



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

No. 533 /NRA.O
Vientiane Capital, Date : 29 October 2021

To: Director General of NRA Office

Subject: The Report of the Fourth Quarter, 2021 Meeting of Mine Risk Education Technical Working Group and Annual Plan 2022.

- 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 Fourth 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 Fourth Quarter 2021 Meeting of the Mine Risk Education Technical Working Group. The Meeting has virtually scheduled in the morning of the 26th August 2021 via Zoom Application in NRA Office, chaired by Mr. Chomyaeng PHENTHONGSAWAT, Director General of NRA Office. The detail of the meeting is below:

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

- To discuss, seek and exchange experiences regarding the implementation of Mine/UXO Risk Education of related operators in the fourth quarter 2021 including the achievements, difficulties and challenges during the outbreak of COVID-19;
- To discuss on Annual Plan 2022 to continue the implementation of Mine/UXO Risk Education;
- To discuss and research on the expected indicators.

2. Participants


The MRE Technical Working Group was virtually conducted through Zoom Application and participated by Representatives from Department of Sport and Art Education, Ministry of Education and Sport, 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, Xiangkhaung Terra Renaissance, Mine Advisory Group (MAG), World Education (WE), Lane Xang Mineral Company (Chifeng) and the Victim Assistance Unit, NRA Office.

3. The Conduct of Meeting

Under the chairmanship of Mr. Chomyaeng PHENTHONGSAWAT, Director General of NRA Office, the meeting was conducted according to the agenda as the follows:

During the meeting, Ms. Sisavanh KHAMMOUNGKHOUN, Head of Mine Risk Education Unit reported and reviewed on the outcome of the previous Third Quarter 2021 Meeting (the implementation of MRE in 9 months, 2021, the Implementation Plan for three months of the end of 2021, the difficulties and remaining issues during the outbreak of the COVID-19 and Annual Plan 2022 including the cooperation plan with related ministries such as the Ministry of Education and Sport, the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, and the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union). Furthermore, the Meeting was reported by Victim Assistance Unit regarding information on UXO incident/casualty from January to October 2021. There were 28 times of accidents with 48 victims, 11 deaths and 37 injuries. The accident is mostly caused from setting fire for cooking, digging land for cassava plantation, slashing and burning agriculture, digging land for setting water pipelines. Therefore, the participants have discussed and sought the way to decrease the number of accidents.

4. The Meeting Agreed on the following issues:

- To seek and reconsider on the National Standards on Mine/UXOs Risk Education, regarding the direct and indirect beneficiaries of MRE activities to ensure the effectiveness and the positive change of behavior and attitude of people;
- Humanity and Inclusion (HI) to submit the proposed letter on the draft Concept Paper on UXOs Education for school and youths to the Ministry of Education and Sport for consideration and subsequently submit to NRA Office.
- For the financial support/payment for the treatment of victim assistance, it is necessary to have specific coordination mechanism with World Education (WE) and Victim Assistance Unit.
- The operator to conclude and report the implementation of activities and its plan on Mine/UXO Risk Education.
- For the Concept Paper of World Education (WE) on the new project namely "Beware" 2021-2024, it is basically agreed. According to the regulation, the document shall be submitted to Department of General Education, Ministry of Education and Sport to consider and check on the content, subsequently submit to NRA Office for consideration.
- World Education (WE) to deeply coordinate with the central and local authorities for the implementation of the new project effectively.
- To enhance the coordination on Mine/UXO Risk Education with local authorities to ensure the strong connection for the promotion on negative impact of UXOs deeply and effectively.
- Related operators to work and recheck on the expected indicators, and to submit the implementation plan 2022 and focus targets to NRA office. 

5. The Meeting's Proposals

- The Meeting proposed to improve the risk education to be consistent with the real situation. It is noticed that most of accidents were occurred after completing advertisement/education.
- MAG Xiengkhuang proposed to change the frequency for implementation of risk education because in the previous, it was conducted only 3 times per one village. It is proposed to conduct 6 times per one village and separated into 2 target groups (children and adult) pursuant to the measures of government on the control of COVID-19, to avoid from big group of people.
- The meeting proposed to consider on the conduct of assessment and evaluation on the direct and indirect beneficiaries of Mine/UXO Risk Education through radios.
- The meeting proposed to include risk education media on air in the National TV Station, Radio to extend the content for all impacted provinces from UXOs.

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