



Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

**National Strategic Plan for the UXO Sector in the
Lao PDR 2021-2030
"The Safe Path Forward III"**

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

Vientiane Capital, January 2023

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Foreword

The National Strategic Plan for the UXO Sector in the Lao PDR 2021-2030, called "Safe Path Forward III" has been developed in line with the Government's socio-economic development direction, outcomes, challenges and lessons learned from the evaluation of the implementation of the previous Strategic Plan "Safe Path Forward II." Safe Path Forward II provided direction for the sector during the past 10 Years (2011-2020) and led by the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR under the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare with financial and technical assistance from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Lao PDR.

The National Strategic Plan development process began with consultation among ministries and government stakeholders, as well as the establishment of a Strategic Plan Drafting Committee with support from an international consultant from UNDP. This initial phase involved information gathering and research of relevant sources through conducting interviews and technical meetings with relevant sectors in central and provincial levels, development partners, and UXO operators. At the same time, the draft Strategic Plan was also presented to the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR (NRA) Board Meeting, UXO Sector Working Group (SWG) Meeting and UXO Provincial Regulatory Authorities (PRAs), in which contents were agreed upon in principle. Therefore, the structure and contents of this strategy are appropriate and clearly in line with the policies of the National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) and the development plans of relevant sectors, and compliant with international obligations. Safe Path Forward III consists of a vision, guiding principles, and overall objectives for 2030, including 4 goals, 5 targets, 4 strategic objectives, and 4 main focuses to be implemented in the period 2021-2030.

The National Strategic Plan for the UXO Sector in the Lao PDR 2021-2030 Safe Path Forward III demonstrates the efforts, proactivity, and responsibility of the Government of Lao PDR to address remaining UXO contamination. This process of addressing the UXO issue simultaneously involves creating opportunities and facilities for development, protecting and assisting Lao ethnic groups living in high-risk areas, and demonstrating high efforts in regional and international integration to increase cooperation in the implementation of UXO actions. In all matters related to implementing Safe Path Forward III, the Lao Government remains committed to integrating regional and international policies, strategies, and conventions in order to contribute to future growth and effectiveness within this sector.

Vientiane Capital, date 17 JAN 2023



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

Acknowledgment

The Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare on behalf of the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR, as well as the Government of Lao PDR, would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of you who have made significant contributions to the research and development of the National Strategic Plan for the UXO Sector in the Lao PDR 2021-2030, **Safe Path Forward III**, particularly the Strategic Plan Drafting Committee from the Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of National Defense, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, Ministry of Finance, Lao Women's Union and the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union, the technical staff of the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR and other stakeholders who have contributed both inputs and time in the successful completion of the draft National Strategic Plan for the UXO Sector in the Lao PDR 2021-2030, **Safe Path Forward III**. Thanks also go to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Lao PDR, especially UXO Unit who have provided technical assistance and financial support for research, consultation and drafting of this National Strategic Plan for the UXO Sector in the Lao PDR 2021-2030, **Safe Path Forward III**.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare represented by the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR, as well as the Government of Lao PDR, would like to express our sincere thanks to UNDP in Lao PDR, donors, development partners and UXO operators for their cooperation and contributions, comments and recommendations to this National Strategic Plan.

Glossary of Terms¹

Unexploded Ordnance, or UXO, refers to explosive ordnance remains from war such as large bombs, rockets, grenades, artillery, cluster munitions, landmines, and others.

Unexploded Ordnance Operator refers to the humanitarian operators and private companies that carry out Unexploded Ordnance operations.

Unexploded Ordnance Humanitarian Operator refers to organizations, programs and associations that carry out Unexploded Ordnance operations for humanitarian purposes.

Private Company refers to a private Unexploded Ordnance clearance company that carries out Unexploded Ordnance operations for business purposes.

Risk Education refers to raising awareness of the effects of unexploded ordnance (UXO) on society through the media, curriculum and activities.

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education refers to raising awareness of the danger of UXO on society through the media, teaching curriculum and other RE activities.

Victims refers to casualties as well as family members and communities affected by UXO accidents.

Victim assistance refers to the medical assistance, vocational training, employment, economic assistance and/or other assistance to rescue survivors and communities from UXO accidents.

UXO clearance refers to the elimination of the dangers of UXO from any area by non-removal or mobile destruction by UXO operators.

UXO Survey refers to the collection of information on geographical conditions, UXO, impact, and socio-economic environment according to the survey standards.

Non-technical surveys refer to the process of collecting information on UXO, accidents, survey, clearance, destruction and analysis without the use of equipment to remove UXO.

Technical surveys refer to the collection and analysis of accurate technical data, using data from non-technical surveys to find evidence to determine the presence of UXO, as well as to identify Confirmed Hazardous Areas from cluster munitions.

Confirmed Hazardous Area refers to the discovery of any explosives, including cluster munitions, which must be cleared to keep the area safe.

UXO disposal refers to both non-removal and roving destruction.

¹ Please kindly refer to the National Standard for Glossary of Terms: nra.gov.la/resources.php

Non-removal destruction refers to destruction on the spot that has been proven and certified by Senior Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician and must ensure the safety of people, animals, objects, buildings, and the surrounding environment.

Roving destruction of UXO refers to the removal of UXO to the identified demolition site, which has been proven and certified by Senior Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician and must ensure the safety of people, animals, objects, structures, and the surrounding environment.

Quality Management refers to the review of the land that is cleared before the area is given to the relevant parties, which includes quality assurance and quality control in accordance with the UXO/Mine Action standards.

Quality Assurance is the certification of administrative works and standard operating procedures.

Quality Control is the quality inspection of the operational of UXO operators, which have been completed within six months.

IMSMA National Database refers to the tool to record and store information on UXO historical operational data, ground battle, air operations, and field operations.

National Standards refers to the regulations on risk education, victim assistance, survey, clearance and roving, UXO quality management and information management.

Beneficiaries refers to the person who participate in risk education, victim assistance activities and those who have benefited from UXO clearance.

Woman, Man refers to individuals over the age of 18 years.

Girl, boy refers to individuals under the age of 18 years.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

APMBC	Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
AP	Anti Personnel Mine
AC	Area Clearance
ARMAC	ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center
CCM	The Convention on Cluster Munitions
CCW	The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons
CHA	Confirmed Hazardous Area
CMRS	<i>Cluster Munition Remnants Survey</i>
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
EO	Explosive Ordnance
EORE	Explosive Ordnance Risk Education
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War.
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
GoL	Government of Lao PDR
HI	Humanity and Inclusion
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IMSMA	Information Management System for Mine Action
IMAS	International Mine Action Standards
IM	Information Management
INGO	International non-governmental organizations
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency
Lao PDR	<i>Lao People's Democratic Republic</i>
MAG	Mines Advisory Group
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
MoD	Ministry of National Defense
MoES	Ministry of Education and Sports
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoLSW	Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare
NPA	Norwegian People's Aid
NRA	National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR
NTS	Non-Technical Survey
PM/WRA	Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, U.S. Department of State
SEOD	Senior Explosive Ordnance Disposal
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
ToC	Theory of change
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

UNIT58	Humanitarian Teams of Lao People's Army
UXO	Unexploded Explosive Ordnance
UXO Lao	Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme
VA	Victim Assistance
QM	Quality Management

I. Introduction

1. Background

The Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) is, per capita, the most heavily bombed nation in the world. During the 1964 to 1973 Indochina war, Lao PDR was the scene of extensive ground battles and intensive aerial bombardments. According to bombing mission records from the U.S. Air Force, more than two million tons of bombs were dropped, including more than 270 million sub-munitions from cluster bombs. An estimated 80 million of these cluster sub-munitions failed to detonate upon impact, and remained scattered across the Lao PDR after the war ended.

