



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

No 344 /NRA.O. QM
Vientiane Capital, Date: 21 July 2021

To: Director General of NRA Office

Subject: The mission report on the visit and monitoring to the UXO clearance operations of UXO Xiengkhuang Province.

I. Introduction

In reference to the Approval Letter of Director General of NRA Office, No 307/ NRA.O.A, dated 28th June 2021. The Quality Management Team of NRA, in conjunction with UXO Xiengkhuang Province and its SEOD4, has visited and monitored to UXO Non-Technical Survey, Clearance, Technical Survey and Disposal operations of UXO Xiengkhuang Province on 1st – 6th July 2021.

The member of monitoring team is listed below:

1. Mr. Vilaysack Vongsayachanh, Head of QM Unit, NRA Office.
2. Mr. Bounhieng Soukchanthalavong, Technician, QM Unit, NRA Office
3. Mr. Phouvong Sisamak, Technician/Driver, QM Unit, NRA Office
4. Mr. Noupit Xaysana, Technician, QM Unit, NRA Office
5. Mr. Sengkeo Sysomboun, Technical Officer, PRA Xiengkhuang Province

Representatives from UXO Xiengkhuang Province:

1. Mr. Korlakan, Deputy Coordinator of UXO Xiengkhuang Province
2. Ms. Saysamone Nuanthasing, SOED, UXO Xiengkhuang Province

II. Purpose of the visit and monitoring

The visit and monitoring is focused on the techniques of Area Clearance of UXO Xiengkhuang Province as indicated in its Annual Plan 2021 as well as other related operations namely UXO clearance, Non-Technical Survey, Technical Survey, Risk Education in 3 districts : Pek district, Phoukoud district and Kham district.

III. Number of personnel and qualification

The total staff number of UXO Xiengkhuang Province is 198 people, 19 administrative staffs, 06 females, 04 SEODs, 02 females, 186 site operation staffs, 38 females. There are 20 teams comprising of 12 clearance teams (financially supported by New Zealand), 02 technical survey teams, 01 non-technical survey team, 01 risk education team. Besides, Japan also financially supports for 02 area clearance teams and 01 mechanical clearance team. Those mentioned clearance staffs have passed training course from the UXO National Training Center.

IV. The Status of the Implementation of UXO Xiengkhuang Province

- **Risk Education (RE):** According to the annual plan, there are 50 villages for the RE operation, UXO Xiengkhuang Province successfully conducted RE in 018 villages, the total number of participants is 21,985 (14,320 males and 7,665 females) or equal 36% of the annual plan.
- **Non-Technical Survey (NTS):** According to the annual plan, there are 15 villages, the UXO Xiengkhuang province conducted NTS in 07 villages, 60 UXOs (48 bombies and 12 explosive ordnances) were found. the number of beneficiaries is 3,433 people (2,282 males and 1,151 females) or equal 52% of the annual plan.
- **Area Clearance (AC):** conducted according to CHA information from TS operation. according to the annual plan 2021, there are 752 ha, the UXO Xiengkhuang Province successfully conducted area clearance 392 ha, several types of UXOs including: 01 bomb, 6,244 bombies, 2,308 explosive ordnances (8,552 in total) were found. The total number of beneficiaries is 3,792 people, 1,265 females or equal 52% of the annual plan.
- **Technical Survey (TS):** According to the annual plan, there are 1,200 ha for two TS teams to survey and identify for hazardous areas. The teams successfully identified as CHA 777 ha, 895 UXOs (742 bombies and 153 explosive ordnances) were found, or equal 64% the annual plan;
- **Roving Task (RT):** it has not indicated in the annual plan. UXO Xiengkhuang conducted RT for 141 times based on the request and report of villagers. 2,738 UXOs (1,454 bombies, 1,283 ordnances and 01 land mine) were found. The total number of beneficiaries is 5,674 people (3,738 males and 1,936 females)

V. The visit and monitoring the operations in work sites.

The teams visited and monitor the operations in work sites in 04 villages: Naxaythong village, Hanguam village, Phoukoud district and Muangpha village, Bie village, Pek district, Xiengkhuang Province. It can be observed as the follows:

