



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

No 0217/NRA.O. QM
Vientiane Capital, Date : 01 April 2022

To: Director General of NRA Office

Subject: The Results of Monitoring on Quality Control to the UXO Clearance Operations of
UXO Lao-Salavanh Province, during 09th – 16th March 2022.

I. Introduction

In reference to the Agreement of the Director General of NRA Office, No 0138/NRA.O, dated 07th March 2022. The Quality Management Team of NRA, in conjunction with PRA Salavanh Province, SEOD4 and Assistant Operation Manager of UXO Lao-Salavanh Province has visited, monitored and technical supported to the UXO survey and clearance operation in Salavanh Province. Team members are listed below:

1. Mr. Vilaysack Vongsayachanh, Head of QM Unit, NRA Office;
2. Mr. Bounnan Latanavong, Technician, Quality Management Unit, NRA Office;
3. Mr. Sonexay Phommatham, Medic, Quality Management Unit, NRA Office;
4. Mr. Phouvong Sisamak, Technician/Driver, NRA Office;
5. Mr. Khamphan Sivongsa, PRA Salavanh Province;
6. Mr. Vilayvanh Mingsisouvanh, Technical Officer/Driver, PRA Salavanh Province.

Representatives from UXO Lao-Salavanh Province:

1. Mr. Khonesavanh Keovongsone, SEOD4, UXO Lao-Salavanh Province
2. Mr. Daophone Sengsouphanh, Operation Support Officer; UXO Lao-Salavanh Province
3. Mr. Phayvone Sonevilay, Operation Support Officer; UXO Lao-Salavanh 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 Plan Implementation and controlling as a uniform system in the same standard.

III. Number of Personnel and Qualification

Currently, UXO Lao-Salavanh Province has 180 staffs in total, 33 administrative staffs (11 females) including office cleaners and guard; 147 field operation staffs (38 females). All technicians have passed training course from National UXO Training Center.

IV. The Implementation Progress of UXO Lao-Salavanh Province since the January to February 2022:

In 2022, UXO Lao-Salavanh Province has conducted UXO survey, clearance and disposal operations in 08 districts namely Salavanh district, Vapi, Khongsedon, Lakhonepheng, Toumlarn, Taoiy, and Samuay. The operation is financially supported by US Tetra Tech. The detail is below:

1. **Risk Education (RE):** According to the Annual Plan, UXO Lao-Salavanh Province has 60 villages for RE operation. To the date, it has successfully conducted RE in 05 villages or equivalent to 8% of the annual plan.
2. **Non-Technical Survey (NTS):** According to the Annual Plan, UXO Lao-Salavanh Province has 12 villages for NTS operation. To the date, it has successfully implemented NTS in 02 village, or equivalent to 12% of the annual plan.
3. **Technical Survey (TS):** According to the Annual Plan 2022, the two TS teams of the UXO Lao-Salavanh Province have 500 ha for their TS operation. To the date, they have successfully implemented and identified 169 ha as CHAs, 211 UXOs (178 bomblets, 01 bomb, 10 mines and 22 other explosive ordnances) were found, equivalent to 33,6% of the annual plan;
4. **Area Clearance (AC):** According to the Annual Plan 2022, The UXO Lao-Salavanh Province has 382 ha for its AC. To the date, it has successfully conducted area clearance for 51,2 ha (the AC was conducted based on CHA information from TS teams), 963 UXOs 914 bomblets and 49 other explosive ordnances) were found (, or equivalent to 13,40% of annual plan;
5. **Brust Cutting (BC):** According to the Annual Plan 2022, The UXO Lao-Salavanh Province has 54 ha for BC. It has implemented 0% (lack of budget).

V. Quality Assurance and Quality Control:

- **Quality Assurance (QA)**

The QM team from NRA Office conducted Quality Assurance in one implementing site of Yan village, Laongarm district. The site is an agriculture land with the total area of 25,150 m² and 3 beneficiaries (1 male, 1 female and 1 boy)

- **Quality Control (QC)**

The QM team from NRA Office conducted Quality Control in 06 cleared sites in Yan village, Laongarm District, Tarndong village, Khongsedon districts (02 sites), Nasiet and Tarnsoun village, Vapi District, and in Naphuler, Salavanh District, Salavanh Province, the detail is below:

- Task ID: UXO Lao- AC-2022-1401081-001, Area 38,524 m², QC=750 m² (25m x 30m) x1 box;
- Task ID: UXO Lao- AC-2022-1407015-001, Area 21,089 m², QC=500 m² (20mx25m) x1 box;
- Task ID: UXO Lao-AC-2022-1406032-001, Area 13,696 m², QC=400 m² (4mx100m).
- Task ID: UXO Lao-AC-2022-1406032-002, Area 24,7 65 m², QC=600 m² (3mx200m).
- Task ID: UXO Lao-AC-2022-1405036-002, Area 38,719 m², QC=800 m² (4mx200m).

- Task ID: UXO Lao-AC-2021-1405046-001, Area 38,187 m², QC=800 m² (4mx200m).

Through the QC of the 06 cleared sites by QM team from NRA Office, it is found that all the sites have quality and safety in the depth of 0,25m. It is also not found any fragments that bigger than a half (1/2) of BLU26 as indicated in the national standards.

VI. Result of QA and QC Monitoring

• Good Point/Achievement

- The implementation of UXO clearance activities in the sites of UXO Lao- Salavanh Province has quality and safety, sufficiency of vehicles and equipment which is completed and consistent with SOPs and National Standards.
- The qualification, ability, and number of persons in charge of guiding the UXO clearance is consistent.
- The Determination of UXO Clearance works and Marking System including Boundary Marking, Marking Signs, the Depth, Control and Administration Area, Resting Area, Detector Testing Area, Medical Treatment Area, Explosive Storage Area and other related areas are constructed/set in consistence with the SOPs and National Standards;
- In the clearance operation, the technician implements and follows the standards especially, the required safety distance and lanes for clearance. The internal QC is also regularly conducted and has document as reference;
- Treating and briefing visitors in the clearance sites, visiting record document and other necessary site documents are greatly prepared and consistent with SOPs and National Standards;
- All remaining issues in the previous have been addressed and improved.

• New Remaining Issues:

- Limited amount of field operation staffs could not respond to the needs of villagers/people and the government's goals;
- Lack of support/cooperation from villagers particularly in clearing and cutting vegetation which have caused the delay of operations;
- The CHAs has been already identified and included in the annual plan, but the UXO Lao-Salavanh has yet implemented its AC operation for the villagers further to do farming (Cassava and Rice Farm);
- Insufficiency of some equipment for the operations such as, UXO detectors, batteries, microphone, radios and shrike exploders.
- In the current, villagers/people focus in clearing land area for cassava plantation and more UXOs were reported and found every day, UXO Lao-Salavanh Province is unable to respond to the need in timely manner due to the insufficiency of dets and explosives. The UXO Lao-Salavanh Province already proposed UXO Lao Programme, Vientiane Capital to borrow from other provinces.