Although it has been 48 years since the bombing ceased, unexploded ordnance (UXO) continues to present major humanitarian and socio-economic challenges to the country. There have been at least 50,000 confirmed² casualties from UXO, of which 30,000 were fatal and 20,000 were injuries. Furthermore, UXO contamination remains a major obstacle to lifting the country out of Least Developed Country status, and to achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

After independence, the government of Lao PDR continued its efforts to solve the problem of UXO. The 1990s saw the beginning of cooperation and assistance from International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), and later the assistance of UNDP and UNICEF. In 1996, the government established the Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao) to clear UXO for the purpose of agricultural and economic development. Subsequently, in 2004, the Government approved and promulgated the first National UXO Strategic Plan in Lao PDR for the period 2003-2010 "The Safe Path Forward (SPF)." By 2006, the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR (NRA) was established to carry out the duties of managing, monitoring, and inspecting the work of resolving the problem of UXO in Lao PDR. In 2012, the Government approved and implemented the Unexploded Ordnance National Strategic Plan in Lao PDR, The Safe Path Forward II (2011-2020). The duration of this Strategic Plan has come to an end, but resolving the problem of UXO continues to be implemented and was essential to guide the UXO management agencies and UXO operators as a basis for implementation. Safe Path Forward III is being developed and built upon lessons learned from SPF II. SPF II provides a basis for content, targets and methods of implementation required in the next implementation period from 2021-2030, consistent with the period of the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Lao PDR has adopted a National Sustainable Development Goal 18 called "Lives Safe from UXO" which contributes to other SDGs.

This Strategic Plan is designed to continue to address the UXO issue based on lessons learned from the implementation of the Unexploded Ordnance National Strategic plan in Lao PDR, "The Safe Path Forward II", 2011-2020 and to contribute to the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030. The Strategic Plan sets out the ultimate goals to contribute to achieving the vision of making Lao PDR free of UXO.

This Strategic Plan contributes to the implementation of several conventions and integrates them into the broader development plans of relevant sectors. Therefore, multi-sectoral integration and participation is an important mechanism to achieve the vision of SPF III, especially in terms of gender

² IMSMA, 16 December 2021

mainstreaming and environmental protection. The Strategic Plan was developed under the leadership of the NRA with support from UNDP and in consultation with relevant stakeholders, civil society organizations, donor countries and UXO operators.

2. Role and Importance of the Strategic Plan

This National Strategic Plan plays a vital role in reducing the impact of UXO by implementing laws and legislation related to UXO management, indicating national standards, and prioritizing areas for survey, clearance, and destruction in response to land use and budget efficiency in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 and the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

The problem of UXO in Lao PDR is a major obstacle to the socio-economic development of the nation as contamination hinders the development of infrastructure and access to agricultural land. The government, therefore, has given priority to address the UXO issue in the Ninth National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025) and the Labor and Social Welfare Development Plan (2021-2025). In particular the government supports UXO humanitarian operators and UXO commercial companies in Explosive Ordnance risk education, victim assistance, survey, clearance and destruction, strengthening the operational efficiency of UXO operators, personnel development, quality management of UXO survey and clearance operations, and UXO information management. In addition, coordination at each level and the integration of UXO-related work into relevant sectors have been strengthened.

3. Scope of Strategic Plan

The Unexploded Ordnance National Strategic plan in Lao PDR, Safe Path Forward III, will be used to effectively address the UXO issue in four areas:

- 1) Explosive Ordnance Risk Education to make Lao people aware of and understand the dangers of UXO in order to gradually reduce the number of victims;
- 2) Assisting victims of UXO to enable them to return to society and contribute to the socio-economic development of the nation through treatment, rehabilitation, promotion of education, vocational training, employment and etc;
- 3) Release of land to be safe from UXO by surveying, clearing and destroying UXO;
- 4) Efficient and effective UXO management.

4. Strategic Plan Formulation Process

The Unexploded Ordnance National Strategic Plan in Lao PDR, "Safe Path Forward III" has been developed based on the results of the evaluation of the implementation of the Unexploded Ordnance National Strategic Plan in Lao PDR, "Safe Path Forward II", 2011-2020 by the NRA, with support from UNDP in Lao PDR and the involvement of the government, private sector, implementing agencies, international organizations, and donor countries.

This Strategic Plan formulation process included research and analysis of relevant data and interviews with relevant staff in charge for each of the task areas; explosive ordnance risk education, victim assistance, survey, clearance and destruction, quality management, and UXO management. It also reviewed information and strategies of relevant sectors such as education, health, information, culture and tourism, public works and transport, agriculture, forestry and conducted consultations with development partners and UXO operators.

This Strategic Plan consists of four parts: I. Introduction; II. Efforts to address the UXO issue; III. Unexploded Ordnance National Strategic Plan in Lao PDR, "Safe Path Forward III", 2021-2030 and IV. Institutional and Coordination Measures.

II. Situation on the efforts to address UXO issue in the international and regional contexts

1. Situation to address UXO issues in the international context

In the 1970s, people around the world were affected by other UXO as a result of war, which killed, injured, and disabled many people, representing an obstacle to the development of each affected country. Next, the global community had been consulting, finding ways to work together to solve the UXO problem, and individual countries implemented their own UXO solutions, sharing lessons learned through various meetings. However, there was still no international law regarding this issue to facilitate consistent implementation. Therefore, on 19th - 30th May 2008 in Dublin, Ireland, a Diplomatic Conference was formally convened to adopt the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), which was signed on 3 December 2008 in Oslo, Norway and came into force on 1st August 2010. There are currently 110 States Parties and 13 countries, including Lao PDR, which have ratified the convention. The Meeting of States Parties is a forum for consultation and a mechanism for exchanging information, reviewing and reporting on the implementation, as well as on the challenges of each State Party, and agreeing on future action plans. The first meeting of the CCM was held in Vientiane, Lao PDR from the 9th to 11th of November 2010, which led to the adoption of the Vientiane Action Plan. The Convention on Cluster Munitions is reviewed every year and every five years. Under Article 4 of the CCM, Laos is required to destroy all cluster munition remnants in areas under its jurisdiction or control no later than 1st August 2020. An extension request that was approved at the Ninth Meeting of States Parties, confirming the extension until the 31st July 2025, in case it could not achieve the completion, there will more extension several times until the mission is complete. On the 2nd December 2012, Lao PDR became a party to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War, one of the five protocols under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). The protocol stipulates the clearance of unexploded ordnance from war.

Now that many countries have joined and ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the implementation of UXO clearance is taking place on a global scale. According to the report on the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, in 2019 there were at least 4,315 victims in 20 countries, of which 40% were children. In 2019, 82 square kilometers of unexploded ordnance were cleared and 96,533 cluster munitions were destroyed, an average of 15% of the remaining 560 square kilometers³ of unexploded ordnance. By 2020 alone, 36 countries had destroyed their arsenals, including 178 million cluster munitions.

- The Convention on Cluster Munitions was ratified by Lao PDR on 18 March 2009. The Convention outlines important measures to be taken by all parties, including prohibitions on the use, development, trade, stockpiling, and transfer of cluster munitions; measures related to destruction, clearance and assisting victims; cooperative measures in the implementation of cluster munitions clearance, and others.
- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), ratified 13 December 2009, provides for the promotion, protection and guarantee of the basic human rights of persons with

³ 11 Annual Edition, Cluster Munitions Monitoring 2020

disabilities. These rights include equality, justice, full participation in society, and respect for the dignity of persons with disabilities.

- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, dated 14 August 1981, sets out to eliminate any form of discrimination against women including any form of restriction that impedes gender equality, human rights, and political, socio-political, economic or other freedoms.
- The International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), adopted by the UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action on 26 September 2001. This international standard sets out all components of mine action to ensure effective implementation and universal coordination. For the clearance of cluster munitions, this international measure has been used as a guideline to develop the Lao national standard.
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an international standard that must be achieved by 2030 with the goal of no poverty, zero hunger, quality education, good health and well-being, decent work, clean water, protection of environment and etc. with sustainability. In this regard, the Sustainable Development Goal 18 "Lives Safe from UXO" is important and directly related to the development and implementation of this Strategic Plan.

