



Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
NRA Office National Regulatory Authority for
UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR

No 0126/NRA.O. QM
Vientiane Capital, Date : 02 March 2022

To: Director General of NRA Office

Subject: The Results of Monitoring on Quality Control to the UXO Clearance Operations of
UXO Lao-Khammuan Province, during 14th - 21st February 2022.

I. Introduction

In reference to the Agreement of the Director General of NRA Office, No 0084/NRA.O, dated 11th February 2022. The Quality Management Team of NRA, in conjunction with the UXO Lao-Khammuan and PRA Khammuan Province, has visited and monitored to the UXO clearance and disposal operation in Khammuan Province. Team members are listed below:

1. Mr. Bounthavy Keovilay, , Technician, Quality Management Unit, NRA Office;
2. Mr. Bounhieng Soukchanthalavong, Technician, Quality Management Unit, NRA Office;
3. Mr. Vongseng Sisoulit, Technician, Quality Management Unit, NRA Office;
4. Mr. Phouvong Sisamak, Technician/Driver, Quality Management Unit, NRA Office;
5. Mr. Bounpone Thammavongsa, Technician/Medic, Quality Management Unit, NRA Office;
6. Mr. Phonephilom Taysho, Technical Office, PRA Khammuan Province;
7. Saysavanh Inthavong, Technical Office, PRA Khammuan Province;

Representatives from UXO Lao-Khammuan Province:

1. Mr. Phoukhao Khounnolarth, Provincial Deputy Coordinator, UXO Lao-Khammuan Province;
2. Mr. Sonexay Sichanhthavong, Assistant Provincial Operation Manager, UXO Lao-Khammuan Province
3. Mr. Sonecxay Ponpany, Assistant SEOD, UXO Lao-Khammuan Province;
4. Ms. Dalavanh Thongphukdee, Chief of Medic, UXO Lao-Khammuan Province

II. 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 survey, clearance and disposal in order to ensure high efficiency, being safer and improving the operations as well as to tracking on the progress of its Annual Implementation 2022 and controlling as a uniform system in the same standard.

III. Number of Personnel and Qualification

UXO Lao-Khammuan Province has 167 staffs (42 females), 31 administrative staffs (14 females), 136 field operation staffs (28 females), consist of 02 SEODs, 14 operation teams

including 01 Risk Education Team, 01 Non-Technical Survey Team, 02 Technical Survey Teams, 10 Area Clearance Teams. All staffs have passed training course from National UXO Training Center.

IV. Document Management System

UXO Lao-Khammuan Province has a great document and information management system including the Survey Report Level 2, Completion Report. Level 3, Internal Quality Control Form, Dairy Records, Unidentified UXO Report, Accident Response and Evacuation Plan, Staff Blood Group and other document which were considered as completed as per formulated in SOPs.

V. The Implementation Progress of UXO Lao-Khammuan Province since the first month in 2022

According to the Annual Plan 2022, UXO Lao-Khammuan Province has conducted its operations in 06 districts including Mahaxay, Yommalath, Bualapha, Hinboun, Sebungfai and Xaybuathong. The detail is below:

1. **Risk Education (RE):** According to the Annual Plan, UXO Lao-Khammuan Province has 60 villages over 06 districts for RE operation. It has successfully conducted RE in 06 villages for 256 households, 815 adults and 622 children. The total number of participants is 1,437 or equivalent to 10% of the annual plan.
2. **Non-Technical Survey (NTS):** According to the Annual Plan, UXO Lao-Khammuan Province has 12 villages over 06 districts for NTS operation. To the date, it successfully implemented NTS in 01 village for 54 households, 158 adults and 127 children. The total number of beneficiaries is 285 people, 135 UXOs were reported by villagers (113 bomblets and 22 other explosive ordnances), or equivalent to 8% of the annual plan.
3. **Technical Survey (TS):** According to the Annual Plan 2022, the TS team of the UXO-Lao Khammuan Province has to complete its TS operation with the minimum area of 500 ha in 06 districts. To the date, the TS team successful implemented 840,000 m², and can identify 692.845m² as CHA. 53 bomblets, 01 bomb and 07 other explosive ordnances were found. The total number of beneficiaries is 196 people, or equivalent to 13,8% of the annual plan.
4. **Roving Task (RT):** UXO Lao-Khammuan Province conducted RT 10 times and successfully destroyed 197 UXOs (165 bomblets and 32 other explosive ordnances). The total number of beneficiaries is 239 people (For the RT is not stipulated in the Annual Plan, but it is conducted based on the report of villagers).
5. **Area Clearance:** According to the Annual Plan 2022, The UXO Lao-Khammuan has 3,548,765 m² for its AC operation in 06 districts namely Yommalath, Hinboun, Sebungfai, Mahaxay, Bualapha and Xaybuathong. It is successfully conducted area clearance (based on CHA) 286,706 m², the total number of beneficiaries is 73 people. 278 UXOs (128 bomblets and 142 other explosive ordnances) were found and destroyed, equivalent to 8% of the annual plan.
 - **Visited and monitored the ongoing operations in the two implementing sites AC_04 and TS_02:**
 - Visited ongoing clear site of Team CL 04, Task ID: UXO lao_AC_2022_1209059 in Kokhane village, Xaybuathong district, Khammuan province where it has been started since 10 February 2022 and it is expected to complete on 18 March 2022. With the total area number of 78,664 m², the UXO Lao-Khammuan successfully cleared 26,528 m² and

02 BLU26 were found. During the war, this village was a battle where militaries heavily engaged both air and ground fighting. In the previous, UXO Lao Programme conducted CM Survey in this village for 14 times with the total area of 14,31 ha and 688 UXOs were found. 29 sites were cleared, 56 ha of land areas were freed and found 658 bomblets, conducted Roving Task 37 times with the number of 1,860 UXOs.

