



UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE SECTOR ANNUAL REPORT 2018

UXO continues to kill and
injure Lao people and delays
development opportunities in
Lao PDR

SDG 18: LIVES SAFE FROM UXO

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

This document acts as the Annual Report for the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action in Lao PDR.

For further information, please contact:

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

Sisangvone Village, P.O. Box 7621, Unit 19, Saysettha District, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Website: www.nra.gov.la

Telephone: (+856-21) 262386

Your contribution to the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action in Lao PDR can support families and children whose lives have suffered from UXO as a result of the Indochina War. For further information on how to donate, please contact the victim assistance unit of the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action in Lao PDR, Mr. Bountao Chanthavongsa: bountao.chanthavongsa@gmail.com

This report was compiled and designed by: Vilavong Sysavath, Lisa Byrne and Amanda Shiel.

The photos that appear in the operator reports, unless individually credited, were taken by and are the property of that operator. All other photos in this report, unless individually credited, have been taken by the NRA.

The NRA would like to thank all UXO/Mine Action Sector Operators who provided images and information on their projects and activities in 2018 for this report and to UNDP for the support provided throughout 2018 to both NRA and UXO Lao, as well as providing their inputs to this report. The NRA programme and 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 UXO sector annual report 2018.

This report may be subject to change after publication. To find out more about changes, errors, or omissions please visit the website: www.nra.gov.la.

Copyright National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR, 2018.

2018 UXO SECTOR ANNUAL REPORT

CONTENTS

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	ii
FOREWORD: CHAIRPERSON OF THE NRA	iii
FOREWORD: US AMBASSADOR & UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE	iv
SECTOR ACHIEVEMENTS: THE NUMBERS	5
UXO SECTOR FINANCIAL SUMMARY	8
UXO FACTS AND FIGURES	9
WHAT IS UXO?	9
OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL REGULATORY AUTHORITY FOR UXO/MINE ACTION SECTOR IN LAO PDR (NRA)	10
Activities of the NRA	10
NRA Financial Report	13
UXO Survey Process in Lao PDR	15
OPERATOR REPORTS	16
Humanitarian Clearance Operators	
Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)	17
Mines Advisory Group (MAG)	26
Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA)	29
HALO Trust (HALO)	32
Humanity and Inclusion (HI)	35
Commercial Clearance Operators	37
LCY UXO Clearance Co., Ltd	37
Engineering Department, Ministry of National Defence associated with MMG LXML (MMG)	39
MRE Operators	
World Education, INC (WEI)	42

ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

AC – Area Clearance	MAG – Mines Advisory Group
AFD – Agence Française de Développement	MHP – Maeying Huamjai Phattana
ATP – Atapeu Province	MLEM- Moving Loop Electro-Magnetic (system)
BAC - Battle Area Clearance	MOES – Ministry of Education and Sport
BC - Brush Cutters	MOFA – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
CA – Community Awareness	MOLSW- Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
CAMA – Comprehensive Approach of Mine Action	MOU – Memorandum of Understanding
CCM – Convention on Cluster Munitions	MPI- Ministry of Planning and Investment
CLT – Community Liaison Team	MRE – Mine Risk Education
CHAs – Confirmed Hazardous Areas	MSP – Meeting of States Parties
CM – Cluster Munitions	NIM- National Implementation Measures
CMAC – Cambodian Mine Action Centre	NMFA – Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
CMRS- Cluster Munition Remnants Survey	NPA – Norwegian People’s Aid
CPS – Champasack Province	NRA – National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR
CTA – Chief Technical Advisor	NSEDP – National Socio-Economic Development Plan
DAP – Dubrovnik Action Plan	NTS – Non Technical Survey
DEO – District Education Office	NZ – New Zealand
DFID - Department for International Development	PEO – Provincial Education Office
DREAT – Disability Rights and Equality Awareness Training	RE – Risk Education
ECOSOC – Economic and Social Council	RT – Roving Tasks
EOD – Explosive Ordnance Disposal	SIG – Sterling International Group
ERW – Explosive Remnants of War	SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals
EU – European Union	SLV – Salavane Province
GICHD – Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining	SK – Sekong
GoL – Government of Lao	SOP- Standard Operating Procedures
GRET – Groupe de Recherche et d’Echanges Technologiques	SSC – South-South Cooperation
Ha- hectares	SVK – Savannaket Province
HALO – Hazardous Area Life-support Organization	TA – Technical Advisor
HI – Humanity and Inclusion	TS – Technical Survey
HLPF – High-level Political Forum	TWG – Technical working group
HP – Huaphan Province	UNMAS – United Nations Mine Action Service
IACG-MA – Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action	UNV – United Nations Volunteers
ICRC – International Committee of the Red Cross	UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
IEO – Independent Evaluation Office	USD – United States Dollar
IMSMA – Information Management System for Mine Action	USDOS – US Department of State
JICA – Japan International Cooperation Agency	UXO Lao – Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme
JICS – Japan International Cooperation System	UXO – Unexploded Ordnance
JMAS – Japan Mine Action Service	VA – Victim Assistance
KAP – Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices	VPN- Virtual Private Network
KM – Khammouane Province	WRA – Weapons Removal and Abatement
KOICA – Korea International Cooperation Agency	WEI – World Education, INC
Lao PDR – People’s Democratic Republic of Lao	WVMF – War Victims Medical Fund
LCY – LCY Explosive Ordnance Clearance Ltd., Co	WWM – World Without Mines
LDPA – Lao Disabled People’s Association	XK – Xiengkhouang Province
LPB – Luang Prabang Province	
MAG – Mines Advisory Group	
LPB – Luang Prabang Province	

FOREWORD:

Chairperson of the National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR.

I am very pleased to present the 2018 annual report for the UXO sector and take this opportunity to highlight some of the key achievements during the year.

In 2018, the government of Lao PDR, through the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR (NRA), focused on implementing the UXO Sector National Strategic Plan, Safe Path Forward II, 2011-2020 in order to further achieve the 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP). Priority was also given to the implementation of the Poverty Eradication Plan, as well as the Sustainable Development Goal 18 (SDG 18). In addition, we focused on the priority development areas, development projects and improved agricultural land for Lao ethnic groups.

UXO/Mine risk education is a key tool for highlighting the dangers of UXO and for informing Lao ethnic groups of the actions that they should take to avoid UXO. In particular, we have integrated UXO awareness into primary school curricula and raised awareness through UXO radio programmes and UXO village volunteers. Other UXO operators have also conducted these activities, which has resulted in the number of reported casualties being reduced to half of that from last year. At the same time, there is also a need to widely support and expand UXO/Mine risk education activities.

In the area of victim assistance, we continued to implement the UXO Victim Strategic Plan through the development of the War Victim Medical Fund Policy. We also provided physical and psychological rehabilitation to UXO survivors and provided them with vocational training in order to develop their livelihoods and their families with income. Despite this, the assistance provided to UXO survivors is still limited, especially in the areas of rehabilitation and vocational training.

In the area of UXO survey and clearance, we continued to undertake the new evidence-based clearance methodology and encouraged UXO operators to implement this new approach. Since the adoption of this approach, operations have been conducted more efficiently and more UXOs have been destroyed. As a result, there are now a total of 93,362 ha of CHAs identified and registered in the IMSMA database. At the same time, we have cleared an average of 5,000 hectares of land based on our current capacities even though the demand for clearance is 15,000 hectares per year. We require further support and donor cooperation to achieve this demand. Moreover, the Lao government cooperated with development partners, international organizations and UXO operators to conduct UXO survey and clearance in the flood-affected areas of Mahaxay District, Attapeu Province.

On behalf of the government of Lao PDR, as Chairperson of the NRA, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the UXO sector and express my great appreciation for the achievements of the past year. The progress and outcomes achieved have involved all UXO sector personnel and international experts demonstrating a high degree of commitment and care to this important cause. At the same time, I thank our partners, including UNDP, all of our donors and the international organizations for their support given to the UXO sector in Lao PDR.

H.E. Dr. Khampheng Saysompheng
Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Chairperson of the National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR.

FOREWORD:

**US Ambassador & UNDP Resident Representative
Co-Chairpersons of the UXO Sector Working Group.**

More than 45 years have lapsed since the conclusion of the Indochina War (1964-1973), yet Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) continue to threaten the lives and communities of those living in 18 Lao PDR provinces. UXO is a multi-sectoral cross-cutting issue that affects the overall development and economic growth of Lao PDR. As Lao PDR moves towards graduation from Least Developed Country status, and as the government strives toward achieving SDG 18 – “removing UXO as an obstacle to national development by 2030” – we must redouble our efforts towards supporting these efforts.

The UXO sector annual report provides information on the sector and summarizes the achievements in the past year. We as co-chairs of the UXO Sector Working Group are pleased to contribute this joint foreword.

The rate of UXO casualties has been steadily decreasing over recent years, reaching its lowest level in 2018 with 24 casualties, down from the previous lowest level of 41 in 2017. Nevertheless, these numbers are still too high. We must continue our work to provide UXO/Mine Risk Education, improve identification and clearance of Confirmed Hazardous Areas and create safe and sustainable livelihoods.

Improved survey and clearance techniques have also contributed to the lower level of casualties as well as an overall increase in the number of cluster munitions found per hectare cleared. This evidence-based approach has undoubtedly improved the overall efficiency of the UXO sector.

Access to health care and livelihood remain challenges for UXO survivors, though we have seen some improvements in 2018, particularly a greater focus on training for survivors and their families. Vocational training for survivors not only improves economic stability but also facilitates a quicker return to their communities.

Following flooding in the heavily UXO contaminated Attapeu province, UXO Lao and Norwegian People’s Aid responded quickly to an urgent request from the governor by additional clearance teams (with support from government of Lao PDR, Australia, and Canada as well as the United States) to affected areas. Though the areas had already been cleared, a concern that flood waters might have dislodged UXO threatened to hamper efforts to relocate victims of the tragedy. This efficient response demonstrated the capacity of the UXO sector to respond to immediate needs in times of disaster.

The achievements of the UXO sector are due to the strong partnership between government of Lao PDR, development partners and operators. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of them, and all sector stakeholders for their support and cooperation in 2018. We look forward to continuing to work together in 2019 and beyond to achieve SDG 18.

