

**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 0472/NRA.O. QM  
Vientiane Capital, Date : 04 August 2022

**To:** Director General of NRA Office

**Subject:** The results of monitoring to the Quality Control and Quality Assurance of HALO Trust's Operations in Savannakhet province, on 13<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022.

## **I. Introduction**

In reference to the approval letter of the Director General of NRA Office, No. 505/NRA.O, dated 08<sup>th</sup> July 2022. 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, Phalanexay, Xepon, Vilabuly, Phin and Nong district, Savannakhet province during 13<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022.

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

1. Mr. Vilaysack Vongsayachanh, Head of QM Unit, NRA Office
2. Mr. Bounnan Lattanavong, Technician, NRA Office
3. Mr. Phouvong Sisamak, Technician, NRA Office;
4. Mr. Vongseng Sisoulit, Technician, NRA Office;
5. Mr. Sonexay, Medic, NRA Office
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 Operation Office, HALO Trust;
2. Ms. Toulany, 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 workplan implementation, which emphasized and focused on the techniques of UXO clearance implemented by technicians, administration/control as well as to observe the UXO survey, clearance, disposal and quality control in order to ensure high efficiency, being safer, improving the operations and system to meet and follow the 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 1,023 people, comprise of 1,017 of Lao Staffs (524 females), and 06 foreign staffs, (01 female), 03 new additional staffs (02 females) and 01 Lao SEOD4.

**The list of staffs in following detail:**

<b>Organization/Position detail</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Office Staff	56	23	
Team Leads	170	87	
Number of Lao SEOD	1	0	
Deminers	396	221	
Surveyors	106	63	
Medics	194	106	03 female medics, graduated from institute
MRE staff	8	5	
Drivers	75	13	
Guards	6	0	
Cleaner/cooks	5	5	
Technical Advisors	6	1	
<b>In total</b>	<b>1,023</b>	<b>524</b>	

### **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 (PM/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 (NTS), Technical Survey (TS), Explosive Ordnance Disposal- Roving (EOD- RV), Area Clearance (AC).

#### **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's project in the sites which were considered as completed as per formulated in national standards.

**The vehicles using for UXO clearance operations in the site and its admin office is detailed below:**

Type of vehicle using in Xepon: KAMAZs 15 units, GAZ 12 units, Landcruiser 31 units, Land Rover 19 units/ two of them have not been using, Tiger Hilux 02 units, Hiace 01unit, Motorcycle 05 units. For RUSH 01 unit and Motorcycle 01 unit are currently using in Vientiane.

The equipment using for UXO Clearance is listed below: type

<b>No.</b>	<b>Item/Series</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1	Ebinger MAGNEX 120 LW	Detectors	2
2	Ebinger PIDD	Detectors	66
3	Ebinger PIDD 2	Detectors	2
4	Ebinger UPEX 725	Detectors	24

5	Ebinger UPEX 740	Detectors	62
6	Minelab F3S	Detectors	148
7	Minelab F3S UXO	Detectors	60
8	Minelab PRO-FIND35	Detectors	20
9	Minelab Search Head	Detectors	1
10	VMX10 Control Unit	Detectors	5
11	VMXC1-3	Detectors	394
12	Beethoven Mk30 Exploder	Exploder	7
13	Wizard-Mini-Blasting Machine	Exploder	107
14	Garmin GPSmap 62s	GPS	1
15	Garmin GPSmap 64s	GPS	63
16	Garmin GPSmap 64SX	GPS	33
17	Garmin GPSmap ETREX 2x	GPS	27
18	Trimble R1 GNSS Reciever-with 2m fixed pole	GPS	1
19	DIGITAL Ohmmeter	Ohmmeter	7
20	Wizard-DSL Demolition Safety Light	Ohmmeter	96
21	VHF Repeater-TB7100	VHF Repeater	1
22	MOTOROLA	VHF Radios	170
23	Radio EP-789	VHF Radios	5
24	VHF Handheld Radio TP8110	VHF Radios	258
25	SUNNTO	Compass	105
26	Sunnto KB20/360R Global	Compass	20
27	Wizard-Mini-Blasting Machine	Compass	8

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

Before conducting its clearance operations, HALO Trust has identified its priorities based on 05 key principles in order ensure the consistency between existing information and the actual circumstance. Those principles are the report 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 and amount of cluster munitions.

QM team, NRA Office visited the clearance sites in two villages of Phin district, the total number of CHA is 1,642,650 m<sup>2</sup> in Keng Kua village and 14,244 m<sup>2</sup> in Phin village, respectively; in two villages of Nong District with the total number of CHA 906,221 m<sup>2</sup> in Asingsaly village, and 968,612 m<sup>2</sup> in Dongnasane village. It is observed that HALO Trust has carried out the operations based on its SOPs:

- The Prioritizations Plan for UXO clearance is implemented based on the evidence of Cluster Munitions and data from local administration (District);
- There are several procedures for the UXO clearance and putting on blast-resistant clothes particularly in using knife to cut the grass/vegetation, using three detectors on the objects before stabbing up.
- The TS teams working in Keng Kua village carry out their works 02 boxes per team/day. For the difficult area clearance, they are expected to complete 08 boxes/team/day while the easy one, it is expected to complete 12 boxes/team/day.
- HALO Trust works 7 hours per day, every day start from 7am to 3pm.

