



Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare

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

No. 460 /NRA.O

Vientiane Capital, Date : 03 September 2021

To: Director General of NRA Office

Subject: The Report of the Third Quarter, 2021 Meeting of Mine Risk Education Technical Working Group and its ways forward and focus areas of works in the Fourth Quarter, 2021.

- In reference to the Decision of Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, No. 3639/MLSW, dated 21st September 2018 on the mandates of the Office of the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR;
- In reference to the Third Quarter 2021 Workplan of The National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR.

Mine Risk Education Unit, The Office of National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR has the great honor to report on the Third Quarter 2021 Meeting of the Mine Risk Education Technical Working Group and its way forwards and focus areas of work in the Fourth Quarter 2021. The Meeting has scheduled in the morning of the 25th August 2021 in NRA Office, chaired by Mr. Duangsy THAMMAVONG, Deputy Director General of NRA Office. The detail of the meeting is below:

1. The Objectives of the Third Quarter 2021 Meeting of MRE Technical Working Group

- To report on the implementation of UXO Mine Risk Education of operators in the third quarter 2021, including achievements, difficulties and challenges during the outbreak of COVID-19;
- To discuss, seek and exchange information on UXO incidents/causalities and solution approaches.
- To identify and set ways forward and focus areas of works in the Fourth Quarter, 2021.

2. Participants

The MRE Technical Working Group was virtually conducted through Zoom Application and participated by Representatives from Department of Art Education, Department of General Education, the Ministry of Education and Sport, Department of Mass Media, the Ministry Information, Culture and Tourism, Department of Youth Movement, the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union, the Lao National UXO Programme, Lao National Radio, Humanity and Inclusion (HI), HALO Trust, Xiengkhaung Terra Renaissance, Mine Advisory Group (MAG), World Education (WE), Victim Assistance Unit, NRA Office, and Specialist from UNDP.

3. The Conduct of Meeting

The Third Quarter, 2021 Meeting of Mine Risk Education Technical Working Group was chaired by Mr. Duangsy THAMMAVONG, Deputy Director of NRA Office and conducted in accordance with the agenda as the follows:

The meeting has briefly reported on the development of workplans/activities under MOUs of the operators including HI, HALO Trust, Terra Renaissance, MAG, and Lane Xang Minerals Limited Company. During the meeting, Victim Assistance Unit also reported on the occurred UXO casualties from January to August 2021 with 25 times, total number of victims is 43 people, 10 deaths, 33 injuries. The accident is mostly caused from setting campfire for cooking, digging land for cassava plantation, slashing and burning agriculture, digging land for setting water pipelines. Most of accidents was occurred in Savannakhet province as well as in Xiengkhuang province. The meeting has discussed, sought and exchanged information on the UXO accidents/causalities and solution approaches; reported on the focus area of works of the Mine Risk Education Unit in the Fourth Quarter, 2021, the developing format/forms of related sectors in mine risk education works, the mine risk education indicators related to the 5th Five-Years Labour and Social Welfare Development Plan 2021-2025.

In this connection, the representatives/stakeholders from Department of Art Education, Department of General Education, the Ministry of Education and Sport, Department of Mass Media, the Ministry Information, Culture and Tourism, Department of Youth Movement, the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union, the Lao National UXO Programme (UXO Lao), Lao National Radio, Humanity and Inclusion (HI), HALO Trust, Xiengkhaung Terra Renaissance, Mine Advisory Group (MAG), World Education (WE) and Lane Xang Minerals Limited, have reported on the implementation of activities related to the Mine Risk Education of the Third Quarter , 2021 including the achievements, difficulties and challenges during the outbreak of COVID-19 as well as their focus area of works for the Fourth Quarter .

4. The Meeting's Achievements:

- The participants acknowledged on the workplans on Mine Risk Education of the operators namely Humanity and Inclusion (HI), HALO Trust, Terra Renaissance and the Lao National UXO Programme (UXO Lao).
- The participants acknowledged on the situation and some issues/difficulties related to the implementation of the activities on the Mine Risk Education during the outbreak of COVID-19. Each operator has faced and learned from the achievements and difficulties. For instance, HI did not complete its MRE activities due to the late and delayed MOU approval; HALO Trust must reassess its MRE activities particularly the content and media tools to appropriately adapt with the real situation of the local area since it is found that the UXO incident still has been occurred in a village where the MRE took place; Terra Renaissance did not achieve its goal in implementing MRE activities due to the schools close and the difficulty of road access to the target villages; while UXO Lao faced lack of budget in implementing the activity.

- The participant understood on the reporting form for the MRE activity. The form will contribute in developing workplans 2022 before submitting to NRA in November 2021.
- The participants acknowledged the plan, expected outcomes and indicators of MRE works under the Five-Year Plan of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, particularly to conduct of education on the danger/impact and background/history of UXOs in Laos for 3000 times in targeted villages; to provide and increase the UXO education schemes for 500 educational institutions; to reduce the number of victims from UXOs down to 40 people/year/

5. The Meeting's Proposals

- The Meeting proposed for further discussion on the MRE in detail at the upcoming fourth quarter meeting.
- The Meeting proposed to change the term from “MRE” to “EORE” instead;
- The Meeting proposed to take MRE workplan/activities to link-up with COVID-19 information dissemination in social media such as in videos, tv and YouTube.

Therefore, we have reported to you for your information and guidance.

Chair of the Meeting

Prepared by