



UXO Sector Annual Report 2012



Front cover image: Women harvest rice from newly planted rice paddies grown between the rows of Stora Enso's Eucalyptus Trees in Saravane Province. In 2012, Stora Enso worked with Lao commercial company SBH to clear land for Eucalyptus Tree plantations.

Top right image: Commercial company SBH doing UXO clearance for Stora Enso in Saravane Province.

Bottom right image: UXO clearance at a popular tourist site in Xieng Khoung Province by MAG.

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

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

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2012 UXO SECTOR ANNUAL REPORT

CONTENTS

FOREWORD: CHAIRMAN OF THE NRA	ii	Commercial Clearance Operators	46
FOREWORD: NRA DIRECTOR	iii	ASA Power Engineering Co., Ltd (ASA)	46
FOREWORD: UN COORDINATOR AND UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE		Bactec Lao Ltd. (BACTEC)	47
	iv	Lao BSL Unexploded Ordnance Disposal (Lao BSL)	48
		LXML MMG (MMG)	50
LIST OF ACRONYMS	v	Milsearch Lao EOD Sole Company Limited	53
		Phonhsackda (PSD)	57
SECTOR ACHIEVEMENTS: THE NUMBERS	1	Sibounhueang UXO Clearance CO. (SBH)	58
Financial Summary	4		
	5	MRE Technical Working Group Report	60
UXO FACTS AND FIGURES	5	Victim Assistance and MRE Operators	61
WHAT IS UXO?		Association for Aid and Relief (AAR)	61
		Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	63
NATIONAL REGULATORY AUTHORITY FOR UXO/ MINE ACTION SECTOR IN LAO PDR (NRA)	6	Cooperative Prosthetic and Orthotic Enterprise (COPE)	67
Activities of the NRA Office	6	Quality of Life Association (QLA)	70
Gender Mainstreaming	8	World Education (WE)	74
Partnerships	8		
NRA Financial Report	9	Annexes	
	10	Prime Minister's Decree No. 406/PM, dated 8/11/2011 on the Establishment of the National Regulatory Authority (NRA)	80
SPECIAL REPORTS	11		
Beating the Bombs in Boulapha District	13	Prime Minister's Decision No. 096/PM, dated 21/11/2012 on the Establishment of the National Regulatory Authority (NRA)	82
ASEM Report	14		
Millennium Development Goal 9	15		
A Forest of Rice: SBH and Stora Enso			
	18		
OPERATOR REPORTS	20		
Clearance Technical Working Group Report	21		
Humanitarian Clearance Operators	21		
Handicap International (HI)	25		
Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS)	27		
Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)	32		
Mines Advisory Group (MAG)	37		
Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)	39		
Solidarity Service International (SODI)	43		
The HALO Trust			



FOREWORD:

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

I am pleased to present the annual report for the UXO Sector in 2012 - a year that saw remarkable progress in the UXO sector. The most outstanding achievement was a dramatic drop in the number of UXO casualties from more than 300 per year as recently as 2008, to 56 in 2012. Every effort will be made to reduce the number of UXO casualties to zero as quickly as possible, nonetheless, we can celebrate this significant milestone in the protection of the Lao people from cluster munitions and other UXO.

A major policy development in June 2012 was the approval of a new 10 year strategy for the sector – *The Safe Path Forward II (SPF II)* - which sets out the key objectives to 2020. The SPF II has set a target of 200,000 hectares of land to be 'released' by the end of this programming period, an average of more than 20,000 hectares per year. As our current capacity is between 5,000 and 6,000 hectares per year, this will require close to a four-fold increase in the amount of land released per year and an increase in resources made available to the sector. The Government of Lao PDR is committed to significantly increasing its own financial contribution to the UXO sector and urges the international community to maintain and hopefully to increase its generous support to this important work.

The Government has also directed the Lao Army to develop a capacity in 'humanitarian mine action' in order to complement the efforts of national and international operators that undertake survey and clearance in 14 of 17 contaminated provinces in Lao PDR. The first 15 army personnel received training in 2012 and several times this number will receive this training in subsequent years.

The SPF II also directs that UXO survey and clearance activities become more closely aligned with national development priorities, to help Lao PDR to 'graduate' from the list of Least Developed Countries by 2020. Development partners such as the UNDP, which has so much experience in traditional development activities as well as in the UXO sector, will continue to be a most valuable partner in this endeavour.

We very much appreciate Mr. Minh Pham, Resident Representative of UNDP, for his contribution as Co-Chair the UXO Sector Working Group and take this opportunity to welcome and thank H E Ambassador Karen Stewart of the USA who has also kindly agreed to Co-Chair the Sector Working Group.

All achievements in the UXO sector are due to the dedicated, high-quality work of thousands of men and women who are engaged in all aspects of the sector, and also to the ongoing valuable support of the international community. Through this collective effort in the UXO sector, we are advancing progress toward the achievement of MDG – 9 and the National Socio-Economic Development Plan VII, while continuing to reduce risk for vulnerable people. On behalf of the Government and the people of Lao PDR, I wish to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you, and to wish you good health, safety and continued success in this critically important work on behalf of the Lao people.

H.E. Mr. Bounheuag 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

As H E Mr. Bounheuang Douangphachanh, Chairman of the NRA Board has noted, 2012 has been a very important year for the UXO sector. The number of casualties has dropped significantly, due to the effective efforts of clearance and risk education operators who work among vulnerable groups. For this we are profoundly grateful.

2012 also saw the approval of the new 10 year UXO Sector Strategy – *The Safe Path Forward II* – that provides new direction for the sector and also clearly establishes the role and responsibilities of the NRA in the coordination, regulation and oversight of the UXO Sector.

Among other things, NRA must continue to ensure that operators are duly accredited and uphold national standards in all aspects of work in the sector. It is also NRA's responsibility to ensure that activities undertaken are aligned with national development and poverty reduction plans, while ensuring that people at risk continue to receive priority attention.

In this regard, 2012 saw the beginning of the most comprehensive national planning exercise ever undertaken in the UXO sector. The NRA organized three Regional Planning Workshops chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister – one each in the north, central and southern regions of Lao PDR – in order to consult with provincial and district level authorities on UXO sector priorities in each contaminated province and to ensure that they reflect national level development priorities. This exercise is ongoing and will result in the first ever multi-year UXO sector work plan to implement the 10 year strategy, *Safe Path Forward II*.

It is truly a privilege for me and the NRA team to work with so many dedicated colleagues in the sector – practitioners, advisers and donors. We pledge to continue to maintain an enabling environment that facilitates the work of an increasing number of national and international operators, while ensuring that national standards are fully adhered to and the integrity of our collective work.

Thank you all for your continued cooperation and collaboration which is essential for us serve the sector on behalf of the Government and people of Lao PDR.

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



FOREWORD:

UNDP Resident Representative,
Co-Chairperson of the UXO Sector Working Group

I am delighted to have this opportunity to make a few introductory remarks to the 2012 Annual Report for the UXO Sector and also to warmly welcome United States Ambassador, H.E. Karen Stewart, as Co-chair of the UXO Sector Working Group.

As indicated by H E Mr. Bounheuang Douangphachanh and Mr. Phoukhieo Chanthasomboune, 2012 was a watershed year in many respects, with a dramatic drop in the number of UXO casualties from previous years, a new 10 year strategic plan for the sector, and emerging engagement of the Lao army in humanitarian mine action.

2012 also saw an unprecedented level of regional cooperation, including with China, Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand and an increase in the number of people engaged in the sector. Operators have reported that there are now 3,512 personnel working in the UXO sector in Lao PDR, almost 30 percent of whom are women.

Also of note, Lao PDR maintained a similar level of financial support from the international community as in 2011- approximately USD 22 million, and an additional USD 8 million from the private sector. Many donors have chosen to channel their funds through the UNDP-administered UXO Trust Fund, an option that affords the Lao Government the flexibility to apply the funds where they are needed most. Such flexibility will become increasingly important in the future as survey and clearance assets are redeployed to areas of the country identified as development priorities – a move that promises to advance the achievement of several MDGs, in addition to MDG-9, and to contribute to the eventual graduation of Lao PDR from Least Development Country status.

We are heartened by the Lao Government's commitment to ensure that at-risk groups will continue to receive priority service on a rapid-response basis, and acknowledgement that victim assistance remains severely underserved. Although the vast majority of survivors receive some medical assistance, many do not receive proper physical rehabilitation services, psycho-social support and/or economic reintegration.

Therefore, while we should celebrate the successes of the sector over that past year, let us remain mindful of the needs of so many whose lives have been shattered by UXO, and spare no effort to increase productivity in all aspects of our collective work in the UXO Sector in the coming years.

Mr. Minh PHAM

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



LIST OF ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

■ General

AGNA: Armor Group North America

ASEAN: Association of South East Asian Nations

AVM: Anti Vehicle Mine

CA: Community Awareness

CCM: Convention on Cluster Munitions

DA: District Authority

DFA: District Focused Approach

DOE: Department of Education (Laos)

DOH: Department of Health

EO: Explosive Ordnance

EOD: Explosive Ordnance Disposal

ERW: Explosive Remnants of War

GICHD: Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

IMSMA: Information Management System for Mine Action

INGOs: International Non-Government Organizations

JICA: Japan International Cooperation Agency

KAP Survey: Knowledge, Attitude and Practice survey

MBT: Mine Ban Treaty

MOES: Ministry of Education and Sports

MRE: Mine Risk Education

NRA: National Regulatory Authority

PCIA: Post Clearance Impact Assessment

PWD: Person with a Disability

QLA: Quality of Life Association

ToT: Training of Trainers

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund

UXO: Unexploded Ordnance

VA: Victim Assistance

VHV: Village Health Volunteer

WVMF: War Victims Medical Fund

■ Humanitarian UXO/Mine Action Operators

Halo: Halo Trust

HI: Handicap International

JMAS: Japan Mine Action Service

MAG: Mine Advisory Group

NPA: Norwegian People's Aid

SODI: Solidarity Service International

UXO Lao: Lao National UXO Programme

■ Commercial Clearance operators

ASA: ASA Power Engineering Co. Ltd.

BACTEC: Bactec Lao Ltd.

BSL: Lao BSL Unexploded Ordnance Disposal

Milsearch: Milsearch Lao EOD Sole Company Ltd

MMG: LXML MMG

PSD: Phonsakda UXO Clearance Co. Ltd.

■ Risk Education and Victim Assistance

AAR: Association for Aid and Relief

COPE: Cooperative Orthotic and Prosthetic and Enterprise

CMR: Centre for Medical Rehabilitation

WE: World Education





SECTOR ACHIEVEMENTS: THE NUMBERS

Humanitarian clearance operators

General Survey

Organization	Village	Visits	Bomb	Bombies	Mine	Other UXO	Total
UXO Lao	1,422	2,200	95	4,895	55	4,555	9,600
HI	20	27	0	0	0	0	0
MAG	284	858	3	646	0	176	825
NPA	216	428	3	2,643	0	412	3,058
SODI	35	184	13	349	0	44	406
Halo Trust	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total:	1,977	3,697	114	8533	55	5187	13,889

Land Released by Technical Survey

Organization	Agriculture/Ha	Development/Ha	Total/Ha	Bomb	Bombies	Mine	Other UXO	Total
UXO Lao	507.53	82.05	590	0	28	1	192	221
NPA	0.22	0.00	0.22	0	2,015	0	140	2,155
SODI	0	0.4	0.40	13	349	0	44	406
Total:	507.75	82.45	590.20	13	2,392	1	376	2,782

Roving Tasks

Organization	Villages	Visits	Bomb	Bombies	Mine	Other UXO	Total
UXO LAO	1,151	1,672	179	8,754	146	11,263	20,342
HI	62	68	22	1,000	0	565	1,587
MAG	0	1,255	5	1,947	0	793	2,745
NPA	39	27	0	2,103	0	465	2,568
SODI	27	171	13	360	0	76	449
Halo Trust	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total:	1,279	3,193	219	14,164	146	13,162	27,691

Area Clearance

Organization	Agriculture/Ha	Development/Ha	Total/Ha	Bomb	Bombies	Mine	Other UXO	Total
UXO LAO	2,318.65	290.24	2,608.89	54	14,484	18	14,070	28,626
HI	24.85	7.41	32.26	0	60	0	532	592
MAG	806.20	14.74	820.94	5	8,528	0	1756	10,289
NPA	100.97	53.88	154.85	0	2,228	0	142	2,370
SODI	168	39	207.00	1	711	0	818	1,530
Halo Trust	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
Total:	3,418.67	405.27	3,823.94	60	26,011	18	17,318	43,407



<i>Organization</i>	<i>Agriculture/ Ha</i>	<i>Develop- ment/Ha</i>	<i>Total/Ha</i>	<i>Bomb</i>	<i>Bombies</i>	<i>Mine</i>	<i>Other UXO</i>	<i>Total</i>
All Humanitarian	3,926.43	487.72	4,414.14	292	42,567	165	30,856	73,880
Total:	3,926.43	487.72	4,414.14	292	42,567	165	30,856	73,880

Commercial Clearance Operators:

Clearance

<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>
ASA	-	8	8	-	-	-	-	-
PSD	207	0	207	0	0	0	7	7
SBH	551.53	17	568.8	2	656	0	30	688
Lao BSL	0	295.90	295.90	0	178	0	211	389
LXML MMG	0	219.94	219.94	18	826	0	2176	3,020
MILSEARCH	0	295.8	295.8	30	1,154	0	2,594	3,778
BACTEC	0	30	30	18	837	1	642	1,498
Total:	758.53	867.3	1,625.9	68	3,651	1	5,660	9,380

<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	758.53	867.33	1,625.86	68	3,651	1	5,660	9,380
Total:	758.53	867.33	1,625.86	68	3,651	1	5,660	9,380

GRAND TOTAL (UXO found/destroyed and land cleared/released through technical survey and Area clearance)

	<i>Agriculture/ Ha</i>	<i>Development/ Ha</i>	<i>Total/Ha</i>	<i>Bomb</i>	<i>Bom- bies</i>	<i>Mine</i>	<i>Other UXO</i>	<i>Total</i>
All Operators	4,684.96	1,355.05	6,040.01	360	46,218	166	36,516	83,260
Total:	4,684.96	1,355.05	6,040.01	360	46,218	166	36,516	83,260

UXO/Mine Risk Education Operations

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Village and School Number</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Adult</i>	<i>Total</i>
UXO LAO	614	69,081	86,281	155,362
HI	110	7,670	6,057	13,727
MAG	101	1,917	3,783	5,700
SODI	52	8,114	2,320	10,434
WE	1,962	182,345	6,237	188,582
Total:	2,839	269,127	104,678	373,805



UXO Operators Personnel in Lao 2012

Organization	Office Support				Operations				Total
	National		International		National		International		
	Men	Women	Man	Woman	Men	Women	Men	Women	
NRA	17	12	2	1	9	5	2	1	49
UXO Lao	93	32	3	1	824	165	1	0	1119
NPA	34	14	3	0	140	66	4	0	261
MAG	22	10	2	0	261	88	4	0	387
HI	8	5	2	1	46	19	1	0	82
SODI	11	7	1	0	112	19	1	0	151
Halo Trust	12	3	0	0	40	7	2	1	65
JMAS	5	3	1	3	6	0	2	0	20
ASA	1	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	7
PSD	4	3	0	0	47	13	0	0	67
SBH	1	1	0	0	39	5	0	0	46
Lao BSL	3	1	1	0	51	4	0	0	60
BACTEC	3	3	1	1	150	0	2	0	160
Milsearch	2	12	4	2	332	221	15	0	588
LXML MMG	5	7	4	0	119	248	6	0	389
WE	2	4	1	0	6	4	0	5	22
AAR	0	0	0	0	9	1	0	2	12
CRS	3	1	0	0	5	2	0	2	13
CMR*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
COPE	3	2	0	1	6	2	0	3	17
QLA	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	4
Total	229	121	25	10	2,209	871	40	14	3,519

* Declined to provide information



Financial figures:

Humanitarian Clearance Operators - 2012 (USD)

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Contributions Received in 2012</i>	<i>Expenditure on UXO Operations in 2012</i>
UXO Lao	7,151,123	7,883,265
NPA	4,300,000	4,300,000
MAG	3,299,501	3,299,501
HI	1,087,267	1,087,267
SODI	831,500	831,500
Halo Trust	1,585,000	1,056,386
JMAS	1,061,763	1,061,763
Total	19,316,154	19,519,682

Financial figures: on Commercial Clearance Companies - 2012 (USD)

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Contributions Received in 2012</i>	<i>Expenditure on UXO Operations in 2012</i>
ASA	123,125	123,125
PSD	Declined to communicate	Declined to communicate
SBH	307,311	307,311
Lao BSL	385,950	385,950
BACTEC	Declined to communicate	Declined to communicate
Milsearch	3,026,351	3,026,351
LXML MMG	4,652,135	4,652,135
Total	8,494,872	8,494,872

Financial figures on Mine Risk Education and Victim Assistance by all operators – 2012 (USD)

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Contributions Received in 2012</i>	<i>Expenditure on UXO Operations in 2012</i>
COPE	837,000	837,000
WE	211,148	213,221
CRS	136,750	14,079
AAR	180,000	180,000
QLA	79,655	16,436
CMR	Declined to communicate	Declined to communicate
Total	1,444,553	1,260,736

NRA (UNDP)	1,158,436	965,333
NRA (ArmorGroup)	29,859	122,397
NRA (Sterling)	85,706	23,050

Grand total	30,529,580	30,386,069
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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
- 🌿 Over 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 56 new casualties in 2012
- 🌿 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 weaponry and munitions.



