



**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.162/NRA.QM  
Vientiane Capital, Date: 22 February 2023

**To:** Director General of NRA Office

**Subject:** The mission report on the visit and monitoring to the UXO clearance operations of Lao National UXO Programme (UXO Lao) in Attapue Province.

## **I. Introduction**

According to the approval letter of Director General of NRA Office, No. 110/ NRA.O, dated 06<sup>th</sup> February 2023, in conjunction with PRA Attapue Province, the Quality Management Unit, NRA Office was assigned to visit and monitor to the UXO clearance operations on 12<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> February 2023, with a particular focus on the clearance and disposal operations in Attapue Province.

The member of monitoring team is listed below:

1. Mr. Bounthavy Keovilay, Technician, QM Unit, NRA Office
2. Mr. Phuangson Somsombat, Technician, QM Unit, NRA Office
3. Mr. Bounpone Thammavongsa, Medic/ Technician, QM Unit, NRA Office
4. Mr. Khemphone Phasivongmixay, Medic Medic/ Technician, QM Unit, NRA Office
5. Mr. Santi Keovixay, Driver/ Technician, QM Unit, NRA Office
6. Mr. Kitvongxay Phouthavong, Technical Officer, PRA Attapue Province
7. Mr. Kuay Chanhvilayvanh, Technical Officer, PRA Attapue Province

### **Representatives from UXO Lao-Attapue Province:**

1. Mr. Somephone Saphouvong, Assistant to SEOD
2. Mr. Phouxay Keomanee, Assistant to SEOD
3. Ms. Viengkeo Bosipasueath, Chief of Site Medic, UXO Lao-Attapue 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 and observe on techniques related to: control/administration practices in place, UXO survey, clearance, disposal, medical support, and evaluation of emergency and accident response with the ultimate goal of ensuring high efficiency and safety while improving overall operations. Additionally, the visit serves to track the progress of 2023 workplan implementation, and to establish control measures to standardize all operations according to the same set of standards.

### **▪ Number of personnel and qualification**

UXO Lao-Attapue Province has 155 staffs (43 females). Those include 20 administration staffs (04 females), 153 field operational staffs (39 females) who are working in different

teams such as 01 Mine/UXO Risk Education team, 01 Non-Technical Survey team, 01 Technical Survey teams, and 11 Area Clearance teams. UXO Lao-Attapue Province has a complete set of administration structure, and all staffs have passed training courses from National UXO Training Centre.

▪ **Document System Inspection**

UXO Lao-Attapue 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 and Allergy of staff, and other relevant documents. These documents are compiled as a comprehensive set, aligning with the national standards and ensuring consistency throughout.

▪ **Implementation Progress of Annual Workplan 2023**

In 2023, UXO Lao-Attapue Province implements its annual workplan in 5 districts: Xaysetha, Samakixay, Sanamxay, Sanexay, Phouvong.

- Mine/UXO Risk Education (MRE): Out of 48 villages as set in the 2023 annual workplan, UXO Lao-Attapue Province has successfully conducted MRE in 06 villages.
- Non-Technical Survey (NTS): out of 12 villages as set in the annual workplan, UXO Lao-Attapue has successfully conducted NTS in 01 villages.
- Technical Survey (TS): according to the 2023 annual workplan, there are 28 villages. UXO Lao-Attapue Province has successfully achieved 27 ha.
- Area Clearance (AC): Out of 388,6 ha as indicated in the 2023 annual workplan, UXO Lao-Attapue Province has successfully achieved 39 ha.

Mine/UXO Risk Education and Non-Technical Survey operations are expected to successfully achieve as set in the 2023 annual workplan. However, the Technical Survey and Area Clearance would not be able to achieve as planned. In early 2023, UXO Lao-Attapue Province has organized number of report meetings, trainings, and other works, and it has delayed other site operations.

▪ **Monitoring in the site**

The monitoring team from NRA office visited on-going sites operated by AC 01, AC08 and TS 01 teams. the monitoring team observed on the implementation, control/administration, site setup, and also listened to a team leader on the status of the site as well as to monitor the UXO disposal, the drill/simulation on emergency and accident response of medic teams, particularly technique for saving life of injured persons and evacuating or moving them to emergency vehicles.

The monitoring team also conducted quality control in 06 cleared sites, total area number of 168,461 m<sup>2</sup>. The team conducted QC 4,425 m<sup>2</sup> = 2,62%. According to the external quality control by QM team, NRA office, none of any metal fragment bigger than a half (1/2) of BLU26 was found.

### **III. Results of Monitoring**

Throughout the visit of the monitoring team, it has some observations as follows:

**- Positive observations/Achievement:**

1. UXO Lao-Attapue Province operates its UXO clearance activities under SOPs, which is in line with the national standards.
2. The UXO clearance operation has met safety requirement.
3. All cleared sites have passed the QC, and not found any metal fragment bigger than a half (1/2) of BLU26.
4. Team leader and the assistants has professional and qualified skills, and EODs have passed training courses from the National UXO Training Centre.
5. The presentation and brief guides for the visitors in the site, a control/administration point, a medical operation point, a storage for keeping UXO detectors, a parking area, a rubbish pit, toilet, a storage area for metal fragment, a storage area for explosives, and a storage area for moveable UXOs are constructed/set/conducted in consistence with SOPs and the national standards.

**- Negative observation/Remaining Issues:**

1. Insufficiency of medical equipment/tool in the sites as stipulated in its SOPs, it is suggested UXO Lao-Attapue Province to request equipment support from its related organization to ensure efficiency and consistence with the Lao National UXO Lao Programme's SOP, Chapter 8, No. 3.2 Medical Equipment.
2. It is suggested the team leader to fill out the QA and QC forms carefully and clearer.
3. It is suggested the team leader to fill out the explosive utilization records form in every time taking them to use in the site.