- Visited and monitored the TS team (TS 02), in Muangpha village, Pek district, Xiengkhuang province, Task ID: UXOlao_TS_2021_0901087, the TS operation has been starting since 4th June 2021 (to resolve the previous remaining CHA). The method for TS, not lower than 50% of box 50x50, using 02 survey units (4 surveyors per 1 unit) positioning in 4 directions, the first surveyor to start from 45-degree corner, the second surveyor to start from 135-degree corner, the third surveyor to start from 225-degree corner, and the fourth surveyor to start from 135-degree corner. Start to survey outside of the corners to the center of the box. During the survey, 102 submunitions and 24 explosive ordnances were found in the public land of the village. the total number of beneficiaries is 25 families, 150 people (73 males and 77 females).
- Visited and monitored Area Clearance team (AC 12) in an ongoing work site of Naxaythong village, Phoukoud district, Xiengkhuang province, Task ID: UXOlao_AC_2021_0906014_007, the operation has been starting since 28 June 2021, and expected to complete

on 24 July 2021. It is agriculture land with the total area of 48,779 m². The total number of beneficiaries is 15 people. In this site, the QM team from NRA has observed and monitored the disposal of two BLUs at GPS point (E 103.11832-N 19.60312 and E 103.11790 N 19.60333). Through the monitoring, it is noticed that the disposal was yet implemented properly. It is suggested that the AC team leader to review on the safety requirements of the UXO disposal in national standards, Chapter 8 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), No. 8.1 and 14 as well as the SOPs of UXO Lao Chapter 4 Explosive Ordnance Disposal, No. 6.2, 6.5, 7.1 regarding safety requirements of the disposal. Upex 740 M, Vallon detectors are used in the operation team.

Furthermore, the QM team from NRA office also conducted Quality Control (QC) in 05 cleared sites, the detail is in below:

- According to the conduct of QC, the team found tail section of a 20 lbs of bomb which is bigger than stipulated in existing standards (a half (1/2) of BLU 26). Therefore, it considered that the operation is failed and inconsistent with SOPs of UXO Lao, Chapter 6 the quality control and assurance, No. 4.1.3. procedures of internal quality control (the disposal is failed), No. 6.1.2 external quality control inspection (the disposal is failed in a,b,c) and National Standard, Chapter 19 Quality Management, No. 7.4, a,b,c. For Task ID: UXOlao_AC_2021_0906014_004, it is requested that AC Team 02 to reconduct its operation 100% in 51,220 m² over again. After completing the operation, it is requested the team to report to the UXO Xiengkhuang and subsequently submit to NRA office.
- The four sites that have been inspected and passed the external quality control:
Task ID: UXO Lao_AC_2021_0906014_005 = 2,09%
Task ID: UXO Lao_AC_2021_0901044_004 = 3,00%
Task ID: UXO Lao_AC_2021_0901044_005 = 2,38%
Task ID: UXO Lao_AC_2021_0901022_004 = 2,48%

The four sites are safe and none of any fragments that is bigger than a half of BLU26 as indicated in National Standards.

VI. Results of the monitoring

- The UXO clearance operations is safe in general;
- The site team commander and the assistants have their profession and qualification, all EODs have passed the training course from the UXO National Training Center.
- The control and administration area, command post, medical support post, detectors/equipment storage, vehicle parking, Rubbish pit, toilet, metal collection point, explosive store and UXO storage area are technically established in consistence with its SOPs and National Standards.
- All operation teams have followed its annual plan, the technical survey teams and non-technical teams provide the clearance area information for the clearance teams. the clearance

operation is conducted along with the disposal operation. in case, if they found an unmovable UXO, the team will destroy it within the day.

- After completing the clearance in any box, the team leader always conducts QC 10%, and SEOD4 will also conduct another QC 2% on the whole cleared area before issuing handover certificate to the owner of the land.

VII. Remaining Issues

- The leader of AC team 02 did not implemented properly in the disposal operation. It is suggested that the AC team leader to review on the safety requirements of the UXO disposal in national standards, Chapter 8 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), No. 8.1 and 14 as well as the SOPs of UXO Lao Chapter 4 Explosive Ordnance Disposal, No. 6.2, 6.5, 7.1 regarding safety requirements of the disposal
- A tail section of a 20 lbs bomb was found in the depth of 30 cm during the QC, which is bigger than indicated in the standards. Therefore, it is suggested to reconducted its operation 100% of 51,220 m² over again in the site Task ID: UXO Lao_AC_2021_0906014_004. After completing, to report to UXO Xiengkhaung Province and subsequently submit the report to NRA office.

VIII. Conclusion

UXO Xiengkhuang Province implemented their UXO clearance operations in aligning with the SOPs and National Standards.

Therefore, we have reported to you for your information.

Director General of NRA Office

Standard and Quality Assurance Unit

Delivered Location:

- UXO Lao Vientiane Capital 'for report'
- UXO Xiengkhuang Province 'for information'
- NRA Office 'for filing'