2. Situation to address UXO issues in the regional context

The implementation of UXO interventions at the regional and sub-regional levels has been a collaborative activity between regions such as the Asia Pacific region, Latin America region, and Africa region. For the Southeast Asia, the regions are as follows:

ASEAN countries are all facing the problem of UXO, but the impact is different because some countries have been affected by cluster munitions, others by landmines and improvised explosive devices, etc. Some countries have been heavily affected, others have been mildly affected. Therefore, in the ASEAN region, only Lao PDR and the Philippines are members of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

The 21st ASEAN Summit in Cambodia endorsed the establishment of the ASEAN Mine Action Center, which operates under the ASEAN Political Security Community to contribute to peace, stability and security for people living in landmine and UXO risk areas.

The ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center (ARMAC) conducts activities in the ASEAN region by sharing information, experiences, and best practices with each other, including promoting the effects of Explosive Ordnance risk education, training on survey and clearance quality management, victim assistance activities of each ASEAN member country, implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and youth participation promotion programs.

3. Situation on the efforts to address UXO issues in Lao PDR

3.1 Efforts to address UXO issues

Since 1996, Lao PDR has focused on UXO clearance in the nine most heavily impacted provinces namely: Houaphan, Xiengkhouang, Luangprabang, Khammouane, Savannakhet, Champasack, Salavan, Sekong and Attapeu. The solution of the UXO problem is mainly carried out by UXO Lao and some provinces have joint projects with international humanitarian operator's

implementation. In 2013, in order to make UXO work more efficient, effective and sustainable, the government focused on promoting the work of UXO Lao and setting up UXO humanitarian teams of the Lao People's Army (Unit58) to play a more significant clearance role over the long term to address the UXO issue.

According to the national UXO database, from the beginning of formal UXO clearance in 1996 until 16 December 2021, 71,943 hectares have been cleared in 18 provinces. Of which, 55,286.3 hectares were agricultural land, and 16,656.7 hectares were development land. At least 1,693,487 items of UXO have been destroyed, of which 4,288 items were large bombs, 968,447 items were bombies (cluster sub-munitions), 2,379 items were landmines and 718,367 items were other forms of UXO. However, UXO survey and clearance work remains to be challenging due to the fact that Lao PDR is a country with a wild natural landscape, mountains, plateaus, swamp, and rivers which impede the movement of survey and clearance teams. On average, only about 7,000 hectares of land are cleared each year. At the same time, UXO are being eroded along streams, either exposed or pushed deeper into the earth as a result of landslides. Furthermore, while U.S. bombing data provides a useful indication to where UXO are most likely to be concentrated, it is not an accurate map of present contamination. In addition, more information is needed regarding the location of contamination from chemicals and other explosive devices used in ground battle.

In the past, UXO accidents have caused extensive damage to both the lives and property of Lao people, especially ethnic groups living in more remote areas, and it is not possible to estimate the total cost or human toll of the damage. In the future, the UXO problem will continue to threaten and damage the lives and property of people in UXO-affected areas, usually in the form of accidents resulting from such essential daily activities such as building fires, farming, shifting cultivation, gardening, and children's play in their schools and communities.

Therefore, the clearance of all UXO in populated areas should be completed in accordance with the identified plans, requiring multi-stakeholder, efficient and effective UXO management. This can be achieved by encouraging the UXO operators and relevant sectors to contribute to improving operational efficiency. At the same time, stakeholders are encouraged to develop and apply new innovations and concepts to accelerate UXO survey and clearance.

UXO victim assistance is an integral part of public health, education, labor and social welfare work at the central, local and community levels. Likewise, to assist people with disabilities requires coordination and proper integration of such work, which the NRA is responsible for. The NRA is also tasked with collecting and analyzing UXO data, which will be used to help UXO victims as well as explosive ordnance risk education campaigns for people in target areas.

The NRA considers UXO clearance on agricultural land a top priority. UXO clearance is especially crucial for the development of educational, community and government facilities, public infrastructure and tourism sites.

At present, there are no national policies or standards as a basis for determining national priorities. In addition to policies, action plans are also needed for implementation. Both should be developed as soon as possible. The NRA also needs to further develop its capacity at the central and local levels to make UXO solutions more effective and efficient.

In the past, gender work has also been integrated into the UXO sector, such as through Explosive Ordnance risk education, UXO victim assistance, and UXO survey and clearance. Furthermore, sex and age disaggregated data are collected in the UXO database.

3.2 Legislation, strategies and related development plans

3.2.1 Specific legislation to address UXO issues

The specific legislation for resolving UXO are as follows:

- Ministerial Agreement on the Organization and Operation of the NRA Office No. 3639/LSW, dated 21 September 2018.
- Ministerial Agreement on the Organization and Operation of the UXO Provincial Regulatory Authority No. 25/NRA, dated 21 September 2018.
- Ministerial Agreement on the Organization and Operation of the UXO District Regulatory Authority No. 26/NRA, dated 21 September 2018.
- National Standard for Survey Unexploded Ordnance in Lao PDR (Revised) No. 21/NRA, dated 4 July 2018.
- Decree on the Organization and Operation of the NRA No. 67/PM, dated 12 February 2018.
- Prime Minister's Order on increasing the awareness of the origin and danger of UXO No. 039/PM, dated 28 September 2016.

3.2.2 Legislation of other relevant sectors

The legislation of other sectors directly related to UXO are as follows:

- The Law on Persons with Disabilities No. 57/NA, dated 10 December 2018, sets out the principles, regulations and measures on the management and monitoring of the work of persons with disabilities to protect the rights and legitimate interests of persons with disabilities, eliminate all discrimination against persons with disabilities, create conditions for people with disabilities to develop themselves, self-reliant and participate in social activities aimed at ensuring that people with disabilities have political, legal, economic, cultural, social and family integration and regional and international economic integration in order to contribute to the national socio-economic development.
- Law on Medical Treatment No. 60/NA, dated 13 December 2018 defines the principles, procedures and measures to manage, track, monitor and inspect health security to ensure that the implementation of such work in a systematic, quality, efficient and effective manner aims to ensure that Lao citizens have access to health security, access to health care services in a fair, equitable and universal manner, and to be able to integrate regionally and internationally in order to contribute to the protection and development of the nation.
- Law on Education No. 05/NA, dated 16 July 2015 sets out the principles, regulations and measures for the management, monitoring, and inspection of educational activities in order to develop such work in a standard, quality and sustainable way, aiming to develop human resources to become good citizens,

have moral qualities, have knowledge, skills, professionalism, good health, know how to preserve and promote the arts and culture of the nation, to be able to integrate with the region and internationally, to contribute to the protection and development of the nation.

- Law on the Media No. 01/NA, dated 4 November 2016, sets out the principles, regulations and measures on the implementation, operation, development, management, inspection of the media to promote the role of the media, raise the quality of the media to be advanced and modern, strengthen the democracy and national ownership of the multi-ethnic Lao people, aiming to ensure the freedom of the media of Lao citizens, be able to integrate regionally and internationally, contribute to the protection and development of the nation.
- Decree No. 348/PM, dated 16 November 2017 on Poverty Eradication and Development Standards, sets out the Poverty Eradication and Development Standards as a basis for setting poverty eradication goals, aimed at building families, development villages, big village to become a rural town and strong in all respects.
- Agreement No. 65/PM, dated 19 August 2016 with the adoption of focal development areas as priorities for 2016-2020 are identified 3 types of focus: 91 focus rural developing and poverty eradication, 145 settlements and agricultural permanent for people and build 213 big villages became a small town in rural areas (totaling 449 focus areas), among these focal development areas are related to rural development and poverty eradication for UXO affected people

In addition, there are other laws and subordinate legislation related to UXO in Lao PDR.

