

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 0221/NRA.O. QM
Vientiane Capital, Date : 04 April 2022

To: Director General of NRA Office

Subject: The Results of Monitoring on Quality Control to the UXO Clearance Operations of
UXO Lao-Savannakhet Province, during 09th – 19th March 2022.

I. Introduction

In reference to the Agreement of the Director General of NRA Office, No 0145/NRA.O, dated 07th March 2022. The Quality Management Team of NRA, in conjunction with PRA Savannakhet Province, UXO Lao-Savannakhet Province has visited and monitored to the UXO clearance and disposal operation in Savannakhet Province. Team members are listed below:

1. Mr. Bounthavy Keovilay, Technician, Quality Management Unit, NRA Office;
2. Mr. Bounhieng Chanhsoukthalavong, Technician, Quality Management Unit, NRA Office;
3. Mr. Vongseng Sisoulit, Technician/Driver, Quality Management Unit, NRA Office;
4. Mr. Bounpone Thammavongsa, Medic/Technician, Quality Management Unit, NRA Office;
5. Mr. Sakounsup Senamounti, Technical Officer, PRA Savannakhet Province;
6. Mr. Soulat, Technical Officer/Driver, PRA Savannakhet Province;

Representatives from UXO Lao-Savannakhet Province:

1. Mr. Phonesavanh, SEOD4, UXO Lao-Savannakhet Province
2. Mr. Khammao Phosylath, Assistant SEOD, UXO Lao-Savannakhet Province
3. Mr. Bounpheng Aekbunlung, Assistant SEOD, UXO Lao-Savannakhet Province
4. Mr. Jonevilay, Assistant Operation Manager, UXO Lao-Savannakhet 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 technical survey, non-technical survey, 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 2022 and controlling as a uniform system in the same standard.

III. Number of Personnel and Qualification

Currently, UXO Lao-Savannakhet Province has 270 staffs in total (86 females), 15 administrative staffs (07 females); 191 field operation staffs (79 females), among of those are 05 SEODs and 05 assistant SEODs. There are 24 teams including 01 RE team, 01 NTS team, 03 TS teams, 19 clearance teams. Most of Technicians have passed training course from National UXO Training Center and some have been trained in UXO-Lao Savannakhet province by high qualified staffs.

IV. Document Management System:

UXO Lao-Sannakhet 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-Savannakhet Province in 2022:

1. **Risk Education (RE):** According to the Annual Plan, UXO Lao-Savannakhet Province has 50 villages for RE operation. To the date, tt has successfully conducted RE in 08 villages or equivalent to 16% of the annual plan.
2. **Non-Technical Survey (NTS):** According to the Annual Plan, UXO Lao-Savannakhet Province has 12 villages for NTS operation. To the date, it has successfully implemented NTS in 03 village, the total number of participants is 109 people (42 females and 67 males). 13 UXO evident points were reported by villagers with 05 bomblets and 08 other explosive ordnances, or equivalent to 25% of the annual plan.
3. **Technical Survey (TS):** According to the Annual Plan 2022, UXO Lao-Savannakhet Province has 60 sites or 900 ha for TS operation. To the date, It has successfully implemented in 06 sites or 1,3777,500 m² equivalent to 7%. 138 UXOs (76 bomblets and 63 other explosive ordnance) were found and destroyed. The number of beneficiaries is 96 females and 99 males.
4. **Area Clearance (AC):** According to the Annual Plan 2022, The UXO Lao-Savannakhet Province has 6,650,016 m² for AC. To the date, it has successfully conducted area clearance for 931,235 m². 678 UXOs (567 bomblets and 111 other explosive ordnances) were found and cleared with total number of beneficiaries of 327 people (172 females and 155 males) or equivalent to 14% of annual plan;
5. **Roving Task (RT):** conducted RT in 17 villages, 25 times and 183 bomblets, 70 other explosive ordnances were found and destroyed. The total number of beneficiaries is 2,845 people (1,447 females and 1,398 males).