Ms. Rena Bitter

**Ambassador of the United States of America,
Co-Chairperson of the UXO Sector Working Group.**

Ms. Ricarda Rieger

**UNDP Resident Representative,
Co-Chairperson of the UXO Sector Working Group.**

SECTOR ACHIEVEMENTS: THE NUMBERS

<i>Humanitarian clearance operators - UXO Found and Destroyed through Area Clearance 2010-2018</i>							
Year	Hectares Cleared	Bomb	Bombies/Cluster Munitions (CM)	Landmines	Other UXO	Total UXO	CM/hectares (ha)
2010	2,996	39	19,740	18	14,506	34,303	6.6
2011	3,692	22	19,088	96	19,683	38,889	5.2
2012	3,823	60	26,011	18	17,318	43,407	6.8
2013	3,288	28	22,847	48	20,626	43,549	6.9
2014	3,662	36	26,566	78	17,697	44,377	7.3
2015	2,961	55	49,497	108	13,162	62,822	16.7
2016	3,315	43	61,144	1	15,503	76,691	18.4
2017	3,852	20	64,241	16	16,462	80,739	16.7
2018	3,670	35	45,441	5	11,740	57,221	12.4

UXO Casualties

<i>UXO Accidents and Casualties in Lao PDR, 2008-2017</i>										
Year	Accidents	Injuries				Deaths				Total Casualties
		Males	Females	Boys	Girls	Males	Females	Boys	Girls	
2008	186	99	22	67	15	66	8	20	5	302
2009	77	50	8	25	3	25	1	6	2	120
2010	75	33	8	47	7	9	1	9	5	119
2011	64	32	9	34	4	6	0	14	0	99
2012	36	17	11	11	2	6	1	6	2	56
2013	18	9	2	12	5	5	0	7	1	41
2014	22	8	5	9	7	4	0	12	0	45
2015	27	15	1	16	1	6	1	2	0	42
2016	35	17	3	24	5	2	0	8	0	59
2017	19	12	8	11	6	3	0	0	1	41
2018	17	4	8	4	5	2	1	0	0	24

Causes of Accidents:				
	2015	2016	2017	2018
Agriculture	4	6	2	2
Lighting a fire (for cooking and slash-and-burn agriculture purposes)	16	11	10	3
Destructing items	5	3	1	2
Playing with UXO items	2	12	3	5
Cutting grass	0	1	1	1
Disturbing UXOs	0	2	2	4
Total Accidents:	27	35	19	17

2018 Humanitarian clearance operators

Non Technical Survey

Organization	Number of Villages
HALO Trust	54
MAG	107
NPA	76
UXO Lao	86
Total:	323

Technical Survey (TS) to establish the Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHAs)

Organization	Village No.	Square meter of CHA Established	Bomb	Bombies	Mine	Other UXO	Total
Army 58	1	74,146	-	-	-	56	56
HALO Trust	74	23,818,731	4	4,022	-	1,019	5,045
MAG	66	144,850,179	-	12,882	-	25	12,907
NPA	81	12,205,138	-	1,546	-	59	1,605
UXO Lao	117	37,709,737	1	6,917	-	1,236	8,154
Total:	339	218,657,931	5	25,367	-	2,395	27,767

Roving Tasks (RT)

Organization	Number of Visits	Bomb	Bombie	Mine	Other UXO	Total
HALO Trust	989	16	5,650	-	1,389	7,055
MAG	1,519	12	14,110	4	998	15,124
Milsearch	10	-	12	-	75	87
NPA	372	6	2,645	-	686	3,337
UXO Lao	890	65	10,907	8	3,363	14,343
Total:	3,780	99	33,324	12	6,511	39,946

Area Clearance (AC) (square meter)

Organization	Agriculture/ m2	Development/ m2	Total/m2	Bomb	Bombie	Mine	Other UXO	Total
AusLao	-	18,677,340	18,677,340	-	21	-	5	26
Army58*	367,729	-	367,729	-	78	-	55	133
HALO Trust	640,586	26,858	667,444	-	1,048	-	712	1,760
LCY	-	1,820,000	1,820,000	-	1	14	6	21
Lao Army	39,928	950,088	990,016	-	-	-	-	-
MAG	2,767,723	479,251	3,246,974	7	2,579	-	748	3,334

*Army 58 refers to the Humanitarian Team of the Lao People's Army

MMG	-	200,940	200,940	-	6	-	73	79
Milsearch	78,007	107,629	185,636	14	260	-	147	421
NPA	2,192,536	798,901	2,991,437	3	4,210	-	52	4,265
PL	99,718	3,469,741	3,569,459	-	-	-	-	-
UXO Lao	27,047,785	2,379,526	29,427,311	25	37,526	5	10,173	47,729
Total:	33,234,012	28,910,274	62,144,286	49	45,729	19	11,971	57,768

GRAND TOTAL (AC, RT and TS)

	<i>Agriculture/ m2</i>	<i>Development/ m2</i>	<i>Total/m2</i>	<i>Bomb</i>	<i>Bombie</i>	<i>Mine</i>	<i>Other UXO</i>	<i>Total</i>
All humanitarian & commercials	33,234,012	28,910,274	62,144,286	148	79,053	31	18,482	97,714
Total:	33,234,012	28,910,274	62,144,286	148	79,053	31	18,482	97,714

Risk Education/Community Awareness Operations

<i>Organization</i>	<i>School Number</i>	<i>MRE Tasks</i>	<i>Audience</i>		<i>Total</i>
			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	
HALO Trust	90	163	8,117	5,177	13,294
SoS	60	79	2,833	2,395	5,228
UXO Lao	412	1,359	101,891	102,452	204,343
Total:	547	1,601	112,841	110,024	222,865

UXO Operators' Personnel in Lao PDR 2018

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>				<i>Total</i>
	<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>		<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>		
	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Man</i>	<i>Woman</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	
NRA	14	12	1	1	16	3	0	0	47
UXO Lao	27	20	7	1	987	321	4	2	1,369
NPA	23	10	2	2	209	66	4	0	316
MAG	32	23	0	1	358	147	5	0	566
HI	8	7	3	0	37	21	2	2	80
HALO Trust	24	21	1	2	152	111	2	1	314
WE	2	6	0	0	6	4	1	3	22
MMG	2	2	3	0	76	21	0	0	104
LCY	6	2	0	0	22	0	0	0	30
Total	138	103	17	7	1,863	694	18	8	2,848

2018 UXO SECTOR FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

Cash contributions in US Dollars (USD):

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

Organization	Contributions Received in 2018 (USD)	Expenditure on UXO Operations in 2018 (USD)
NRA	898,902	1,205,959
Total:	898,902	1,205,959

In-kind contributions

Organization	Contributions Received in 2018 (USD)	Expenditure on UXO Operations in 2018 (USD)
Lao Government (NRA)	18,000	18,000
JMAS and JICA (UXO Lao)	615,843	615,843
Total:	633,843	633,843

Humanitarian clearance operators - 2018 (USD)

Organization	Contributions Received in 2018 (USD)	Expenditure on UXO Operations in 2018 (USD)
UXO Lao	7,528,422	8,850,363
NPA	5,172,844	5,172,844
MAG	4,950,943	4,637,025
HI	1,289,407	607,830
Halo Trust	3,491,939	3,374,793
Inter-operator's fund transfers	-643,048	-643,048
Total:	21,790,507	21,999,807

Commercial clearance companies - 2018 (USD)

Organization	Contributions Received in 2018 (USD)	Expenditure on UXO Operations in 2018 (USD)
LCY	750,000	750,000
MMG	2,724,077	2,724,077
Total:	3,474,077	3,474,077

Mine Risk Education and Victim Assistance - 2018 (USD)

Organization	Contributions Received in 2018 (USD)	Expenditure on UXO Operations in 2018 (USD)
WE	99,056	68,660
Total	99,056	68,660

GRAND TOTAL	26,896,385	27,382,346
--------------------	-------------------	-------------------

UXO FACTS AND FIGURES

- Lao PDR is the most heavily bombed country, per capita, in history
- 25% of villages in Lao PDR are contaminated with UXO
- 15 out of 18 provinces in Lao PDR suffer from UXO contamination
- Over 2 million tons of ordnance were dropped on Lao PDR between 1964 and 1973
- 580,000 bombing missions were flown over Lao PDR
- Cluster submunitions or 'bombies' are the most common form of UXO found in Lao PDR
- More than 270 million bombies were dropped on Lao PDR and up to 30% of these failed to detonate
- Approximately 80 million unexploded bombies remained in Lao PDR after the war
- Over 50,000 people have been killed or injured since 1964
- There were 24 new casualties in 2018
- In the last decade, over 40% of all casualties were children

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. UXO contamination in Lao PDR consists of large bombs, rockets, grenades, artillery munitions, mortars, landmines, 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 weight less than 20 kilograms each. 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 releases the bombies over a wide area. The bombies that were dropped on 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, thus, injuring and killing civilians as they carry out their daily activities.

In addition, over four million large bombs were dropped and extensive ground battles predominantly in the northern provinces left behind substantial amounts of other unexploded weaponry and munitions.

OVERVIEW OF NRA ACTIVITIES IN 2018:

During 2018, the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/ Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR (NRA) aimed at increasing the capacity of the UXO sector in Lao PDR to deal with the problem of remaining unexploded ordnance in order to reduce the humanitarian threat and to remove barriers to productive and sustainable use of land. At the outcome-level, it can be reported that a number of changes occurred in 2018, in reference to the project entitled, "Moving Towards Achieving SDG18 – Removing the UXO Obstacle to Development in Lao PDR June 2017-December 2021".

From 2008 to 2018, there was a substantial decrease in the total number of casualties from over 300 in 2008 to just over 20 in 2018. The number of accidents in 2018 have decreased to almost 7% of what it was in 2008.

The number of reported casualties during the reporting period was 24 people. This is the lowest number of casualties recorded since 2008. Moreover, this figure has accomplished the target set in the National Strategic Plan's Mid-Term Review in 2015 for UXO sector in Lao PDR of 40, and is under the NSEDP target of 40.

The major causes of UXO accidents are making fire and digging land for agricultural purposes. A third of them happening through playing with UXO items. This highlights the importance of continued UXO/Mine Risk Education activities to raise awareness to avoid touching UXOs. However, there has been a steady decline in the number of accidents caused by lighting fires.

In accordance with the implementation of new survey procedures for UXO by the government of Lao PDR, all humanitarian operators in Lao PDR now employ an evidence-based approach to land clearance. As a result, it can be reported that the number of cluster munitions found per hectare cleared has more than tripled.

UNDP's Contribution:

During the reporting period, UNDP supported the management and technical capacity-building of the NRA. In doing so, UNDP has contributed to all output and outcome-level achievements attributed to the sector. In terms of the specific support provided, some of the key elements can be summarized as follows:

- **Technical Advice** - UNDP provides technical advisory support to NRA through the deployment of a Chief

Technical Advisor (the new UNDP CTA was deployed in April), Finance Technical Specialist and a Programme and Partnerships Support Officer. Substantial support was provided to prepare for the UXO Project Board Meeting, the preparation for NRA's representation at the 21st International Meeting of National Mine Action Programme Directors and United Nation Advisers (NDM-UN) in Geneva, Switzerland in February 2018, first 6 months UXO Management Meeting and for the UXO Side Event at UN HQ, New York, USA (organized jointly with the Lao government) and for field visit in August 2018 for the Korean Embassy (including the Korean Ambassador) and a Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) delegation. UNDP also provided support in finalizing the 2017 NRA annual project report, preparing 2018 NRA annual workplan as well as the 2018 NRA narrative and financial reports for various donors, and helped to finalize the final report for vocational training activity component in Huaphan, Xiengkhouang and Savannaket provinces under the KOICA project. UNDP Programme and Partnerships Support Officer assisted the NRA with report and letter writing to various development partners, edited press releases that were uploaded on the NRA's website and provided content suggestions for the NRA's website. The Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) engaged with all seven current development partners. At the NRA office, the CTA initiated a review of the different units, in collaboration with another bilateral donor.