3.2.3 National Socio-Economic Development Plan

The Ninth Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025) encompasses UXO sector efforts and priorities, identifying outputs, targets and key activities as follows:

- **Output:** UXO clearance progressively accelerated and more lives are safe from UXO.
- **Targets and Indicators:**
 - Advertise the consequences and origin of UXO according to the target group to 3,000 villages and extend the UXO curriculum in 500 schools to reduce the number of UXO casualties to less than 40 persons per year;
 - Conduct non-technical surveys to identify confirmed unexploded ordnance points in 2,776 villages, and technical surveys to identify Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHA) in 250,000 hectares, an average of 50,000 hectares/year.
 - Clear UXO on 50,000 hectares of agricultural land, community areas and economic centers, an average of 10,000 hectares per year;
 - Provide assistance to 5,760 victims of UXO the medical treatment, psychological support, healthcare and rehabilitation, vocational training and employment opportunities; of these, provide medical treatment to 250 people, provide psychological support to 250 people, provide rehabilitation to 750 people, provide

vocational and on-the-job training to 2,010 people, and raise awareness on the rights of people with disabilities for 2,500 people.

- **Main activities:**
- Provide Explosive Ordnance risk education to the wider community and provide timely assistance to victims so that they can continue improving their livelihoods and contributing to community development;
- Conducting more non-technical and technical surveys and increasing UXO clearance operations;
- Strengthening UXO clearance agencies in terms of technical capacity, coordination, effective planning and responsibility of each sector; and increasing mobilisation of domestic and foreign financial support;
- Increasing coordination between the government and civil society organisations, which play an important role in assisting the government in the implementation of UXO clearance.

3.2.4 Strategies and Development Plans of relevant sectors

Strategies and development plans that are related to the Unexploded Ordnance National Strategic Plan in Lao PDR, "The Safe Path Forward III" are as follows:

- National Policies, Strategies and Action Plans for Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 that have been approved and promulgated by the Government in 2020, and set out the promotion and development of persons with disabilities in various areas, including persons with disabilities who are victims of UXO, So that people with disabilities can access basic socio-economic services by creating and improving the environment, enforcing policies, laws and regulations of the state.
- The National Social Protection Strategy has been approved and promulgated by the Government in 2020, which set out the establishment of a social protection system to be developed, strengthened and more effective, with the goal of providing social protection services to cover a wide range of target groups and to have better service standards.
- The Education and Sports Development Plan 2021-2025 has set out the overall results in order to enable all Lao people to have the appropriate professional and general knowledge to develop themselves, to contribute to and benefit from the socio-economic development of the country in order to lift the country out of the status of a least developed country by 2025.
- The Five-Year Labor and Social Welfare Development Plan 2021-2025 has set out targets for UXO and identified explosive ordnance risk education, victim assistance, survey, clearance and destruction of UXO in line with the government priority areas.

In addition to the above strategies, UXO work is also related to the programs and strategies of other sectors such as health, environment, mass organizations⁴, energy and mining, climate change, etc.

3.3 UXO implementation achievements

3.3.1 Achievements

The UXO implementation achievements in Lao PDR in the period 2011-2020 can be mainly summarized⁵ as follows:

1) Land release from the UXO

During the period 2011-2020, the survey, clearance and destruction of UXO were successfully completed by conducting non-technical surveys in 2,264 villages, conducting technical survey in 152,725 hectares, of which 130,065.5 hectares were identified Confirmed Hazardous Areas; UXO clearance of 49,008 hectares of land, including 36,300 hectares of agricultural land and 12,708 hectares of development; 1,017,356 items of UXO were destroyed, including 1,332 big bomb, 655,943 cluster munitions, 579 landmine and 359,502 other UXO.

2) Explosive Ordnance Risk Education to reduce the number of UXO victims

Over the past 10 years (2011-2020), the NRA, as secretariat of the Government, has been conducting explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) and raising awareness among the multi-ethnic Lao people groups regarding the dangers of UXO. Trainings in provinces, districts, villages and communities in UXO risk areas throughout the country were completed 18,862 times with 2,541,421 participants, of whom 1,268,644 were women; integrated explosive ordnance risk education into the teaching and learning curriculum in primary schools and 8 teachers' training colleges throughout the country; disseminated UXO risk awareness education information through radio stations such as National Radio, Khammouane, Sekong, Salavan and Champasack provincial radio stations, as well as integrated information on COVID-19 prevention into explosive ordnance risk education broadcasts eight times per month. explosive ordnance risk education was also disseminated through television, social media, village loudspeakers, movies, and other activities. Likewise, educational materials such as brochures, posters, UXO T-shirts were distributed to relevant organizations at the central, local, and community level on several occasions.

Such explosive ordnance risk education and awareness campaigns have gradually reduced the number of UXO-related accidents. From 2011 to 2020, there were a total of

⁴ Mass organization refers the Lao Front for National Construction, the Lao Women's Union, the Lao Federation of Trade Unions and the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union

⁵ IMSMA 16 December 2021

285 UXO accidents, with a total of 469 casualties, of which 362 were injured and 107 were fatal.

3) Victim Assistance

From 2015 to 2020, 340 UXO survivors have received assistance, of which 113 people received supportive devices such as prosthetics and glasses; funeral ceremonies were financed for 31 people killed, 79 people received medical assistance, 117 people received orthotic equipment and rehabilitation, 39 people received vocational training, 39 people received activities promoting income-generation, and 123 people received scholarships. In addition, other activities related to the relevant sectors have been promoted to gradually improve the lives of survivors and their families. In addition, the NRA has also taken measures to help UXO victims in accordance with the legislation, policies and strategies of all relevant sectors.

4) UXO Management

The management of UXO work is improving. The NRA relies on relevant legislation and regulations to manage UXO operations in accordance with the priorities set by the government. Information quality management, including the national UXO database system has been upgraded, victim assistance management and coordination with relevant departments at both central and local levels has been improved, and the management of budget and personnel were carried out in accordance with relevant laws and regulations. Trainings have been provided to strengthen UXO management for provincial and district authorities to integrate UXO work into the socio-economic development plan in 15 provinces. Village volunteers have been trained in 116 villages. In addition, facilities, such as vehicles, equipment, etc. were provided to the UXO Provincial Regulatory Authority (PRA), UXO District Regulatory Authority (DRA) and village levels, monitored and inspected the implementation of the national standard of UXO operators through quality management of administrative work and field operations (165 times), conducted quality management of training and upgraded UXO clearance skills of UXO operators 20 times, improved the coordination mechanism and considered of the Memorandum of Understanding faster, strengthening and prioritizing explosive ordnance risk education, UXO victim assistance, survey and clearance. Coordinating activities were conducted several times with relevant sectors and UNDP to identify UXO in the national socio-economic development plan. In addition, facilities, such as vehicles and equipment were provided to UXO PRA and DRA.

3.4 Outstanding Issues, Challenges and Lessons Learnt

3.4.1 Outstanding Issues

The outstanding issues in the implementation to address the UXO issue in Lao PDR from 2011-2020 can be summarized as follows:

1) UXO Legislation

In the past, even though addressing the UXO issue in Lao PDR has some specific legal enforcement, the general legal enforcement mechanisms in the form of laws, decrees of government, and ministerial recommendations were still lacking.

2) Land release from the UXO

Since the beginning of UXO clearance to ensure that land is safe from UXO, only 72,458 hectares (equivalent to 0.83% of the total area in 18 provinces where UXO is estimated to be contaminated of UXO) has been cleared. This indicates that the vast majority of contaminated land remains to be cleared. In the period from 2011 to 2020, UXO clearance was planned to reach 100,000 hectares. However, actual implementation only amounted to 49,008 hectares, equivalent to 49% of the target.

