



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

Minutes of the First Quarter, 2022
(Q1, 2022) Meeting of UXO Survey-Clearance Technical Working Group

I. Date, Place and Participant

The First Quarter, 2022 Meeting of UXO Survey-Clearance Technical Working Group was virtually convened between 08:30 am to 16:15 pm on 31st March 2022, at the Meeting Room of NRA Office. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Bounpheng SISAWATH, Deputy Director General of NRA Office and participated by representatives from Quality Management Unit, Information Management Unit, Public Relations Unit, Head and Technician of Clearance Unit, NRA Office, foreign experts, Lao Technical Operation Staff from 06 related humanitarian assistance operators including UXO Lao Programme, Humanitarian UXO Demining of Army 58, NPA, Halo Trust, HI, MAG, Tetra Tech, representative from US Embassy (responsible for PM/WRA Fund) and 25 companies who working on UXO survey and clearance.

II. Objective of Meeting

- To discuss and exchange view on draft document regarding sectoral priority selection methods.
- To report on the progress of training curriculum on UXO disposal for SEOD4.
- To discuss and exchange views on some pending issues on the implementation of SOPs and national standards for the UXO survey, clearance and disposal.
- To report on the progress in reviewing national standards

III. Content of Meeting

The meeting was officially convened at 8:30 am, chaired by Mr. Bounpheng SISAWATH, Deputy Director General of NRA Office. After opening remarks of the chair of meeting, the meeting was informed and discussed on some following issues:

Reviewed on pending issues and way forward to address those issues which have been raising during the previous technical working group including:

- The meeting requested the operators to submit their annual workplan 2022 on UXO survey, clearance and disposal to NRA Office. The submission of the annual workplan was delayed.

- The meeting reported on the progress of the SOPs revision of UXO Lao Programme and the National Standards. The meeting also discusses on the mobilization of funding support to the Quality Management Unit in order to review/revise the National Standards.
- The meeting was represented the draft document on priority selection methods for UXO clearance, the draft concept paper, procedure, process and template/form for giving score of priority selection.
- To discuss and exchange information on the result of monitoring to the quality management/inspection of UXO operations. Some operators have yet implemented in line with Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) and the existing National Standards, particularly some works including the determination of safe distance for technical survey and clearance in some sites was inappropriate, the issue on sign marking in clearance site, issue on explosive utilization for UXO disposal which has yet in line with SOPs, gaps on the depth for clearance which is inconsistent with the purpose of land using in the recent.
- The meeting was reported on the preparation progress of UXO disposal curriculum training for SEOD4. The Training Center, PRA Salavan, PRA Savanhnakhet, PRA Khammuan, Provincial UXO Lao Programme and Tetra Tech have jointly surveyed and collected data of bombs to use for the training; jointly prepared the exercise in the real sites with related authorities; and jointly prepared and compiled some lessons, curriculum and teaching schedules. Besides, this project proposal was reported and submitted to request for funding support from donors.
- The meeting was informed that some operators have yet implemented or followed the NRA Office's Letter, No. 199/NRA.O, dated 16 March 2022 on the Area Measurement Unit using in UXO sector, because they need NRA office to explain and clarify more about the utilization of UTM system for UXO survey, clearance and disposal in UXO Action Sector to ensure the implementation of the same standards.

IV. Conclusion

1. The operators will submit the annual workplan 2022 to NRA Office;
2. To continue discussion on the development of sectoral priority selection methods by hosting a meeting to discuss in detail.
3. To continue compiling all comments/inputs and some issues raised by participants to continue revised approving and ensuring the appropriation between the operations and actual situation as well as the consistence of IMAS. Subsequently, to review/revise the National Standards. For the funding support on the National Standards revision will be considered by UN.
4. To continue providing the training course programme for SEOD4
5. To continue deeply researching techniques for clearance particularly marking system, safe distance, the depth for clearance and the explosive utilization for disposal.
6. To exchange the new technical information if any, and will bring the new technical information to discuss in the technical working group meeting;
7. To improve the arrangement of technical working group to include documents of meeting in order to send to the participants in prior.

The meeting was officially closed in the same day (31 March 2022)

Chair of the Meeting

(Signed and Stamped)

Bounpheng Sisawath

Prepared by

(Signed)

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