



**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.194/NRA.QM  
Vientiane Capital, Date : 02 March 2023

**To:** Director General of NRA Office

**Subject:** The mission report on the visit and monitoring to the UXO clearance operations of Humanity & Inclusion (HI), and the result of quality control in Huaphan Province.

## **I. Introduction**

According to the approval letter of Director General of NRA Office, No. 112/ NRA.O, dated 06<sup>th</sup> February 2023 on the authorization of Management Unit, NRA Office, in conjunction with PRA Huaphan Province to visit, monitor and inspect the UXO clearance, survey, and disposal operations on 06<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 in Huaphan Province, under the Memorandum of Understanding between the NRA and Humanity & Inclusion (HI).

The member of monitoring team is listed below:

1. Mr. Bounnan Lattanavong, Technician, QM Unit, NRA Office.
2. Mr. Phouvong Sisamak, Technician, QM Unit, NRA Office.
3. Mr. Sonexay Phommatham, Technician, QM Unit, NRA Office.
4. Mr. Tui Sayyasane, Technician, QM Unit, NRA Office.
5. Mr. Vongseng Sisoulit, Technician, QM Unit, NRA Office.
6. Mr. Vongsackda Keochoumsy, Technical Officer, PRA Huaphan Province.

### **Representatives from HI:**

1. Mr. Pasoupharp Moukdala, HI provincial Coordinator
2. Mr. Pina Sibounhoueng, SEOD, Deputy Provincial Coordinator, Hua Mueng district, Huaphan Province.
3. Ms. Vasana Thepvongsa, Chief of Medic, HI

## **II. Purpose of the visit and monitoring**

The purpose of the site visit is to conduct a follow-up and monitoring of the operations, with a specific focus and observe on techniques related to control/administration practices in place, UXO clearance and disposal with the ultimate goal of ensuring high efficiency and safety while improving overall operations as well as to support the progress of implementation, and to control all operations in line with the same set of standards.

### **1. The UXO clearance operation implemented by Humanity & Inclusion (HI)**

According to Memorandum of Understanding between the government of Lao PDR represented by NRA and Humanity & Inclusion (HI), there are seven key activities including Non-Technical Survey (NTS), Technical Survey (TS), Area Clearance (AC), Roving Task (RT), Victim Assistance (VA), Mine/UXO Risk Education (MRE), and capacity building for

local authorities. These activities have been implemented under the financial support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherland from 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021- 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023.

## **2. Number of HI personnel and qualification in Hua Mueng District**

There are 71 HI staffs, of which 27 females, and one foreign expert in Hua Mueng District. Those include 11 administrative staff (02 females), 43 clearance staff (EODs), 06 drivers, 02 Community Liasson Staff (01 female), 18 EOD1 staffs (11 females), 02 EOD2 staffs (01 female), 03 EOD3 staffs (01 female), 02 EOD4 (one Lao staff), 05 medics (04 females), 02 NTS staffs, 08 TS staffs, and 01 foreign expert. Among of these staffs, HI also assigned 12 staffs to work in Phongsaly Province. HI has several teams including TS team, community information team, clearance team, and roving task team. The community information team also carries out its responsibility to conduct Mine/UXO Risk Education and non-technical survey at the same time. All of these staff have passed training courses, provided by HI.

## **3. Monitoring technical surveys, area clearance, disposal, and quality control in the sites.**

The monitoring team visited the technical survey team in site of Khang Khao village, Hua Mueng district. There are 11 members of TS team, who have started to operate since 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023. According to the technical survey, there are a total number of 1,725 beneficiaries (826 females, 899 males). It is observed that the TS team has emergency and accident response plan. The TS team uses of Z survey method/technique in six directions in accordance with its SOP to find and detect cluster munition. In the site, the TS team found and destroyed 32 BLU26s. The TS team always destroy the found UXOs in the last hour of its working day.