In addition, methods for survey, clearance, and destruction are not yet systematic. Such methods are not yet of the desired quality or yet in line with the government's priorities. Specifically; UXO clearance teams have not been continuously trained; tools, equipment, and technology used in UXO survey, clearance and destruction are limited; tools and mechanisms for monitoring land use are limited; management mechanisms and tools to monitor the effectiveness of the use of land releases to contribute to the improvement of livelihoods, as well as to contribute to socio-economic development have not been developed and have not been regularly evaluated; and the management and costing of UXO surveys, clearance and destruction has not been improved.

3) Explosive ordnance risk education to reduce the number of UXO victims

Explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) is not yet continuous, widespread and regular in communities, especially in remote areas. Participatory action plans for EORE have not yet been developed. Although EORE has been integrated into the primary and secondary school curriculum, some areas, especially remote areas, have not been fully implemented.

The monitoring and evaluation tools of EORE have not yet been developed and well managed. Improvement is needed in UXO transfer tools for people in UXO affected areas, and a tool to assess behavioral changes in people receiving EORE is also needed. NRA will seek support for a study to help develop tools for increased relevance, impact, and effectiveness of EORE methodologies. The study will enable donors and other stakeholders to better assess future EORE proposals in terms of desired outcomes (changes in behavior) and impact (reduction in casualties).

4) Victim Assistance

Victim Assistance (VA) is part of the broader national and community-based public health approach to disability and integration and NRA has a shared responsibility in this area. However, emergency assistance in the event of a UXO accident is not yet systematic and focused, and the UXO Victim Database has not been fully updated.

Comprehensive statistics, medical care, rehabilitation, vocational support, and the employment of UXO victims are still limited.

5) UXO Management

The management, training of medical personnel and UXO clearance technicians have not yet been centralized, nor have training centers been developed into a national UXO curriculum to provide effective training for UXO operators in Lao PDR. The quality management of UXO survey, clearance, and destruction are still limited, and the internal and external quality management teams have not been strengthened. Regulation to manage the work of UXO operators has overall not been strongly developed. The implementation of the obligations of the relevant conventions, including the system of reporting on the progress of the implementation of the convention each year, has not been well performed.

All operators and service providers are obliged to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the state ministry responsible for the sector in which they operate. NRA has made progress in simplifying the procedures in the UXO sector but they remain slow and this impacts operational efficiency and may impact sector funding. Alternative MoU modalities that simplify management, both by NRA and the operators, may consequently promote increased operational efficiency and funding.

3.4.2 Challenges

The implementation to address the UXO issue in Lao PDR has the following major challenges:

- The budget, personnel, vehicles, equipment, and technology development to address the UXO in Lao PDR are still limited and challenging.
- COVID-19 pandemic, disasters, climate change and etc. continue to be a challenge to the National Socio-Economic Development, as well as achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in general, in particular, it continues to be a challenge to address UXO issues in the Lao PDR.

3.4.3 Lessons Learnt

Through the implementation of UXO addressing in Lao PDR over the past 10 years (2011-2020), some key lessons learnt can be summarized as follows:

In terms of relevance, impact and effectiveness, SPF II broadly succeeded – particularly in creating a sharp reduction of victims over the last 10 years. Between 2010 and 2020, the casualty number fell from 119 to 33, which is in turn testament to the effectiveness of EORE activities and increasing land release in affected provinces. Nonetheless, the magnitude of the issue remains daunting, with the full extent of contamination not yet surveyed. Likewise, in terms of efficiency, SPF II witnessed the transition to evidence-based clearance, which is now the standard across the country. With the sharp drop in casualties achieved, SPF III has an opportunity to focus on long-term objectives– clearing high priority CHAs by 2030, and accelerating post-clearance development.

This shift in focus from safety to development comes amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, which has severely constrained donor resources and attention globally. Therefore, maintaining donor confidence requires that the UXO Sector illustrates results that are not solely focused on clearance, but on post-clearance economic development, and enhancing the efficiency of the entire sector. With diminishing gains to be gained from clearance, donor attention is increasingly focused on ensuring funding is used efficiently (thus requiring that clearance meets more ambitious timelines) and demonstrating the development outcomes of the sector – in areas such as health, education, and agriculture.

The biggest challenge of SPF III, therefore, is achieving sustainability for the UXO Sector. This was the main objective that could not be achieved in SPF II. It requires that the NRA (and the GoL more generally) take an increasing amount of responsibility for the sector, both in terms of leadership and funding. SPF II succeeded in its main objective – creating a national capacity (NRA) that is fully integrated into the regular institutional set-up of the Government – but the challenge now is to ensure that this capacity is sustainable, as the UXO issue is endemic and residual contamination will be the main issue going forward.

- Legislation on the management of UXO is an important tool for all parties to implement effectively. Therefore, the creation, legislation development and capacity building of UXO work in Lao PDR to be comprehensive are needed to make the implementation of operations to address the UXO issue more systematic and focused.
- Explosive ordnance risk education is one of the main standards to prevent UXO accidents, so it is an important to pay attention to conduct explosive ordnance risk education and raising awareness about UXO, especially where people live in UXO affected areas.
- The involvement of the relevant sectors is an important basis for the success of UXO addressing and victim assistance.
- Identification of agreed priority plans is an important factor in the proper UXO survey and clearance operations in accordance with the periodic socio-economic development plan, enhancing the role of quality management and the use of UXO information will increase the effectiveness of UXO addressing.
- Adequate human resources development and strengthening for UXO Regulatory Authorities at each level will ensure the continuity and regular implementation of operations to address the UXO issue.
- Defining a program for the implementation of the obligations of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and related conventions are an important tool in making the implementation of the obligations of the Convention gradually a success.
- Strengthening the coordination and the cooperation with foreign countries as a way to develop UXO work, competition for funding and technical assistance from development partners, donor countries and international organizations will speed up the implementation of UXO clearance.

III. National Strategic Plan for the UXO Sector in the Lao PDR "The Safe Path Forward III" period 2021-2030

1. Vision

By 2030, Lao people live in a safer environment from UXO and accelerate the socio-economic development of the country.

2. Guiding principles

The "Safe Path Forward III" for 2021-2030 is developed in line with policies direction, the constitution, laws, national socio-economic development plans, conventions, and international agreements that Lao PDR is a state party to, in order to ensure equality, fairness, transparency and accountability and participation of all parties in the society using modern tools and approach.

3. Overall Goal

Ensure safer lives and better livelihoods for target people through effectively addressing UXO as a barrier to national development by 2030.

This Strategic Plan identifies four main goals:

Goal 1: Ensure all Lao people recognize and understand the dangers of UXO for safer communities and reduced casualties;

Goal 2: Land is safe from UXOs;

Goal 3: All UXO victims are well-supported;

Goal 4: Management of the UXO sector is prompt, efficient and effective.

4. Targets

By 2030, the UXO sector strives to achieve the following main targets:

Target 1: Reduce the number of UXO casualties to less than 380 people over ten years (average less than 38 people per year);

Target 2: Undertake survey to identify 250,000 hectares of CHAs

Target 3: Conduct clearance of UXO from 100,000 hectares of land for agricultural and development purposes;

Target 4: Support 11,400 UXO victims including livelihood development for better integration into society;

Target 5: UXO activities are integrated into relevant sector plans.

5. Strategic Objectives

5.1 Strategic objective 1: Safer communities and reduced casualties from UXO

Main focus 1: Promote explosive ordnance risk education to keep communities safe.

- 1.1. Educate target groups in the risk of explosive ordnance through traditional and innovative methods in schools, with publications, radio, television, mobile teams, village volunteers and community involvement.
- 1.2. Develop a tool to measure awareness and change behavior to mitigate UXO accidents (Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice - KAP).
- 1.3. Define effective methodology and content of explosive ordnance risk education.
- 1.4. Develop and improve existing regulations on explosive ordnance risk education.

5.2 Strategic objective 2: High priority land is cleared from UXO and put to productive use;

Main focus 2: Conduct effective UXO survey and clearance.

