Report on the Possibility Consultation Meeting for Joining with Lao Youth Union Concerning Village Volunteer, held in Thalath, Vientiane Province During 5 – 6/09/2018

The possibility consultation meeting for joining with Lao Youth Union regarding village volunteers, held in Thalath, Vientiane Province, during 5 – 6 September 2018, chaired by Mr. Phoukhieo Chanthasomboune, Director General of NRA and Mr. Souliigna Keophilavong, Director of Movement Department of Lao People’s Revolutionary Youth Union.

- **Purpose:**
  - To discuss on the approaches for working together between NRA, Provincial and District Youth Union by means of using potentials of the Youth network at village level to educate people about the dangers of UXOs.
  - To develop Agreement for Responsibility Committee concerning the activities and working system of the village volunteers.
  - To develop and taking the outputs of the meeting to input in 2019 annual work plan of MRE Unit of NRA.

- **Participants:**
  The NRA Office at Central level, the District and Provincial NRA Office of Khammouan Province, the District and Provincial NRA Office of Xiengkhouang Province, Lao Youth Union, Khammoun Provincial and District Youth Union, Xiengkhouang Provincial and District Youth Union.

- **The meeting participants discussed on the following:**
  - Director of Movement Department of Lao People’s Revolutionary Youth Union presented on the solution of the Secretariat Committee of the Party Central Committee regarding the movements of the Lao People’s Revolutionary Youth Union, No: 03/, dated 12 January 2018.
  - The Director General of NRA presented about the overview of the UXOs in Lao PDR, the purpose of the cooperation, methodologies and requirements based on the 5 year work plan of the UXO Sector.
  - Presented about the Decree regarding to the NRA Organization and Movement, No 67/PM, dated 12 February 2018.
- The representative from the NRA Office also presented on the implementation of the 5 year work plan for addressing UXO problems, such as the use of village volunteers to propagate the dangers of UXOs, of this, NRA also requested for cooperation in implementing the work plan to achieve its targets.

- The Provincial NRA Office of Khammouan Province agreed with the NRA at the Central to propose Lao Youth Union to help Provincial NRA Office, for our Provincial NRA Office, we are ready to coordinate and cooperate with.
  - Proposed to every party in this meeting to help and research to determine target districts, what districts, how many villages, how many districts and what activities? Together determine the methods of propagations, how we can do?. We want to see the overall roles of Lao Youth Union, how we can ensure people to be confident on the roles of the Youth.

- The Provincial NRA Office of Xiengkhouang Province also agreed with the Youth Union to get involved in educating people about the dangers of UXOs, but we'd like to discuss more concerning the law or regulation to be referred to when implementing the activities.
  - Through the monitoring at village and district level, we have noticed that posters and related equipment are not thorough to the people, therefore, if we have village volunteers to help in this matter it will be good. For the methodologies we should discuss again to determine which methods would be better accessed to the target groups in the districts and provinces.

Through the discussions and contribute comments of the participants in the meeting concerning the dangers of UXOs, the meeting has unanimously agreed that:
Determine 2 Provinces as pilot provinces; in Xiengkhouang it is determined Peak and Khoun Districts; in Khammouan it is determined Boualapha and Xaibouathong Districts to be pilot districtys.

After that, the participants were divided into small group of discussion to discuss in deep in each province; the group representative taking the results of the group and all participants’ discussion to present again which it can summarize as below:

1. After the Responsibility Committee for Mine Risk Education and UXO Victim Assistant (Lao Youth Union) has been authorized, then this authorization Letter will be sent to Provincial Youth Union for them to refer to when drafting and proposing for the adoption of this authorization (Provincial Youth Union).
2. For the activities we will use village youth to volunteer for conducting MRE activities which the village volunteer team will comprise of 3 people and the Village Chief; this team will be the key persons for conducting MRE activities in the village.
3. For the work plan will unanimous agreed as below:
From the researching and discussion in big group, it has been unanimously agreed as below:

**Methods of the Activities:**
1. Conduct MRE activities through and by the group once a month
2. Conduct MRE activities through loud-speakers twice a month
3. Village meeting to assess the outcomes once a month

**Number of villages:**
- 30 x villages for Peak and Khoun Districts, Xiengkhouang Province.
- 30 x villages for Boualapha and Xaibouathong Districts, Khammouan Province.

Indicators estimated: Total of populations to attend will be 10,000 people; adults 5,000 people, and children 5,000.

Monitoring and supporting activities: Monitoring team from district level will visit once a month, the team from provincial level will visit 3 times a month, the team from central level will visit 6 times per month.

Capacity Building: Propose to train about the technics of giving education to the people concerning the dangers of UXOs, the technics about propagation and communication, and the creation of MRE equipment.

For the equipment, it is proposed to consider both the equipment of the team and the equipment for distribution.

Therefore, the meeting has unanimously agreed to put this information into the plan for mobilizing fund. For the implementation; Lao Youth Union, Provincial and District Youth Union, including NRA have agreed to support and together implement the work plan to protect UXO casualties.

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**Chairman of the Meeting**

Phoukhieo CHANTHASOMBOUNE

**Recorded by:**