OVERVIEW OF NRA ACTIVITIES IN 2012:

2012 was a very active and dynamic year in regards to changes and practical actions for the NRA. Outputs of the NRA in 2012 included:

- Approval and initial implementation of the National Strategic Plan 'Safe Path Forward II' by the government of Lao PDR. This strategic plan is closely linked to the 'Five Year National Socio-Economic Development Plans,' and the MDGs.
- Approval of the role and responsibilities of the NRA by the NRA Chairman. This will foster better coordination between NRA central and NRA in the provinces, and will provide all involved in the sector with a clearer understanding of the mandate, role, structure, scope and objectives of the NRA's work.
- Worked closely with Government in an effort to access Government funding for the sector. Funding will depend on the availability of funds and quality of the funding request made to Government by the NRA.
- The NRA organized a milestone 'Regional Planning Workshop for UXO Clearance' planning event in Luang Prabang Province in Dec 2012, to support socio-economic development projects in the northern provinces of Lao PDR.
- Hosted a visit of the Cambodian CMAA team (NRA equivalent in The Kingdom of Cambodia) to Lao PDR supported by UNDP.
- Organized the visit of NRA to CMAA and CMAC in Cambodia, supported by Sterling International (US Department of State funding).
- Developed a new programme document that will guide UNDP supported activities in the UXO Sector from 2013 to 2015. This document sets out the key elements of UNDP support to the implementation of the National Strategic Plan 'The Safe Path Forward II' and the multi-year work plan for the sector which is currently being developed.

In 2012, new recorded UXO casualties continued to decrease, as it has over the past four years. Better and more targeted MRE and the ongoing development of strategies for victim assistance as well as dedicated clearance of UXO have contributed to a fall in UXO

victims from an estimated 302 per year in 2008 to 56 recorded victims which resulted in 15 fatalities in 2012.

In 2012, UXO clearance operators in Lao PDR have cleared and destroyed around 83,260 UXO (including 46,218 cluster sub-munitions) and released 6,040 hectares of land (including 5,450 hectares through full clearance and 590 hectares through technical survey).

By coordinating, regulating and monitoring all operators of the UXO Sector, the NRA contributed to maximizing the performance of the Sector as a whole.

NRA ACTIVITIES BY UNIT IN 2012

The NRA is pleased to report the key achievements and activities of the NRA's units in 2012.

Victim Assistance Unit:

The Victim Assistance (VA) Unit of the NRA continued the pilot project, 'UXO Survivor Tracking System', the UXO Sector's first attempt at tracking survivors and monitoring service provision. Surveys of 10 provinces have been completed and data entry will begin in 2013. The unit facilitated World Education Consortium financial support to 58 UXO Victims in six provinces. Funding from the Chinese Government allowed the delivery of medical equipment for UXO survivors which the VA unit facilitated in cooperation with the Ministry of Health.

A draft of the UXO Sector VA Strategic Plan is completed and awaiting review by the NRA Board. The unit also held four Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings in VA. The unit was supported by a technical advisor, funded by AusAID from May 2012.

Clearance Unit:

The Clearance Unit facilitated three TWGs in 2012, involving all stakeholders interested in UXO Clearance. In a technical awareness and development role, the unit participated in two international activities, namely the South-South Co-operation activity in Japan and a UXO clearance technology workshop in Switzerland. The Clearance Unit also conducted an evaluation of efficiency of clearance and survey in cooperation with the GICHD. A workshop on training standards was also held at the end of the year in Vientiane Capital. Additional key activities included conducting external monitoring visits on area clearance operation in



10 contaminated provinces to ensure that national standards continue to be met.

The final key achievement of the Clearance Unit was the Regional Planning Workshop for UXO Clearance held in late 2012. The meeting sought to ensure there would be necessary support for socio-economic development projects in Northern Lao PDR. A major outcome of this meeting was that all participants have agreed to contribute information to the NRA regarding development projects in their respective provinces. In 2013, the unit will continue to undertake similar data collection in the central and southern provinces.

Research Unit:

The Research Unit continued the District Focused Approach (DFA) pilot project in 2012. The various survey methodologies trialled require further review and analysis in order to develop the best methodology to be incorporated into future non-technical and technical UXO survey. Responsibility of the DFA was handed over to the Clearance Unit in November, as it has the expertise required to advance the process of assessment and incorporation of lessons learned into survey methodology.

Information Management Unit:

In 2012, the Information Management (IM) Unit focused its activities on entering and validating historic and current data supplied by UXO Sector Operators. The unit also compiled data on UXO contamination in areas of planned development projects. The data will contribute to planning of UXO clearance for government development projects in the future. In October, two IM technicians attended a workshop on IMSMA in Switzerland, supported by the UNDP and GICHD.

Mine Risk Education:

In 2012, the Mine Risk Education (MRE) Unit organised a total of four workshops; one on the results of the KAP Survey held in January, two workshops on the topic of gender issues in MRE and the fourth in September concerning how best to use existing MRE materials. These workshops were attended by MRE operators as well as by officials from the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism and the Ministry of Education.

In addition, the MRE unit implemented monitoring and evaluation of MRE operators to help the unit to better understand the issues and challenges facing MRE operators in the field. Analysis of causes of UXO accidents revealed the need for more targeted MRE materials and safety messages around, 'making fire'. MAG supported the production of the new educational materials.

Public Relations:

In 2012, the Public Relations (PR) Unit facilitated many important events such as the annual Sector Working Group in September, International UN Day for Mine/UXO Action in Laos in April and the 1st of August CCM anniversary. Additionally in 2012, the unit coordinated exhibitions at the high-profile Asia-Europe Summit meetings in September and November. New informational and promotion items were produced for use and distributed at these events.

In August, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs officially launched the approved MDG9 logo. The PR unit NRA has actively promoted the MDG 9 logo with various new information and promotion materials. The new logo had high visibility in the Lao media (both in English and Lao newspapers).

In 2012, more than 40 articles were published in local newspapers (Vientiane Times and Lao language newspapers) concerning the UXO issue, and the achievements of the various operators active in the UXO Sector.

UXO Sector Annual report 2011 was printed and distributed in September. The unit was supported by an AusAID funded Technical Advisor for communication and PR from July, 2012.

Programme Unit:

The Programme Unit's primary responsibility is to monitor the implementation of the NRA Annual Work Plan. The unit compiled monthly and quarterly reports for the UNDP. The quarterly review process was supported by a UNDP Finance and Programme Technical Advisor. In December, 2012 the unit submitted the NRA draft work plan for 2013 to the UNDP for review.

With support from the UNDP, the Programme Unit also organised three workshops; the NRA Board Meeting, the Annual Review Meeting, the UXO Trust Fund Committee Meeting and the Sector Working Group meeting.

Quality Management Unit:

The Quality Management (QM) Unit's main activities in 2012 focused on the application of National Standards for the UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR. Throughout the process, numerous consultative meetings were held and minor amendments were made to National Standards which are now waiting on approval from the NRA Board.

The QM unit also worked closely with the Clearance Unit to facilitate a training standards review workshop that was held in December. The unit also established



a Quality Assurance/Quality Control team, to conduct regular assessments of operators and investigate clearance incidents. The establishment of additional teams are planned for 2013. The accreditation of six clearance operators was reviewed, provisional accreditation for three new operators were issued and full accreditation for UXO Lao was granted.

UPDATE ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING:

In 2011, the NRA began a policy of actively recruiting women for key positions. Three officer positions are now held by women (about one third of NRA Officers). A continued focus on gender balance by the Human Resources Unit has also resulted in the recruitment of seven new female staff members out of 15 new appointments in 2012.

In 2012, particular attention to gender issues was ensured in the following activities:

- The KAP Survey: UXO casualty's database and the Survivor tracking System systematically disaggregated data according to age and gender.
- The DFA Pilot Survey: Building on findings of the Post-Clearance Impact Assessment according to which, "...there does seem to be different types of impact for men and women depending on post-clearance land use," the DFA ensured active participation of women in the preparation of the district clearance plans
- Workshops on gender equality for MRE: According to the KAP Survey, women are not participating equally in MRE campaigns. Therefore, the NRA held two workshops in 2012 on gender mainstreaming in MRE in Savannakhet and Vang Vieng.

PARTNERSHIPS:

Throughout 2012, the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) remained a key framework for national and international partnerships.

In April, a Lao delegation, including five Lao delegates (3 persons from MOFA, Mr Phoukhieo from the NRA and Mr Bounpone from UXO Lao) as well as two international advisors and two representatives from Lao NGO's attend the CCM Intersessional Meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. Lao PDR had a high-profile at this meeting, making a statement at nearly all the sessions, and co-chairing the clearance and risk reduction working group with Ireland.

The NRA continued to receive generous financial support from Australia, Ireland, Switzerland, UNDP TRAC and United Kingdom (through the UNDP Trust Fund). Other valued partnerships included support from the USA through Sterling International and AGNA.



NRA FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial contributions to the NRA and expenditure in 2012.

<i>Donors</i>	<i>2012 Contributions</i>	<i>2012 Expenditure</i>
UNDP	1,158,436	965,333
ArmorGroup	29,859	122,397
Sterling	85,706	23,050
MAG	70,074	36,332

NRA Total 2012	1,344,075	1,147,111
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Funding channeled through UNDP - Breakdown per donor for the year 2012 (US\$):

<i>Donors</i>	<i>2012 Contributions</i>	<i>2012 Expenditure</i>
Australia		364,408
Switzerland	300,000	304,096
DFID (UK)	158,857	92,015
UNDP TRAC Fund	80,000	79,950
European Union	217,160	71,775
Ireland	402,419	37,716
New Zealand		15,372
Total 2012	1,158,436	965,333

Donor Contributions to the NRA through UNDP Lao PDR, 2003 - 2012 (US\$):

<i>Donors</i>	<i>2012 Contributions</i>	<i>2003 -2012 Contributions</i>
Switzerland	300,000	1,960,000
UNDP TRAC Fund	80,000	1,894,629
Australia		1,823,303
Ireland	402,419	902,419
DFID (UK)	158,857	635,699
New Zealand		450,907
European Union	217,160	217,160
United States of America		95,238
Canada		81,161
France		54,867
Total	1,158,436	8,115,383



Special REPORTS

Photo: Stora Enso

BEATING THE BOMBS IN BOUALAPHA DISTRICT

World Without Mines (WWM), a Swiss foundation, has supported the clearance effort of UXO in the eastern districts of Khammouane Province, Laos since 2008. Boualapha District, on the border of Vietnam, is the poorest district and has the highest level of UXO contamination in Khammouane Province. During the Vietnam War the Ho Chi Minh Trail ran through the district, causing the area to be bombed by American forces for a period of six years.

The area was so heavily and consistently bombed that whole villages were forced to evacuate the district, those who could not or would not leave their homes sheltered in nearby limestone caves. In 2012 the area is still highly contaminated with unexploded remnants of war, the most prolific of these are cluster munitions. While travelling through the area, it was not difficult for the WWM team to imagine the thunderous sounds of explosions ricocheting of the limestone cliffs that create the natural funnel of the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

In December 2012, a WWM monitoring team travelled to Khammouane Province to meet with the national UXO programme, UXO Lao, to assess progress of UXO clearance, made possible in part by contributions from WWM. The monitoring team, consisting of long-term UXO Sector and WWM supporters Mr. Phil Bean and Ms. Kathryn Sweet met with the National Director of UXO Lao as well the Provincial Director of Khammouane Province to discuss the successes and challenges of UXO clearance projects in 2012. The monitoring team also visited two UXO Lao clearance sites.



A young mother follows the evacuation instructions of the UXO Lao clearance team before the detonation of UXO located in from Narsalom Village, Boualapha District.



Villages of Boualapha District are full of examples of 'living with bombs', with locals stockpiling scrap metal and of using bomb casings as building materials. In this village, bomb casings were split in half and used as 'pots' for herb gardens.

The second UXO clearance site at Narsalom Village proved to be the highlight of the trip as the monitoring team came face to face with the harsh realities of UXO clearance in Boualapha District. The clearance of thick vegetation by a bulldozer to make room for much needed government infrastructure had to be stopped when dozens of UXO were found on the ground. A UXO Lao team was called in to investigate and an unexploded 500 pound bomb was later found on the surface of the site, as well as a total of 80 UXO, of three different varieties.

An extra UXO Lao clearance team had to be called in to assist in locating and destroying buried UXO. With UXO Lao's assistance, work will soon continue on clearing land for community infrastructure, including a health centre, high school and market place. None of this desperately needed infrastructure can be built without first clearing the area of UXO, making continued support to the clearance effort by organisations like WWM so very important.

In the near future the Lao Government, as part of its rural development and poverty eradication agenda, plans to build many regional centres, like the one at Narsalom

Village, with medical, educational and commercial facilities. Plans are also underway to construct a North-South highway through Khammouane Province's Eastern districts to replace the existing dirt road and to encourage the development of a Vietnam to Thailand trade route through Laos.

The high levels of UXO contamination in the Eastern Provinces of Laos are a daunting obstacle to these developments as huge areas of land need to be cleared before it is safe to begin construction. It seems that the people of Laos are now, more than ever in need of funding for clearance of UXO, making the continued support of WWM critical to the future of the country.



Above: A natural funnel formed by the limestone cliffs of Boualapha District were used by the Vietnamese as the 'Ho Chi Minh Trail'. The area is pitted with bomb craters and highly contaminated to this day.



Above: WWM Monitoring team member Ms Kath Sweet chats to a young mother from Narsalom Village while being evacuated from the UXO detonation site.



A 'Bombie Tree' in the UXO Clearance site at Narsalom Village, where villagers had moved and piled up bombies found in the area.



Ribbon cutting ceremony at the August 1 CCM signatory event.

ASIA-EUROPE MEETING

The 9th ASEM summit was held in Vientiane on the 5th and 6th of November, 2012. This biannual meeting brought together all heads of state and government from Europe and Asia to discuss current international issues and how to strengthen cooperation between the two regions.

The main focus of the ASEM summit under the theme 'Friends for Peace, Partners for Prosperity' was economic and financial issues. Discussions on the second day also focused on cooperation on global challenges such as climate change and the MDGs. Other issues discussed were the Iranian nuclear issue, and the situation in Syria. All of the participants expressed support for a peaceful solution of the crisis.

The last session enabled discussion about social and cultural cooperation, educational exchange, migration, and the promotion of human rights.

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.

