,367.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>548,840.75</b>





# Milsearch BPKP EOD Joint Venture Ltd.

<http://www.milsearch.com.au/>

## Activities in 2009

In 2009 Milsearch supported Phu Bia Mining Limited in both exploration and mining at Ban Phonxai, Ban Houay Xai, Ban Nam Ve and Phonsavane, as well as UXO clearances at Theun Hinboun and in Southern Saravane. These activities ranged from BAC on mining exploration sites, to hydropower line clearance, and agricultural clearance activities clearing approximately 1,484,401m2 from October to December alone.

## Achievements in 2009

During 2009 Milsearch Clearance activities began slowly as a direct result of Global Financial Crisis, but began gathering momentum to a peak period throughout October, November and December 2009. During this latter part of the year Milsearch had over 200 personnel in the field simultaneously, most notably at Ban Houay Xai, where Milsearch established an independent 'Fly Camp', referred to as 'Camp Python', with messing and accommodation catering for 140 personnel.

## 2009 Case study

Camp Python was initially established for two UXO teams of approximately 38 personnel at the request of Phu Bia Mining, Mining Department. The camp was established due to the limited contractor accommodation available at the main Houay Xai campsite. The camp was ramped up from 38 personnel to 140 personnel within a matter of two weeks. This was a significant achievement, as the teams constructed accommodation and messing facilities they were also being deployed to the field. The fly camp evolved to include ablutions and recreational facilities, and was a continual work in progress. Once the UXO Clearance was completed under Phase 1 of the Phu Bia, Ban Houay Xai Gold – Copper project, the camp was vacated by Milsearch, and other contractor services moved in to occupy the camp. Whilst supporting Phu Bia at several different geographic areas, Milsearch still had the capacity to conduct UXO Clearance at Theun Hinboun and Saravane and to leased a significant number of detectors and support equipment to the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) in order to enable them to commence and sustain their clearance activities in Laos.



*Ban Houay Xai Site conditions*



*On-site training*



*Camp Python Early Development*



*Camp Kitchen*





## 2010 Challenges and/or Opportunities

Milsearch's focus during 2010 will be to remain competitive against a number of newly established and growing numbers of commercial UXO companies, as well as the existing commercial companies already established here in Laos, in a continually evolving UXO disposal environment. Furthermore, we will continue to provide training to our personnel, and support the NRA in their efforts to promote UXO awareness through such activities as the National Mine Awareness day, the Technical Working Groups, and various other vital initiatives.

## Implementing Partners or Clients

Milsearch is partnered here in Laos with Bolistat Phathana Khet Phoudoi (BPKP) (recently renamed Latvisahakith Phathana Khet Phoudoi (LPD)), which is a company within the Lao Government, now under the Ministry of Finance.

**Table 1: Milsearch Geography of Operations**

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in
Area Clearance	Xiengkhuang; 1,880,008m <sup>2</sup> , at Ban Houay Xai, Ban Phonxai, Phonsavan, Theun Hinboun, Nam Ve  Southern Saravane; Phonhin & Phokhem

## Financials

**Table 2: Milsearch Expenditure for 2009 (USD)**

Item	Amount (USD)
Personnel costs	240,160.00
Operational costs	160,275.00
Special Operational costs	N/A
Equipment – expendable	10,079.00
Equipment – non-expendable	43,357.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>453,871.00</b>



## MMG/LXML Sepon



<http://www.mmgrouppltd.com/>

MMG owns and operates a portfolio of world-class base metal mining operations, development projects and exploration fields. MMG is the world's second largest producer of zinc as well as a substantial producer of copper, lead, gold and silver.

### Activities in 2009

UXO Clearance activities supporting MMG/LXML Sepon Operations were considerably quieter than previous years as a direct result of the world economic crises during the first half of 2009.

UXO Clearance was generally restricted to supporting Mining operations during Q1, 2 and 3. Clearance activities rapidly increased during Q4 providing support to exploration, mining, construction, copper plant expansion projects and the recommencement of the 115Kv Power Line Project.

