

Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)
Sector Annual Report

2020

SDG 18: Lives Safe from UXO

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

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Your contribution to the NRA can support families and children whose lives have suffered from Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) as a result of the Second Indochina War. For further information on how to donate, please contact the Victim's Assistance unit of the NRA, Mr. Bountao Chanthavongsa: bountao.chanthavongsa@gmail.com.

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2020 UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE (UXO) SECTOR ANNUAL REPORT

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FOREWORD:

Chairperson of the NRA

I am very pleased to present the 2020 annual report for the UXO sector and take this opportunity to highlight some of the key achievements during the year.

As you already know, Lao PDR is one of the countries that has been affected by COVID-19, which has a direct impact on socio-economic development, people's livelihoods and other activities. In addition, it has had a direct impact on the UXO works in Lao PDR, especially the operations in the field have been temporarily suspended.

Although COVID-19 has affected all operations this year, the sector has responded well and has still made good progress. COVID messages have been integrated into UXO/Mine Risk Education (MRE) activities, UXO programmes and UXO village volunteers. The mandate of the NRA at both central and local level has also been improved, the 10-years UXO National Strategic Plan "Safe Path Forward II" was evaluated, draft legislation to implement the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) in Lao PDR has been developed successfully, and a draft UXO/Mine Victim Assistance Framework 2021-2025 was also created. At the same time, the NRA created UXO provincial committees to understand and incorporate UXO-certified areas into each province's socio-economic development plan and ensured that memorandums of cooperation with UXO operators for UXO clearance are in accordance with actual local requirements. Capacity strengthening support has also been given to government agencies on addressing UXO issues, particularly on MRE, clearance, as well as pilot projects improving the lives of UXO victims and their families.

In the area of victim assistance, we continued to provide physical and psychological rehabilitation to UXO survivors, and vocational training to help them develop their livelihoods and support their families with income. We are also aware that 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. To this end, we have integrated UXO awareness into primary school curricula and raised awareness through UXO radio programmes and UXO village volunteers, and developed MRE materials such as posters and UXO writing books. In parallel, UXO operators have also conducted these activities, which has resulted in the number of reported casualties being reduced to 33 people this year. Despite this, there is a continued need to support and expand UXO/Mine Risk Education activities.

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 18,068 hectares (ha) of Confirmed Hazardous Areas identified for 2020 and registered in the Information Management System for Mine Action database. At the same time, we have cleared 5,392 ha of land based on our current capacities, even though the demand for clearance is 10,000 ha per year.

In conclusion, the achievements of the UXO sector in Lao PDR in 2020 were satisfactory, even though some operators were not able to carry out their operations in full due to COVID-19. The pandemic has affected all operations and funding, but we have made every effort to achieve the best results as feasible.

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 our donors and the international organizations for their support given to the UXO sector in Lao PDR.

H.E. Mr. Khampheng Saysompheng
Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Chairperson of the NRA

FOREWORD:

Joint Foreword of the U.S. Ambassador & UNDP Resident Representative Co-Chairpersons of the UXO Sector Working Group

As co-chairs of the Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Sector Working Group, we are pleased to jointly present the achievements of the UXO sector for 2020. It was a challenging year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and we want to congratulate and thank the NRA and all UXO Sector stakeholders for their drive and dedication. The commitment they showed throughout the year to UXO sector project activities demonstrates their resilience and ability to create a positive impact even during the most difficult of times.

Unfortunately, the number of UXO casualties increased to 33 persons in 2020, compared to 24 casualties in 2018 and 25 casualties in 2019. Of the 23 UXO accidents in 2020, there were seven deaths, including two children, and 26 injuries, 12 of which were children. While the number of UXO casualties has decreased over recent years, this sector still requires strong support to ensure no further harm or deaths are caused by UXO.

The inclusion of UXO as an independent output (Output 6 under Outcome 3) in the new 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) for 2021-2025 demonstrates the Lao PDR's commitment to removing UXO as a barrier to development. The new NSEDP aims to clear an average of 10,000 hectares of land per year for socio-economic development purposes. This ambitious goal doubles the achievements of 2020 when implementers cleared 5,392 hectares of land. Furthermore, thanks to the UXO survey which began in 2015, this year we've strengthened the clearance capacity of humanitarian operators and are beginning to see a dramatic impact on the scope and efficiency of UXO removal.

The Government of Lao PDR emphasized the importance of clearing high priority hazardous areas throughout the country to implement the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, the magnitude of the problem outstrips available resources and current capacities. Accelerating the Lao PDR's socio-economic development requires strong support and continuous cooperation. For this reason, the new UXO Sector National Strategic Plan (Safe Path Forward III) should include a prioritization plan involving both commercial and humanitarian operators.

In accordance with Article 9 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) requiring all State Parties to take all "appropriate legal, administrative and other measures" to implement the convention, the Lao PDR took positive steps in initiating the legislation-drafting process in 2019 and continued its efforts in 2020. We fully support this work, and we are looking forward to completion of the draft legislation in 2021.

In 2021, the Government of Lao PDR will finalize its new 10-year sector strategy and review the implementation of national SDGs through the Voluntary National Review process. This is an opportunity for all of us to reflect and discuss how we can all work together to move further into a decade of action, to maximize available resources, and to achieve the SDGs, particularly SDG 18: "Lives safe from UXO."

We remain committed to our continued cooperation and joint effort to help the Lao PDR meet its obligations under the CCM and ensure long-term sustainability and national ownership of the UXO sector in line with the 9th NSEDP and SDG 18.

Mr. Peter M. Haymond

**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**

ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

AC – Area Clearance	MAG – Mines Advisory Group
APMBC – Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention	MOES – Ministry of Education and Sport
ADRA – Adventist Development and Relief Agency	MOFA – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
ATTP – Attapeu Province	MOLSW – Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
AWP – Annual Work Plan	MRE – Unexploded Ordnance Risk Education
BAC – Battle Area Clearance	NIM – National Implementation Modality
CAMA – Comprehensive Approach of Mine Action	NMFA – Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
CCM – Convention on Cluster Munitions	NTFP – Non-Timber Forest Products
CFLI – Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (Canadian International Development Agency program)	NMAS – National Mine Action Standard
CHAs – Confirmed Hazardous Areas	NPA – Norwegian People's Aid
CMRS – Cluster Munition Remnants Survey	NRA – National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR
COPE – Cooperative Prosthetic and Orthotic Enterprise	NSEDP – National Socio-Economic Development Plan
CPS – Champasack Province	NTS – Non-Technical Survey
CRPD – Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	NZ – New Zealand
CTA – Chief Technical Advisor	Oxfam – Oxford Committee for Famine Relief
DAP – Dubrovnik Action Plan	PM/WRA – Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs
DFID – United Kingdom Department for International Development	QM – Quality Management
DPAA – Defence POW/MIA Accounting Agency	RC – Review Conference
EOD – Explosive Ordnance Disposal	RE – Risk Education
EORE – Explosive Ordnance Risk Education	RT – Roving Tasks
ERW – Explosive Remnants of War	SDG18 – Sustainable Development Goal 18
EU – European Union	SLV – Salavan Province
GoL – Government of Lao PDR	SK – Sekong
GRET – Groupe de Recherche et d'Echanges Technologiques	SVK – Savannakhet Province
Ha – Hectares	TS – Technical Survey
HI – Humanity and Inclusion	UK – United Kingdom
HP – Huaphan Province	UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
IM – Information Management	Unit58 – Humanitarian teams of the Lao People's Army
IMSMA – Information Management System for Mine Action	US – the United States
JICS – Japan International Cooperation System	USD – United States Dollar
KM – Khammouane Province	USDOS – US Department of State
KOICA – Korea International Cooperation Agency	UXO Lao – Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme
Lao PDR – Lao People's Democratic Republic	UXO – Unexploded Ordnance
LPB – Luang Prabang Province	VA – Victim Assistance
	WE – World Education
	WHWV – We Help War Victims
	WWM – World Without Mines
	XK – Xiengkhouang Province

UXO facts and figures

- 🇂🇵 Lao PDR is the most heavily bombed country, per capita, in history
- 🇂🇵 25% of the poor villages in Laos are contaminated with UXO
- 🇂🇵 17 provinces and 1 capital city suffer UXO contamination
- 🇂🇵 More than 2 million tons of ordnance were dropped on Laos between 1964 and 1973
- 🇂🇵 580,000 bombing missions were flown over Laos
- 🇂🇵 Cluster submunitions or 'bombies' are the most common form of UXO found in the country
- 🇂🇵 More than 270 million bombies were dropped on Laos
- 🇂🇵 Up to 30% failed to detonate
- 🇂🇵 Approximately 80 million unexploded bombies remained in Laos after the war
- 🇂🇵 Over 50,000 people have been killed or injured since 1964
- 🇂🇵 During the 10-year period, a total of 359 injuries have been reported (77%) and 106 deaths (23%)
- 🇂🇵 In the last decade (2011-2020), 54% of all casualties were children (under 18)
- 🇂🇵 Accidents caused by bombies increased to 30% of all Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) casualties in the last decade

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 the 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 weigh 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 ejects the bombies over a wide area. Bombies that were dropped on the Lao PDR had a high failure rate, leaving an estimated 30 percent unexploded and scattered across vast areas of land. When disturbed, even decades later, bombies and other UXO can explode, injuring and killing civilians as they carry out their daily activities.

The Lao PDR today is one of the most heavily UXO and cluster munitions affected countries in the world, with up to 25 percent of the country's villages contaminated by the presence of these remnants of war. More than 270 million bombies were dropped over the Lao PDR during the nine years of conflict (1964-1973) and an estimated 80 million failed to detonate, remaining live and scattered throughout the country. In addition, over four million large bombs were dropped and extensive ground battles in predominantly the Northern provinces left behind substantial amounts of other unexploded ordnances.

Executive Summary

2020 Overview:

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

This report will highlight the progress that has been collectively achieved throughout 2020 in realising the ultimate goal of making the Lao PDR free from the threat of UXO.

2020 was a very challenging one due to the unpredictable COVID-19 pandemic. During the COVID-19 pandemic, some of the field activities were instructed to temporarily stand down their operations from 29th March to 31st May 2020, complying with the Prime Minister's Order number 06/PM, dated 29th March 2020. However, the sector committed itself to carry out the activities as planned despite extensive unforeseen delays.

The MRE radio programs also contributed to disseminating COVID-19 information along with MRE messages 8 times per month from 5 radio stations in 5 provinces; Vientiane Capital, Khammouane, Sekong, Salavan, and Champasack provinces.

The number of reported casualties during 2020 amounted to 33 people. The number of casualties has increased compared to the previous year (25 people). However, the number has more than halved since 2016 alone. Moreover, this figure is much less than the target set in the National Strategic Plan's Mid-Term Review in 2015 for the UXO Sector in Lao PDR of 40; additionally, it is also below the target of 40 or less per year as set in the 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (8NSEDP).

Almost half of the accidents were caused by individuals lighting fires for cooking and slash-and-burn agriculture techniques, as well as cutting grass and wood. This highlights the importance of continued UXO/Mine Risk Education activities (MRE), especially focusing on agriculture techniques

related to the above two issues, to raise awareness of the need to prevent UXO-related accidents.

In accordance with the implementation of new survey procedures for UXO by the GoL, all humanitarian clearance operators operating in Lao PDR now employ an evidence-based approach to survey and subsequent land clearance. As a result, it can be reported that the number of Cluster Munition (CM) bomblets found per hectare cleared has decreased; this is due to most of surface UXO contamination having been cleared or removed previously, and much of the contamination is now sub-surface. During 2020, a total of 180,680,791 square meters or 18,068.07 hectares were identified as Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHAs) by the process of technical survey.

In 2020, a total of 53,923,111 square meters or equivalent to 5,392 hectares of land were cleared by all humanitarian clearance operators and commercial companies, according to the NRA's dashboard.

In conjunction with clearance work, a great effort has gone into awareness-raising through UXO/MRE activities, particularly among children, but also among many different ethnic groups, so that they better understand the dangers associated with UXO and how to prevent accidents and avoid threats. There were a total of 257,075 beneficiaries for UXO/MRE activities in 2020.

In 2020, 3,600 MRE posters and 48,550 MRE books were printed and distributed to all UXO humanitarian operators including the 9 provincial UXO Lao offices, 13 NRA provincial offices and the 5 provincial radio stations (Vientiane Capital, Khammouane, Sekong, Salavan and Champasack). In coordination with the UXO humanitarian operators, the NRA conducted UXO awareness activities at 2,899 public schools, benefiting 264,114 students. In addition, MRE activities were conducted through 1,946 visits to 716 villages, benefiting 257,075 people, 129,167 of which were women.

In terms of Quality Management (QM), the NRA continued to process accreditation of all operators (including NGOs, commercial operators and Unit 58 of the Lao People's Army), to ensure compliance with the National Standards. In 2020, there were 26 accredited clearance operators (6 humanitarian, 20 commercial). In 2020, there were 24 QA/QC conducted the work of UXO Lao, HI, NPA, MAG and Unit 58 in UXO contaminated provinces.