- 2.1. Develop a prioritization system as part of national planning.
- 2.2. Strengthen the capacity of UXO operators such as UXO Lao and Unit 58.
- 2.3. Develop tools and methodology to calculate and analyze costs for survey and clearance to promote the effective utilization of funds.
- 2.4. Increase UXO clearance capacity.
- 2.5. Conduct UXO survey and clearance effectively
- 2.6. Identify tools to monitor short- and long-term land use after clearance.

5.3 Strategic objective 3: UXO victims are well-supported for better integration into society

Main focus 3: Provide support to UXO victims, in line with the Victim Assistance framework, to enable them to improve living conditions and contribute to the socio-economic development of the country.

- 3.1. Support UXO victims in an urgent and timely manner in the event of a UXO accident.
- 3.2. Provide medical care and physical and psycho-social rehabilitation for UXO survivors for full integration into families and society.
- 3.3. Provide education, vocational training, and employment opportunities to UXO survivors and victims' families.
- 3.4. Improve regulations and policies on UXO victim assistance systematically.
- 3.5. Strengthen coordination mechanisms to provide better assistance to UXO victims with related sectors (mainly health, labor and social welfare, education and sports).

5.4 Strategic objective 4: The UXO sector is managed effectively and efficiently.

Main focus 4: The management of the UXO sector is prompt, efficient and effective in line with national and international standards.

- 4.1. Improve the management of the sector to better coordinate, regulate, and integrate UXO work into the national socio-economic development plan and the work of relevant sectors from central and local levels in a harmonious, efficient and effective manner.
- 4.2. Strengthen and implement quality management work effectively and efficiently.
- 4.3. Manage, use and maintain the IMSMA National Database, complete the Lao Victim Information System (LVIS) and ensure other relevant data is available.
- 4.4. Develop and maintain the relevant Information Management tools and systems for data collection, verification, analysis, and reporting as well as effective dissemination of information in compliance with NRA standards.
- 4.5. Build the qualitative and quantitative capacity of UXO sector personnel including the strengthening of National UXO Training Center.
- 4.6. Report on the progress of the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and provide information for extension requests of the implementation of Article 4 of the Convention.
- 4.7. Commemorate the yearly International UXO/Mine Awareness Day, on April 4th
- 4.8. Establish a UXO museum to educate the future generation about the impacts of UXO and to provide a historical tourist attraction.

IV. Implementation Measures

Successful implementation of the National Strategic Plan for the UXO Sector in Lao PDR "Safe Path Forward III", will require the following key measures:

1. Management and Coordination

The Government oversees the work of the UXO sector in a centralized and standardized manner throughout the country, where the NRA is delegated to be directly responsible for the effective and efficient coordination with ministries, central and local authorities and domestic and foreign organizations in the implementation of this Strategic Plan.

1.1 NRA Board for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR

The National Regulatory Authority board for the UXO/Mine Action Sector is a non-permanent body that acts as secretariat for research, supervision and coordination with relevant sectors and relevant local authorities for the effective and efficient interpretation and implementation of this strategic plan

The Regulatory Authority Committees for UXO/Mine Action consists of:

1. National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action;
2. Provincial Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action;
3. District Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action;
4. Village Network for UXO/Mine Action.

1.2 Coordination mechanisms, Gender mainstreaming and Environment

To implement effectively and efficiently the National Strategic Plan for the UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR "Safe Path forward III", coordination needs to be as follows:

- 1) The National Regulatory Authority Office for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR (NRA) is the main body responsible for the coordination, implementation and reporting against the National Strategic Plan for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR "Safe Path Forward III". The Secretariats of the National Regulatory Authority, Provincial Regulatory Authorities and District Regulatory Authorities as well as Village Networks for UXO/Mine Action are responsible for coordinating with relevant stakeholders to implement the strategic plan and report to their own committees based on their own mandates.
- 2) The UXO Sector Working Group (SWG) meeting is a forum comprising of government, development partners and international organizations which discusses, exchanges information and sets the direction for the UXO sector and implement the outcomes of the Round Table Meeting (RTM).
- 3) The Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings comprising of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education, Victim Assistance, Survey and Clearance, and Information Management are the technical forums for government and UXO Operators to discuss, exchange information and define plans to implement the results of SWG meetings in line with national standards.
- 4) Gender mainstreaming is important for the UXO/Mine Action National Strategic Plan and work plans. Data needs to be disaggregated by sex and age, and women must be engaged in work planning and the implementation of projects.
- 5) Lao PDR is one of the few countries that has a national standard specific to environmental management. UXO/Mine Actions have to be compliant with national standard and Environmental Protection Law (EPL) of Lao PDR.

2. Budget and fund mobilization to support implementation

The National Strategic plan for the UXO Sector in the Lao PDR "Safe Path forward III" is expected to be supported by the state, private sector and the assistance of relevant development partners and international organizations through the efficient use of resources and budgets to ensure transparency and accountability.

3. Cooperation with development partners

Development partners are critical to the success of the implementation of the National Strategic plan for the UXO Sector in the Lao PDR "Safe Path forward III" as they provide budget, technical, equipment, capacity building for the implementation of strategies and programs.

Integrating expected outcomes of UXO/Mine Action into SDGs agenda will enable sustainability in the next ten years by using international, regional, national forums in multilateral, bilateral and related UXO sector working groups and technical meetings are key platform for consultation, cooperation and mobilizing resources from domestic and foreign partners.

4. Sustainability

The sustainability of the UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR is both important and necessary as not only is the country widely contaminated, but UXOs directly affect Lao people's livelihoods and the socio-economic development of the country. To ensure sustainability, there must be sufficient funding from every stakeholder in society, accurate data, qualified technical staff for survey, clearance and the demolition of UXOs and measures in place to ensure peoples' participation which includes using cleared land to maximize benefits.

5. Awareness raising and capacity building for implementation

The National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector is central in implementing the National Strategic Plan for the UXO Sector in the Lao PDR "Safe Path Forward III". It is also responsible for the dissemination to government agencies and communities at the central, provincial, district and village levels to ensure awareness of, and a united understanding for effective implementation.

The Office of National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector at each level, together with relevant ministries will support research in the sector to promote technical capacity and understanding of UXO clearance to strengthen effective implementation.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

In the implementation of the National Strategic Plan for the UXO Sector in Lao PDR, "Safe Path Forward III", the agencies and offices of the Office of the NRA will undertake research, formulate plans, programs, projects and budgets for every quarter.

Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of this strategic plan must reflect the results of the various indicators of the strategic objectives in order to show progress in implementation of the strategy.

The NRA will undertake mid-term and final evaluations of the implementation of this strategic plan, which will include meetings of the Central and Provincial NRA, the UXO Sector Working Group with Development Partners and International Organizations to exchange on the outcomes of the evaluations through the end of the strategic period in 2030.

The National Strategic Plan for the UXO Sector in the Lao PDR consists of an action plan that outlines activities and a timeline for implementation. This will include a detailed monitoring tool to assess the progress of activities and outcome indicators relating to SDGs.

