



UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE SECTOR ANNUAL REPORT 2015



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

This document acts as Annual Report of the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action in Lao PDR.

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The NRA would like to thank all UXO/Mine Action Sector Operators who provided images and information on their projects and activities in 2015 for this report.

The NRA would like also to thank UNDP for the support provided throughout 2015 to both NRA and UXO Lao, as well as the input to this report.

The NRA Programme and Public Relations Unit would also like to acknowledge the support and effort put in by all Members of the NRA team in helping to compile the UXO Sector Annual Report 2015.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CA – Community Awareness	MAG – Mines Advisory Group
CCM – Convention on Cluster Munitions	MOFA – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
CHAs – Confirmed Hazardous Areas	MoU – Memorandum of Understanding
CL – Community Liaison	MRE – Mine Risk Education
CMRS – Cluster Munitions Remnants Survey	NRA – National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR
CMAC – Cambodian Mine Action Centre	NCDE – National Committee for Disability and Elderly
COPE – Cooperative Orthotic and Prosthetic Enterprise	NPA – Norwegian People’s Aid
CRS – Catholic Relief Services	NTS – Non Technical Survey
DCA – Dan Church Aid	P&O – Prosthetists & Orthotistst
DFAT – Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	PWD – Persons with disabilities
DREAT – Disability Rights and Equality Awareness Training	QA – Quality Assessments
EDD – Explosive Detection Dogs	QLA – Quality of Life Association
EOD – Explosive Ordnance Disposal	RE – Risk Education
ERW – Explosive remnants of war	RDPE – Rural Development and Poverty Eradication
EU – European Union	RT – Roving Tasks
GICHD – Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining	SDC – Swiss Development Cooperation
GIZ – Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit	SoS – Spirit of Soccer
GOL – Government of Lao	SIG – Sterling International Group
JMAS – Japan Mine Action Service	TA – Technical Advisor
JICA – Japan International Cooperation Agency	TOT – Training of Teachers
JICS – Japan International Cooperation System	TS – Technical Survey
JMU – James Madison University	TWG – Technical working group
HI – Handicap International	UNDP – United Nations Development Program
IA – Impact Assessment	UXO LAO – Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme
IEC – Information, Education and Communication	UXO – Unexploded Ordnance
IGA – Income generation activities	UNMAS – United Nations Mine Action Service
IMSMA – Information Management Systems for Mine Action	UNV – United Nations Volunteers
KOICA – Korea International Cooperation Agency	VA – Victim Assistance
Lao PDR – People’s Democratic Republic of Lao	VAST – Victim Assistance and Support Team
LBD – Lao Buddhism for Development	WE – World Education
LDPA – Lao Disabled Peoples Association	WEL – World Education Laos
LARLP – Laos Australia Rural Livelihoods Programme	WRA – Weapons Removal and Abatement
	WVMF – War Victims Medical Fund



FOREWORD:

Chairman of the National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR.

I am very pleased to present the 2015 annual report for the UXO Sector and take this opportunity to highlight some of the key achievements this past year.

In 2015, the NRA and the Government of Lao PDR supported many key developments in the UXO sector especially the adoption of the new evidence-based clearance methodology developed in collaboration with international NGOs and implemented with support from UNDP. Now, all five humanitarian clearance operators are using this approach. Throughout the implementing of this method over the time, we cleared UXO on areas confirmed as contaminated, destroyed more cluster munitions per hectare, saved time and resources compared with the old clearance process in the past. I do believe that this method of survey will support the planning of future clearance, based on pro-poor criteria, to support poverty reduction and rural livelihoods. The NRA is working closely with UNDP to develop guidelines for this prioritisation.

In the area of victim assistance, we continued to provide assistance according with annual work plan and national strategic plan. With regards to mine risk education we also developed MRE materials including posters, brochures, and UXO curriculum books. At the same time, we conducted UXO/mine risk education activities in many UXO impacted communities and real teaching at education institutions with good result as outlined in this report.

On behalf of the Government of Lao PDR, as Chairman of the NRA, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the UXO sector and acknowledge my great appreciation for the achievements of the past year. The progress and outcomes achieved have involved operators, sector personnel and experts all demonstrating a high degree of commitment and care to this important cause. At the same time, I thank our partners UNDP and all donors and international organizations for your support given to the NRA and UXO operators working in Lao PDR. Without your valued technical and management support and commitment, the work undertaken would not be possible. I look forward to continuing and strengthening this collaboration in the future.

H.E. Mr. Bounheuang DOUANGPHACHANH

Minister of the Prime Minister's Office, and President of the National Committee for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication, Chairman of the National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR.



FOREWORD:

Director General of the National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR.

The NRA office as the operational arm of the NRA is proud to work for the NRA as Government of Lao PDR in terms of implementing the national policies on UXO action such as UXO/mine risk education, victim assistance, survey and clearance. At the same time, the NRA office also helps NRA to coordinate the donors and UXO operators as well as UXO commercial companies both national and international conducted UXO action in the same direction with high degree of commitment and responsibility with many achievements as below.

In cooperation with Ministry of Education and Sport, NRA completed the printing of UXO curriculum books 2,500 sets and integrated to primary school's curriculum in UXO contaminated provinces which aimed to teach children how to live in UXO contaminated areas and better understand the dangers associated with UXO and learn how to prevent and avoid these threats. At the same time, we also conducted UXO/mine risk education activities in more than 1,200 places; it helped to maintain the number of UXO casualties down to 42 people this year.

In the area of the victim assistance, we provided the assistance for 752 people of that 460 survivors had receive medical care and 294 survivors had access to financial support that made gradually them lift from the poverty even though it was a small amount of supporting but it was a first good start.

In the area of clearance, we have cleared 4,522 ha and destroyed 133,513 UXO items. Those we have been doing are served for focal development areas for both centre and provincial especially contributed to the implementation of the 7th five years National Socio-Economic Development Plan.

On this occasion, I would like to express my gratitude to our partners UNDP and the various donors for their humanitarian support in terms of grants, material and equipment, and to the technical personnel provided to the NRA. My sincere thanks also go to the different UXO operators as well as foreign experts for your hard work, in addressing the UXO problem in the Lao PDR. These problems remain a serious threat to Lao multi-ethnic people on everyday lives. I very much hope that you will continue supporting this work in the future; work that will guarantee the safety of our multi-ethnic people, so that they can have a safer life and can contribute to the task of poverty eradication by 2020.

Phoukhieo CHANTHASOMBOUNE
Member of Board and Director General of the National Regulatory Authority
for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR.



FOREWORD:

**US Ambassador & UNDP Resident Representative
Co-Chairpersons of the UXO Sector Working Group.**

We are honoured to again be invited to provide our joint introductory remarks to this report as the co-chairs of the Unexploded Ordnance Sector Working Group.

Unexploded ordnance contamination in Lao PDR continues to blight the lives of affected communities, both through the casualties inflicted by accidents and the increased costs of necessary development activities. In 2015, 42 casualties were caused by UXO accidents across the country, causing instant devastation to dozens of families. This is a large reduction from the high of 302 seen in 2008, but as the sector moves forward, the aim must be to end casualties altogether. Troublingly, the most contaminated districts remain strongly correlated with the country's poorest areas. The work of the UXO sector must focus on addressing the needs of the poor and its planning needs to be in line with development objectives to the extent possible.

In 2014, all humanitarian clearance operators established the practice of evidence-based survey and clearance. During 2015, the sector began to reap the rewards of this. After a long period of advocacy and support on the part of the United States and UNDP, it is an immense pleasure to see the success of this transition, which is most clearly evident in one statistic: the number of cluster munitions found per hectare cleared increased fourfold in 2015 compared to 2014. For UXO Lao, the results have been among the most impressive in the sector – a major achievement for the largest operator in the country.

As the sector celebrates this milestone, we turn our attention to the future. The new approach allows for the country's operators to effectively collaborate on working towards the first national survey of known cluster munition contamination. The United States and UNDP have worked with the NRA to develop a clear strategy to complete this survey by 2021, and we look forward to supporting the Government of Lao PDR in implementing it. UNDP's contribution to this process will be a new UXO project beginning in 2017 and ending in 2021, which is currently being finalised. We hope this will provide an effective mechanism for both old and new Development Partners to engage in addressing the UXO problem in a coordinated manner.

In October 2015, additional United States funding to UXO Lao was announced to cover the re-hiring of 17 teams in six provinces. Solutions to address the UXO problem were high on the agenda of President Barack Obama's first visit to Lao PDR in September 2016, at which he announced a three-year contribution of USD 90 million over the next three years. This will make a real difference in the sector.

With the amount of survey work ongoing, and the increasing quality of data, the opportunity to prioritise tasks based on evidence, and with development-focused criteria has finally arrived. The technical support provided by both the United States and UNDP to the NRA is aiming to establish a transparent system for this within the NRA, with the objective of creating clear task-based sectoral annual work plans. This will be a major undertaking and one where the continued role of our generous partners is crucial.

Lastly, the establishment of a local Sustainable Development Goal 18 for the removal of the UXO obstacle to development, will, we hope, create an ambitious long-term vision for what Lao PDR can achieve – putting the legacy of UXO behind it, and moving forward to protect the country's people and environment.

Mr. Daniel Clune

Ambassador of the United States of America,
Co-Chairperson of the UXO Sector Working Group.

Mrs. Kaarina Immonen

UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident
Representative, Co-Chairperson of the UXO Sector
Working Group.

SECTOR ACHIEVEMENTS: THE NUMBERS

<i>Humanitarian clearance operators - UXO Found and Destroyed through Area Clearance 2010-2015</i>							
<i>Year</i>	<i>Hectares Cleared</i>	<i>Bomb</i>	<i>Bombies/CM</i>	<i>Landmines</i>	<i>Other UXO</i>	<i>Total UXO</i>	<i>CM/ha</i>
2010	2,996	39	19,740	18	14,506	34,303	6.6
2011	3,692	22	19,088	96	19,683	38,889	5.2
2012	3,823	60	26,011	18	17,318	43,407	6.8
2013	3,228	28	22,847	48	20,626	43,549	7.1
2014	3,662	36	26,566	78	17,697	44,377	7.3
2015	2,961	55	49,497	108	13,162	62,822	16.7

UXO Casualties

<i>UXO Accidents and Casualties in Lao PDR, 2008-2015</i>										
<i>Year</i>	<i>Accidents</i>	<i>Injuries</i>				<i>Deaths</i>				<i>Total Casualties</i>
		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	
2008	186	99	22	67	15	66	8	20	5	302
2009	77	50	8	25	3	25	1	6	2	120
2010	75	33	8	47	7	9	1	9	5	119
2011	64	32	9	34	4	6	0	14	0	99
2012	36	17	11	11	2	6	1	6	2	56
2013	18	9	2	12	5	5	0	7	1	41
2014	22	8	5	9	7	4	0	12	0	45
2015	27	15	1	16	1	6	1	2	0	42

2015 Humanitarian clearance operators

Technical Survey to establish the Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHAs)

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Hectares of Technical Survey outside of CHA</i>	<i>Hectares of CHA Established</i>	<i>Bomb</i>	<i>Bombies</i>	<i>Mine</i>	<i>Other UXO</i>	<i>Total</i>
UXO Lao	-	3,634	2	11,085	6	3,486	14,579
NPA	5,735	3,902	29	9,262	-	833	10,124
MAG	470	1,574	-	2,698	-	44	2,742
Halo Trust	2,259	900	1	2,679	-	815	3,495
HI	-	138	3	1,439	-	81	1,523
Total:	8,464	10,148	35	27,163	6	5,259	32,463

Roving Tasks

Organization	Number of Visits	Number of Villages	Bomb	Bombies	Mine	Other UXO	Total
UXO Lao	1,623	947	126	15,449	34	8,871	24,480
NPA	176	176	39	1,666	-	817	2,522
MAG	945	91	6	830	-	749	1,585
Halo Trust	561	0	23	2,398	-	684	3,105
HI	142	83	21	2,432	2	1,256	3,711
Total:	3,447	1,297	215	22,775	36	12,377	35,403

Area Clearance (Hectares)

Organization	Agriculture/Ha	Development/Ha	Total/Ha	Hectares of CHA Cleared	"Percentage of CHA Clearance"	Bomb	Bombies	Mine	Other UXO	Total
UXO Lao	1,718	256	1,973	1,572	80%	34	39,391	108	11,632	51,165
NPA	92	11	103	103	100%	2	2,034	-	63	2,099
MAG	688	38	726	563	78%	2	6,424	-	259	6,685
Halo Trust	-	-	105	105	100%	2	1,157	-	404	1,563
HI	41	13	54	-	0%	15	491	0	804	1,310
Total:	2,539	317	2,961	2,343	79%	55	49,497	108	13,162	62,822

Organization	Agriculture/Ha	Development/Ha	Total/Ha	Bomb	Bombies	Mine	Other UXO	Total
All Humanitarian	2,539	317	2,961	305	99,435	150	30,798	130,688
Total:	2,539	317	2,961	305	99,435	150	30,798	130,688

Commercial clearance operators

Roving Tasks

Organization	Number of Visits	Number of Villages	Bomb	Bombie	Mine	Other UXO	Total
BACTEC	1	4	0	4	0	0	4
Total:	1	4	0	4	0	0	4

Clearance

Organization	Agriculture/Ha	Development/Ha	Total/Ha	Bomb	Bombies	Mine	Other UXO	Total
ASA	0	2.4	2	0	0	0	25	25
PSD	26	182	208	1	47	0	1,518	1,566
SBH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Lao BSL	0	116	116	0	59	0	0	59
XTD	403	0	403	0	0	0	0	0
LAUNC			0					
OUMMA	19	0	19	0	319	0	213	532
AUSLAO	0	368	368	0	2	0	2	4
MILSEARCH	2	20	22	2	24	0	5	31
BACTEC	0	53	53		11		17	28
MMG	0	370	370	49	125	0	402	576
Total:	449	1,112	1,561	52	587	-	2,182	2,821

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Agriculture/ Ha</i>	<i>Develop- ment/Ha</i>	<i>Total/Ha</i>	<i>Bomb</i>	<i>Bom- bies</i>	<i>Mine</i>	<i>Other UXO</i>	<i>Total</i>
All Commercials	449	1,112	1,561	52	591	-	2,182	2,825
Total:	449	1,112	1,561	52	591	0	2,182	2,825

GRAND TOTAL

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Agriculture/ Ha</i>	<i>Development/ Ha</i>	<i>Total/Ha</i>	<i>Bomb</i>	<i>Bombies</i>	<i>Mine</i>	<i>Other UXO</i>	<i>Total</i>
All Operators	2,988	1,429	4,522	357	100,026	150	32,980	133,513
Total:	2,988	1,429	4,522	357	100,026	150	32,980	133,513

Risk Education/Community Awareness Operations

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Village and School Number</i>	<i>Children</i>		<i>Adult</i>		<i>Total</i>
		Boy	Girl	Men	Women	
UXO LAO	548	46,461	45,592	44,934	46,168	183,155
HI	98	2,977	2,739	3,138	2,825	11,679
MAG	106	16,842	15,827	5,037	5,040	42,746
Halo Trust	291	3,729	3,055	2,934	1,864	11,582
SoS	180	7,965	6,535	164	84	14,748
DCA	18	1,584	1,510	148	198	3,440
Total:	1,241	79,558	75,258	56,355	56,179	267,350

Victim Assistance

Organization	Victim Assistance Provided									
	Financial Support					Medical Support				
	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total
COPE	-	-	-	-	-	181	13	-	-	194
WE	184	110	-	-	-	201	65	-	-	560
Total:	184	110	0	0	0	382	78	0	0	754

UXO Operators Personnel in Lao PDR 2015

Organization	Office Support				Operations				Total
	National		International		National		International		
	Men	Women	Man	Woman	Men	Women	Men	Women	
NRA	21	15	3	1	5	2	-	-	47
UXO Lao	94	38	5	2	737	221	-	-	1,097
NPA	37	13	4	1	205	75	3	1	339
MAG	40	20	3	1	344	107	3	-	518
HI	15	12	2	1	94	38	1	2	165
Halo Trust	20	12	1	-	159	60	2	-	254
ASA	9	6	2	-	6	-	-	-	23
Lao BSL	4	1	-	-	91	4	-	-	100
PSD	2	3	-	23	6	-	-	-	34
XTD	6	4	0	0	3	1	0	0	14
SBH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LAUNC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SP	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AUSLAO	2	3	1	-	44	4	-	-	54
OUMMA	6	2	-	-	16	1	-	-	25
BACTEC	5	2	1	1	53	-	1	-	63
Milsearch	2	5	1	1	80	30	4	-	123
MMG	4	8	3	-	209	133	2	-	359
WE	-	2	-	-	5	5	-	-	12
DCA	1	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	5
QLA	1	2	-	-	6	1	-	-	10
COPE	7	6	3	1	-	-	-	-	17
SoS	1	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	6
Total:	271	150	30	32	2,067	682	16	3	3,265

2015 UXO SECTOR FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

Cash contributions:

Humanitarian clearance operators - 2015 (USD)

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Contributions Received in 2015 (USD)</i>	<i>Expenditure on UXO Operations in 2015 (USD)</i>
UXO Lao*	5,310,560	7,775,734
NPA	4,234,350	4,234,438
MAG	4,662,000	4,662,000
HI	1,926,321	1,926,751
Halo Trust	2,400,000	2,400,000
JMAS	867,623	867,623
Reduction to avoid double counting due to transfer among operators	747,486	747,486
Total:	18,653,368	21,119,060

*UXO Lao's expenditure included funds contributed in previous years through the UNDP-administered UXO Trust Fund.

Commercial clearance companies - 2015 (USD)

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Contributions Received in 2015 (USD)</i>	<i>Expenditure on UXO Operations in 2015 (USD)</i>
ASA	293,397	293,397
PSD	528,600	528,600
SBH	declined to provide information	declined to provide information
SP	declined to provide information	declined to provide information
LAUNC	declined to provide information	declined to provide information
XTD	780,000	780,000
Lao BSL	571,751	571,751
AUSLAO	197,218	197,218
OUMMA	207,730	207,730
BACTEC	566,946	566,946
Milsearch	633,500	633,500
MMG	4,513,000	4,513,000
Total:	8,292,142	8,292,142

Risk education/Community Awareness and Victim Assistance Operators – 2015 (USD)

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Contributions Received in 2015 (USD)</i>	<i>Expenditure on UXO Operations in 2015 (USD)</i>
COPE	1,340,203	874,473
WE	329,634	329,634
DCA	210,000	210,000
SoS	152,940	152,940
QLA	212,133	213,408
Total:	2,244,910	1,780,455

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Contributions Received in 2015 (USD)</i>	<i>Expenditure on UXO Operations in 2015 (USD)</i>
NRA (through UNDP)	2,417,387	1,723,857
NRA (through Sterling International Group)	149,930	39,934
Total:	2,567,317	1,763,791

In-kind contributions

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Contributions Received in 2015 (USD)</i>	<i>Expenditure on UXO Operations in 2015 (USD)</i>
Lao Government	4,816,615	4,816,615
Total:	4,816,615	4,816,615

GRAND TOTAL	36,574,352	37,772,063
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UXO FACTS AND FIGURES

- Lao PDR is the most heavily bombed country, per capita, in history
- 25% of villages in Laos are contaminated with UXO
- 14 of Lao PDR's 17 provinces suffer UXO contamination
- More than 2 million tons of ordnance were dropped on Laos between 1964 and 1973
- 580,000 bombing missions were flown over Laos
- Cluster submunitions or 'bombies' are the most common form of UXO found in the country
- More than 270 million bombies were dropped on Laos
- Up to 30% failed to detonate
- Approximately 80 million unexploded bombies remained in Laos after the war
- Over 50,000 people have been killed or injured since 1964
- There were approximately 42 new casualties in 2015
- In the last decade, 40% of all casualties were children
- Accidents caused by bombies increased to 30% of all ERW casualties in the last decade

WHAT IS UXO?

Unexploded ordnance, or UXO, are explosive weapons that failed to detonate when they were fired, dropped, launched or projected, and still pose the risk of exploding. UXO contamination in the Lao PDR consists of large bombs, rockets, grenades, artillery munitions, mortars, landmines, cluster munitions and submunitions.