2020 ACHIEVEMENTS: THE NUMBERS

UXO Accidents and Casualties in Lao PDR by Provinces										
Province	Accident	Injured				Death				Total Victim
		Boy	Girl	Men	Women	Boy	Girl	Men	Women	
Champasak	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Huaphan	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Khammouane	4	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	5
Phonsaly	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Salavan	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
Savannaket	7	4	2	2	0	1	0	3	0	12
Xaisomboun	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Xiengkhouang	5	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	6
Total	23	10	2	12	2	2	0	5	0	33

2020 clearance operators

Non Technical Survey

Organization	No. Village	No. Task	Evident Point	Cluster Munitions	Beneficiary
Unit 58	45	47	111	349	7,391
HALO	123	123	44	243	9,374
HI	10	10	3	22	2,952
MAG	55	55	283	1,084	2,000
NPA	322	322	454	924	21,327
UXO Lao	103	104	2,622	1,694	65,281
Total					

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

Organization	No. Village	No. Task		Area by square meter		Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)				
		TS	CHA	TS	CHA	Bomb	Cluster Munitions	Mine	Other UXO	Total
Unit 58	8	16	8	1,492,200	312,742	-	47	-	5	52
HALO	178	930	405	47,492,500	10,477,157	3	3,158	-	896	4,057
HI	9	18	16	1,252,500	603,164	-	215	1	5	221
MAG	39	144	144	108,954,622	104,910,952		8,305	-	39	8,344
NPA	173	504	361	51,549,500	20,339,085	2	2,204	-	104	2,310
UXO Lao	162	370	331	67,909,500	44,037,691	-	5,189	-	1,126	6,315
Total	569	1,982	1,265	278,650,822	180,680,791	5	19,118	1	2,175	21,299

Roving Tasks (RT)

Organi- zation	No. Village	No. Task	Beneficiary	Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)				
				Bomb	Cluster Munitions	Mine	Other UXO	Total
Unit 58	29	37	51,268	7	180	-	106	293
Halo Trust	270	1,346	9,661	33	5,758	-	1,815	7,606
HI	33	122	54,288	-	225	10	707	942
MAG	158	2,327	19,591	4	11,687	1	2,149	13,841
Milsearch	2	2	-	-	-	-	3	3
NPA	371	606	84	35	4,896	12	2,416	7,359
UXO Lao	495	1,076	123,000	42	8,435	5	3,113	11,595
Total	1,358	5,516	257,892	121	31,181	28	10,309	41,639

Area Clearance (AC) (square meter)

Organi- zation	No. Task	Area by square meter			Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)				
		Agriculture	Development	Total	Bomb	Cluster Munitions	Mine	Other UXO	Total
Unit 58	22	212,265	187,596	399,861	1	438	1	893	1,333
HALO	93	2,852,170	43,721	2,895,891	1	2,592	-	1,154	3,747
HI	31	489,109	57,261	546,370	-	835	1	447	1,283
L&B	36	-	9,205,503	9,205,503	-	-	-	-	-
MAG	153	8,575,905	497,240	9,073,145	12	6,195	-	548	6,755
MMG	9	-	458,851	458,851	-	41	-	40	81
Milsearch	41	-	296,940	296,940	-	8	-	83	91
NPA	72	4,021,540	198,729	4,220,269	4	4,132	-	313	4,449
OUMMA	1	-	939,482	939,482	-	19	-	3	22
UXO Lao	812	25,598,821	287,978	25,886,799	5	24,670	2	7,000	31,677
Total	1,270	41,749,810	12,173,301	53,923,111	23	38,930	4	10,481	49,438

GRAND TOTAL (AC and RT)*

Organi- zation	Area by square meter			Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)				
	Agriculture	Development	Total	Bomb	Cluster Munitions	Mine	Other UXO	Total
Unit 58	212,265	187,596	399,861	8	618	1	999	1,626
HALO	2,852,170	43,721	2,895,891	34	8,350	-	2,969	11,353
HI	489,109	57,261	546,370	-	1,060	11	1,154	2,225
L&B	-	9,205,503	9,205,503	-	-	-	-	-
MAG	8,575,905	497,240	9,073,145	16	17,882	1	2,697	20,596

MMG	-	458,851	458,851	-	41	-	40	81
Milsearch	-	387,710	387,710	-	8	-	184	192
NPA	4,270,055	198,729	4,468,784	39	10,152	12	2,729	12,932
OUMMA	-	939,482	939,482	-	19	-	3	22
UXO Lao	25,598,821	287,978	25,886,799	47	33,105	7	10,113	43,272
Total	41,998,325	12,264,071	54,262,396	144	71,235	32	20,888	92,299

Note: * This data was taken from IMSMA as of 11th of March 2021

Unexploded Ordnance Risk Education/Community Awareness Operations

Organization	No. Village	No. Task	Audience		
			Male	Female	Total
Unit 58	4	7	619	726	1,345
HALO	186	592	14,225	13,671	27,896
HI	25	48	5,957	5,927	11,884
MAG	38	164	2,108	2,300	4,408
UXO Lao	323	1,109	85,503	84,809	170,312
WE	179	211	19,496	21,734	41,230
Total	755	2,131	127,908	129,167	257,075

UXO Operators' Personnel in UXO Sector in Lao PDR 2020

Organization	Office Support				Operations				Total
	National		International		National		International		
	Men	Women	Man	Woman	Men	Women	Men	Women	
NRA	27	9	1	2	7	3	0	0	49
UXO Lao	119	71	7	1	1,003	274	2	0	1,477
NPA	32	10	2	2	217	79	4	0	346
MAG	73	55	1	2	506	280	5	0	922
HALO	37	30	0	1	334	343	5	0	750
HI	6	2			44	22	3	0	77
Unit 58	0	0	0	0	86	10	0	0	96
WE	2	4			11	8	1	3	29
COPE	2	3	0	0	0	2	2	0	9
Lao BSL	3	3	0	0	110	4	0	0	120
Silavan	2	0	0	0	8	3	0	0	13
OUMMA	4	0	0	0	24	0	0	2	30
Phanvila	30	3	0	0	30	3	0	0	66
Auslao	2	3	1	0	25	0	0	0	31
Total	339	193	12	8	2,405	1,031	22	5	4,015

2020 UXO SECTOR FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

Summary of Actual UXO Programme Expenditures (in USD)
For the year ended 1st of January - 31st of December 2020

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Amount (USD)</i>
Government	
NRA	1,671,622
UXO Lao	9,469,563
Unit 58	62,777
Inter-Operators' Fund Transfers (Note 1)	(62,777)
Total	11,141,185
Non-Government Organizations	
COPE	416,000
HALO	6,122,788
HI	1,121,993
MAG	7,168,351
NPA	7,139,678
World Education	1,325,620
Inter-Operators' Fund Transfers (Note 2)	(444,247)
Total	22,850,183
Commercial Clearance Companies	
AusLao	31,300
Lao BSL	101,400
Milsearch	1,103,500
OUMMA	30,000
PL	255,000
Silavan	5,367
Total	1,526,567
Grand Total	<u>35,517,935</u>

Notes:

1. This represents the amount transferred by the UNDP-KOICA to the Unit 58 through the NRA to cover the 58 Unit's costs of operations and equipment. The amount transferred was also included in the NRA's total expenditures.
2. This covers the amount transferred by the NMFA to the UXO Lao through the NPA to cover the UXO Lao's personnel, operations and equipment costs. The amount transferred was also included in the NPA's total expenditures.

UXO Sector Achievements: The Safe Path Forward II

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

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

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

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

Strategic Goal: Reduce the humanitarian and socio-economic threats posed by UXO to the point where the residual contamination and challenges can be adequately addressed by a sustainable national capacity fully integrated into the regular institutional set-up of the Government.

Strategic Objectives:

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

Humanitarian clearance operators - UXO Found and Destroyed through Area Clearance, 2011-2020							
Year	Area Cleared (Ha)	Bomb	CM Bomblets	Landmines	Other UXO	Total UXO	CM per Hectare
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
2019	4,577	30	42,085	4	11,081	53,200	9.2
2020	4,302	23	38,862	4	10,355	49,244	9.03

UXO Accidents and Casualties in Lao PDR by year, 2011-2020										
Year	Accidents	Injuries				Deaths				Total Casualties
		Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Men	Women	Boy	Girl	
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
2019	20	5	2	4	5	8	0	1	0	25
2020	23	12	2	10	2	5	0	2	0	33

Causes of Accidents by year, 2015-2020						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Agriculture excavation	4	6	2	2	3	2
Lighting a fire (for cooking and slash-and-burn agriculture techniques)	16	11	10	3	8	10
Attempting to destroy or dismantle UXO items	5	3	1	2	7	1
Playing with UXO items	2	12	3	5	1	3
Cutting grass and wood	0	1	1	1	1	5
Unintentional disturbance of UXOs	0	2	2	4	0	2
Total Accidents	27	35	19	17	20	23

Area Clearance Activities by Province, 1997-2020						
Province	Total Area Cleared (m2)	Agriculture	%	Development	%	Total Beneficiaries
Attapeu	62,174,420	42,693,532	69%	19,480,888	31%	737,047
Bokeo	800,0600	0	0%	800,000	100%	584
Borlikhamxay	30,577,965	6,592,760	22%	23,985,205	78%	135,837
Champasack	57,009,955	39,998,366	70%	17,011,589	30%	613,780
Huaphanh	38,424,689	33,762,243	88%	4,662,446	12%	810,527
Khammouane	85,415,622	70,115,921	82%	15,299,701	18%	528,107
Luangnamtha	554,662	0	0%	554,662	100%	0
Luangprabang	40,601,491	30,041,740	74%	10,559,750	26%	388,609
Oudomxay	8,660,108	720,964	8%	7,939,144	92%	4,963

Phongsaly	0	0	0%	0	0%	2,117
Salavan	64,982,449	54,741,527	84%	10,240,922	16%	736,108
Savannakhet	111,856,612	92,677,055	83%	19,179,557	17%	1,462,371
Vientiane	2,623,165	0	0%	2,623,165	100%	8,669
Vientiane Capital	1,383,931	0	0%	1,383,931	100%	4,144
Xaisomboun	18,001,674	5,709,929	32%	12,291,745	68%	51,189
Xekong	44,670,553	32,003,673	72%	12,666,880	28%	176,207
Xiengkhouang	141,486,721	123,153,094	87%	18,333,627	13%	2,108,078
Grand Total	709,224,016	532,210,806	75%	177,013,210	25%	7,768,337

UXO Sector in Lao PDR

International Treaties & Standards:

The Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)

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

The key obligations of the CCM for the Government are to:

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

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

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

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

Laos signed the Convention on January 15th, 2008 and deposited its instrument of ratification on September 25th, 2009. This Convention has significant implications particularly for the Victim Assistance side of UXO activities. Domestic Legislation will need to be drawn up in order to integrate treaty obligations into the local judiciary. This process has already commenced with the handing down of a Prime Ministerial Decree regarding the 'National Commission for Disabled People' in September 2009. The Decree, which replaces the formative 1995 version, outlines

the expanded mandate of this existing body and identifies it to be the focal point for the domestic integration and implementation of the Disabilities Treaty. Accordingly, it will also play a lead role in forming the legal instruments needed to ensure full Treaty compliance. Importantly, VA providers in Laos can begin to harmonise their own strategies with the principles of the Convention, in the knowledge that the Government of Laos is committed to meeting the obligations of the Treaty.

- Legislation and policies to implement the present Convention, and in other decision-making processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities, States Parties shall closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations.
- Nothing in the present Convention shall affect any provisions which are more conducive to the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities and which may be contained in the law of a State Party or international law in force for that State. There shall be no restriction upon or derogation from any of the human rights and fundamental freedoms recognized or existing in any State Party to the present Convention pursuant to law, conventions, regulation or custom on the pretext that the present Convention does not recognize such rights or freedoms or that it recognizes them to a lesser extent.
- The provisions of the present Convention shall extend to all parts of federal states without any limitations or exceptions.

The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)

The United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW or CCWC), concluded at Geneva on October 10, 1980, and entered into force in December 1983, seeks to prohibit or restrict the use of certain conventional weapons which are considered excessively injurious or whose effects are indiscriminate.

The purpose of the Convention is to ban or restrict the use of specific types of weapons that are considered to cause unnecessary or unjustifiable suffering to combatants or to affect civilians indiscriminately.

International Mine Action Standards (IMAS)

The International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) are the standards in force for all UN mine action operations.

Initially endorsed by the UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action in 2001, the IMAS have remained a cornerstone of all mine action field interventions for over seventeen years.

In setting the standard for field operations worldwide, the IMAS framework continues to actively drive safety, quality and efficiency. It therefore ensures confidence in mine action products across the sector.

The framework is the means by which a number of key disarmament conventions such as the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) and Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) can be practically implemented. It is used by affected countries as the basis for developing their national standards, and by donors to ensure that their support is effectively delivered to those most in need.

Legal, Policy and Institutional Framework:

National Decrees

The Prime Minister's Decree No. 67 dated the 12th of February 2018, describes the mandate of the NRA, including its role, duties and organisational structure. Article 2 defines the role of the NRA as "a Secretariat in assisting the Government in examining, supervising and coordinating with Line Ministries, Ministry-equivalent Agencies, Local Authorities and International Organisations at all levels to address UXO issues countrywide".


The primary duties of the NRA are listed under Article 4 of the Decree and include but are not limited to: assisting the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW) in examining, elaborating and disseminating legal instruments, regulations, orders, notifications and strategies including other measures related to UXO activities, supervising the establishment and wide dissemination of a UXO database and coordinating with line ministries, ministry-equivalent agencies, local authorities, donor agencies and other international organisations to mobilize funds and technical assistance for UXO activities.



NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL IN LAO PDR: SDG 18

"LIVES SAFE FROM UXO"

There are three targets set under SDG18:

- BY 2030, ENSURE THAT ANNUAL CASUALTIES FROM UXO ACCIDENTS ARE ELIMINATED TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE.
 - BY 2030, ENSURE RESIDUAL UXO ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN AND ALL KNOWN UXO CONTAMINATION IN HIGH PRIORITY AREAS AND ALL VILLAGES DEFINED AS 'POOR' CLEARED.
 - BY 2030, ENSURE THAT ALL IDENTIFIED UXO SURVIVORS AND VICTIMS HAVE THEIR NEEDS MET IN HEALTH, AND SUPPORT PROVIDED FOR LIVELIHOODS/ EMPLOYMENT TO MOST POVERTY-RISK SURVIVORS.
- 

SDG 18: Lives Safe From UXO

Selected SDG18 targets, summarized	Localized SDG indicators	Year	Available value	Source
18.1. By 2030, ensure that annual casualties from UXO accidents are eliminated to the extent possible.	18.1.1. Number of reported UXO casualties (disaggregated by age group and sex): Total/ Male (boy)/ Female (girl)	2018	T 24 M 15 (boy 9) F 9 (girl 5)	Lao People's Democratic Republic – Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 2021 (July, 2021, Government of Lao PDR)
		2019	T 25 M 29 (boy 12) F 4 (girl 2)	
		2020	T 33 M 18 (boy 5) F 7 (girl 5)	
	18.1.2. Percentage of population in contaminated villages where the population has received information on UXO Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHAs) (%)	2018	21.2	
		2019	18.2	
		2020	18.2	
18.2. UXO contamination cleared from high priority areas and villages defined as 'poor'	18.2.1. Percentage of high priority Confirmed Hazardous Areas in remaining to be cleared (%)	2018	99.33	Lao People's Democratic Republic – Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 2021 (July, 2021, Government of Lao PDR)
		2019	99.25	
		2020	99.1	
	18.2.2. Number of villages defined as 'poor' with Confirmed Hazardous Areas remaining to be cleared	2018	1,983	
		2019	1,526	
		2020	-	
18.3. Identified UXO survivors' health and livelihoods needs met	18.3.1. Percentage of registered active age UXO survivors unable to earn sufficient income with access to basic income security (%)	2018	94.51	Lao People's Democratic Republic – Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 2021 (July, 2021, Government of Lao PDR)
		2019	94.52	
		2020	94.2	
	18.3.2. Percentage of registered UXO survivors mainstreamed into health, education and employment services (%)	2018	19.61	
		2019	20.61	
		2020	20.9	



9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan 2021-2025

<p>Targets and Indicators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Conducting 3,000 village time Mine Risk Education among target groups and rolling out the teaching of UXO subject to 500 schools in order to bring a number of UXO victims under 40 per annum. ■ Conducting Non-Technical Surveys up to 2,776 villages, and Technical Surveys to determine 250,000 ha hazard areas, average 50,000 ha/annum. ■ Conducting UXO clearance for 50,000 ha of agricultural lands, community areas, business or economic hubs, average 10,000 ha/annum. ■ Providing UXO Victim Assistance on treatment, mental health and functional rehabilitation, skills training and employment seeking support for 5,760 victims (medical treatment for 250 victims, mental health rehabilitation for 250 victims, functional rehabilitation for 750 victims, skills training and employment seeking support for 2,010 victims, and raising awareness on the rights of People With Disabilities for 2,500 PWDs).
<p>Priorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mine Risk Education. ■ Victim Assistance. ■ UXO Clearance.

UXO Sector Stakeholder Overview

National Government:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)

Within MOFA, the Department of International Organizations acts as the focal point for reporting on Lao PDR's commitments in implementing the CCM at the annual Meetings of States Parties.

Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MOLSW)

- Provides strategic oversight to the UXO issue in Lao PDR.
- Both NRA and UXO Lao are the equivalent of Departments within MOLSW.
- Minister of LSW Chairs NRA and UXO Lao Boards and also the UNDP Lao UXO Program Board.

Ministry of Health (MOH)

The MOH Centre for Medical Rehabilitation works with COPE, an INGO, to ensure that people with physical disabilities have local, affordable access to a quality, nationally managed rehabilitation service.

Ministry of National Defense (MND)

- The MND is responsible for the humanitarian UXO teams of the LPA.
- The MND supports these teams' salary costs, ensuring their long-term sustainability.

Lao Women's Union (LWU)

- LWU and UN Women jointly produced the manual for trainers on gender mainstreaming in UXO sector in Lao PDR with support from Canada.
- Could continue to support UXO gender issues.

Lao Youth's Union (LYU)

LYU cooperates as village volunteers in Bolikhamxay and Salavan provinces and implements MRE activities in their communities funded by Turkish government through UNDP in 2020.

Multilateral, inter-governmental organizations:

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- Manages donor funds to build capacity and provide other support to the NRA and UXO Lao - currently through the UNDP Lao UXO program 2017-2021.
- Places technical advisory and support personnel in NRA and UXO Lao.
- Co-chairs the UXO SWG meeting.

Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

- Swiss-based International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO) which amongst other roles acts as international secretariat for the UN-approved IMAS.
- The NRA is utilizing the IMSMA database which was first developed in 1999 with the GICHD's support.

UXO Organisations/Operators National UXO Operators - Government:

Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)

- Original national UXO operator established in 1996 with support from MAG, UNDP and other partners.
- Is mandated to reduce the number of UXO casualties and accidents; and to increase the amount of the land available for food production and for other socio-economic development.
- Undertakes Non-Technical Survey (NTS), Technical Survey (TS), clearance, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and MRE.

UXO Humanitarian Team of Lao People's Army (Unit 58)

- Established in 2013. Focuses on survey and Area Clearance (AC).
- Significant clearance activity funding from KOICA via UNDP.
- Salaries paid by the MND.

Humanitarian UXO Operators- INGOs:

HALO Trust

- UXO operator undertaking NTS, TS, clearance, EOD and MRE.

Humanity & Inclusion (HI)

- UXO operator undertaking NTS, TS, clearance, EOD and MRE, within a comprehensive framework that includes post-clearance socio-economic development.
- Cooperates with Groupe de Recherches et d'Echanges Technologiques (GRET) on livelihood activities; Lao Disable People's Association (LDPA) on disability rights and empowerment training; and OXFAM on gender equality.

Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS)

- Promotes UXO clearance with the Cluster Submunition Clearance Machine, which cuts bushes around the site and mechanically disposes of cluster submunitions.

Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

- Pioneered UXO action in Lao PDR since 1994 including assisting the establishment of UXO Lao.
- UXO operator undertaking NTS, TS, clearance and EOD.

Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)

- UXO operator undertaking NTS, TS, clearance, EOD and MRE.
- Also provides capacity needs assessment and support to NRA; and supports NRA's IM unit, through the Virtual Private Network (VPN) access to the IMSMA database.
- Grant Manager for the Norwegian MOFA bilateral support to Lao PDR, through UXO Lao in Luang Prabang.

World Education (WE)

- Manages three major US funded programs in Lao PDR:
- Victims Medical Fund assisting UXO survivors and their families.

- Comprehensive MRE program including school curricula and teacher training in MRE.
- Okard Project to support persons with disabilities including UXO survivors

Commercial UXO Organisations/ Operators:

- AusLao
- ASA
- Lao BSL
- NLN
- LCY
- L&B
- PSD
- OUMMA
- SBH
- LAUNC
- PVL
- XTD
- SG
- GREAT
- Chaleunsouk
- SDK
- INSI
- Silavanh
- PSV
- WUMA
- Sockchaleun
- SL
- Sisanchaleun
- Sengphet
- Milsearch
- MMG

Others:

Tetra Tech

- Manages US support to UXO Lao.
- Has managers and advisers within UXO Lao.

Quality of Life Association (QLA)

- Provides support to victims of UXO, PWD and poorer persons.
- Implemented the NRA VA activities funded by KOICA through UNDP.

Lao Disabled People's Association (LDPA)

- Sub-contracts with the HI project in Houaphan on the promotion of disability rights.
- Implemented NRA VA activities funded by CFLI through UNDP in 2020.

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

The National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action in Lao PDR (NRA) is a public institution of the Government of Lao PDR responsible for providing policy direction, accreditation and managing and coordinating national and international operators. The NRA also acts as the technical focal point for all matters relating to international conventions and treaties and has a mandate to participate in international meetings and conferences related to UXO/ Mine Action and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) as assigned by the Government of Lao PDR. The NRA is responsible for the development and implementation of the National Strategic Plan for the UXO/mine action sector through a consultative process with the implementing agencies. External quality assurance, post-clearance impact assessment and overall monitoring of the sector are also responsibilities of the NRA.

The NRA is a high-level inter-ministerial Board composed of representatives from 12 Government ministries and each province: Labour and Social Welfare (Chair), National Defense (Vice Chair), Foreign Affairs (Vice Chair), Planning and Investment (Vice-Chair), Provinces, Public Health, Information, Culture and Tourism, Agriculture and Forestry, Finance, Post and Telecommunication, National Resources and Environment, Public Work and Transportation, Public Security, Education and Sport, Lao Front for National Construction, Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union, Lao Women's Union.

The NRA Office provides comprehensive secretarial and administrative support for the Board, as well as implements required operational activity. The NRA was established in partnership with the UNDP and continues with its ongoing support.

The structure of the NRA office is divided into two main sections: support and operations. There are a number of sub units housed under these sections, supervised by two deputy directors respectively.

UXO/Mine Risk Education (MRE)

The MRE Unit of the NRA is responsible for ensuring the coordination and collaboration of operators conducting MRE activities. The Unit will ensure operators work to national standards and will assist in the development of appropriate materials. The key achievements for 2020 include:

- MRE TWG meetings were held in March, June, September and December 2020.
- Workshop on reviewing the messages of the UXO radio programs was conducted in June 2020.
- Workshop on review and update the UXO/ Mine Risk Education Materials was conducted in September 2020.
- Meetings on coordination and planning for MRE operators, provincial and district authorities for 2021 was conducted.
- Village volunteers trained in late of 2019 continued to conduct UXO/Mine risk education in Xiengkhouang and Khammouane provinces in 2020. In addition, 36 Lao Village Youth Volunteers from Bolikhamxay province and 454 village volunteers from Salavan province were trained for the UXO/Mine Risk Education.
- 900 UXO awareness-raising T-shirts were printed and distributed to 5 radio stations (National radio station, Khammouane provincial radio station, Sekong provincial radio station, Salavan provincial radio station and Champasack provincial radio station).
- 3,600 MRE posters and 48,550 MRE writing books were printed and distributed to all UXO humanitarian operators in September 2020, including the 9 provincial UXO Lao offices, 13 NRA provincial offices and 5 radio stations (National radio station, Khammouane provincial radio station, Sekong provincial radio station, Salavan provincial radio station and Champasack provincial radio station).

UXO Victim Assistance (VA)

The NRA Victim Assistance Unit is responsible for ensuring the establishment of a national database on UXO/mine casualties and making sure that the specific needs of survivors of mine/UXO accidents are addressed by the relevant operators. The key achievements for 2020 include:

- VA TWG meetings were held in March, June, September and October 2020.
- Meetings on coordination and planning for VA operators, provincial and district authorities for 2021 was conducted.
- UXO/Mine Victim Assistance Framework 2021-2025 Drafting Workshop was conducted.

UXO Survey and Clearance

In terms of survey and clearance the NRA will ensure all demining operators work to national standards and will provide coordination input to their planning processes. NRA will also be responsible for technical training and monitoring pre-clearance processes and post-clearance impact. The key achievements for 2020 include:

- Technical Working Group meetings on UXO survey and clearance were convened in March, June, September and December 2020.
- Meetings on coordination and planning for survey and clearance operators, provincial and district authorities for 2021 was conducted.
- Field visits were conducted by the Unit to monitor the implementation of activities by the operators.
- Emergency response for UXO removal on where there is no UXO operator working in were conducted in 2020.
- Ongoing coordination with Ministries and operators.

UNDP's Contribution

UNDP's Technical Support

- UNDP provides technical advisory support to the NRA through the deployment of a Chief Technical Advisor (CTA), Finance Technical Advisor, a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist and a Programme and Partnerships Support Officer. The UNDP advisory team provided technical support on financial planning and tracking, help to develop of reports, monitoring and evaluation capacity, as well as advising on all technical components of UXO clearance and management.
- Substantial support was provided by UNDP in preparation for the NRA's representation at the 23rd International Meeting of National Mine Action Programme Directors and United Nation Advisers (NDM-UN) in Geneva, Switzerland from 11 to 14 February 2020.

Management and Procurement

- UNDP reviewed drafts of NRA's 2020 AWP and assisted in its finalization after the Project Board Meeting, provided guidance on the 2020 procurement plan, assisted the NRA in their preparation for the annual audit and also in the management response to the audit findings, assisted the NRA in the preparation of the 2019 UXO Sector Annual Report and helped to procure equipment and vehicles for the UXO humanitarian clearance teams of the Lao People's Army (Unit58) in accordance with National Implementation Modality (NIM) .

Sector Leadership

- As a co-chair of UXO sector working group, UNDP assisted the GoL in coordination of various partners in the UXO sector and alignment UXO work into the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (9NSED) as a separate Output.
- UNDP assisted the GoL in overseeing the funding gaps within the sector and ensuring that activities do not stop upon the completion of funding arrangements under various donor Contribution Agreements.

Capacity Development

- The UNDP advisory team closely collaborated to develop the capacity of the NRA staff through assistance in the development of the new sector strategies, including the new Victim Assistance 5-Year Strategy (2021-2025), the 2021 Annual Sector Work Plan, the next National Strategic Plan for the UXO Sector (2021-2030), as well as the UXO Sector 5-Year Plan (2021-2025).
- The advisory team also worked closely to the NRA to prepare and successful submit several donor reports, quarterly progress reports to UNDP, as well as annual sector and progress reports.
- The M&E capacity based full-time within the NRA helped to develop the capacity of the NRA units to carry out M&E activities and to develop new frameworks.

Resource Mobilization

- Having accompanied the Lao delegation to the 23rd International Meeting of National Mine Action Programme Directors and United Nation Advisers (NDM-UN) in Geneva, Switzerland, UNDP provided assistance to GoL in mobilising resources to the UXO sector through engagement with various donors on potential support.
- Further resources were mobilized by GoL with support from UNDP during this period, including USD\$46,000 from the Government of the Republic of Turkey for MRE activities of the NRA in 2020.
- The GoL with UNDP were successful in the submission of a project proposal to the New Zealand government, which will provide support for four years (from 2021 to 2024), totalling NZD10,300,000 (over USD7.3 million) for the UXO sector in Lao PDR, including capacity development support to the NRA and strengthening the UXO National Training Centre.