Production capacity increased dramatically after the wet season with annual production totals of:

**Table 1: MMG Outputs for 2009**

Area Clearance	
Activity	Ha
Vegetation Cutting	218
Shallow Search (0 – 25cm)	144
Deep Search (0.25 – 14m)	252
Total Area Cleared	396

UXO Destroyed	
Type	Qty
Bomb	3
Cluster Munitions	140
Other	630
Total	773

**Table 2: MMG Geography of Operations**

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in
Area Clearance	Savannkhet and Khammuane

### Financials

**Table 3: MMG Expenditure for 2009 (USD)**

Item	Amount (USD)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,306,485</b>

### Achievements in 2009

MMG LXML assumed responsibility for UXO clearance activities in support of its own operations in 2009 after 16 years of contractor provided services.

MMG LXML continued its commitment to the Lao PDR and local community capacity building by providing EOD Level III training to a number of employees. This training was compliant with the Lao PDR National UXO/ Mine Action and International Mine Action Standards.

Significant advances in understanding our detection capabilities for deep buried UXO were achieved at the LXML Sepon UXO testing grounds.

### 2010 Challenges and/or Opportunities

- Zero harm and fatality free
- AS4801 accreditation
- Capacity building for national staff; including EOD Level II, III & IV training conducted internally, Geographic Information Systems training provided nationally and Geophysics training conducted overseas
- Continue developing a better understanding of detection depth capabilities of UXO deep search equipment
- Continue working towards building the next generation's leading global diversified minerals and Metals Company
- Operating according to our values of Respect, Integrity, Action and Results.



## Phoenix Clearance Ltd. (PCL)

<http://www.phoenixclearanceltd.com/>

### Activities in 2009

- Nakai/Udomsuk, Khammuane Province: standard UXO Clearance operations 300,000m<sup>2</sup>; 1600 UXO destroyed
- Khammuane Province: standard UXO Clearance operations 200,000m<sup>2</sup>
- Khamkeuth District, Bolikhamxay Province: standard UXO Clearance operations 300,000m<sup>2</sup>; 116 UXO destroyed
- Bolikhamxay: standard UXO Clearance operations 300,000m<sup>2</sup>; 23 UXO destroyed
- Phookood District, Xiengkhuang Province: 30,000m<sup>2</sup> Pattern Laid Mine field clearance; 120,000m<sup>2</sup> UXO Clearance surrounding lands; 90 Landmines and 124 UXO destroyed.
- Phookood District, Xiengkhuang Province: standard UXO Clearance 120,000m<sup>2</sup>; 172 UXO destroyed
- Response team Nakai District, Khammuane Province: (16 Villages) 832 Village Visits; 847 UXO destroyed
- Khamkeuth District, Bolikhamxay Province: Ban Korhai Area School clearance 50,000m<sup>2</sup>; 23 UXO destroyed

### Achievements in 2009

The adverse economic climate 2008 – 2009 caused many clients to put plans on hold, which had a flow on effect to the amount of UXO action PCL was contracted for during the year. However, PCL still managed to complete all contracts resulting in 1,402,000m<sup>2</sup> cleared of UXO and landmines, and successfully destroyed 2,781 items of UXO without accident or incident.

### Case study

Kohai School Clearance (Khamkeuth) - While performing UXO works for a client in Khamkeuth District, PCL staff were approached by the Ban Kohai Area school head teacher who said there had been children killed near the

school in the past few years and has seen UXO in the yard, he asked the team if they could clear the school yard.

The request was passed to PCL HQ who approached an Australian Veterans group MIVAC Trust who successfully rose the funding to partially cover PCL costs. The shortfall was contributed in kind by PCL management.

Between the 11th Sept and the 14th September 2009, PCL UXO Teams conducted UXO Clearance on 5 square hectares in-and-around the Kohai area school. During the activity the PCL teams cleared the complete school yard and the school accommodation grounds and garden finding and destroying 44 UXO.

The team also performed level one UXO Survey of the local area, which surrounds the school, and in the process identified that the communal rice lands contained considerable UXO contamination.

On 14th, September 2009, the final detonations were completed and the site handed over to the village in an official ceremony. Plans are in place to return and clear the communal rice land early 2010. This project showed good cooperation between PCL, a commercial clearance company, and a humanitarian organisation, both of which contributed to a worthy cause.



