



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 0533 /NRA.O. QM
Vientiane Capital, Date : 20 August 2022

To: Director General of NRA Office

Subject: The Results of the Quality Assurance and Quality Control of NPA's UXO clearance Operations in Sekong Province

I. Introduction

In reference with the Approval letter of the Director General of NRA Office, No. 0488/NRA.O, dated 05th August 2022 regarding the assignment of the Quality Management Unit of NRA Office to visit and monitor to NPA's UXO Clearance operations on 11th-21st August 2022 in Sekong province particularly the implementation of project's activities under MOU and its SOPs in Lamam, Darkchueng and Thateng districts. The member of monitoring teams is listing below:

1. Mr. Villaysack Vongsayachanh, Head of QM Unit, NRA Office
2. Mr. Bounnan Lattanavong, Technician, QM Unit, NRA Office
3. Mr. Phouvong Sisamak, Technician/Driver, QM Unit, NRA Office
4. Mr. Vongseng Sisoulit, Technician, QM Unit, NRA Office
5. Mr. Sonexay Phommatham, Medic, QM Unit, NRA Office
6. Mr. Sommai Sitanak, PRA Sekong Province
7. Driver from PRA Sekong Province.

NPA representatives:

1. Mr. Od Khuerthayard, Provincial Coordinator of NPA
2. Mr. Thongsavanh, Clearance Team Leader
3. Ms. Phayphibat Simphavong, Lao Operations Manager

1. Purpose of Monitoring

To follow up and monitor the progress on the annual plan implementation, which highlighted and focused on the techniques of EODs, the administration/control, the technique of UXO Survey, Clearance, Disposal and Quality Control to ensure high efficiency, being safer and improving the operations as well as to tracking on the progress of work plan implementation and for controlling as a uniform system in the same standard.

2. Number of NPA Personnel and Qualification in Sekong Province

NPA is operating UXO clearance operations in Sekong Province with 90 staffs in total, 26 females. Besides, there are 30 vegetation cutting workers who are working under daily contract by receiving 130.000 kip/person. The number of vegetation cutting workers in each month is unstable and depended on the needs and difficulties (small or large vegetation) of each clearance site, under the assessment of team leader.

The detail of personnel

Organization	Amount	Female	Remarks
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Admin/Office staff	03		Within the total number, 16 staffs (9 females) have passed field medical training and able to drive.
Team leaders	07	01	
Deminers	68	21	
Surveyors	12	04	
In Total	90	26	

NPA conducts its UXO clearance operation under the MOU signed with the Government of LAO PDR under the financial support of USDOS, in 03 districts namely Lamam, Darkchueng and Thateng. It has also implemented in accordance with Annual Plan 2022-2023.

UXO Survey: NPA has 2 villages for UXO survey, recently they completed the survey in 01 village with 415,000 m² of total survey area and found 31 UXOs while the UXO survey in another village was suspended.

UXO Clearance: NPA has 23 CHAs (23 sites), total number area: 3,688,214 m². To the date, they completed 1,300,485 m² of the clearance area (started from January to August 2022), completed 5 CHA (5 sites), and the others including 04 sites (tapioca farm) are suspended, and 2 sites are ongoing and NPA will continue clearance in the 12 remaining sites (12 CHA).

3. Inspection of Document System

The NPA's Project in Sekong has a document system and manage the information systematically by organizing documents based on each district which is easy and convenient when looking for. The sets of documents are included the Survey Report Level 2, Completion Report Level 3, Internal Quality Control Form, Daily Record, Unidentified UXO Report Form, Accident Response and Evacuation Plan, Record of Staff Blood Group and allergy and other related documents which were considered as completed as per formulated in the National Standards.

Vehicles and Equipment related to the UXO clearance operations:

- Type of Vehicles using in Sekong Province: 05 ISUZU and 07 Landcruiser
- Equipment related to the UXO clearance operations: Large Loop Vallon, uptight Vallon, GPS, Galaxy Tablet, Internet Pocket Wifi, Laptop Computer, Radio, Ohmmeter, Exploder, Megaphone, Firing Cable, Medical Kit and etc.

4. Monitoring on the Quality Assurance and Quality Control in the sites.

The monitoring team visited the cleared site NPA-Ac-2022-1503017-008 in Darktreb village, Darkchueng district. the clearance teams have started to conduct their operations since 03 July 2022 and expected to complete on 06 September 2022 (within 30 days). There are 3 clearance teams including 01 TS and 02 CLs with 45 members, but actual working staffs are 35 people and 07 staffs are on leaves and 03 staffs are on the training. The total CHAs is 111,753 m², total number of clearance area is 126,103 m², cleared area is 98,435 m², extended area (beyond CHA) is 14,350 m² and ongoing area is 39,668 m². 51 UXOs and 01 other explosive were found.

The detail of the QC conducted in 2 cleared sites of Lamam and Thateng districts:

- 1.) 01 cleared site in Lamam District, Nayong village, NPA-AC-2020-1501026-003, S= 136,798 m² QC=3,150 m²(20 m x30 m) 1Box, (25 m x 30 m) 1Box, (30 mx30 m) 2 Boxes

2.) 01 site in Thateng district, Huaysay village, NPA-AC-2022-1504003-001, S= 301,650 m²
QC=7,500 m² (25 m x 25 m) 4 Boxs, (50 m x 50 m) 2 Boxes.

- Total area number of two cleared sites = 438,448 m²
- Total area number of QC conducted in two sites: 10,650 m², equivalent to 4,48%.

II. Result of the Inspection

After conducting Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QC) in sites of NPA in Sekong Province, it can be concluded as the follows:

1. Achievement/Good points:

- The NPA has its SOPs
- The NPA has good document system in the site including Daily Record of Detector Testing, Records of Blood Group and Allergy of Staffs, Internal Quality Control Records of Team Leader and Expert, Visitor records and etc.
- Stability of the signal reflects smooth communication (short-wave and long-wave and mobile phone signal)
- Deminers have passed the training courses relating UXO and Mine clearance properly.
- Sufficiency of vehicles and meet safety requirements and laws.
- Having medical equipment and medic stands by for the emergency

2. Remaining Issues:

- the accident response of medics and the assistances in the actual situation was not efficient yet.
- It is strong required the site leader to clear out the electrostatic before handling with taking the electric det from the box (during the inspection).
- Notification and information of the leader to the team members is necessary and strictly required (the notification on the regulation and prohibition for the visitor during visiting the site)