Donor Countries

Australia



New Zealand



Canada



Norway



Ireland



Republic of Korea



Japan



United Kingdom



Lao PDR



United States of America



Luxembourg



Turkey





MRE, VA, SURVEY, CLEARANCE

UXO Operator Reports

HUMANITARIAN CLEARANCE ORGANIZATIONS



LAO NATIONAL UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE PROGRAMME (UXO LAO)

Key activities in 2020

UXO Lao continued to implement its activities across nine of the most-heavily contaminated provinces in Lao PDR, the activities conducted throughout 2020 included:

- **Community Awareness or Mine/UXO Risk Education (MRE):** UXO Lao conducted MRE with the aim of increasing the awareness of people living in UXO-affected areas about the dangers of UXOs through various educational activities, such as songs, dances, plays, Q&As and puppet shows.
- **Non-Technical Survey (NTS):** UXO Lao conducted NTS by 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. In addition, NTS identifies UXO for roving tasks and cluster munition evidence for follow up technical survey (TS). NTS also generates sketch maps of villages showing UXO related information such as previous clearance, confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) and evidence points.
- **Technical Survey (TS):** UXO Lao conducted TS by using the cluster munition (CM) evidence points as the starting points from which detectors search systematically outwards in all directions to find the limits of the CM contamination. Boxes of 50 by 50 meters are used to manage and control the TS task. The boxes keep searching until either a CM is found or 50% of the area is covered. If a box contains CM evidence, then the search continues in the adjacent boxes. Once the boundaries of the CM contamination have been identified the contaminated area is recorded and reported to the NRA as a CHA.
- **Area Clearance (AC):** UXO Lao conducted area clearance by focusing on clearance of CHAs. However as a GoL organization, UXO Lao sometimes carries out donor-approved AC for development projects. AC involves dedicated teams detecting and clearing land to a depth based on the intended land use. For agriculture, this depth is normally 25 centimetres. During AC, all UXOs are removed from the cleared area to the required depth of clearance.
- **Roving Tasks (RV):** UXO Lao conducted roving or spot tasks which involve the on-demand removal and destruction of UXOs when they are reported by villagers or survey teams.

Key achievements in 2020

- Community Awareness or Mine/UXO Risk Education (MRE): Target set in 2020 AWP: 325 villages, achieved 323 villages (99.38% against Target), reaching 170,312 beneficiaries, of which, 85,809 were females.
- Non-Technical Survey (NTS): Target set in 2020 AWP: 108 villages, achieved 103 villages (95.37% against Target), during NTS, 2,622 UXO items were found.
- Technical Survey (TS): Target set in 2020 AWP: 3,729 ha, achieved 4,403 ha (118% against Target), during TS, 331 sites of CHAs were established.
- RT: No target was set for this activity as roving or spot tasks involve the on-demand removal and destruction of UXOs when they are reported by villagers or survey teams. Throughout 2020, UXO Lao conducted 1,076 visits to 495 villages across nine provinces and 11,595 UXO items were destroyed through this activity.
- Area Clearance (AC): Target set in 2020 AWP: 2,764 ha, achieved 2,588 ha (93.63% against Target) including: 2,559 hectares for agricultural land and 29 hectares for development areas, reaching 41,300 beneficiaries.



- **UXO destruction:** UXO Lao destroyed a total of 43,272 items of unexploded ordnance, of which, 76.5% were cluster munition bomblets or bombies and 23.5 % were other UXOs, including aircraft bombs, mines and other munitions.

Case Study

In 2020, UXO Lao cleared over 2,500 hectares of agricultural land across 9 provinces, ensuring people can live safely and work in the fields without worry and fear, a selected example of UXO impact story is shared below:

Ms. Bounchan, a 55 years old woman lives in Nakouan village, Pek district, XK province, and sells rice and garlic that she grows in her paddy field with her husband. She says: “We are a family of six, so my husband and I had to grow more rice and garlic to make more incomes, which was impossible before the clearance. My 9,000 m2 paddy field was cleared in 2015. My family and I are very happy we could increase our income. Last year we earned \$2,000-3,000, excluding garlic and livestock sell. I sell garlic around 470-480 kilogram, the price per 1 kilogram is about 10,000 kip, and I have 12 cows and 3 buffalos. Prior the clearance, we were scared about UXOs present in the area because it can explode anytime. Even though I didn’t see the UXOs, I knew my paddy field was at risk because my neighbour saw unexploded bombs on his field. For more safety, we were using shovels digging the land instead of hoes.

In early 2019, I did not expect to see any bombie in my house’s area. I was shocked and informed the village chief. The roving team visited and destroyed a bombie the same day”.

On March 2019, UXO Lao XK TS team surveyed the area, they found 15 cluster bomblets (BLU 26) of 4.9. From 11st to 20th February 2020, the clearance team found 88 cluster munitions of which, 81 are BLU26 and 7 ammunitions.



Bounchan showing us her beautiful rice field and free from UXO

Ms Bounhan adds: “We know we are living in a risky area, but we have to work on our farm land, feed the animals so we improve our living condition. Now the field was cleared, I feel safe. I don’t feel so worry or feared about UXOs. In the future, I’d like to grow rice and grass for animals raising purpose. My family and I are very happy now our land has been cleared. We are thankful for UXO Lao XK visit and to have made our lives safe from UXO”.

Challenges

In terms of challenges in 2021, funding remains the key challenge for UXO Lao that currently faces funding shortfalls for the operations in Luang Prabang province, it therefore affects staff performance, livelihood as well as their family. Moreover, the overall outputs may not be achieved as planned.

Secondly, many vehicles and field equipment are aging and need to be replaced, if these resource are secured along with the mobilization of staff and strong sector coordination, the targets are attainable.

Partners

- The National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR (NRA)
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- The Government of Australia
- The Government Canada
- The Government of Ireland
- The Government of Japan
- The Government of Lao PDR
- The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
- The Government of New Zealand
- The Government of Norway
- The Government of the United States of America
- The Government of the Republic of Korea
- Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC)
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- Ito Supporting Comity (ISC)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS)
- Japan International Cooperation System (JICS)
- Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA)
- Spirit of Soccer (SOS)
- Tetra Tech (TT)
- World Without Mines Foundation (WWM)

Priority activities for 2021

The following table shows UXO Lao AWP activities and targets for 2021:

Provinces	Mine Risk Education (Villages)	Non-Technical Survey (Villages)	Technical Survey (ha)	Area Clearance (ha)
Luangprabang	40	12	300	105
Huaphan	50	12	500	140
Xiengkhouang	50	15	1,200	731
Khammouane	59	12	500	351
Savannakhet	50	12	900	665
Salavan	60	12	500	381
Sekong	12	12	300	242
Champasack	50	15	450	210
Attapeu	50	12	300	388
Total	421	114	4,950	3,213

Personnel in 2020

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
119	71	7	1	1,003	274	2	0
Total		1,477					

Detailed statistics for 2020

For more information on the statistics of UXO Lao, please refer to the sector achievement section on page 9 - 13 of this report.

Operations Locations

Activity	Provinces/districts
UXO NTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ LPB: Luangprabang; Pakou; Nambak; Ngoi; Pakxeng; Phonxay; and Phoukhoun ■ HP: Xamneua; Viengthong ; and Viengxay ■ XK: Pek ; Kham ; and Phoukood ■ KM: Mahaxay ; Boualapha ; and Xaybouathong ■ SVK: Phin; Sepon; Nong; Thapangthong; Vilabouly ; and Thaphalanxay ■ SLV: Salavan ; Ta Oi ; Toumlane ; Vapi ; Khongxedon ; Lao Ngam ; and Samouay ■ SK: Lamam ; Kaleum ; Dakcheung ; and Thateng ■ CPS: Bachiengchaleunsouk ; Paksong ; Pathoumphone ; and Mounlapamok ■ ATP: Saysettha ; Samakkhixay ; Sanamxay ; Sanxay ; and Phouvong

UXO TS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ LPB: Pakou ; Nambak ; Ngoi ; Pakxeng ; and Phoukhoun ■ HP: Xamneua ; Viengthong ; and Viengxay ■ XK: Pek ; Kham ; and Phoukood ■ KM: Mahaxay ; Ngommalath ; Boualapha ; and Xaybouathong ■ SVK: Phin ; Sepon ; Nong ; Thapangthong ; Vilabouly ; and Thaphalanxay ■ SLV: Salavan ; Ta Oi ; Toumlane ; Vapi ; Khongxedon ; Lao Ngam ; and Samouay ■ SK: Lamam ; Kaleum ; Dakcheung ; and Thateng ■ CPS: Bachiengchaleunsouk ; Paksong ; Pathoumphone ; and Mounlapamok ■ ATP: Saysettha ; Samakkhixay ; Sanamxay ; Sanxay ; and Phouvong
UXO AC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ LPB: Luangprabang ; Pakou ; Nambak ; and Ngoi ■ HP: Xamneua ; Viengthong ; and Viengxay ■ XK: Pek ; Kham ; and Phoukood ■ KM: Mahaxay ; Ngommalath ; Boualapha ; and Xaybouathong ■ SVK: Atsaphangthong ; Phin ; Sepon ; Nong ; Thapangthong ; Vilabouly ; and Thaphalanxay ■ SLV: Salavan ; Ta Oi ; Toumlane ; Vapi ; Khongxedon ; Lao Ngam ; and Samouay ■ SK: Lamam ; Kaleum ; Dakcheung ; and Thateng ■ CPS: Bachiengchaleunsouk ; and Paksong ■ ATP: Saysettha ; Samakkhixay ; Sanamxay ; Sanxay ; and Phouvong
UXO RT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ LPB: Luangprabang ; Pakou ; Nambak ; Ngoi ; Pakxeng ; Phonxay ; and Phoukhoun ■ HP: Xamneua ; Viengthong ; and Viengxay ■ XK: Pek ; Kham ; and Phoukood ■ KM: Mahaxay ; Boualapha ; and Xaybouathong ■ SVK: Phin ; Sepon ; Nong ; Thapangthong ; Vilabouly ; and Thaphalanxay ■ SLV: Salavan ; Ta Oi ; Toumlane ; Vapi ; Khongxedon ; Lao Ngam ; and Samouay ■ SK: Lamam ; Kaleum ; Dakcheung ; and Thateng ■ CPS: Bachiengchaleunsouk ; Paksong ; Pathoumphone ; and Mounlapamok ■ ATP: Saysettha ; Samakkhixay ; Sanamxay ; Sanxay ; and Phouvong
UXO MRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ LPB: Luangprabang ; Pak Ou ; Nambak ; Ngoi ; Pakxeng ; Phonxay ; and Phoukhoun ■ HP: Xamneua ; Viengthong ; and Viengxay ■ XK: Pek ; Kham ; Morkmay ; and Phoukood ■ KM: Mahaxay ; Nongbok ; Hinboun ; Boualapha ; and Xaybouathong ■ SVK: Phin ; Sepon ; Nong ; Thapangthong ; Vilabouly ; and Thaphalanxay ■ SLV: Salavan ; Ta Oi ; Toumlane ; Vapi ; Khongxedon ; Lao Ngam ; and Samouay ■ SK: Lamam ; Kaleum ; Dakcheung ; and Thateng ■ CPS: Pakse ; Sanasomboun ; Bachiengchaleunsouk ; Paksong ; Pathoumphone ; Sukuma ; and Mounlapamok ■ ATP: Saysettha ; Samakkhixay ; Sanamxay ; Sanxay ; and Phouvong

Quality Management (QM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ LPB: Luangprabang ; Pakou ; Nambak ; and Ngoi ■ HP: Xamneua ; Viengxay ; and Xone ■ XK: Pek ■ KM: Mahaxay ; Boualapha ; and Xaybouathong ■ SVK: Phin ; Sepon ; Nong ; and Vilabouly ■ SLV: Salavan ; Ta Oi ; Toumlane ; Vapi ; Khongxedon ; Lao Ngam ; and Samouay ■ SK: Lamam ; Kaleum ; Dakcheung ; and Thateng ■ CPS: Bachiengchaleunsouk ; and Paksong ■ ATP: Saysettha ; Samakhhixay ; Sanamxay ; Sanxay ; and Phouvong
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Financial

Donors Contributions in 2020 Summary of Funds Received (in USD) For the Year 1 January - 31 December 2020

Fund Sources	Earmarked	Unear-marked	Total	% to Total
UNDP-Managed Funds				
New Zealand	2,553,004.00		2,553,004.00	23%
Ireland		296,912.00	296,912.00	3%
Luxembourg		89,074.00	89,074.00	1%
Canada Fund	38,200.00		38,200.00	0%
	2,591,204.00	385,986.00	2,977,190.00	26%
Bilateral Funds				
US Tetra Tech	5,887,448.83		5,887,448.83	52%
Japan Int'l Cooperation System (JICS)	1,630,953.12		1,630,953.12	14%
Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)	444,247.37		444,247.37	4%
World Without Mines (WWM)	235,413.00		235,413.00	2%
Counterpart Funds	63,155.37		63,155.37	1%
JMAS	4,100.00		4,100.00	
	8,265,317.69	-	8,265,317.69	73%
Government Contribution and Others				
Government of Lao PDR	20,129.57	-	20,129.57	0%
Various - LP Sales Proceeds, Training Fees		1,741.14	1,741.14	0%
	20,129.57	1,741.14	21,870.71	0%
Total	10,876,651.26	387,727.14	11,264,378.40	100%
% to Total	97%	3%	100%	

**Projected Expenditure (per AWP) vs. Actual Expenditure by Donor (in USD)
For the Year 1 January - 31 December 2020**

	Projected Expenditures (per AWP) - Original	Projected Expenditures (per AWP) - Revised	Actual Expenditures	Actual Exp./ Projected Exp. (%)
UNDP-Managed Funds				
New Zealand (NZ)	1,275,995	1,376,070	1,352,426.54	98%
Ireland	182,865	182,865	134,138.98	10%
Canada (CFLI)	38,081	38,081	36,000.02	3%
Australia	-	30,428	30,839.36	2%
Luxembourg	28,924	62,452	40,803.44	3%
UNDP -TRAC2	-		(15,739.56)	-1%
	1,525,864	1,689,896	1,578,468.78	93%
Bilateral Funds				
US - Tetra Tech	4,429,056	6,114,915	5,465,150.93	89%
Japan Int'l Cooperation System (JICS)	2,284,590	2,194,336	1,731,630.37	79%
Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)	313,453	459,832	440,696.57	96%
World Without Mines (WWM)	185,965	235,413	220,178.52	94%
Counterpart Fund	-		27,798.04	
ITO Supporting Comity		4,038	4,038.00	100%
	7,213,064	9,008,534	7,889,492.43	88%
Government Contribution and Others				
Others	-		1,601.58	
	-		1,601.58	
Unfunded	4,390,106	578,824		0%
Total	13,129,034	11,277,254	9,469,562.79	84%



saves lives builds futures

MINES ADVISORY GROUP (MAG)

Activities in 2020

In 2020 MAG continued to implement high quality humanitarian mine action activities across two of the most heavily contaminated provinces in the country, Xieng Khouang and Khammouane. Activities conducted over the 12-month period include:

- **Non-Technical Survey (NTS):** The Community Liaison Teams (CLT) conducted multiple village meetings, community mapping exercises and carried out household interviews in order to develop a comprehensive profile of the UXO contamination within the communities. The CLT investigation of a village lasts until all historical data has been verified and any new evidence points gathered for future technical survey activities.
- **Technical Survey (TS):** MAG carried out TS in areas where contamination has been confirmed through the NTS process. TS results in the establishment of Confirmed Hazardous Area (CHAs).
- **Land Clearance:** MAG priorities CHAs land that can be returned to the community for safe and productive use.
- **Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD):** MAG carried out EOD spot tasks to destroy UXO items posing a immediate risk to communities. This included the destruction of cluster munitions as well as large aircraft dropped bombs and other explosive remnants of war.
- **Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE):** MAG organized sessions for communities.

