



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

No 0035/NRA.O. QM  
Vientiane Capital, Date : 20 January 2022

**To:** Director General of NRA Office

**Subject:** The results of monitoring to the Quality Control of HALO Trust's Operations in Savannakhet province, on 13<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021.

## **I. Introduction**

In reference to the approval letter of the Director General of NRA Office, No. 505/NRA.O, dated 09<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The Quality Management Unit, NRA Office, in conjunction with PRA Savannakhet province, has visited and monitored to UXO survey, clearance, disposal and quality control to ensure the effective implementation of MOU between HALO Trust and NRA Office and related SOPs in Atsaphangthong, Phalanxay, Xepon, Vilabuly, Phin and Nong district, Savannakhet province during 13<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

### **Team members are listed below:**

1. Mr. Vilaysack Vongsayachanh, Technician, NRA
2. Mr. Bounnan Lattanavong, Technician, NRA
3. Mr. Noupit Xaysana, Technician, NRA
4. Mr. Souksavanh Chanthasomboun, Technician, NRA
5. Mr. Sonexay, Medic, NRA
6. Mr. Phoukhao Keomixay, Director of PRA Savannakhet Province
7. Driver, PRA Savannakhet Province

### **Representatives from Halo Trust Office in Xepon District:**

1. Mr. Phantha Kikhounkham, Senior Operations Officer, HALO Trust
2. Ms. Khonesavanh, Field Operation Manager, HALO Trust
3. Mr. Bounnoy Chief of Field Coordination, HALO Trust
4. Mr. Kaoxing, Coordinator
5. Mr. Phuvanh, Chief of Field Operation, HALO Trust

## **1. Purpose of Monitoring**

To follow up and monitor the operations, which emphasized and focused on the techniques of UXO clearance implemented by EOD, administration/control as well as to observe the UXO survey, clearance and disposal in order to ensure high efficiency, being safer, improving the operations to meet and follow the same standards.

## **2. Number and qualification of HALO Trust staff**

Total number of staff who are based in HALO Trust office in Xepon district, Savannakhet Province is 970 people, 490 females, 06 foreign workers (one female) and 01 SEOD4. The number of field operation staff is 890 people, 20 survey teams, 11 disabled staff ( two of them

are the survivors from UXO), 80 administration staff which consist of 47 EOD teams, 02 Mine EOD teams, 01 Roving Task Team, 20 NTS and TS teams, 01 Community Liaison Team. All mentioned staffs have passed the training course which provided by HALO Trust.

### **3. Visiting and Monitoring to the UXO Clearance Operations**

HALO Trust has implemented its operation/activities under the Memorandum of Understanding which jointly signed by The Government of Lao PDR with the financial support of the USA (WRA). It currently conducts its operations in 6 districts namely Artsaphungthong, Phalanxay, Xepon, Vilabouly, Phin and Nong, focusing on 5 key tasks including Mine Risk Education (MRE), Non-Technical Survey, Technical Survey, Explosive Ordnance Disposal-Roving (EOD- RV), Area Clearance (AC). According to the information of Technical Survey and HALO Trust's database system on 21 July 2020, it is confirmed that In 149 villages, there are currently 830 sites or 27,532,856 m<sup>2</sup>, confirmed as CHA. Some of this new data has yet appeared on IMSMA.

#### **1.) Document System Inspection**

HALO Trust has a good document system. It manages the data/information systematically and separate the data/information in each implementing districts such as: survey report level 2, the completion report level 3, internal quality control form (will be revised later), diary record book, the unidentified UXO report form, accident evacuation and response plan, staff blood group record, record of staff allergy and other documents related to the implementation of HALO Trust project in the sites which were considered as completed as per formulated in national standards.

The type of UXO detectors using in the site includes 50 large Minelap detectors, 394 Vallon VMXC1-3 detectors, 61 Large Loop Detectors (LLD), 148 small Minelap detectors, and 66 PIDDs.

#### **2.) The visit and monitoring in the sites**

Before conducting its clearance operations, HALO Trust has identified priorities based on 05 key principles in order ensure the consistency between existing information and the real needs from the villages. Those principles are the status of villages provided by district authority, purpose in using land, direct beneficiaries, information from NTS on the distance of UXO from the community, information from NTS and TS on the mass of cluster munitions.

The QM team from NRA visited the ongoing mine clearance site at Kalong village, Phalanxay district. The total number of survey area is 185,104 m<sup>2</sup> which divided into 07 clearance sites: first site has 15,566 m<sup>2</sup>, second site has 31,027 m<sup>2</sup>, third site has 35,805 m<sup>2</sup>, fourth site has 41,974 m<sup>2</sup>, fifth site has 24,462 m<sup>2</sup>, sixth site has 11,774 m<sup>2</sup> and seventh site has 24,496 m<sup>2</sup>, respectively. The population of the village is 1,445 people and 219 families.