*M23 Napalm Igniter*





20mm Aircraft cannon projectiles



Blue UXO found flags Kohai School yard



PCL Site sign Kohai School



PCL Clearance staff Kohai School

## 2010 Challenges and/or Opportunities

The single biggest challenge facing PCL, like all commercial UXO Clearance contractors in Lao PDR, is the general reluctance of development projects to perform UXO clearance once they find out the cost.

There are numerous forestry and development projects running today in UXO contaminated areas whose managers knowingly endanger Lao workers. Unfortunately, the application of Lao decrees, NRA strategies and standards, and UN basic human right

principles (the right to a safe work environment, enshrined in article 7 of the international covenant of economic social and cultural rights) are poorly enforced. This make it simple for companies that wish to build upon contaminated land to do so without carrying out Clearance activities. Until this is resolved this sector will continue to be difficult for commercial operators.

## Implementing Partners or Clients

N/A "not public information"

**Table 1: PCL Geography of Operations**

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in
Area Clearance	Khammuane, Bolikhamxay, Xiengkhuang
Survey and Roving Clearance	All the following villages are in Nakai District, Khammuane Province; Thalang, Nong Boua, Sop Phene, Sob Hia, Sop Ma, Nam Nian, Nakai Tai, Nakai Neua, Oudomsouk, Phonphanpek, Phonsavang, Bouama, Sop-On, Done Khone, Kaen, Nong Boua

## Financials

**Table 2: PCL Income and Expenditure for 2009 (USD)**

Item	Amount (USD)
Income	336,000
Expenditure	278,000

# **Annexes**

**The Convention on Cluster Munitions**

**The International Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities**

**The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty (Ottawa)**

**PM Decree on the National Commission for Disabled People**

# Convention on Cluster Munitions

### What does the Convention ban or prohibit?

The Convention bans the use, production, development, acquisition, stockpile and transfer of cluster munitions. A "cluster munition" is defined within the Convention as a weapon that is designed to disperse or release explosive submunitions.

### Are there any exceptions?

The Convention does not ban a cluster munition that **contains no High Explosives** or has **fewer than 10 submunitions**, of which the submunitions must weigh less than 4 kilograms, are able to detect and engage a single target, and are equipped with electronic self-destruction and self-deactivating mechanisms.

The Convention does not apply to anti-personnel landmines.

The Convention prohibits States Parties from assisting, encouraging or inducing anyone to engage in any activity prohibited by the Convention. However, the Convention outlines this does not exclude States Parties from engaging in military cooperation and operations with States not party to the Convention that might engage in activities prohibited to a State Party.

### What is required with respect to stockpiled cluster munitions?

The Convention requires each State Party to destroy stockpiled cluster munitions within **eight years** of the entry into force of the Convention for that State. States Parties may retain a minimum amount of cluster munitions that "absolutely necessary" for training purposes.

### How many years does the Convention allow for clearance?

The Convention requires each States Party to clear all affected areas under its jurisdiction or control "as soon as possible and not later than **ten years** after entry into force of the Convention" for that State Party. For severely affected states that are unable to clear and destroy all cluster munitions within the timeframe, they can request extensions of up to **5 years** at a time. Extensions can be granted as many times as required for a severely affected State Party.

### Does the Convention provide for assistance in implementation, monitoring and ensuring compliance?

The Convention provides each States Party with the right to seek and receive assistance in fulfilling its obligations under the Convention. The Convention also requires each State Party "in a position to do so" to provide assistance for mine clearance, mine awareness, stockpile destruction and the care, rehabilitation and reintegration of cluster munitions victims.

The Convention requires each State Party to provide an annual transparency report on numbers and types of stockpiled cluster munitions, the status of stockpile destruction, areas contaminated, and the status of clearance programs.

### What does the Convention require of State Parties with regards to assisting victims?

The Convention requires States Party to make every effort to collect reliable data on cluster munition incidences, assess the needs of victims, develop and implement a national plan to assist victims, and mobilise national and international resources to enable implementation of victim assistance programs.