Key achievements in 2020

With the US, UK and Norwegian Governments fundings, as well as a number of smaller donors, MAG continued humanitarian mine action activities in Khammouane and Xieng Khouang. Key outputs for 2020 were:

- **Non-technical Survey:** 55 villages were surveyed in Khammouane and Xieng Khouang provinces.
- **Technical Survey (TS):** 10,491 hectares of confirmed hazardous area were established.
- **Clearance activities:** 907 hectares of land returned



to communities. This included support for a number of development projects such as school and road construction.

- **UXO Destruction:** MAG destroyed 20,499 items (85% of which were cluster submunitions) through all activities (TS, clearance and EOD spot tasks).
- **Roving teams:** MAG teams responded to 2,327 spot tasks resulting in the destruction on 13,841 UXO items.
- **Risk Education:** MAG delivered 164 Explosive Ordnance Risk Education sessions to 4,408 people (2,300 women and 2,108 men).

Focus areas of work in 2021

MAG is increasing capacity in Xieng Khouang with PM/WRA funding, adding 17 clearance teams and 2 EOD teams. MAG will continue to seek funding for a range of donors to maintain and increase its operations in Lao PDR. MAG secured new funding from the Japanese Government for 2021 which will support their work in Khammouane.

MAG's objective and organizational priorities in 2021 will be to continue having a high quality delivery and, cost effective operations. MAG will continue to conduct evidenced-based survey and clearance activities in Xieng Khouang and Khammouane. 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.

MAG will also focus on the prioritization and work-impact by working closely with the GoL partners and the communities, as well as seeking strategic partnerships and collaboration with other organisations able to maximise the impact of clearance.

MAG will also have a strong focus on gender, diversity and inclusion, embedding these principles in programmes and practices and, implementing strategies and recommendations from previous assessments.

Case Study

MAG cleared land in Khagnou Village, Boualapha District, Khammouane from February to May 2019 after which the government sent workers to build an irrigation system. The project has had a huge impact on the community. It provided employment hope for a great first harvest for the following months.

Mr Toun, village chief, told MAG: “Before we had to go slow, and would only dare to use a little portion of land. Two boys and a girl, about 12 years old, were digging to catch frogs just here and they all died hitting a bomb. That happened 10 years ago but we never forgot and we have always remained very scared. Before we had nine contaminated rice fields and now we have 60 cleared, safe rice fields. With the irrigation we can have two crops a year. We planted in November, and in April we will have our first harvest. In the past the area we could use was small and we could only grow a small amount of rice. Now there is much more and we are expecting a very different situation. You can see the people are busy, they are very active developing the fields and taking care of their vegetable gardens. More especially they are doing it with no fear. No fear of unexploded bombs. We expect that this year people will have enough food and even excess to sell and buy tools.”

Whilst five families own the land, all 32 families in the village will benefit thanks to their communal system use of the land that is shared equally.

Personnel in 2020

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
73	55	1	2	506	280	5	0
Total		922					

Detailed statistic figures

For more detailed on the statistics figure of the MAG, please refer to the Sector Achievements on page 9 - 13 of this report.

Operations Locations

Activity	Provinces/districts
UXO NTS	Bualapha / Khammouane Kham, Khoun, Nonghed, Phaxai / Xiengkhuang
UXO TS	Bualapha, Gnommalath / Khammouane Kham, Khoun, Nonghed, Pek, Phaxai, Phoukout / Xiengkhuang
AC	Bualapha , Gnommalath / Khammouane Kham, Khoun, Nonghed, Pek, Phaxai, Phoukout / Xiengkhuang
RT	Bualapha , Gnommalath/ Khammouane Kham, Khoun, Nonghed, Pek, Phaxai, Phoukout / Xiengkhuang
RE	Bualapha / Khammouane Khoun, Phaxai / Xiengkhuang
QM	Internal - Quality Management in Xiengkhouang and Khammouane

Financials

MoU project Name	Sign date	Period	Total amount from MoU	Breakdown yearly	Donor
UXO Survey in Xiengkhouang province, Lao PDR	21/09/2018	To 31/12/ 2021	21,097,248	4,016,654 and 1,722,436 (additional fund)	PM/WRA
UXO Clearance in Khammouane province, Lao PDR (Phase II)	22/12/2020	To 31/03/2021	1,759,459	1,218,292	DFID/FCDO
Integrated Survey and Clearance of Cluster Munitions Contamination in Boualapha district, Khammouane province, Lao PDR (Phase VI)		To 31/07/2021	542,363	160,258	NMFA
Clearing cluster munitions and unexploded ordnance from rural poor communities in Langkang-Vangmaner Focus Development Areas, Boualapha district, Khammouane province, Lao PDR, Phase II	24/03/2021	To 31/08/2021	272,728	64,051	Freeman Foundation
UXO clearance in support of community development in Gnommalath district, Khammouane province, Lao PDR	19/07/2019	To 31/08/2020	500,000	261,668	United Methodist Committee on Relief

Director cost (USD) received in 2020: 6,108,359USD	
Details expenditure for direct cost (summary from the period of January-December 2020 only): (USD)	
Item	Amount
Personnel costs	3,196,409
Operational costs:	
- UXO/Mine Risk Education	622
- UXO survey and clearance	1,476,347
Equipment costs	1,223,545
Total	5,896,923

In-Direct cost (USD) received in 2020: 1,335,000USD	
Details expenditure for In-Direct cost (summary from the period of January-December 2020 only): (USD)	
Item	Amount
Personnel costs	1,035,023
Equipment costs	236,405
Total	1,271,428

Donor contributions for 2020: (USD)

Item	Amount
US Government - PM/WRA	5,739,090
Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office	1,218,292
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	160,258
United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)	261,668
Freeman Foundation	64,051
Total	7,443,359



NORWEGIAN PEOPLE'S AID (NPA)

Activities in 2020

NPA conducted five primary activities during 2020:

- Cluster munition remnants survey (CMRS): NPA deployed 24 CMRS teams in Attapeu, Champasack, Salavan and Sekong provinces.
- Clearance of high-priority land: NPA deployed 9 battle area clearance (BAC) teams in CHAs in Attapeu, Champasack, Salavan and Sekong provinces. Survey and clearance operations were also supported by one quality management team.
- Support to UXO Lao: NPA provided experienced monitoring and training staff in Luangprabang, as well as salaries and equipment for UXO Lao staff (both field teams and support staff).
- Support to the NRA's Information Management Unit: NPA provided support chiefly through a UK-funded Capacity Development project (ending in March 2020), and continued support for the development and revision of information management and database-related standards, systems, and trainings.

Key achievements in 2020

In 2020, NPA carried out BAC in four provinces and exceeded its annual workplan clearance total of 257ha by nearly 65%, with 446 ha cleared by the end of the year. NPA was able to overachieve its clearance target due to more working days than expected during the rainy season and faster progress on CMRS than anticipated, resulting in multi-skilled CMRS teams being able to be deployed to clearance tasks instead.

NPA likewise overachieved its target for number of villages surveyed. NPA carried out CMRS in a total of 322 villages across all four provinces where it conducted operations, exceeding its workplan target of 279.

NPA is committed to gender and diversity sensitive and responsive programming and, equal and meaningful participation and opportunities within its organisation and in all aspects of the work delivered. In 2020, NPA partnered with Lao organisation, Proud To Be Us Laos, to carry out a gender and diversity audit and revise NPA's human resource policies to be more gender and diversity-inclusive and relevant to Lao PDR context.

NPA is also committed to reducing its environmental footprint and promoting environmental awareness and sustainability. In 2020, in partnership with Zero Waste Laos, NPA held full-day environmental awareness trainings for all +335 staff members and constructed office composting facilities.

Case Study

Ms. Khongsay, a 58-year-old farmer and housewife, and four generations of her family have lived all of their lives with the threat of cluster munition contamination at their farm in Nongsakeung village, Salavan province.

When digging post holes to rebuild a wooden fence around her house, Ms. Khongsay struck something



USDOS-funded NPA BAC team uses a large-loop detector, Saravane province, February 2020



Female Surveyor (BAC Team 8) uses rope to make clearance lanes inside a coffee farm, Dansavang village, Paksong district, Champasak province, May 2020

hard and metallic in the ground just below the surface. She was instantly afraid that it was an unexploded submunition, a danger she and her family knew all too well. “When I figured out it was bombie, I was so shocked, scared, and my whole body was shaking because it reminded me of my 2 nephews, aged 13 and 15, who were killed in an accident with a bombie 20 years ago,” she said. The thought of cluster munition contamination just a few steps from her house, inside of her back yard where her grandchildren play every day, terrified her.

Fortunately, she reported the bombie immediately to the village authority and to the NPA clearance team working nearby to her village. She also warned her family members and neighbours. She said, “when I realized it was a bombie, the first thought in my head was reporting to the village chief and the NPA team working inside the village paddy rice field, of which some part belongs to my daughter.”

NPA teams arrived very soon to destroy the bombie and ensure there was no further threat of contamination in the village. “I feel safer, happier and I am not worried about my family members, my kids or my neighbours anymore because the item was removed,” Ms. Khongsay said. NPA’s teams then continued to work to clear several paddy fields belonging to the village, which will have a positive effect on the whole community to be able to work the land free of fear of UXO contamination.

Focus areas of work in 2021

In 2021, NPA will shift its focus from completion of the National Cluster Munition Remnant Survey in Lao PDR’s four southern provinces to the clearance of confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) identified through the survey. With an increase in funding from the United States Department of State (USDOS), together



NPA interviews Mrs Khongsay with her grandson, in Nongsakeung Village, Salavan Province

with ongoing support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NPA will significantly expand its clearance capacity to deploy 20 battle area clearance teams across Attapeu, Champasack, Salavan, and Sekong provinces, while retaining a survey capacity of 8 survey teams to address any additional survey requirements.

The programme also aims to introduce two new tools to improve the efficiency of operations and to ensure limited clearance resources benefit as many at-need communities as possible. In 2021, priorities for operations will be to secure approval for the introduction of explosive detection dogs (EDD) for use in clearance and quality management operations, along with approval for the use of drones in the support of clearance and survey activities.

NPA will continue its ongoing efforts to support the capacity development of the national and provincial mine action authorities, with a particular focus on information management. Expanding our activities with regard to protection of the environment and gender and diversity are likewise key areas of focus for the programme during the year.

Key challenges remain securing the necessary MOU framework and permissions to allow for the expansion of operations, procurement of equipment, and recruitment of team members in a timely manner.

Partners

- The National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR
- The UXO Provincial Authority of Attapeu, Champasack, Salavan, and Sekong provinces
- UXO Lao in Vientiane Capital
- UXO Lao in LPB

Personnel in 2020

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
32	10	2	2	217	79	4	0
Total		346					

Detailed statistics for 2020

For more information on the statistics of NPA, please refer to the sector achievement section on page 9 - 13 of this report.

Operations Locations

Activity	Districts/Provinces
Survey	Champasack, Salavan, Sekong and Attapeu provinces
Clearance	Champasack, Salavan, Sekong and Attapeu provinces
Roving task	Champasack, Salavan, Sekong and Attapeu provinces
Post-Clearance Assessment	Champasack, Salavan, Sekong and Attapeu provinces

Financials

MoU project Name	Sign date	Period	Total amount from MoU	Breakdown yearly-2020	Donor
Unexploded Ordnance UXO Survey And Clearance Phase III	21 June 2019	28 May-31 Dec 2020		\$6,129,608 (2020)	USDOS-NMFA-Fagforbundet
Global Mine Action Pro-gramme II (GMAP II) Land Release	17 July 2019	28 June-31 March 2020	\$1,078,253	\$234,501.38 (2020)	UK DFID
Capacity Development Project for National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR (NRA) and the provincial NRA Offices	21 June 2019	10 June 2019 - 31 March 2020	\$513,709	\$69,687.55 (2020)	UK DFID
Contract Agreement between NPA and UXO Lao to support UXO Lao for Survey and Clearance Activities in Luangprabang Project	1 Jan - 2020	1st Jan -31st Dec 2020	\$705,881	\$705,881 (2020)	NMFA Bilateral

Direct cost (USD) received in 2020: \$7,139,677.93 (includes funds transferred to another UXO sector operator, UXO Lao as per table below)

Details expenditure for direct cost (please summary from the period of January-December 2020 only): (USD)

Item	Amount
Personnel costs	679,678
Operational costs:	5,094,191.25
Equipment costs	921,561.68
Total	6,695,430.93

Donor contributions for 2020: (USD)

Donor lists	Amount
USDOS	5,382,550
NMFA	705,881
Fagforbundet	41,177
UK DFID	304,188.93
NMFA Bilateral	705,881
Total	7,139,677.93

Transfer of funds

Funds transferred to another UXO sector operator

What organization were the funds transferred to?	How much was transferred? (USD)
UXO-Lao (NMFA Bilateral)	444,247
Total	444,247



HALO TRUST (HALO)

Activities in 2020

In 2020 HALO continued with the comprehensive survey of Savannakhet Province. Whilst this US-funded CMRS project was ongoing, US and UK funded clearance teams continued with the clearance of high priority CHA's across the province. HALO also undertook extensive recruitment and training during 2020, part of a significant expansion resulting from new US Government funding, totalling \$7 million, for clearance operations. Activities conducted in Savannakhet Province during 2020 include:

- **Non-Technical Survey (NTS):** HALO trust operated in Atsaphantong, Atsaphon, Nong, Phalanxai, Phin, Sepon, Vilabouly and Xonbuly districts.
- **Technical Survey (TS):** HALO trust operated in Atsaphantong, Atsaphon, Nong, Phalanxai, Phin, Sepon, Vilabouly and Xonbuly districts.
- **Clearance:** HALO trust operated in Atsaphantong, Nong, Phin, Sepon and Vilabouly districts.
- **EOD Roving Tasks:** HALO trust operated in Atsaphantong, Atsaphon, Champhon, Nong, Phalanxai, Phin, Sepon, Thapangthong, Vilabouly and Xonbuly districts.
- **Risk Education:** HALO trust operated in Atsaphantong, Atsaphon, Nong, Phalanxai, Phin, Sepon and Vilabouly districts.

