



**Lao People's Democratic Republic**  
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

**Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare**

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

No. 365  
Vientiane Capital, Date : 08 May 2023

**To:** Director General of NRA Office

**Subject:** The mission report on the visit and monitoring to the UXO clearance operations of MAG in Xiengkhuang Province, Phase III.

## **I. Introduction**

In reference with the approval letter of Director General of NRA Office, No 273/ NRA.O, dated 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 on the assignment of the Quality Management Unit, NRA Office to visit and monitor the UXO clearance operations of MAG in Xiengkhuang province on 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> April 2023. MAG Provincial Coordinator also jointly visited and monitored to the UXO clearance operation, and UXO technical and disposal operation. The member of monitoring team is listed below:

1. Mr. Bounhieng Soukchanthalavong, Technician, QM Unit, NRA Office
2. Mr. Laythong Chanhthathilath, Technician, QM Unit, NRA Office
3. Mr. Phouvong Sisamak, Technician/Driver, QM Unit, NRA Office
4. Mr. Phengsy Douangphanxay, Technician/Medic, QM Unit, NRA Office
5. Mr. Sonexay Phommatham, Technician/Medic, QM Unit, NRA Office
6. Mr. Bounhueang Sengthoummee, Technical Officer, PRA Xiengkhuang Province
7. Mr. Youngkham Vonglapha, Technical Officer, PRA Xiengkhuang Province

### **Representatives from MAG:**

1. Ms. Maxmanee Mungngormek, Provincial Operation Manager, MAG
2. Ms. Phouthasone Nuanthabout, Provincial Operation Manager, MAG
3. Ms. Phongsamout Saymala, QMT, 04
4. Mr. Tao Ya, Medic (PM), MAG Xiengkhaung Province

## **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 on techniques related to UXO survey, clearance, and disposal. The visit also aims to assess the quality control and administration practices in place, with the ultimate goal of ensuring high efficiency and safety while improving overall operations. Additionally, the visit serves to track the progress of work plan implementation and establish control measures to standardize all operations according to the same set of standards.

## **III. Number of personnel and qualification**

- The total number of personnel in MAG Xiengkhuang Province is 871 people, 306 females. Those includes 33 operational support staffs, 08 females, 838 field operational staffs, 298 females, 04 international experts, 01 female, and 01 Lao expert. Those staff are working in different teams as the follows:
- 02 Mine/UXO Risk Education Teams

- 01 Non-Technical Survey Team.
- 15 Technical Survey Teams.
- 37 Area Clearance Teams.
- 04 Roving Task Teams.

With the support from the Foreign Affairs Department of the US (WRA), MAG Xiengkhuang Province implements its clearance and disposal operations in 07 districts: Pek, Mork, Phoukoud, Phaxay, Khoun, Kham, and Nonghat districts. According to its Workplan 2023 (Phase III), the total area clearance is 11,129,600 m<sup>2</sup>, and for the technical survey area is 85,500,000 m<sup>2</sup>.

#### **Activities and Implementation Progress of Workplan 2021:**

- Mine/UXO Risk Education (MRE): According to MRE Workplan 2023, MAG has 48 villages for MRE operations. It has successfully implemented in 08 villages from January to February, which is equivalent to 7,1 of MOU.
- Non-Technical Survey (NTS): according to NTS Workplan 2023, MAG has 24 villages for NTS operation. MAG successfully conducted NTS in 04 villages from January to February, with 466 times of found-UXO, reported by villagers, 69 times were reported through online, 353 times were reported to village's administration and MAG, and 39 times were report through MRE campaigns. This is equivalent to 7,14% of MOU.
- Technical Survey (TS): According to TS Workplan 2023, MAG has 85,500,000 m<sup>2</sup> for TS operation. Out of such number, MAG successfully conducted TS of 15,260,000 m<sup>2</sup> from January to February, and identified 12,806,123 m<sup>2</sup> as CHA, found and destroyed 947 UXOs (932 bomblets). This is equivalent to 7,61% of its workplan.
- Area Clearance (AC): According to its AC workplan 2023, MAG has 11,129,600 m<sup>2</sup> for AC operation. Out of such number, It successfully conducted AC of 2,314,905 m<sup>2</sup> or equivalent to 20,7% of its workplan, and 1,026 UXOs were found and destroyed (988 bomblets, 38 of other explosive ordinances). There are 4,480 direct beneficiaries, and 20,830 indirect beneficiaries.
- Roving Task: conducted 422 times of roving task based on reports from villagers, and 546 UXOs were found and destroyed. There are 4,480 direct beneficiaries, and 20,830 indirect beneficiaries.

#### **IV. Results of Monitoring**

- Visited and observed AC Team (AC 75) was operating its operation in Na Xay village, Khoun District, Xiengkhuang Province, Task ID: MAG\_AC\_2023\_0904003\_127. The AC team has 12 members, including 01 team leader, 01 deputy team leader, 8 EODs, 01 medic, and 01 driver. The operation has been conducted since 03 April 2023, and expected to complete on 15 May 2023. With total area number of 32,169 m<sup>2</sup>, the AC team successfully conducted area clearance of 5,159 m<sup>2</sup>, and 06 BLU26s were found.