The work and challenges of the UXO Sector were also exhibited at the Asia-Europe People's Forum, the

Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting and the Round Table Implementation Meeting on 23rd November with Lao PDR's development partners.

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.



ASEM delegates from all over Europe and Asia visited the UXO Sector exhibition at the ASEM summit to learn about the UXO challenge in Lao PDR.



Above: High school students visit the UXO exhibition at the launch of the MDG9 logo and 2nd anniversary of the signing of the CCM event held at the National Culture Hall.

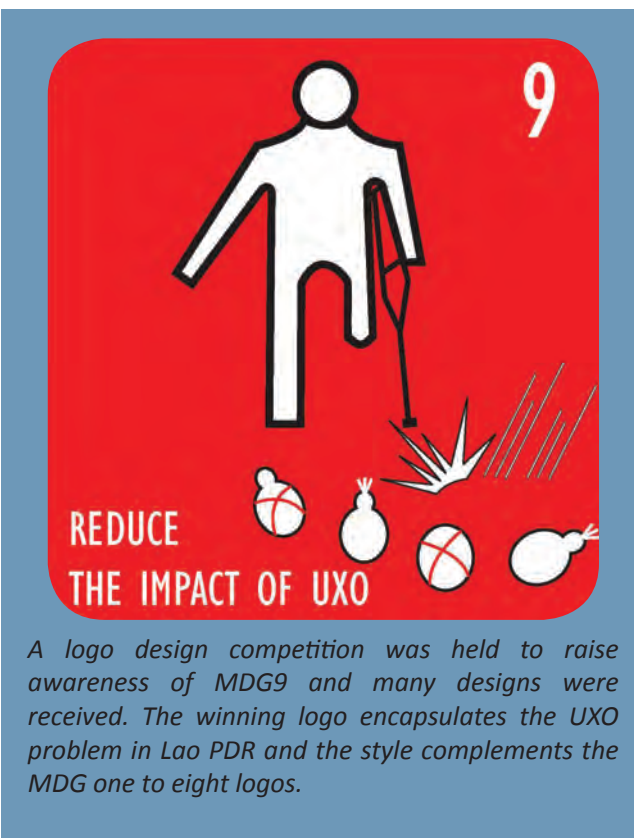
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL 9

In recognition of the strong correlation between UXO contamination and the prevalence of poverty, in 2010 the Lao Government committed to achieve a new national Millennium Development Goal, 'MDG9' on reducing the impact of UXO. Lao PDR shares MDG9 with its neighbor, the Kingdom of Cambodia, which suffers similar development barriers due to UXO and mine contamination.

There are three targets set under MDG 9

1. Ensure the complete clearance of UXO from priority / high value agricultural land by 2020
2. Reduce substantially the number of casualties as a result of UXO incidents
3. Ensure that the medical and rehabilitation needs of all survivors are met in line with treaty obligations under the Convention on Cluster Munitions

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs officially launched the approved MDG9 logo on the 1st of August 2012. The NRA, together with the UNDP, has actively promoted MDG9 and the new logo at advocacy events, including at the high-profile Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).





A FOREST OF RICE: COMMERCIAL CLEARANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF AGROFORESTRY PLANTATIONS

Stora Enso Lao has founded a model of cooperation with the locals that truly benefits both. In year, 2007, the Stora Enso Agroforestry Project planted its first trees and agricultural crops on land that was cleared from UXO.

The Agroforestry Project is located in the provinces of Saravane and Savannakhet, in southern Lao PDR. The Project which is located in the heart of the Ho Chi Minh Trail could have been started elsewhere; in an area with no UXO contamination, but it did not. Instead the company saw a good opportunity to develop an inclusive and sustainable business model, benefitting the local people, the company and contributing to the overall National Socio-Economic Development Plan of Lao PDR.

Challenge turned into Opportunity

Operating in an area, known for high levels of UXO contamination, is a challenge but nevertheless, it is an opportunity to 'do good for the people' in the area. Local communities are still suffering from the aftereffects of the Vietnam War.

From the very start of the project, Stora Enso was committed to clear the land from UXOs. This commitment has not changed. By end December 2012, Stora Enso Lao has financed UXO clearing of more than 1100 ha in Lao PDR.

The local farmers in the area are practicing shifting cultivation to grow rice and other food crops, but this method does not provide enough rice. The target districts of the project are remote and among the poorest in Laos. The World Food Program (WFP) describes the districts as highly vulnerable to food in-security. Paid employment opportunities are almost non-existent making rice deficiency very hard to compensate for in terms of cash for buying additional rice. In addition, the people in the area face serious problems with UXO.

Inclusive and Sustainable Business Model in Laos

Stora Enso is a well-known global company who conducts responsible business; Stora Enso in Laos is not an exception. The project in Laos is guided by the company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) principles and is driven by a strong desire to improve

the lives of the population in the area. An inclusive and sustainable business model has been developed based on internal socio-economic surveys and an independent Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Study (ESIA); the ESIA conducted by IUCN, UNDP and Swedish University of Agriculture.

The studies identified several development needs that had to be addressed in the project. Food Security was at an early stage identified as a main issue in the project area, whereby the Agroforestry Model was developed with the intention to improve the welfare of local communities and increase yields of rice and other food crops, as well as produce wood.

Stora Enso Agroforestry Model and Food Security – Responsible Business

The key aspect of the agroforestry model is that it is based on a wide spacing of trees, allowing villagers to grow rice and other agricultural crops between the



Stora Enso Agroforestry Model in Ta Oy District, Saravane Province.

trees. Land use is optimized by combined production of trees for the company, and food for the farmers. Food security is further enhanced through the creation of labour opportunities generating cash income for farmers performing bush clearing, tree planting, weeding and other work for the company.

The Company support the farmers with UXO clearing, soil preparation and technical advice which has resulted in a higher rice production compared to traditional shifting cultivation. The Agroforestry Model has clearly had a strong positive impact on food supply in the villages where it is applied. By using the agroforestry system, the efficiency in farming increase, resulting in that the farmer will need less area and spend less time to produce the same amount of food compared with present traditional shifting cultivation.

The company strives to divide available land in a block of agroforestry plantations into several compartments that are planted over a number of years. This allows the farmers to plant rice and have cash income every year. The rotation has been developed to ensure that the farmers are actively included in the project, and also to ensure the sustainability of the model; inclusive and sustainable model.

The farmers can grow crops such as rice, rattan, cassava, corn and peanuts to name a few, between the tree lines for two years and can then use the land for grazing of cattle until the time of harvesting, normally at year seven. After the harvesting a new cycle of rice growing and grazing starts.

Stora Enso has been training and will continue to train the farmers on improved agricultural techniques, resulting in better yields from their crops and support in finding markets for them to sell in. In addition, Stora Enso has on own initiative established a Village Development Fund (VDF) with the purpose to support the villages to build schools, provide villages with electrical service, animal farming, water supplies, and many other improvements.

UXO Clearing and SBH – responsible business

High levels of poverty in rural communities often correlate with levels of UXO contamination. The land that is used is being cleared of unexploded ordnance (UXO) so the Company can plant trees, and the farmers can plant agricultural crops - making it safe for the villagers and the workers working at the plantations. The land is transformed to safe and productive land, producing trees and food.

Since year 2007, Stora Enso has contracted accredited



SBH Co., Ltd. working with Stora Enso to clear UXOs.

UXO operators to perform the UXO clearing. The current contractor for Stora Enso is Sibounhueang UXO Clearance Company Limited (SBH). SBH is a Lao accredited UXO operator from Xiengkhouang. The company was established in year 2010 by Mr. Somphane Sibounhueang, and has since had Stora Enso as the major client.

Stora Enso is investing its own money in the UXO clearance. No funds from donors or NGO's are diverted. The trees will pay for the safety of the farmers, for their income and for their food security. It will extract them from the poverty that they cannot escape as long as their land is littered with unexploded ordinance. By end 2013, Stora Enso will have financed UXO clearing of 2,200 ha.



Above: Local women tending their rice crop, planted in-between rows of Eucalyptus trees .

Below: New life springs from safe ground in a Stora Enso plantation.

Commercial Clearance and development of agroforestry plantations

The business cooperation between SBH Company and Stora Enso Lao has clearly demonstrated that commercial clearance and business development works well together, leading to overall livelihood improvement for the people in the area.

Stora Enso Lao has more than 70 permanent employed Lao staff, mainly agronomists, foresters and sustainability specialists. In addition, SBH Company has employed more than 45 Lao staff as technicians, team leaders, and supervisors for UXO Clearing. These numbers are likely to triple or quadruple for both companies when the project will expand, creating a great amount of permanent employment for the local people contributing to a strengthened local and national economy.

Until this day, there are over 40 villages in three districts that has directly benefitted by the UXO clearance by SBH. Stora Enso Lao will continue to train the villagers in improved agricultural techniques and sharing of know-how. SBH Company will continue to clear the land from UXOs. The farmers will continue to develop their knowledge and agricultural techniques, and have access to land cleared from UXOs - none of which can be taken away.





Photo: UXO Lao



Clearance Operators

Humanitarian Clearance Operators

1. Handicap International (HI)
2. Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS)
3. Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)
4. Mine Advisory Group (MAG)
5. Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
6. Solidarity Service International (SODI)
7. HALO Trust

Commercial Clearance Operators

1. ASA Power Engineering Co., Ltd (ASA)
2. Bactec Lao Ltd (BACTEC)
3. Lao BSL Unexploded Ordnance Disposal (Lao BSL)
4. LXML MMG (MMG)
5. Milsearch Lao EOD Sole Company Limited
6. Phonhsackda (PSD)
7. Sibounheuang UXO Clearance CO (SBH)

Victim Assistance and Mine Risk Education Operators

1. Association for Aid and Relief (AAR)
2. Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
3. Cooperative Prosthetic and Orthotic Enterprise (COPE)
4. Quality of Life Association (QLA)
5. World Education/Consortium (WEC)



CLEARANCE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP REPORT

The Technical Working Group (TWG) group is directed to meet every three months under the chairmanship of the NRA Senior EOD officer. The membership includes all clearance organizations. Meetings are also open to other interested parties including those with technical interests in clearance methods and / or in land use and priorities.

The formal mandate of the TWG covers national standards, information management, development of policies and priorities, progression of strategic plans and processes of work planning. In addition the working group provides a forum for organizations to raise issues that require NRA intervention, discussion on technical procedures and for face to face communications between organizations.

During 2012, the Clearance TWG met formally three times, with the December meeting being replaced by two specific workshops, one an information exchange meeting of national SEOD level four operators and the second, a formal review of proposed amendments to National Standards.

In summary, the TWG discussed and concluded work on a range of topics including: electronic reporting to IMSMA, discussion about machine trials, bomb cutting techniques, safety issues emerging from incidents with BLU's with delay fuzes, discussions on survey approaches, training and shared training resources, and new deployments and organization expansion. During the year significant changes took place within the sector relating to prioritization of clearance in line with focal areas for development under a Government plan coordinated by the Leading Committee of Rural Development and Poverty Eradication, which in turn directed the working group focus towards survey and revised work planning based on contamination evidence and priority land use. This survey focus will continue to be the priority for the TWG in 2013.

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HUMANITARIAN CLEARANCE ORGANIZATIONS



HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL (HI)

Handicap International

Since 1996, Handicap International (HI) has worked in the UXO sector in Lao PDR and operates in Mine Risk Education (MRE), UXO Clearance and Victim Assistance (VA). Since 2010, HI has also supported the Lao Ban Advocates, a group of eight UXO accident survivors who advocate for the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM).

Activities in 2012:

Handicap International works in Savannakhet Province in the Nong, Vilabuly and Sepon Districts.

In 2012, HI carried out clearance and roving activities, conducted risk education and community liaison activities, and completed the District Focus Survey (DFS) in Nong as a pilot project. HI also continued to support the Ban Advocate group in Lao PDR.

District Focus Survey

The DFS was completed in Nong District in October 2012. The roving team provided support to the DFS team by being deployed once the surveys of villages were completed.

EOD operation - clearance and roving activities

The annual work plan was based on the clearance requests of the local authorities and development partners such as the Poverty Reduction Fund and WeltHungerHilfe. There were multiple purposes for land clearance, including infrastructure development, such as road construction (food for work program), building health centers and new school buildings. Land was also cleared for agricultural purposes (rice paddy expansion, grazing land) to strengthen local food security.

The roving team's clearance work plan has been adjusted to address the findings from the DFS. Indeed, HI decided to bring full support to the DFS by deploying the roving team to each 'Emergency Clearance Request' reported, with clearance activities being carried out within one month.



Visit of the HI operations with the Minister Mr. Bounheuang Douangphachanh, March 2012.

Risk education and community liaison activities

The risk education team conducted UXO awareness-raising sessions, as planned, in 20 villages. The 'Safe Kids Club' program was adjusted to be carried out in the school environment. The risk education team also conducted a KAP survey.



Visit of Michel Goffin, Charge d'Affaire a l'Union Europeenne - Kids club at school – Sepon March 2012.



Meeting with Francois Hollande, French President to get signature of the HI petition book on submunitions – November 2012. Photo: Seukun Rouve

Support to NRA provincial office in Savannakhet

Handicap International continued to support the NRA provincial office in Savannakhet in 2012. Through regular monitoring meetings HI and NRA Savannakhet have formed a close and effective partnership.

Ban Advocates

Throughout 2012, the Lao Ban Advocates conducted many advocacy activities to raise awareness of the CCM. At the provincial level, four meetings were held in Savannakhet, Khammouane, Bolikhamxay and Xiengkhouang Provinces.

The 'Lend Your Leg' campaign was held in April as part of Mine Awareness Day activities and the Ban Advocates celebrated the second anniversary of the CCM on the 1st of August 2012. The Lao Ban Advocates also participated in the 3rd Meeting of State Parties to the CCM in Oslo, Norway. During the meeting a Lao Ban Advocate, Mr Thoummy Silamphan took the floor to deliver a statement on Victim Assistance on behalf of UXO survivors all over the world.

The BAN Advocates also met high-level governments from many countries during the 9th Asia-Europe Summit held in Vientiane in November.

Key achievements in 2012:

In 2012, HI secured funding to expand clearance teams and to begin a technical survey on cluster munitions.

Clearance and survey

Handicap International completed the DFS in Nong District involving; Surveying 88 villages which represents 2,849 households interviewed, 393 Emergency Clearance Requests completed, 901 Hazardous Land

Reports completed and 937 UXO were reported to the roving clearance team. Each village surveyed was also mapped.

More than 32 hectares in 20 villages were cleared, benefiting 5,575 people. A total of 79 post-clearance assessments were conducted and 91.14 per cent of HI cleared land is now being used. The roving clearance team was deployed in 62 villages, finding and destroying 1,587 UXOs.

Risk education and community liaison

- In 2012, HI conducted 21 Mobile Risk Education events, 78 house-to-house visits with the Parenting Technical Module and 24 safety briefings using flip charts. A total of 78 community liaison activities were carried
- 40 villages were visited among the three target districts
- The 'Safe Kids Club' was implemented at schools in 20 villages
- Village volunteers attended refresher trainings
- HI reached up to 13,727 beneficiaries (6,057 adults and 7,670 children)



The Lao Ban Advocates Lending their Legs on 4 April 2012.

The good news: The Lao Ban Advocates meet with world leaders

In 2012, the Lao Ban Advocates had several meetings with high level delegates from all over the world, which were great opportunities to raise the UXO issue and advocate for more support for UXO victims. In July, the Lao Ban Advocate Mr Phongsavath met with US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton and encouraged her to pursue US government support for UXO clearance in Lao PDR. During the 3rd Meeting of CCM State parties in Oslo, Mr Thoummy met with the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs. During the Asia-Europe Summit held in Vientiane in November, Ban Advocates also met several high-profile delegates including the Belgium Cooperation Minister, UK Foreign Secretary, the German Foreign Affairs Minister and French Foreign Affairs Minister. The HI Country Director and UXO programme Head of Mission also had the opportunity to meet with French President Francois Hollande who signed the HI petition book on the fight against UXO.