Key achievements in 2020

With continued support from the US and UK governments, HALO increased its operational capacity by 40% during 2020, with programme expanding from 523 staff in January 2020 to 750 in December 2020. The HALO Trust's key achievements for 2020 include:

- **Clearance:** HALO Trust cleared over 280 hectares of high priority land.
- **Non-Technical Survey:** HALO Trust conducted over 120 villages surveys.
- **Technical Survey:** HALO Trust conducted over 170 villages resulting in clearance of over 60 villages.
- **EOD roving Tasks:** HALO Trust conducted over 1,300 EOD roving tasks.
- **UXO Destruction:** HALO Trust destroyed over 11,000 dangerous items of UXO.



A HALO technician clearing next to a house in Nonxai Village, Phin District

Case Study

During 2020 HALO Trust undertook clearance following requests from Nong and Phin districts to support water projects being delivered by World Vision and the EU funded SUNWIP Project. HALO Trust's clearance work enabled the safe construction of 15 wells and boreholes in 10 villages.



HALO's assistance to the SUNWIP Project is enabling the safe installation of a water supply system for the larger urban area of Nongvilai, the main town in Nong District, and for three smaller peri urban areas, such as Sagi-Gnai village. Boreholes, constructed on HALO Trust cleared ground, will feed elevated tanks which, through a gravity distribution network, will supply households with water.

On HALO Trust cleared ground, World Vision has installed traditional hand pumps in three villages of Phin District and solar powered pumps in three villages of Nong District.

The work by HALO's U.S. and U.K. funded teams in undertaking clearance for World Vision and the SUNWIP project will benefit the 6,500 residents of these 10 villages.

Focus areas of work in 2021

In 2021, HALO Trust will continue with its survey, clearance, EOD and RE activities across Savannakhet. Following training mid-year also HALO Trust intends to start mine clearance operations in 2021.

With the signing of an MOU HALO Trust will be able to complete the expansion for the new US Government \$7 million Clearance Project in Savannakhet. Once the expansion has been completed the programme will have nearly doubled in size, approaching 1,000 staff, over a 18 month period. The following activities will be carried out during 2021:

- Conduct Non-Technical and Technical Survey, EOD Roving, Clearance and EORE in support of district and provincial priorities in Savannakhet.
- Conclude a UK Government (FCDO) contract by the end of March 2021 and work with the Savannakhet Province and the NRA to agree and plan for a one year extension.
- Work with the Savannakhet Province and the NRA to conclude an MOU for a new US Government (PM/WRA) clearance project.
- Work with local districts to recruit new technicians to support the U.S. Government funded expansion. Extensive internal training to support the expansion.
- Continue to improve communication and coordination with the NRA, province and districts throughout 2021.
- Continue to provide English language training to staff, where relevant to their jobs and support them in their career progression.
- Continue to improve our ability to hire and support people with disabilities to work in the office and in the field.

Partners

- NRA
- Local Authorities at the Provincial and District Level
- Government of the United States
- Government of the United Kingdom

Personnel in 2020

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
37	30	0	1	334	343	5	0
Total		750					

Detailed statistics for 2020

For more information on the statistics of HALO Trust, please refer to the sector achievement section on page 9 - 13 of this report.

Operations Locations

Activity	Districts/Provinces
Survey	Savannaket provinces
Clearance	Savannaket provinces
Roving task	Champasack, Salavan, Sekong and Attapeu provinces
Post-Clearance Assessment	Champasack, Salavan, Sekong and Attapeu provinces

Financials

MoU project Name	Sign date	Period	Total amount from MoU	Breakdown yearly-2020	Donor
UXO Survey in Savannakhet Province	21.06.2019	01.01.2018 – 30.06.2022	17,285,000	3,940,874	U.S. Govt (PM/WRA)
UXO Clearance for Savannakhet Province		01.04.2020 – 31.03.2021	1,824,500		U.K. Govt (FCDO)
UXO Survey and Clearance for Savannakhet Province		01.04.2020 – 31.12.2021	7,000,000		U.S. Govt (PM/WRA)

Director cost (USD) received in 2020: 5,665,173.30 USD

Details expenditure for direct cost (please summary from the period of January-December 2020 only): (USD)

Item	Amount
Personnel costs	3,673,231.80
Operational costs:	
- UXO/Mine Risk Education cost	29,644.88
- UXO survey and clearance	563,252.75
Equipment costs	1,399,043.87
Total	5,665,173.30

In-Direct cost (USD) received in 2020: 457,615.28 USD

Details expenditure for In-Direct cost (please summary from the period of January-December 2020 only): (USD)

Item	Amount
Personnel costs	296,712.37
Operational costs:	
- UXO/Mine Risk Education cost	2,394.62
- UXO survey and clearance	45,497.83
Equipment costs	113,010.46
Total	457,615.28

Donor contributions for 2020: (USD)

Donor lists	Amount
U.S.Govt (PM/WRA)	3,209,132.53
U.K. Govt (FCDO)	1,222,553.46
U.S.Govt (PM/WRA)	1,691,102.59
Total	6,122,788.58

Activities in 2020

- **Non Technical Survey (NTS):** HI conducted NTS tasks and risk education sessions through safety briefing, movie events and household visits
- **Technical survey and clearance:** HI carried out technical survey and clearance tasks in parallel following prioritization process and applying the new SOP on Clearance while surveying which was developed in order to cope with the specific landmine threat in Houameuang. HI also responded to specific requests of district authorities by providing clearance activities in B. Soblap, B. Kangkao, B. Naleang and B. Pakhatai to new school construction projects.
- **UXO Destruction:** HI participated in the development of a new specific SOP for Nasam Destruction Range to improve the security of the destruction site in coordination with UXO Lao.
- **Roving:** HI carried out 122 roving tasks in 33 villages according to emergency hotline report coming from communities.
- **Mapping:** HI continued systematic mapping and reporting of suspected/confirmed minefields all over the district.
- **Development:** HI developed a SOP to support casualties on life-threatening injuries in line with the new IMAS 13.10.
- **Capacity Support:** HI supported the provincial branch office of NRA in Houaphan through capacity development and office operations.
- **Risk Education:** HI participated in establishing UXO Education Centre, thanks to CBID AC5 project. HI had coordinated with UXO Lao, GRET, BNDA, OXFAM, ADDP and others in Sam Neua to establish the Centre. HI also supported Provincial NRA to organize awareness events on CCM ratification anniversary and International Day on Persons with Disability in Sam Neua in December 2020.
- **Victim Assistance:** Provided referral and mapping of services to UXO victims, persons with disabilities to access to medical health care and rehabilitation services. HI established and provided first-aid trainings for village health care volunteers. HI provided MH/PSS support to UXO victims through

counselling sessions with HI social workers and community volunteers, referral to further treatment from district and provincial medical staffs and, nurses who received basic and clinical trainings from National Psychiatrist of Lao. Moreover HI supported UXO survivors to attend National Strategy of Victim Assistance Development Workshop and CCM review conference. HI conducted economic empowerment activities for UXO victims, persons with disabilities and vulnerable people through their participation in bamboo/NTFP value chain activities of BNDA using gender actions learning system (GALS) tools and diversity and inclusion trainings (DIT).

Key achievements in 2020

- **Non-Technical Survey (NTS):** HI completed NTS in 10 villages in Houameuang and, produced and published of UXO identification aide memoire for surveys in Laos.
- **UXO Destroyed:** HI destroyed 100% of UXO reported from 33 communities through hotline.
- **Technical Survey:** HI completed 1,252,000 m² of technical survey in 9 villages and identification of 603,164 m² of CHA area. 17 suspected/confirmed additional minefields identified (total 46 out of 20 villages).
- **Area Clearance:** HI cleared 546,370 m² of land in 14 villages resulting in the finding of 2,225 UXO items disposed.
- **Support to NRA:** 6 staffs of provincial NRA benefited from trainings (IMSMA program, Arc GIS program, Gender, First aid). HI organized exchange visits with PNRA Luang Prabang and provided office equipment and facility.
- **Risk Awareness:** 25 villages benefited from the development of risk management plan and action through community's volunteers established through project support. 11,884 people (5,927 females, 5,957 males) benefited from UXO risk awareness sessions. 204 visitors received UXO awareness information from visiting UXO Education Center in Sam Neua District. 50 teachers, master and technical staffs of 44 schools received trainings on Primary School Risk Education Curriculum.

■ **Victim Assistance:** 45 UXO victims and persons with disabilities had been identified in 24 villages using Washington Group Short Set of Questions (WGSSQ). And among those, 40 persons had been referred to health care and rehabilitation services and 12 persons suffering from mental health received counselling sessions from VA social workers, community volunteers and district hospital medical staffs and nurses. Total of 38 community volunteers, medical doctor and nurses benefited from continuing mental health clinical trainings. 112 UXO victims and persons with disabilities in 20 villages are benefited from participating to bamboo value chain producer groups, through quality production trainings, supporting on developing and implementing of forest management plan, market negotiating, DIT and GALS trainings.

Case Study: VA and the principle of non-discrimination

A comprehensive involvement in the project when mine action is linked to inclusive development:

To ensure UXO victims and other persons with disabilities are able to cope with their difficult condition, personal stigma and able to live their life happily in the society, it is crucial to ensure supports are there to facilitate them to go back to community, access to services needed for health care, rehabilitation, vocational skills and livelihood activities. Through this project, HI had putting an effort to coordinate and link among development partners, services available in the district, provinces (including services available in Xiengkhouang Province) and national level to maximized the benefit for its beneficiaries.

Mrs. La, 26, from B. Korhing, Houameuang District, is a house-wife of 2 kids who used to be shy and unconfident. She was in an unhealthy marriage as there were always disputes between her and her husband and violence sometimes. She had to take care of all the house work and kids on her own. She had limited opportunity to attend community meetings or events. She started to join HI activities when VA team went to her village for a community screening because the team found her having difficulty with lower limb functioning. She first became a VA community volunteer, and later a GALS model and Disability Champion of her village. She is also a member of the bamboo/NTFP producer group established by GRET. She started using GALS tools to plan for family economic improvement actions. Despite the difficulty to encourage her husband to take part of this change, she finally overcame the unhealthy relationship by having shared responsibility with her husband to take care of house work, joined producer groups of bamboo, red mushroom and broom grass value chain activity.

From a family that was leaving on day-to-day basis this family is now having more than ten million kip of income annually. They have a saving account with community saving fund. They saving to buy a motorbike for the family. La is now becoming a strong confident woman who can share her lesson and support other women in her village still widely affected by UXO.

Focus areas of work in 2021

HI will continue current operations in Houaphan Province with extension to 10 new villages in Houameuang and 8 villages in Hium District, while putting its footprint in Koua (8 villages) and Mai (13 villages) district of Phongsaly Province through NTS, TS and Roving tasks and community risk education activities

HI aims to develop and pilote Community Safety Committees Approaches at village level to provide durable solutions/dynamics to mitigate the risk of UXO accident to ensure flexible response and conflict sensitivity.

HI will mobilize technical and financial support to NRA for the revision of national standard for victim assistance in line with IMAS 13.10 while supporting its implementation through improved coordination among MA actors, stakeholders and service providers (health, rehabilitation, education, vocational and employment, etc.).

HI will continue raising the issue of the heavy presence of landmines in the district of Houameuang, and trying to identify solutions for affected communities while being able to pursue the CMRS and clearance efforts.

The no-cost extension validation and MOU process are the key challenges for the moment. The process was taking significant time at provincial level. On the other side, accreditation renewal process of HI was also delayed as a consequence of the no-cost extension process which led to a major concern for HI to have not been able to respond to urgent spot task requested from communities that could have led to critical accident since no operator is able to do the disposal for the moment. Though, additional resources from MOFA Norway to victim assistance component is in line with NRA annual focus as NRA is aiming to strengthen VA action by developing national strategy and revising the national standards.

Implementing Partners

- The National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR and Provincial Branch Office of Houaphan Province
- GRET and Bamboo National Development Agency in Houaphan: supports collective action at village/district and provincial level to ensure better sustainable management of the natural resources and to consolidate a value chain approach that contribute to poverty reduction by a better access to market and better negotiation of prices
- Oxfam: strengthens the capacities of partners and communities on gender action learning system, an innovative tool to facilitate community mobilization
- UXO Lao in HP
- The Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES)
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- The Lao Women's Union
- The Provincial and District authorities

Personnel in 2020

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
National		International		National		International	
Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
6	2			44	22	3	0
Total		77					

Detailed statistics for 2020

For more information on the statistics of HI, please refer to the sector achievement section on page 9 - 13 of this report.