- Visited ongoing TS site of team TS 02 (it is reoperated over the same sites) in Thakajon village, Bualapha district, Khammuan province, the Team TS 02 has 11 members, 01 team leader, 08 technicians, 01 driver and 01 medic. It is separated into two units. The survey method is a box 50x50, “X clearance technique”, 4 survey technicians will stay in all four directions, the first survey technician starts from 45-degree corner, the second survey technician starts from 135-degree corner, the third survey technician starts from 225-degree corner, and the fourth survey technician start from 135-degree corner. All survey technicians will move from outside to the center of the box. The QM team from NRA office also observed the UXO disposal (one BLU26) at the GPS point (48q 586319-1906076).

▪ **Conducted Quality Control on the Cleared Sites:**

The QM team from NRA Office also conducted external QC 2% in the 06 cleared sites including:

- 03 cleared sites in Mahaxay District, Khammuan Province:
 - Task ID: UXO Lao-AC-2020-1202089-012, the total area is 23,720 m², conducted QC in a box, 25x25=625 m², 2%=2,63%;
 - Task ID: UXO Lao-AC-2020-1202089-007, the total area is 24,166 m², conducted QC in a box, 25x25=625 m², 2%=2,58%;
 - Task ID: UXO Lao-AC-2020-1202089-002, the total area is 35,575 m², conducted QC in a box, 25x30=750 m², 2%=2,10%;

Through the QC of the three cleared sites. it is confirmed that all sites are safe and not found any fragments that bigger than a half (1/2) of BLU26 as indicated in the national standards.

- 03 cleared sites in Xaybuathong District, Khammuan Province:
 - Task ID: UXO Lao-AC-2020-1209064-002, the total area is 32,630 m², conducted QC in a box, 25x30=750 m², 2%=2,29% (Failed)
 - Task ID: UXO Lao-AC-2020-1209064-003 the total area is 32,261 m², conducted QC in a box, 25x30=750 m², 2%=2,32%;
 - Task ID: UXO Lao-AC-2020-1209064-007 the total area is 32,630 m², conducted QC in a box, 25x25=625 m², 2%=2,27% (Failed);

VI. Good Point/Achievement

- The implementation of UXO clearance activities in the sites of UXO Lao- Khammuan Province is generally safe;
- The team leader and the assistant have their qualification, all technicians have passed the training course from UXO Lao Training Center;
- The administration/control point, medical operation point, UXO detectors storage, parking point, rubbish pit, toilet, metal fragment storage, explosive storage and storage

for moveable UXO are constructed/set in consistence with the SOP and National Standards.

VII. Remaining Issue

- The team leader of TS 02 has yet properly explained to the team members before destroying UXOs and the assistant to the team leader has yet also properly applied the SOP and National Standards when handling with the explosive (when taking electric item from the box, should put it under the sand bag). Therefore, it is highly suggested the team leader to review on its SOP, Chapter 4 Demolition No. 6.2,6.5 and the National Standards, Chapter 08 UXO Disposal Operation, No.8.1, and 14.
- The support of medical equipment set has yet completed as stipulated in its SOPs Chapter 8 Medical Operation Procedure, No.3.2 Medical Equipment.
- After conducting QC in the 06 cleared sites, it is noticed that 02 sites were failed to meet the SOP, Chapter 6 Quality Control and Assurance, No. 4.1.3 (For UXO Clearance Operation), No. 6.1.2 On UXO clearance in A,B,C, fail to meet External QC as well as failed to meeting National Standards, No.7.4 (A,B,C); The reason for the failure is below:
 - For Task ID: UXO Lao-AC-2020-1209064-007, Fragments that bigger than a half (1/2) of BLU26 were found which failed to meet the national standards.
 - Task ID: UXO Lao-AC-2020-1209064-002, 02 bomblet (BLU26) were found at UTM 48q 572163-1891068, 572167-1891065, the QM team from NRA Officer suggested UXO Lao-Khammuan Province to reoperated its clearance 100% and continue investigating and finding the failed boxes and technicians. Any found technician who responsible for the failed box, it is suggested to put measures on him/her as well as the team leader, subsequently UXO Lao-Khammuan Province to report NRA Office in written for reconducting QC over again on the sites.

In general, UXO Lao-Khammuan Province has carried out its technical clearance and disposal operations safely and effectively and in consistence with the SOPs and existing national standards.