Thoummy Silamphan delivering a VA statement during the 3MSP to the CCM in Oslo, September, 2012.
Photo: Seevanh XAYKIA/HI

Mr Phongsavath Manithong, a Lao cluster bomb survivor and Lao Ban Advocate since 2010, told the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in July, 2012:

"I want to see all Governments ban cluster bombs. I want to ensure that all cluster bombs in Laos are cleared and that all survivors are supported."

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks to Lao Ban Advocate Phongsavath Manithong
Photo: AFP PHOTO/POOL/Brendan SMIALOWSKI



Focus areas of work in 2013:

Handicap International received new funding from the Dutch government to extend its capacities in clearance and implement technical survey operations. New methodologies for the risk education project will also be implemented. The DFS will also be conducted in Sepon and Vilabuly Districts.

This new funding will also allow HI to start a victim assistance component aiming at improving economic inclusion of UXO survivors and persons with disability in the districts of Sepon, Nong in Savannakhet Province.

In 2013, the Lao Ban Advocates will continue advocating the total ban of UXO/mines as well for victim assistance at a national and international level.

Beneficiaries:

Final beneficiaries include approximately 15,000 people from 40 villages in Nong, Sepon and Villabuly Districts in Savannakhet Province who directly benefit from UXO risk education, clearance and destruction of UXO, in support of;

- District authority development activities
- Poverty Reduction Fund (PRF) sub-projects
- WeltHungerHilfe (WHH) development projects

District Authorities from Nong, Sepon and Villabuly are considered a partner group and beneficiary as they will benefit by gaining a better understanding of the size of the UXO contamination, its impact and priorities for their districts and how this can, and should link to their own district development plans.

The NRA as the project partner is also considered a target group as capacity of the NRA provincial staff were strengthened to coordinate and monitor UXO activities in Savannakhet. The NRA benefited also from the trial of a survey tool capturing lessons learned that are relevant to the whole sector.

District Authorities, the Poverty Reduction Fund (PRF) and WeltHungerHilfe may be considered beneficiaries as UXO contaminated land will be cleared allowing for their development initiatives to commence free from the negative impacts of UXO contamination.



Geographic operations:

Activity	Which provinces and districts of Lao PDR were activities implemented in?
Area clearance	Savannakhet Province, Districts: Nong, Sepon and Vilabuly
Survey and Roving clearance	Savannakhet Province, Districts: Nong, Sepon and Vilabuly
Risk Education	Savannakhet Province, Districts: Nong, Sepon and Vilabuly
Victim Assistance	(BA) Savannakhet, Khammouane, Bolikhamxay and Xiengkhouang Provinces

Financials:

Expenditure for 2012: (USD)

Item	Amount (USD)
Personnel costs	679,069
Operational costs	357,680
Special Operational costs	0
Equipment – expendable	0
Equipment – non-expendable	50,518
Total	1,087,267

Donor contributions for 2012: (USD)

Donor	Contribution received in 2012 (USD)
European Union	502,512
MoFA Luxembourg	171,655
MoFA Austria	43,588
BUZA	200,842
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg	37,446
Own funds	131,224
Total	1,087,267



JAPAN MINE ACTION SERVICE (JMAS)

Activities in 2012:

UXO Clearance in Champasak and Saravane Provinces

Work started on the planned agriculture site in Pakxong in July 2012. The activities conducted were: clearing the area of vegetation and the detection and safe removal of UXO from the 200ha project area (including 8.9ha in Laognam District).

UXO Clearance in Attapeu Province (Phase II)

The overall objective of JMAS's clearance work in Attapeu Province is to improve people's living circumstances. This is being achieved through the implementation of four objectives.

1. To fund the operation costs of UXO Lao-Attapeu and to carry out the following activities:

- UXO clearance
- Improve UXO disposal skill through technical training
- Build financial ability

2. Provide a Technical Advisor (TA) to support UXO Lao-Attapeu

- The TA advises the UXO Lao-Attapeu Project Coordinator, Vice-Project Coordinator or SEOD on efficient operations
- The TA improves UXO disposal techniques for UXO Lao-Attapeu SEODs, team leaders and de-miners in accordance with their UXO clearance targets

3. Release land for agricultural use to help alleviate poverty through socio- economic development in Attapeu Province

4. Foster a strengthening of relationships between Japanese and Lao citizens as well as between JMAS and UXO Lao

Key achievements in 2012:

UXO Clearance in Champasack and Saravane Provinces

After four months of UXO clearance work, ending in November 2012, JMAS successfully cleared 45.1ha of land. JMAS will continue the clearance of this area in the 2013 dry season, until the original target of 55ha is reached.

- Area of vegetation cut to prepare for clearance: 50ha of a planned 65ha (77%)

- Area of UXO detecting and removing: 45.1ha of a planned 55ha (82%)

JMAS also provided a TA to instruct UXO Lao field staff in the following topics:

1. Instruction and advising for the management of UXO clearance:

- Steps of operation to ensure safety
- Process control and management
- Establishment of a safe UXO clearance procedure
- Advise on the use of planning tools such as activity boards

2. Technical instructions in the field:

- Safe vegetation cutting
- Advise on consideration for residents close to clearance sites
- Arrangements for general work during the clearance
- Place of project sign board in the area of operation

3. Technical instruction about UXO clearance activities:

- Control and correct use of detector
- Inspection after detecting

UXO Clearance in Attapeu Province

1. UXO Clearance activity: Achieved the original clearance target of 116ha, which has helped to improve the living conditions and safety of people living in the cleared area



2. Technical transfer of UXO clearance skills: The purpose of training was to examine the knowledge and abilities of a team, to conduct inspections on the technical clearance of contaminated sites and assess the impact of the training
3. Training in community awareness: Through training on community awareness activities, the team can now use a projector, computer and programming software provider to help engage audiences and successfully deliver the awareness messages

The Good News:

- Created employment opportunities through hiring locals to assist in clearing vegetation from land to allow access for UXO clearance teams and their equipment in Champasak and Saravane Provinces.
- JMAS has constructed a class room for UXO Lao-Attapeu which is supported by funding from the Nippon Foundation. JMAS also donated two cars, thanks to the International Lions Club, in March 2012, which are being used to support two clearance projects in Attapeu Province.

Focus areas of work in 2013:

JMAS will continue to work with provincial, district and illegal land holders to gain access to the remaining land earmarked for clearance in Champasak and Saravane Provinces.

Before UXO clearance teams can begin work on contaminated land, vegetation must be cleared. In 2013, JMAS will continue to employ local residents of Champasak and Saravane Province for vegetation cutting. The majority of this work will be carried out during the dry season.

Implementing Partners:

In 2012, JMAS enjoyed a strong partnership with UXO Lao-Attapeu and worked with a private de-mining company in Southern Laos. JMAS's work benefited approximately 6,416 villagers in five different villages who can now plant their crops without any threat from UXO.

Personnel in 2012:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
5	3	1	3	6	0	2	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2012:

Area cleared:

Clearance (Ha)		
Agriculture	Development	Total area
N/A	N/A	45.1

Geographic operations:

Activity	Which provinces and districts of Lao PDR were activities implemented in?
Area clearance	Pakxong District, Champasak Province and Attapeu Province

Donor contributions for 2012: (USD)

JMAS was supported by donations from the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2012.



LAO NATIONAL UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE PROGRAMME (UXO LAO)

Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)

UXO Lao is the national UXO clearance operator in Lao PDR. The organisation works in the nine most heavily UXO impacted provinces and clears land for agriculture, community purposes (e.g. schools, hospitals, temples, and water supply) and other development activities. It also conducts risk-reduction education activities (Community Awareness or CA) in affected communities. Established in 1996 by the Lao Government with the support of UNDP, UNICEF, and other donors, UXO Lao currently has around 1,100 employees. The organization operates under the generic principles of mine action: (1) conducting land release through area clearance and technical survey; (2) undertaking reactive and proactive roving tasks (emergency explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) tasks); (3) general survey activities; and (4) UXO risk education activities.

Activities in 2012:

In 2012, UXO Lao released 3,199 hectares of land through area clearance and technical survey activities reaching 516,410 beneficiaries. Within the reporting period, UXO Lao destroyed 49,189 items of unexploded ordnance (UXO) of which 23,266 (47%) were submunitions (or bombies) as part of clearance, technical survey and roving tasks. The removal or destruction of UXO increases the security of people living in UXO impacted communities and increases the amount of safe land available for food production and other socio-economic development activities. The work undertaken is fully in accordance with national standards and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM).

UXO Lao conducted risk education activities designed to increase the awareness of people living in UXO affected areas about the dangers of UXO and to change the behaviour of 'high risk' target groups. UXO Lao staff conducted 614 risk education activities were conducted by and Village Volunteers and reached 155,362 people, including 69,081 children. This is above the targets set in the 2012 work plan. Risk education activities are closely linked with survey activities by allowing villagers to assist survey teams in identifying the location of UXO. A further, 1,672 roving tasks were conducted in 1,151 villages removing 20,342 items of UXO including 8,754 'bombies', with a response time of no more than two weeks from request to task completion.

These efforts have contributed to a decrease in the recorded number of annual casualties from 302 to only



Big bombs waiting to move to the demolition site in Saravane Province

56 within the five year period from 2008-2012¹. In 2012, UXO casualties were reduced by 47 percent compared to 2011.

UXO Lao's activities contribute not only to saving the lives of people living in areas of UXO contamination, but also to increasing socio-economic opportunities in some of the poorest districts. Besides clearing land for agricultural use, UXO Lao also contributes to the Lao Government's development projects, as well as those of other international and NGO's to allow infrastructure development to happen-including the establishment of irrigation systems, school construction, hospitals, health centres, clean water projects, roads, and other development activities. UXO Lao works in alignment with the government's strategy on rural development and poverty eradication in accordance with the seventh National Social-Economic Development Plan of Lao PDR (NSEDP VII).

UXO Lao cleared 167 hectares of land directly supporting development agencies' projects (such as JICA, CARE, World Vision, UNICEF, the Poverty Reduction Fund among others) with 127,607 beneficiaries from this clearance during 2012. UXO Lao cleared land at no cost to these development agencies and thus also contributed to further socio-economic development in the country. UXO Lao does not clear land for commercial investors or for investment purposes.

Key achievements in 2012:

One of the biggest achievements in 2012 for UXO Lao's work is the reported decrease of recorded numbers of annual casualties related to UXO in Lao PDR from 302 in 2008 to 56 in 2012. Compared to 2011, the recorded number of UXO related casualties decreased by 47 per cent in 2012.

¹ Data as at 15 Feb 2013, National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR



The community awareness team educate the risk of UXO for students at the primary school

UXO Lao has significantly contributed to this achievement in 2012 through the release of 3,199 hectares of land through area clearance and technical survey activities reaching 516,410 beneficiaries. In 2012, UXO Lao destroyed 49,189 items of UXO of which 23,266 were 'bombies' through clearance, technical survey and roving tasks.

UXO Lao conducted risk education activities designed to increase the awareness of people living in UXO affected areas about the dangers of UXO and to change the behaviour of 'high risk' target groups. UXO Lao staff and Village Volunteers conducted 614 risk education activities and reached 155,362 people (including 79,512 females of which 34,375 were children and 76,068 males of which 34,829 were children). This meets the targets set for 2012. Risk education activities are closely linked with survey activities by allowing villagers to assist survey teams in identifying the location of UXO.

UXO Lao is also pleased to have reduced its average response time to requests for roving tasks to no more than two weeks, of which 1,672 roving tasks were responded to in 2012. Furthermore, a comprehensive review of UXO Lao's Standing Operating Procedures permitted the resubmission of UXO Lao's application for accreditation for UXO clearance. This application was reviewed by the NRA and accreditation was issued to UXO Lao in February 2012.

In order to improve the financial management capacity of UXO Lao, a new financial management system was put in place in early. The new financial management software "AccPac" allows UXO Lao to be in complete control of its resources; to be able to accurately track all funds and expenditures including those funds held by UNDP as well as bilateral donors.

The good news: JICA supplies new equipment to UXO Lao

UXO Lao has reached an agreement with JICA to procure equipment including vehicles, detectors, computers, GPS and other essential equipment at a project valued of approximately US\$ 11 million. The equipment will increase the speed and effectiveness of activities and reduce the financial burden of maintenance cost.

UXO Lao also has provided an IT training course to its staff in all provinces with the cooperation and support of JICA. With the IT training, UXO Lao staff have gained basic computer knowledge and skills, which helps them do their work more effectively.

UXO Lao and CMAC (Cambodia Mine Action Centre) initiated the South-South cooperation with support of JICA. Both organizations plan to hold six workshops between 2012 and 2014 in both Cambodia and Laos. The workshops aim at exchanging skills, knowledge and experiences that both organizations have accumulated over the year and enhancing their activities to achieve their organizational goals. Two workshops were implemented in 2012 with 30 participants from UXO Lao.

Focus areas of work in 2013:

UXO Lao will continue to operate in the nine most heavily affected provinces in 2013, supporting communities in accordance with the national priorities outlined in Safe Path Forward II.

All activities will be undertaken to support the delivery of safe land to the population in support of development and poverty reduction. These activities will include programme and operations management, financial and database management, logistic support including procurement, quality management to support safe and effective operations and training to maintain the current operational capacity of UXO Lao.

UXO Lao will work in 64 districts of nine provinces including 37 of the poorest districts, undertake 639 Community Awareness (CA) visits, conducted by both CA teams and village volunteers. In addition, UXO Lao will undertake 1,817 General Survey tasks and expects to complete 1,550 Roving tasks. Following survey and planning work, UXO Lao expects to release 3,167 hectares of land through clearance and technical survey to support development and poverty reduction in Laos.

Implementing Partners:

- Armor Group North America (AGNA) (until April 2012)
- Sterling International
- Japan Mine Action Service
- Mines Advisory Group

Development agencies support

UXO Lao cleared land at no cost to the development agencies in support of their projects and also contributed to further socio-economic development in the country. UXO Lao does not clear land for commercial investors or for investment purposes.

- World Vision
- JICA
- IRD IFAD
- EFA-FTI
- CARE
- Norway Schoolchildren
- Poverty Reduction Fund
- ADRA
- UNICEF



A man shows the UXO Lao survey team where he found a bomb in his pineapple garden in Luang Prabang Province



A female deminer prepares for the demolition of a bomb

Personnel in 2012:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
93	32	3	1	824	165	1	0

Detailed statistical figures in 2012:

MINE RISK EDUCATION Community Awareness		SURVEY		ROVING	
Visits	Beneficiaries	Villages	Visits	Villages	Visits
614	155,362	1,422	2,200	1,151	1,672

Area cleared:

Clearance (Ha)			Technical Survey (Ha)		
Agriculture	Development	Total area	Agriculture	Development	Total area
2,318.6520	290.3269	2,608.9788	507.5332	82.0505	589.5837



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	179	8,754	146	11,263	20,342
Clearance	54	14,484	18	14,070	28,626
Technical Survey	0	28	1	192	221
Total	233	23,266	165	25,525	49,189

TRAINING

<i>Training Course</i>	<i>Course Count</i>	<i>Graduates</i>
UXO Clearance	3	90
Survey	1	25
Medic	2	16
Community Awareness	2	25
Team Leader	1	23
Medic Refresher	1	10
Total	10	189

Geography of Operations:

1. LuangPrabang	12 district	CA, SV, RV, CL and TS
2. Houaphan	8 districts	CA, SV, RV, CL and TS
3. Xiengkhouang	5 districts	CA, SV, RV, CL and TS
4. Khammouane	4 districts	CA, SV, RV, CL and TS
5. Savannakhet	9 districts	CA, SV, RV, CL and TS
6. Champasak	7 districts	CA, SV, RV, CL and TS
7. Saravane	4 districts	CA, SV, RV, CL and TS
8. Sekong	10 districts	CA, SV, RV, CL and TS
9. Attapeu	5 districts	CA, SV, RV, CL and TS

Financials:

Expenditure for 2012: (USD)²

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount (USD)</i>
Personnel costs	4,405,833.16
Operational costs	1,975,582.23
Special Operational costs	453,287.34
Equipment – expendable	551,632.97
Equipment – non-expendable	496,929.29
Total	7,883,264.99

² 2012 estimated expenditure



Donor contributions for 2012: (USD)

*as of 31 December 2012

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Funding Received</i>	<i>Remark</i>
Funding Through UNDP (A)		
New Zealand	1,889,330.00	Xiengkhouang
Germany	341,168.13	LuangPrabang
AusAid	1,085,125.00	Un-Earmarked
United Kingdom	34,724.00	Training Centre
Switzerland	700,000.00	Un-Earmarked
Luxembourg	183,823.53	Un-Earmarked
South Korea	15,000.00	Un-Earmarked
TRAC Fund	350,000.00	
Total Funding Through UNDP	4,599,170.66	

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Funding Received</i>	<i>Remark</i>
Bilateral Fund		
US/Armor Group	288,747.90	Savannakhet and Champasak
US/Armor Group	337,130.00	Accommodation and Equipment
US/Sterling International	789,250.00	Savannakhet and Champasak
Poland	11,719.00	
Foundation World Without Mines	150,000.00	
Japan GGP	786,516.00	
Japan Mines Action Service	188,589.41	
Total Bilateral Funds	2,551,952.31	
Total (A) + (B)	7,151,122.97	

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MINES ADVISORY GROUP (MAG)

Activities in 2012:

MAG has been operational in Laos since 1994. Over that time MAG built up a successful track record of UXO clearance operations and effective partnerships working with Government authorities at all levels. These positive outcomes were again realized in 2012, a year in which MAG cleared and cancelled over 8,000,000m² of land and located and destroyed 13,035 items of UXO within our target districts in the provinces of Khammouane and Xiengkhouang.