- **Management and Procurement** - UNDP has also supported the NRA in their procurement of equipment necessary for the NRA national office, the provincial offices, and the Lao Army Humanitarian Teams. UNDP has assisted in finalizing the procurement plan for 2018.

- **Sector Leadership** - UNDP provided guidance and support in the preparation of the UXO Management Meeting between NRA and UNDP covering the first half of 2018. UNDP assisted with the preparation for the evaluation team meeting with the UNDP HQ-Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) for NRA and supported the organization of the external inquiry team who looked into the UXO Lao data issue in Huaphan province. UNDP also assisted in overseeing the funding gap of the sector with bilateral donors, ensuring that activities are not halted within the sector. UNDP also helped mobilize funding from donor countries in order to support the disaster response plan for UXO clearance in Sanamxay District, Attapeu province.

- **Capacity Building** - UNDP has continuously supported the NRA to work on the drafting and finalization of various reports as well as advising and supporting the planning and monitoring of project activities. UNDP's

Finance Technical Specialist has also supported the financial management of the NRA.

- **Resource Mobilisation** - UNDP has been instrumental in engaging new and previous donors in financing the UXO sector. This led to successful negotiations with current donors in providing additional funds. In addition, UNDP engaged with the Australian Embassy and mobilized resources for the UXO component of the disaster response in Sanamxay district and also supported the project proposal development.

Output Level Achievements:

The output level achievements of the project during 2018 are summarized as below. The most notable achievements by the NRA include:

- The new decree of the NRA was approved on 12 February 2018, No. 67/PM by the Prime Minister of Lao PDR.
- Minister of Labour and Social Welfare Agreement No. 3639/LSW, dated 21 September 2018 on roles and responsibilities of the NRA Office including for UXO Lao.
- Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Chairman of the NRA Agreement No. 25/NRA, dated 21 September 2018 on roles and responsibilities of the UXO Provincial Management Committees.
- Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Chairman of the NRA Agreement No. 26/NRA, dated 21 September 2018 on roles and responsibilities of the UXO District Management Committees.
- UXO radio programs ran in 5 UXO contaminated provinces (Vientiane Capital, Khammouane, Sekong, Saravan and Champasack).
- Printing and distribution of 5,000 MRE posters to 13 UXO contaminated provinces (Phongsaly, Huaphanh, Xiengkhouang, Luanprabang, Xaisomboun, Vientiane, Borlikhamxay, Khammouane, Savannaket, Champasack, Salavan, Sekong and Attapeu) and to UXO Risk Education Operators.
- Technical Working Group Meetings held for Victim Assistance, Survey and Clearance, Mine Risk

Education, and Information Management.

- UXO Side Event at UN HQ in New York in July 2018.

UXO SIDE EVENT AT UN HQ IN NEW YORK.

The United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at UN HQ in New York from 9 to 18 July 2018.

More than 125 heads and deputy heads of state and government, ministers, vice-ministers and other ministerial level officials, and over two thousand representatives from governments, UN system and other organizations, civil society, NGOs and the private sector participated in the annual 2018 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on 9-18 July to take stock of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They discussed progress, successes, challenges and lessons learned on the road to a fairer, more peaceful and prosperous world and a healthy planet by 2030.

In this important meeting, led by Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Saleumxay Khammasith, Lao PDR has given great importance to the HLPF through the reporting of the first Lao PDR Voluntary National Review on efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

The Lao government, in collaboration with UNDP convened a UXO Side Event entitled: "National SDG



18: Lives Safe from UXO for Sustainable Development in the Lao PDR”. This side event provided an update on the process of survey and clearance in Lao PDR with a focus on the timeline for the first national survey and the prioritization system of clearance tasks. The event also showcased how the government of Lao PDR, in partnership with UNDP, the U.S. government and other development partners, will address Article 4 obligations of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and build a strong foundation to meet the Sustainable Development Goal 18 - Lives Safe from UXO by 2030. It provided insights from the government of Lao PDR, as well as the development partners and operators involved in the sector. Representatives from UNDP, Lao PDR, Canada, Switzerland, Nicaragua, Austria, Australia, Luxembourg, the Republic of Ireland, Japan, China, Republic of Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, the Office of Weapons Removal and

THE EIGHTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES

The Eighth Meeting of States Parties (8MSP) to the CCM was held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland from the 3rd to the 5th of September 2018.

The 8MSP provided an opportunity for state parties to present their progress, challenges, plans and needs for assistance and cooperation to achieve their CCM obligations and the commitments made under the 2015 Dubrovnik Action Plan (DAP) and the Dubrovnik Declaration. The 8MSP was presided by Ambassador Hernan Estrada Roman, Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to the United Nation in Geneva. Over 80 State Parties, Non-State parties, representatives of international organizations, and non-governmental organizations attended the meeting.

At this meeting, member state parties to the CCM reported on the progress made in implementing the treaty obligations and the DAP. States that are not party also provided updates on their position and plans for ratification or accession to the CCM.

A Lao delegation, including officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’s Department of International Organisations, the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action in Lao PDR, UXO Lao, the United Nations Country Team in Lao PDR and international organisations in Lao PDR, attended the 8MSP to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

The Lao delegation made substantive statements in all key sessions, such as: Universalization, Clearance and Risk Reduction, Victim Assistance, International Cooperation and Assistance and National Implementation Measure.

“Our presence at this meeting indicates the political will and strong commitment of Lao PDR in implementing the convention. Lao PDR is the most heavily bombed country per capita in the world,” according to a press statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Lao delegation shared the progress made in carrying out the country’s obligations as a state party to the convention over the past year, especially in the removal of UXO, which continues to threaten people and hinders socio-economic development. The delegation also explained Lao PDR’s plan to further tackle UXO and call on the international community to increase cooperation and assistance to countries affected by such devices.

In this important meeting, Lao PDR highlighted the importance of the CCM to the country through the approval of several related regulations, policies, strategies and practices. The director general of the International Organization Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Anouphap Vongnorkeo, reaffirmed the government’s position when delivering his speech at the meeting.

The removal of UXO is a top priority for Lao PDR as it aims to fulfil the National SDG 18, “Lives Safe from UXO”.

Under the CCM, Lao PDR is a coordinator for the survey and clearance of UXO from 2017 to 2019, together with the Netherlands, which concludes its term this year. Sweden has expressed its intention to be Lao PDR’s next coordination partner in 2019.



Lao delegation attended the 8MSP to the CCM in Geneva, Switzerland.

2018 NRA FINANCIAL REPORT

Actual Expenditures per Cost Classification (in USD)

For the Year Ended, 1 January - 31 December 2018

<i>Costs Classification</i>	<i>UNDP-Managed Funds</i>	<i>Bilateral</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>% to Total</i>
Personnel Costs	712,981.20		712,981.20	59%
Operating Costs				
<i>Travel - Local</i>	70,572.47		70,572.47	6%
<i>Rental and Maintenance - Equipment</i>	58,590.55		58,590.55	5%
<i>Stationery and Office Supplies</i>	18,338.74		18,338.74	2%
<i>Rental and Maintenance - Premises</i>	15,188.44		15,188.44	1%
<i>Utilities</i>	9,693.16		9,693.16	1%
<i>Phone and Internet Charges</i>	8,167.25		8,167.25	1%
<i>Insurance</i>	995.74		995.74	0%
<i>Storage</i>	338.62		338.62	0%
<i>Bank Charges</i>	179.45		179.45	0%
<i>Postage and Pouch</i>	101.22		101.22	0%
<i>Sundries</i>	14,456.40	84,270.13	98,726.53	8%
	196,622.04	84,270.13	280,892.17	24%
Special Operating Costs				
<i>GMS & Implementation Support Service</i>	80,023.37		80,023.37	7%
<i>Materials and Goods</i>	50,144.90		50,144.90	4%
<i>Printing and Publications</i>	33,576.14		33,576.14	3%
<i>Trainings, Workshops and Conferences</i>	31,428.40		31,428.40	3%
<i>Translation Costs</i>	5,869.42		5,869.42	1%
<i>Audit Fees</i>	2,905.00		2,905.00	0%
<i>Forex Gain (Loss)</i>	4,733.42		4,733.42	0%
	208,680.65		208,680.65	17%
Non-Expendable Equipment				
<i>Machinery and Equipment</i>	3,404.60		3,404.60	0%
	3,404.60		3,404.60	0%
Total	1,121,688.49	84,270.13	1,205,958.62	100%

Budget vs. Actual Expenditures - Over-all (in USD)
For the Year Ended, 1 January - 31 December 2018

	<i>Fund Sources</i>			
	UNDP-Managed Funds	Bilateral Funds	Unfunded	Total
<i>Budget</i>	1,453,961.22		524,456.99	1,978,418.21
<i>Actual Expenditures</i>	1,121,688.49	84,270.13		1,205,958.62
<i>Budget Balance</i>	332,272.73	-84,270.13	524,456.99	772,459.59
<i>Actual Expenditures/Budget (%)</i>	77%		0%	61%

Budget vs. Actual Expenditures by Activity (in USD)
For the Year Ended, 1 January - 31 December 2018

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual Expenditures</i>	<i>Budget Balance</i>	<i>Actual exp/ Budget (%)</i>
<i>Institutional Development</i>	1,306,908.21	817,630.91	489,277.3	63%
<i>Victim Assistance</i>	150,042.00	134,963.47	15,078.53	90%
<i>Effective Coordination and Regulation</i>	155,352.00	106,386.49	48,965.51	68%
<i>Mine Risk Education</i>	90,824.00	74,726.82	16,097.18	82%
<i>Clearance</i>	187,426.00	33,504.83	153,921.17	18%
<i>International Treaty Obligations Met</i>	78,156.00	28,191.34	49,964.66	36%
<i>Support to the Lao Army</i>	9,710.00	10,554.76	- 844.76	109%
<i>Total</i>	1,978,418.21	1,205,958.62	772,459.59	61%

Budget vs. Actual Expenditures by Donor (in USD)
For the Year Ended, 1 January - 31 December 2018

	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual Expenditures</i>	<i>Budget Balance</i>	<i>Actual Exp./Budget (%)</i>
<i>UNDP-Managed Funds</i>				
<i>Ireland</i>	498,512.47	435,980.08	62,532.39	87%
<i>European Union (EU)</i>	409,484.19	314,950.20	94,533.99	77%
<i>KOICA</i>	178,122.43	179,741.52	- 1,619.09	101%
<i>New Zealand</i>	138,017.47	75,071.77	62,945.70	54%
<i>Luxembourg</i>	177,822.66	68,154.25	109,668.41	38%
<i>Canada</i>	25,002.00	24,871.70	130.30	99%
<i>Republic of Korea</i>	27,000.00	22,918.97	4,081.03	85%
	1,453,961.22	1,121,688.49	332,272.73	77%
<i>Bilateral Funds</i>				
<i>US Sterling</i>		84,270.13	- 84,270.13	
<i>Unfunded</i>	524,456.99	-	524,456.99	0%
Total	1,978,418.21	1,205,958.62	772,459.59	61%

LAO PDR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE PROCESS

STEP 1: NON-TECHNICAL SURVEY

Non-technical survey “NTS” is used to identify evidence points of explosive contamination (primarily cluster munitions in Lao PDR). This involves collecting information on explosive hazards from historical records and from the local population.