Operations Locations

Activity	Provinces/Districts
UXO NTS	HP Province / Huamuang District
UXO TS	HP Province / Huamuang District
AC	HP Province / Huamuang District
RT	HP Province / Huamuang District
RE	HP Province / Huamuang District
VA	HP Province / Huamuang District
Post Clearance Assessment	HP Province / Huamuang District
QM	HP Province / Huamuang District

Financials

MoU project Name	Sign date	Period	Total amount from MoU	Breakdown yearly	Donor
The comprehensive approach to reduce the impact of Unexploded Ordnance on Human Safety and Rural Livelihoods in Houaphan Province, Lao PDR	20 December 2018	Approval date to 31 December 2020	2,749,308 EUR	Y1: 1,062,256 EUR Y2: 1,072,851 EUR Y3: 614,202 EUR	EU

Direct costs (USD) received in 2020: 468,935 USD	
Details expenditure for direct costs (please summary from the period of January-December 2020 only): 1,121,993 USD	
Item	Amount
Personnel costs	83,025
Operational costs:	
- UXO/Mine Risk Education cost	41,732
- Victim Assistance	422,706
- UXO survey and clearance	481,146
Equipment costs	
Running Costs/Office	72,427
Monitoring/Evaluation	20,958
Total	1,121,993

HUMANITARIAN TEAM OF LAO PEOPLE'S ARMY (UNIT 58)

Activities in 2020

The implementation of the activities of the humanitarian teams of Lao People's Army (Unit 58) in 2020 funded by the Government of the Republic of Korea through KOICA through the United Nations in Lao PDR, Phase II 2019-2021 to conducted UXO/Mine Risk Education (MRE), survey, clearance and UXO destruction in Bolikhamxay, Vientiane Provinces and Vientiane Capital.

In 2019, two humanitarian teams of the Lao People's Army were trained in late of 2019 and being operated in 2020. The total seven humanitarian teams of the Lao People's Army were equipped under the KOICA funds as a new, long-term sustainable approach towards UXO clearance. The teams conduct survey and clearance in Borlikhamxay province, a UXO-contaminated province, where no other UXO operator is present. Additionally, they conduct UXO emergency response in provinces where there are no other operators currently present, contributing greatly towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 18, Lives Safe from UXO.

In 2020, a field visit for the KOICA representative was organised to Borlikhamxay province. Several articles and media posts were published during the year detailing the work of the sector. KOICA's contribution to the UXO Sector was acknowledged through various media in Lao PDR. Also, the KOICA logo was displayed on the NRA and the humanitarian team of Lao People's Army equipment.



The MRE activity at Thongviengkham School in Laksao District, Bolikhamxay Province with more than 300 students in attendance

Challenges

During the year 2020, due to the impact of COVID 19 Pandemic and limited operating budget, the implementation of UXO activities did not reach targets as planned.

Priority activities for 2021

- Continue to carry out MRE in 73 villages in Vientiane Capital, Vientiane Province and Borlikhamxay Province.
- Continue to carry out NTS in 21 villages in Vientiane, Xaisomboun and Borlikhamxay Provinces.
- Continue to carry out TS in 30 villages in Vientiane and Borlikhamxay Provinces.
- Continue to carry out UXO clearance Vientiane Capital, Vientiane Province and Borlikhamxay Province.

Partners

- The National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR.
- Borlikhamxay Provincial Authority.
- Khamkeut District Authority
- Republic of Korea through KOICA Lao PDR
- UNDP Lao PDR

Personnel in 2020

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
0	0	0	0	86	10	0	0
Total		96					

Detailed statistics for 2020

For more information on the statistics of Unit 58, please refer to the sector achievement section on page 9 - 13 of this report.

Operations Locations

Activity	Provinces/districts
Survey	Vientiane Capital, Vientiane Province and Borlikhamxay Province
Clearance	Borlikhamxay Province
MRE	Vientiane Capital, Vientiane Province and Borlikhamxay Province
Emergency Response	Vientiane Capital, Vientiane Province and Borlikhamxay Province

Financials:

Expenditure for 2020: (USD)

Item	Amount
Personnel costs	Responsibility of Lao Government
Operational costs	46,237
Equipment	16,540
Total	62,777

Donor contributions for 2020 (USD)

Donor	Amount
KOICA through UNDP Lao PDR	
Total	62,777

Activities in 2020

Victim Assistance:

World Education managed the War Victims Medical Fund (WVMF), which supports victims of unexploded ordnance (UXO) accidents with financial support for transportation, medicine, and a small subsistence allowance for a caregiver while they are in the hospital or rehabilitation center. The Fund also pays for ongoing medical treatment and surgical costs for survivors with severe injuries, and provides financial support for funerals and spiritual ceremonies. In 2020, WVMF conducted follow-up trips to visit UXO survivors in Xiengkhouang, Phongsaly and Savannakhet. WVMF posters and flyers were distributed to inform government staff and community members about how to access the WVMF. World Education also disseminated WVMF information to participating schools and MOES staff at trainings implemented by the Comprehensive Mine Risk Education project in Champasak and Savannakhet province.

World Education implements the USAID Okard Activity that supports disability inclusive development in Lao PDR. In 2020, in close partnership with the National Committee of Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly (NCDE), the Department of Healthcare and Rehabilitation (DHR) and the Center for Medical Rehabilitation (CMR) at the Ministry of Health (MOH), and two civil society organizations (Quality of Life

Association (QLA) and Association for Rural Mobilization and Improvement (ARMI), USAID Okard piloted an integrated victims assistance approach addressing unmet needs of UXO victims as well as of persons with disabilities from other causes. Through individualized case management and community engagement to remove barriers faced by persons with disabilities in their communities, many persons with disabilities have optimized their functioning through increased access and utilization of health and rehabilitation services, and/or have started a new income generation activity to improve their living condition.

UXO/Mine Risk Education:

World Education implemented the Comprehensive Mine Risk Education (MRE) in Lao PDR project in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Sport (MOES). In 2020, World Education and MOES staff pilot tested the newly-developed MRE curriculum in 12 schools across the country and trained 51 provincial and district MOES staff to be MRE trainers. These new trainers subsequently trained 2,264 teachers to teach the new MRE curriculum. WE also worked with Teacher Training Colleges to develop MRE guidebooks and conduct MRE trainings for final year student teachers. An additional 45 new MRE puppetry troupes were established, and the MRE team supported all 187 troupes to perform on important holidays. These performances reached 61,523 children and 17,223 adults in communities across the country.

Key achievements in 2020

The table below summarizes the Comprehensive MRE Project's 2020 achievements:

Activities	2020 Workplan	2020 Achievements	
	Target	Actual	Percentage (%)
Conduct pilot-test of the new MRE curriculum in primary and secondary schools	To pilot test the new MRE curriculum in 6 primary schools and 6 secondary schools across Laos	The curriculum was pilot tested in 6 primary and 6 secondary schools in 3 districts. The curriculum was endorsed by MOES and will be added to the national curriculum	100%
Conduct TOT on MRE lesson teaching for PESS and DESB	51 people	51 people	100%

Conduct MRE teacher trainings	2,264 teachers	2,264 teachers	100%
Establish new MRE puppetry troupes	78 troupes	45 troupes	58%
Support puppetry performance on important holidays	422 performances	328 performances	78%
Develop MRE guidebook for TTCs	To develop an MRE guidebook for TTCs	MRE guidebook for TTCs has been developed	100%
Conduct TOT for professors who teach MRE at TTCs	40 professors	16 professors	40 %
Develop MRE guidebook for TTCs	To develop an MRE guidebook for TTCs	MRE guidebook for TTCs has been developed	100%
Conduct TOT for professors who teach MRE at TTCs	40 professors	16 professors	40 %
Conduct MRE Teacher training in TTC	160 professors	473 teachers	296%
Support training for final year students in 8 TTCs on MRE lessons	1,469 student teachers	2,046 student teachers	139%

The table below summarizes the USAID Okard Project's 2020 achievements related to integrated approach of victim assistance:

Activities	2020 Workplan	2020 Achievements	
	Target	Actual	Percentage (%)
Raising awareness on disability inclusion and screening communities to identify persons with disabilities	51 target villages	51 target villages have completed initial community awareness raising on disability with 3,633 people (49% female) participating. As a result, an initial 1,266 people have been screened to identify people with difficulty in functioning.	100%
Implement case management including Individualized needs assessment, referral to health & rehabilitation providers, starting income generation activity	360 cases were aimed to be activated	244 cases were activated for addressed different needs such as: health and rehabilitation needs, economic participation needs, mental health needs. This included 9 UXO survivors (0 female)	67%

Organize community events to raise awareness on disability and to remove barriers to inclusion of persons with disabilities	51 target villages	In 2020, 3 target villages piloted the Social Behavior Change Activities, and more than 30 people joined 3 sessions. Disability Day Celebration was organized: 1. Vientiane – with 136 participants 2. Xayphouthong- with 330 participants from community and local authorities 3. Kham – with 105 participants from community and local authorities	5%
Disseminate the national rehabilitation strategy to all health authorities	18 provinces across the country	73 health authorities from 12 provincial hospital and provincial health department and representatives from multiple departments within Ministry of Health participated	66%
Conduct Health Facility Assessments to identify the needs of equipment, infrastructure, and workforce to increase rehabilitation	8 hospitals	USAID Okard completed 5 Health Facility Assessments, 3 district hospitals and 2 provincial hospitals	62.5%
Trained doctors and nurses from district and provincial hospitals in Savannakhet and Xieng Khouang on mental health and psychosocial support	15 districts in Savannakhet and Xiengkhuang	USAID Okard trained 42 doctors and nurse from - 15 district hospital (30 people), - Provincial hospital (4 people), - Savannakhet provincial health science college (4 people), - Xiengkhouang provincial health school (4 people)	100%
Support the referral for health and rehabilitation services	360 cases	80 cases were referred for health and rehabilitation services from PRCs, CMR, and district and provincial hospital	22%
Support the Center for Medical Rehabilitation (CMR) to develop a continuous professional development training center for health professionals on rehabilitation intervention	1,566 health staff trained	No progress	0%

- The War Victims Medical Fund supports victims and their families on an as-needed basis after a UXO accident occurs. In 2020, WVMF supported 28 cases. (25 involved first-time support and 3 involved follow-up care).
- In 2020, the WVMF distributed 403 posters and flyers to government staff and community members about how to access WVMF.
- In July 2020, WEI and the NRA signed a Memorandum of Agreement to continue implementing of the WVMF for two years (2020-2022) with a budget of \$100,000 funded by the U.S. Department of State.

Case Study

Mr. Lardone, a 32-year old farmer from Xieng Khouang province, was in a UXO accident on October 4, 2010 while he was burning grass in his backyard. He lost two fingers on his right hand and lost 100% of the vision in his left eye and 80% in his right eye. With WVMF support, Lardone received follow-up treatment at the Ophthalmology Centre in Vientiane every two months since receiving a cornea transplant for his right eye in 2017. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions in 2020, Lardone was unable to come to the hospital for five months to receive follow up treatment and medicine, during which time his cornea became inflamed and his vision blurred. Therefore, after restrictions were lifted, he had to travel to see the doctor twice a week to check his symptoms closely and improve his vision. The doctor cautioned that lack of treatment could lead to serious complications that may permanently damage his vision, and recommended that Lardone take medication for the rest of his life and see a doctor regularly to keep his vision stable. WVMF covered Lardone's follow-up care including the treatment cost, accommodation, transportation, and food allowance for Lardone and his caretaker. WVMF will continue to support all of his ongoing healthcare costs related to the accident.

Focus areas of work in 2021

2021 priority activities for the Comprehensive MRE project:

- Conduct post-testing of the new MRE primary curriculum in 10 schools across 10 districts.
- Establish 16 new puppetry troupes and support 20 troupes to perform on International Women's Day (March 8th).
- Conduct training of trainers workshops on the secondary school MRE handbooks. The new trainers will train 1,320 secondary school teachers in 88 districts (10 provinces) on how to use the handbooks.
- The MRE curriculum for primary and secondary school will be handed over to MOES/RIES following the approval of the final curriculum evaluation.

2021 priority activities for WVMF:

- Following notification of an accident, the WVMF will continue to support immediate and ongoing medical costs for UXO survivors and funeral costs for victims' families to ensure anyone affected by UXO accidents will remain unburdened by medical and funeral-related debt.

Challenges

Due to budgetary constraints, 15 secondary school teachers per district will be able to join MRE trainings. MRE lessons are not yet fully incorporated into the national secondary school curriculum; they are only included in a supplementary handbook for teachers.

Some hospitals are unaware of the WVMF and require UXO victims to pay for their treatments, which creates challenges in reimbursing costs. District hospitals often provide incomplete medical receipts which are insufficient for WVMF reimbursements. Also, most accidents occur in remote areas, making it challenging to collect documentation to provide WVMF payments.

Opportunities

World Education will be looking for funding to support MRE lessons for secondary schools and other potential platforms for MRE engagement.

Implementing Partners

- Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES) is the major partner for the Comprehensive Mine Risk Education project.
- National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector (NRA) is the major partner for the War Victims Medical Fund.

Personnel in 2020

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
2	4			11	8	1	3
Total		29					

Detailed statistics for 2020

For more information on the statistics of WE, please refer to the sector achievement section on page 9 - 13 of this report.

Geography of operations

Activity	Districts/Provinces
RE	Sekong, Champassak, Savannakhet, Salavan, Attapeu, Borlikhamxay (all districts in each province)
VA	Luang Prabang, Xiengkhouang, Huaphan, Khammouane, Savannakhet, Salavan, Sekong, Champasack, Attapeu and UXO victims in other locations as requested by local authority and approved by NRA

Financial

MoU project Name	Sign date	Period	Total amount from MoU	Breakdown yearly	Donor
Comprehensive Mine Risk Education (MRE) in Lao PDR	6 February 2019	To 30 April 2021, (26 months)	\$2,018,471	\$747,634	U.S. De-partment of State
War Victims Medical Fund in Lao PDR	July 3rd 2020	To March 30th 2022 (21 months)	\$100,000	\$44,000	U.S. De-partment of State

Direct cost (USD) received in 2020: 1,325,620 USD	
Details expenditure for direct cost (please summary from the period of January-December 2020 only): (USD)	
Item	Amount
Personnel costs (MRE + WVMF+ USAID Okard)	311,196
Operational costs:	
- UXO/Mine Risk Education cost	564,078
- Victim Assistance (WVMF)	25,731
- USAID Okard Victim Assistance cost	424,615
Total	1,325,620

Donor contributions for 2020 (USD)

Donor	Amount
United States Department of State	703,895
USAID	621,005
Total	1,325,620



COOPERATIVE ORTHOTIC & PROSTHETIC ENTERPRISE (COPE)

Activities in 2020

Victim Assistance: COPE together with CMR/four PRSCs continuously provides rehabilitation support services to the people with disabilities in Laos. As a part of service provision COPE-CMR also working together to ensure the quality of ongoing services. In 2020 COPE-CMR were conducted on the job trainings, developed quality standard indicator tools checklist with guidelines for rehabilitation sector in Laos. These quality check tools have been developed in line with WHO standards and feasible for Lao physical rehabilitation context. COPE together with CMR conduct mobile clinic in Savanakheth Provinces served for 83 people. In 2020 COPE-CMR together provided rehabilitation services to 1048 people with physical disabilities.