**The monitoring team conducted Quality Control in 13 cleared sites:**

1. Task ID: MAG-AC-2022-0901043-009,  $S=54.863 \text{ m}^2$ ,  $QC 2,2\% = 1,250 \text{ m}^2 (25 \times 25)$  x 2 boxs.
2. Task ID: MAG-AC-2022-0901043-198,  $S=68.995 \text{ m}^2$ ,  $QC2,1\%=1,500 (30 \times 50)$  x1 box
3. Task ID: MAG-AC-2022-09010999-187,  $S=76,862 \text{ m}^2$ ,  $QC 2,3\% = 1,800 \text{ m}^2 (20 \times 30)$  x 3 boxs
4. Task ID: MAG-AC-2022-0901999-188,  $S=53,908 \text{ m}^2$ ,  $QC 2,2\%=1,200 \text{ m}^2(30 \times 40)$  x 1 box
5. Task ID: MAG-AC-2022-0901064-232,  $S=71,260 \text{ m}^2$ ,  $QC 2,5\%=1,800 \text{ m}^2 (30 \times 20)$  x 3 boxs
6. Task ID: MAG-AC-2022-0901064-238,  $S=11,859 \text{ m}^2$ ,  $QC3,3\% = 400 \text{ m}^2 (4 \times 100)$  x 1 box
7. Task ID: MAG-AC-2022-0906008-122,  $S=100,000 \text{ m}^2$ ,  $QC2,5\%=2,500 \text{ m}^2 (50 \times 50)$  x 1 box
8. Task ID: MAG-AC-2022-0906008-184,  $S=68,125 \text{ m}^2$ ,  $QC2,2\%=1,500 \text{ m}^2, (25 \times 30)$  x2 boxs
9. Task ID: MAG-AC-2022-0906008-185,  $S=92,500,125 \text{ m}^2$ ,  $QC2,1\%= 2,000 \text{ m}^2 (25 \times 40)$  x 2 boxs
10. Task ID: MAG-AC-2023-0906018-034,  $S=34,642 \text{ m}^2$ ,  $QC 2,5\% = 900 \text{ m}^2 (30 \times 30)$  x 1 box
11. Task ID: MAG-AC-2023-0904052-003,  $S=59,388 \text{ m}^2$ ,  $QC 2,1\%=1,250 \text{ m}^2 (25 \times 25)$  x 2boxs
12. Task ID: MAG-AC-2023-0904054-067,  $S=21,631 \text{ m}^2$ ,  $QC 2,7\% = 600 \text{ m}^2 (60 \times 10)$  x2 boxes
13. Task ID: MAG-AC-2023-0904054-076,  $S=19,122 \text{ m}^2$ ,  $QC 2,9\%=560 \text{ m}^2 (8 \times 70)$  x1box.

During the monitoring of all 13 cleared sites, which encompass a total area of 733,155  $\text{m}^2$ , the Quality Management (QM) Unit of the NRA office established QC boxes at 23 specific locations. The results of the QC monitoring covered an area of 17,260  $\text{m}^2$ , which accounts for approximately 2.35% of the total area. It is noteworthy that all 13 cleared sites successfully meet the required safety standards, and no UXO fragments larger than half of a BLU26 ( $\frac{1}{2}$  BLU26) were detected, as specified by the national standards.

## V. Outcome of the Visit and Monitoring

- During the inspection and monitoring of the document system, operational support, control, and marking system at the sites, it has been observed that MAG Xiengkhuang Province maintains an efficient document and information management system. This system encompasses various documents such as Survey Report Level 2, Completion Report Level 3, Internal Quality Control Form, Daily Record Book, Unspecified UXO Report Form, Accident and Emergency Response Plan, Records of Blood Group of Staff, and other relevant documents. These

documents are compiled as a comprehensive set, aligning with the national standards and ensuring consistency throughout.

- The UXO clearance operation carried out by MAG Xiengkhuang Province follows standard operating procedures (SOPs) and national standards. This includes provisions for medical support, control/administration, communication, and a marking system at the site. Additionally, MAG has prepared vehicles for the efficient evacuation of patients, and the clearance activities are conducted in accordance with relevant regulations and procedures. Furthermore, MAG Xiengkhuang Province regularly performs experiments and tests on underground metal or half BLU26 objects at a depth of 25 cm. MAG conducts its UXO clearance operation by using two types of detectors: Vallon VMX-10 and Vallon VMH-4.

## **VI. Conclusion**

The Quality Management Unit, NRA Office would like to inform and conclude the result of the visit and monitoring as the following details:

- Marking System: it is observed that in marking the Start Point (SP) and Turning Point (TP) in some site areas, MAG failed to meet requirement. Some clearance teams used and left 3 metal pieces (30 cm length) in the rice farms.
- It is observed that team leader has limited knowledge in evaluating accident and emergency response plan and site control/administration.
- It is observed that all 13 cleared sites are met safety requirement, and not found any UXO fragment that bigger than a half of BLU26 ( $\frac{1}{2}$  BLU26) which is indicated in the national standards.

Throughout the monitoring and inspection of MAG's UXO Clearance in Xiengkhaung Province, it is found that MAG has carried out and technically followed the existing standard operating procedures (SOPs) and national standards.