STEP 2: TECHNICAL SURVEY

“Technical survey” is used to identify and map CHAs for future clearance. The area is divided into 50m by 50m boxes, with a grid placed over the starting evidence points. Each box is scanned with detectors for more evidence and, if found, the team stops and moves to the next box. The process follows the cluster munitions strike until no more evidence is found. Cluster munitions identified during this process are mapped and then destroyed. The boxes are color-coded based on the findings and the results are used to establish the CHAs requiring clearance. This is the crucial step to define the extent of contamination and to begin planning operations.

STEP 3: CLEARANCE

“Clearance” refers to activities used to remove and/or destroy all explosive hazards from a specified area, to a specified depth. The minimum depth is 25cm, which normally captures all surface and shallow contamination. Clearance is conducted on CHAs identified through the Technical Survey. Many more cluster munitions will be found and destroyed during clearance.

UXO SECTOR

**OPERATOR
REPORTS**

**CLEARANCE, VICTIM ASSISTANCE
AND MINE RISK EDUCATION OPERATORS**

HUMANITARIAN CLEARANCE ORGANIZATIONS



LAO NATIONAL UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE PROGRAMME (UXO LAO)

Background and mandate

The Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao) was established in 1996 by the Government of Lao PDR, with the support of UNDP, UNICEF and other stakeholders. UXO Lao's mandate is:

- To reduce the number of UXO casualties and accidents; and
- To increase the amount of the land available for food production and for other socioeconomic development.

Key achievements in 2018

During 2018, UXO Lao undertook survey, clearance and Mine Risk Education (MRE) activities in the nine most contaminated provinces in Lao PDR: Attapeu, Champasack, Huaphanh, Khammouane, Luangprabang, Saravan, Savannakhet, Sekong and Xiengkhuang. The organization's activities include:

Community Awareness or MRE:

These activities aim to increase the awareness of UXO to people living in UXO affected areas through various educational activities, for instance: songs, dances, plays and puppet shows. The continued efforts to ensure awareness of risks has contributed to the major decline in the number of UXO accidents and casualties over the past decade. The UXO/MRE teams' activities include puppet shows and games targeting children, as



new generations need to be informed of the dangers of UXO. Refresher activities for older villagers were also conducted by the MRE teams to ensure that these residents are not taking undue risks in their daily lives.

NTS: NTS involves reviewing all UXO related data on a village-by-village basis and consulting with as many households as possible to locate all known UXO contamination in the village. NTS identifies UXOs for roving clearance and for follow-up TS. NTS also generates sketch maps of villages showing UXO-related information such as previous clearance, CHAs and evidence points.



TS: TS follows the NTS activity by CM evidence points as starting points and use detectors to systematically search outwards in all directions to find the limits of the CM contamination. Once the boundaries of the CM contamination have been found, the contaminated area is recorded and reported to the NRA as CHAs. 50 metre by 50 metre boxes are used to manage and control the TS. All 50m x 50m boxes bordering the box with the original evidence are searched. Initially, this will involve eight boxes, but if the TS continues then further boxes outside the first eight may also be searched. Boxes are colour-coded to indicate the results of the TS work.



AC:

The focus for AC is the clearance of CHAs. However, as a government of Lao PDR organization, UXO Lao sometimes carries out approved AC for development projects. AC involves dedicated teams searching and clearing to a depth of clearance based on the intended land use. For development, this depth is usually 25 centimetres. During AC, all UXOs are removed from the cleared area to the required depth of clearance.

During 2018, UXO Lao cleared over 3,000 hectares of UXO contaminated land, which included educational facilities, roads, water services and other infrastructure.



UNDP’s Contribution:

During the reporting period, UNDP supported the management and technical capacity-building of UXO Lao. In doing so, UNDP has contributed to all output and outcome-level achievements attributable to the sector. UNDP has committed to taking a comprehensive and sectoral approach, which is evident in the types of technical deployments undertaken and in terms of the specific support provided, the key elements can be summarized as follows:

- Technical Advice – UNDP provides Technical Advisory Support to UXO Lao through the deployment of a CTA. In addition, a Finance Technical Specialist and Programme and Partnerships Support Officer were also made available.
- Management and Procurement - UNDP supported UXO Lao in their procurement of equipment necessary to manage and undertake UXO-related activities. Since August 2018, all UXO Lao procurement has been undertaken by UNDP upon request. UNDP’s Finance Technical Specialist provided support to UXO Lao’s finance team in financial reporting, budget monitoring and control and during audit of UXO Lao by various donors. The Programme and Partnerships Support Officer assisted with drafting reports and meeting minutes, including supporting UXO Lao with their bilateral donor reporting requirements.
- Sector Leadership - During the reporting period, the Director of UXO Lao attended the 21th International Meeting of Mine Action National Program Directors and United Nations Advisors. The theme of the meeting focused on humanitarian needs, humanitarian emergencies and humanitarian responses, which was conducted from the 12th to the 16th of February 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Capacity Building - UNDP supported UXO staff in attending trainings and workshops related to leadership capacity building, when available. Moreover, with cooperation from UNDP and Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), National Implementation Modality (NIM) Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) training was provided to UXO Lao, together with other UNDP-supported projects.
- Resource Mobilization - UNDP has been instrumental in engaging new and previous donors in financing the UXO sector. During the reporting period, UNDP played an important role in negotiating with donors to provide additional funds to fill the funding gap.
- Huaphanh Data Issue - UNDP has been actively involved in the resolving of the CHA data issue in Huaphan province, from organizing donor briefing sessions to informing the relevant parties of the data issue. From the 25th to the 28th of August 2018, the NRA and an external inquiry team went to Huaphan province to follow-up the UXO Lao data issue, supported by UNDP. The participants for this inquiry included representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MOLSW), the NRA, the EU and Luxembourg.

Meetings and Events:

In 2018, UXO Lao facilitated many important visits to UXO contaminated provinces around Lao PDR. These events and visits provided guests with an insight into the work and operation of UXO Lao and created world-wide public awareness of the UXO issue in Lao PDR by featuring in international media. Some of UXO Lao's most notable visits in 2018 are listed below:

- Handover vehicle and field equipment - on the 12th of January 2018, UXO Lao held a handover ceremony of vehicles and field equipment under the Project of Operational Support to UXO Lao, supported by the USA, totaling 1.25 million USD in value. This included the procurement of 15 vehicles, 150 detectors and 15 sets of other field equipment for 15 teams of field staff in the three provinces of Attapeu, Khammuane and Savannakhet.
- The 21th International Meeting of Mine Action National Programme Directors and United Nations Advisors - The Director of UXO Lao, Mr. Thipphasone Soukhathammavong, attended the 21th International Meeting of Mine Action National Programme Directors and United Nations Advisors that was conducted from the 12th to the 16th of February 2018. The annual meeting was jointly organised by the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). It provided an opportunity for members of the mine action community to meet and share the progress and challenges within the sector. Most participants were senior officials who came from various organizations and institutions. This included participants from mine action programmes, colleagues from United Nations departments and agencies, representatives from non-governmental organisations, humanitarian institutions, research organisations and experts from donor governments and other mine action implementing partners.
- Project Board Meeting - On the 19th of March 2018, the UXO Lao team attended the Project Board meeting and presented its 2017 achievements and requested the board to approve its 2018 Annual Work Plan, as well as 2017 Annual Review Report, in which the project board has approved the request. Moreover, UXO Lao requested that the five clearance teams are temporarily stood down (1 team in CPS, 2 teams in SLV and 2 teams in SVK) from April 2018 and stand down the field operation in CPS, SLV and SK starting from June 2018 due to gaps in funding.

This was not agreed by the project board as further discussions were needed with all related parties. The issue of adjusting salary scales of UXO Lao staff and the project contribution to social security funds were also raised during the meeting. The project board has taken these requests into account and will address them with the relevant ministries and authorities.

- UXO Lao attended the NRA Board Meeting at the Lao Women's Training Center. UXO Lao presented its 2017 achievements and the 2018 Annual Work Plan as well as the ToR of UXO Lao. UXO Lao made a request to the chairman to establish a board committee for UXO Lao, to which the chairman suggested having the same board members as the NRA.
- Semi-Annual Work Plan Review Meeting - The meeting was conducted from the 12th to the 14th of June 2018. Approximately 65 people attended this meeting from all provincial offices and HQ, including 9 females. The meeting allowed participants to reflect on UXO Lao's implementation of the last six months and revise the work plan for the next six months. In addition, data correction was also discussed. It was agreed that the target for the year will remain the same and there is a need to correct the previous incomplete data. The provinces under the Japan International Cooperation System (JICS) support were advised that they should prepare for both project end external audits.
- Mine action mission to Colombia - This mission was conducted from 7 - 25 July 2018 in Colombian Mine Action Center (CMAC), Colombia, supported by JICS. The participants from UXO Lao comprised of Mr. Saomany Manivong, Chief of Programme/Public Information unit, and Mr. Kongkeo Sengoudomxay, Deputy Chief of Operations unit. The purpose of this mission was to learn and exchange information regarding the operation of UXO Lao and CMAC in various activities. This includes applying technology to mine/UXO clearance, using dogs to detect mines/UXO items and discussing the operation methodologies and safety requirements. In addition, during 16-20 October 2018 CMAC visited UXO Lao to learn about the operation of Brush Cutters (BC) in Champasak province. CMAC also visited the UXO Lao Visitor Center in Luangprabang province.
- The High-Level Political Forum 2018 (SDGs) - The meeting took place from the 14th to the 19th of July 2018 at UN HQ in New York, the United States of America. 48 countries participated in this event

and Mr. Thiphasone Soukathamavong, National Programme Director of UXO Lao, attended. This meeting was to discuss the Sustainable Development Goals and how to best achieve universal actions to protect the planet, minimize poverty and ensure people live in peace and prosperity. In addition, UXO Lao co-organized a side event with MOFA, UNDP and the NRA to showcase the development of a sustainability strategy plan which is linked to the UXO problem. The strategy includes the integration of victim assistance, mine/UXO risk education, surveys and clearances activities, as defined in the CCM and in line with SDG18.

- Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting - The meeting was organized by UXO Lao on 21 August 2018 in UXO Lao Champasak. There was a total number of 22 participants, including 4 females, from UXO Lao HQ, JICA HQ in Lao and the UXO Lao offices in Champasak, Salavan, Sekong and Xiengkhouang provinces. This meeting was conducted to summarize the implementation outcomes and revise the work plan.
- Joint Coordination Committee meeting - This meeting

took place at UXO Lao Champasak on 22 August 2018. The meeting involved 22 participants (4 females) from UXO Lao HQ, Champasak, Salavan and Sekong, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) HQ and JICA Lao. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the previous year’s operational achievements and the work plan for 2019. All participants at the meeting shared lessons learned and acknowledged the outcomes of the work plan development process piloted in 3 provinces.

- Wrap-up Meeting on Laos-Cambodia South-South Cooperation (SSC) on UXO/mine action sector between UXO Lao and CMAC Phase 2 (2015-2018) - The meeting took place on 23 August 2018 at Pakse hotel, Champasak province, supported by JICA. There were 6 participants, including 1 female, from CMAC, 3 participants (2 females) from JICA and 23 participants (2 females) from UXO Lao (including UXO Lao HQ, Champasak, Salavan, Sekong). The participants reported phase 2 achievements of ‘On the Job Training’ programme between UXO Lao and CMAC and discussed the work plan for the next phase of cooperation phase. Due to the need

Detailed statistical figures in 2018:

In accordance with the approval of new survey procedures for the UXO sector by the Government of Lao PDR (GoL), all humanitarian operators in Lao PDR now employ the evidence-based approach for land clearance. Applying this new approach has increased the number of CM found per hectare. During the reporting period, the overall CM found per hectare decreased compared to previous years. The reasons for this is that quite a lot of non-CHA clearance was carried out for development areas in 2018, especially for schools, health centers and irrigation channels. Any non-CHA clearance was pre-approved by the relevant donors and as an example, non-CHA clearance was conducted to support the recovery of the flood-affected areas in Sanamxai District, Attapeu Province. In some provinces, clearance activities were halted for short periods of time due to weather and funding issues, which in turn decreased the average CM found per hectare, as seen in the table below.

Number of Cluster Munitions found per hectare per province 2018										
2014 National Average for comparison										5
2015 National Average for comparison										22
2016 National Average for comparison										22
2017 National Average for comparison										19
2018 Monthly	ATP	CPS	HP	KM	LPB	SLV	SVK	SK	XK	Average
January	23	17	17	15	11	18	23	17	8	17
February	17	17	13	12	11	20	29	16	10	16
March	19	17	7	12	14	11	20	16	14	14
April	18	15	16	14	14	11	22	15	12	15

May	16	24	11	9	11	8	21	13	15	14
June	16	12	28	10	6	10	24	21	11	15
July	21	20	44	10	8	8	21	0	10	16
August	17	8	9	0	7	8	17	18	8	10
September	16	17	12	8	6	9	13	17	8	12
October	17	13	18	8	8	6	10	26	5	12
November	20	18	10	13	9	10	0	22	0	11
December	13	18	12	15	9	5	0	17	0	10
Average	18	16	16	11	10	10	20	17	8	14

Geography of operations:

Activity	Provinces/districts
Survey	Houaphanh, Xiengkhuang, Luang Prabang, Khammouane, Savannakhet, Salavane, Sekong, Champasak, Attapeu
Area clearance	Houaphanh, Xiengkhuang, Luang Prabang, Khammouane, Savannakhet, Salavane, Sekong, Champasak, Attapeu
Roving Tasks	Houaphanh, Xiengkhuang, Luang Prabang, Khammouane, Savannakhet, Salavane, Sekong, Champasak, Attapeu
Risk Education	Houaphanh, Xiengkhuang, Luang Prabang, Khammouane, Savannakhet, Salavane, Sekong, Champasak, Attapeu

Financials:

Summary of Funds Received (in USD)

For the Year Ended 1 January - 31 December 2018

Fund Sources	Earmarked	Unearmarked	Total	% to Total
UNDP-Managed Funds				
Australia (AT-CLR)	145,666.42		145,666.42	2%
Canada (CFLI)	3,733.00		3,733.00	0%
Ireland		122,605.00	122,605.00	2%
Luxembourg		8,563.00	8,563.00	0%
New Zealand	1,660,946.00		1,660,946.00	22%
Republic of Korea		25,000.00	25,000.00	0%
UNDP TRAC2 (AT-MRE)	30,000.00		30,000.00	0%
	1,840,345.42	156,168.00	1,996,513.42	26%
Bilateral Funds				
JICS	812,601.77		812,601.77	11%

Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)	465,885.00		465,885.00	6%
US Sterling	4,059,968.00		4,059,968.00	54%
World Without Mines (WWM)	189,000.00		189,000.00	3%
	5,527,454.77	-	5,527,454.77	74%
Government Contribution and Others				
Others		4,453.54	4,453.54	0%
	-	4,453.54	4,453.54	0%
Total	7,367,800.19	160,621.54	7,528,421.73	100%
% to Total	98%	2%	100%	

**Actual Expenditures per cost classification (in USD)
For the Year Ended 1 January - 31 December 2018**

<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>Total Amount</i>	<i>% to Total</i>
<i>Personnel Costs</i>	5,990,459.47	
	5,990,459.47	68%
<i>Operating Expenses</i>		
<i>Rental and Maintenance</i>	617,873.27	
<i>Fuel</i>	449,807.04	
<i>Travel</i>	153,764.69	
<i>Utilities</i>	109,093.38	
<i>Stationeries and Other Office Supplies</i>	95,894.73	
<i>Security/Explosive Storage</i>	57,035.80	
<i>Printing, Publications and Promo Materials</i>	39,143.64	
<i>Telephone/Internet/Fax Charges</i>	30,122.67	
<i>Freight and Postal Handling</i>	21,108.15	
<i>Insurance</i>	14,377.87	
<i>Sundries</i>	55,897.00	
	1,644,118.24	18%
<i>Special Operating Expenses</i>		
<i>GMS and Implementation Support Service</i>	230,494.70	
<i>Trainings, Workshops and Conferences</i>	61,222.10	
<i>Licenses</i>	22,366.31	
<i>Foreign Currency (Gain) Loss</i>	17,857.06	
<i>Audit Fees</i>	9,905.00	

<i>Bank Charges</i>	4,871.54	
	346,716.71	4%
<i>Non-Expendable Equipment</i>		
<i>Safety and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Equipment</i>	163,972.30	
<i>Office and Computer Equipment</i>	49,693.31	
<i>Office Furniture</i>	14,684.48	
<i>Community Awareness (CA) Presentation and Field Equipment</i>	9,853.54	
	238,203.63	3%
<i>Expendable Materials</i>		
<i>Personnel/Medical Supplies</i>	248,580.00	
<i>EOD Supplies</i>	220,021.31	
<i>Explosives</i>	156,290.92	
<i>CA Supplies</i>	5,972.92	
	630,865.15	7%
Total	8,850,363.20	100%

**Budget vs. Actual Expenditures - Overall (in USD)
For the Year Ended 1 January - 31 December 2018**

	<i>Fund Sources</i>				
	UNDP-Managed Funds	Bilateral Funds	Gov't Contribution & Others	Unfunded	Total
<i>Budget</i>	2,350,152.52	5,985,076.02	40,365.86	4,457,167.95	12,832,762.35
<i>Actual Expenditures</i>	2,469,997.58	6,310,921.64	69,443.98		8,850,363.20
<i>Budget Balance</i>	(119,845.06)	(325,845.62)	(29,078.12)	4,457,167.95	3,982,399.15
<i>Actual Expenditures/Budget (%)</i>	105%	105%	172%	0%	69%

**Budget vs. Actual Expenditures by Donor (in USD)
For the Year Ended, 1 January - 31 December 2018**

	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual Expenditures</i>	<i>Budget Balance</i>	<i>Actual Exp./Budget (%)</i>
<i>UNDP-Managed Funds</i>				
<i>Australia (Attapeu-CLR)</i>		96,563.33	(96,563.33)	
<i>Canada (CFLI)</i>	20,901.59	21,582.54	(680.95)	103%
<i>EU (Note 1)</i>	765,811.49	594,273.61	171,537.88	78%
<i>Ireland</i>	102,503.44	164,122.12	(61,618.68)	160%
<i>Luxembourg</i>	8,512.37	158,930.36	(150,417.99)	1867%

<i>New Zealand (Note 2)</i>	1,427,423.63	1,383,866.44	43,557.19	97%
<i>Republic of Korea</i>	25,000.00	23,932.48	1,067.52	96%
<i>UNDP TRAC2 (Attapeu-MRE)</i>		26,726.70	(26,726.70)	
	2,325,152.52	2,469,997.58	(119,845.06)	106%
<i>Bilateral Funds</i>				
<i>JICS</i>	807,027.96	1,498,511.84	(691,483.88)	186%
<i>NPA</i>	559,987.76	468,547.77	91,439.99	84%
<i>US Sterling</i>	4,429,060.31	4,155,829.23	273,231.08	94%
<i>WWM</i>	189,000.00	188,032.80	967.20	99%
	5,985,076.02	6,310,921.64	(325,845.62)	105%
<i>Government Contribution and Others</i>				
<i>Government of Lao PDR</i>	40,365.86	12,395.60	27,970.26	31%
<i>Others (Note 3)</i>		57,048.38	(57,048.38)	
	40,365.86	69,443.98	(29,078.12)	172%
<i>Unfunded</i>	4,457,167.95		4,457,167.95	0%
Total	12,807,762.35	8,850,363.20	3,982,399.15	69%

Notes:

1. The total actual UXO Lao EU project expenditures in 2018 amounted to USD594,273.61, of which USD157,139.07, was temporarily paid from New Zealand (NZ) funds and will be reversed from the NZ budget lines upon receipt of the next EU tranche in 2019.
2. The total actual UXO Lao NZ project expenditures in 2018 amounted to USD1,383,866.44. In addition, UNDP temporarily charged and paid for UXO Lao project costs from NZ funds, totaling an amount of USD504,828.93 to cover funding gap. This will be reversed upon receipt of the amounts owing from corresponding donors.
3. The total actual other UXO Lao expenditures in 2018, which amounted to USD57,048.38, included the personnel and operating costs of 5 previously Australia-supported UXO Lao teams in Q1 2018, amounting to USD52,019, which was temporarily paid from NZ funds and will be reversed from the NZ budget lines upon receipt of available funds.

