



Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare

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

No. 437/NRA.O. QM

Vientiane Capital, Date: 25 August 2021

To: Director General of NRA Office

Subject: The mission report on the visit and monitoring to the UXO Clearance Operations of Mines Advisory Group (MAG) in Xiengkhuang Province

I. Introduction

In reference to the Approval letter of Director General of NRA Office, No 406/ONRA, dated 11th August 2021. The Quality Management Team of NRA, in conjunction with SEOD4 of MAG, have visited and conducted monitoring to UXO Clearance, Technical Survey and Disposal Operations of MAG in Xiengkhuang Province from 15th – 22nd August 2021.

The member of monitoring team is listed below:

1. Mr. Vilaysack Vongsayachanh, Head of the Quality Management Unit, NRA office
2. Mr. Bounhieng Soukchanthakavong , Technician, QM Unit, NRA office
3. Mr. Phouvong Sisamak, , Technician/Driver, QM Unit, NRA office
4. Mr. Souksavanh Chanthasomboun, Technician, QM Unit, NRA office
5. Mr. Sonexay Phommatham, Technician on Medical Support, QM Unit, NRA office
6. Mr. Sengkeo Sisomboun, Technical Staff, PRA Xiengkhuang Province

Representatives from MAG:

1. Mr. Xayyavong Khiengthaouthon, SEOD, MAG
2. Ms. Maxmani Mungnormek, Chief of Xiengkhuang Provincial Operation, MAG
3. Mr. Sin Sisoulath, Head of Internal Inspection Team, MAG
4. Ms. Bualapha Inthavongsa, Medical Chief, MAG

II. Purpose of the visit and monitoring

To follow up and monitor the operations, focusing on the techniques of UXO clearance, the control and administration, as well as observing the techniques of UXO Survey, clearance and disposal in order to ensure high efficiency, being safer and improving the operations; and to tracking on the progress of work plan implementation and for controlling and systemizing all operations into the same standards.

III. Number of MAG personnel and qualification in Xiengkhuang Province

The total number of MAG Staff in Xiengkhaung is currently 801 people, 269 females, comprise of 28 Administrative/Support Staffs, 05 females and 773 Site Operation Staffs, 264 females, 03 Foreign Experts and 01 Lao Expert. Those are working in the different teams as the follows:

- 29 Clearance Teams
- 20 Technical Surveys
- 04 Roving Task Teams
- 02 Vegetation Cutting Teams
- 03 Internal Quality Inspection Teams
- 03 Community Liaison Teams

MAG Xiengkhuang Province received the financial supports from WRA to implement two operations including MK 2761 for Area Clearance and MJ 2416 for Technical Survey in 05 districts of Xiengkhuang Province namely Pek, Phukoud, Phaxay, Khoun and Nonghat. According to the Annual Plan 2021, MAG has set the target for its Area Clearance with the total number of 8,944,250 m² and Technical Survey for 96,500,000 m².

IV. The status of the implementation of UXO clearance operation.

Activities and the progress of the implementation under its Annual Plan 2021:

- Area Clearance based on CHA: MAG conducted its clearance operation from January to August 2021, successfully cleared the area 3,183,000 m² as the total number. Among of those, 855,991 m² was cleared based on CHA or equal 26,89%, 862 UXOs was destroyed, the total number of beneficiaries are 15,010 people.
- Technical Survey: MAG conducted its technical survey from January to August 2021. 122 sites were identified as hazardous area. Within CHA 74,845,000 m², MAG successfully destroyed 5,930 UXOs, or equal 77,56%.
- Roving Task: Based on the report information of villagers, MAG conducted Roving Task for 756 times and destroyed 1,135 UXOs. The total number of beneficiaries is 8,092 people.