A cluster munition is a conventional weapon that consists of an outer canister that is designed to disperse or release smaller bombs (submunitions or bomblets) that weigh less than 20 kilograms each. These submunitions are known throughout the Lao PDR as 'bombies'. The cluster munition is dropped from a plane or launched from the ground into the air, where it ejects the bombies over a wide area. Bombies that were dropped on the Lao PDR had a high failure rate, leaving an estimated 30 percent unexploded and scattered across vast areas of land. When disturbed, even decades later, bombies and other UXO can explode, injuring and killing civilians as they carry out their daily activities.

The Lao PDR today is one of the most heavily UXO and cluster munitions affected countries in the world, with up to 25 percent of the country's villages contaminated by the presence of these remnants of war. More than 270 million bombies were dropped over the Lao PDR during the nine years of conflict (1964-1973) and an estimated 80 million failed to detonate, remaining live and scattered throughout the country. In addition, over four million large bombs were dropped and extensive ground battles in predominantly the Northern provinces left behind substantial amounts of other unexploded ordnances.

OVERVIEW OF NRA ACTIVITIES IN 2015:

During 2015, the NRA aimed at increasing its capacity to deal with the problem of remaining unexploded ordnance in order to reduce the humanitarian threat and the remove barriers to productive and sustainable use of land. At the outcome-level, it can be reported that a number of changes occurred in 2015, including a further reduction in casualties to 42 in 2015, from the baseline of 300 in 2008, as well as a major increase in the number of cluster munitions found (both in absolute terms and proportionally to the amount of land cleared), and marked progress on survey.

The overall decline in casualties is in part due to ongoing mine risk education efforts, UXO removal and an increase in the range of safe income generation options which has reduced risk-taking behaviour. Despite the good progress of more efficient clearance, Lao PDR still has an unacceptable level of accidents and victims. In 2015, there were 27 registered accidents with 42 victims; of which 33 were injured (15 men, 16 boys, 1 woman and 1 girl) and 9 were killed (6 men, 2 boys, and 1 woman). Those most at risk continue to be boys and men.

The NRA has taken steps to increase the effectiveness of mine risk education through the development of a supplementary UXO curriculum for primary schools, and through sport and village visits to at-risk areas. Radio messages are broadcast in coordination with the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism in four of the most contaminated provinces (Khammouane, Savannaket, Champasack and Sekong).

Strategic planning:

In mid-2015, the National Regulatory Authority (NRA), with support from the Government of Lao PDR, UNDP, the UXO Sector Development Partners and implementing agencies, conducted a consultative mid-term review (MTR) of Safe Path Forward II (SPF II). Throughout the mid-term review process, a major theme was how to use the new evidence-based system for Non-Technical and Technical Survey to develop a more systematic UXO sector programme to ensure that land is identified as hazardous and cleared in an efficient and effective manner to allow for greater influence on the development of Lao PDR.

Based on the recommendations of the 2015 Review of the National Strategic Plan "Safe Path Forward II", and with technical advisory support from UNDP, the NRA set a number of specific targets for the remaining five

years up to 2020, including non-technical survey of 3,860 villages, pursuing technical survey, keeping clearance as a priority of the government's poverty eradication programme, bringing down the number of casualties to less than 40 a year, and ensuring that the Government of Lao PDR provide medical care, vocational training and economic support to 1,500 UXO victims.

Land Clearance 2015:

Since the start of 2015, priority in the UXO sector has shifted to survey to provide a basis for evidence-based clearance and to make a credible determination of the extent of Lao PDR's contamination. As a result, the amount of land cleared fell in 2015, but the amount of land identified as confirmed hazardous area (CHA) rose sharply and items destroyed in the course of survey and clearance similarly rose significantly. The NRA reported operators recorded 10,148 hectares of CHA established in 2015. As a result, it can be reported that the number of cluster munitions found per hectare cleared has increased more than fourfold.

The total amount of land cleared in 2015 amounted to 4,522 hectares, 33% less than in the previous year, but the number of bombies destroyed in clearance operations nearly doubled, underscoring the greater effectiveness of operations as a result of the sector's shift to evidence-based clearance. The rapid accumulation of CHA data will enable faster, more efficient clearance ahead, providing resources are available to finance it. The NRA reported that Lao PDR received \$36.5 million in donor funding for the UXO sector in 2015.

The Government of Lao PDR reported that it had provided contributions that it values at \$4.82 million to the UXO sector in 2015, nearly identical to the figure reported the previous year. These contributions were in the form of rent for UXO Lao and the NRA, tax exemptions on operator equipment imports, and costs associated with UXO sector activities of the Lao PDR armed forces.

For the celebration of the 5th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) on 1 August, NRA organized an event with speeches by H.E. Mr. Saleumxay Khommasith Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vice Chairman of the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR (NRA) and Mrs Kaarina Immonen UNDP Resident Representative in Lao PDR, followed by sporting activities in line with the worldwide theme to promote universal ratification and accession to the CCM as part of the anniversary of the Entry into Force. There were representatives from UXO operators, both humanitarian and commercial companies and other involved in victim assistance who participated the meeting with UXO

exhibition on showcase the organization achievements. On the 1st August, there was a full day sport activities call Football and Petanque Friendship Tournament. It was held at Saphavisa Stadium, Polytechnic College. Teams representing a range of different organization and government departments joined this meeting. There were more than 250 people involved in this event.



Ribbon cutting ceremony at the celebration of the 5th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) on 1 August, 2016

In 2015, Laos has given great importance to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) through the approval of several related regulations, policies, strategies and practices. Led by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Saleumxay Kommasith made the government's reaffirmation when delivering his speech at the First Review Conference of the CCM which took place from September 7 to 11 in Dubrovnik, Croatia. The Lao delegation made substantive statements in all key sessions. The Review Conference also marks five years since the First Meeting of State Parties to the convention took place in Vientiane in 2010. The Deputy Minister, who is also the Vice Chairman of the National Regulatory Authority (NRA), reminded the participants about the country's implementation of the convention over the past five years with satisfactory results having been achieved. Around 500 delegates have participated in the review conference under the chairmanship of Croatian Prime Minister Zoran Milanovic. A number of activities and projects have been implemented by the international community since the CCM entered into being. Many have completed the destruction of cluster munitions from their arsenals, inspections have been carried out and legal measures have been established in many countries for protecting civilians from the cluster bomb threat.



Lao delegation attended the First Review Conference of the CCM in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

UNDP's Contribution:

During 2015, UNDP has supported the management and technical capacity-building of both the NRA and UXO Lao. In doing so, UNDP has contributed to all output-and outcome-level achievements attributable to the sector. Since 2014, UNDP has committed to taking a comprehensive and sectoral approach, which is evident in the types of technical deployments preferred. In terms of the specific support provided, some of the key elements can be summarized as follows:

- **Technical Advice** – A Chief Technical Advisor has been deployed to support both UXO Lao and the NRA since July 2014. The CTA has provided technical advice to both the NRA and UXO Lao during the transition from largely request-based clearance to the new evidence-based approach. The CTA has also advised on programme management, resource mobilization, procurement of technical equipment, task prioritisation and multi-year sectoral planning. In addition to the services of the CTA, UNDP also deployed a Programme and Finance Technical Advisor to the NRA until April 2015, and a new Finance Technical Advisor to the sector from December 2015. UNDP has also deployed a United Nations Volunteer to support the Programme and Public Information units of NRA and UXO Lao since October 2015.
- **Management and Procurement** – UNDP has also supported both organisations in their procurement of equipment necessary to manage and undertake UXO-related activities. In 2015, this has included procurement of protective equipment, vehicles, detectors, and explosives for UXO Lao, and

procurement for NRA of trainings and equipment for the Humanitarian Clearance Unit of the Lao People's Army. All procurement activities are undertaken in line with UNDP's global Rules and Regulations and are subject to standard competitive procedure. UNDP has also supported the NRA through the procurement of Victim Assistance services with the Cooperative Orthotic Prosthetic Enterprise (COPE). UNDP engaged two civil society organizations (Mines Advisory Group and the HALO Trust) to undertake survey activities using funds from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC); however this was terminated, as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs refused to grant Memoranda of Understanding for the projects; the funds were returned to SDC. UNDP also supports the NRA and UXO Lao with quarterly financial monitoring, yearly external audits, provision of a coordination mechanism for contributing Development Partners, and project implementation oversight.

■ **Sector Leadership** – UNDP is the co-chair (along with the United States Ambassador to Lao PDR) of the UXO Sector Working Group. In this role, UNDP has advocated for a number of changes that have either been initiated or remain outstanding. UNDP as co-chair of the Sector Working Group was a vocal advocate of implementing the evidence-based clearance methodology and of formulating a Victim Assistance Strategy, both of which have been achieved in the last two years. At the Sector Working Group in 2015, UNDP voiced support for strengthening the prioritisation mechanism for UXO clearance, creating a broader disability policy covering UXO victims. These priorities have been echoed by a number of the UXO sector's strongest and most committed international partners. UNDP's advocacy and technical support also contributed to the articulation of new targets for the sector in the 8th NSEDP, as well as initial draft guidance for clearance task prioritisation based on development incentives. UNDP has also provided substantial support to preparations for the representation of Lao PDR at international events, in particular the First Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (1RC CCM).

■ **Capacity Building** – UNDP has supported the follow-up to the 2014 Capacity Assessment of the NRA and UXO Lao by working with both organisations to select and articulate priorities and concrete Action Plans. This has included the completion in October 2015 of an Assessment of the NRA's Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity, undertaken by UNDP, which has led to the formulation of an initial Concept for strengthening the monitoring and data management of the NRA. This is focused on improving long-term planning and ensuring maximum development

impact, both of which have been raised as key priorities for many Development Partners as well as the Government of Lao PDR. All technical advisory services provided by UNDP are focused on the long-term goal of capacity building and national ownership.

■ **Resource Mobilisation** – UNDP has been instrumental in engaging new and previous donors in financing the UXO sector in 2015. This has led to the Annual Work Plans of NRA and UXO Lao being largely funded for the reporting period. During the reporting period, UNDP secured a large three-year Contribution Agreement from the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) including substantial funding through the NRA for the Humanitarian Clearance Unit of the Lao People's Army. The period has also seen new contributions through UNDP, or extensions signed, from the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), the Government of Canada, the Government of Luxembourg, and the Government of Australia.

12TH HIGH LEVEL ROUND TABLE MEETING

The 12 High Level Round Table Meeting was held on the 27th November 2015 at the International Cooperation and Training Centre (ICTC) in Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR.

Over 300 delegates from the Government and development partners from the UN, donor governments, non-profit organisations, national non-profit associations and the private sector attended, and a range of representatives endorsed the 'Vientiane Partnership Declaration.

The NRA and UXO Lao, on behalf of the UXO Sector in Lao PDR, successfully exhibited the work of the UXO sector at this important meeting. The exhibition was visited by many summit delegates, international media and country representatives generating a lot of questions about the UXO issue in Lao PDR.

The NRA and UXO Lao were part of a very small group of Lao organizations who were invited to exhibit at this high-profile event.

A strong presence at these high-profile international events ensured strong advocacy for the victims of UXO in Lao PDR and served to generate awareness of the ongoing challenges of UXO contamination for the people of Lao PDR.



H.E. Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong and HRTM delegates from all over Europe and Asia visited the UXO Sector exhibition at the HRTM to learn about the UXO challenge in Lao PDR.

2015 NRA FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Information Summary

Actual Expenditures per Activity Result (in USD)

For the Year Ended 31 December 2015

Activity Result	UNDP-Managed Funds	Bilateral	Others	Total	% to Total
<i>Risk Education</i>	57,494.37			57,494.37	3%
<i>Victim Assistance</i>	29,607.99			29,607.99	2%
<i>Land Clearance</i>	39,426.64			39,426.64	2%
<i>Effective Coordination</i>	225,653.67			225,653.67	12%
<i>Institutional Development</i>	671,122.45			671,122.45	37%
<i>International Treaty Obligations Met</i>	122,583.51			122,583.51	7%
<i>Contracting/Procurement by UNDP</i>	575,799.42			575,799.42	32%
<i>Others</i>	2,169.26	40,005.12	46,904.81	89,079.19	5%
Total	1,723,857.31	40,005.12	46,904.81	1,810,767.24	100%

Funds Received (in USD)
For the Year Ended 31 December 2015

<i>Fund Sources</i>	<i>Earmarked</i>	<i>Unearmarked</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>% to Total</i>
<i>UNDP-Managed Funds</i>				
<i>KOICA</i>	1,618,957.00		1,618,957.00	61%
<i>SDC</i>		616,000.00	616,000.00	23%
<i>Ireland</i>		182,429.70	182,429.70	7%
<i>Bilateral Funds</i>				
<i>US Sterling</i>		149,930.00	149,930.00	6%
<i>Government Contribution</i>	91,340.04		91,340.04	3%
<i>Total</i>	1,710,297.04	948,359.70	2,658,656.74	100%
<i>% to Total</i>	64%	36%	100%	

Summary of Fund Balances (in USD)
As of 31 December 2015

	<i>Fund Balance, 1 Jan. 2015</i>	<i>Funds Received</i>	<i>Funds Used</i>	<i>Fund Balance, 31 Dec. 2015</i>	<i>% to Total</i>
UNDP-Managed Funds					
KOICA		1,618,957.00	719,846.20	899,110.80	
<i>SDC</i>	341,238.00	616,000.00	461,443.58	495,794.42	
<i>Australia CS</i>	361,297.00		154,698.92	206,598.08	
<i>Ireland</i>	323,132.00	182,429.70	325,176.88	180,384.82	
<i>EU</i>	62,691.73		62,691.73	-	
	1,088,358.73	2,417,386.70	1,723,857.31	1,781,888.12	90%
<i>Bilateral Funds</i>					
<i>US Sterling</i>	44,772.13	149,930.00	40,005.12	154,697.01	8%
<i>Government Contribution</i>		91,340.04	46,904.81	44,435.23	2%
<i>Total</i>	1,133,130.86	2,658,656.74	1,810,767.24	1,981,020.36	100%



UXO SECTOR WORKING GROUP MEETING 2015

On 16 November 2015, the NRA together with the US embassy in Lao PDR and UNDP held the UXO Sector Working Group Meeting (SWG). The meeting was chaired by the Minister to the Prime Minister's Office, President of the National Leading Committee for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication and Chairman of the NRA Board (Chair), the Ambassador of United States of America to Lao PDR (Co-Chair) and the UNDP Resident Representative in Lao PDR Mrs. Kaarina Immonen (Co-Chair). This meeting was designed to inform and discuss progress with Sector Working Group members prior to the High Level Round Table Meeting in November. The meeting was attended by line ministries concerned, representative of donor countries UNDP, UXO operators both humanitarian and commercial plus some participants as the UXO Policy Forum around 90 people. Key topics discussed in the meeting included the short summary of 5th November UXO Policy forum where the Draft Five Year Sector Work Plan and priorities for 2016 were discussed; update on the implementation of the new concept of operations; NRA Board members - line ministries presentation on the rural Development and UXO addressing; disable person and UXO survivor assistance; UXO/Mine Risk Education; and brief on the First Review Conference to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) which took place in Dubrovnik, Croatia.



LAO PDR SURVEY AND CLEARANCE PROCESS

STEP 1: NON-TECHNICAL SURVEY

Non-technical survey “NTS” is used to identify evidence points of explosive contamination (primarily cluster munitions in Lao PDR). This involves collecting information of explosive hazards from historical records and from local population.

STEP 2: TECHNICAL SURVEY

“Technical survey” is used to identify and map Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHA) for future clearance. The area is divided into 50m by 50m boxes, with a grid placed over the starting evidence points. Each box is scanned with detectors for more evidence and-if found-the team stops and moves to the next box. The process follows the cluster munitions strike until no more evidence is found. Cluster munitions identified during this process are mapped and then destroyed. The boxes are color-coded based on the findings and the results are used to establish the CHA requiring clearance. This is the crucial step to define the extent of contamination and begin to plan operations.

STEP 3: CLEARANCE

“Clearance” refers to activities used to remove and/or destroy all explosive hazards from a specified area, to a specified depth. The minimum depth is 25cm, which normally captures all surface and shallow contamination. Clearance is conducted on CHAs identified through the Technical Survey. Many more cluster munitions will be found and destroyed during clearance.

U X O S E C T O R

OPERATOR REPORTS

Clearance, Victim Assistance and Risk
Education Operators

HUMANITARIAN CLEARANCE ORGANIZATIONS



HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL (HI)

Activities in 2015:

HI conducted Non-Technical Survey (NTS), Technical Survey, Clearance, Risk Education and Victim Assistance activities in 2015.

- For NTS, HI deployed 3 teams, one per district of intervention, to conduct NTS. Integrated into the team is a RE officer and one EOD Officer who is trained to recognize ERW. NTS focuses on analysis of existing UXO evidence and on finding new UXO evidence within the land boundaries of the village being assessed. The aim of NTS is to determine if there is CM evidence that requires follow on TS. The NTS activities in 2015 saw Handicap International staff commence with data analysis. Village profile reports, development plans, socio-economic and accident data were assessed and information on CM evidence from previous clearance work collated. As part of the NTS, the liaison with the provincial NRA staff and local authorities to gather information on any planned projects (GOL or other) in the village/locality, current village demographic and poverty information and perceptions about UXO contamination in the village was another important activity for the Handicap International NTS teams during 2015. The NTS staff arrange meetings with all village heads followed by village meetings involving as many households as possible. Following the village meetings, separate meetings with households or individuals that have UXO information were conducted. The HI staff then validate the information by going to see reported UXO which will be destroyed by Roving Teams. During NTS a village sketch map is produced to visually record the results of the NTS and any other future UXO clearance activities that occur in a village.

- For technical survey (TS) HI deployed 3 TS teams in 2015. The TS builds on cluster munitions (CM) evidence obtained from the NTS with the CM evidence point becoming the TS start point and the type of CM becoming the target CM. 50 meter by 50 meter boxes were then used to manage and control the TS. The Technical Survey for specific CM resulted in the establishment of 28 Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHA). The HI teams reported to the NRA these CHAs for

inclusion on IMSMA so a record of UXO contaminated land can be maintained by the Lao PDR and the follow on CHA clearance can be managed and monitored by the NRA.

- Clearance: Handicap International continued with clearance of CHAs in 2015. The clearance is defined in a yearly work plan in coordination with local stakeholders and the NRA. Generally, area clearance is only carried out on CHAs and based on the UXO evidence point reports and on the perspective of local development initiatives as identified by the Districts, or development organizations. Handicap International EOD teams were continuously trained to maintain standards. In 2015, two section commanders succeeded the EOD Level 3 training from May 04th to June 12th. From October 06th to 08th, 98 staff including Deminers, Section Commanders, Team Leaders, SEOD4, Medics and Drivers, participated in a refresh training organized by HI technical Advisor in HI. From November 05th to 16th, 48 staff participated in a technical training for Technical Survey procedures organized by HI Technical Advisor. Six clearance teams were deployed to conduct the clearance activities in three districts. 74 sites were cleared and turned over to communities for gardens (26), roads (14) and cash crops (7). A total of 540,000m² have been released in



Barrier Assessment Session with persons with disabilities and UXO survivors in Sepone in September, 2014.



Muangchan village. After RE session, a child reports an UXO he had identified when hunting rats.

23 villages, resulting in the destruction of 1,310 UXO.

- Risk Education activities continued in 2015. HI integrated one RE Officer into the NTS team to provide Risk Education messages during the NTS data collection. RE staff provided safety messages using books and materials for children and adults developed with the NRA. HI targeted “high-risk groups” such as children who do not know about UXO and may not know how to recognise a UXO if found. Knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP) surveys were conducted to measure the KAP of villagers. Risk Education activities (including safety briefing and movie event occurred in 94 villages and overall reached 11, 679 persons: 2,825 women (24.1%), 3,138 men (26.8%), 2,739 girls (23.4%) and 2,977 boys (25.4%). In addition HI participated in a Training of Teachers (TOT) organised with the Ministry of Education and Sports. This consisted in giving teachers the appropriate knowledge and education materials for them to be able to deliver accurate safety messages on UXO to their students. 301 teachers have been trained in 2015 to deliver UXO safety messages to 9,352 students in 124 Primary schools of the three targeted districts. A dedicated UXO hotline number has also been promoted since July 2015 during the implementation of the Risk Education activities in the targeted villages. Villagers who find UXO can directly report them to HI for deployment of the roving team to destroy them.