- Team CL12-CL13 in Asingsaly village, complete their clearance approximately 710 m<sup>2</sup> per 02 teams/day, with 16 detectors per a team.
- Team CL22-CL23 in Dongsasane village, complete their clearance approximately 400 m<sup>2</sup> per 02 teams/day, with 13 detectors per a team.
- How to use each type of detectors in the site: Use LLD detectors search for objects, it will have sound signal if found any piece then the team will set marking sign/item and the Minelab detector will be used to continue narrowing for specific point of the object. The team will use Vallon detector to double check before digging.
- Monitoring to the Landmine disposal (M16) at the site in Kalong Nuer village, Thaphalanexay district. The disposal was failed on 17 July 2022 and they will continue destroying on 18 July 2022 instead.
- According to Mine Clearance Report, Halo trust can complete 24 m<sup>2</sup>/day/02 teams, with 16 detectors/team.
- In testing the effectiveness of Vallon detectors for catching cluster munitions quicker and better, HALO Trust has compared detector's software of UXO Lao programme and HALO Trust. Currently HALO Trust is waiting for the result.
- on 24-30 July 2022, the HALO Trust and NPA will jointly test the detectors in Pakse, Champasack Province.
- The Site in Sopkong village, the failure of QC on 6-20 November 2019, currently HALO Trust is reoperating over the site.
- According to the report, there are 20 teams for Technical Survey. However, HALO Trust will rearrange the teams by dividing five teams for TS and other 15 teams for Clearance. All the teams will start their operations from 1 September 2022 on.
- According to HALO Trust's regulation, all medics shall operate UXO Clearance, except the driver if he or she is the only one.
- QC monitoring: the QM team, NRA Office conducted QC (2%) at the cleared sites based on the 08 received reports in Sepon, Atsaphangthong, Phin and Vilabouly districts. The sites were in Pungho, Huayswuan, Phonhay, Nabo, Kengkee, Malua, Munji and Jaelamong villages. According to the QC, it is not found any piece of metal or that is bigger than a half (1/2) of BLU26. The detail is in below:
  - Malua village, Task ID: HALO-AC-2022-1304022-004, S= 47,653 m<sup>2</sup>, QC= 1,025 m<sup>2</sup> (25x25) (20x20) 2 boxes.
  - Huayswuan village, Task ID: HALO-AC-2021-1312053-008, S= 45,248 m<sup>2</sup>, QC= 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> (20 x 25) 2 Boxes.
  - Huayswuan village, Task ID: HALO-AC-2021-1312053-009, S= 14,299 m<sup>2</sup>, QC= 400 m<sup>2</sup> (20 x 20) 1 box.
  - Pungho village, Task ID: HALO-AC-2022-1303028-001, S= 91,253 m<sup>2</sup>, QC= 1,875 m<sup>2</sup> (25 x 25) 3 Boxes.
  - Jaelamong village, Task ID: HALO-AC-2022-1303039-002, S= 21,261 m<sup>2</sup>, QC= 500 m<sup>2</sup> (20 x 25) 1 Box.

- Phonhay village, Task ID: HALO-AC-2022-1305073-026, S= 52,601 m<sup>2</sup>, QC= 1,250 m<sup>2</sup> (25 x 25) 2 Boxes.
- Nabo village, Task ID: HALO-AC-2021-1305076-031, S= 48,476 m<sup>2</sup>, QC= 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> (20 x 25) 2 Boxes.
- Kaengkee village, Task ID: HALO-AC-2021-1305149-020, S= 43,473 m<sup>2</sup>, QC= 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> (20 x 25) 2 Boxes.

Total Number of Cleared Area of 08 sites = 364,264 m<sup>2</sup>

Total Number of QC area in 08 sites= 8,050 m<sup>2</sup>, equivalent to 18,28%

## 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 its SOPs for UXO clearance;
- HALO Trust has 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 for UXO/Mine clearance.
- Sufficient and safe vehicles for its workers which is in line with laws and regulation.
- The readiness of medical equipment and human resource for medical operation.

### 2. Remaining Issues:

- Marking in the cleared site must have standard points.
- Lack of Suits to prevent from White Phosphorus.
- It is required to submit report on the result of modification and software testing of Vallon to NRA Office for information.
- To improve the UXO clearance Methods to ensure speedy and safety.
- The team leaders must understand the background and information of the site clearly.
- It is required the site leader to improve on the control of accident area.
- It is found that the Betadine was already expired since 15 August 2021.

### 3. Requirement:

- Halo Trust to utilize 02 (types) detectors only.
- To speed up its UXO clearance with good quality and safety.
- To have at least 02 suits to prevent white phosphorus.

- In case of necessity (loss of family member) a member of organization may take her/his annual leave. However, if the annual leave day is out, he/she can take necessary leave.
- To have and keep Ambu-bag and collar in the medical bag in the site.
- The Office of Halo Trust shall fill up the data/information in the list particular the information of staff's blood type and their allergies and other information of hospital.