



Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
NRA Office National Regulatory Authority for
UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR

Minutes of the Third Quarter, 2022
(Q3, 2022) Meeting of UXO Survey-Clearance Technical Working Group

I. Introduction

The Third Quarter, 2022 Meeting of UXO Survey-Clearance Technical Working Group was convened between 08:30 am to 16:15 pm on 22nd September 2022, at Training Center of Lao National Construction Front in Vientiane, chaired by Mr. Bounpheng SISAWATH, Deputy Director General of NRA Office. The meeting was attended by NRA Office's representatives including the Survey-Clearance Unit, the Information Management Unit, the international experts from UXO operator and related Lao technicians from six humanitarian assistance organizations namely UXO Lao Programme, Humanitarian UXO Demining of Army 58, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), Humanity & Inclusion (HI), Halo Trust, Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and representatives from donor country and international organization such as the US and the United Nations as well as Tetra Tech and the Lao and foreign business operators concerning UXO survey and clearance.

II. Objectives of Meeting

- To discuss, exchange information and reports on the UXO clearance status in the sites, the progress of implementation on the UXO Survey-Clearance in the third quarter 2022 by the operators and concerned companies.
- To report and highlight on the coordination, the progress and outcomes of the implementation on the UXO Survey-Clearance in the third quarter, 2022 by each operators.
- To report on the outcomes of the project evaluation meeting on the UXO Survey, Clearance which jointly implemented by the operator and local authorities.
- To report on outcomes of the site visit to UXO Lao Programme and NPA in Attapue Province.
- To discuss on the development progress of UXO Survey and Clearance Annual Workplan 2023;
- To present on the development progress of the Draft Prioritization Document for UXO Clearance.
- To report on progress of the revision of the National Standards.
- To report on the result on the Quality Control monitoring to the operator in the third quarter.
- To report on the preparation of the SEOD4 training.
- To discuss on the UXO disposals which reported by villagers and found in Huaphan, Luang Prabang, Champasack, Vientiane, Bolikhamxay, and other provinces.
- To discuss on other related issues.

III. Content of Meeting

1. The meeting was discussed, exchanged information and reported on the outcomes of the UXO Survey-Clearance implemented by UXO operators. The operators raised and shared experiences in operating UXO survey-clearance with the meeting to provide inputs for better improvement in the future particularly on the testing of detectors and field equipment, the depth for UXO Clearance, purpose in using lands, the data/information in the report after finishing the clearance.
2. The Survey-Clearance Unit briefly reported and reviewed on the previous meeting, especially the request on the submission of operator's workplans to the Survey-Clearance Unit for closed monitoring, the request to the operators to report on the implementation progress of the quality control in the cleared sites after completing the clearance, the SEOD training which currently the center and Tetra Tech jointly prepare related documents, the revision of the prioritizations for UXO Clearance which have been discussing for several times and we have a plan to work with Tetra Tech and related technicians, the usage of system in recording UTM which currently UXO Lao Programme will consider to use the same system and the depth for UXO Clearance which will be revised and integrated in the National Standards.
3. The meeting was reported and presented on the progress of the draft prioritizations document for UXO Survey-Clearance which in the recent, the Survey-Clearance Unit and Tetra Tech jointly study on the operational process and after providing the comments/inputs, the meeting will be scheduled and the invitation letter will be circulated to related stakeholders to participate and share further comments/inputs.
4. The meeting was reported on the progress and conclusion of the implementation of UXO survey, clearance in the third quarter, 2022. It is noticed that the expected indicator and number in implementation UXO survey-clearance has not achieved yet due to several facts such as climate, the day of MOU approval and others.
5. The meeting was reported on the outcomes of UXO Clearance, implemented by 08 operators during the first-eight months 2022 and further direction in the remaining three months, 2022 and the challenges.
6. Humanitarian UXO Demining of Army 58 reported on the progress and the conclusion on the implementation of UXO survey and clearance in the first-eight months as the follows: it successfully provided assistance to Vientiane and Bolikhamxay Provinces and completed its area clearance in Xaysomboun Province. Furthermore, it has also reported the plan of implementation in the remaining three months of 2022 that it will continue implementing UXO Clearance in provinces namely Vientiane Capital, Vientiane, Bolikhamxay, Xaysomboun, Khammuan, Oudomxay, and Phongsaly Provinces; to continue the collaboration with the Russian UXO Clearance Unit to conduct UXO clearance and disposal operations in Nakay District, Khammuan Province; to continue cooperation and coordination with NRA office for the UXO Emergency Action as requested from local administration across the country as well as to report in IMSMA system of NRA Office.
7. The operators reported on the progress and outcomes of UXO clearance, implemented by 08 operators in the first-eight months and the plan for the remaining three months of 2022, the challenges. HI, HALO Trust, MAG and NPA reported on the result of UXO survey in the previous quarters which pointed out that it has not met or achieve the targets or indicators due

to several impact facts, but they will concentrate and put their effort to finish their works in the final quarter of 2022. One of the reasons caused the failure of operators in achieving the indicated number target of the government is the insufficiency of resources, the operators considered the safety as the core of the operation and most of the indicated numbers were implemented in accordance with the MOUs.

8. The meeting was discussed on the development of workplan 2023 and tasked the operators to collaborate with related local authorities and the land owners to ensure precise and clear plan and support to the needs of all people. In the previous quarter, the Survey-Clearance Unit got the support from Tetra Tech to organize the training for Khammuan and Xiengkhouang Provinces on the development process of the prioritizations document for UXO clearance, and will continue to extend the training for Savannakhet and other provinces. The result of the training showed that the participants have the well-understanding in the UXO Clearance prioritizations. Therefore, it is expected the development of prioritizations document for UXO clearance could be successfully achieved in the future.
9. The meeting was reported on the progress of the revision of the National Stands which is currently in the process of the consolidation of each point/input for the revision and has submitted to UNDP for translation. Further the visit and follow up the results of QA-QC, Quality Management Unit will submit the reports to the participants for information, and it requested the operators to concentrate and strictly follow SOPs for their operations. For the visit and monitoring in this quarter, all operators and companies concerning UXO clearance has well implemented and met the standards.
10. The meeting was reported on the preparation of the SEOD4 training. It is currently in the preparation process to submit the project presentation to NRA office for consideration.
11. For other related issues, the representative of US donor has explained on the direction of funding support to UXO survey in the current and future until 2024 which trends to increase as from the outcomes of the technical meeting of sectoral working group.
12. The meeting was informed about the result of UXO Sectoral Working Group which was held at ICTC Meeting Room.