### When will that Convention enter into force?

The Convention stipulates it will become binding international law for State Parties six months after the 30<sup>th</sup> state ratifies or accedes. It will then come into force for states that join after this date six months after they accede.

### Does the Convention propose a schedule of meetings? What about the costs for these meetings?

The Convention states that there shall be annual meetings of the States Parties until the first Review Conference and that this Review Conference shall take place five years after entry into force of the Convention. The first Meeting of States Party will be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations within one year of entry into force of this Convention.

Costs related to these meetings are borne by States that participate in these them in accordance with the UN scale of assessment adjusted accordingly. That is, only States participating in the meetings of the Convention pay for them and the costs assumed by participating States are consistent with their ability to pay.

### How do States formally accept the obligations of the Convention?

The Convention opened for signature on **3<sup>rd</sup> December 2008** and will enter into force six months after the **30<sup>th</sup> state** has ratified the Convention. As of April 2009 96 countries had signed and 5 had ratified.



# Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

### What is the purpose of the Convention?

The purpose of the Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.

Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others

### What is the essential nature of the Convention?

The convention has 50 Articles, most of which are concerned with specific rights of people with disabilities, such as education, health, work, conditions of living, and participation in different aspects of life. Some issues of particular interest for victims of UXO include:

- The Convention is concerned with all types of disability suffered by peoples of all nations, races, colours and creeds, without exception
- It provides a very broad range of support to such people in exerting their rights
- The needs for people who have a mobility disorder are specifically recognised, with obligations on States Parties to provide affordable and accessible mobility assistive devices
- The need for early detection and prevention are stressed
- Professional skills to assist people with disabilities should be developed
- The provision of services close to the homes of people with disability is promoted
- States Parties are required to collect information about people with disabilities
- International cooperation is a vital ingredient, without prejudice to the obligations of host nations.

### How does the Convention Work?

The Convention confirms and secures all basic human rights on behalf of people with disabilities, and expects actions to be taken through all means to that end, but most especially through national legislation. A national focal point or focal points must be identified for the implementation of the Convention

Nations will have an obligation to make regular reports on progress, the first within two years of coming into force, and thereafter every four years.

### Does the Convention propose a schedule of meetings?

Yes, there is an obligation to hold a Conference within six months of coming into force, and that occurred on October 31st to November 3rd, 2008, in New York. Laos was not represented.

Thereafter, there will be a Conference every two years, unless the Conference decides on an alternative programme.

### How is the Convention run?

Internationally, a Committee of experts is established to have oversight of the working of the Convention: initially, the Committee comprises 12 member selected by election at the Conference. After 60 States have signed, the Committee is increased by 6 members. Committee members can serve for four years and can serve two terms.

The United Nations shall provide a secretariat to support the Committee.

### What is the Timetable for the Convention?

The Convention opened for signature on 30th March 2007 and Laos signed on 15th January 2008. Whilst the Convention entered into force on 12th May 2008, Laos is not fully and legally bound by its terms until it ratifies.

### What needs to happen now?

Signature of the Convention signals intent to ratify and, in order to do so, to pass national legislation which will have the force of implementing the Convention in the signatory country.

# Anti Personnel Mine Ban Convention

## What does the Convention ban or prohibit?

The Convention bans the use, production, development, acquisition and transfer of anti-personnel mines. The Convention defines “anti-personnel mine” as a munition designed to be placed under, on or near the ground or other surface area, to be exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a person, and which will injure or kill one or more persons.

The Convention does not ban mines other than anti-personnel mines. For example, it does not ban mines that are exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a vehicle (e.g., anti-tank mines) and does not ban anti-personnel munitions that are command-detonated.

The Convention prohibits States Parties from assisting, encouraging or inducing anyone to engage in any activity prohibited by the Convention. This is a particularly relevant matter with respect to the interoperability of States Parties and States not Parties in military alliances.

## What does the Convention require with respect to stockpiled mines and mined areas?

The Convention requires each State Party to destroy stockpiled anti-personnel mines within four years of the entry into force of the Convention for that State. States Parties may retain an amount of mines that “shall not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary” for “the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques.” Many States Parties have decided to retain no mines.

