



The Minutes of the Fourth Quarter 2023 Meeting
of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Technical Working Group (Q4,2023)

I. Date, Venue and Participants:

The Fourth Quarter 2023 Meeting of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Technical Working Group (Q4,2023) was scheduled at the meeting of NRA office, Vientiane Capital, chaired by Mr. Bounpheng SISAWAT, Deputy Director General of NRA Office. The meeting was attended by: representatives from the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism (Department of Mass Media and Department of Arts and Performance), representatives from Ministry of Education and Sport (Department of Physical Education, Department of General Education, Department of Teacher Education, Department of Arts and Performance, Department of Non-Formal Education, and Research Institute for Technology), representative from the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union (Department of Youth Movement), specialist and technical advisors from UNDP, representatives from EORE operators including MAG, HALO Trust, NPA, UXO Lao Programme (UXO Lao), Humanitarian UXO Demining of Army 58, Terra Renaissance, World Education (WE). Furthermore, some head of related units from NRA Office (EORE Unit, Information Management Unit, Victim Assistance Unit) and thier technicians also participated in the meeting. The total number of participants was 43 people, 12 females.

II. Objectives of Meeting

- To exchange technical lesson on Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) including the achievements, limitation, and remaining issues.
- To discuss, evaluate and assess on UXO accidents and related causes.
- To report on the development progress of EORE long-term workplan 2024-2030.
- To acknowledge and confirm the result on Knowledge Attitudes, and Practices Survey (KAP)
- To conclude on the monitoring and discussion on EORE technical operation.
- To quarterly report on the implementation of EORE in this quarter.
- To confirm on report templates including Radio Report Template, Report Template of Volunteer in Village, Report Template for UXO operators, and development of EORE template for mainstreaming in education system, in order to report on database.
- To report on the UXO accident and confirm on the number of accidents on database.
- To be informed on issues related to the EORE operation in the fourth quarter 2023 of the operators as well as issue on coordination between the operators and local authority/administration, and annual plan 2024, to ensure the improvement in the future.
- Other issues related to EORE operation.

III. Detail/Content of Meeting

The meeting was officially started at 8:30 am. After opening remarks by the chair of meeting, the participants have been reported and discussed on various issues as the follows:

- The EORE Unit, NRA Office provided a report on the implementation of EORE in the fourth quarter of 2023; reviewed on the previous quarter's meeting (Q3,2023), specifically the remaining issues and ongoing problems; reported on the development progress of long-term EORE workplan 2024-2030. The EORE Unit proposed the UXO operators to provide inputs/comments on the results and recommendations of KAP survey. The meeting was also addressed report templates/forms to be uploaded on database including Radio Report Template for 10 provinces where EORE operations took place, Report Template of Volunteer in Village, Report Template for UXO operators. Moreover, the EORE Unit also reported on the monitoring results of EORE operations conducted by the UXO operators.
- Victim Assistance Unit provided an update on the statistics of UXO accidents in 2023, noting a significant increase.
- The UXO operators reported on the implementation of EORE operations during the fourth quarter and presented on the future workplan for 2024. This included discussing challenges, achievements, limitations, constraints, lessons learnt in 2023. The operators were also welcomed for feedback from the meeting.
- Additionally, the meeting also facilitated an exchange views and further discussion.

IV. Points of Agreement in Meeting

- The meeting proposed the UXO operators to continue implementing their activities under MOUs, jointly signed with NRA Office.
- The meeting proposed the UXO operators to enhance coordination between the UXO operators and related organizations to facilitate and improve the implementation of EORE.
- The meeting proposed the UXO operators to review on their EORE teams, including the contents of EORE, equipment/tools, and advocates, in accordance with the national standards to ensure a consistent direction in EORE operations, subsequently reducing number of accidents.
- The meeting proposed the EORE Unit and Victim Assistance Unit take their leadership roles in reviewing and reevaluating the occurred accidents, including the causes of accidents, and whether the victims used to participate in EORE previously. These issues have been brought to discuss in the meeting and it is noticed that the cause of accident mostly occur from digging on insecure land, and most of victims have never been participated to dissemination on EORE and danger of UXOs, some cases were occurred before the EORE.
- The meeting proposed UXO operators to inspect and check on the EORE disseminator whether have passed the UXO training course or not? if not, it is strongly suggested to work harder and deeper on the content of EORE advocacy to ensure the ease understanding of participants.
- The villages, where the accident occurred, proposed EORE teams to conduct more EORE operations in their villages.

- The meeting agreed that the EORE Unit and Information Management Unit to deeply discuss and unify on the report template/forms and to provide training course for UXO operators.
- The meeting proposed to develop plan of activities for 2024 in detail for ease monitoring, encouragement, and implementation.

V. Proposals of Meeting

- The meeting proposed EORE unit to take its leadership to monitor and encourage the UXO operators, particularly some operators have not followed their workplans, proved and appeared in indicators.
- The meeting proposed UXO operators to submit Annual Workplan 2024 to NRA office.
- NPA proposed NRA office that NPA would like to conduct EORE operation in the villages for this 2023, where the accidents occurred, in Salavanh and Sekong provinces, (if NRA office has yet tasked UXO Lao). In 2024, NPA will have a plan to conduct EORE operation in 53 villages anyway, and it expects to be able in conducting the operations before the end of project or expiration of MOU.
- HALO Trust acknowledged the report regarding the insufficiency of posters for EORE dissemination. Therefore, it proposed NRA Office to print and use Vinyl banner/posters as it has best quality, and it avoids the damage of poster.
- In updating national standards, there will be a meeting in 2024 for the discussion, in particularly to discuss on EORE.
- HALO Trust propose that it should have a simulation in conducting EORE activities.
- HALO Trust requested more information on the victim who has got eyes surgery as it used to be informed in the previous meeting. It is curious whether the victim is able to come back and see again, or whether he/she has got completely blind or not?. It also shared information that there are two cases of completely blind and not completely blind in Sepon and Vilabuly districts. HALO trust needs to have clear information to clarify and inform the victims. To this case, the meeting recommended HALO Trust to check with Victim Assistance Unit.
- The meeting proposed NRA office to host a meeting to discuss in deep and comprehensive detail on development of posters on Mines.
- Terra Renaissance proposed and invited NRA office, the ministry of information, culture and tourism, the ministry of education and sport, and related organizations to have a EORE site visit under Terra Renaissance's project. It will be covered all expenses including the travel, per diem rate, food, and accommodation.
- It is proposed UN agency to invite specialist to provide explanation and training/workshop on the attitude change theory and the result of KAP Survey for UXO operators.
- It is proposed Victim Assistance Unit to check on the hotline (1603), should it be set up in every province in the future.
- The ministry of education and sport proposed NRA office to consider in adding UXO subject/lesson in schools across the country, particularly in 8 provinces that do not have this lesson/subject.

- It is proposed the ministry of information, culture and tourism to take its key role in coordinating, implementing and monitoring on the radio campaign in 10 provinces.
- World Education (WE) requested to have advertisement spots using on radio channel. The meeting tasked WE to submit the request letter to NRA office and related organizations for the approval.
- Terra Renaissance proposed to compile data of children (start from 03 years old up) into KAP Survey
- The meeting proposed to start implementing the Gender Equality Action Plan 2024.

VI. Conclusion

The chair of the meeting delivered his closing remark. Subsequently, he extended his gratitude and thanks to all participants, and wishing participants from UXO operators good health and success. The meeting was officially closed on 24 November 2023.