## **4. UXO Clearance Operation**

The monitoring team visited the UXO clearance sites in Pha Nang, Task ID: 705003 CL, AC, 183. It is an agriculture land (garden). The clearance team has implemented its activity since 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023, and expected to complete on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023. There are 15 members in the clearance team (including 09 EODs), and the total area for clearance is 97,500 m<sup>2</sup> with beneficiary of 05 families (40 people, 19 females). As of 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023, the team successfully achieve 6,825 m<sup>2</sup> of area clearance. Number of UXOs and bomblets were found in this site area. On 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023, the team will suspend its report submission of the cleared area. It needs to move to new site area, because it has to be hurry in achieving the rest target stipulated in MOU. Overall, it is observed that one EOD can achieve 100 m<sup>2</sup> per day. For the clearance technique, the team tasked each EOD to search and dig the found object. Other tasks were also tasked to other members. Those tasks include medical support, controlling/administration, taking care of communication system, marking signs for UXO clearance, site related-documents, vehicles for emergency, evacuation, and other medical equipment/tools. The UXO clearance operation implemented by the clearance team was in line with regulation, clearance procedures (the clearance team has tested all detectors before conducting its operations by searching for an object in the depth of 25 cm), and techniques for marking on found-UXOs. In this site area, the clearance team use MineLab F3s and L detectors for its clearance operation. For the internal quality control, it is observed that the team leader conducts 15% for EOD3, and 20% for EOD2. After EODs finished 5 lanes of a box, the team leader reconducted QC, and followed by SEOD4 with 2% QC on the site area.

HI works 9 days consecutive and has 2 days off for Saturday and Sunday. It also works 80 or 81 days consecutive (depend on actual working days in a month) and has 30 days off.

## **5. Quality Control in Cleared Sites**

The monitoring team conducted Quality Control in 5 cleared sites with total area number of 122,188 m<sup>2</sup>, and 2% QC area is 3,750 m<sup>2</sup> = 2,443%, actual result = 3,06%. The detail is appeared below:

1. Na Leng village, Task ID: HI-AC-2022-0705046-178, S=36,250 m<sup>2</sup>, QC%= 1,250 m<sup>2</sup> (25 m x 25 m) 2 Boxes;
2. Na Sam village, Task ID: HI-AC-2022-0705084-172, S=18,750 m<sup>2</sup>, QC%= 625 m<sup>2</sup> (25 m x 25 m) 1 Box;
3. Na Sam village, Task ID: HI-AC-2022-0705084 -177, S= 19,688 m<sup>2</sup>, QC% = 625 m<sup>2</sup> (25 m x 25 m) 1 Box;
4. Na Keng village, Task ID: HI-AC-2022-0705085-179, S= 22,500 m<sup>2</sup>, QC%= 625 m<sup>2</sup> (25 m x 25 m) 1 Box;
5. Vek village, Task ID: HI-AC-2022-0705086-171, S= 25,000 m<sup>2</sup>, QC%= 625 m<sup>2</sup> (25 m x 25 m) 1 Box.

## **III. Result of Monitoring**

According to the monitoring in the sites, quality control, and observation on UXO disposal implemented by HI, in Hua Mueng District, Hua Phan Province, it is found that all teams have carried out its operations in line with SOPs and the national standards. Some achievements and remaining issues are listed below:

### **1. Achievements/good points:**

- HI has a complete set of site documents including Records of Detector Testing, Records of Blood Group, Medical Equipment/tool, Record of Staff Allergy, SEOD's Monitoring Records, Record of Visitors, and others.
- Communication system including short wave system and mobile phone signals are stable.
- The clearance team always destroy the found-UXOs in last hour of their working days.
- Sufficiency of vehicles in the sites
- The monitoring team has internal quality control documents of HI
- It is observed in HI's quality control that the team leader conducts 15% and assistant to the team leader 20% in the cleared box to ensure the quality and safety.
- The previous remained issue was already addressed and improved by HI
- HI's Survey and Roving Task teams excellently carry out their operations, in line with safety and regulation as well as national standards.

- According to the QC of 5 cleared sites as mentioned in No.5 above, all these sites have met safety requirement and not found any fragment bigger a half of BLU26 as indicated in national standards.

**2. Remaining issues:**

- The medical team did not properly handle with neck support for patient,
- It is suggested HI to review on SOPs for the UXO disposal, especially principle on firing cable.