MAG has a comprehensive approach to Community Liaison (CL) work that ensures all members of the communities to have a voice and an input on where MAG's UXO clearance operations will be implemented. Prior to entering communities, MAG consults with village, district and provincial authorities to ensure that intended target areas fall within national development plans. Once they have entered the village, the CL teams then closely consult with community members to identify areas of UXO contamination. This is undertaken through carefully targeted household questionnaires and focus group discussions, during which different groups are separately consulted concerning their needs and knowledge of the UXO contamination affecting their daily lives. Over 2,000 such surveys were conducted in 2012, across 670 villages.

Based on the information collected during the CL process, 858 clearance tasks were undertaken by the 12 MAG UXO Clearance Teams (UCTs). A further 1,255 EOD spot tasks were also completed by the two MAG EOD/Roving teams. These resulted in the removal of 2,745 items of UXO that were of immediate threat to community members.



In total there were 59,509 direct beneficiaries of MAG's operations in 2012. These mainly were individuals or communities who owned the land cleared and/or directly benefited from the development activity that subsequently took place on it. An additional 108,519 individuals in the wider community indirectly benefited from the improved human security and access to services brought about by MAG's clearance work.

Additional to UXO clearance, MAG was also engaged in delivering MRE to communities on a needs basis. Across the year, 5,700 people attended one of the 101 MRE sessions facilitated by the MAG CL teams.

In 2012, MAG was also involved in the distribution of grants for small development projects implemented by agencies such as World Education and Health Poverty Action, and district authorities in Xiengkhouang and Khamouane Provinces. These were made possible through grants we received from Imperial Tobacco and the Glow Group.

Key achievements in 2012:

In June 2012 MAG introduced a new methodology to our clearance operations. This entailed a number of refinements and improvements to the previous approach. The main outcome being that MAG is now able to better target operational resources in an effective and efficient manner that enables more accurate and swifter identification of UXO contamination. The new approach also means that, based on a methodical and closely monitored risk assessment process, MAG is now able to cancel land previously wrongly suspected of having UXO contamination. This new process compliments and adds to the extensive amounts of land where there is known UXO contamination which is cleared by the MAG



UCTs. Over half a million m² of land was cancelled by MAG during the final six months of 2012 and we expect that figure to rise considerably across 2013.

During 2012, MAG reached the significant milestone of having cleared and canceled over 40,000,000 m² of land in the seven year period since 2004. During this time over 165,000 items of UXO have been identified and removed by the MAG UCTs. Close to half a million people have benefited from these activities. These noteworthy totals are testament to the effective manner in which MAG implements its operational resources and also how we work so successfully with Government partners and other HMA operators.

MAG is always looking to support and encourage the enhancement of Laos' national capacity to manage and implement UXO clearance. In 2012 this work continued through a grant provided to the NRA to support the opening and subsequent running costs of the new



NRA office in Xiengkhouang Province. This grant also supported the NRA MRE Unit to develop new MRE materials and provide training to HMA operators in the use of them. A separate grant was also supplied to UXO Lao to be used for staff training, particularly in the areas of project cycle management and administration.

The good news: Female Technicians leading by Example

UXO contamination in rural areas in Laos serves to reinforce food insecurity and prevents people from establishing long-term sustainable livelihood practices. These are issues that community members living in contaminated areas have to live with on a daily basis.

Xiengkhouang is ranked as the second most UXO contaminated province in the country and 42 per cent of the population are poor. These two issues are closely interlinked and until UXO contamination is removed, it will continue to keep families poor, hungry and with restricted prospects to elevate their situation.

Mrs. Pheng (pictured) lives in Houy Dok Kham village in Xiengkhouang province. She is from a rural community that relies almost exclusively on subsistence level farming; any small excesses in crop production are sold at the local market. Mrs. Pheng is married and has three young children, two girls and a boy. She says: "Previously I was a farmer and at that time my family situation was very bad. We could grow only small amounts of food because we had a small plot of farming land that was contaminated with UXO. I always lived in fear that my children or husband would be injured or killed."

After a MAG team cleared her village of UXO, Mrs. Pheng applied to join MAG as a Technician. It was clear from the start that Mrs. Pheng was a dedicated and determined worker and she was quickly identified for additional training and promotion.

A year after starting work with MAG, Mrs. Pheng was made Team Leader of the all-female UCT in Xieng



Credit: Sean Sutton/MAG

khouang province. "I sometimes feel very tired as I am in the field all day, but I am so proud to be a Team Leader and I try my best to achieve all that is required of me. I use the money I earn for many different things, for example, I bought a plot of active rice paddy, a plot of home garden, I have built a house and I pay for my children's education".



Implementing Partners:

MAG's main beneficiaries come from some of the poorest communities in the country. Their poverty goes beyond basic economics and is linked to a much broader sense of the word linked to the lack of opportunity for a secure sustained income and limited access to vital services such as health, education, water and sanitation, and infrastructure such as mains power connection and sealed roads. UXO contamination is widely recognized as a major contributing factor to this restricted access and lack of opportunity, particularly within rural communities. MAG will continue to work with the Government of Lao at all levels from national to village, as well as INGOs and community groups, to ensure that these barriers are broken down and UXO contamination does not continue to blight the lives of millions of people in the country.

Focus areas of work in 2013:

In 2013, MAG will be seeking to introduce new technology to our operations that will help enhance operational efficiencies and effectiveness. We are exploring the possibility of introducing mechanical assets to the programme and also at introducing new detectors that will further improve our UXO detection capability.

Across 2013, MAG will also be exploring every opportunity to work alongside development agencies including provincial and district authorities and INGOs so as to ensure that the land that we cancel and clear of UXO, goes on to be utilized for a primary development purpose.

Personnel in 2012:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
22	10	2	0	261	88	4	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2012:

MINE RISK EDUCATION Community Awareness		VICTIM ASSISTANCE No. of people who received assistance		CLEARANCE Survey		CLEARANCE Roving	
Visits	Beneficiaries	Financial	Medical	Villages	Visits	Villages	Visits
101	5,700 Men 2,879 Women 2,821	0	1	284	858		1,255



Area cleared:

Clearance (Ha)			Technical Survey (Ha)		
Agriculture	Development	Total area	Agriculture	Development	Total area
		820.9Ha			820.9Ha

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

UXO Removed/Destroyed					
Task	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	Total
Roving	5	1,947		793	2,745
Clearance	5	8,528		1,756	10,289
Total	10	10,475		2,549	13,034

Geography of operations:

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in
Area clearance	Nonghet, Khoun, Phaxay and Thathom Districts, Xiengkhouang Province Gnommalath, Boualapha, Xaybouathong and Mahaxay Districts, Khammunane Province
Survey and roving clearance	Nonghet, Khoun, Phaxay and Thathom Districts, Xiengkhouang Province Gnommalath, Boualapha, Xaybouathong and Mahaxay Districts, Khammouane Province
Risk education	Nonghet, Khoun, Phaxay and Thathom Districts, Xiengkhouang Province Gnommalath, Boualapha, Xaybouathong and Mahaxay Districts, Khammouane Province

Financials:

Expenditure for 2012: (USD)

Item	Amount (USD)
Personnel costs	2,353,786
Operational costs	399,933
Special Operational costs	185,167
Equipment – expendable	339,403
Equipment – non-expendable	21,213
Total	3,299,501



Donor contributions for 2012: (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2012 (USD)</i>
Altadis Foundation	78
Imperial Tobacco	16,482
European Union	396,597
UKAid	1,733,655
Fibertek	2,286
MAG America/US Department of State's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement	1,150,403
Total	3,299,501

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	125,277
UXO Lao	39,698
Total	164,975

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NORWEGIAN PEOPLE'S AID (NPA)

Activities in 2012:

NPA has conducted three basic sets of activities during 2012; Survey (including Non-Technical and Technical), clearance and roving tasks. The focus in 2012 has been to fully implement the Cluster Munition Remnant Survey (CMRS), introduced at the end of 2010. The CMRS is basically a survey process adapted to establish the real extent of the cluster munition contamination in the Lao context. The CMRS approach, includes non-technical survey in each village in the three provinces we work and also identifies all other UXOs in addition to cluster munition.

Furthermore, NPA has conducted a lot of training in 2012, as part of the general expansion NPA has experienced.

Key achievements in 2012:

The achievements of NPA in 2012 are impressive; we have surveyed more than 11 km² in Sekong, Saravane and Attapeu Provinces, establishing 89 Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHAs), totaling some 6 km². During the CMRS, NPA has found and destroyed 2,300 UXO devices. In addition, NPA has cleared almost 1.6 million m² of primarily agricultural land, assisting some 2,000 villagers in the process.

NPA has also expanded to employ more than 300 people during 2012. By the end of 2012, NPA had 15 multi-functional teams operating in three provinces.

Focus areas of work in 2013:

For NPA, the focus in 2013 will be on survey, and CMRS will continue to be the main method and product. NPA are still committed to helping to solve the UXO problem in Lao PDR and expects some additional funding to be added throughout the year.

Implementing Partners:

- NRA
- UXO Lao
- Care International
- Provincial and District Authorities

The good news: Identifying Confirmed Hazardous Areas

The good news stories from NPA are still related to the introduction and effective use of CMRS. NPA has to date established more than 200 Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHAs) and reported them to NRA and onto the IMSMA database.

These are the first CHAs on the IMSMA database, and are there for NRA to start tasking operators to clear according to defined priorities.

Personnel in 2012:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
34	14	3	0	140	66	4	0
Total				261			

Detailed statistic figures in 2012:

Area cleared:

Clearance (Ha)		
Agriculture	Development	Total area
101.2	0.5	155.7



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	0	2,103	0	465	2,568
Clearance	0	2,228	0	142	2,370
Technical Survey	0	2,015	0	140	2,286
Total	0	6,346	0	747	7,224

Geographic operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Which provinces and districts of Lao PDR were activities implemented in?</i>
Area clearance	Saravane, Sekong and Attapeu
Survey and Roving clearance	Saravane, Sekong and Attapeu

Financials:

Expenditure for 2012: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount (USD)</i>
Personnel costs	1,700,000
Operational costs	1,500,000
Special Operational costs	N/A
Equipment – expendable	600,000
Equipment – non-expendable	500,000
Total	4,300,000

Donor contributions for 2012: (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2012 (USD)</i>
Norwegian MFA	2,000,000
Norwegian Telethon	1,400,000
US DoS	900,000
Total	4,300,000

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SOLIDARITY SERVICE INTERNATIONAL (SODI)

Activities in 2012:

SODI is based in Khamkeut District, Bolikhamxay Province. Working through the country office in Vientiane and the field office in Laksao, the SODI UXO Clearance Project currently consists of Administration, Finance, Procurement and Logistics Sections that support:

- 3 Battle Area Clearance Teams (BAC Teams)
- 2 Mobile Clearance Teams (1 small area clearance and one for roving tasks)
- 1 Survey Team, and
- 1 CL/Mine Risk Education (MRE) Team

As per SODI's 2012 work plan, the primary focus of the three BAC Teams' UXO clearance activity has been on highly contaminated villages in Khamkeut District. In particular:

- In Ban Kounechan and Ban Nadeua where SODI has ongoing development projects
- Villages along road number 8 A towards the border, such as Lak Village 5 and Nong Village
- Areas around the center of Khamkeut District
- Road number 8B from Khamkeut District to Nakai District in Khammouane Province such as Ban Village, Phonexai Village and Kohai Village

According to the 2012 work plan, priority areas within these communities were:

- Agricultural land
- Schools
- Housing areas
- New settlement areas
- Vital infrastructure, such as the new market and bus station in Khamkeut

In addition to the regular work of the BAC Teams, roving tasks have been carried out in Khamkeut as well as other districts such as Viengthong and Pakkading. This has been done by SODI in order to lower the UXO risk to the local population in the area.

The SODI Roving Team also responded to emergency tasks in cases where a UXO was found on the surface of the ground, in particular where children are playing or local people are looking for food.

Survey activities have also been undertaken around Khamkeut and Pakkading Districts in search of UXO spots in highly contaminated areas to both meet the needs of the villagers and to support the roving teams.

The main target of the CL/MRE team's effort has been to provide mine and UXO risk education to children and people in communities so they can become more aware of UXOs, recognize dangerous objects and how to take safe action (such as how to safely mark an area and then inform the SODI). In addition, the MRE team has collected UXO information to support the survey team. In every village where the CL/MRE team performance activities take place they distribute posters of UXO items, posters of risky behaviors and brochures with general safety information. The materials contain the SODI hotline number so that villagers can immediately inform SODI if they find UXO or dangerous items. The MRE team also monitors and assesses areas post-clearance and after hand over to ensure that cleared areas have been used as intended.

The MRE team also participated in the MRE Technical Working Groups to exchange lessons with other operators, as this is part of the national strategic plan (following Lao PDR's signature of the CCM Treaty, in Vientiane during 2010).

SODI UXO Clearance also organized a workshop with District and Provincial steering committees to report on the progress SODI has made on its 2012 work plan. The workshop took place in Khamkeut District and all the village authorities also participated.

Key achievements in 2012:

The SODI UXO Clearance Project collaborated closely with the local authorities of Khamkeut District and at the Bolikhamxay Provincial level in order to accelerate UXO clearance for the release of the land. This released land will not only serve the needs to the local communities by having a reduced risk, but by assisting the development plan of the district and the province. The Lao Government policy has set a target date of 2020 to completely eradicate poverty in Lao PDR. To support this goal, the SODI UXO Clearance Project has, so far in 2012, enabled the release of:

- Agriculture areas totaling 168 hectares
- Development areas totaling 39 hectares, and
- Benefitted at least 2,957 people

The good news: MRE making schools safer

On February 12th, 2013 a 500lbs. bomb was discovered in a school yard in Laksao town. Children who were playing in the school yard discovered something that was strange and reported it to the Deputy Headmaster. She immediately notified both the local authorities and the SODI Survey Team. The SODI Team arrived within a few minutes and safely cordoned off the area. The survey confirmed the object the children found was in fact an MK64 500 lbs. aircraft bomb. The Survey Team then evacuated the school for the remainder of the morning while the Senior Technical Advisor arrived to oversee the removal of the bomb for demolition.

The correct behavior of the children (following SODI MRE activity at the school), the use of the SODI 24 hour hotline and the rapid response from the SODI Survey Team is an example of how the local community can rely on a UXO clearance capacity for their benefit and wellbeing.