Budget vs. Actual Expenditures by Activity (in USD)

For the Year Ended, 1 January - 31 December 2018

	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual Expenditures</i>	<i>Budget Balance</i>	<i>Actual Exp./Budget (%)</i>
<i>Clearance</i>	6,246,990.38	5,418,337.31	828,653.07	87%
<i>Technical Survey</i>	969,215.89	768,997.92	200,217.97	79%
<i>Non-Technical Survey</i>	298,403.01	254,445.43	43,957.58	85%
<i>Mine Risk Education</i>	303,660.94	261,042.11	42,618.83	86%
<i>Quality Management</i>	89,745.00	125,981.26	-36,236.26	140%
<i>Management/Administration*</i>	4,924,747.13	2,021,559.17	2,903,187.96	41%
Total	12,832,762.35	8,850,363.20	3,982,399.15	69%

*includes UNDP costs

Budget vs. Actual Expenditures by Location (in USD)

For the Year Ended, 1 January - 31 December 2018

	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual Expenditures</i>	<i>Budget Balance</i>	<i>Actual Exp./Budget (%)</i>
<i>UXO Lao Provincial Offices</i>				
Attapue (AT)	1,086,450.93	924,902.34	161,548.59	85%
Champasack (CH)	845,796.89	588,618.01	257,178.88	70%
Houaphanh (HP)	825,298.35	627,595.71	197,702.64	76%
Khammouane (KH)	1,132,456.20	944,645.27	187,810.93	83%
Luang Prabang (LP)	568,164.19	450,047.61	118,116.58	79%
Salavane (SL)	1,677,172.00	915,553.56	761,618.44	55%
Savannakhet (SV)	2,147,751.82	1,545,923.37	601,828.45	72%
Sekong (SK)	1,138,407.14	635,395.46	503,011.68	56%
Xiengkhouang (XK)	1,240,554.87	1,194,153.74	46,401.13	96%
<i>UXO Lao National Office (NO)*</i>	1,613,556.72	965,547.93	648,008.79	60%
<i>UXO Lao Training Center (TC)</i>	557,153.24	57,980.20	499,173.04	10%
<i>Total</i>	<i>12,832,762.35</i>	<i>8,850,363.20</i>	<i>3,982,399.15</i>	<i>69%</i>

*includes UNDP costs



saves lives builds futures

MINES ADVISORY GROUP (MAG)

Activities in 2018:

In 2018, MAG continued to implement high quality humanitarian mine action activities across two of the most heavily-contaminated provinces in the country, namely Xieng Khouang and Khammouane provinces.

Activities conducted over the 12-month period include:

- NTS, during which the Community Liaison Team (CLT) conducted multiple village meetings, community mapping exercises and carried out household interviews, in order to develop a comprehensive profile of UXO contamination within that community. The CLT continues to conduct their investigation of a village until they are satisfied that all historical data has been verified and that any new evidence points are gathered for future TS activities.
- TS is then carried out in areas where contamination has been confirmed by the NTS process. TS results in the establishment of CHAs.
- Clearance of land in priority CHAs means that land can be returned to the community for safe and productive use.
- EOD spot tasks were carried out to destroy items of UXO which posed an immediate risk to communities. This included the destruction of cluster munitions, as well as other larger aircraft-dropped bombs.
- MRE sessions were conducted for the benefit of local communities.

Key achievements in 2018:

In 2018, MAG began the US government-funded survey



of Xieng Khouang Province. This meant that fewer teams focused their efforts on clearance but the clearance outputs were nevertheless significant.

Following the successes of the integrated survey and clearance projects conducted in 2015-17, MAG continued its partnership in 2018 with NPA in Boualapha district, Khammouane province.

Focus areas of work in 2019:

In 2019, MAG will continue to conduct evidenced-based survey and clearance activities in Xieng Khouang and Khammouane provinces. MAG will also continue to focus on enhancing operational efficiencies and effectiveness while delivering quality high-impact land release to beneficiary communities and development partners.

In Xieng Khouang province, MAG will continue implementing the US government-funded survey project. At the same time, UK-funded clearance activities will start, which requires a significant scaling-up of teams.

Both the Norwegian government and the American Family Foundation will continue to fund projects in Khammouane province. MAG's clearance capacity in the

province will almost triple in 2019 with the addition of UK government and American Family Foundation funding. These new grants will also enable MAG to expand its work into Gnommalat district where NTS, MRE and survey activities will commence.

Activities that will be conducted in 2019 include:

- Quality survey that will accurately and efficiently identify CHAs for clearance.
- Clearance of priority CHAs that deliver high impacts in terms of development outcomes.
- Immediate destruction of UXO items that pose an imminent danger to communities.
- Delivery of MRE to sectors of society identified as most at-risk.
- Introduction and training of new operational methodologies and equipment/assets.
- Close coordination and sharing of information and experience with other UXO operators and the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR.

The good news:

Bounma has been working with MAG Laos for over five years. She started as a Technician but is now a Team

Leader for one of MAG’s Mine Action Teams. Once the new UK government grant is received, Bounma will be promoted to the role of Field Supervisor as she has proven herself to be hard-working, diligent and reliable.

Bounma grew up in Langkhang village in Khammouane province. Closely located to the Ho Chi Minh Trail, Langkhang was heavily bombed during the Indochina War and remains heavily contaminated with UXO to this day. For this reason, Langkhang village is prioritised by the government in relation to clearance activities and is, therefore, a focus for MAG’s clearance work.

As a result, Bounma was very aware of the dangers of UXO from an early age. She recalls, “I remember hearing about UXO accidents when I was growing up. People used to get injured searching for scrap metal. This is why I joined MAG and do UXO clearance; I don’t want to hear about any more accidents”.

“It is a big responsibility”, she explains about her role as Field supervisor. She continues, “you are responsible for ensuring the safety of your teams and that they are working in line with the standards. But I enjoy my work and I may be small but I’m doing big things”.

Personnel in 2018:

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>		<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
32	23	0	1	358	147	5	0
Total				566			

Detailed statistic figures in 2018:

For more detailed on the statistics figure of the MAG, please refer to the Sector Achievements on page 5 to 7.

Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces/districts</i>
UXO Survey	Phaxai-Khoun-Nonghet-Mok-Phoukhouh/XK
AC	Phaxai-Khoun-Nonghet-Boualapha/XK - KHM
RT	Phaxai-Khoun-Nonghet-Boualapha-Mahaxay-Xaybouathong-Gnommalat/XK - KHM
MRE	Phaxai/XK

Financials:

Expenditure for 2018: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	725,977
Operational costs:	3,212,979
- UXO/MRE cost	0
- VA	0
- UXO survey and clearance	3,212,979
Equipment	353,914
Others	344,155
Total	4,637,025

Donor contributions for 2018: (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2018</i>
US Department of State, Office of Weapons Re-moval and Abatement	3,999,696
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	537,000
Freeman Foundation	227,272
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs	186,975
Total	4,950,943

Transfer of funds:

Funds transferred to another UXO sector operator

<i>What organization were the funds transferred to?</i>	<i>How much was transferred? (USD)</i>
NPA	178,000
Total	178,000



NORWEGIAN PEOPLE'S AID (NPA)

Activities in 2018:

NPA conducted five activities during 2018:

- Cluster Munition Remnants Survey (CMRS) in Attapeu, Saravane and Sekong provinces. NPA deployed 24 CMRS teams to these provinces.
- Clearance of high-priority CHAs in Attapeu, Saravane and Sekong provinces. NPA deployed 7 Battle Area Clearance (BAC) teams to these provinces. Survey and clearance operations were also supported by one quality management team. NPA teams also contributed to emergency clearance in Attapeu province, following the flash floods that resulted from heavy rainfall.
- CMRS in Khammouane province, as part of a joint project with the Mines Advisory Group (MAG). Two NPA CMRS teams worked to conduct TS to identify CHAs, after which the MAG teams then conducted clearance.
- Support to UXO Lao in Luang Prabang by providing experienced monitoring and training staff, salaries and equipment for UXO Lao staff, comprising of both field teams and support staff.
- Support to the NRA's Information Management Unit, chiefly through the trial and implementation of VPN access to the IMSMA Database.

Key achievements in 2018:

NPA had a number of notable successes in 2018. One of the key successes was NPA's support to the government of Lao PDR during and after the emergency in Attapeu province. In the days following the flash flooding, NPA was able to support Attapeu province by volunteering fleet and human resources to transport emergency relief and supplies into the flood-affected areas. NPA's emergency clearance in Attapeu, totalling nearly 55 hectares, supported critical development needs and enabled the safe relocation of flood-affected communities. The contribution of NPA and its donors was recognised by the NRA during a major National Sector Working Group Meeting on the 2nd of November 2018.

In addition, NPA saw significant increases to its operational efficiency in 2018. Refined operational planning has been focused on keeping a number of teams in a close geographic area to minimise the time,

distance and resources required for individual team travel and to also reduce team down-time. NPA has also increased the efficiency of NTS by revising maps, photos and videos that are shown during NTS meetings. This has greatly increased community engagement in NTS village meetings, which in turn allows NPA teams to access more and better information, thereby producing a more comprehensive survey. It also allows NPA CMRS teams to better explain and demonstrate the survey process and its impacts and to communicate information about the impact cluster munitions and other UXO may have on villages and community members.

Focus areas of work in 2019:

In 2019, NPA will focus on continuing to implement the national CMRS survey in Attapeu, Saravane and Sekong provinces and to conduct clearance of high-priority CHAs in these areas. NPA also hopes to extend its operations into Champasak province and looks forward to continue establishing partnerships with village, district and provincial authorities and also with UXO Lao in Champasak province to ensure strong coordination and cooperation for the national survey project.

In 2019, NPA also looks forward to continuing the partnership with UXO Lao in Luang Prabang province. NPA hopes to work in close partnership with UXO Lao in 2019 to strengthen their ability to conduct survey and clearance in Luang Prabang province. This will help to clarify the extent of contamination in priority villages, whilst also supporting UXO Lao clearance activities in high-priority areas. NPA will also continue its close cooperation with UXO Lao in Vientiane province and



Tik Tadboukong (Surveyor/medic) working on a technical survey task in Chounla village, Thateng district, Sekong province.

in the southern provinces to ensure a coordinated approach to all survey and clearance activities.

NPA also plans on increasing support to the NRA to ensure that there is a strong national authority that is trained and equipped, as required. NPA hopes to enhance the ability of the NRA to lead and coordinate the sector and to effectively and efficiently manage the data collected during the national cluster munition remnants survey. In particular, NPA will work closely with the NRA on capacity development in areas of information management, planning and prioritisation.

In addition, NPA looks forward to continuing to cooperate and coordinate with other actors in the sector, particularly with the NRA and UXO Lao. NPA also looks forward to working closely with other sector stakeholders in order to continue working towards a Lao PDR that is free from the impact of cluster munitions and other UXO.



An NPA BAC team using a new large loop detector to conduct emergency clearance in Attapeu province on 16 October 2018, to support the construction of settlements for flood affected communities.