- Victim Assistance component. Handicap International continues to support survivors of UXO and other PWD in 2015. Key activities included: Support to NCDE for dissemination of the National Disability Decree 137/GoL; Personalized livelihood support to UXO survivors and persons with disabilities and family members to

start income generation activities (IGA) in Nong and Sepon District; IGA technical and business management training for beneficiaries who received IGA start up support in Nong and Sepon District; Access to services (e.g. eye care, Rehabilitation and Assistive devices) for PWD.

Key achievements in 2015:

Non Technical Survey:

92 NTS were carried out in 92 villages resulting in 726 UXO Evidence Points which will require follow on TS.

Roving:

In 2015, Spot Task requests from villages were reported during Non-Technical Survey and RE activities. Roving EOD teams responded to 142 Spot Task requests in 83 villages in 2015, resulting in the destruction of 3,711 UXO.

Roving	2015 (Jan-Dec)
Number of spot task requests	142
Number of villages	83
Number of UXO destroyed	3,711
Including # sub-munitions	2,432

Technical Survey:

In 2015, a total surface of 16,265,000 m2 was surveyed. It resulted in the identification and destruction of 1,523, of which 94% were sub-munitions. The areas surveyed were selected from CM evidence reported to the NTS and RE personnel. However due to the thick vegetation of some areas, progress of TS was temporarily suspended. In this instance, TS reporting to the NRA did not occur as the TS have not been fully completed. In 2016, HI plans to dedicate 2 vegetation cutting teams to cut the vegetation in order for HI to return and complete the TS's not yet reported to the NRA (tasks which were temporarily suspended). For those TS which were completed and reported a total of 4,509,875m2 of land was surveyed resulting in the creation of 28 Confirmed Hazardous Areas covering an area of 1,382,500 m2 which will require clearance. These CHAs are reported to the NRA for inclusion in the Lao PDR Data Base using Information Management System for Mine Action v6, using the TS report. This will permit a record of UXO contaminated land to be maintained and allow CHA clearance to be managed and monitored by the NRA.

Clearance:

The prioritization process of the clearance was based on the UXO evidence in CHAs and on the perspective of local development initiatives as identified by the Districts or development organisations. During UXO clearance operations, HI teams ensured coordination with community via its CSR teams prior and after clearance activities. At the end of the clearance, the site is formally handed over to the population whilst the hand-over certificate is signed by the chief of the village. Quality Management continued to be carried out as well as CASEVAC exercise, medic training and Post Clearance Impact Assessments.

In 2015, 74 sites were cleared for gardens (26), roads (14) and cash crops (7). A total of 540,000m² have been released over 23 villages, resulting in the destruction of 1,310 UXO.

Clearance	2015 (Jan-Dec)
Number of tasks	74
Number of villages	23
Surface of clearance (m ²)	535,389
Development	124,827
Agriculture	410,562
Total Number of UXO destroyed	1,310

Risk education:

Risk Education activities (including safety briefing and movie events) took place in 94 villages and overall reached 11,679 persons: 2,825 women (24.1%), 3,138 men (26.8%), 2,739 girls (23.4%) and 2,977 boys (25.4%)

Training of Teachers (TOT): This consists in giving teachers the appropriate knowledge and education materials for them to be able to deliver accurate safety messages on UXO to their students. 301 teachers have been trained to deliver UXO safety messages to 9,352 students in 124 Primary schools of the three targeted districts.

Risk education	2015 (Jan-Dec)	Total
Number of schools	124	124
Number of teachers trained	301	301
Number of final beneficiaries	9,352	9,352



A dedicated UXO hotline number has been promoted since July 2015 during the implementation of the Risk Education activities in the targeted villages. Villagers who find UXO can directly report UXO spot task through this hotline to HI staff for further identification and removal of the UXO reported.

Victim Assistance:

At the provincial Level, HI supported the NCDE to organize 4 workshops for dissemination of the National Disability Decree 137/GoL. These workshops were held in Attapeu with 57 participants; in Sekong with 58 participants; in Salavanh with 56 participants and in Xiengkhouang with 57 participants.

Between 24 -26 November HI supported the NCDE to host a workshop to initiate dialogue with key government and non-government stakeholders for the development of a national disability policy, strategy and action plan.

106 UXO survivors and persons with disabilities and family members were supported to start income generation activities (IGA) in Nong and Sepon District. This included 76 people who were given support for poultry and goat raising. 102 participants of the project were given business management training.

Outreach services on eye care, prosthetics and orthotic and assistive devices services were scheduled and implemented in 2015. Eye screening training was provided to 22 district health staff and 269 visually impaired people were assessed. 89 received treatment and 9 were referred to the provincial eye hospital.

Focus areas of work in 2016:

Handicap International aims to continue to support the GoL to conduct UXO Survey to define the CHAs in Lao

PDR. HI will increase the number of teams from 3 to 7 in 2016 to support TS. Clearance work will continue albeit on a smaller scale (one dedicated team) to allow for high priority tasks in the districts of Nong, Sepon and Villabully in Savanakheth Province (e.g. for school construction or clinics). Risk Education activities will continue in the three districts with possibility of expansion into other districts or regions. A Community Based Risk Education Strategy will be rolled out in all four districts, monitoring of trained teachers from 2015 activities will continue. NTS teams will consist of RE officer, EOD technician and a Victim Assistance Officer in order to provide RE, advice and information to PWD e.g. on services available, how to report accident etc as well as data collection on Cluster Munitions evidence. HI will continue to support Survivors of UXO and their families as well as other PWD with livelihood support for income generation activities (IGA) in Nong and Sepon District. Business management training and business group exchange for beneficiaries who received IGA start up support in Nong and Sepon District will be provided. Moreover HI will provide assistive devices and home adaptation to UXO survivors and persons with disabilities.

In 2016, Handicap International will celebrate 20 years of work in the Lao PDR. Starting in 1996 with the Level One Impact Survey we continue to work to support the UXO sector in Laos using a comprehensive approach (Survey, Clearance, Risk Education and Victim Assistance).

Challenges will be funding shortfalls which we hope to overcome in the coming months. Another challenge is the thick vegetation in our work area which can impact on the progress of the TS. This will be solved by adding 2 vegetation cutting teams to support the TS process.

Some Good News:

UXO awareness protects children against deadly reminders of war.

Thanks to Risk Education the children of Savannakhet are learning that danger can be underneath their feet. "We know about objects that explode when you touch them," 7 year old Sonevilay says. "This is how my friend lost his hand and eye. We fear these things and we know they are still around us, hiding in the grass." Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) represents a major threat to Laos children. Conflict which finished long before these children were born has left deadly reminders: unexploded munitions and cluster bombs, a deadly form of sub-munitions. "I feel sad for my classmate Keurk, who lost his hand and an eye in a bombie explosion,"

Sonevilay says. "Children in our village have to be very careful or they will be hurt. The Handicap International staff come here and teach us how to recognize a UXO and what to do if we see one".

Sonevilay's village is particularly affected, as it was the scene of extensive ground battles and intensive aerial bombardments. Many of Sonevilay's family members, including his aunt, have lost limbs because of UXO. For children like Sonevilay, education is the best defense against injury. Handicap International is working communities in Laos to run Risk Education programmes in the worst-affected areas. These programmes help children understand how to avoid UXO, and inform them of the warning signs they should watch for. Children receive Risk Education information through games, books and film and messages on posters, hats, t-shirts, cups and pens. Mr Kinoy (Handicap International RE Officer) believes education should be fun, so he helps children learn through games, quizzes, art and songs. Together, they sing songs and tell stories about the risks of picking up unexploded ordnance. "I get pleasure from knowing I am helping them have fun as well as maybe saving their lives," says Mr Kinoy. "Truly, I find this programme as essential for the well being of our children."



Muangchan village. After RE session, a child reports an UXO he had identified when hunting rats.

Direct and Indirect beneficiaries	2015 (Jan-Dec)	Method of Calculation
TS m2 surveyed	4,509,875	Total M2 processed
Number of CHA identified/defined	28	28 reports to NRA entered into IMSMA
Clearance	11,692	Number of beneficiaries benefitting from the clearance task
Roving EOD	87,592	Number of beneficiaries benefitting from the roving task (village population)
Risk Education	21,031	Number of beneficiaries having benefitted from direct RE interventions
Victim Assistance Initial survey		Number of people having participated to the data collection and PRA activities
Victim Assistance Livelihood support	165	Number of beneficiaries receiving vocational training and/or Income Generating Activity start-up assistance
Victims Assistance Livelihood Mainstreaming	149	Number of participants to information sessions & barrier assessment focus group discussions
Victim Assistance DRET training	326	Number of participants to DRET training or community information sessions

Personnel in 2015:

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
National		International		National		International	
Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
11	10	2	1	86	36	1	2
Total		149					

Victim Assistance Component:

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
National		International		National		International	
Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
4	2	0	0	8	2	0	0
Total		16					

Detailed statistic figures in 2015:

Mine Risk Education/Community Awareness Activities					
Village Visits	Beneficiaries				
	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total
5 for movie events	300	294	368	360	1,322
93 for safety briefings	2,838	2,531	2,609	2,379	10,357

Victim Assistance Provided									
Financial Support/IGA start up					Medical Support/assistive devices				
Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total
49	47	6	4	106	2	8	0	0	10
Non-Technical/general UXO Survey ¹					UXO Roving Tasks				
Number of Visits		Number of Villages			Number of Visits		Number of Villages		
119		91			142		83		

¹ Due to the fact that 2015 is a transitional year from the request-based survey methodology to the evidence-based methodology, this question refers to both non-technical survey visits and general survey visits as the same.

Area cleared:

Area Clearance (Hectares)			Land Released by Technical Survey (Hectares)		
Agricultural	Development	Total	Agriculture	Development	Total
41	12.5	53.5			

CHA Survey: Only for operators that are conducting Cluster Munitions Technical Survey:

Technical survey outside of the CHA (Ha)	Hectares of CHA Established	Hectares of CHA Cleared
See note below ²	138.25	

²In 2015, a total surface of 16,265,000 m² was surveyed. It resulted in the identification and destruction of 1,523, of which 94% were sub-munitions. The areas surveyed were selected from CM evidence reported to the NTS and RE personnel. However due to the thick vegetation of some areas, progress of TS was temporarily suspended. In this instance, TS reporting to the NRA did not occur as the TS have not been fully completed. In 2016, HI plans to dedicate 2 vegetation cutting teams to cut the vegetation in order for HI to return and complete the TS's not yet reported to the NRA (tasks which were temporarily suspended). For those TS which were completed and reported a total of 4,509,875m² of land was surveyed resulting in the creation of 28 Confirmed Hazardous Areas covering an area of 1,382,500 m² which will require clearance. These CHAs are reported to the NRA for inclusion in the Lao PDR Data Base using Information Management System for Mine Action v6, using the TS report. This will permit a record of UXO contaminated land to be maintained and allow CHA clearance to be managed and monitored by the NRA.

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

<i>UXO Removed/Destroyed</i>					
Task	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	<i>Total</i>
Roving Task	21	2,432	2	1,256	3,711
Area Clearance	15	491	0	804	1,310
Technical Survey	3	1,439	0	81	1,523
Total	39	4,362	2	2,141	6,544

Geographic operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces/Districts</i>
Survey	Savanakhet Province, Sepon, Nong and Vilabouly Districts
Area clearance	Savanakhet Province, Sepon, Nong and Vilabouly Districts
Roving Tasks	Savanakhet Province, Sepon, Nong and Vilabouly Districts
Risk Education	Savanakhet Province, Sepon, Nong and Vilabouly Districts
Victim Assistance	Savanakhet Province, Sepon, Nong Districts

Financials: Expenditure for 2015: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	1.421.759
Operational costs	439.605
Equipment – expendable	64.957
Equipment – non-expendable	0
Total	1.926.751

Donor contributions for 2015: (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2015</i>
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Office	788.751
European Union	347.228
Agence Francaise de Developpement (French MoFA)	603.976
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norway	91.000
Handicap International own funds	125.266
Total	1.926.321

Transfer of funds:**Funds transferred to another UXO sector operator**

<i>What organization were the funds transferred to?</i>	<i>How much was transferred? (USD)</i>
NRA Savannakhet	11,785
Total	11,785



JAPAN MINE ACTION SERVICE (JMAS)

Activities in 2015:

In November 2014, JMAS started the 3-year project, “Technical transfer to UXO Lao and Rebuilding the UXO Training Center”, in cooperation with UXO Lao. In this project, JMAS transfers EOD techniques such as “bomb cutting with saw method” in order to enable UXO Lao to carry out UXO clearance safer and quicker, and contribute to the acceleration of UXO clearance in Lao PDR. JMAS also rebuilds all facilities of UXO Training Center in order that the Training Center’s capacity meets the needs of trainings, as the most important place to improve EOD techniques.

Key achievements in 2015:

In 2015, the JMAS Technical Advisor provided training on EOD techniques - mainly “bomb cutting with saw method” - to 28 SEODs and 38 Team Leaders of UXO Lao and training on basic EOD techniques to 12 deminers of UXO Lao. In addition to that, 13 SEODs of UXO Lao disposed 14 bombs with fuse (250Lb×3, 500Lb×10, 750Lb×1) by “bomb cutting with saw method” under the guidance of the JMAS Technical Advisor through On the Job Training. At the same time, we completed the construction of a new class room building, toilet and shower room building, electric facilities and water sys-

tem. As a result of rebuilding the class room building, the capacity became double and good education condition is ensured to improve training.

Some Good News:

A Japanese construction equipment manufacturer, Komatsu Ltd. conducted operation examination of newly developed Cluster Submunition Clearance Machine for 6 months from May 2015 and it could be put to practical uses. JMAS is planning to start project with the Cluster Submunition Clearance Machine in cooperation with NRA and UXO Lao in 2016 and we expect that it promotes UXO Clearance in Lao PDR.

Focus areas of work in 2016:

JMAS Technical Advisor will continue to transfer EOD techniques to UXO Lao in the Training Center and UXO clearance sites in each province, and Dormitory and Protection wall for Ammunition dump will be rebuilt.

Partners:

The Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)

Personnel in 2015:

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>		<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
7	3	2	2	0	0	0	0

Financials:

Expenditure for 2015: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	88,657.58
Operational costs	223,609.54
Equipment – expendable	39,197.73
Equipment – non-expendable	516,158.15
Total	867,623

Donor contributions for 2015: (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2015</i>
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan	867,623
Total	867,623

Transfer of funds:**Funds transferred to another UXO sector operator**

<i>What organization were the funds transferred to?</i>	<i>How much was transferred? (USD)</i>
UXO Lao	539,289.68
Total	539,289.68



LAO NATIONAL UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE PROGRAMME (UXO LAO)

Activities in 2015:

During 2015, UXO Lao undertook survey, clearance and mine risk education (MRE) activities in the nine most-contaminated provinces in Lao PDR: Attapeu, Champasack, Huaphanh, Khammuane, Luangprabang, Saravan, Savannakhet, Sekong and Xiengkhuang. The organization:

- cleared 1,973 hectares of land for safe use; the large majority within Confirmed Hazardous Areas;
- conducted 1,623 roving UXO destruction tasks in 947 villages;
- established 3,634 hectares of Confirmed Hazardous Areas through technical survey;
- delivered risk education to 183,155 beneficiaries through 548 village visits;
- completed 2,278 survey visits in 1,176 villages;
- cleared land for dozens of schools, water facilities, roads, health facilities and other projects.

These activities have contributed to the increased safety of beneficiary populations, secured access to land for agricultural and development purposes, and progress towards establishing a national baseline of UXO contamination through survey. All of these activities were undertaken in line with the Lao PDR UXO National Standards. 87 percent of the land cleared was for agricultural purposes.

2015 marked the first year that UXO Lao, along with other operators, fully implemented the new evidence-based approach to UXO survey and clearance. This reduces the amount of uncontaminated land that is cleared, and focuses efforts more efficiently on land with higher average contamination.



Throughout 2015, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has provided technical advisory support to UXO Lao to enhance the organisation's capacity in the areas of programme and financial management, as well as guide it through the transition to evidence-based clearance and support it in developing a strategy to support the Government of Lao PDR's long-term plans for the UXO sector. In addition, UNDP has provided programme advisory support to UXO Lao to ensure strong partnerships are maintained with key partners, funds are mobilized adequately through multiple channels, options are explored for engaging new partners, oversight of project management is ensured, and future programme plans are developed. UNDP will continue to work closely with UXO Lao on its next programme of support to the UXO sector starting in 2017.

Sterling International Group (SIG) has provided Technical Advisory support, with funding from the U.S. Department of State, to enable the implementation of evidence-based survey and subsequent clearance of Confirmed Hazardous Areas. The focus was on training through workshops in Attapeu and Khammouane for staff from all nine provinces, joint monitoring missions with UXO Lao and the NRA; and the development of a Google Earth tool for use at field level. This tool makes survey data more accessible and useable. SIG has also supported two rounds of inspections by three mobile Quality Management teams. UXO Lao and SIG have worked together on project proposals and, in October 2015, additional U.S. Department of State funding to UXO Lao was announced to cover the re-hiring of 17 teams in six provinces.

UXO Lao started a new project supported by JICA in 2015, including components to strengthen the capacity of planning/monitoring and information management. JICA has also continued to support the South-South cooperation between UXO Lao and CMAC, which entered the second stage of cooperation. In addition, UXO Lao has received a JICA volunteer who works in the UXO Lao Headquarters to improve basic IT skill of UXO Lao staff.

UXO Lao has continued the Peace Building Project supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. The project aims at accelerating the clearance by introducing brush cutter machines which are going to be operational in 2016. The project has also provided funds for operation and dormitory construction in three provinces in the southern Laos in 2015.

UXO Lao and JMAS have carried out 3-year project since 2014, the project provided the funds to support for new classroom construction, re-building facilities at UXO Lao Training Center and also provide the technical support for Bomb-Cutting Method to UXO Lao staff whether at the UXO Lao Training Center and UXO clearance sites. In 2015, 28 SEODs and 38 Team Leaders have been trained on EOD techniques, especially bomb cutting method and 12 Deminers have been trained on basic EOD techniques. At the same time, the constructions of new class room, toilets and shower rooms also completed in 2015.

Additionally, UXO Lao has continued its support for the Laos Australia Rural Livelihoods Programme (LARLP) through clearance for development activities in Salavanh, Champasack and Savannakhet, primarily for animal raising activities through which hundreds of households have had their economic positions strengthened. The UXO Lao Visitor Centre in Luangprabang was also refurbished and reopened with the support of the Australian Government's Department of Foreign of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

UXO Lao also established working partnerships with other operators, including in Xiengkhuang with Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), where a UK Department for International Development-funded initiative is training UXO Lao staff to undertake non-technical and technical survey in four districts. UXO Lao also began clearing CHAs established by NPA in 2015 in Salavanh, Sekong and Attapeu.

The key achievements of UXO Lao were represented at the First Review Conference (1RC) of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) in Dubrovnik, Croatia in September 2015, at which UXO Lao's National Programme Director was present.

Key achievements in 2015:

The key achievement in 2015 was the successful implementation of the evidence-based approach. The new methodology led to an increase in the number of cluster munitions found per hectare increased from less than 7 in 2014 to more than 22 in 2015. This means that UXO Lao is now finding cluster munitions more efficiently and quickly, and is able to make contaminated land safer for more people.

The transition is not without its challenges. Ensuring the clearance of CHAs requires UXO Lao's teams to go into areas and terrain that are difficult to access; these may be mountains or densely overgrown patches of land. Forty years after the end of the war, vegetation has regrown over areas peppered by cluster munitions. Some

jungle areas are also very difficult to access. One of UXO Lao's Clearance Team Leaders in Xiengkhuang Province, Mr. Sithat Sithavongsaeng, noted the challenges of technical survey and CHA clearance operations, including difficulties in access, slower clearance due to larger numbers of UXO found, increased use of explosives, and difficulties in reporting where only partial CHAs can be cleared.