During the visit and monitoring in the site, it is found HALO Trust has strictly and greatly implemented its operations particularly at the administration/control, communication, sign marking, preparation of vehicle and medical equipment for the emergency evacuation and response, procedure for UXO clearance (including testing the detectors with metal objects before working), marking on the found UXO, containing/keeping the explosives in the proper box which follow the existing techniques and it is in line with the organization's SOPs. Besides, it is found that HALO Trust has strictly implemented Mine Clearance Operations in order to ensure

the safety and follow the national standards, particularly the Chapter 12 on Mine Clearance Operations.

Visited the clearance site at That village, Vilabouly district ( the operation is implemented under the project name: Nar Ter Irrigation Project), this site has 33,237 m<sup>2</sup> for building of irrigation system, the clearance has started since 13 October 2021 and expected to complete on 18 December 2021. Up to date, HALO Trust successfully implemented Area Clearance operation with the area of 20,643 m<sup>2</sup>. For the UXO survey and clearance in the area of irrigation, particularly in the yellow, red and blue boxes, they are the 100% box of cancellation (not allowed to conduct the operation.). In general, HALO Trust carried out its works in consistence with its SOPs.

**3.) Quality Control Monitoring:** related officers from NRA office conducted quality control (QC 2%) of the cleared sites based on the 15 received reports from Xepon, Artsaphangthong, phin and villabouly district. the sites are in following villages: Tabongphet, Dongkhuang, Phonhay (three sites), Nabor, Kaengkhub (two sites), Nonxay (two sites), Pongbor (two sites), Huaychaeng, Vangkoung, and Labokarng. Throughout the quality control monitoring, it is not found any piece of metal or that is bigger than a half (1/2) of BLU26. The detail of the QC is below:

ID: Tabongphet 45,626 m<sup>2</sup>, QC= 1,000 m<sup>2</sup>, Dongkhuang village HALO-AC-2021-1303031-011, S= 58,968 m<sup>2</sup>, QC=1,200 m<sup>2</sup>, Phonhay village HALO-AC-2021-1305073-020, S=1,572 m<sup>2</sup>, QC:700 m<sup>2</sup>, Phonhay village HALO-AC-2021-1305073-021, S:28,785 m<sup>2</sup>, QC= 600 m<sup>2</sup>, Phonhay village HALO-AC-2021-1305073-018, S= 17,138 m<sup>2</sup>, QC=600 m<sup>2</sup>, Nabor village HALO-AC-2021-1305076-029, S=23,934 m<sup>2</sup>, QC = 500 m<sup>2</sup>, Kaengkhub village HALO-AC-2021-1305056-005, S=22,895 m<sup>2</sup>, QC=500 m<sup>2</sup>, Nonxay village HALO-AC-2021-1304052-001, S=50,320 m<sup>2</sup>, QC=1,250 m<sup>2</sup>, Noxay village HALO-AC-2021-1304052-002, S=46,520 m<sup>2</sup>, QC=1,000 m<sup>2</sup>, Pongpor village HALO-AC-2021 -1312097-00, S=43,183 m<sup>2</sup>, QC=1,000 m<sup>2</sup>, Pongpor village HALO-AC-2021-1312097-009, S=32,696 m<sup>2</sup>, QC=1,000 m<sup>2</sup>, Huaychaeng village HALO-AC-2021-1305082-006, S=30,197 m<sup>2</sup>, QC=650 m<sup>2</sup>, Vangkoung village HALO-AC-2021-1305143-007, S=28,962 m<sup>2</sup>, QC=600 m<sup>2</sup>, Labokarng village HALO-AC-2021-1305141-010, S=35,591 m<sup>2</sup>, QC=720 m<sup>2</sup>. The total QC 2% area is 11,820 m<sup>2</sup> of 15 cleared sites.

**4.) Remark:** Any risk area (dangerous area) shall be rechecked. HALO Trust shall report NRA Office in written and propose NRA office to reconduct QC of the area in appropriate time.

## **II. Results of monitoring**

Throughout the monitoring on the operation of HALO Trust in Savannakhet province, it can be concluded and suggested as the follows:

### **1. Good Points/Achievements**

- HALO Trust has properly kept important site documents including daily record of equipment/tool checkup, record of staff blood group, record of staff allergy, Record of SEOD, record of the visitors and others.
- Usual Communication and it has short wave signal system and stable mobile signal

- EODs have passed training course properly.
- Sufficient and safe vehicles result to effectiveness
- HALO Trust will provide more training courses for Mine EODs as needed.

## **2. Remaining Issues:**

- It is suggested to have more medical equipment particularly Ambu Bag,
- It is required to mark on each point in the sites
- It is required to recheck some Vallon detectors since the signal alert slower than stipulated in the standards, it is suggested to reboot/recheck software
- It is suggested to put more effort to keep dicking and seeking until finding a pieces of metal when the detector alerts.
- In case, the LLD detectors catch the signal (upper 20 level), it is suggested to use Vallon or Minelap F (F3) to recheck on the spot where the LLD alerted.
- It is required to have and keep the Ambu bag and ... in the medical bag when working in the site.
- It is suggested to identify and separate between the private site area and public site area of the village when drawing/ identifying the map.