MK lbs. Bomb, Laksao. Credit: Aurelien Diepvens

Focus areas of work in 2013:

- Return of 2,417,000m² land for agriculture, settlement, rural infrastructure and socio-economic development:
 - In the villages of Khouanh Chanh, Phonxay, Napawan, Thongchaleun, Nongpong, Nampan, Senoudom, Namthi and Lak Haa a total of 2,141,000m²
 - A total of 276.000m² in school play areas and smaller areas for use in agriculture, horticulture, forestry or village extension purposes in 14 other villages in the district
 - 287,000m² were already cleared using enhanced technical survey or UXO clearance
- Systematic removal of UXO in 17 villages in Khamkeut, 5 villages in Pakkading and 1 village in Viengthong and in other villages of the district upon request of the population or the District Administration
- Education of the population, in particular of children, about the risk posed by UXO, about correct behaviour when around UXO and how to identify UXO. This will be achieved through the UXO/mine risk education events in schools and village centers in the 26 contaminated villages in Khamkeut, Viengthong and Pakkading Districts
- Survey of new areas in order to develop 2014 work plans for Battle Area Clearance (BAC) and EOD activity.

- Advanced Level 1 Survey (according to the DFA methodology) in 8 villages in Khamkeut, 5 villages in Pakkading, and 1 village in Viengthong District.
- Capacity development for Lao EOD professionals through the Senior EOD Training Course organised by the Lao National Regulatory Authority (NRA). Instruction in the course is provided by the SODI STA.

The results from the first four concrete objectives will be:

- A reduction in risk from accidents involving UXO
- Further tangible contribution to poverty reduction in Khamkeut District (by far the most UXO contaminated district in Bolikhamxay Province) is expected as new agricultural land is put into production.
- The districts of Viengthong and Pakkading will benefit from EOD activities (on request) as well as UXO/MRE Education.

Implementing Partners:

The SODI UXO Clearance Project collaborated closely with the Bolikhamxay Provincial authorities and steering committees as well as district authorities in Khamkeut, Viengthong and Pakkading Districts. This in turn enabled SODI to provide UXO clearance services, risk reduction education and small-scale development projects to Khouanh Chanh, Phonxay, Napawan, Thongchaleun, Nongpong, Nampan, Senoudom, Namthi and Lak Haa Villages.



Personnel in 2012:

Office Support				Operations			
<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>		<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
11	7	1	0	112	19	1	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2012:

<i>MINE RISK EDUCATION Community Awareness</i>		<i>VICTIM ASSISTANCE No. of people who received assistance</i>		<i>CLEARANCE Survey</i>		<i>CLEARANCE Roving</i>	
Visits	Beneficiaries	Financial	Medical	Villages	Visits	Villages	Visits
52	10,434	N/A	N/A	35	184	27	171

Area cleared:

<i>Clearance (Ha)</i>			<i>Technical Survey (Ha)</i>		
Agriculture	Development	Total area	Agriculture	Development	Total area
168	39	207	0	.4	.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	13	360	0	76	449
Clearance	1	711	0	818	1,530
Technical Survey	13	349	0	44	406
Total	27	1420	0	938	2,385

Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Which provinces and districts of Lao PDR were activities implemented in?</i>
Area clearance	Bolikhamxay Province, Khamkeut District
Survey and Roving clearance	Bolikhamxay Province, Khamkeut, Viengthong and Pakkading Districts
Risk Education	Bolikhamxay Province, Khamkeut, Viengthong and Pakkading Districts
Other	Development assistance (water supply and primary school) Bolikhamxay Province, Khamkeut District, Nadeua and Khouanh Chanh Villages



Financials:

Expenditure for 2012: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount (USD)</i>
Personnel costs	531,000.00
Operational costs	148,000.00
Special Operational costs	N/A
Equipment – expendable & non-expendable	152,500.00
Total	831,500.00

Donor contributions for 2011 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2012 (USD)</i>
German Federal Foreign Office	823,700.00
SODI (private donations)	7,800.00
Total	831,500.00¹

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¹ Expenditure totals are for 9 months only due to shift in fiscal year calculation. 2012 annual totals pending final audit.

Activities in 2012:

The HALO Trust has spent 2012 successfully establishing an operational presence in Lao PDR. The project targets the heavily impacted districts of Vilabuly and Sepon in Savannakhet – the most populous province in Laos. These districts lie adjacent to the Vietnamese border and suffer from substantial UXO contamination, which has a significant detrimental impact on local rural development.

During the second half of 2012, HALO worked on establishing its liaison office in Vientiane; its operational headquarters in Sepon District; negotiated with the government of Lao PDR on a project document and subsequently signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the NRA; applied for and received desk accreditation for operations in Laos; recruited, trained and deployed three UXO clearance teams and three cross-trained survey/explosive ordnance disposal (EOD)/risk education teams and finalised the purchase, freight and importation of all equipment required for successful deployment in January 2013.

HALO Laos is now a fully operational actor, committed to enabling successful development through the clearance of land contaminated with UXO in Savannakhet Province.

Key achievements in 2012:

HALO received its operations permit from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR in February 2012 and, having secured start-up funding, deployed its management team to Laos in June.



HALO conducts village assessments.



Staff from HALO's programme in Cambodia work closely with Laos national staff to improve knowledge of survey techniques.

Following a period of consultation with the NRA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, HALO's MoU was approved on the 4th of October. HALO immediately applied for desk accreditation and was awarded this certificate by the NRA on the 14th November.

The recruitment and training of HALO's Lao national staff in Sepon and Vilabuly Districts began as soon as the MoU was signed. During the selection and recruitment process, HALO's management team worked closely with the district authorities to ensure that the local rural communities were an integral part of HALO's operational activities by recruiting staff directly from affected communities. Staff training commenced in October with a rolling schedule of courses covering:

- UXO clearance - led by the HALO Laos Operations Officer
- Driver training – run by HALO Laos' fleet manager and a driving school in Savannakhet
- Basic and Advanced First Aid - taught by the Chair of HALO's Medical Board from the UK, and leading to 24 trained individuals ready to act as team paramedics
- Basic and Advanced Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) - run by HALO's Global EOD expert, resulting in the identification of potential future team leaders from amongst the students

As of December 2012, HALO had over 65 national staff trained at various levels of UXO clearance management and support services. By the end of the year, HALO Laos was ready for the next phase of activity that of deploying to the field in January 2013.

The good news: HALO joins the fight against UXO in Lao PDR



HALO's UXO Clearance technician at HALO's first site in Nakhapung.

The first HALO Laos survey team deployed to the high impacted community of Nakhapung, a newly resettled village in Vilabuly District, at the end of December 2012. The village expects to house over 40 new families during 2013 – 2014 and will also build a new school and water well; however, the land is contaminated with air-dropped bombs and cluster munitions, which are scattered in the areas of village expansion. Speedy survey, followed by targeted clearance, is therefore needed to prevent accidents. HALO has been asked by the Vilabuly District Authorities to conduct a survey and assessment of the areas within the village boundary and the neighboring farmland, prior to deploying clearance assets. HALO Laos is on track to commence clearance activity in the Nakhapung in January 2013.

HALO Laos has been in constant contact with the district authorities of Vilabuly and Sepon in order to identify further areas that require humanitarian UXO survey and/or clearance, and which are considered priority areas in the district development plans. These villages will be visited by HALO's survey teams from January and throughout 2013.

Focus areas of work in 2013:

Having established a presence in Laos in 2012, HALO Laos stands poised to focus on delivering efficient and effective operations in 2013. HALO's survey, EOD and UXO clearance programme will initially concentrate on the two eastern districts of Sepon and Vilabuly in Savannakhet Province. These districts rank among the

poorest, as measured by the national poverty index, and suffer some of the highest UXO accident rates in the country.

The UXO problem in Laos will only be solved through accurate survey, correct clearance prioritization and, most importantly, the implementation of large-scale clearance. Regionally HALO has over 1,000 local staff in both Sri Lanka and Cambodia and almost 4,000 in Afghanistan conducting such clearance operations. The Government of Laos requires this scale of clearance if Millennium Development Goal 9 (to reduce the impact of UXO) is to be met. HALO Laos is committed to seeking both follow on and additional funding with the aim of expanding operations at a rate commensurate with the funding secured.

Implementing Partners:

HALO has been discussing potential future co-operation opportunities with the other INGOs that operate in HALO Laos' area of operations. Prospective collaborations will include Welthungerhilfe (previously known as German Agro Action) a German NGO engaged in rural development and food security, operating in Sepon District. HALO will continue aiming at establishing working relationship with other NGOs, in order to ensure that, where possible, UXO survey and clearance takes place in areas where other humanitarian interventions have been hindered by the UXO threat.



HALO's survey team gathering information on the impact of cluster munitions and intended land usage.



Personnel in 2012:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
12	3			40	7	2	1
Total		15		0		47	
						3	

Detailed statistic figures in 2012:

No clearance operations were conducted in 2012 as HALO concentrated on establishing and training teams.

Geography of operations:

Activity	Which provinces and districts of Lao PDR were activities implemented in?
Area clearance	Sepone and Vilabuly Districts, Savannakhet province
Survey and Roving clearance	Sepone and Vilabuly Districts, Savannakhet province
Risk Education	Sepone and Vilabuly Districts, Savannakhet province

Financials:

Expenditure for 2012: (USD)

Item	Amount (USD)
Personnel costs	187,231
Operational costs	226,736
Special Operational costs	0
Equipment – expendable	Part of operational costs
Equipment – non-expendable	642,419
Total	1,056,386

Donor contributions for 2011 (USD)

Donor	Contribution received in 2012 (USD)	Expenditure in 2012
US DoS*	1,500,000	971,391
Grapes for Humanity, Canada	75,000	74,985
Jack Deloss Taylor Charitable Foundation	10,000	10,000
Total	1,585,000	1,056,376

*NOTE: US DoS funding is for the period 1st June 2013 – 31st May 2013 for a total of USD1,500,000, the larger part of this budget was spent on the purchase of equipment required for the programme.



COMMERCIAL CLEARANCE OPERATORS

ASA POWER ENGINEERING CO., LTD (ASA)

Activities in 2012:

In 2012, ASA has carried out UXO surveys and clearance for the 115kv and the 500kv Power Transmission Line from Luang Prabang to Hongsa and from Hongsa to Xienghorn of Sayaboury Province. ASA also conducted UXO clearance in the areas of Hongsa Mine Substation and Hongsa Substation constructions.

Key achievements in 2012:

- ASA finished clearing the areas needed for the installation of electricity posts. In total there were 896 posts requiring an area of 6x6m cleared each (32,256m² in total)
- Finished clearing the area for the 500 KV electricity post installation. In total there were 95 posts, with an area of 10x10m cleared for each post, with a total 380 holes (38,000m²)
- ASA has also cleared 990m² for the Hongsa Mine

Substation construction

- Completed clearance of 10,000m² for the area for Hongsa Substation

Focus areas of work in 2013:

- Continuing to carry out UXO clearance in the area for 115 KV electricity post installation 20 posts, size 6x6m, with a total 80 posts (720m²)
- Continuing to carry out UXO clearance in the area for 500 KV electricity post installation 9 posts, size 10x10m, with a total 36 holes (38,000m²)
- Continuing to monitor the golf course construction is progressing in Kham district-Xiengkhouang province
- Continuing to carry out the UXO survey in the area for Nam Gneb Electricity Power Dam in Bolikhamxay province

Clients:

- Xien Electric Engineering Co., Ltd

Personnel in 2012:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
1	1	0	0	5			
Total		7					

Geography of Operations:

Activity	Which provinces and districts of Lao PDR were activities implemented in?
Area clearance	Chomphet and Xienggneun Districts, LuangPrabang Province Houngsa and Gneun Districts, Xayaboury Province
Survey	Chomphet and Xienggneun districts in LuangPrabang Province Houngsa and gneun districts in Xayaboury

Financials: Expenditure for 2012: (USD)

Item	Amount (USD)
Personnel costs	73,500
Operational costs	3,675
Special Operational costs	15,500
Equipment – expendable	17,250
Equipment – non-expendable	10,500
Total	123,125



BACTEC LAO LIMITED (BACTEC)

Activities in 2012:

1. Supported Lao Sanxai Minerals exploration activities and safeguarding sampling borehole drilling in Attapeu Province. Also supported local communities by disposing of UXO found by locals away from the exploration area.
2. Conducted clearance of landslide effected areas on Gnommalath to Nakai Road in Thakek Province for Italian-Thai Construction Company. UXO ranged from bombies to 750lb aerial bombs. Location was steep with heavy vegetation. Parts of the area were reportedly cleared previously but heavy rain and landslides changed the safety level of the area.
3. Conducted UXO clearance for Nam Theun Power Company, as part of a powerline upgrade/improvement program.
4. Smaller projects were carried out, including Pathfinding for mineral exploration and dam construction projects.

Key achievements in 2012:

Include meeting targets set in work plans for 2012; general country program milestones reached, expansion of activities, and any other notable successes.

Focus areas of work in 2013:

This is an opportunity to outline what will be the major focus areas for your organization in 2013, and what are the most pressing issues you face as an operator in the sector.

One of our focuses for 2013 is to identify and train personnel on detection equipment best suited for UXO clearance in highly mineralized areas.

Personnel in 2012:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
3	3	1	1	150	0	2	0
Total							

Geography of operations:

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in
Area clearance	Khammouane and Attapeu Provinces

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LAO BSL UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE DISPOSAL (LAO BSL)

Activities in 2012:

In 2012, Lao BSL was contracted to conduct the following UXO clearance operations:

- Lao BSL continued to work with Lao Enterprise Electricity to conduct the UXO clearance operation in project areas designated for the installation of electricity foot posts and transmission lines in seven provinces
- Lao BSL contracted with Vientiane Automation and Solution Engineer Co, Ltd and Lao BSL Sepien Dam-Say Numnoy to conduct general UXO clearance tasks in construction areas
- The Lao-Viet Friendship Construction Co, Ltd contracted Lao BSL to conduct UXO clearance for safe access paths from between three villages in Boualapha District, Khammouane Province
- Lao BSL worked with Obayashi Japan Company, which operates under the supervision of the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation on improving the Road No. 9 in Savannakhet Province

Key achievements in 2012:

Throughout 2012, Lao BSL was successful in conducting UXO clearance activities on a number of key infrastructure projects:

- 41ha were cleared in Khammouane Province, 37ha in Savannakhet, 44 ha in Saravane and 29ha in Sekong Province for the 'Transmission Line Installation Project'. Clearance activities will continue in 2013 in Khammouane, Champasak and Attapeu Provinces
- 78.9ha were cleared for SK E&C Korean Company in Champasak and Attapeu Provinces for the 'Sepien Power Electricity Dam' construction project

- 6ha were cleared for Vientiane Automation and Solution Engineer Co. Ltd. in the area of Kapuer Power Electricity Dam construction

- 20 ha were cleared in the Savannakhet Road No.9 area for Obayashi Japan Company

Focus areas of work in 2013:

- Lao BSL has signed the MOU with Italian-Thai Development Co, Ltd. In 2013 Lao BSL will begin to conduct UXO clearance in the Road No. 18A construction area, the project will cover a total distance of 106 km from Phatoumphone District, Champasak Province to Samakixay District, Attapeu province
- Lao BSL is processing the survey task for Vientiane Automation and Solution Engineer Co, Ltd in the areas of Lampham Power Electricity Dam in Sekong Province
- Lao BSL is also processing the survey task for Road No. 9 construction project from Savannakhet Province to the Vietnam boarder
- Lao BSL will also survey the area for the new access road from Sepone Distric, Savannakhet Province to Taoy District, Saravane Province

Clients:

- Lao Enterprise Electricity
- SK E&C company
- Vientiane Automation and Solution Engineer Co, Ltd
- Lao-Viet Friendship Construction Co, Ltd
- Obayashi Japan Company associated with Ministry Public Work and Transportation



Personnel in 2012:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
3	1	1		51	4		
Total		60					

Lao BSL Geography of operations:

Activity	Province and districts of Lao PDR
Area clearance	Bolikhambay, Khammouane, Savannakhet, Saravane, Sekong and Attapeu Provinces
Survey	Savannakhet, Champasak, Saravane, Sekong and Attapeu Provinces

Financials:

Expenditure for 2012: (USD)

Item	Amount (USD)
Personnel costs	147,950
Operational costs	30,000
Special Operational costs	15,000
Equipment – expendable	178,000
Equipment – non-expendable	15,000
Total	385,950

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LXML MMG

Activities in 2012:

MMG LXML Sepon UXO Department searched 830 hectares of land with a total of 1,500,643 man hours and destroyed 2,917 items of UXO, in direct support of MMG LXML Sepon Operations and local community development projects.