The process of surveying land in thousands of villages, and providing that data to the National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector (NRA), contributes to the establishment of a national baseline of UXO contamination. With increased knowledge of contamination, planning can improve to focus on development needs. Once a full baseline has been established with the work of UXO Lao and other operators, a plan for full clearance of the country can be made, enhancing the efforts of Lao PDR to meet its obligations under the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM).

During 2015, UXO Lao has also trained a further 66 people in Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD). These trainings are undertaken at UXO Lao's Training Centre in Vientiane Capital, in line with the Lao PDR UXO National Standards, to ensure safety in UXO operations. This represents a further contribution to the national capacity of Lao PDR to manage the problem of UXO contamination. In addition, a continued partnership with the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC), supported by JICA, included two knowledge-sharing visits during 2015 for managers.

UXO Lao was able to mobilise, with the support of UNDP, enough resources to fund all of its planned operations during 2015, and signed a number of agreements with new and old Development Partners to continue or establish support to UXO Lao.

Focus areas of work in 2016:

During 2016, UXO Lao will begin undertaking non-technical survey, in place of the previous general survey method. This will require retraining of many UXO Lao staff, but will bring UXO Lao in line with the national Survey Procedures approved by the NRA during 2014. Non-technical survey, on a village-by-village basis, will systematically process all previous knowledge and records of UXO contamination into data that can be used during Technical Survey, moving the sector forward substantially.

UXO Lao will continue to undertake Mine Risk Education (MRE) in the nine most-contaminated provinces, and will explore the possibility of reinstating a system of village

volunteers for this purpose. The potential acceleration of national survey activities may require an increase in Mine Risk Education activities.

At the time of publication, UXO Lao's Work Plan for 2016 is not fully funded. As such, a large portion of the organization's planned activities remain at risk. The extent of the funding gap can be reviewed online at the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) Portfolio of Mine Action Projects, where project focal points and the process for providing support is also detailed.

Some Good News:

On 18 August 2015, UXO Lao received a request from the Village Authority, Health Care Office and District Cabinet of Xam Neua District in Huaphanh Province to clear 0.23 hectares of land in Nah Sah Mong Village for a health care center, supported by the Embassy of Japan. Responding to the request, UXO Lao and NRA in Huaphan agreed to send field staff to conduct technical survey to find evidence point then start to clear the land. The clearance took place from 15 to 19 October 2015. Subsequently, the Embassy of Japan began construction on 20 December 2015, contracting Houng Ta Phin Construction. Once the center is completed, more than 280 villagers and more than 3 villages will gain benefit from using health care service. The clearance in this case was funded through UNDP's ongoing project.

Also, through the support of World Without Mines, UXO Lao has been able to conduct clearance for several development projects and clearance for agriculture including city water supply, community hospital, health clinic and rice field or home gardens. The project for improvement of the water system in Thakhek town, supported by Japan, was initially started on 26 March 2016 without UXO clearance. This is because the historical



data indicated that there was extremely low UXO contamination at the project's construction areas. During construction, a 7.5 mm rocket was found by the project water system engineer. After the evidence of UXO, UXO Lao was asked to provide clearance along the entire water pipelines' routes. The clearance was conducted from 21 to 26 November 2014 with a depth of 150 cm, covering 3.26 hectares. No UXO were found and UXO Lao handed over a clearance certificate to the project manager. After that, the upgraded water supply system was able to continue and was completed on 15 January 2016. The project was officially opened and granted to the local authority on 2 March 2016, benefitting at least 85,000 local inhabitants.

Partners:

- The National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR (NRA)
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Australian Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
- Global Affairs Canada
- The Government of Ireland
- The Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
- The Government of the Republic of Korea
- The Government of the United States of America
- The Government of Lao PDR
- The Government of Belgium
- The Government of Poland
- The Government of Norway
- The European Union (EU)
- The Intrepid Foundation
- Sterling International Group
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Japan International Cooperation System (JICS)
- Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- Spirit of Soccer Laos (SOS)
- Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC)
- James Madison University (JMU)
- United Nations Volunteers (UNV)

Personnel in 2015:

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>		<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
94	38	5	2	737	221	0	0

Detailed statistical figures in 2015:

<i>Mine Risk Education/Community Awareness Activities</i>					
<i>Village Visits</i>	<i>Beneficiaries</i>				
	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total
548	44,934	46,168	46,461	45,592	183,155

<i>Non-Technical/general UXO Survey¹</i>		<i>UXO Roving Tasks</i>	
<i>Number of Visits</i>	<i>Number of Villages</i>	<i>Number of Visits</i>	<i>Number of Villages</i>
2,278	1,176	1,623	947

¹Due to the fact that 2015 is a transitional year from the request-based survey methodology to the evidence-based methodology, this question refers to both non-technical survey visits and general survey visits as the same.

<i>Area Clearance (Hectares)</i>			<i>Land Released by Technical Survey (Hectares)</i>		
<i>Agricultural</i>	<i>Development</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Agriculture</i>	<i>Development</i>	<i>Total</i>
1,717.7241	255.5964	1,973.3205	NA	NA	NA

<i>Technical Survey to establish Confirmed Hazardous Areas</i>		
<i>Hectares of Technical Survey outside of CHA</i>	<i>Hectares of CHA Established</i>	<i>Hectares of CHA Cleared</i>
NA	3,634.219	1,572

<i>UXO Found, Removed and Destroyed</i>					
Tasks	Bombs	Bombies/CM	Mines	Other UXO	Total
Roving Task	126	15,449	34	8,871	24,480
Area Clearance	34	39,391	108	11,632	51,165
Technical Survey	2	11,085	6	3,486	14,579
Total:	162	65,925	148	23,989	90,224

Geography of operations:

Activity	Provinces/districts
Survey	Houaphanh: 5, Xiengkhuang: 4, Luang Prabang: 10, Khammouane: 3, Savannakhet: 5, Salavane: 7, Sekong: 4, Champasak: 8, Attapeu: 4
Area clearance	Houaphanh: 4, Xiengkhuang: 4, Luang Prabang: 2, Khammouane: 3, Savannakhet: 6, Salavane: 7, Sekong: 4, Champasak: 4, Attapeu: 5
Roving Tasks	Houaphanh: 5, Xiengkhuang: 4, Luang Prabang: 10, Khammouane: 3, Savannakhet: 5, Salavane: 7, Sekong: 4, Champasak: 6, Attapeu: 5
Risk Education	Houaphanh: 5, Xiengkhuang: 3, Luang Prabang: 10, Khammouane: 3, Savannakhet: 5, Salavane: 7, Sekong: 4, Champasak: 6, Attapeu: 5

Financials:

Expenditure for 2015: (USD)

Item	Amount
Personnel costs	5,051,801
Operational costs	1,871,272
Equipment – expendable	754,732
Equipment – non-expendable	97,929
Total	7,775,734*

*UXO Lao's expenditure included funds contributed in previous years through the UNDP-administered UXO Trust Fund.

Donor contributions for 2015: (USD)

Amounts Received between 1 January and 31 December 2015	
Donor	Contribution received in 2015 (USD)
UNDP-Managed Funds	
Australian Agency for Int'l Dev't (AusAID)	777,277
Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC)	752,000
Government of Canada	655,802
Government of Ireland	380,000
Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg	165,929
Republic of Korea (CPR TTF)	40,000
Others	414
Total	2,771,422
Bilateral Funds	
U.S. Department of State through Sterling	1,671,843
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	30,000
Japan Int'l Cooperation System (JICS)	679,096

World Without Mines	114,366
Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)	7,000
Intrepid Foundation	2,206
Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS)	539,289
Total	3,061,800
Government Contributions and Others	
Lao PDR Government Contribution	53,803
Others	9,716
Total	63,519
Grand Total	5,896,741



MINES ADVISORY GROUP (MAG)

Activities in 2015:

In 2015 MAG implemented a range of activities to save life and build futures in two of the most heavily contaminated provinces in the country, Xiengkhuang and Khammouane:

- Non-technical survey to gather evidence of UXO contamination
- Technical survey to establish Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHAs)
- Clearance of CHAs and handover of land to communities
- Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) roving/spot tasks to destroy immediately dangerous UXO items
- Mine Risk Education Session for communities

In late 2015 MAG formed a partnership with Norwegian Peoples Aid (NPA) in Boualapha district, Khammouane province under a grant from one specific donor. Under the project, NPA conducted survey and MAG focused on clearance of the CHAs produced. The partnership was successful in its aims and produced some very encouraging results. It is anticipated that this collaborated approach will continue in 2016 with this donor's support.

Key achievements in 2015:

Within 2015, MAG's Community Liaison (CL) capacity concluded non-technical survey in 37 villages. During this process each member of the village community had



The new football pitch after ERW-clearance (Primary School, Dong Danh, 8 April 2015)



MAG Laos female technician carefully excavating the ground in Xieng Khouang province.

the opportunity to provide information regarding any evidence of UXO contamination that they had and also qualitative information regarding how this impacted on their lives and livelihoods. Techniques used by the MAG CL capacity included community meetings, focus group discussions which were divided across genders and age groups, and household questionnaires.

The MAG CL capacity also visited 106 villages to conduct Mine Risk Education (MRE). Because children are one of the most at-risk groups from UXO accidents, MAG focused MRE delivery at these age groups. Of the 42,746 who attended MAG MRE sessions in the year, 32,669 were children, 15,827 of which were girls aged 5-16. As well as direct delivery of MRE by the CL capacity, MAG also trained 39 Village Volunteers to deliver peer MRE sessions within their own communities. These individuals were provided with training in delivery of sessions and with the MRE materials. The MAG CLs then made regular support visits to monitor and support the Village Volunteers in their work. MRE is part of the national school curriculum at primary age and in early 2016 MAG will work with the Xieng Khouang Provincial Department of Education and Sports to train 33 school teachers in delivery of quality MRE and First Aid.

During 2015, MAG's Evidence Point Polygon (EPP) Mapping further strengthened MAG's commitment to maximizing efficiencies in land release. By electronically mapping MAG's historical operational data MAG is able to identify cluster munitions contaminated areas without the need to physically deploy survey assets. To date, EPP Mapping has enabled MAG to confirm that there is a minimum of 41.6 square kilometres of UXO contaminated land

within the province of Xieng Khouang and 33.3 square kilometres in Khammouane province. MAG is able to use all this information to make informed decisions regarding deployment of survey and clearance assets to areas of known contamination. This process has significantly enhanced MAG's task planning and prioritisation systems and increased the efficiency of technical survey and clearance activities. MAG remains the only operator in Lao PDR able to utilize historical operational data in this manner.

In order to establish CHAs for clearance MAG conducted 20,443,600m² of technical survey. In total 109 CHAs were established through this process, covering a total area of 15,740,000m². Through the year MAG made improvements to the technical survey methodology that enabled the teams to increase their daily productivity while maintaining accurate levels of detection.

In 2015, MAG cleared a total of 7,260,000m² of land. 6,880,000m² of this was land for agricultural production and 380,000m² was for development projects such as the construction of schools, health centers and secure clean water supplies. Each of MAG's clearance tasks are carefully prioritized based on a range of criteria including anticipated impact and beneficiaries numbers.

Through deployment of EOD roving task capacity also completed 945 roving tasks within 91 villages. These tasks were in response to emergency requests from communities and development partners, predominantly to destroy UXO items that were on the surface of the ground and which posed an immediate danger to communities. In late 2015 MAG established a dedicated 'hotline' phone number so that villagers can immediately report to MAG if they find a UXO item. The distribution of promotional materials for the 'hotline' number is ongoing.

Some Good News: Humanitarian Mine Action in Support of School Development in Xieng Khouang province

The Primary School of Dong Danh, a small remote village in Khoun District of Xieng Khouang province is attended by nearly a hundred students every school year. In September-October 2013, MAG's DFID-funded UXO Clearance Team (UCT) 214 cleared the area of the school, removing a total of eleven ERW items.

The clearance was requested by the local Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (RDPE) Office. A total area of 11,699m² has been made safe of eleven ERW items: 2 items of BLU26 cluster sub-munitions, 2 items of Mortar type 82, three items of 2.75- inch rockets and four items of 75-millimetre projectiles.

MAG's DFID-funded CL team returned to the school on 8 April 2015 to assess the impact that ERW-clearance has since had on the school's and students' lives.



11,699 m² of land made safe

Until the school area had been cleared, the school management was not able to start the construction of the football and petanque courts planned for the children. Both of these sports are popular forms of physical education and exercise for people in Lao PDR. Participation enables students to keep fit and develop a variety of skills, such as focusing, team work, and strategic planning. Teachers and parents were also reluctant to allow children to play in areas where there was a strong suspicion of ERW contamination.

Following MAG's clearance work the school management could implement the long-Success through partnership planned sport development initiatives. Five months after clearance, the local community has joined forces and funds with the school management and they have set up the football pitches and petanque courts.

Ten-year-old fifth grader Kouvy interviewed by the CL Officer said: "My favourite sport is football and in the village, there is no other place to play it on a proper area. So it makes me very happy we can finally play and practice in the school. Although I am a little bit afraid of UXO in general but I feel safe in my school."

"We use the football pitch for football competitions as well," said Mr Phetphommavong a teacher at the school. He added: "The students are very happy. And it is important that it helps them become sporty and learn how to play together as a team. Both they and I enjoy these sporting opportunities and it makes us happy that we can do it fully safely."

"Ten-year-old Kouvy said: "My favourite sport is football and in the village, there is no otherplace to play it on a proper area. So it makes me very happy we can finally play and practice in the school. Although I am a little bit afraid of UXO in general but I feel safe in my school."

The teacher started to work and teach in Dong Danh's primary school five years ago. He still remembers how "scared children were of ERW items, before the school area was cleared by the MAG team".



Kamphone with her buffalo on her rice paddy that is now safe to farm.



Kamphone outside the new house she is building: "Now I have enough money to build a house for me and my family. It will have three bedrooms and will be so much better than our old wooden house that has been falling down for many years."

Focus areas of work in 2016:

In 2016 MAG will continue to focus on enhancing operational efficiencies and effectiveness while delivering quality high-impact land release to beneficiary communities and development partners. This work will

serve to support development planning at a local and national level, bring immediate benefits to the lives of some of the poorest and most at-risk groups in rural areas, and will make significant contributions enabling the country of Lao PDR to deliver on important international treaty obligations and development targets.

Activities that will be conducted include:

- Quality survey that will accurately and efficiently identify CHAs for clearance
- Clearance of CHAs that delivers high impacts in terms of development outcomes
- Immediate destruction of UXO items that pose an imminent danger to communities
- Delivery of MRE to sectors of society identified as most at-risk
- Introduction and trailing of new operational methodologies and equipment/assets
- Close coordination and sharing of information and experience with other UXO operators and the NRA

Partners:

- National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR
- Office of Rural Development and Poverty Eradication
- Provincial and district authorities in Khammouane and Xieng Khouang provinces
- Norwegian Peoples Aid
- World Vision Laos
- World Education
- Target Beneficiaries.
- Quality of Life Association

Personnel in 2015:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
40	20	3	1	344	107	3	0
Total				518			

Detailed statistic figures in 2015:

MINE RISK EDUCATION Community Awareness				
	Beneficiaries			
Village Visits	Men	Women	Boy	Girl
106	5,037	5,040	16,842	15,827

Area cleared:

Area Clearance (Hectares)			Land Released by Technical Survey (Hectares)		
<i>Agriculture</i>	<i>Development</i>	<i>Total area</i>	<i>Agriculture</i>	<i>Development</i>	<i>Total area</i>
688	38	726	2,044	0	2,044

Non-Technical/general UXO Survey ¹		UXO Roving Tasks	
Number of Visits	Number of Villages	Number of Visits	Number of Villages
37	37	945	91

¹Due to the fact that 2015 is a transitional year from the request-based survey methodology to the evidence-based methodology, this question refers to both non-technical survey visits and general survey visits as the same.

²Due to the current National Standards, this land has not been formerly released. This figure represents technical survey only.

CHA Survey:

Technical Survey to establish Confirmed Hazardous Areas		
Technical survey outside of the CHA (Ha)	Number of CHA established	Total area of CHA established (Ha)
470	1,574	563

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

UXO Removed/Destroyed					
<i>Task</i>	<i>Bombs</i>	<i>Bombies</i>	<i>Mines</i>	<i>Other UXO</i>	<i>Total</i>
Roving	6	830	0	749	1,585
Clearance	2	6,424	0	259	6,685
Technical Survey	0	2,698	0	44	2,742
Total	8	9,952	0	1,052	11,012

Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces/districts</i>
Survey	Xiengkhouang (Khoun, Phaxai and Nonghet districts) and Khammouane (Boualapha district)
Area clearance	Xiengkhouang (Khoun, Phaxai and Nonghet districts) and Khammouane (Boualapha district)
Roving Tasks	Xiengkhouang (Khoun, Phaxai and Nonghet districts) and Khammouane (Boualapha district)
Risk Education	Xiengkhouang (Khoun, Phaxai and Nonghet districts) and Khammouane (Boualapha district)

Financials:

Expenditure for 2015: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	2,925,000
Operational costs	935,000
Equipment – expendable	372,000
Equipment – non-expendable	430,000
Total	4,662,000

Donor contributions for 2015: (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2015</i>
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	229,000
US State Department's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (WRA)	2,212,000
European Union	430,000
Department for International Development, UK	1,592,000
Trusts	146,000
ITO-Japan	4,000
UNDP	4,000
Public	45,000
Total	4,662,000

Transfer of funds:

Funds transferred to another UXO sector operator

<i>What organization were the funds transferred to?</i>	<i>How much was transferred? (USD)</i>
Quality of Life Association (QLA)	32,000
Norwegian Peoples Aid (NPA)	110,000
Total	32,000



NORWEGIAN PEOPLE'S AID (NPA)

Activities in 2015:

During 2015 NPA has continued to focus on survey of areas contaminated by cluster munitions in order to map the extent of the contamination and to identify areas for clearance. The NPA survey methodology achieves the following:

- Maps the extent of the remaining cluster munition contamination
- Ensures that scarce resources are not wasted on clearance of land with no contamination
- Enables clearance planning and priority setting
- Establishes the cost and time required to complete the cluster munition part of the UXO problem
- Establishes the impact on the population
- Enables Lao PDR to achieve its obligations under the Convention on Cluster Munitions

The survey methodology includes a two-step approach including Non-Technical Survey (NTS) of the entire village boundary to identify evidence of cluster munitions remnants, which provides evidence to identify starting points for Cluster Munitions Remnants Survey (CMRS). CMRS is conducted in all areas identified as contaminated within a village boundary through the NTS, to establish Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHAs) that require clearance. An Impact Assessment (IA) of the confirmed contaminated village area is then conducted to prioritise when the CHAs need to be cleared.

In 2015 NPA continued to conduct survey and clearance in Sekong, Saravane and Attapeu. Near the end of the year NPA started two new projects, one in partnership with UXO Lao in the Xiengkhouang Province and one in partnership with MAG in the Khammuane Province.

Key achievements in 2015:

In November 2015, NPA concluded Non-Technical Survey (NTS) of the three provinces of Saravane, Sekong, and Attapeu. These are the first provinces to have concluded NTS in accordance with the National Survey Procedures. Through the survey we now know:

- Number of villages with confirmed cluster munition contamination.

- Number of evidence points in each village

The NTS results provide NPA with information to plan the next stage for Technical Survey activities. The results are also shared with district, provincial and national authorities for planning on a provincial and national level.

A pilot test of Explosive Detection Dogs (EDD) for clearance was undertaken in the Saravane Province. The pilot drew on the experience from the use of EDD in Cambodia where Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) has successfully utilized dogs for clearance of cluster munition (CM) and other explosive remnants of war for numerous years. The pilot, conducted in cooperation with NRA, tested both the quality and cost efficiency of EDD. The preliminary results show that dogs can reliably detect CM while ignoring the background metal fragmentation clutter and explosive residue from past detonations. It also showed that using EDD is more cost effective compared to manual Battle Area Clearance (BAC) teams. A final report is currently being drafted and will be shared with NRA and other stakeholders. NPA Lao aims to introduce Explosive Detection Dogs for clearance during 2016.