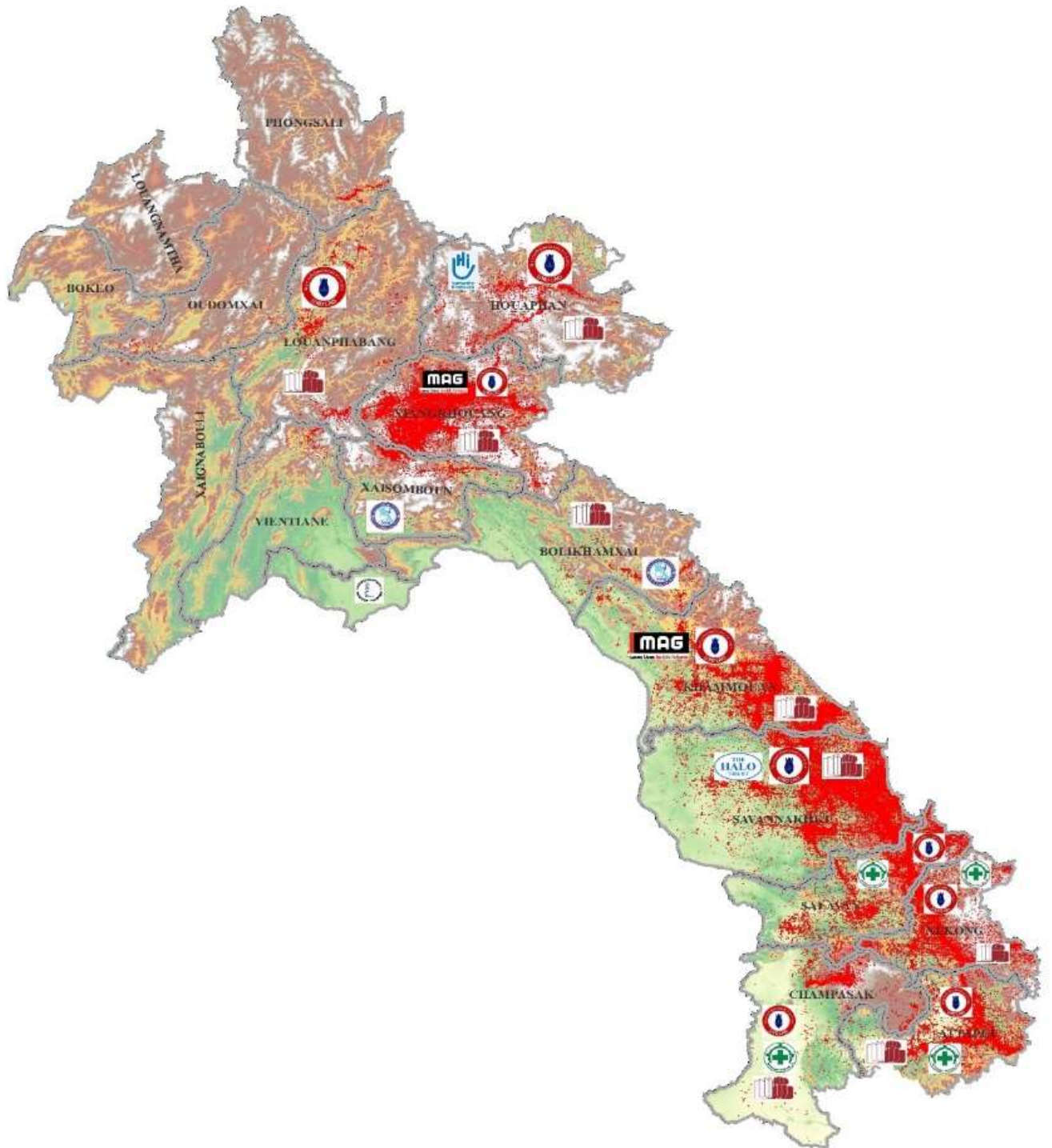
The implementation of the strategy will be evaluated using quantitative and qualitative methods with a view to periodically assessing progress. This will be disseminated to stakeholders, development partners, international organizations and operators with the purpose of improving activities in each period.

The method for monitoring and evaluating will be as follows: (a) implement the plan; (b) in line with the needs of the target group and create benefits for the people; (c) generate income for the community for sustainability; (d) be able to monitor and identify problems from the outset to take remedial action.

Key Principles guiding monitoring and evaluation.

- **Focus on beneficiaries:** The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system should be designed to respond not only to institutions but also to the target population.
- **Local ownership and participation:** The M&E system should involve a wide range of actors from central to village level, as well as including development partners as appropriate.
- **Accountability, transparency and governance:** The M&E system must be transparent, have accurate data and be credible to contribute to policymaking, implementation and management of development assistance.
- **Integration and coherence:** The M&E system should use and strengthen existing M&E mechanisms and show the links between the Strategic Plan and other relevant sectors policies.
- **Sustainability:** M&E systems must be able to define the needs for cooperation and assistance for each period.
- **Consensus:** Monitoring and evaluation must ensure consensus with all stakeholders.
- **Gender Awareness and Equality:** The M&E system should be based on the full participation of men and women and promote equality.

Annex 1: U.S. Bombing Map in Lao PDR



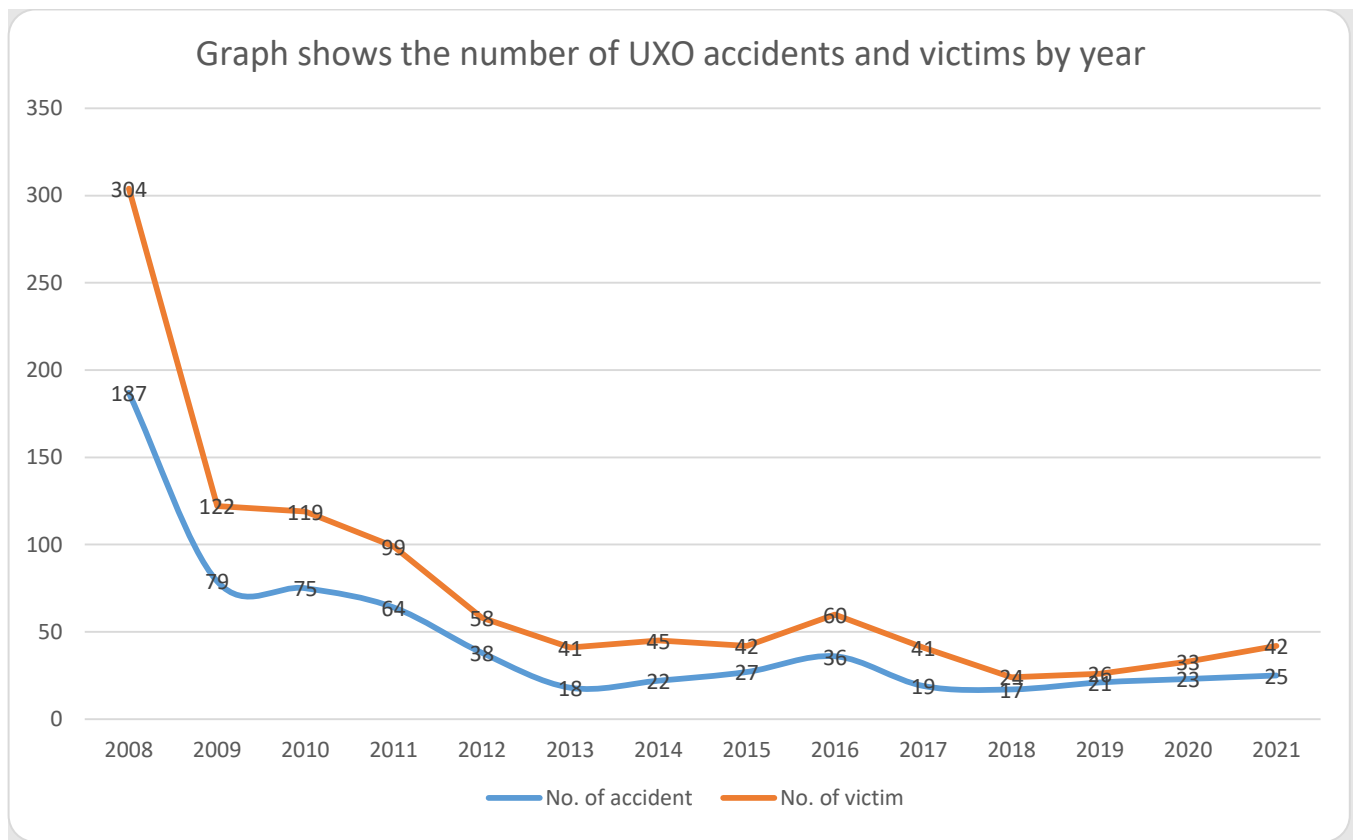
Annex 2: Explosive ordnance risk education from 2011-2020