(Note) The searched figure includes mining pit bench clearance.

Key achievements in 2012:

Safety Achievement in 2012

Lowering of 'Total Reportable Injury Frequency Rate' from 1.1 in 2011 to 0.67 in 2012.

Local Capacity Building Achievements in 2012 (see table below)

Course	Location	Personnel
EM61 HP MK2 Metal Detector	Canada	5
Trauma Medic 1	Sepon	100
Trauma Medic 2	Sepon	12
Laos Driving License	Savannakhet	17
English for Laos	Sepon	17
Computer/Software	Sepon	09
MMG Safety Courses	Sepon	393
Supervisor Development Programme	Sepon	05
Laos for Expats	Sepon	04
Microsoft Access Database	Vientiane	04

Production Achievement (Continuous Improvement)

■ MMG LXML UXO Department – Modified EM61-MK2A-HP

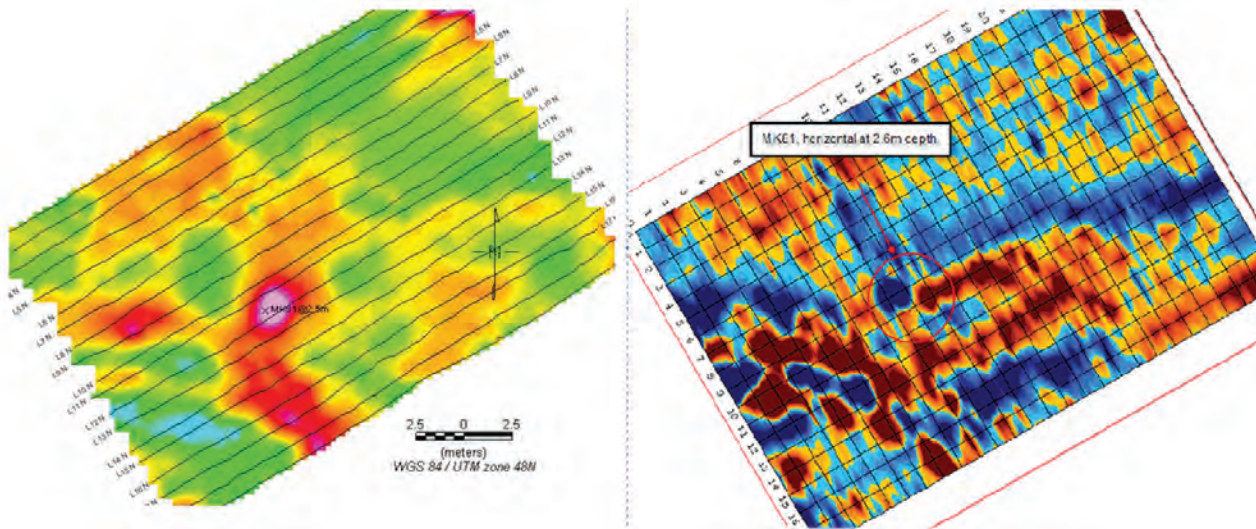
The EM61-MK2A-HP system built by Geonics Limited is the de facto standard data logging EM instrument used worldwide for UXO detection, particularly in magnetic soils. The UXO Department trialled and subsequently purchased one in September 2011. Various configurations and modifications by the UXO Department Geophysical Cell have taken place in order to increase the detection depths of this instrument, mainly involving increasing the dipole moment.

■ Trials

Tests have been performed to determine the optimum height above the ground for the receiver and transmitter in various geological conditions. A large transmitting coil was purchased to replace the standard 1m x 0.5m coil which resulted in several configurations requiring the system to be pulled behind a vehicle. Combining the large surface area possible from a three turn coil kept close to the ground's surface with the standard upper and lower receiving coils in the centre kept at the original height of 0.45m above the ground, proved to be the best configuration to date in terms of practical ease of use and depth of detection.

■ Results:

The system in its current form was first trialled in magnetic soil at Phabing in early November over three MK81 targets, all at 2.6m; vertical, 45 degrees upwards and horizontal. The system easily detected these targets. When placed deeper, at 2.75m to 3.25m however, the targets were not only undetectable, but the areas where they were buried appeared as highly resistive anomalies. This was interpreted as either the presence of 'IP effects' or a complete disruption to the host material's conductivity. It was however, not seen as a limitation of the configuration. Further tests at the buried pipe in Phabing, the Namkok test pit and at Thongpieng proved its superiority in magnetic soils over magnetometers (as expected) and the standard EM61-MK2A-HP.



Comparison between the UXO Department's modified EM61 (left) and the DLG magnetometer data (right) over an MK81 buried in magnetic soil at 2.5m deep in horizontal orientation.

The good news: MMG goes back to school

Three Laos National UXO Technicians were sent to Geonics in Ontario, Canada for technical training in the setup, data collection and trouble-shooting of the EM61 Metal detector. For all three members this was their first time outside of Laos PDR. On the completion of their training they experienced the many sites of Ontario, Canada and the surrounding area including Niagara Falls. All three members obtained certification from Geonics and now perform very important supervisory and training roles within the UXO Department.



Boubai Lathtana, Sinthala Keomanivong and Chanpeng Khoudphaithoun during EM61 training at Geonics, Ontario Canada 2012.
MMG LXML Geophysics Cell

Focus areas of work in 2013:

- Safety Performance (Zero is Possible)
- Implementation of Mechanical Vegetation Reduction and Ground Preparation for UXO clearance
- Workforce planning and Local Capacity Building
- Signing of MOU with the Ministry of Defence Laos PDR
- Undertake continuous improvement initiatives
- Lower operating costs whilst increasing current production rate

Clients:

MMG LXML, Self-Funded



Personnel in 2012:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
5	7	4	0	119	248	6	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2012:

Clearance (Ha)		
Agriculture	Development	Total area
0	2,199,456	2,199,456

*This is the figure reported to NRA IMSMA it is initial surface search. It does not include mining pit bench clearance

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

UXO Removed/Destroyed					
Task	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	Total
Clearance	18	826	0	2,176	3,020
Total	18	826	0	2,176	3,020

Geography of operations:

Activity	Which provinces and districts of Lao PDR were activities implemented in?
Area clearance	Vilabouly District, Savannakhet Province

Financials:

Expenditure for 2012: (USD)

Item	Amount (USD)
Personnel costs	3,959,714
Operational costs	552,421
Special Operational costs	75,000
Equipment – expendable	N/A
Equipment – non-expendable	65,000
Total	4,652,135

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MILSEARCH LAO EOD SOLE COMPANY LTD

Activities in 2012:

In 2012 Milsearch renewed its business license as a sole limited company and was renamed as Milsearch Lao EOD Sole Company Limited (Milsearch). This marked the end of the 15 year joint venture (JV) between the Lao state owned enterprise BolisatPhathanaKhetPhoudoi (BPKP) and Milsearch Pty Limited. It also marked 19 years of continuous operation for Milsearch in the Lao PDR.

The decision to end the JV was mutual and based purely on sound business considerations. For Milsearch it has been a very exciting and successful 15 years for which we are very grateful to BPKP, the NRA, and the Lao Government, for all their assistance and support. These organisations have been intrinsic in making Milsearch unarguably, "Asia's Premier UXO & De-mining Company".

Within the Lao PDR we have successfully completed over 65 UXO clearance projects, cleared thousands of hectares, and destroyed tens of thousands of dangerous items of UXO, landmines and ERW.

The clearance of land to facilitate safe development in some of Lao's poorest provinces provides benefits to all Laotians. As a one hundred percent commercial entity these benefits are provided to the Lao PDR by Milsearch without impacting donor contributions. This essentially leaves more crucial donor money available to fund the very important work of non-governmental organizations operating in Laos.

Throughout 2012 Milsearch Lao UXO cleared 2,958,098m² to a depth of 250mm and 2,708,449m² to varying depths down to 2.5m, making this land available for:



Deep Search Using a Safety Harness in Steep Terrain.



Deep Search at Phu Kham Copper and Gold Mine.

1. Mineral exploration
2. Mining
3. Power generation feasibility studies, and
4. Privately supported community development

We destroyed 1,778 items of UXO and otherwise hazardous ERW, and some two thousand rounds of small arms ammunition. Of great satisfaction to Milsearch is the input which we have into local communities. By way of local salaries and general spending we inputted just under USD 2 million directly into these communities. Perhaps of more importance than the immediate cash value, we provide them with training for short term, and ongoing safe and rewarding employment.

Milsearch Lao is categorically committed to long term and ongoing ERW hazard reduction within the Lao PDR.

Key achievements in 2012:

Coming out of the Global Financial Crisis, the 2011/2012 dry season was a period of rapid growth and expansion for Milsearch in Lao. During the second half of 2012 this growth stabilised allowing us to expand our client base and most importantly promote and improve our staff through a variety of training. Training was conducted both internally, and where the training skills set were not available through Milsearch, the training was outsourced to training organizations with only the highest of qualifications and accreditations.

An example of the training conducted in 2012 is as follows:



Morning Safety Toolbox Prior to the Commencement of Work.

1. Emergency Medical Trauma (EMT) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) (training provided by ICSH)
2. EMT and AED Re-Qualification (training provided by ICSH)
3. Magnetometer (initial and refresher)
4. Minelab F3 (initial and refresher)
5. Level 2 EODT
6. Vegetation Reduction
7. English Language

We continually strive to improve the company's standards in areas of human resources, health, safety, environmental management and training.

In late 2011 we introduced a company code of business ethics which are as stringent as any western companies and would be applicable for businesses operating anywhere in the world. We also developed a new company code of conduct which is also in line with world's best practice and applicable to operating in any country. In 2012, we have trained all our staff in these codes of practice and they have become intrinsic to all of our operations in Lao.

Incidents negatively relating to health, safety, and the environment were recorded at 0.17 events per 1,000 persons in 2012. Whilst this figure is considered low, Milsearch remains totally committed to the tenet that anything less than "Nil Incidents & Nil Accidents" requires improving.



Trauma Medic Certificate Being Awarded by Dr. Pons at ICSH Training Facility.

The good news: New trauma medics

In 2012 we trained nine new trauma medics and re-qualified our 18 existing medics (16 male and 11 female). Regardless of cost we are adamant in our demand for only the highest standards of medical training and are happy that this is provided by ICSH. Eight weeks of training was provided by ICSH with one additional week provided for a student, who through no fault of their own, missed some of the modules.

The result of this training is that Milsearch Lao now has 27 'world's best standard' trauma medics. The additional medics allow us to place medics, additional to the requirements of the Lao PDR National UXO/Mine Action Standards (NS) in the field where operations are remote or we consider there may be special (non UXO) related hazards.

We congratulate all our medics for their achievement in qualifying and re-qualifying as Trauma Medics, and thank them for their contribution to the safety of our operations.



Focus areas of work in 2013:

The challenges of the future for Milsearch have not changed and relate both to the commercial and technical aspects of our business.

Mineral exploration still provides for the bulk of our revenue and in an effort to attenuate the effects of possible future economic downturns, Milsearch will continue to build on its 2012 successes in broadening its client base and spreading its revenue sources to other industries.

In 2012 we trialed a number of new technologies and whilst they all showed exciting promise none were considered ready for mainstream use in Lao or Australia.

Research and development is still however seen as critical to Milsearch maintaining its position as Asia's premier UXO clearance company. In February of 2013 we have trials planned in Australia for a new EM system which if successful will undergo further testing under remote and mountainous Lao conditions.

Changes to the NRA accreditation system which require commercial companies to be re-accredited annually is seen by Milsearch as an important NRA initiative and a great opportunity to raise the standards and safety bar throughout the whole sector.

Clients:

Milsearch Lao continued to service its two main 2011 clients; Phu Bia Mining (PBM) and Xekong River Mining. Additionally we were contracted for UXO related services by another five (2 Laotian, 1 Thai, and 2 Australian) clients. Our two main clients deserve praise for their ongoing strong commitment to the sustainable development of the communities with which they interact.

Phu Bia Mining (PanAust) – maintains the very highest of standards regarding the clearance of UXO from its worksites and provides very considerable funding for UXO clearance to aid local communities.

Sekong River Mining (Argonaut Resources) – providing sustainable development and substantial community development programs in and around their Sekong tenement in southern Laos. As with PBM, Sekong River Mining insists on world's best practice UXO clearance wherever it operates.

The two clients above stand out as providing Lao communities with world's best practice UXO clearance as part of their sustainable development programs.



Personnel in 2012:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
2	12	4	2	332	221	15	0
Total: 14		6		553		15	

Detailed statistic figures in 2012:

Clearance (Ha)		
Agriculture	Development	Total area
0	295.8	295.8

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

UXO Removed/Destroyed					
Task	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	Total
Technical Survey	30	1154	0	2594	3,778
Total	30	1154	0	2594	

Geography of operations:

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in
Area clearance	Vientiane Province, Xiengkhouang, Saysomboune, Bolikhamxay, Khammouane, Savannakhet, Sekong, and Attapeu.
Survey and Roving clearance	Xiengkhouang, Khammouane and Savannakhet.

Financials:

Expenditure for 2012: (USD)

Item	Amount (USD)
Personnel costs	1,884,389.00
Operational costs	941,898.00
Special Operational costs (Training)	54,650.00
Equipment – expendable	18,564.00
Equipment – non-expendable	126,850.00
Total	3,026,351.00



PHONSACKDA UXO CLEARANCE CO., LTD (PSD)

Activities in 2012:

In 2012, PSD continued UXO clearance for Sumura Company in Thongsui village, Laongam district, Saravane province in areas destined for medicinal tree, 207ha.

PSD finished 100 per cent of its 207Ha clearance target for the development agriculture industry for Sumura Company in Thongsui Village, Laongam District, Saravane Province in areas designated for medicinal tree plantations.



Left: The PSD clearance team. Above: Using specialized metal detectors to identify UXO

PSD Geography of operations:

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in
Area clearance	Xiengkhouang and Saravane Provinces
Survey and roving clearance	Xiengkhouang and Saravane Provinces

Financials:

Expenditure for 2012 (USD)

Item	Amount (USD)
Personnel costs	15,200
Operational costs	35,420
Special operational costs	-
Equipment: expendable	18000
TOTAL	68,620

Donor contributions for 2012 (USD)

The table below shows the self-funded amount of money donated by PSD. This money is reported separately to the NRA's financial report.

Donor	Contribution received in 2011 (USD)
PSD self funded	68,620
Total	68,620



SIBOUNHUEANG UXO CLEARANCE CO., LTD (SBH)

Activities in 2012:

In 2012, Sibounheuang UXO Clearance CO., Ltd (SBH) undertook UXO clearance operations in the areas designated for Eucalyptus Tree plantations by the company Stora Enso Lao, in Savannakhet, Saravane and Num Au Dam 2 project in LaungPhrabang Provinces.

Key achievements in 2012:

In 2012, SBH's key achievement centred on reaching clearance targets. SBH is proud to report that in 2012 a total of 568.8Ha of land was cleared of UXO for agricultural and development purposes and 720 items of UXO were destroyed.

1. Savannakhet Province:

- In Sapon District UXO Cleared 1,999,584 m² of land and destroyed 16 items of UXO
- In Nong District UXO cleared 1,293,035 m² of land and destroyed 247 items of UXO

2. Saravane Province:

- Taaoi District UXO cleared 2,222,610 m² and destroyed 447 items of UXO

3. LuangPrabang Province:

- Ngoi district UXO cleared 172,666 m² of land and destroyed 10 items of UXO



The good news:

Please see the feature article on SBH's work for Stora Enso Lao Company on page 15.