The good news:

The area surrounding the village of Phokhem in Saravane province was a victim of heavy U.S. bombing during the Indochina War. As a result, the community had been living in constant danger from explosive remnants of war for over fifty years. There have been two major accidents involving cluster bombs in this village, which have killed five people. Three of those killed were young teenagers, who had been playing with a bomb without any knowledge of the danger it posed.

Community leader Khamphong Sorphaxay said the village plans to develop the area for tourism as there is a pristine waterfall close by. They see this as a great potential to develop village-based tourism projects in the area, which will significantly benefit the entire community. “We knew about the dangers in this area, and we have been hesitant in using the land for growing coffee, which is our main income, however, we look forward having this area cleared as we have big plans for the community to develop without having to face the danger of cluster munitions”, says Khamphong. NPA’s battle area clearance team removed over 100 cluster bombs from the site during a clearance task conducted in 2018.

Implementing Partners:

- UXO Lao in Luang Prabang
- MAG in Khammouane province

Personnel in 2018:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
23	10	2	2	209	66	4	0
Total		316					

Detailed statistic figures in 2018:

For more detailed on the statistics figure of the NPA, please refer to the Sector Achievements on pages 5 to 7.

Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces/districts of Lao PDR where the activities were implemented</i>
UXO Survey	Attapeu, Khammouane, Saravane and Sekong
Area clearance	Attapeu, Saravane and Sekong
Roving Tasks	Attapeu, Khammouane, Saravane and Sekong

Financials:

Expenditure for 2018: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	3,529,772
Operational costs:	0
- UXO/MRE cost	0
- VA	0
- UXO survey and clearance	1,643,072
Equipment	
Total	5,172,844

Donor contributions for 2018 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2018</i>
US Department of State (USDOS)	3,360,429
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA Frame)	740,844
Fagforbundet	45,461
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA Bilateral)	857,923
Mine Advisory Group (MAG) (under grant awarded by NMFA)	115,533
Department of International Development (DFID)	52,654
Total	5,172,844

Transfer of funds:

Funds transferred to another UXO sector operator

<i>What organization were the funds transferred to?</i>	<i>How much was transferred? (USD)</i>
UXO Lao	465,048
Total	465,048

Funds Received from another UXO sector operator

<i>Funds transferred from which organization?</i>	<i>How much was transferred? (USD)</i>
MAG (under grant awarded by NMFA)	115,533
Total	115,533



HALO TRUST (HALO)

Activities in 2018:

- NTS in Sepon, Vilabouly, Nong and Phin districts in Savannakhet Province.
- TS in Sepon, Vilabouly, Nong and Phin districts in Savannakhet Province.
- Clearance in Sepon, Vilabouly, Nong and Phin districts in Savannakhet Province.
- EOD Roving Tasks in Sepon, Vilabouly, Nong and Phin districts in Savannakhet Province.
- MRE in Sepon, Vilabouly, Nong and Phin districts in Savannakhet Province.

HALO continued its operations across Savannakhet province in 2018, focusing its operations particularly in the Sepon, Vilabouly, Nong and Phin districts. The wide-range of activities conducted by HALO in 2018 include: Non-Technical Survey, Technical Survey, Clearance, EOD Roving Tasks and Risk Education.

HALO also increased its staff numbers during 2018. At the beginning of the year, HALO employed 303 staff, however, by the year-end the organisation grew to 314 staff, which includes both operational and administrative staff.

Key achievements in 2018:

- The HALO Trust cleared over 650,000 m² of high priority land in 2018.
- The HALO Trust carried out 989 EOD roving tasks, approximately one third of the target for four and a half years.
- The HALO Trust carried out non-technical survey and technical survey over 100 villages.
- The HALO Trust destroyed over 8,500 dangerous items of UXO.

Both non-technical survey and technical survey activities were conducted over 100 villages across the Sepon, Vilabouly, Nong and Phin districts in Savannakhet province. Furthermore, HALO carried out 989 EOD roving task, which amounts to approximately one third of the target for four and a half years.

HALO increased its focus on MRE in 2018, having conducted 90 village visits, reaching a total of 13,294 beneficiaries.



Supervisor Phouvanh and Ops Manager inspect an MK82 aircraft bomb

Focus areas of work in 2019:

HALO is looking forward to expanding both its staff and operations in 2019. Under its new DFID donor contract, the programme will hire 17 new Clearance teams and one Community Liaison and Risk Education team to continue the work being conducted in Savannakhet province. These teams will need to be trained and deployed by the beginning of May 2019. Furthermore, administrative staff will also be recruited under this new contract to support operations.

To facilitate these extra staff, the HALO Trust HQ, located in the Sepon district of Savannakhet province will have its operations room and existing workshop expanded. A new medical ward, together with a new storage area will also be created. New uniforms and kit will be purchased to equip these new teams.

Additionally, the HALO survey teams will extend its area of operations to include Phalanxai and Atsaphantong districts. This will help to build new relationships with the local government partners. HALO will continue to coordinate with all partners and stakeholders at central, provincial and district levels to ensure that its strategies and goals are fully aligned.

Case Study:

UXO accident in Lao PDR highlights the risks children face from explosive items dropped over 50 years ago.

Vangleuk village in Sepon District is an ethnic Lao Theung area situated in a mountainous region on the border with Vietnam. In addition to difficult access and poor infrastructure, it ranks as one of the most

impoverished places not just in Savannakhet province, but in the whole of Lao PDR. On Saturday 21st April, five children were playing with a BLU-26/B sub-munition, what's known locally as a 'bombie', when it exploded, killing one young boy, and seriously injuring another, with three other girls sustaining less serious injuries. There have been over 20,000 accidents in Lao PDR since the end of the war in 1973, and 40% of the victims are children. This accident is a stark reminder of the very real danger that still exists in Lao PDR, and the vital role that HALO and other UXO operators play here in eliminating the threat to lives and livelihoods posed by explosive remnants of war.

Not long after the accident happened, the head of the village contacted a HALO team leader who immediately reported up to the programme's management. Despite the accident happening when all of our national staff were on stand down leave following Lao PDR New Year, we were able to rapidly respond with our expertise, vehicles and financial assistance to help the victims reach vital medical care. The young boy who sustained serious injuries was sent immediately to Vietnam, where

his condition stabilized, and HALO paid for the fuel and cost of an ambulance to transport the three girls and five of their family members to superior medical facilities in the provincial capital four hours away.

The following day, HALO Operations Officers visited the families in hospital and were able to provide them with interim financial support, paying for food, water and medicine. After the children had been seen by doctors and found to have no internal injuries, HALO transported all eight family members back to their village. We contacted World Education (a Victim Assistance INGO) to activate the War Victims Medical Fund which covers medical bills for victims of UXO accidents.

On Tuesday 24th April, HALO operations teams followed up with the families in Vangleuk and checked the accident site. At the restart of full operations, a survey team was dispatched to inspect the area with a community outreach team who delivered targeted risk education messages to increase awareness of UXO and influence behavior change to prevent future accidents from happening. Within five days, the survey team received reports of 41 new items of UXO which were destroyed immediately.



Supervisor Sivay gives hands on help to a technician in Nalong-kao task in Nong District

Partners:

- National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR
- Department of International Organisation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of National Defence
- Local Authorities at Provincial and District Level



Child beneficiary from Khaengkhum village in Vilabouly, collecting foliage to make brooms to sell

Personnel in 2018:

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>		<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
24	21	1	2	152	111	2	1
Total		314					

Detailed statistic figures in 2018:

For more detailed on the statistics of the HALO Trust, please refer to the Sector Achievements on pages 5 to 7.

Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Districts/Provinces</i>
UXO Survey	Sepon, Vilabouly, Nong, Phin Districts. Savannakhet Province
Area clearance	Sepon, Vilabouly, Nong, Phin Districts. Savannakhet Province
Roving Tasks	Sepon, Vilabouly, Nong, Phin Districts. Savannakhet Province
Risk Education	Sepon, Vilabouly, Nong, Phin Districts. Savannakhet Province

Financials:

Expenditure for 2018: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	674,959
Operational costs:	
- UXO/Mine Risk Education cost	307,106
- Victim Assistance	0
- UXO survey and clearance	2,055,249
Equipment	337,479
Total	3,374,793

Donor contributions for 2018 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2018</i>
PM/WRA	3,491,939
Total	3,491,939

Activities in 2018:

- Preparatory activities for the new project in Houaphan Province, including elaboration of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), recruitment, training, transfer of equipment, etc.
- Disability survey in 44 villages
- Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices Survey (KAP) in 44 villages
- EOD-1 training

Key achievements in 2018:

Targets set in 2018 annual workplan could not be reached as the MoU process was signed at the end of December 2018:

- NTS: Achieved 0 villages (0%)
- TS: Achieved 0 sqm (0%)
- AC: Achieved 0 hectares (0%)
- ROV: 100% of UXO identified are destroyed – Achieved 0 UXO (0%)
- RE: Safety briefings: Achieved 0 (0%)
- RE: Movie events: Achieved 0 (0%)
- RE: Teachers trained: Achieved 0 (0%)
- VA: Data collection of persons with disabilities, including UXO survivors: 887 persons with disabilities screened in 2018 – Achieved (81%)

Focus areas of work in 2019:

- Launching of operations in a new province.
- Operational constraints due to relief and weather.
- HI will need to catchup with the fixed targets, considering the remaining time in the project which is two years (2 years).
- HI will need to have strong coordination mechanisms with the implementing partners and authorities to be able to achieve its Comprehensive

approach of Mine Action (CAMA).

Implementing Partners

- Groupe de Recherche et d'Echanges Technologiques (GRET) (Bamboo/NTFP Livelihood activities related to VA)
- OXFAM and Maeying Huamjai Phattana (MHP) (Gender Mainstreaming)



HI supporting Vientiane Classic Run in December 2018, displaying portraits of UXO survivors from Houaphan to raise awareness on public.



HI Clearance site preparation to be able to launch operations in 2019

Personnel in 2018:

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
National		International		National		International	
Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
8	7	3	0	37	21	2	2
Total		80					

Geographic operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces/Districts</i>
UXO Survey	Houamuang District / Houaphan Province
Area clearance	Houamuang District / Houaphan Province
Roving Tasks	Houamuang District / Houaphan Province
Risk Education	Houamuang District / Houaphan Province
Victim Assistance	Houamuang District / Houaphan Province

Financials: Expenditure for 2018: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Various	607,830
Total	607,830

Donor contributions for 2018: (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2018</i>
European Union*	1,062,256
Centre de Crise et de Soutien (French MOFA)	227,151
Total	1,289,407

*Total amount of the signed contract covering 2018, 2019 and 2020

COMMERCIAL CLEARANCE OPERATORS

LCY UNEXPLORED ORDNANCE CLEARANCE CO., LTD

Activities in 2018:

- In 2018, LCY has carried out UXO clearance in the area designated for 230Kv Power Transmission Line Project along with the Nam Ou Reiver 1, Nam Ou 3, Nam Ou 4 and Nam Ou 7.
- LCY has carried out UXO clearance in the areas of Water Research of Nam Theun 2 Power Company.