NPA team member roping off area for further investigation

Throughout 2015, NPA NTS teams visited 324 villages across the four provinces, in which 113 villages were confirmed as contaminated by cluster munitions and almost 75,518 people affected. A total of 96,372,500 m² was covered by the CMRS and 657 new CHAs were identified, which corresponds to 39,027,884 m² of land contaminated by cluster munitions. During this process of survey, more than 10,663 cluster munitions and 1,508 explosive remnants of war (ERW) were found and destroyed.

Focus areas of work in 2016:

CMRS will continue to be the core activity for NPA Lao PDR in 2016. The teams will continue to conduct

clearance to enable handover of high priority land back to the community, and for NPA to continue to develop the efficiency and accuracy of the CMRS procedures. NPA will aim to complete CMRS in Attapeu province during 2016, which would be an achievement of the first province in Lao to have concluded CMRS of the whole province. Before CMRS conclusion NPA will conduct internal Quality Assessments (QA) of the survey results to ensure that each village has been assessed sufficiently and historical IMSMA roving and clearance tasks assessed.

Discussions for the need for a nationwide CMRS survey are continuing with UXO operators and the NRA, to map the CM contamination in all affected provinces and to establish a national baseline. There are however numerous challenges with such a project and it would require a strong commitment from all parties including the Lao Government, local and provincial authorities, NRA, UXO Lao and UXO operators involved in the project.

Some Good News:

NPA concluded NTS in all 987 villages in the three southern provinces Saravane, Sekong and Attapeu. These are the first provinces in Lao PDR where NTS is finalised. Out of the 987 villages surveyed, 456 villages have evidence of CM and 531 villages have no evidence of CM. The NTS is followed by TS to establish Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHAs). Out of the 456 villages confirmed to be contaminated TS has been concluded in 65%.

As part of promoting the survey process prior to clearance, NPA provide survey progress maps to NRA and provincial authorities to display the progress to date (the maps include villages concluded by NTS, villages concluded by CMRS, villages with no CM contamination and villages with a confirmed threat from CMs, and the extent of the CM contamination).

Partners:

In October 2015 NPA started projects in two new provinces: Xiengkhouang province together with UXO Lao, as part of a survey and capacity building project; and Khammouane province in partnership with MAG.

Xiengkhouang Province - UXO Lao

Capacity building activities include transfer of knowledge for both parties through workshops and working in joint teams to conclude evidence based survey and information management of survey and clearance operations. NPA will also conduct training

on Impact Assessment (IA) to ensure impact data is collected and used in the planning of clearance operations and to identify high priority areas. UXO Lao have also provided NPA with valuable knowledge of the Xiengkhouang Province through their extensive operational experience of working in the area.

Khammouane Province - MAG

Boualapha District is the most ERW contaminated district in Khammouane Province. MAG has been operational in this district for many years and has reliable records of CM Roving Tasks (RT) dating back to 2008, which enables the accuracy of the RT information to be very effective. Under this joint project NPA will use the RT information during the survey process to avoid conducting CMRS of areas already known to be CM contaminated and then MAG will conduct clearance of the NPA identified CHA's. The project will benefit from combining the knowledge, skills and expertise from both operators.

NPA Lao will cooperate with the Gender and Mine Action Program (GMAP) to produce an animation film in the first quarter of 2016. The film will show examples of why and how taking gender and diversity into account is important in mine action. This will be utilized as a training tool that can be used to increase the gender and diversity among staff.



NPA team member roping off area for further investigation

Personnel in 2015:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
37	13	04	01	205	75	03	01
Total	339						

Detailed statistic figures in 2015:

Area cleared:

Area Clearance (Hectares)			Land Released by Technical Survey (Hectares)		
Agricultural	Development	Total	Agriculture	Development	Total
92	11	103	0	0	0

CHA Survey:

Technical Survey to establish Confirmed Hazardous Areas		
Hectares of Technical Survey outside of CHA	Hectares of CHA Established	Hectares of CHA Cleared
5,735	3,902	103

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

UXO Removed/Destroyed					
Task	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	Total
Roving	39	1,666	N/A	817	2,522
Clearance	2	2,034		63	2,099
Technical Survey	29	9,262		833	10,124
Total	70	12,962		1,713	14,745

Geography of operations:

Activity	Provinces/districts of Lao PDR where the activities were implemented
Survey	Attapeu Province: Phouvong, Samakkhixay, Sanamxay, Sanxay, Xaysetha Districts; Sekong Province: Dakcheung, Kaleum, Lamarm, Thateng Districts; Saravane Province: Khongxedone, Laongarm, Samuoi, Saravane, Taoi, Toumlarn Districts; Khammouane Province: Boualapha District
Area clearance	Attapeu Province: Phouvong, Sanamxay, Sanxay Districts; Sekong Province: Lamarm, Thateng Districts Saravane Province: Laongarm, Samuoi, Saravane, Taoi, Toumlarn Districts
Roving task	Attapeu Province: Phouvong, Samakkhixay, Sanamxay, Sanxay, Xaysetha Districts; Sekong Province: Dakcheung, Lamarm, Thateng Districts; Saravane Province: Khongxedone, Laongarm, Samuoi, Saravane, Taoi, Toumlarn Districts

Financials:

Expenditure for 2015: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	2,617,359
Operational costs	1,036,124
Equipment – expendable	389,352
Equipment – non-expendable	191,602
Total	4,234,438

Donor contributions for 2015: (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2015</i>
USDoS	1,932,434
NMFA	1,068,584
MAG	77,260
NRK Telethon	879,616
DFID	236,942
Norwegian Union	39,515
Total	4,234,350

Transfer of funds:

<i>Funds transferred to another UXO sector operator</i>	
<i>What organization were the funds transferred to?</i>	<i>How much was transferred? (USD)</i>
UXO Lao joint project in Xiengkhouang Province	Estimated \$27,000 USD from October to December 2015
Total	27,000

<i>Funds Received from another UXO sector operator</i>	
<i>Which organization were the funds transferred from?</i>	<i>How much was transferred?</i>
Mine Action Group (MAG) joint project in Khammuane Province	Up to 1,800,000 NOK from June 2015 to February 2016
Total	1,800,000 NOK



HALO TRUST (HALO)

Activities in 2015:

In 2015 HALO continued to conduct high quality humanitarian UXO Clearance, Survey, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), and Risk Education (RE) in Sepon and Vilabouly Districts, Savannakhet Province. HALO deployed 10 UXO Clearance teams, 12 multidisciplinary survey/EOD/RE teams and one community outreach/RE team, funded by the United States and the United Kingdom.

Survey:

HALO's multidisciplinary survey/EOD/RE teams conducted non-technical and technical survey in over 50 villages. The multidisciplinary nature of the teams saves time, resources and ensures a comprehensive assessment of the threat in each village. Extensive cross-training enables the teams to respond to any reported items immediately, with the teams transitioning between non-technical and technical survey seamlessly. HALO survey teams will not leave a village until all identified contamination has been destroyed.

Defining the size and nature of cluster munition contamination thorough evidence based survey helps to define the extent of the problem in Laos. HALO uses this survey methodology, and it continues to yield excellent results. In 2015 a total of 6,600 items were destroyed by survey teams, with 9,000,000 m² of Confirmed Hazardous Area on 404 sites identified and prioritized for follow on clearance.

Clearance:

HALO's clearance teams deployed to 36 tasks during 2015. HALO works closely with local communities and the department for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication to ensure clearance is targeted to areas of the maximum humanitarian impact. All CHAs had been identified through technical survey, contained high levels of cluster munition contamination, and yielded cluster bombs through clearance. During the year HALO clearance teams cleared 1,050,176 m² of land and destroyed 1,563 items.

Key achievements in 2015:

In 2015 HALO's Survey operations proved extremely successful. HALO was able to conclude non-technical and technical survey in 35 villages, and expects to have concluded survey within all of its currently assigned target villages in early 2016. The adoption of evidence-based survey across the UXO sector is a significant step



A technician isolates a signal on a clearance task located within Nonsomphou Village boundaries.

forward in accurately identifying and removing the threat of UXO, and HALO is pleased to have contributed its expertise to this process. In particular HALO has begun to analyse the operational data gathered through survey and clearance activities so as to maximize its efficiency and effectiveness and deliver the greatest benefit to the sector.

Through a generous increase in funding from the US State Department HALO was able to slightly expand its survey and clearance capacity in 2015, resulting in greater amounts of UXO being destroyed and land returned to local communities. In 2015 alone HALO was able to clear over 1,000,000 m² of CHA, and the teams successfully destroyed over 8,000 devices.

In total, the programme has now destroyed over 18,000 items, and has cleared over 2,000,000 m² of land, delivering a significant benefit to the local communities in Savannakhet Province.

Focus areas of work in 2016:

In 2016 HALO will continue to refine its evidence based survey process, and will expand its operational capabilities. HALO will continue to strengthen partnerships with local authorities, as well as international NGOs, ensuring that it can facilitate as many development projects as rapidly as possible.

In particular HALO intends to focus on concluding survey operations within its currently assigned target villages. HALO hopes to be able to use its significant experience to assist the sector in comprehensively surveying all contamination across the country, and enabling the accurate prioritization of clearance assets. HALO will require an expanded Area of Operations in order to effectively utilize donor funding, and is currently negotiating with the NRA to ensure its capacity can be



The HALO Laos Programme 2014.

utilized to the best effect and benefit of the people of Laos.

HALO will also seek to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its clearance and survey operations, using technological developments and innovative operational practices to achieve the highest return for its inputs. HALO will continue to analyse operational data gathered and will assist the NRA in developing best practice across the sector, grounded in the operational realities identified through accurate survey and clearance. HALO's focus will be the continued delivery of high quality clearance to the impacted and marginalized communities of Savannakhet Province, and a comprehensive survey process to map contamination and determine the extent of work required in Laos.

HALO's vision is a world free of landmines and the debris of war, and its mission is to lead the effort to protect lives and restore livelihoods threatened by landmines and the debris of war. In Laos HALO is committed to helping the government achieve Millennium Development Goal No. 9, and aims to be a credible, helpful, and worthwhile partner to the Lao people.

Some Good News:

Thame Village:

The isolated village of Thame lies downstream from the town of Sepon, south of the Xebunhie River. Its isolated location has meant the village has received little development or cluster munition clearance assistance. Of the 94 households in the village, 20 are classified as 'poor' by national statistics. There is a small primary school, but no healthcare facilities. Villagers in need of medical treatment had to travel by boat or a dirt road that becomes impassable in the rainy season.

Seasonal flooding is so severe in Thame that it is cut off for four months of the year. So when HALO were



Survey Team Leader Mr. Phouvan demonstrates the use of tablets to Ms. Helen Gray of GICHD. These tablets allow for real time reporting in the field, streamlining and minimising the likelihood of errors in the survey process.

approached to conduct a survey and provide explosive ordnance disposal, the team were sure to start their technical and non-technical survey work before the start of the rainy season in May.

The villagers of Thame were eager to assist HALO as much as possible, and identified significant quantities of ammunition. During survey operations, HALO destroyed over 400 items of unexploded ordnance (including six air dropped bombs) and more than 300 cluster munitions.

There were several significant technical challenges at Thame. Senior Operations Officer Xaysana Phuttavong supervised the safe destruction of a 2000lb air dropped bomb, which posed a serious threat to the entire village population. A 250lb bomb that had laid in the river near the ferry crossing was also destroyed. At just 250m from the primary school, the consequences of an uncontrolled detonation would have brought unthinkable grief to the community.



Ms Muong, HALO's Community Liaison Officer, leads a targeted MRE Session for school children in Nonsomphou Village.

Today villagers can cross the river and school their children in safety. The removal of unexploded ordnance has enabled the community to plant increased number of crops at greater depth in the soil, contributing to their food security. When communities live as remotely as they do here during the rains, non-contaminated land is essential for survival.

Partners:

HALO has had successful partnerships with several INGO's, many of which continued in 2015. HALO works closely with the Laos government, particularly the NRA in Savannakhet province and at national level.

HALO is strongly committed to a holistic approach to development within Laos. The cumulative effect of efforts from different organizations leads to the greatest impact on the ground; multiple organizations working together can achieve more than the sum of their parts.

HALO has forged links with several INGO partners working throughout Savannakhet Province. In 2015, HALO was able to assist and partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Welthungerhilfe (GAA), and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). HALO also began to develop a Victims Assistance partnership with World Education Laos, working together to provide comprehensive solutions to local issues and challenges.

As a humanitarian operator, HALO's survey, clearance, EOD and RE operations are targeted towards villages where they will have the greatest humanitarian impact. In 2015 HALO utilised its refined prioritization matrix which evaluates CHAs and ranks them according to their socio-economic and development impact. This allows HALO to deploy its clearance assets appropriately, targeting tasks which will bring the greatest change to the people of Savannakhet Province.

Personnel in 2015:

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>		<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
20	12	1	0	159	60	2	0
Total		254					

Detailed statistic figures in 2015:

Mine Risk Education/Community Awareness Activities					
Village Visits	Beneficiaries				
	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total
291 (71 Villages)	2,934	1,864	3,729	3,055	11,582

Area cleared:

<i>Area Clearance (Hectares)</i>			<i>Land Released by Technical Survey (Hectares)</i>		
Agriculture	Development	Total area	Agriculture	Development	Total area
		105			1,968.9

CHA Survey:

Technical Survey to establish Confirmed Hazardous Areas		
Hectares of Technical Survey outside of CHA	Hectares of CHA Established	Hectares of CHA Cleared
2,258.5	900	105

<i>Non-Technical/general UXO Survey¹</i>		<i>UXO Roving Tasks</i>	
Number of Visits	Number of Villages	Number of Visits	Number of Villages
25	25	561	

¹Due to the fact that 2015 is a transitional year from the request-based survey methodology to the evidence-based methodology, this question refers to both non-technical survey visits and general survey visits as the same.

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

<i>UXO Removed/Destroyed</i>					
<i>Task</i>	<i>Bombs</i>	<i>Bombies</i>	<i>Mines</i>	<i>Other UXO</i>	<i>Total</i>
Roving	23	2,398	N/A	684	3,105
Clearance	2	1,157	N/A	404	1,563
Technical Survey to establish the CHAs	1	2,679	N/A	815	3,495
Total	26	6,234	N/A	1,903	8,163

Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Districts/Provinces</i>
Survey	Sepon and Vilabouly Districts, Savannakhet Province
Area clearance	Sepon and Vilabouly Districts, Savannakhet Province
Roving task	Sepon and Vilabouly Districts, Savannakhet Province
Risk Education	Sepon and Vilabouly Districts, Savannakhet Province

Financials:

Expenditure for 2015: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	\$1.3 million (approx.)
Operational costs	\$0.9 million (approx.)
Equipment – expendable	\$0.1 million (approx.)
Equipment – non-expendable	\$0.1 million (approx.)
Total	\$2.4 million (approx.)

Donor contributions for 2015 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2015</i>
PMWRA	\$1.8 Million (approx.)
DFID	\$0.6 Million (approx.)
Total	\$2.4 million (approx.)

COMMERCIAL CLEARANCE OPERATORS



PHONSACKDA UXO CLEARANCE CO., LTD (PSD)

Activities in 2015:

- In 2015, PSD has carried out UXO clearance for the Power Transmission Line Project into 33 villages in 3 districts of Huaphanh Province.
- Conducted UXO clearance in the areas designated as construction of Longjang and Anouvong District Administration Offices of Xaisomboun Province.
- Agricultural land expansion project in Nounghat district of Xiengkhouang Province.

Focus areas of work in 2016:

- PSD will continue to carry out UXO clearance operations in the areas designated as construction of Longjang and Anouvong District Administration Offices of Xaisomboun Province.
- Carry out UXO clearance in the area for road light installation post in Huamouang, Souabao and Ad districts of Huaphanh Province.

Clients:

- Energy and Mining Department of Huaphanh Province
- Xaisomboun Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Office
- Lao Child Fund

Personnel in 2015:

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Women	Man	Women	Man	Women	Man	Women
2	3	0	0	23	6	0	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2015:

Area cleared:

<i>Clearance (Ha)</i>		
Agriculture	Development	Total area
25.6	182.2	207.8

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

<i>UXO Removed/Destroyed</i>					
<i>Task</i>	<i>Bombs</i>	<i>Bombies</i>	<i>Mines</i>	<i>Other UXO</i>	<i>Total</i>
Clearance	1	47	0	1,518	1,566
Total					

Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces/districts</i>
Area clearance	Huaphanh, Xiengkhouang and Xaisomboun Provinces

Financials:

Expenditure for 2015 (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	148,500
Operational costs	104,600
Special operational costs	122,500
Equipment: expendable	153,000
TOTAL	528,600

Donor contributions for 2015 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2015</i>
PSD self funded	
Total	528,600



LAO BSL UXO CLEARANCE CO., LTD (LAO BSL)

Key achievements in 2015:

In 2015, Lao BSL has carried out UXO clearance for the Power Transmission Line Expansion Project in the centre and southern parts, phase II (REP II) for EDL-Generation Public Company (EDL-GEN).

Clients:

- Ministry of Energy and Mining
- EDL-Generation Public Company (EDL-GEN).
- Provincial authorities.

Personnel in 2015:

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Women	Man	Women	Man	Women	Man	Women
4	1	-	-	91	4	-	-

Detailed statistic figures in 2015:

Area cleared:

<i>Clearance (Ha)</i>		
Agriculture	Development	<i>Total area</i>
0	116	116

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

<i>UXO Removed/Destroyed</i>					
<i>Task</i>	<i>Bombs</i>	<i>Bombies</i>	<i>Mines</i>	<i>Other UXO</i>	<i>Total</i>
Clearance	0	59	0	0	59

Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces/districts</i>
Area clearance	Khammouane, Savannaket, Sekong and Attapeu Provinces

Financials:

Expenditure for 2015: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	
Operational costs	
Equipment – expendable	
Equipment – non-expendable	
Total	571,751

Donor contributions for 2015 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2015</i>
Lao BSL self funded	
Total	571,751



XTD UXO CLEARANCE CO., LTD (XTD)

Key achievements in 2015:

- In 2015, XTD has carried out UXO survey and clearance for the 230kv Power Transmission Line in the north part from Nam Ou Dam 5 to Bountai District and Nam Ou Dam 6 to Bountai District.
- Carried out UXO surveys and clearance for the 230kv Power Transmission Line in the north part from Namor District to Lao-China boundary and Namor District to Bountai District.

Focus areas of work in 2016:

- XTD will sign MoU with EDL-Generation Public Company (EDL-GEN) to carry out the survey and clearance in the area designated for 22Kv and 115kv Power Transmission Line Project from Korhing to Viengthong.

Clients:

- EDL-Generation Public Company (EDL-GEN).
- Provincial authorities.

Personnel in 2015:

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Women	Man	Women	Man	Women	Man	Women
6	4	0	0	3	1	0	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2015:

Area cleared:

<i>Clearance (Ha)</i>		
Agriculture	Development	<i>Total area</i>
403	0	403

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

<i>UXO Removed/Destroyed</i>					
<i>Task</i>	<i>Bombs</i>	<i>Bombies</i>	<i>Mines</i>	<i>Other UXO</i>	<i>Total</i>
Clearance	0	0	0	0	0

Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces/districts</i>
Area clearance	Phongsaly and Luangnamtha Provinces

Financials:

Expenditure for 2015: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	68,800
Operational costs	391,200
Equipment – expendable	270,000
Equipment – non-expendable	50,000
Total	780,000

Donor contributions for 2015 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2015</i>
XTD self funded	
Total	780,000



BACTEC LAO LIMITED (BACTEC)

- BACTEC Lao Sole Company Limited, a subsidiary of the Dynasafe group of global companies, was established in Lao PDR in 2007 to provide high quality professional Explosive Ordnance Services to the region.
- BACTEC (Battle Area Clearance, Training, Equipment and Consultancy) a subsidiary of Dynasafe is comprised of a number of leading Explosive Ordnance Disposal, EOD Bomb Disposal, companies operating worldwide from strategically located offices. BACTEC Head Quarters is located with Dynasafe BACTEC in the UK, with offices / branches located in Australia, Cambodia, Iraq, Lao PDR and Mozambique. BACTEC has been providing unexploded ordnance (UXO), and bomb disposal services globally since 1991 and to date has carried out Unexploded Ordnance disposal contracts in over 45 countries.
- BACTEC's Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) services include: the clearance of Explosive Ordnance, Site Investigation, Marine Services, QA/QC, Risk Assessment, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Training and equipment provision consultancy.
- The Dynasafe Group is a world leader in UXO and CBRNe risk mitigation with proven international experience. It is the only organisation capable of surveying, locating, clearing, containing, transporting and disposing of UXO and CBRNe material. Dynasafe provides the most comprehensive and technologically superior range of integrated solutions, equipment and services.
- Our vision is to protect mankind from threats caused by explosive devices and hazardous materials. We have over twenty years of experience operating in regions affected by UXO or ERW contamination.
- BACTEC has extensive experience with land and marine surveys, investigation, consultancy, landmine clearance training and clearance of land contaminated with UXO or ERW; BACTEC operates both on land and underwater. The company is committed to new technology with highly trained field operatives and stringent quality standards through it's accreditation to ISO 9001:2008 and ISO 14001.