V. Site Visit and Monitoring

- Visited and monitored clearance team (AC 27) in Huaysung village, Phoukoud district, Xiengkhuang province, Task ID: MAG_AC_2021_0901069. The total number of personnel is 34 people including 03 team leaders, 02 deputy team leaders, 20 EODs, 03 medics, 03 drivers, 03 staffs who looks after the camp. The clearance operation has been started to conduct since 17 July 2021 and expected to complete on 03 September 2021. The total number of set area is 100,00 m², successfully cleared only 20,602 m² and found 15 BLU26s.
- Visited Technical Survey Team (TS) in Mee village, Phoukoud district, Xiengkhuang province, Task ID: MAG_TS_2021_0901082_135. The total number of personnel is 13 people including 01 team leader, 01 deputy team leader, 08 EODs, 01 medic, 01 driver and 01 staff who look after the camp. The Technical Survey Team has conducted its operation

since 12 August 2021, and 270,000 m² were successfully surveyed and 28 BLU26s were found.

- The QM team from NRA also visited and monitored to the cleared sites (where a land mine (M16) was found), Task ID: MAG-AC-2021-0901066-065, in Lat Ngon village, Pek district, Xiengkhuang province. The total number of set area is 81,719 m², successfully cleared only 52,814 m² and found 06 UXOs including 04 BLU26s, 01 mortar bullet (size 60 mm) and 01 M16 Anti-Personnel Land Mine, at GPS point (48q 0302086-2157449). MAG has stopped clearance operation in said site and already notified to the local authority and submitted written report to NRA for consideration and seeking for further guidance (the report is enclosed along with this mission report).

Conducted the Quality Control of the following 04 cleared sites:

- Task ID: MAG-AC-2021-0901069-055, the total area number is 75,567 m², conducted QC 2% in 2 boxes, 30x30x2=1,800 m²
- Task ID: MAG-AC-2021-0907028-044, the total area number is 35,035 m², conducted QC 2% in 20 boxes 20x30x2=1,200 m²
- Task ID: MAG-AC-2021-0906032-059, the total area number is 10,000 m², conduct QC 2% in 02 boxes, 20x20x1=400 m²
- Task ID: MAG-AC-2021-0906016-040, the total area number is 47,500 m², conducted QC 2% in 02 boxes, 20x30x2=1,200 m².

According to the QC conduct of QM team from NRA in 04 sites, it is found that the sites are safe and none of any fragment that bigger than a half (1/2) of BLU26 as stipulated in the national standards was found or equal 12,32% of the four sites.

VI. Results of the monitoring:

- After monitoring to the document system, the support, the control, administration and marking system of MAG Xiengkhuang province, it is found that MAG Xiengkhuang has systematically managed document and information such as: Survey Report level 2, Completion Report level 3, internal quality control form, diary record, Unidentified UXOs Report form, Accident Response Plan, detail of staff blood group and so on , which is consistent with existing SOPs.
- MAG Xiengkhuang implemented its operations in consistence with SOPs and national standards such as the medical support, site control and administration, communication, marking system, ambulance/safety vehicle, UXO clearance and its procedures. Everyday, the clearance team check and test the two types of detectors (Upex 740 M and PIDDD) on objectives of a half BLU26 in the depth of 25 cm before conducting UXO clearance.
- MAG Xiengkhuang tested to conduct QC of the team leader from 10% before to 100%, and from 2% of SEOD to 10%

VII. Conclusion

According to the visit and monitoring of the QM team from NRA, it can be concluded as the follows:

- In the drill on accident response plan in the site, the team leader has yet implemented properly such as the control of incident area.
- Site medics and team leader, to put more effort/intention in providing medical assistance to the patient in order to ensure the proper techniques such as taking CPR and using medical gloves.
- It is observed that the technical survey team leader has yet implemented properly when using electricity for UXO disposal particularly to clear out static electricity from the body.

To sum up, MAG Xiengkhaung properly implemented its operation in consistence with its SOPs and the existing national standards.

Therefore, we have reported to you for your information.

Director General of NRA Office

Standard and Quality Assurance Unit

Delivered Location:

- MAG Vientiane for information
- MAG Xiengkhuang for implementation
- NRA office for filing
- PRA Xiengkhuang province for information