Focus areas of work in 2019:

- LCY will continue to carry out the survey and clearance in the area designated for 230Kv Power Transmission Line Project from Korhing to Huamueng district, Huaphan province.

Clients:

- ELECTRICITE DU LAOS
- Nam Theun 2 Power Company

Personnel in 2018:

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>		<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
6	2	0	0	22	0	0	0
Total		30					

Detailed statistic figures in 2018:

For more detailed on the statistics figure of the LCY, please refer to the Sector Achievements on pages 5 to 7.

Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces/districts</i>
Area clearance	Phongsaly, Oudomxay, Luang Prabang
UXO survey	Phongsaly, Oudomxay, Luang Prabang

Financials:

Expenditure for 2018: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	150 000
Operational costs:	
- UXO/Mine Risk Education cost	
- Victim Assistance	
- UXO survey and clearance	370,000
Equipment	230,000
Total	750,000

Donor contributions for 2018 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2018</i>
LCY self funded	
Total	750,000



ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE ASSOCIATED WITH MMG LXML (MMG)

Activities in 2018:

From January until December 2018, with the joint effort of LXML-UXO and the Lao Ministry of Defense's Engineering Department, UXO clearance was conducted and more than 200 hectares of land was released and cleared of UXO for the Mining Operations and Community Development Projects. During the 2018 operations, there were more than 70 UXO found and destroyed.

During 2018, the need for UXO clearance increased and, therefore, LXML-UXO recruited over 30 employees to meet this need. By the end of 2018, the LXML-UXO had a total of 104 staff, seven of which were support staff.

The key UXO clearance activities conducted during 2018 were:

LXML Operations:

- UXO clearance at all the active pits of Thang Kham mountain;
- UXO clearance at the western tailing storage facility;
- UXO clearance for sediment catchment dam construction; and
- UXO clearance for gold exploration and the resource drilling program at Discovery Pit, Namkok Pit and Nalou pit.

Community Development:

- UXO clearance along route 28A from Nalou gate to Nong kadaeg village for safe road maintenance;
- UXO clearance for developing a new water supply at Vangyang and Namalou villages; and
- UXO clearance at Thongphieng Pit for channel construction to supply irrigation for community farms.

Key achievements in 2018:

The need to reduce risk and provide a safe working environment is the fundamental principle of UXO clearance management. LXML achieved zero UXO-related incidents within its clearance team and consistently champions one of LXML core values, "Think Safety First" concerning the unique hazard associated with UXO clearance. In Lao PDR, LXML is supporting development and ensure people's safety by building capacity, investing in modern technology and raising awareness of UXO through accredited partnerships with the key players in the UXO sector.

Throughout 2018, LXML reinforced quality management via UXO blind seed, which was planted in the ground so as to be detected and cleared. This method ensures that UXO teams are consistently achieving and delivering high-quality clearance for the benefit and safety of mining operations and the surrounding communities. LXML's Quality Management Coordinator plants a number of blind seeds, which comprise of one-half of a FFE BLU-26 (a single shell of cluster bomblet BLU26) at a UXO clearance site for the day.

250lb FFE MK81 blind seeds were regularly placed throughout the year in various mine pits to maintain assurance of quality of the geophysical digital data collected by UXO teams in the field and the quality of the geophysicist's interpretation. Random dataset samples were regularly sent to a third party for independent verification and review.

On Lao National Day, the UXO team received the LXML Progress Award in Safety First for the achievement of more than three years without a recordable injury (no medical treatment, alternate duties or lost time injuries). Two UXO awareness days were held, with over thirty participants on each day, which were attended by site employees, contractors and invited members of the Vilabouly Community.

A high standard of training is essential to maintain and develop capacity to carry out safe, effective and efficient UXO clearance in the Lao PDR.

For LXML, UXO training is the most important aspect of UXO clearance operations, as this key factor ensures that the operator has the right skill set and understanding of the task prior to the performance of any activity. Throughout 2018, LXML invested time and money to eliver training in across its UXO operations. Employees were awarded more than 203 qualifications for training, such as safety, first aid and light and heavy vehicle driving. In addition, LXML also provided advanced first aid training for paramedical staff to maintain proficiency in emergency response and casualty evacuation.

UXO Detector trials

LXML continues to invest in technology to improve target detection and identification. LXML has developed advanced geophysical gravitational and electromagnetic survey methods to deliver productive clearing activities to support operations, particularly open pit mining.

Moving Loop Electro-Magnetic (MLEM) system

The development of the MLEM system continued in

2018 with the construction and testing of a sensor frame, which permitted rapid conversion between fixed-loop and moving-loop modes. A practicable field system was demonstrated using this frame, together with lightweight LiPOFe batteries to supply power to the transmitter.

Test data indicates that the system would be superior to FLEM in areas of deep sourced high backgrounds, while areas of shallow sourced noise would be more problematic.

Surface Fluxgate System

In 2018, work was carried out with the support from Gap EOD and Black Tusk geophysics to test and develop surface TDEM surveys using a Bartington fluxgate magnetic sensor EMIT SM24 controller and small fixed loops driven by the Gap EOD transmitter systems used for UltraTEM. The object was to test targets selected from UltraTEM surveys with a localized survey over the target in order to enable elimination of geologic anomalies as dig-targets.

Localization - Local Capacity-Building Achievements in 2018:

MMG LXML has also continued to be active in furthering the progress of local employees. Other skills and knowledge enhanced through different training courses organized by MMG LXML are included in the table below.

Course	Location	Trainee QTY
Laos Driving License	Vilabouly	8
Computer/Software	Vilabouly	0
MMG Safety Courses	Vilabouly	111
Supervisor Development Programme	Vilabouly	0
UltraTEM Training	Vilabouly	0
Menzimuck Driver	Vilabouly	3
Using lightning detector	Vilabouly	0
First aid	Vilabouly	43
UXO Identification	Vilabouly	2
Fire wooden & Fire fighting	Vilabouly	27
Heavy Vehicle driving permit	Vilabouly	9
Brush cutter	Vilabouly	0

Personnel in 2018:

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
2	2	3	0	76	21	0	0
Total		104					

Detailed statistic figures in 2018:

For more detailed on the statistics figure of the MMG, please refer to the Sector Achievements on pages 5 to 7.

Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces/districts</i>
Area clearance	Vilabouly District, Savannakhet Province

Financials:

Expenditure for 2018: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Various	2,724,077
Total	2,724,077

Donor contributions for 2018 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Amount</i>
MMG self funded	2,724,077
Total	2,724,077

Activities in 2018:

- WEI Laos continued managing the War Victims Medical Fund, which assists survivors of UXO with financial support for transportation, medicine and a small subsistence allowance for the caregiver whilst they are in the hospital or rehabilitation center with the survivor. The fund also provides for ongoing medical and surgical costs for UXO survivors with severe injuries and provides financial support for funerals and spiritual ceremonies. In 2018, WEI also distributed NRA-approved brochures and posters about the Fund to target districts and conducted coordination meetings and trainings with the NRA to help streamline the case management and payment process.
- In 2018, WEI Laos finished implementing the “Integrated Victim Assistance in Lao PDR” project, funded by the U.S. Department of State (end of March 2018). During this time, WEI conducted follow-up visits with UXO survivors, as well as nurses and doctors who had been trained in counselling. In addition, 44 survivors benefitted from peer-to-peer psychosocial support through workshops and home visits.
- WEI worked with officials from the NRA, MOFA and the MOES to revise and finalize the MOU for the “Comprehensive Mine Risk Education in Lao PDR” project, funded by the U.S. Department of State. The MOU was signed in early 2019 and, therefore, no activities are reported for 2018. The project will be implemented in 10 provinces from 2019 to 2021

Detailed key achievements in 2018:



- The War Victims Medical Fund provides assistance to UXO survivors and their families as the need arises and as new accidents occur, so for this reason there are no annual targets.
- WEI was unable to begin implementing activities for the comprehensive MRE in Lao PDR project as the MOU was yet to be finalized.

Some Good News:

Pemchai (pseudonym) is a 14-year-old student studying in grade 3 of lower secondary school in Xieng Khouang. After breakfast on April 26, he went to dig up a nest of termites to feed his family’s chickens. He hit a cluster bomblet with his shovel and it exploded. His family immediately took him to the district hospital, and the staff then transferred him to the provincial hospital for surgery. His left hand was seriously injured and had to be amputated and he had deep wounds in his mouth, nose and both thighs.

When Pemchai woke up and saw that he had lost his hand, he cried. By that time, the Quality of Life Association (QLA) staff had met his family and explained that with assistance, he could adapt to this change in his life, return to school, and get a job. QLA connected Pemchai with WVMF to support a spiritual ceremony.

Anong (pseudonym), aged 40, is a member of an ethnic minority in Salavan which engages in upland rice cultivation. Every year in April, the community starts to clear land for their crop cultivation. On April 19, 2018, Anong was cutting down a small tree when her knife hit a UXO and it exploded, injuring her legs and abdomen. Her children and community members sent her to the district

hospital immediately after the accident. She received treatment at the hospital for one week.

The district NRA was informed about the accident and staff visited Anong and her family members in the hospital to explain War Victims Medical Fund (WVMF) policies. WVMF will pay for Anong’s medical costs and a spiritual ceremony.

Focus areas of work in 2019:

- In 2019, WEI will begin implementing the “Comprehensive MRE in Lao PDR” project in 10 provinces. Activities will include drafting MRE curricula and piloting it in primary and secondary schools, training in-service teachers in the new

MRE curricula, integrating MRE into the programs at teacher training colleges and forming new MRE puppetry troupes within schools.

- WEI will continue providing WVMF assistance in 2019 to new UXO survivors and their families and pay for survivors’ ongoing medical costs. Challenges include obtaining the necessary documentation from village health centers and district hospitals, ensuring that provincial level government staff are well trained in NRA and WVMF policy as well as challenges with record-keeping at the central level. WEI also sees this as an opportunity to build capacities across the sector.

Personnel in 2018:

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>		<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
2	6	0	0	6	4	1	3
Total		22					

VICTIM ASSISTANCE	
No. of people who received assistance	
Financial support	Medical support
22	51

Geography of operations:

Activity	Provinces/districts of Lao PDR where the activities were implemented
Risk Education	None in 2018
Victim Assistance	Xieng Khouang, Houaphanh, Salavan, Savannakhet, Vientiane, Khammouane and Champassack

Financials:

Expenditure for 2018: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	13,740
Operational costs	
- UXO Mine Risk Education	
- Victim Assistance	54,920
- UXO Survey and Clearance	
Equipment	
Total	68,660

Donor contributions for 2018 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2018</i>
US Dept of State/Weapons Removal and Abatement (WRA)	99,056
Total	99,056



Sisangvone Village, Unit19, Saysettha District,
P.O.Box 7261, Vientiane, LaoPDR

www.nra.gov.la