Activities in 2015:

During 2015 BACTEC has continued to support it's long term clients Rio Tinto & NTPC.

Support to NTPC was provided on a call call-out basis to deal with spot EOD tasks.

Rio Tinto had an extremely successful season and a total of 53 personnel were employed during the season. All supervisors attended pre-start training where Health & Safety training and open forum safety workshops were completed. Drivers attended advanced off off-road driver training and all team medics attended medical refresher training conducted by the Global International company ISOS. During 2015, the UXO remediation consisted of multiple teams conducting remediation, shallow search, deep search, bore hole checks, cutting supervision, and path finders.

BACTEC employed over 75 local villagers to support field work where appropriate. All local village members were provided induction training, including appropriate UXO awareness training, and supplied with PPE before commencing field work.

4 personnel were trained in the use of earth augers.

English language training at a basic and advanced level was conducted for office based staff.

Key achievements in 2015:

BACTEC sponsored a candidate on a Senior EOD course during 2015. The course was run by MMG mainly in

Sepon and was endorsed by the NRA.

A major achievement was the completion of an entire season of operations without any recorded Health & Safety Issues this achievement is testament to the standard of supervision and management of BACTEC's EOD supervisors and persons in a position of influence.

As at 31 Dec 2015, BACTEC had located and removed a total of 1285 UXO (year on year running total) from within the LSM project area across the Attapue and Sekong Provinces and Dak Cheun District areas.

Some Good News:

BACTEC identified numerous bombies in a single landslip that had partially covered a section of road leading to Chalernxai. All UXO in the landslip were located and removed, and the remainder of the immediate road checked to confirm there was no further contamination. This section of road was outside the LSM tenement; however, BACTEC completed the clearance in an effort to support the wider community which utilized this road to access that region. Throughout 2015, BACTEC conducted surveys (roving tasks) though 4 x local villages to provide these communities with assistance in safely removing reported UXO. A total of 5 x BLU26 were destroyed so local villagers could safely continue to farm their fields.



Focus areas of work in 2016:

BACTEC intend to continue to support it's clients through 2016 and beyond.

Plans are being made to train staff in the use of DGPS. English language training shall continue for office based staff.

Personnel in 2015:

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>		<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>	
Man	Women	Man	Women	Man	Women	Man	Women
5	2	1	1	53	0	1	0

<i>Non-Technical/general UXO Survey¹</i>		<i>UXO Roving Tasks</i>	
Number of Visits	Number of Villages	Number of Visits	Number of Villages
1	4	1	4

Area cleared:

<i>Clearance (Ha)</i>		
Agriculture	Development	<i>Total area</i>
	53.4	53.4

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

<i>UXO Removed/Destroyed</i>					
<i>Task</i>	<i>Bombs</i>	<i>Bombies</i>	<i>Mines</i>	<i>Other UXO</i>	<i>Total</i>
Roving Task	0	4	0	0	4
Area Clearance	0	11	0	17	28
Total:	0	15	0	17	32

Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces/districts</i>
Area clearance	Khammouane and Attapeu Provinces

Financials: Expenditure for 2015: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	347,930
Operational costs	205,872
Equipment – expendable	2,000
Equipment – non-expendable	11,144
Total	566,946

Donor contributions for 2015 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Amount</i>
BACTEC self funded	
Total	566,946



MILSEARCH LAO EOD SOLE COMPANY LTD

Activities in 2015:

2015 saw Milsearch complete 22 years of operation in the Lao PDR. In April 2015, the Milsearch Team bid Country Manager, Alan McKeown and his wife Carolyn, farewell, as they returned to Australia after 8 years in Lao. Alan continues to work for Milsearch at our Head Office in Canberra, Australia, and currently oversees all Milsearch Operations throughout SE Asia.

Commercial UXO Clearance supports very necessary industry and construction projects which are of enormous benefit to the further development of the Lao PDR and surrounding region. Milsearch continued to support the Mineral Exploration and Mining Industry in Lao PDR. We also carried out ERW Remediation works in support of the Hydro Electric Power/Wind Generation Industry and associated Transmission Line construction. Milsearch worked on several Construction projects in Lao and overseas and also completed both on and offshore works in support of the Oil and Gas Industry.

2015 continued to be a difficult year in the Commercial UXO Sector for Milsearch. Again falling commodity prices meant a slowdown in Mineral Exploration which had a negative effect on Milsearch work quantity. We therefore looked to broaden our horizons with projects outside of Lao PDR and also by offering other UXO related services.

One of these services was the compilation of Military Historical Reviews in support of varied industries.

Milsearch carried out several Desktop Studies and Historical reviews in 2015 on areas within Lao PDR and neighboring countries. Extensive research went into these projects and involved collaboration with our Canberra Head Office and participation from our principle Military Historian based in Australia and also our research Historian based in the USA.

Key achievements in 2015:

In 2014 Milsearch Lao had achieved 878 consecutive days without a "Lost Time Injury". After another efficacious year both at our Regional Head Office in Vientiane and in the Field we can add 365 days to this for a grand total of 1243 days without a lost time injury in 2015. Milsearch continues to pride itself on our safe



Milsearch Medical Emergency and Control Point set up.

working methods and our goal remains zero harm in the workplace while carrying out all tasks with purpose and efficiency.

In 2015 Milsearch was pleased to include our Senior Quality Manager - Fieldwork, Mr Lingphet Phoutmasone, in the SEOD Course run by MMG and supported by the NRA. Lingphet gained valuable training and knowledge which he is now putting to good use. The course was completed in 2015 and Lingphet has gone on to manage several projects as well as continuing with his primary role as Milsearch Fieldwork Auditor and Training Supervisor. We are proud to be able to add to the growing skill base of the Lao PDR and will continue to build the capability of all our Lao National Staff.

Milsearch was particularly pleased to see the completion of several major overseas projects in early 2015. Offshore Survey works were completed in Vietnam in support of the Oil and Gas Industry. Milsearch also worked closely with Fugro Vietnam to safeguard their onshore survey and Geo-technical works. It was interesting working closely with the Vietnamese Military. Milsearch provided excellent training and supervision, running several varied training courses and overseeing all ERW Clearance and Safeguarding works on behalf of our clients.

Works were ongoing throughout 2015 on a large construction project in the Philippines. This project will be nearing completion in 2016. Several items of UXO from WW2 era were found and destroyed and again Milsearch and Lao personnel impressed our overseas clients with their expertise and work ethic.



Safety brief by Ian Mulroy to Milsearch and NTPC Personnel prior to demolitions.

Focus areas of work in 2016:

Milsearch focus in 2016 will be to continue working closely with our existing Clients carrying out ERW clearance and risk mitigation in support of their varied and necessary commercial projects and ventures. We will also endeavor to expand our client base both within the Lao PDR and the greater SE Asian Region.

Milsearch will continue to improve our methodologies and technology. We will seek to further build on the education, training and skills of our Lao National Staff and continue to work closely with the NRA in support of their IMSMA program.

In 2016 we would like to see the more advanced digital search equipment and methodologies adopted more frequently in Lao. Milsearch has access to highly accurate RTK positioning equipment, digital magnetometers and EM systems both hand held and towed arrays. These would offer a more efficient and highly accurate ERW clearance to much greater depths and would be ideal on large projects such as mining, hydro, wind generation, road and rail construction.

Some Good News:

Milsearch has been present in Lao PDR longer than any other UXO Clearance organization and the early years of Milsearch UXO Clearance Operations paved the way for other UXO organisations to follow. Recent years have seen a changing climate for Commercial UXO Clearance Companies however it is timely to point out that in over 22 years of continuous operations in Lao PDR we have completed over 82 projects, cleared thousands of hectares and destroyed 10's of thousands of hazardous explosive remnants of war. Over this period Milsearch has employed and trained hundreds of Lao people in various aspects of the UXO Clearance Industry.

Retention of staff is of high importance to Milsearch and it has proven difficult to retain the large numbers of highly trained field staff in the current environment however we are proud to see a large number of our highly trained trauma medics, technicians and team leaders currently employed in both the commercial and INGO sector and continuing to assist with UXO clearance in Lao PDR.

In 2015 Milsearch would like to commend the loyalty and commitment of our permanent Lao National Staff. We have 7 permanent office employees who rarely get a mention because they are not all directly involved in UXO Clearance fieldwork. However they work tirelessly to look after our day to day activities at both our Vientiane Office and our Xiengkhouang Regional Office to make sure our field teams are well supported and our Clients are satisfied.

These 7 people have collectively over 90 year's employment with Milsearch and our most senior employees with over 20 years each. As the present Country Manager, I think this is something to be extremely proud of and it shows both Milsearch's commitment to the well-being of its staff and their valued loyalty in return.

Clients:

Milsearch Lao Clients (Lao Projects)

- Phu Bia Mining
- PT Sole
- Phonsubthavey Mining
- Locran Resources
- Wind Energy Holdings
- Nam Theun 2 Power Company
- CPECC
- IEG

Milsearch Lao Clients (Regional Projects)

- ExxonMobil Exploration and Production Vietnam Limited
- Fugro (Hong Kong) Limited
- Prime Projects International

Personnel in 2015:

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
2	5	1	1	80	30	4	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2015:

Area cleared:

<i>Clearance (Ha)</i>		
Agriculture	Development	<i>Total area</i>
1.5	20	21.5

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

<i>UXO Removed/Destroyed</i>					
<i>Task</i>	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	Total
Clearance	2	24	0	5	31

Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces/districts</i>
Area clearance	Xiengkhouang, Saysomboune, Bolikhamsay, Attapeu, Vientiane, Khammouane, Savanakheth, Sekong
Survey	Vientiane, Luang Prabang, Sayaboury, Houaphan

Financials:

Expenditure for 2015: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	288,000
Operational costs	324,000
Equipment – expendable	5,700
Equipment – non-expendable	15,800
Total	633,500

Donor contributions for 2015 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Milsearch self funded	
Total	633,500



ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE ASSOCIATED WITH MMG LXML (MMG)

Sepon Mine in Brief

MMG-LXML Sepon is a mining company that is situated in Vilabouly District, Savannakhet Province. It operates under a Mineral Exploration and Production Agreement (MEPA) with the Lao government covering 124,195 hectares of land. Approximately 80% of this area was heavily bombed during the Indo-China war and remains a 'danger zone' for local communities up to the present, due to the unexploded ordnance (UXO) left behind.

Mineral exploration within the Sepon mine began in 1993 but it was not until 1996 that a systematic UXO clearance operation started. The mine required the services of several contractors to oversee the clearance tasks. In 2009, MMG-LXML organized an in-house UXO clearance department to directly support mining activities on site.

In the middle of 2013, MMG-LXML signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Lao Ministry of Defense Engineering Department to operate in a joint effort in

clearing UXO within the Sepon MEPA.

Starting 7th of January 2015, the NRA granted MMG full accreditation to continue UXO Clearance operations within the Sepon Mine.

Activities in 2015:

From January to December 2015, the joint effort between MMG-LXML and the Ministry of Defense Engineering Department released 370 Hectares of surface land cleared of UXO not including Mining pit clearance. A total of 576 UXO were found and destroyed including 49 aircraft bombs, 125 cluster munition and 402 other types of munitions.

UXO clearance commenced in several areas of the mine site and supported various mining operations including Thengkham north B,C open pit mining, Thengkham south west, KHN waste dump expansion, CS10&11 sediment dam construction as well as general mineral exploration.

UXO Area cleared

Activities	Ha
Vegetation cutting	543
Surface cleared (0-2.5 M)	370
Pit Clearance (2.5 - 14 M)	273
Total UXO Area Cleared	643

UXO Destroyed

Type	Qty
Bomb	49
Cluster Munitions	125
Other	402
Total	576

MK-81 250 Lbs found at PHB WD



Key achievements in 2015:

5th Senior Explosive Ordnance Disposal (SEOD) Course.

On June 15, the 5th SEOD course officially ended. From ten participants, five advanced to the level of Senior EOD technician (three MMG employees, one from UXO Lao and one from BACTEC) adding to the pool of nationally recognized Lao individuals for UXO clearance. The training concentrated on specialist EOD techniques and management practices. Under real field conditions, each candidate had to demonstrate competency in destruction of two UXO aircraft bombs. The training was conducted from March 18 to May 23, 2015 and is an example of a successful partnership between LXML, the Ministry of Defence and the Lao National Regulatory Authority, to build national capacity in UXO clearance.



UltraTEM Deep UXO Detection.

Background:

Following successful trials in 2013 & 2014, MMG LXML signed a lease agreement in early 2015 with GapEOD (Australia) for their UltraTEM II system; a time domain electromagnetic geophysical (data logging) system characterized by a relatively large transmitting loop, high transmitting current, advanced receivers and data processing techniques; purpose-built for deep detection of aircraft bombs.

Implementation:

The UltraTEM II system was officially rolled out at Sepon on March 29th, 2015; and has been steadily clearing ground of UXO to a depth of 2.5m in mineralized soils during the remainder of the year. Trials completed in the second half of 2015 showed that 5m clearance was possible in benign soil conditions. Three all Lao teams operate the UltraTEM 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Results:

The UltraTEM II system continues to prove its value not

only by enabling UXO clearance to 2.5m in all soil types (not achievable with existing detection equipment), but has pushed the envelope even further by providing 5m clearance in non-mineralized soils. This had resulted in enhanced operational efficiencies by aligning UXO clearance with mining practices; 2.5m mining benches (or two at a time) in a single pass.

Localization:

MMG-LXML has also been active in furthering the progress of local employees. Skills and knowledge are enhanced through different training courses organized by the company including the programs listed below to name a few.

Focus areas of work in 2016:

Staff conducting UXO clearance at Sepon are part of the Project and Service Delivery Department at Sepon. As such, they are cross-skilled to be able to carry out non-UXO related tasks such as soil sampling and drill core logging. Among the backdrop of low commodity prices, we will aim to continue adding value by cross training staff while still adhering to NRA regulations; increasing our ability to match resources to work requirements.

A Quality Management team will be expanded in 2016 to continually monitor quality in our operations and ensure that any skill gaps are promptly assessed and corrected.

With less international experts in the UXO team at Sepon in 2016, our newly qualified SEOD national staff will take a larger role to ensure compliance with NRA standards and maintain a safe and professional approach to the work carried out.

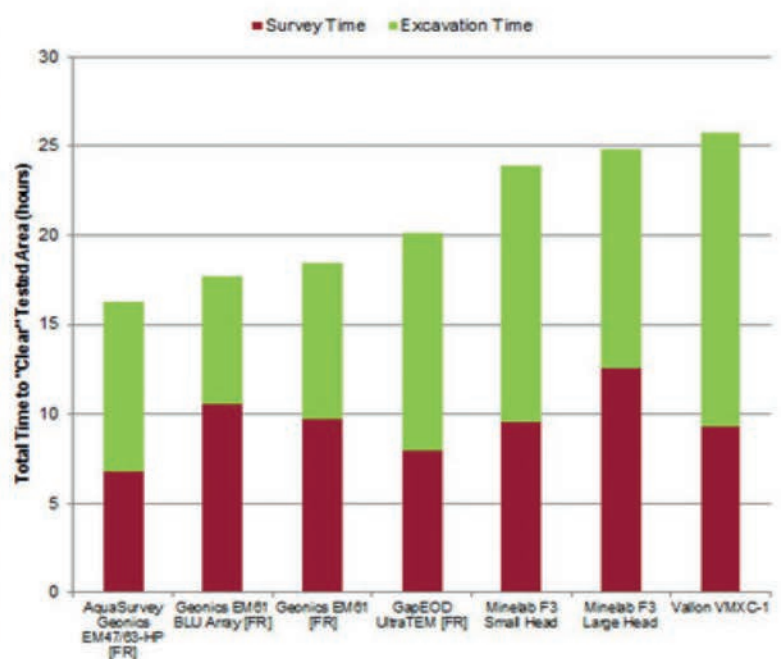
Some Good News:

Together with UXO Lao and GICHD, Sepon played host to the largest UXO detector trial ever undertaken in Lao PDR. Although the trial took place in November and December of 2015, the final report was released in June 2016. This occasion marked a major share of knowledge in the UXO sector as many people and organizations that operate in Laos came to observe the trials, read the final report or attended a presentation on the outcomes. It was the first time 'advanced' detectors which utilize data logging and analysis were demonstrated in Laos alongside traditionally used metal detectors. MMG and UXO Lao provided staff who jointly took part at every level of the trial, working in close consultation with the NRA, ensuring that the outcomes would provide the information required by multiple stakeholders on current and potential future approaches to UXO clearance.



Local Capacity-Building Achievements in 2015

Course	Location	Personnel
RTK GPS	Sepon	8
Laos Driving License	Savannakhet	17
English for Laos	Sepon	22
Computer/Software	Sepon	15
MMG Safety Courses	Sepon	258
Supervisor Development Programme	Sepon	13
UltraTEM Training	Sepon	32
Menzi Muck Driver	Sepon	12
EOD Level Technician-BCO	Sepon	468
EOD Level Technician-SEOD	Sepon	10



Personnel in 2015:

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
4	8	3	0	209	133	2	0
Total	344						

Detailed statistic figures in 2015:

Area cleared:

<i>Clearance (Ha)</i>		
Agriculture	Development	Total area
0	370	370

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

<i>UXO Removed/Destroyed</i>					
<i>Task</i>	<i>Bombs</i>	<i>Bombies</i>	<i>Mines</i>	<i>Other UXO</i>	<i>Total</i>
Clearance	49	125	0	402	576

Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces/districts</i>
Area clearance	Vilabouly District, Savannakhet Province

Financials:

Expenditure for 2015: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	2,665,000
Operational costs	758,000
Equipment – expendable	395,000
Equipment – non-expendable	695,500
Total	4,513,000

Donor contributions for 2015 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Amount</i>
MMG self funded	
Total	4,513,000

Activities in 2015:

- War Victim Medical Fund Support Emergency Medical Treatment for UXO survivors
- Follow-up, Psycho-social Assessment and Support
- Education Support for UXO survivors
- Peer to peer support workshop and mobile peer to peer support
- Financial literacy training
- Animal raising support
- Monthly case management meeting and quarterly meeting

Detailed key achievements in 2015:

■ **Expanded War Victim Medical Fund to Support Emergency Medical Treatment for UXO survivors 54 UXO survivors (9 women) received medical treatment support in 2015:**

- In Xiengkhouang province, 44 UXO survivors Included new 19 UXO accident survivors.
- In Savanakheth province, 6 UXO survivors received medical treatment support
- In Sekong province, 2 UXO survivors received medical treatment support
- In Salavan province, 1 UXO survivor received medical treatment support
- In Attapeu province, 1 UXO victim (who later died at a hospital) received medical treatment

■ **Follow-up, Psycho-social Assessment and Support:**

In 2015, Victim Assistance and Support Team (VAST) visited and completed psychosocial assessments in 7 districts in Xiengkhouang province. The assessment includes six areas: physical, education, economic, family and community (relationships), traditional beliefs and practices, and mental health. The total number of UXO survivors assessed was 212 (56 females). 18 cases have been closed.