Province	Village	Village No.	Female	Male	Total
Vientiane Capital	2	4	271	300	571
Phongsaly	49	90	4,733	5,222	9,955
Luangnamtha	1	2	109	141	250
Luangprabang	319	962	107,401	104,292	211,693
Houaphan	394	1,894	209,729	199,624	409,353
Xiengkhouang	350	2,878	152,187	157,602	309,789
Vientiane	3	6	488	718	1,206
Borlikhamxay	75	193	21,064	20,405	41,469
Khammouane	321	2,602	164,039	172,369	336,408
Savannakhet	438	4,032	194,640	184,012	378,652
Salavan	345	1,604	90,670	88,534	179,204
Sekong	192	1,516	102,216	96,214	198,430
Champasack	203	1,239	87,334	86,323	173,657
Attapeu	140	1,826	135,387	150,229	285,616
Xaisomboun	7	14	2,509	2,659	5,168
Total	2,839	18,862	1,272,777	1,268,644	2,541,421

Annex 3: Number of UXO casualties in Lao PDR (2011-2020)

Number of UXO accidents and casualties in Lao PDR, 2011-2020										
Year	No. accident	Injured				Killed				Total
		Male	Boy	Female	Girl	Male	Boy	Female	Girl	
2011	64	30	36	9	4	6	14	0	0	99
2012	38	15	15	11	2	6	6	1	2	58
2013	18	9	12	2	5	5	7	0	1	41
2014	22	8	9	5	7	4	12	0	0	45
2015	27	15	16	1	1	6	2	1	0	42
2016	36	18	24	3	5	2	8	0	0	60
2017	19	12	8	11	6	3	0	0	1	41
2018	17	5	6	4	6	2	1	0	0	24
2019	21	5	4	2	5	8	1	1	0	26
2020	23	12	10	2	2	5	2	0	0	33
Total	285	129	140	50	43	47	53	3	4	469

Annex 4: Graph shows the number of UXO accidents and victims by year



Annex 5: Clearance and UXOs items destroyed in 2011-2020

Province	Agricultural (ha)	Development (ha)	Total (ha)	Large bomb	CMs	Mine	Others	Total
Vientiane Capital	0	134	134	1	116	0 -	0	117
Phongsaly	0	0	0	1	48	3	30	82
Luangnamtha	0	9	9	0 -	0	0	1	1
Oudomxay	0	126	126	0	0	0	50	50
Bokeo	0	80	80	2	0	0 -	0	2
Luangphabang	1,397	610	2,007	42	20,208	101	124,539	144,890
Huaphanh	1,974	259	2,233	29	32,665	72	13,108	45,874
Xiengkhouang	8,225	998	9,223	71	195,525	51	62,171	257,818
Vientiane	0	62	62	4	0	0	123	127
Bolikhamxay	584	2,380	2,964	15	6,377	4	2,473	88,869
Khammouane	4,685	1,020	5,705	157	73,964	5	41,156	115,282
Savannakhet	6,926	1,385	8,311	468	117,148	150	50,171	167,937
Salavan	3,736	571	4,307	230	64,562	44	28,586	93,422
Sekong	2,247	1,033	3,280	166	45,968	46	12,030	58,210
Champasack	2,403	1,389	3,792	35	38,449	81	16,864	55,429
Attapeu	3,178	1,426	4,604	106	60,650	12	6,317	67,085
Saysomboun	493	1,188	1,681	5	235	10	1,903	2,153
Grant total	35,848	11,286.39	48,518	1,332	635,727	579	359,522	1,097,348

Annex 6: Table of projects and budgets as of January 2022

	Project title	Budget	Implementation location
01	<p>Project title: UXO clearance Phase II in Savannakhet province</p> <p>Main activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explosive ordnance risk education 2. Non-Technical Survey 3. Clearance <p>Project period: 2021-2022</p>	546,000 USD	<p>Savannakhet province:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Atsaphangthong district - Sepon district
02	<p>Project title: UXO survey and clearance in Savannakhet province</p> <p>Main activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explosive ordnance risk education 2. Non-technical survey 3. Technical survey 4. UXO destruction <p>Project period: 2021-2023</p>	15,500,000 USD	<p>Savannakhet province:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Atsaphangthong district - Nong district - Phalanxay district - Phine district - Sepon district - Vilabouly district - Atsaphone district - Champhone district - Outhoumphone district - Songkhone district - Thaphangthong district - Xaybouly district - Xayphouthong district - Xonnabouly district
03	<p>Project title: UXO survey Phase V</p> <p>Main activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Non-technical survey 2. Technical survey 3. UXO destruction <p>Project period: 2021-2023</p>	15,415,365 USD	<p>Champhasack, Sekong and Attapeu provinces</p>
04	<p>Project title: Conduct UXO clearance Phase III</p> <p>Main activities:</p>	1,079,855 USD	<p>Khammoune province:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Boualapha district - Gmommalath district - Mahaxay district - Xaibouathong district

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explosive ordnance risk education 2. Non-technical survey 3. UXO destruction <p>Project period: 2021-2022</p>		
05	<p>Project title:</p> <p>Cluster munitions impact survey and clearance Phase VII</p> <p>Main activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UXO Technical survey 2. UXO Clearance <p>Project period: 2021-2022</p>	667,096 USD	Khammoune province: - Boualapha district
06	<p>Project title: Cluster munitions and other UXO clearance in poor communities</p> <p>Main activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UXO Clearance <p>Project period: 2021-2022</p>	227,273 USD	Khammoune province: - Boualapha district
07	<p>Project title: UXO survey and clearance Phase III</p> <p>Main activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explosive ordnance risk education 2. Non-technical survey 3. Technical survey 4. UXO destruction <p>Project period: 2021-2023</p>	15,500,000 USD	Xiengkhouang province: - Nonghat district, - Khoun district, - Phaxay district, - Peak district, - Phoukhout district, - Kham district, - Mok district.
08	<p>Project title: Integrated UXO clearance to reduce the risk of UXO remaining</p> <p>Main Activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explosive ordnance risk education 2. Non-technical survey 3. Technical survey 4. UXO clearance 	586,540 USD	Phongsaly province: -Mai district -Khua district

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Victim assistance 6. Capacity building for local staff <p>Project period: 2022-2024</p>		
09	<p>Project title: Tracking and expanding the scope of UXO/mine risk education activities</p> <p>Main Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disseminate UXO information to students 2. Develop teachers to be able to teach UXO lessons 3. Develop tools to transfer UXO/Mine information to the public 4. Expand explosive ordnance risk education through the media <p>Project period: 2021-2024</p>	1,700,000 USD	Xiengkhouang, Khammouane, Savannakhet, Salavan and Sekong provinces
10	<p>Project title: Support UXO clearance in Lao PDR</p> <p>Main Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitoring and evaluation of UXO activities 2. Provide technical assistance to the National UXO Training Center <p>Project period: 2021-2024</p>	5,669,928 USD	Vientiane Capital, Luangprabang, Houaphan, Khammouane, Savannakhet, Salavan, Attapeu provinces
11	<p>Project title: Accelerating development through enhanced capacity of national institutions in the UXO Sector in Lao PDR</p> <p>Main Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen capacity of the NRA; Explosive 	25,000,000 USD	Vientiane Capital and 15 provinces

	<p>ordnance risk education, victim assistance, survey and clearance, information management and quality management</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Increase and strengthen capacity for the UXO humanitarian team of Lao People’s Army 3. Strengthen capacity of the UXO Lao and support the survey and clearance in Xiengkhouang and Khammouane provinces 4. Building a national demining capacity through Humanitarian Demining Teams <p>Project period: 2022-2026</p>		
12	<p>Project title: UXO Victim Assistance</p> <p>Main Activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vocational training for UXO survivors and families of victim 2. Improve the livelihood of survivors and their families <p>Project period: 2021-2023</p>	2,500,000 USD	Xiengkhouang and Huaphan provinces

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