The Convention requires each States Party to clear all areas under its jurisdiction or control which contain anti-personnel mines “as soon as possible and not later than ten years after entry into force of the Convention” for that State Party.

## Does the Convention provide for assistance in implementation, in monitoring implementation and in ensuring compliance?

The Convention provides each States Party with the right to seek and receive assistance in fulfilling its obligations under the Convention. It also requires each State Party “in a position to do so” to provide assistance.

The Convention requires each State Party to provide an annual transparency report on matters such as stockpiled anti-personnel mines and the status of programs for destroying stockpiled mines, and mined areas.

The Convention encourages States Parties to work together in a spirit of cooperation to facilitate compliance.

## In addition to destroying stockpiled mines, clearing mined areas and submitting an annual transparency report, what other actions must States Parties take?

The Convention requires each State Party to take “all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures” to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited by the Convention which are undertaken by persons or on the territory under the jurisdiction and control of that State Party.

## Does the Convention propose a schedule of meetings? What about the costs for these meetings?

The Convention states that there shall be annual meetings of the States Parties until the first Review Conference and that this Review Conference shall take place five years after entry into force. Given that the Convention entered into force in 1999, the Review Conference will be held in 2004. Costs related to these meetings are borne by States that participate in these them in accordance with the United Nations scale of assessment adjusted accordingly. That is, only States participating in the meetings of the Convention pay for them and the costs assumed by participating States are consistent with their ability to pay.

## Can States still sign the Convention? How do States formally accept the obligations of the Convention?

The Convention was open for signature from December 3, 1997 until its entry into force on March 1, 1999. During that period, 133 States signed the Convention. The Convention is subject to ratification by these signatories. Instruments of ratification or accession must be deposited with the UN Secretary General through the Treaty Section of the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs in New York. As of December 2008 156 States had formally accepted the terms of the Convention through ratification.

**LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**  
**Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity**  
\*\*\*\*000\*\*\*\*

**Prime Minister's Office**

**No...061/pm**  
**Vientiane Capital City, date.6<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

**Decree**

**On Organisation and Implementation of the National Commission for Disabled People**

- Pursuant to the law of the Government of Lao PDR No. 02/NA dated 06/05/2003;
- Pursuant to the proposal of the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Chairman of the National Commission for Disabled People No. 1360|MLS, dated 21 April 2008;
- Pursuant to the proposal of the Minister of Prime Minister's Office, Head of the Public Administration and Civil Service Authority, No:.....| PA dated:.....

**The Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic**  
**Decrees that:**

**Chapter I**  
**General Provision**

**Article 1. Purposes**

The Decree defines the function, roles, duties, rights, organisation and working methodology of the National Commission for Disabled People.

**Article 2. Function and Roles**

The National Commission for Disabled People (NCDP) is a government organisation, assisting the Government and Prime Minister to coordinate with the Ministries, line agencies and local authorities on protection, governance, rehabilitation, supporting and development of people with disabilities throughout the country.

**Chapter II**  
**Duties and Rights**

**Article 3. Duties**

1. To coordinate with the Ministries, ministry equivalents and social organisations at the national level to study and propose to the Government a strategy plan, implementation framework, work plans, projects, and policies for people with disabilities; and to coordinate with these organisations for the supervision and implementation of these matters after the approval of the Decree;
2. Monitoring, supervision, promotion, inspection of the Ministries, line agencies, social organisations, the use of their budgets, at each level, in order to implement the directives, policies, laws and regulations related to people with disabilities.
3. Working with the Ministries and involved organisations to secure the rights and benefits of people with disabilities; helping rehabilitation and development of people with disabilities;
4. Promotion and dissemination of the aspirations and the needs of people with disabilities. To make proposals and requests to Ministries, line agencies and local authorities to focus on people with disabilities in compliance with their duties and responsibilities. Preparing strategies, policies or infrastructure developments in the region, line agencies and locally, in a manner that recognises and mitigates the difficulties faced by people with disabilities.



## UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

5. To coordinate with the relevant organisations to arrange social activities each year to celebrate special occasions related to people with disabilities, including support activities, raising donations, and providing relief materials for people with disabilities.
6. To provide information and data to society-at-large, organisations for people with disabilities and international organisations; to collect information on the needs, requirements of associations or individual people with disabilities, to put before the Government, Prime Minister or Ministers, and heads of ministry equivalents for consideration.
7. To make recommendations and suggestions in writing to the ministry, ministry equivalents and involved organisations regarding the arrangement of associations, foundations, funds, etc. for people with disabilities, and the implementation of activities according to the policies, laws and regulations. Encouraging and helping society in general and associations of people with disabilities to implement activities efficiently, helping each other and ensuring the rights and benefits of association members.
8. Study joint communiqués, Conventions, Contracts, Treaties and other documents of the Asia-Pacific region, and broader international and United Nations documents, especially ILO Convention (No. 159) 'Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons)' and the United Nations ESCAP Proclamation 'Biwako Millennium Framework for Action Towards an Inclusive, Barrier-free and Rights-based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific 2003-2012' and make recommendations to propose to the Government.
9. Coordinate with neighbouring countries and with international organisations in the region and in the world to seek for funds and technical support to develop the interests of people with disabilities.
10. Attend domestic and international seminars, meetings and training events relating to people with disabilities.
11. To carry out such other duties as shall be required by the Government.

### **Article 4. Rights**

1. To cooperate with allied organisations to establish and improve organisations for people with disabilities and for their carers, and terminate those that do not work within the policies relating to people with disabilities.
2. To study, propose, improve and make regulations for development and governance of any types of people with disabilities.
3. To appoint, move or terminate the posts of individuals, committees or organisations that conflict with the policies, laws and regulations concerning people with disabilities.
4. To reward domestic or international persons, judicial entities, or organisations that have implemented activities well on behalf of people with disabilities, and to take disciplinary action against any persons and organisations that conflict with the policies, laws and regulations relating to people with disabilities.
5. To monitor, evaluate, and inspect the implementation of regulations on behalf of people with disabilities, including government, private and social organisations, so as to develop strengths and resolve the weaknesses, based on the law and regulations.
6. To help resolve problems and make decisions as defined in this Decree and to perform other duties as set out above.

## **Chapter III Organisation**

### **Article 5. Operating Structure**

The operating structure of the National Commission for Disabled People comprises two levels: Central Level and Local Level.

#### **5.1 Central Level**

The central level of the National Commission for Disabled People is based at the Department of Retirement, Amputation and Disability of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, which is to be known as the National Liaison Office for Disabled People.

## **5.2 Two Local Levels**

- 5.2.1** The National Commission for Disabled People at the provincial level is based at the Department of Retirement, Amputation and Disability, which is to known as the Provincial Liaison Office for Disabled People;
- 5.2.2** The National Commission for Disabled People at the district level is based at the Department of Labour and Social Welfare, which is to be known as the District Liaison Office for Disabled People.

## **Article 6. Governance Structure**

### **6.1 Governance Structure at the Central Level**

The National Commission for Disabled People at the central level comprises:

1. Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence is the Chairman;
2. Minister of Social Welfare and Labour is vice chairman and Commissioner;
3. Vice Minister of Public Health is the Vice Chairman and Commissioner;
4. Director of the Department of Retirement, Amputees and Disabled, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare is a Commissioner and Director of the National Liaison Office for Disabled People;
5. Head of the Cabinet Office of Ministry of Defence is a Commissioner;
6. Director of International Organisation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs is a Commissioner;
7. Head of the Cabinet Office, Ministry of Education as a Commissioner;
8. Director of Policies Department, Ministry of Finance is a Commissioner;
9. Head of the Cabinet Office National Sport Committee of the Prime Minister's Office is a Commissioner;
10. Deputy Head of the Cabinet Office, Ministry of Public Policies and Transportation is a Commissioner;
11. Deputy Director of the Mass Media Department, Ministry of Information and Culture is a Commissioner;
12. Head of the Cabinet Office, Ministry of Public Security is a Commissioner;
13. Head of the Cabinet Office of the Public Administration and Civil Service Authority, Prime Minister's Office is a Commissioner;
14. Head of the Cabinet Office, Lao Women's Union is a Commissioner;
15. Representative of a Social Organisation for Disabled People (Association, Foundation, Centre) is a Commissioner

### **6.2 Structure at the Local Level**

- 6.2.1** Provincial Governors and the Mayor of Vientiane Capital will define the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Commissioners for the provincial level each to correspond to the structure at the central level;
- 6.2.2** District Governors will define Chairman, Vice Chairman and members for the District Level, each to correspond to the structure at the provincial level.

