

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 0222/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-Huaphan Province, during 20th – 30th March 2022.

I. Introduction

In reference to the Agreement of the Director General of NRA Office, No 144/NRA.O, dated 07th March 2022. The Quality Management Team of NRA, in conjunction with PRA Huaphan Province, UXO Lao-Huaphan Province has visited and monitored to the UXO clearance and disposal operation in Huaphan Province in accordance with the Annual Plan 2022. 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. Phuangdao hueng Sanekhamxay, Technical Officer, PRA Huaphan Province;
6. Mr. Sinxay Sanekhamxay, Technical Officer/Driver, PRA Huaphan Province;

Representatives from UXO Lao-Huaphan Province:

1. Mr. Bounyuen Yiapoxong, Deputy Coordinator of UXO Lao-Huaphan Province
2. Mr. Ice Somxay, Technician, UXO Lao-Huaphan 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 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 and controlling operations to the same standards.

III. Number of Personnel and Qualification

Currently, UXO Lao-Huaphan Province has 94 staffs in total, 19 administrative staffs (09 females); 76 field operation staffs (13 females). There are 08 field operation teams including 01 RE team, 01 NTS team, 02 TS teams, 04 AC teams. According to the Annual Plan 2022, the UXO Lao-Huaphan Province conducts its UXO survey, clearance and disposal in 04 districts namely Viengxay, Xamnuer, Xone and Hiem.

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

1. **Risk Education (RE):** According to the Annual Plan, UXO Lao-Huaphan Province has 54 villages for RE operation. To the date, it has successfully conducted RE in 10 villages, the total number of beneficiaries is 6,444 people, or equivalent to 16% of the annual plan.
2. **Non-Technical Survey (NTS):** According to the Annual Plan, UXO Lao-Huaphan Province has 14 villages for NTS operation. To the date, it has successfully implemented NTS in 03 villages. UXO evident points were reported by villagers and 14 UXOs were found.
3. **Technical Survey (TS):** According to the Annual Plan 2022, the two TS teams of UXO Lao-Huaphan Province has 500 ha for TS operation. To the date, It has successfully implemented and identified 292,506 m² of agriculture land as CHA. 62 UXOs (40 bomblets and 22 other explosive ordnances) were found and destroyed. The total number of beneficiaries is 210 people, equivalent to 6% of the annual plan.
4. **Area Clearance (AC):** According to the Annual Plan 2022, The UXO Lao-Huaphan Province has 141,49 ha for AC. To the date, it has successfully conducted area clearance for 381,191 m². 696 bomblets and 48 other explosive ordnances were found. The total number of beneficiaries is 495 people, or equivalent to 27% of annual plan;
5. **Roving Task (RT):** conducted RT 21 times (the RT is conducted based on the report of villager), found 02 bombs, 65 bomblets and 96 other explosive ordnances. The total number of beneficiaries is 1,203 people.

▪ **Visited and Conducted Quality Control in the cleared sites.**

- QM Unit, NRA Office and UXO Lao-Huaphan Province visited and conducted Quality Control in 06 cleared sites in accordance with the completion reports, the detail is below:
 - 01 cleared site in Xone Tai village and 01 site in Nathongpor village, Xone District, Huaphan Province, Task ID: UXO Lao-AC-2022-0710062-001=2,39%;
 - 01 cleared site in Perm village, Viengxay District, Huaphan Province, Task ID: UXO Lao-AC-2022-0704122-001=2,15%
 - 01 cleared site in Kang Village, Xam Nuer District, Huaphan Province, Task ID: UXO Lao-AC-2022-0701014-001=2,60%;
 - 01 cleared site in Khangkhok village, Xam Nuer District, Huaphan Province, Task ID: UXO Lao-AC-2022-0704122-001=2,15%;
 - 01 cleared site in Ong village, , Xam Nuer District, Huaphan Province, Task ID: UXO Lao-AC-2022-0701013-001=1,90%,
 - 01 site in Xonetai village, Xone District, Huaphan Province, Task ID: UXO Lao-AC-2022-0710032-002=2,38%.

The QC of all cleared sites is 13,31% estimation, those sites are safe and not found any fragment that bigger than a half (1/2) of BLU26.

V. Document Management System:

UXO Lao-Huaphan 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.

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-Huaphan Province implements UXO clearance and disposal in the sites with good quality, effectiveness, safe and consistence with its SOPs and National Standards.