

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity



Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare

NRA Office National Regulatory Authority for

No 0346 /NRA.O. QM

UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR

Vientiane Capital, Date : 31 May 2022

To: Director General of NRA Office

Subject: The Results of the Visit and QC Monitoring to the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) Operations in Xiengkhuang Province, during 12th – 19th May 2022.

I. Introduction

In reference to the Agreement of the Director General of NRA Office, No. 687/NRA.O.A, dated 6th November 2020. The Quality Management Team of NRA Office, in conjunction with PRA Xiengkhuang have visited and conducted QC monitoring to the MAG implementation of MoU and Standard Operating Procedures in Pek, Khoun, Phaxay, Phou Kout, Mok and Nong Hat districts, Xiengkhuang Province., on 12th – 19th May 2022. Team members are listed below:

1. Mr. Vilaysack Vongsayachanh, Technician, QM Unit, NRA Office
2. Mr. Bounnan Lattanavong, Technician, QM Unit, NRA Office
3. Mr. Phouvong Sisamak, Driver/Technician, QM Unit, NRA Office
4. Mr. Sonexay, Medics/Technician, QM Unit, NRA Office;
5. Mr. Sengkeo Sisomboun, PRA Xiengkhuang province

Representatives from MAG Xiengkhuang Province:

1. Mr. Vongchanh Rasamouny, Director of MAG Xiengkhuang Province
2. Mr. Xayyavong Khiengthaouthon, SEOD4 in Charge of the UXO Operations, MAG Xiengkhuang Province
3. Mr. Phimphone, SEOD4 in Charge of the UXO Operations, MAG Xiengkhuang Province
4. Ms. Manisia Thor, Trainer and QC manager, MAG Xiengkhuang Province
5. Mr. Long Vang, In charge of the UXO operation, MAG Xiengkhuang Province
6. Ms. Maxmani, In charge of the UXO operation, MAG Xiengkhuang Province
7. Ms. Bualapha, Chief of Field Medics.

1. Purpose of Monitoring

To follow up and monitor the operations, which highlighted and focused on the techniques of UXO clearance, administration as well as to observe the UXO Non-Technical Survey, Technical Survey, Clearance and Disposal, Quality Control in order to ensure high efficiency, being safer and

improving the operations as well as to tracking on the progress of its Annual Plan and controlling operations to the same standards.

2. Number of MAG Staff

The total number of MAG Staff in Xiengkhaung is 864 people, 301 females, comprise of 25 administrative staffs, 118 TS staffs, 26 NTS staffs, 60 team leaders, 51 deputy team leaders, 60 field medics, 323 technicians (EODs), 32 operation staffs, 61 drivers, 10 brush cutters, 03 cleaners and 93 camp guards. All mentioned technicians/staffs have passed training course from the MAG and the National UXO Training Center (Elay Center).

3. Visiting and Monitoring on the UXO Clearance Operations

With the support of WRA, Mines Advisory Group (MAG) has conducted its UXO Non-Technical Survey, Technical Survey Clearance and Disposal operations in Pek, Khoun, Phaxay, Phou Kout, Mok and Nong Hat districts, Xiengkhuang Province.

- 1.) Visited and monitored the UXO Survey, implemented by Team Mat 14, Task ID: MAG-TS-2022 0901107-049, at Lat Buak village, Pek district. The operation has started since 14 May 2022, the total area number is 77.500 m² (expected outcome: 13 boxes/day/team). According to the actual implementation, they can implement 16 boxes/day/team and found bomblets in 3 boxes, 20 green, 8 yellow and 37 brown boxes. If any UXO was found, they will always destroy within working hours.
- 2.) Visited and monitored to the UXO Clearance, implemented by Team Mat 75, Task ID: MAG-AC-2022 0903084-084, at Phuk Kae village, Nong Hat district, Xiengkhuang Province, the operation has started since 8 May 2022 and expected to complete on 17 May 2022, the total area number is 14.375 m², direct beneficiary is one family, 8 people. The detector using for the clearance is two Vallon VMX10 and six Vallon VMH4 and 02 BLU62 were found in the site. The clearance team always destroy the found UXO within a day before the end of working hour.

It is observed that the team Mat 75 has greatly implemented its operation, it has good document system and managed information systematically such as: having good communication, Survey Report Level 2, Completion Report Level 3, Internal Quality Control Form, Daily Detector Testing Records, Accident Response Plan, Unidentified UXO Report, Evacuation Plan, Staff Blood Group, Document concerning the Handover of Cleared Land which were considered as completed as per formulated in SOPs.

- 3.) The QM team, NRA Office conducted Quality Control in 03 sites in the following villages:

- Mang Village, Task ID: MAG-AC-2022-0906036-059, S=55.000 m², QC 2% S=1.200 m² (20m x 30m) x 2 Boxes.
- Nong Kang village, Task ID: MAG-AC-2021-0906020-098, S=166.677 m², QC 2% S= 3,525 m² (25m x 25m) x 5 Boxes, (20m x 40m) x 1 Box.
- Xay village, Task ID: MAG-AC-2022-0906017-010, S=40.739m², QC 2% S= 1.000 m² (20m x 25m) x 2 Boxes.

The total number area of 03 sites, S=262,416 m² and the total 2% QC area, S=5.725m²

II. Results of the monitoring

Throughout the visit and monitoring to the ongoing UXO Technical Survey, Clearance and Quality Control in the site, implemented by MAG Xiengkhuang Province, it is found that all the teams have conducted and followed the national standard. The detail is below:

1. Good Points/Achievements

- MAG has the completed set of documents in the sites including Daily Detector Testing Records, Staff Blood Group Record, Accident Response Plan, Record of Staff Allergy, SEOD Monitoring Records, Record of Visitors and others.
- The communication system including short wave signal and mobile signal is stable;
- Field vehicles is sufficient and enough;
- The UXO Technical Survey, implemented by MAG is in consistence with the national standards.
- MAG Xiengkhuang Province conducted Quality Control as the follows: The team leader always conducts 10% in the cleared box. For suspected sites or having UXO evidence, the clearance team have to implement 100% QC in order to ensure;
- MAG Xiengkhuang has internal quality control documents;

2. Remaining issue

- If any rotation of staff, it is highly suggested to keep the records of explosives using in the sites.
- The chief of medics to pay more attention to follow up and check field medics and medical kits since it takes too long in providing assistance to the patient and some pills is already expired such as Betadine which was expired since April 2022.