■ **Education Package Support for UXO survivors:** In 2015, VAST provided education support packages for 109 UXO survivors (42 females) in different levels of school and different villages and districts in Xiengkhouang province. The education support package includes: notebook, pen, pencil, ruler, rubber, school uniform, shoes, bags, and school fee (academic registration fee).



- 34 UXO survivors and family members (17 females) were given education packages in primary school level
- 46 UXO survivors and family members (8 females) were given education packages in lower secondary school level
- 29 UXO survivors and family members (17 females) were given education packages in upper secondary school level

■ **Peer to peer support workshop and mobile peer to peer support:**

- A UXO survivor, who was blinded and had both hands amputated after his accident, always stayed at home by himself. He could not eat, take a bath, or use the toilet independently. He was sent to learn and exchange knowledge and experience with another UXO survivor with similar physical impairments. This first peer-to-peer support activity was conducted in Vientiane Capital in April and May 2015. He learned how to help himself while at home with activities such

as drinking, eating, taking a bath, walking around his home and village, washing clothes, and watering the garden.

- Two peer-to-peer workshops (one male and one female group) were conducted in October and November 2015. 19 women, 13 girls, and 6 men attended the workshops. The first workshop was focused on sharing daily problems after a UXO accident; problems and solutions were exchanged and participants created personal plans. The second workshop was focused on building the mobile peer-to-peer support. UXO survivors learned the techniques and skills of peer support, particularly how to build rapport, exchange life experiences, and encourage motivation in others. In the workshop one male and one female UXO survivor were selected to be first mobile peer-to-peer mentors and will join VAST to conduct individual peer-to-peer support in the field.

■ **Financial literacy training: 185 UXO survivors and their family members (68 females) participated in financial literacy training. Within these numbers, 84 are direct UXO survivors and 101 are family members. The training includes:**

- Session 1: My present life, financial situation, and dreams for the future.
- Session 2: Financial life cycle needs.
- Session 3: Money In and Money Out, Earning and Spending.
- Session 4: Money Management for Business.
- Session 5: Savings.
- Session 6: Loan.

■ **Animal raising support: 9 UXO survivors received an animal raising grant, zinc roof, grass seeds, and wood material for building pens. 8 UXO survivors received cows and 1 UXO survivor received goats.**

■ **Monthly case management meeting and quarterly meeting:**

- VAST conducted 8 monthly case management meetings during 2015. These involved government counterparts such as the Provincial Public Health Department (Provincial Rehabilitation Center), Provincial Hospital, and non-profit associations such as Quality of Life Association (QLA). The meetings focused on sharing UXO survivors' cases (psychosocial problem identification), agreeing who to support and how to support them, and referring cases to QLA or other organizations.

- VAST conducted 3 quarterly meetings during 2015. These meetings focused on presenting project implementation progress (particularly outcomes, outputs, challenges and lessons learned) and discussing future implementation plans.

Focus areas of work in 2016:

- Expand War Victim Medical Fund Support Emergency Medical Treatment for UXO survivors
- Psycho-social Assessments and Support for UXO survivors
- Education Support for UXO survivors
- Peer to peer support and mobile peer to peer support for UXO survivors
- Financial literacy training
- Mental health capacity building for VAST and government counterpart (provincial/district hospital)
- TOT and teacher training to build capacity of education sector to deliver MRE
- Strengthening the mobile puppetry troupes and creating new troupes

Some Good News:

Teuy was in a UXO accident on 27 Feb 2012 while he was burning garbage in his upland rice field. He is now blind and both of his hands have been amputated.

After his accident, he became depressed: he stayed at home, withdrew himself from the community, and worried about his children's future. He felt like a burden to his family, as he could not adapt to life with his impairments. He could not eat, drink, move around the house or village, or help with family housework independently.

In 2015, World Education's Victim Assistance Support Team (VAST) visited him at home and provided basic counseling. VAST determined his daily problems and helped him think about solutions. He wanted to help himself by being able to walk, drink, eat, bathe, and water his garden independently, and he needed education support for his children.

After the visit, VAST provided an education support package to his 12-year-old daughter studying in primary school grade 3.

In April and May, VAST took him to Vientiane Capital to participate in individual peer to peer support with

another UXO survivor, Phongsavath, who was in a UXO accident in Vientiane Province, faced similar physical impairments, and overcame them.

Phongsavath taught Teuy how to do things himself, particularly how to drinking water, eat, wash clothes, walk with a guiding cane, and water his garden. He also helped Teuy feel motivated.

Now, Teuy can help himself while at home without family members. He can walk from the house to meet people in the community, can eat and drink by himself, and can water his garden.

Tuey also attended trainings on how to be a mobile peer-to-peer supporter, and he joined VAST in conducting mobile peer-to-peer support in field.

Personnel in 2015:

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>		<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>	
Man	Women	Man	Women	Man	Women	Man	Women
0	2	0	0	5	5	0	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2015:

VICTIM ASSISTANCE		
No. of people who received assistance		
Activity	Men	Women
Psychosocial Assessment	156	56
War Victims Medical Fund	45	9
Education Support Package	67	42
Financial Literacy Training	117	68
Total:	385	175

Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Districts/Provinces</i>
Victim Assistance	Xieng Khouang, Savannakhet, Sekong, Saravane, Attapeu

Financials:

Expenditure for 2015: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Total	329,634

Donor contributions for 2015 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2015</i>
U.S. Department of State, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement for “Integrated Victim Assistance, Improving Trauma Care, and UXO Education in the Lao PDR”	\$114,493 Victims Assistance \$172,473 UXO Education Total = \$286,966

Stavros Niarchos Foundation for “UXO Accident Prevention, Survivor Support and Civil Society in Lao PDR”	32,790
U.S. Department of State, Office of Weapons Removal & Abatement for “War Victims Medical Fund (WVMF) Expansion in Laos”	9,878
Total:	329,634

Transfer of funds:

Funds transferred to another UXO sector operator

<i>What organization were the funds transferred to?</i>	<i>How much was transferred? (USD)</i>
XiengKhouang Quality of Life association (WRA)	23,316
XiengKhouang Quality of Life association (SNF)	15,880
Total:	39,196



THE ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATION FOR QUALITY OF LIFE REHABILITATION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND UXO SURVIVORS (QLA) (VA)

Registered in 2011 as a provincial not for profit association (NPA), QLA is the only NPA in Laos set up for the specific purpose of providing support services for UXO survivors and people with disabilities in Xieng Khouang Province.

Activities in 2015:

- **Advocacy about UXO impacts and the rights of people with disabilities:** Disability Rights and Equality Awareness Training (DREAT) was provided to 12 vocational trainers and medical staff from the provincial hospital/rehabilitation center who interact with UXO survivors and PWD during QLA's livelihood training initiatives and/or in the provision of medical care. DRET training was also provided to 40 village leaders from 20 villages (in which more than 226 people with disabilities reside). 16 case profiles were written to help raise awareness of the plight of UXO survivors and the impact of QLA's support programs.
- **Financial support for medical treatment of UXO survivors:** 26 UXO survivors in Xieng Khouang had the cost of their medical treatment paid for by QLA, using funds kindly provided by DFDL Legal & Tax and a private donor.
- **Livelihood training and support programs for income generation:** Advanced technical skills training was provided to producers from 16 UXO affected villages to improve the quality of their weaving and handicraft products and increase their income. Animal raising training was provided for income generation for 181 UXO survivors, PWD, family members and/or impoverished people living in Xieng Khouang province.
- **Education support for UXO survivors and PWD:** 21 UXO survivors, persons with disabilities (PWD) or their family members received assistance with the cost of their continued education.
- **First aid training:** 100 people from 5 UXO affected remote villages received first aid training to strengthen their capacity to provide first response first aid in the event of an accident.
- **Manage UXO Survivor Information Centre in Xieng Khouang:** In 2015 QLA hosted more than 2100 visitors to its UXO Survivor Information Centre in Xieng Khouang, which was 11% more than in 2014, which was 42% more than in 2013.
- **Manage shop that sells handicrafts produced by UXO affected communities:** QLA's handicraft and shop sales income increased by 14% in 2015 compared to the previous year. QLA also participated at the annual Laos Handicrafts Festival in Vientiane, to promote awareness of QLA and to sell handicraft products for income generation for the producers.
- **New houses for safe and secure shelter:** QLA worked with local communities to co-ordinate the building of 4 new houses for 3 high priority UXO survivors and 1 person with disabilities and their families to improve their psychosocial state and provide safe and secure shelter. As a result, the beneficiaries include more than 20 people.

Key achievements in 2015:

Advocacy – During the visit to Laos in 2015 by Legacies of War representatives, Thoummy Silamphan (QLA's Executive Director) received his Advocacy Award for his years of dedication to UXO victims' assistance and advocacy. Manixia Thor from the Mines Advisory Group (MAG), who is the Leader of a mine clearance team, also received an award. Both Thoummy and Manixia were speakers in the 'Voices from Laos' tour of the USA in 2013, to raise awareness of the impacts of UXO.

QLA also participated in NRA's Strategic Planning workshop focusing on Victims' Assistance.

Income generation for target group – In 2015, QLA established a forum for existing Producer Group Leaders (PGL) to meet periodically for peer to peer knowledge exchange and skills development relating to producer group management and quality improvement of their products for increased income generation. With the level of participation consistently high and with product quality greatly improved, the success of this initiative has exceeded expectations and is continuing.

Organisational sustainability - QLA made significant

steps towards sustainability as an NPA, evident through the further development of its organisational management practices, its first Strategic Plan, the conduct of its' first independent external audit (by Ernst & Young Lao Ltd) and skills training for staff. QLA also introduced a case management system to enable a more comprehensive and holistic assessment of the needs of UXO survivors and people with disabilities and more responsive action to address the needs identified and barriers to inclusion in their community.

Some Good News: Build a house for Ms Vanh

Ms Vanh is 42 years old, divorced and lives in Kham District with two of her four children, Dath who is 19 and Phetsyda who is 15 years old. One child was killed in a UXO accident and another son, Khath, lives in Vientiane with his wife. Vanh has had an intellectual impairment since birth. QLA has observed that although Vanh can speak, she doesn't tend to do so and does not seem to understand much of what is said to her. Dath has a similar impairment and dropped out of school at grade 3 primary level for this reason. Phetsyda is doing well in her third year of secondary school.

In 2008, Vanh and her children were digging a channel near their house when a UXO exploded. One child died as a result and Vanh and her other children sustained shrapnel wounds. They were treated in hospital for about 10 days.

When QLA met Vanh, she and her children were living in a bamboo house with a grass roof that was quite far out from their village and in a state of major disrepair. Although they earned a small income from growing corn they had no means for fixing the house or improving their living conditions. The remote location of the house was not good for security; A total of 14 of Vanh's large chickens have 'disappeared' in the past.



The house of Vanh and her children (before the storm which damaged it).

How QLA has helped:

QLA discussed Vanh's situation with her family and with the Head of the Village and it was agreed that if the Head of the Village could find a plot of land closer to the village, then QLA would pay for the cost of the materials to build a new house for Vanh and that the villagers would do the labor work free of charge. QLA arranged for the technical consultant from the Vocational School to assess Vanh's needs and design a basic new house for her.

Within a few weeks the new plot of land was allocated and cleared. QLA supervised the purchase and delivery of the building materials on 25 April 2015.

The Head of the Village told QLA that the local community had wanted to help this family for a long time but did not have the funding to do so and were very grateful that QLA could pay for the cost of materials.

On 4 May QLA went to check on progress of the building and it was clear that the new house was one room larger than in the original plan and for this reason the building materials were insufficient for the house to be completed. Thoummy explained that QLA would only pay for the materials that were specified in the original list of materials.

Vanh and her children moved into the house before it was completed (internal walls not yet fitted). Three days later, part of her old bamboo house was destroyed in a storm.

QLA's Executive Director, Mr Thoummy Silamphan and the President of QLA's Board of Directors, Mr Khamkhone Phaoudone handed over the house to Vanh on 29 May 2015.

On that occasion, Vanh's family held a basi ceremony to thank QLA and its private donor, the local building



QLA co-ordinated the building of a new house for Vanh and her family of UXO survivors.

technician and to wish Vanh and her children well in their new home. Many villagers attended, which indicated to QLA that the village is supportive of Vanh.

Vanh's mother is also a UXO survivor. She told QLA that she is old and at this late stage in her life is very happy to know that at long last her daughter and her family have somewhere safe and secure to live.

Vanh's son Khath who lives in Vientiane with his wife has not visited his mother since he moved there. QLA was told that he was embarrassed about the poor living conditions in which he and his family had lived and he did not want his wife to see it. Once he heard about the new house he said he will visit his family and that he will bring his wife. Vanh was very happy to hear that her son will visit. He also said he will pay for the cost of materials to finalise the house (internal walls).



At the basi ceremony Khamkhone chats with Vanh's mother

Focus areas of work in 2016:

QLA will continue to implement programs to support UXO survivors, people with disabilities and impoverished families in UXO affected communities in Xieng Khouang, including advocacy, medical & rehabilitative treatment costs, referral services, provision of simple assistive devices, education costs, livelihood programs for poverty eradication and peer to peer support groups.

Organisational capacity building will continue in 2016 through the further development of policies and procedures, its case management system, client database, tools for improved impact assessment and program evaluation and skills training for staff.

QLA will also focus on securing sufficient funding to operate and achieve certainty and continuity of service provision to QLA's target group in accordance with its strategic objectives and goals. QLA will advocate for community based and inclusive development that focuses on meeting the needs of QLA's target group and does not discriminate between them due to the cause of their disability or marginalization.

Partners:

- Department of Home Affairs
- Provincial Department of Health
- Department of Labor and Social Welfare
- Xieng Khouang Vocational School
- INGOs involved with UXO victims' assistance, including Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and World Education Laos (WEL)

Personnel in 2015:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
1	2	0	0	6	1	0	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2015:

Victim Assistance Provided										
Financial Support*					Medical Support/assistive devices					
Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total	GrandTotal
102	82	9	10	203	16	1	7	2	26	229

*QLA counted UXO survivors and family members only, education costs and start up grant only

Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Districts/Provinces</i>
Victim Assistance	Xieng Khouang Province

Financials:

Expenditure for 2015: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount (USD)</i>
Personnel costs	64,169
Operational costs	135,131
Equipment – expendable	10,441
Equipment – non-expendable	3,667
Total	213,408

Donor contributions for 2015 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2015</i>
Donation box	7,132
EU/MAG	33,087
Private donor	20,000
WRA/WEL	23,316
SNF	15,999
TEAM	78,302
Schmitz	9,297
McKnight Foundation	25,000
Total	212,133

Transfer and receive of funds:

Funds received from another UXO sector operator

<i>Which organization were the funds transferred from?</i>	<i>How much was transferred? (USD)</i>
EU/MAG	32,000
WRA/WEL	23,316
Total	56,403



COOPERATIVE ORTHOTIC & PROSTHETIC ENTERPRISE (COPE)

(VA)

Activities in 2015:

The Cooperative Orthotic and Prosthetic Enterprise (COPE) works in partnership with the Centre for Medical Rehabilitation (CMR) to increase access to quality prosthetic and orthotic services in Lao PDR. The main aim is to strengthen the long-term national capacity to ensure quality rehabilitation services for people with disabilities, including the many adults and children with injuries from cluster munitions and other unexploded ordnance (UXO). COPE provides technical, financial and material support to CMR's five rehabilitation centers throughout the country so that people with disabilities nationwide have access to necessary services for improving mobility. The centers are located in Luang Prabang, Xiengkhuang, Savannakhet, Champasack and Vientiane.

COPE supports the costs related to the treatment and production of prosthetic and orthotic (P&O) devices, and provides technical training to Government of Lao staff and material support to CMR and provincial rehabilitation centers (PRCs). Specifically, COPE supports people in need of P&O devices through reimbursing patients' transport costs and food during treatment, both for the patients and for carers and/or interpreters when necessary. Accommodation is provided free of charge by the Government of Laos, in dormitories managed by the rehabilitation centers. In 2015, over 1,000 people with disabilities have received access to services which are essential for ensuring physical rehabilitation, and ultimately can contribute to a better quality of life and active participation in their families and larger communities.

As the majority of UXO survivors and other people with disabilities need access to life-long services, a main focus of COPE's work is to support the capacity-building of CMR on both technical and organizational levels to ensure the sustainability of service provision.

In addition, the COPE Connect outreach programme aims to increase awareness of and help connect people with needs to available services. Due to lack of communication technologies, poor road networks, limited or no access to accessible transportation and, significantly, lack of financial resources, people with physical disabilities have been unable to access the CMR/PRC services. COPE Connect Outreach covers fourteen of the seventeen Lao Provinces. In 2015, CMR, PRCs and COPE conducted clinical patient assessment in 7 districts of



Mr. Waiphone, Prosthetist & Orthotist at the Center for Medical Rehabilitation is fitting a transstibial prosthesis to Mr. Somchit who lost his left leg.

Bokeo and Salavan Provinces (more details below) to facilitate access to services for people with needs.

Key achievements in 2015:

COPE 2015-2017 Strategic Plan: based on the lessons-learned from the past 18 years, and a number of evaluations, reviews and consultancies conducted in 2014, COPE developed its 2015-2017 Strategic Plan, which was officially endorsed at the joint COPE/CMR annual planning workshop in May 2015. COPE's goal is that "all people with mobility-related disabilities in Lao PDR have equal access to quality and affordable physical rehabilitation services, focusing on P&O". Although the Strategic Plan reaffirms that P&O is COPE's core area of focus, in line with the multi-disciplinary approach it also acknowledges the important links between prosthetic and orthotic services and other healthcare-related rehabilitation services such as surgical/rehabilitation nursing, physiotherapy and occupational therapy.



Bench Technician at Center for Medical Rehabilitation grinding a lower limb prosthetic device.



Ms Xai Sengaloun – P&O at the Center for Medical Rehabilitation Center rectifying a below-knee positive cast.

Patient support:

Access to services for people with needs is a challenge, as there are significant costs related to producing prosthetic and orthotic devices, as well as ensuring that patients spend the necessary time at the centers for the required treatment, fitting of devices and integral services such as physiotherapy, gait training and occupational therapy. Depending on the disability, the treatment time can range from two to four weeks. Furthermore, many patients live in remote areas, and transport costs become an additional obstacle.

In 2015, COPE continued to support expenses of P&O patients, including UXO accident survivors, who are unable to pay for treatment and associated costs such as travel, food and accommodation during their treatment.

With COPE's support, between January and December 2015, 1034 patients accessed physical rehabilitation services: 899 patients received P&O devices (60% those patients received prostheses and 40% orthoses). Over a third of the prosthetic patients were UXO survivors. In addition, 107 paediatric rehabilitation devices, such as standing and walking frames, were manufactured and provided to children with disabilities. Additional patients received clubfoot treatment, physiotherapy and occupational therapy (112 clubfoot manipulation using Ponsetti method, 23 treatments for neglected clubfoot, including surgery).

Capacity-building:

COPE has continued to build the clinical capacity and technical skills of the CMR and PRC rehabilitation staff through a number of training courses and providing additional on-the-job training opportunities: 42 (17 women and 25 men) Prosthetists & Orthotistst (P&O),

physiotherapists (PT) and/or occupational therapists (OT) from the five government government-run centers across the country attended technical courses on at least one of the following specific subjects/skills areas:

- PT/OT Training (Clinical Anatomy).
- Multi-Disciplinary Training (Transtibial prosthesis designs).
- EVA Prosthetic hand Training. The EVA hand technique was developed by Cambodian Bench Technicians from Veteran International Cambodian (VIC) and offers unique functionalities. In addition to being taught how to manufacture a prosthetic hand using the scrap EVA foam from the workshop, Bench Technicians from each of the 5 rehabilitation centers received a "Manufacturing Guideline Manual for EVA Prosthetic Hand" developed both in English and Lao language by the external trainer with the support of the 2 COPE-CMR facilitators.
- Surgical training for CMR and Provincial Hospitals orthopedic surgeons on neglected clubfoot, knee deformity and revision of stumps/secondary amputation (15-18 December).