VI. Visited and Monitored the UXO Clearance Operation in the implementing sites

- Visited ongoing site of team AC-SVK-16, Task ID: UXO lao_AC_2022_1312057_005 in Pha Phi Lang village, Vilabouly district, Savannakhet Province which has started on 2 March 2022 and it is expected to complete on 21 March 2022. The total area number is 38,052 m², the beneficiary is 01 family, 08 people (5 females and 03 males). In this site, it is observed that CL 16 Team Leader has conducted UXO disposal at UTM Point 48q 586048-1885885. However, the UXO disposal was not followed the proper technique. 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;
- Visited ongoing site of team AC-SVK-07, Task ID: UXO lao_AC_2022_1315071_005 in Nahu village, Phalanxay district, Savannakhet Province which has started on 2 March 2022 and it is expected to complete on 21 March 2022. The total area number is 46,964 m², found 02 BLU2 and 3 families, 20 people (13 females and 07 males) are beneficiaries.
- Visited ongoing technical survey site of Team TS 03 in Phonekham village, Vilabouly district in Savannakhet province, The Team TS 03 has 11 members, 01 team leader, 08 technicians, 01 driver and 01 medic. It is separated. Into two units. The survey method is using in this site is a box 50x50, "X clearance technique", 4 survey technicians will stay at

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. they successfully conducted TS in 74 boxes (a box = 50mx50m), identified as 25 red boxes, 23 yellow boxes, 8 white boxes and 13 green boxes. The total number of beneficiaries is 99 families, 471 people (229 females and 242 males).

- **Quality Control (QC)**

- QM team, NRA Office conducted external quality control at least 2% (QC 2%) in the 06 cleared sites including: 01 site in Phaphilang village, 01 site in Namalou village, 01 site in Nanamxang, Villabuly District, and 01 site in Nathongkarng village, 2 sites in Nahou village, Phalanexay district. Through the QC in 6 sites, 02 of them are failed as per its SOPs, Chapter 6 Quality Assurance and Control, No. 4.1.3 (for Clearance Operation), No. 6.1.2 External QC (a,b,c) and national standards, regarding Quality Management No. 7.4 (a,b,c). All details is below:

Task ID: UXO lao_AC_2022_1312993_001, S=10,461 m² (NRA_QC_15x20x1box=300 m²= 2,86%).

Task ID: UXO lao_AC_2022_1312100_002, S=14,892 m², (NRA_QC_4x100x1 Polyline= 400 m² = 2,68%)

Task ID: UXO lao_AC_2022_1315071_004, S=45,002 m² (NRA_QC_50x20x1box=1,000 m²= 2,22%)

Task ID: UXO lao_AC_2022_1315071_003, S=38,967 m² (NRA_QC_40x20x1box=800 m²= 2,05%)

Task ID: UXO lao_AC_2022_1312057_001, SVK-AC-016, in **Pha Phi Lang village, Vilabouly, Savannakhet province, this site is failed**, the total area is 45,516 m², a BLU 26 was found in this site at UTM 48q 586048-1885885.

Task ID: UXO lao_AC_2022_1315037_002, SVK-AC-013,Nathongkang village, Phalanexay district, Savannakhet province, the site is failed. The total area is 46,964 m², the metal fragment bigger than a half (1/2) of BLU26 as indicated in national standard was found in this site.

V. Good Point/Achievement:

- The UXO clearance operation of UXO Lao-Savannakhet Province has followed its SOPs and the National Standards;
- The team leaders, manager and all technicians have high qualification. They are passed the training course from UXO Lao Programme Training Center;
- The UXO operation in the sites, vehicles, UXO detectors, tools and equipment using in the site are completed and consistent with SOPs

VI. Remaining Issues:

- The UXO disposal conducted by CL 16 team leader has yet followed techniques, it is highly suggested the team leader to review on safety and technique for UXO disposal,

particularly in its SOPs, Chapter 04 UXO Disposal, No. 6.2, 6.5, and the National Standards, Chapter 08 Explosive Ordnance Disposal, No. 8.1, 14.

- Through the inspection and Quality Control in the 06 sites, only 4 sites have passed the QC and two sites were failed, the detail is below:

Task ID: UXO lao_AC_2022_1312057_001, Team: SVK-AC-016, the total area is 45,516 m², a BLU 26 was found in this site at UTM 48q 586048-1885885. The Quality Management Unit, NRA Office suggested UXO Lao-Savannakhet Province to reoperate all UXO clearance (100%) and investigate for those who are responsible for this site and the measure shall be taken to technician and team leader. The UXO Lao-Savannakhet Province to report to NRA Office in written, further reconducting QC again in the site.

Task ID: UXO lao_AC_2022_1315037_002, Team: SVK-AC-013, The total area is 46,964 m², the metal fragment bigger than a half (1/2) of BLU26 as indicated in national standard was found in this site.

- The medical equipment using in the site is not completed and not consistent with its SOPs, Chapter 8 Medical Support Procedure, No. 3.2 Medical Equipment.
- A pack of elastic bandage is expired on March 2022 (not consistent with its SOPs, Chapter 8 Medical Support Procedure, No. 3.2 Medical Equipment).

To sum up, UXO Lao-Savannakhet Province implements UXO clearance and disposal in the sites with good quality, effectiveness, safe and consistence with its SOPs and National Standards.