## **Chapter IV Working Methodology**

### **Article 7. Working Methodology**

The National Commission for Disabled People shall work and implement as follows:

1. At the central level the affairs of the National Commission for Disabled People will be delegated on a daily basis to its staff who will act as a one-stop shop, responding to all matters creatively and promote the initiative and creation working methodology.
2. The office will work according to a work plan, and will implement projects, acting as the focal point for cooperating with government administration on issues of disability at all stages;
3. The office will monitor and evaluate strengths and weaknesses, promote, and report on lessons learned;
4. There shall be monthly meeting, three-monthly meetings or annual meetings, and reporting to higher-ranking people and Lao Government.

**Chapter V**  
**Final Provision**

**Article 10. Budget and Stamp**

1. The budget for the implementation of the National Commission for People with Disabilities will be from the budget of the Government, grant funding from other domestic and international social organisations, income from activities and from other sources;
2. The National Commission for Disabled People, National Liaison Office for Disabled People has its own official stamp.

**Article 11. Elaboration**

The National Commission for Disabled People shall define duties and responsibilities of each section, prepare a working strategy plan and assign the roles to each Commissioner of the National Commission for Disabled People.

**Article 12. Implementation**

Ministries, ministry equivalents and local authorities must strictly follow and implement this Decree.

**Article 13. Effectiveness**

This Decree shall come into force from the signing date, when it shall be replaced the Decree No. 18/PM, dated 27/1/1995.

**Prime Minister of Lao PDR**



# References

1. Nong in Savannakhet, Pek in Xiengkhuang and Pakxong in Champasak were chosen as the three villages to trial the PCIA Project.
2. Typhoon Ketsana was a severe tropical storm that swept across South-East Asia in late September 2009 badly affecting the Philippines, China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand. In Laos, it affected up to 6 of the country's Southern provinces.
3. Defined as financial contributions from international donors and other partners to UXO Sector not-for-profit operators as reported by the operators themselves in their end-of-year financial submissions to the NRA for this report.
4. For the full names of organisation acronyms used please refer to the Operator Report section of this report.
5. There are some differences between the NRA verified summary figures and those reported directly by the Operators in their individual submissions. The primary reason for this is that some of the individual reports submitted to the NRA were under review at the time of this report preparation. Any subsequent amendments will be additions to those figures published by the NRA in this report.
6. Op. Cit 3
7. International Mine Action Standards 04.10, January 2008.
8. The Convention on Cluster Munitions Article 2.2.
9. Handicap International Belgium, Living with UXO: National Survey on the Socio-Economic Impact of UXO in Lao PDR (for the Government of Lao PDR, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and UXO Lao), 1997, <http://www.handicap-international.org.uk>.
10. 'The National UXO Sector Evaluation Lao PDR June –July 2008' was carried out by UNDP contracted consultants; Robert Griffin, Robert Keeley and Phetdavanh Sayyasouk.
11. [http://www.clusterconvention.org/pages/pages\\_i/ib\\_fromadoption.html](http://www.clusterconvention.org/pages/pages_i/ib_fromadoption.html)
12. <http://www.icbl.org/index.php/icbl/layout/set/print/Treaties/MBT/Annual-Meetings/Cartagena-Summit/dailyupdate5>
13. Xiengkhuang is the second most heavily contaminated province in Laos.
14. Amounts rounded up to the nearest dollar.
15. Ibid.
16. Includes support to NRA & UXO Lao
17. BSL – Lao BSL Unexploded Ordnance Disposal, PSD – Phonh Sack Da, ASA – ASA Power Engineering, SBH – SBH CL CO.





For further information please contact the:

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Chanthabounly District, P.O Box 7261, Vientiane, Lao PDR

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