In 2015, COPE also commissioned several studies to improve the knowledge in various important areas related to quality and sustainability of service delivery:

- Beneficiary survey. Commissioned for the second time by COPE following the 2014, this is the only statistically significant survey of its kind in Laos. Using the Quest2.0 methodology, the Beneficiary Survey is a standardized assessment tool comprising 12 elements that identify user satisfaction with assistive devices and services. The 2015 Beneficiary Survey results indicated that, overall, patient satisfaction with P&O services is good. The results were presented during the COPE-CMR Annual Joint

Planning Workshop. An action plan was created jointly by CMR and COPE staff to implement changes intended to increase patient satisfaction.

- Medical and surgical status evaluation in the physical rehabilitation sector. In October 2015, following the endorsement of its Strategic Plan and keen to ensure that its scope of intervention in surgical/rehabilitation nursing remains closely linked to the core area of prosthetic and orthotic services, COPE commissioned a “Medical and surgical status evaluation in the physical rehabilitation sector”. The main goal of the evaluation was to “define the scope of COPE’s future P&O-related medical interventions”.

Improving access:

- 2015 was the seventh year of the COPE Connect-Outreach programme since it started in early 2009, with the aim to promote people’s awareness of the availability of physical rehabilitation services and ensure that all people with disability have localized and free access to rehabilitation care that is of high quality and developed sustainably through the government-run national rehabilitation service.
- From 11 to 13th of March 2015, COPE Connect organized a combined introductory and coordinator training workshop in Bounneau district, Phongsaly Province, the 14th province to set-up a COPE Connect network. The workshop and training brought together representatives of the Provincial Health Department, the Provincial Hospital, District Health offices, District Hospital and two representatives

from Health Centers in each district. Altogether 35 persons joined the combined workshop. Six hundred village level surveys with simple pictorial questionnaires were distributed to the provincial and district health authorities, who agreed on identifying and reporting to the COPE Connect Provincial Coordinator the number of patients needing support in Phongsaly Province. COPE will work with provincial and district coordinators to organize follow-up medical assessments, probably in 2016.

- In 2015, COPE Connect also conducted clinical patient assessment in 7 districts: 2 districts of Bokeo Province and 5 districts of Salavan Province.

Awareness-raising:

The The COPE Visitor Center, located in the compound of the Center for Medical Rehabilitation in Vientiane, is an important part of COPE’s efforts to raise awareness among important international decision-makers, as well as the general public, of the problems related to UXO in Laos and the long term needs and challenges in the sector

The Visitor Center remains number one on tourist references sites like TripAdvisor. Between January and December 2015, a record high number of 25,000 people from all over the world visited the COPE Center, including a large number of VIPs: New Zealand Ambassador Reuben Levermore; Morten Høglund, Deputy Minister of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and H.E. Ms Siren Gjerme Eriksen, Norwegian Ambassador; a delegation of ASEAN Parliamentarians

Province	District	Dates	Number of people assessed		Number of people invited to PRC/CMR		Number of people re-ferred to other partner organizations		Number of people not invited (given PT exercises and advise)
			Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	
Salavan	Khongsedon	1-7/2	43	39	26	19	6	9	22
	Samouy	31/3 7/4	63	32	34	14	1	1	47
Bokeo	Paktha	9-16/6	67		2	15	7	6	35
	PraOudom								
Salavan	Vapee	20-27/7	61		22	15	5	2	17
	LaoNgam								
Salavan	Lakhonepheng	6-12 /12	63		21	14	4	6	18
Total:			368		105	77	23	24	139

from Germany; Mr Richard Andrews, Assistant Secretary and Mr Anthony Apsden, Director from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; the Embassy of Canada in Vientiane's newly appointed Chargé d' Affaires, Ms. Lee-Anne Hermann; Ms Beth Paige, the director of the USAID Regional Development Mission in Asia; the Honourable Dr Andrew Southcott, MP for Boothby, South Australia, and the Honourable Warren Entsch, MP for Leichhardt, accompanied by the Ambassador of Australia in Lao PDR; Mr Haoliang Xu, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific; Mr. Moriyama Masahito, State Minister of Justice, Government of Japan and Japanese Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and H.E.Mr Keniichi Ishii.

Some Good News:

Setting Quality standards:

COPE continued its efforts towards improved quality management systems and quality of prostheses by conducting regular (bi-annual) audit trips to all the PRCs, in partnership with CMR, to monitor activities and provide the necessary support on technical (P&O) and management levels.

These audit trips are part of a four-milestone process COPE and CMR launched in 2015 to set quality standards for lower limb prostheses produced in Laos. COPE worked with key CMR/PRC staff to:

- Agree on areas in which to set standards;
- Create and agree on standards and quality indicators;
- Develop and agreed on measuring tool for quality indicators.

The fourth and last milestone will be reached in 2016.

COPE Connect Review:

COPE commissioned an independent review of COPE Connect, its outreach programme started in early 2009. The review acknowledges that COPE Connect has played a vital role in raising people's awareness of the availability of free physical rehabilitation services for all people with disabilities. This has been achieved by establishing, in 14 of the 17 Laos Provinces, a network of 700 health officials at provincial and district level who assist COPE in the preparation and delivery of clinical assessment field trips. Around three and half thousand people have received professional advice through the assessments, and many more people have gained a better understanding of the positive options available for people with disabilities. However, many barriers remain that prevent people from rural and

remote areas from travelling to one of the five rehabilitation centers around the country, even after they have been assessed and invited for free treatment. Based on lessons-learned from COPE Connect implementation and review, COPE has secured funding for a modified outreach model, using mobile clinics, which will be piloted in 2016.

Focus areas of work in 2016:

In 2016, COPE will continue to work on the following key areas, with the various challenges and opportunities that these involve:

- Increased clinical rehabilitation skills, including P&O, physiotherapy and occupational therapy by organizing a series of technical trainings with multi-disciplinary approach.
- Continued uninterrupted access to service by providing materials and meeting patients' costs in line with CMR/COPE policy.
- Ensure feedback from patients continues to be heard by organizing a follow-up to the 2014 and 2015 beneficiary surveys.
- Increase COPE's own organizational capacity to proactively design, develop and implement sustainable services and fully monitor and evaluate service provision.

Three particular focus areas will be:

- Improved quality management systems and quality of prostheses.
- In 2016, COPE will finalize the four-milestone process initiated in 2015 to set standards for lower-limb prostheses in Laos by applying the measuring tool during Quality Clinical Audit at CMR and each of the PRCs. The first trip will enable to set the baseline, which will then be used throughout 2016 and 2017 to measure progress against quality targets that COPE and CMR/PRC staff will jointly agree upon for 2016 and 2017.
- COPE and CMR will also conduct regular visits to the PRCs, and organize trainings on two specific areas of management identified as priority for the PRCs: patient data and stock management.
- Improved referral to rehabilitation centers, and between the networks of clinical services. Following the COPE CONNECT review in 2015, COPE will pilot a new referral and outreach model using COPE-CMR Mobile Clinics. Five camps will be conducted in 2016 in provinces and districts targeted for their high number of potential beneficiaries, based on data gathered through COPE Connect Network.

- With the support of NRA and the humanitarian clearance operators, part of the exhibition at COPE Visitor Center will be updated to reflect the new UXO survey and clearance regulations in Lao PDR.

Partners:

The CMR, under the Lao Ministry of Health, was founded in 1963 and is responsible for providing and coordinating rehabilitation services throughout the country. Since the COPE/CMR partnership commenced in 1997, the overall goal of the collaboration is to support the development of technical rehabilitation skills in Laos in a sustainable manner that enables the continuing development of these vital services within the existing Government of Lao PDR infrastructure.



Mr Kunthea Kim, COPE P&O Advisor, controlling the quality of Mr Lathy's lower-limb prosthesis, as part of COPE-CMR quality control management programme.

Personnel in 2015:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Women	Man	Women	Man	Women	Man	Women
7	6	3	1	0	0	0	0

Geography of operations:

Activity	Districts/Provinces
Victim Assistance	Victim assistance provided through the CMR's physical rehabilitation centers in Champasack, Luang Prabang, Savannakhet, Xiengkhuang and Vientiane, plus COPE Connect medical assessments in Salavan and Bokeo Provinces. Together, these centers aim to ensure national coverage.

Financials:

Expenditure for 2015: (USD)

Item	Amount (USD)
Personnel costs	321,067.39
Operational costs	553,405.33
Equipment – expendable	0
Equipment – non-expendable	0
Total	874,472.72

Donor contributions for 2015: (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2015</i>
CBM	100,470.00
GDG	49,968.14
ICRC	59,993.73
USAID-RDMA	316,088.50
Canada	413,408.00
Norway	217,495.39
UNDP	144,554.00
World Education	38,225.67
Total	1,340,203.43

Note: Some of the funds from institutional donors were received late in 2015, but planned for expenditures in 2016.



SPIRIT OF SOCCER (SOS) (MRE)

Spirit of Soccer is an International Non-profit Organization registered in Laos in 2011. Its mission statement is “enriching and saving lives through the beautiful game”. Its primary aim is to reduce child casualties caused by UXO. This is achieved by delivering Mine Risk Education (MRE) through Football Clinics to children living in densely UXO contaminated areas in Xiengkhuang province.

Activities in 2015:

SOS coaches visit primary and secondary in Xiengkhuang and Salavan province conduct football clinics for school children playing game reflected to MRE, with football analogies to teach student about the danger of bomb how to do when encounter the bomb, how to avoid accidents, and how to teach others people such as family member or friend. Giving core materials to school and students such as poster of UXOs, Football with mine sign, school notebooks, shirt and other teaching equipment. For the sustainability SoS provided football coaching and MRE training to school teachers and government partner.

Key achievements in 2015:

- 40 female coaches and 35 male coaches from 7 district have been trained in both skills football and MRE.
- 248 teachers from primary and secondary school have joined the football/MRE clinic with Spirit of Soccer.
- 140 primary schools and 40 secondary schools have attended the project activity.
- Organized football tournament for both boys and girls in each district to select the district representative team for tournament at provincial level.
- Organized cheerleading team for each district.
- 13.020 students from primary and 1.480 students from secondary have attended the project activity 6.535 are girls.

Some Good News:

- SoS has been reward by local authority and partner for the project implementation.

- SoS has created many new games in football and MRE to use the games in different age group to deliver and recognition of MRE core messages such as “Keep Away” “ Don’t touch” “Report” and “communicate”.
- SoS received donation such as shirt and ball from different Sport dealer and send this donation to children in remote area.
- Receive funding to extend project in both province Xiengkhuang and Salavan.
- Possibly receive grant from Coca-Cola to organized Football/MRE youth tournament again.

Focus areas of work in 2016:

Through out Xiengkhuang province, extend to other 150 schools and 50 schools in Salavan.

Partners:

- MoFA Lao
- Ministry of Education and Sport
- NRA
- Provincial Education and Sport
- UXO Laos
- Lao Football Federation
- INGO’s in UXO Sector Working Group



Summaries MRE at the end of activity to repeat and survey about the understanding of students before and after



Children try to dribble the ball away from mine area, they can learn about dribble skill in football also to keep away from mine area.



Doing MRE in between the football clinic and game

Personnel in 2015:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
1	0	0	0	4	1	0	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2015:

MINE RISK EDUCATION Community Awareness					
Village Visits	Beneficiaries				
	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total
180	164	84	7,965	6,535	14,748

Geography of operations:

Activity	Districts/Provinces
Risk Education	All 7 district in Xiengkhuang province / 5 District in Salavan province (Salavan, Laogam, Smouay, Vapee)

Expenditure for 2015: (USD)

Item	Amount
Personnel costs	25,600
Operational costs	108,840
Equipment – expendable	0
Equipment – non-expendable	18,500
Total	152,940

Donor contributions for 2015: (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2015</i>
PMWRA	122,940
Coca-Cola USA	30,000
Total	152,940

Established in 1922, DanChurchAid (DCA) is a Danish, organization working to assist the poorest of the poor. Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) is one of the five key programme areas of DCA. Since 1999, DCA has conducted mine action activities in Angola, Albania, Burma/Myanmar, Burundi, Central African Republic, DR Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Iraq, Kosovo, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Sudan, South Sudan and Syria/Turkey.

DCA has, since March 2013, an Operators Permit and is, since the beginning of 2015, implementing project activities in the two provinces of Xieng Khouang and Phongsaly in Lao PDR.

Physical country presence was established during 2015 in 3 locations with project offices;
 Vientiane Capital – DCA Country Office and main project office,
 Phongsaly Province – DCA has established a project office in Khoua District, provided and supported by the district authorities.
 Xieng Khouang Province –DCA has established a project office in Paek District, provided and supported by the district authorities.

All necessary arrangements for a new country representation was taken with support from National Regulatory Authority at national and provincial level together with provincial and district authorities in Xieng Khouang and Phongsaly provinces.

Key achievements in 2015:

Strong institutional arrangements were achieved in both target provinces thanks to strong support from local authorities.

The project have assigned Provincial Coordinators and full-time counterparts partaking in all activities in order to ensure capacity building & efficient knowledge transfer, accountability, local ownership and commitment, hence strengthening the probabilities for sustainability and long-term impact.

Thorough and careful planning of target areas together with local authorities in order to ensure efficient implementation and local ownership.

Development of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials and Training Guides completed for both Provinces.

Production and distribution of guides and materials for MRE activities.

First MRE trainings were carried out for 33 monks from Xieng Khouang and 42 peer monitors/teachers and district authority staff in Phongsaly.

18 village visits carried out, mainly in schools targeting 3441 direct participants in MRE sessions.

NB, in Phongsaly 46 villages are covered by 7 schools, all of which were visited with MRE activities in 2015.

Start of usage of National IMSMA Database and quality control of input data.

On-going process on how to collect initial, basic contamination data and process of mapping contaminated areas in Phongsaly province with the local authorities and the NRA.

Some Good News:

Buddhist monks in colourful clothes help to spread lifesaving messages

At the school in the town of Nangong the school benches are empty until the headmaster takes the microphone and in a firm voice asks the students to come closer and sit down. As though from nowhere they suddenly rush in from all sides in their bright white shirts. In the course of a few minutes more than 400 school children have sat down in front of the that days’ two unusual teachers: Buddhist monks dressed in orange with cropped hair.

For more than two hours the two religious advisers keep the children’s spell-bound. They tell stories, show films and play quizzes.

“What should you do when you see unexploded ammunition?” asks the monk Phoumma Houangsamone.



The children yell all at once:

“You should tell your parents or another grown-up about it. You mustn’t touch it or try to pull it apart because then it will explode,” the monks say and point to a picture that shows a cluster bomb explode as a child is picking it up.

DCA has partnered with Lao Buddhism for Development who go out to schools like this one and tell the children about the lurking danger. The monks are highly respected in Laos and are therefore perfect messengers.

One of the pieces of advice the monks repeat every single time they visit a new school is that one should never light a fire in a place where one doesn’t know what can be hidden under the surface of the ground. The response and level of attention is very high at each and every session.

Focus areas of work in 2016:

- Further development of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials and Training Guides; training of Peer Educators and monks in the delivery of UXO risk education; supervision and monitoring of risk education activities.
- Training of district authority personnel in UXO contamination survey, data collection and Global Positioning System (GPS) survey techniques; mapping of contaminated areas; quality assurance and input of collected data to national database.
 - Survey and data collection start and performance by District Authority Staff.
- Training of Buddhist Monks in the provision of spiritual counselling.
 - Monks provide spiritual counselling to victims and their families.
- Training of Monks in social inclusion education and referral of victims to treatment and rehabilitation services.
 - Monks deliver messages on social inclusion and refer victims to public health and rehabilitation services.

Challenge:

Since the approval of the project, a change of survey methodology have been approved and is currently implemented nationwide (the Cluster Munition Remnant Survey, CMRS). The scope of the project did not include the steps of CMRS, but was focused on an adaptation of the District Focus Approach (DFA) earlier under trial and later discarded in favor of CMRS. This brings that the project need to adapt this component to the new methodology in conjunction with the NRA.

Partners:

DCA – implements the current project and is responsible for overall management and disbursement. Implementing partners are:

National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PR (NRA) – NRA is functioning as the line ministry to which DCA adheres and is the primary point of contact regarding activities in Lao PDR. Since obtaining an operation permit in Lao PDR, DCA has worked closely with the NRA in defining the activities of the DCA UXO program in Lao PDR. The on-going project is based on the priorities of the local, provincial & district authorities and the NRA. Quality assurance and control of all activities are in conjunction with the NRA.

Lao Buddhism for Development (LBD) – Established within the Lao Sangha in 2003 to mobilize Buddhist monks and nuns and their lay supporters to be engaged in community development. The formation of the LBD has led to the development of an emerging community of Buddhist Leaders in Lao society who are committed to using Buddhist principles of compassion to address development challenges. For the implementation of this project, the LBD collaborates with DCA on risk education and victim assistance activities implemented in Paek and Kham districts of Xieng Khouang Province. LBD is working through the local clergies, in Paek and Kham, who are mainly carrying out activities in Xieng Khouang.

Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) – DCA’s Act Alliance partner, has worked in Lao PDR since 1989. NCA have been providing invaluable institutional support in establishing contacts and reporting lines, most important of which with the LBD. Due to NCA’s phase-out in Lao PDR, they will not be a continued implementing partner for the future activities.

Basic Needs – a UK registered development charity, has been operational in Lao PDR since 2005 and now supports over 800 mentally ill people through advocacy of rights of people with mental illness and capacity building of health care staff to recognize and deal with mental illness. Based on their expertise BasicNeeds provided training on counselling techniques for Buddhist monks of the ‘Empowerment of Civil Society for the Prevention of Cluster Munitions Accidents and Survivor Assistance’ project (NCA & LBD 2010-2012). In this ongoing project, Basic Needs likewise provides counselling training for the Buddhist monks in Paek and Kham districts, Xieng Khouang Province.

District Governor’s Office – is the highest authority at district level. DCA and NRA have cultivated support among key stakeholders in Phongsaly Province, including the District Governors and Rural

Development Committees. The project at present have assigned counterparts who are partaking in all aspects of implementation. The Governor's Office ensures cooperation and hands down information and tasks to the relevant departments and/or coordinate staff from various departments to form multi-sector working groups to discuss the planning and implementation of the project in each target district.

District Education and Sports Bureaus – Ministry of Education and Sports is the main government body responsible for formal and informal education in the Lao PDR. At the district level the District Education and Sports Bureau is responsible for the coordination and implementation of national education policy ('Education for All, National project Plan 2003-2015'), which also includes UXO education. The District Education and Sports Bureau s supporting DCA in the overall coordination of

risk education activities of this project in the four target districts.

Secondary School Teachers – supervise the secondary school peer educators. As persons of influence they engage directly with school-age children and youth and the wider community. The project supports their capacity to undertake this leadership role through training and supervision.

Secondary School Students – functions as peer educators in their communities. They disseminate risk education messages to their peers in school and out-of-school. The project will train peer educators in Khua and Mai districts of Phongsaly Province. The peer educators will receive support and supervision from their teachers.

Personnel in 2015:

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
National		International		National		International	
<i>Man</i>	<i>Woman</i>	<i>Man</i>	<i>Woman</i>	<i>Man</i>	<i>Woman</i>	<i>Man</i>	<i>Woman</i>
1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2015:

<i>MINE RISK EDUCATION Community Awareness</i>					
<i>Village Visits</i>	<i>Beneficiaries</i>				
	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
18	148	198	1,584	1510	3,441

Geography of operations:


<i>Activity</i>	<i>Districts/Provinces</i>
Risk Education	Muang Mai & Muang Khoua, Phongsaly Muang Paek & Muang Kham, Xieng Khouang
Victim Assistance	Muang Paek & Muang Kham, Xieng Khouang

Expenditure for 2015: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	89,000
Operational costs	87,000
Equipment – expendable	21,000
Equipment – non-expendable	13,000
<i>Total</i>	<i>210,000</i>

Donor contributions for 2015: (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2015</i>
European Union	140,000
DanChurchaid	70,000
Total:	210,000



For further information please contact the:

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