Key achievements in 2020

- The standard guidelines and checklist indicator tools for Knee Ankle Foot Orthotic have been developed in September 2020, the tools need to be tested and revised before the finalizing and endorsing by Centre of Medical Rehabilitation to use for rehabilitation centre and sub-centres in Laos.
- The 4 quality indicator tools have been tested, revised and finalized with endorsed by Centre of Medical Rehabilitation in order to use for rehabilitation centre and sub-centres in Laos. The tools are Transtibial Prosthetic devices (TT), Transfemoral Prosthetic devices (TF), Ankle Foot Orthotic devices (AFO) and Club foot Rehabilitation services.



Welcome Irish Ambassador

Case Study

Mr. Keo Bourkham, is 40 years old and lives in Nathert Village, Yomalath District, Khammouane Province. Khammouane Province which is one of the most affected area by bombing in the country, especially Yomalath District.

"I am working as the district army officer since 1996. I got married in 2005 and I have five children and they are studying now. In 2002 I had an accident from a land mine, while I was doing my regular army duty with my colleagues in the jungle mistakenly I stepped on the land mine. I got serious injure on my left side leg and the doctors amputated my leg to save my life. I felt extremely sad when the doctor told me about the amputation of my leg, and I thought that I could not be able to walk, and could not take care family because of disability. But "in the darkness there was still a light", the doctor refered me to the Centre of Medical and Rehabilitation (CMR) and COPE for prosthetic leg and rehabilitation. With the help of the CMR and COPE, I walk again. In early 2003, I came to CMR in Vientiane and received my first prosthetic device. Surprisingly with the help of prosthetic leg, I walked again freely, and started going to work as usual. Happiness came back too. Until 2020, I came back to CMR again and again to fit prosthetic legs. The current one is my fourth prosthetic leg. I am very thankful to the CMR and COPE for this free new prosthetic leg and the other supports like round trip transport cost, free accommodation and food allowance", shared Mr. Koe Bourkham.

Focus areas of work in 2021

- Quality clinical audits to improve and maintain the standards of services
- On the Job training to the technical staff to improve the capacity of Lao professionals.
- Conduct mobile clinics for community mobilization to provide services to the people in remote locations
- Purchase and supply P&O device production materials for uninterrupted services.
- Continue providing Prosthetic and Orthotic services to the UXO survivors.

Implementing Partners

- Centre of Medical Rehabilitation Centre (CMR)
- Client who access and received the rehabilitation services and their families.

Personnel in 2020

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
2	3	0	0	0	2	2	0
Total		9					

Operations Locations

Activity	Districts/Provinces
VA	Vientaine Capital

Financial

Item	Amount
Personnel costs	
Operational costs	
Total	416,000

Donor contributions for 2020 (USD)

Donor	Amount
New Zealand Embassy	16,000
ITO	20,000
Norway	200,000
GDG	80,000
Other private donor	100,000
Total	416,000

COMMERCIAL CLEARANCE OPERATORS

LAO BSL UNEXPLORED ORDNANCE CLEARANCE CO., LTD

Activities in 2020

UXO Clearance: Lao BSL UXO CO. carried out UXO clearance for the Humanitarian Engineering Team of US Army on the land to construct 1 toilet at Atsaphangthong hospital district and 2 toilets at health center of Phin district in Savannaket province under the contact No. W911 KB19F0139, dated 27/2/2020. It carried out UXO clearance for road rural development project RDP-01 from Dongsavanh village to LAKO development Zone in Sepone district, Savannaket province.

Clients

- Lao-Germany Cooperation Project

Personnel in 2020

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
3	3	0	0	110	4	0	0
Total		120					

Detailed statistics for 2020

For more information on the statistics of Lao BSL, please refer to the sector achievement section on page 9 - 13 of this report.

Operations Locations

Activity	Provinces/districts
Survey and Area Clearance	Savannaket Province

Financials

Expenditure for 2020: (USD)

Item	Amount (USD)
Personnel costs	65,000
Operational costs	33,900
Equipment	2,500
Total	101,400

Donor contributions for 2020 (USD)

Donor	Amount
Lao BSL self-funded	101,400
Total	101,400

SILAVAN UNEXPLORED ORDNANCE CLEARANCE CO., LTD (SLV)

Activities in 2020

The company carried out UXO survey and clearance for areas designated to build the site to distribute water to 4 communities in Bualapha District, Khammouane Province.

Clients

- Xinjin-Lao Co., Ltd
- Khammouane Provincial Health Department and Government of Luxemburg

Priority activities for 2021

UXO Clearance: The company will carry out UXO clearance for the areas designated for a factory construction project, in a total area of 8 hectares for the Xinjin-Lao Co., Ltd., at Laobao Savan Border Special Trade Zone, Savannakhet Province.

Personnel in 2020

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
2	0	0	0	8	3	0	0
Total		13					

Detailed statistics for 2020

For more information on the statistics of SLV, please refer to the sector achievement section on page 9 - 13 of this report.

Operations Locations

Activity	Provinces/districts
Survey and Clearance	Khammouane Province
MRE	Khammouane Province

Financials:

Expenditure for 2020: (USD)

Item	Amount
Personnel costs	2,631
Operational costs	2,210
Equipment	526
Total	5,367

Donor contributions for 2020 (USD)

Donor	Amount
SLV self-funded	5,367

OUMMA UNEXPLORED ORDNANCE CLEARANCE CO., LTD

Activities in 2020

Oumma UXO Clearance carried out UXO clearance in the area designated for the Sekong Dam construction project in Site A, Sanamxay district, Attapeu province.

Clients

- EDL-Generation public company



Personnel in 2020

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
4	0	0	0	24	0	0	2
Total		30					

Detailed statistics for 2020

For more information on the statistics of OUMMA, please refer to the sector achievement section on page 9 - 13 of this report.

Operations Locations

Activity	Provinces/districts
Survey and Clearance	Attapeu Province

Financials:

Expenditure for 2020: (USD)

Item	Amount
Personnel costs	10,000
Operational costs	20,000
Equipment	0
Total	30,000

Donor contributions for 2020 (USD)

Donor	Amount
OUMMA self-funded	30,000
Total	30,000

PHANVILA UNEXPLORED ORDNANCE CLEARANCE CO., LTD (PL)

Activities in 2020

- Carried out UXO clearance in the area designated for the Biodiversity Conservation Project.
- Carried out UXO clearance for the construction of the Nam Ngiep Bridge at Hatsamkhone Village, Thathom District, Xaisomboun Province.

Clients

- Investment Projects
- International Humanitarian Organizations

Personnel in 2020

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
30	3	0	0	30	3	0	0
Total		33					

Detailed statistics for 2020

For more information on the statistics of PL please refer to the sector achievement section on page 9 - 13 of this report.

Operations Locations

Activity	Provinces/districts
Survey and Clearance	Xaisomboun and Attapeu Provinces

Financials:

Expenditure for 2020 (USD)

Item	Amount
Personnel costs	120,000
Operational costs	85,000
Equipment	50,000
Total	255,000

Donor contributions for 2020 (USD)

Donor	Amount
PL self-funded	255,000
Total	255,000

AUSLAO UNEXPLORED ORDNANCE CLEARANCE CO., LTD

Activities in 2020

- Carried out UXO clearance in the area designated for Nam Kong Power Dam Construction Project in Attapeu Province.
- Carried out UXO clearance in the area designated for Houa ka Oun Power Dam construction Project in Attapeu Province.

Priority activities for 2021

- Continue to carry out UXO clearance in the area designated for Nam Kong Power Dam Construction Project in Attapeu Province.

- Continue to carry out UXO clearance in the area designated for Houa ka Oun Power Dam construction Project in Attapeu Province.
- Carry out UXO clearance in the area designated for Power Dam construction Project in Savannaket Province.

Clients

- EDL-Generation public company
- Nam Kong Power Dam Company
- Phongsupthavy Group Company

Personnel in 2020

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
2	3	1	0	25	0	0	0
Total		31					

Detailed statistics for 2020

For more information on the statistics of AusLao please refer to the sector achievement section on page 9 - 13 of this report.

Operations Locations

Activity	Provinces/districts
Survey and Clearance	Attapeu Province

Financials:

Expenditure for 2020 (USD)

Item	Amount
Personnel costs	15,500
Operational costs	14,250
Equipment	1,550
Total	31,300

Donor contributions for 2020 (USD)

Donor	Amount
AusLao self-funded	31,300
Total	31,300

Activities in 2020

2020 saw Milsearch complete 27 years of continuous operation in the Lao PDR. Milsearch Lao continued to support the mineral exploration and mining industry. This includes our continued support for Phu Bia Mining and the commencement of a major non-technical survey project which will look at 6 prospecting areas in a total of ten provinces from Attapeu in the south to Phongsali in the north.

Milsearch continued our support for the Monsoon Wind Farm project and the forestry sector.

Milsearch support the US Defence POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), Lao PDR Mission, to return missing service personnel to their families, was suspended due to COVID-19.

Milsearch Lao projects in Vietnam and the South Pacific were suspended due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Milsearch Lao took on several historical ERW contamination research projects both independently and in support of our parent company in Australia. These research projects supported land reclamation, marine construction, and telecommunications and power cabling.

In addition to our support of commercial ventures in 2020, Milsearch is particularly proud to have been involved in a number of humanitarian projects in support of:

- Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)
- We Help War Victims (WHWV)
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

Key achievements in 2020

Milsearch considers our continued involvement in the humanitarian sector, although relatively minor, as a very satisfying achievement. Our most notable achievement however, was maintaining our commercial viability in the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic environment. Milsearch successfully continued to support several commercial projects in Laos, in full compliance with all COVID-19 Government regulations. Additionally, progress has been achieved regards planning for several key projects within the renewable energy sector which bodes very well for further company growth over the next few years.

In early 2020 Milsearch introduced a new logo. To represent change, we adopted a more environmental green as the Milsearch colour. However, as a link to our past we kept the geophysical magnetometer lines that were in our old logo.

We also thought that after more than 30 years of trading it was important to celebrate some of our firsts:

- Milsearch was the first commercial EOD company in Australia
- Milsearch was the inaugural member of the Australian Defence UXO Panel
- Milsearch was the first commercial EOD company in the Lao PDR
- Milsearch provides the highest quality of EOD services in Australasia-Oceania and SE Asia

To represent these firsts, #1 in Time and #1 in Quality, a negative space 1 was incorporated in the logo.

The Team at Milsearch believe that this new logo, same trusted brand, truly represents who we are in 2020.

Milsearch ended 2020 with 343 days without a lost time injury.



Equipment Test pit for Magnetometer utilized for NTPC Nakai District, Khammuane Province

Case Study

Although we are justifiably proud of our humanitarian endeavors, we believe that in 2020 our biggest group beneficiary has been our own staff. Milsearch has many staff members who have been with us well in excess of 20 years. Therefore, when the COVID-19 pandemic struck it was an immediate management priority to devise a 'staff welfare first' company survival plan.

Priority activities for the 2021

Driven by the growing world population that needs more space, is transitioning to low carbon/renewable energy systems and is increasing global trade we remain deeply committed to the renewable energy sector and humanitarian endeavors throughout the Lao PDR, Lao PDR and SE Asia. In 2021 we hope to see progress on some major projects that have been in the planning stages for several years.

Our US DPAA support project was put on hold in 2020 due to COVID-19 travel restrictions however it is expected to continue in 2021. Two other international projects which were interrupted by COVID-19 in 2020 was our South Pacific wharf upgrade project and ExxonMobil's LNG project in Vietnam. We are hoping to return to the South Pacific in 2021 however ExxonMobil's project has been halted indefinitely.

In 2021 we are looking to continue our support for mineral exploration and prospecting programs in the Lao PDR, Lao PDR and SE Asia, and to expand our international projects in the Pacific Region. The Milsearch Lao office will continue to support our Australian HO providing manpower and historical research.

In 2021 Milsearch will:

- Continue to diversify our revenue stream
- Continue to improve the quality of our product
- Continue to support the NRA and the GOL
- Continue to explore new technologies and methodologies
- Continue to build the capacity of our Lao national staff
- Continue to improve the health, welfare, and safety of our Lao national staff and of the communities we interact with.

Partners

- Phu Bia Mining (extractive)
- Rio Tinto Exploration (extractive)
- Nam Theun 2 Power Company (energy)
- Impact Electrons Asia (IEA) (energy)
- Goldwind (Energy)
- ADRA (humanitarian)
- CRS (humanitarian)
- WHWV (humanitarian)
- DPAA/S2S (US Defence project)
- Burapha Agro-Forestry Ltd (agriculture)



Explosive demolition of abandoned ordnance for Phu Bia Mining

Personnel in 2020

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
2	5	1	1	45	19	3	0
Total	107						

Detailed statistics for 2020

For more information on the statistics of Milsearch, please refer to the sector achievement section on page 9 - 13 of this report.

Operations Locations

Activity	Provinces/districts
Survey	Salavan, Champasack, Sekong and Attapeu Provinces
Clearance	Xiengkhouang, Xaisomboun, Khammouane and Savannaket Provinces
Roving Tasks	Xiengkhouang and Savannaket Provinces

Financials

Expenditure for 2020 (USD)

Item	Amount
Personnel costs	452,000
Operational costs	628,000
Equipment	23,500
Total	1,103,500

Donor contributions for 2020 (USD)

Donor	Amount
Commercial Income derived from 2020	1,260,882
Humanitarian funding	32,063
Total	1,292,944



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FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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

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