Focus areas of work in 2013:

SBH will continue to conduct UXO clearance operations of 600ha to 1,000Ha in the areas designated as eucalyptus tree plantations for Stora Enso Lao Company, in Savannakhet and Saravane Provinces.

Clients:

Our major partner in 2012 was Stora Enso Lao Company.



A SBH clearance team on the job in Savannakhet Province.



Personnel in 2012:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
1	1	0	0	39	5	0	0
Total		46					

Detailed statistic figures in 2012:

Area cleared:

Clearance (Ha)		
Agriculture	Development	Total area
551.53	17.27	568.8

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

UXO Removed/Destroyed					
Task	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	Total
Clearance	2	656	0	30	720

Geography of Operations:

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in
Area clearance	Nong and Sepon Districts in Savannakhet Province Taaoi District, Saravane Province Ngoi District, LuangPrabang Province

Financials:

Expenditure for 2012: (USD)

Item	Amount (USD)
Personnel costs	178,596
Operational costs	69,560
Special Operational costs	0
Equipment – expendable	53,265
Equipment – non-expendable	5,890
Total	307,311



MRE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP REPORT

The Mine Risk Education (MRE) Technical Working Group's (TWG) mandate is to coordinate MRE activities across Lao PDR with all MRE operators in the sector. The TWG also aims to identify and address gaps in MRE, share information, advice and ideas on how to successfully and effectively carry out MRE activities. A typical TWG is comprised of three parts, NRA activity report, operator activity report and opens discussion.

In 2012, the MRE TWG met four times. The main focus on discussion in 2012 centered on how to most effectively use existing MRE materials in communities and schools to communicate with ethnically diverse target groups.

Discussion also centered on the process of approval for developing and printing of new MRE materials and clear guidelines were developed and implemented. The important matter of reporting on IMSMA was also discussed and operators received further training on IMSMA and on how to use the updates MRE reporting templates.

Findings from the Knowledge, Attitude and Practice survey were also shared, including new teaching techniques, better survey practice and a strong recommendation of targeting Lao speaking school age children to teach older, non-Lao speaking members of the community about MRE.

The TWG also supported the training of staff and teachers in schools on MRE as well as follow up training to support teachers and updates on teaching techniques. The TWG worked with the Ministry of Education and World Education on training of teachers to be puppeteers.

In 2013 the MRE TWG will continue to strive to establish clear reporting mechanisms and guidelines on the use of MRE materials. Moreover, the TWG aims to support the MRE operators in carrying out advocacy and engagement events such as the Spirit of Soccer tournament in Xieng Khouang and a MRE radio program in Xieng Khouang and Saravane Provinces. The TWG, will also advise and assist with the re-printing and distribution of MRE curriculum materials for primary schools in 42 districts in nine provinces, thanks to funding support from UNICEF.

- In 2012 the MRE conducts 4 TWGs
- In TWG, has three parts/sections, part 1 NRA MRE reports on activities and on plans for the future, part 2 operator reports on their activities in the quarter and action for the following quarter including estimated budgets for future activities, part 3 open discussion session on issues related to MRE
- Open discussion in 2012:
 - Problem of MRE activities in communities

and schools, e.g. how to most effectively use materials, how to communicate with target groups across languages and cultures

- How to solve language barrier problems, and skills in teams
- MRE materials: and the process of approval for developing and printing of new materials (who should lead the process?), which are more effective
- IMSMA reporting, encourage organization to use IMSMA forms, training and explanations of the importance of the forms, updated forms in 2012.
- Knowledge, Attitude and Practice survey: Sharing information in TWG, learning on survey practice, new teaching techniques such as targeting school children to share MRE knowledge with parents.
- Training: training of staff and teachers in schools on MRE and follow up training to support teachers and updates on teaching techniques. MoE and WE training of teachers to be puppeteers who in turn can encourage children to make their own puppet shows.
- Reporting of UXO accidents and analysis of nature of accidents and how to modify MRE activities to meet any gaps in target groups, quarter 2 and quarter 4

2013 Activities

- In 2013 the MRE TWG will continue to strive to establish clear reporting mechanisms and guidelines on the use of MRE materials. Moreover, the TWG aims to support the MRE operators in carrying out advocacy and engagement events such as the Spirit of Soccer tournament in Xieng Khouang and a MRE radio program in Xieng Khouang and Saravane Provinces. The TWG, will also advise and assist with the re-printing and distribution of MRE curriculum materials for primary schools in 42 districts in nine provinces, thanks to funding support from UNICEF.
- Clear guidelines for printing MRE material, sent out to all
- Guidelines about reporting for TWG meetings
- Follow up and continue supporting operators and M of E will add MRE to curriculum of teacher in training colleges
- Spirit of Soccer will continue to promote MRE through the fun medium of soccer and will hold a soccer tournament in Xieng Khouang
- M of Information, Culture and Tourism MRE radio program in Xieng Khouang and Saravane Provinces
- UNICEF will support re-printing of MRE curriculum materials for primary schools in 42 districts in 9 provinces

VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND MRE OPERATORS



Association for Aid and Relief Japan (AAR Japan), Xiengkhouang Office (MRE)



Handing out and explaining how to use First Aid Kit, Booklet and Brochure to VHVs.

AAR Japan provides First Aid Training to Health Center Nurses (HCNs) and Village Health Volunteers (VHVs) in case of UXO accident. AAR also cooperates with UXO-Lao in the sector of MRE.

Activities in 2012:

The year of 2012 was the second phase of AAR's three year UXO project in Xiengkhuang, which aims to strengthen the level of emergency medical care for UXO survivors and their transportation to medical facilities. It also supported UXO Lao in Xiengkhouang Province.

Some of the main activities undertaken in 2012 are listed below;

- Provided Training of Trainers (ToT) for District Hospital staff in Kham and Phoukout Districts
- Provided first-aid training for VHVs and HCNs in Kham and Phoukout Districts
- Provided first-aid kits to VHVs in Kham and Phoukout Districts
- Produced and distributed the information booklets, brochures and posters to VHVs and villagers in Kham and Phoukout Districts related to UXO and first-aid
- Provided medical equipment for trauma care, booklets and flip charts to HCNs in Pek, Phaxai, Kham and Phoukout Districts

- Held village workshops for target villages which are highly affected by UXOs in Pek, Phaxai, Kham and Phoukout Districts
- Provided MRE equipment to UXO-Lao Xiengkhouang Province
- Interviewed new UXO victims who were reported to the NRA and distributed the data to NRA

Key achievements in 2012:

Major achievements of UXO project in Xiengkhouang Province in 2012 are:

- More than 200 information booklets, 2,000 brochures and posters about UXO and first-aid were produced and distributed to VHVs and villagers in target area. Through the post training evaluation, it became apparent that these booklets, brochures and posters were practically used for transferring knowledge and useful information for villagers
- Skills and knowledge of 8 district Hospital/health center staff in Kham and Phoukout Districts was enhanced through participating ToT on basic first-aid and teaching techniques. Training of Trainers trainees provided basic first-aid training to 14 VHVs in Kham and Phoukout Districts



VHVs practicing Basic Cardiac Life Support at a VHVs Training.

- Skills and knowledge of 196 VHV in Kham and Phoukout Districts were enhanced through attending training on basic first-aid. The result of pre-/post-training test showed a remarkable improvement of knowledge of VHV on basic first-aid. Their sense of responsibility and motivation were also improved
- 196 VHV in Kham and Phoukout Districts were equipped with first-aid kits, booklets and flip charts
- 25 HCs were equipped with medical equipment for trauma care, booklet and flip chart in Pek, Phaxai, Kham and Phoukout Districts
- Village workshops and monitoring visits in 50 villages in Pek, Phaxai, Kham and Phoukout Districts were provided
 - Villagers in 50 villages became aware of first-aid and dangers of UXOs through attending the workshop and brochures/posters
 - 'Ambulance drivers' who own vehicles were designated in each village for an emergency transportation of UXO survivors
- UXO Lao Xiengkhouang was provided with 2 kinds of UXO posters and necessary equipment for its MRE activities
- Surveyed 43 UXO victims in Pek, Phaxai, Phoukout and Khoun District

Focus areas of work in 2013:

In 2013, AAR Japan will expand its activities to two additional districts in Xiengkhouang Province-Nonghet and Khoun, by employing the same method established in Phase one and two. AAR Japan will keep providing trainings for VHV and HCNs and supplying medical equipment for trauma care for six District Hospitals. The AAR Japan mobile team will also keep visiting selected villages which are highly affected by UXOs, to raise awareness on dangers of UXOs and basic first-aid. In addition, working in collaboration with community awareness team in UXO Lao Xiengkhouang Province, AAR Japan will supply MRE posters, notebooks and MRE songs for its MRE activities.

Implementing Partners:

- AAR Japan works directly with Center of Medical Rehabilitation Center, Provincial Rehabilitation Center, Provincial Health Department as well as local hospitals and village authorities
- The operational budget for the UXO project is supported by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, JAPAN, Grant Assistance of Japanese NGO Project and donations from the Japanese people

The good news: Basic first aid training

Among 196 VHV, AAR Japan interviewed 74 VHV to evaluate the change in their behavior after basic first-aid training. It was found that 71 VHV have reviewed content of the training and 51 VHV have already provided villagers first-aid training. They have not only treated UXO victims' injuries but also provided emotional support to those who are in need.

One of the VHV in Phoukout District, Mr. Phat, said that he had encountered two UXO accidents before he attended the training, but he could not give any treatment at that time due to lack of knowledge and technique. However, at the AAR Japan's training, he learned how to give basic first-aid and now he feels more confident in giving treatment. Also after the training, he gives lectures to the villagers about the dangers of UXOs and how to give first-aid every time they have village meeting. He said he would like to continue learning more about first-aid as well as telling villagers about the dangers of UXOs and importance of first-aid.



Mr. Phat, on the right, learning how to stop the bleeding at the First Aid Training for VHV.



Interviewing a UXO victim about the accident.



Providing villagers with First Aid Posters in order to develop knowledge about First Aid at a village workshop.



Providing villagers with First Aid Posters in order to develop knowledge about First Aid at a village workshop.



VHVs practicing Basic Cardiac Life Support at a VHVs Training.

Personnel in 2012:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
				9	1	0	2
Total				10		2	

Detailed statistic figures in 2012:

MINE RISK EDUCATION Community Awareness	
Visits	Beneficiaries
52	Male=1,097 Female=1,447
Total	2,544



Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Which provinces and districts of Lao PDR were activities implemented in?</i>
Risk Education	Pek, Phaxai, Kham, Phoukout Districts, Xiengkhouang Province
Victim Assistance	Pek, Phaxai, Kham, Phoukout, Khoun, Nonghet Districts, Xiengkouang Province

Financials:

Expenditure for 2012: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount (USD)</i>
Personnel costs	22,000
Operational costs	145,000
Special Operational costs	0
Equipment – expendable	13,000
Equipment – non-expendable	0
Total	180,000

Donor contributions for 2012: (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2012 (USD)</i>
AAR Japan Internal Fund	7,000
Japanese MoFA	173,000
Total	180,000

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	3,937
Total	3,937

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CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS) (VA AND MRE)

Activities in 2012:

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has implemented the project “First to Act: Community Based Response to UXO Victims” in Xaibouathong, Lao from September 30th, 2010 to March 31st, 2012. The project budget of USD 230,000 was funded by the US State Department’s Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (WRA).

“First to Act” is a dual-pronged approach that focuses on UXO victim assistance and mine risk education. The activities covered all 40 villages in Xaibouathong. CRS implemented the project with a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Education and Sports. The main project partners are health and education staff at provincial and district levels. CRS also worked closely with the National Regulatory Authority (NRA).

Achievements from 01 October 2011 – 31 March 2012:

- 22 nurses and doctors (55% female) were selected as UXO medics and received a 5-day training on emergency trauma care
- 83 Village Health Volunteers (VHVs) (52% female) and 400 Village First Responders (VFRs) (50% female) received a 2-day training on basic first aid
- CRS provided training to 32 villages on how to create community maps and emergency plans; 59% of these villages subsequently completed maps and plans for their communities
- CRS supported VHVs and VFRs to conduct community and school based MRE activities in 40 target villages; 2,148 community members participated in these MRE activities (55% female)
- 164 trauma victims received medical services, including 4 UXO victims
- Interviews with community members in 40 villages demonstrated in increased knowledge of UXO safety

Key achievements in 2012:

CRS’ “First to Act” project employed a dual-pronged approach that focused on addressing issues related to UXO contamination through VA and UXO risk education. CRS worked with district hospitals, health centers and communities to build a “chain of survival” for trauma victims through providing training to various stakeholders: UXO Medics, VHVs and VFRs. CRS cooperated with district hospitals and health centers to select medical staff to act as UXO Medics, taking a

lead role in victim assistance activities. CRS partner, Trauma Care Foundation (TCF), provided training to UXO Medics to equip them with the skills to respond to trauma victims. Additionally, CRS prepared the UXO Medics to train VHVs in basic first aid and CPR. Ten community members from each village, including men, women, students, and Village Education Development Committee (VEDC) members, were then selected to act as VFRs, or those who might arrive on the scene first in the event of an emergency to receive training on basic first aid. Using this cascade training approach, CRS empowered community members at the district and village level to provide basic first aid and CPR to trauma victims, while at the same time linking the various actors who are charged with providing timely and appropriate care to UXO victims.

Focus areas of work in 2013:

Building upon the success of CRS’ Phase I project, CRS will implement Phase II: “Village First Response,” employing a dual-pronged approach of UXO VA and MRE. CRS will further strengthen activities in Xaibouathong District while expanding into an additional district in Khammuane Province. CRS will increase integration between the VA and MRE components of the project, cooperating with local and national health and education authorities as well as the NRA. Additionally, CRS will communicate its activities with mine clearance operators working in Khammuane Province in an effort to identify and establish linkages between relevant stakeholders.

Implementing Partners:

CRS’s main partner is the Ministry of Health. CRS also works closely with the NRA and provincial and district health offices, as well as the district education offices. CRS and its partner, Trauma Care Foundation, will work together with district health staff to select a group of 4-6 “core trainers” to help oversee trainings conducted by UXO Medics to VHVs and VFRs, and to make certain that trainers use appropriate and effective methods and convey accurate information. In addition to the core trainers, TCF, CRS, and members of the Ministry of Health and National Regulatory Authority will regularly monitor trainings to ensure quality, promote sharing, and provide support and guidance to newly trained UXO Medics.

Beneficiaries include VHVs who will receive basic life support training and communities will receive MRE activities.



The good news: Village Health Volunteers

Mr. Sert, is a Village Health Volunteer (VHV) in Nongphue Village in Xaibouathong District, Khammuane Province and has been the sole VHV in his village for five years, providing the only medical care for the entire village of 67 families.

He is the first responder for a myriad of health problems, including trauma induced from UXO accidents.

In 2011, CRS engaged Mr. Sert in training for VHVs, providing basic life support training, the first formal training he had ever received. After attending the training, Mr. Sert felt more confident in his ability to provide care however he was unsure if he would be able to use the skills in an emergency scenario.

In December, 2012, he got his chance to find out. Mr. Chan (18) was brought to Mr. Sert after an accident, he had been in a coma for 30 minutes.

Mr. Sert remembered what he had learned about CPR in the training and after checking Mr. Chan's pulse and breathing, Mr. Sert began CPR, while instructing Chan's mother how to do rescue breathing. After 30 cycles, Chan began breathing.

After Mr. Sert saved Chan's life, the village believed in the value of learning basic life support skills. This new awareness created a demand for Mr. Sert to become a trainer in his village. Mr. Sert has now held three trainings totaling 40 participants in a village of only 228 people.

Mr. Sert says, "Now I know the training I received was very good. I am more confident to use the skills I learned, having seen firsthand the results it can have. This has really transformed the way we see basic life saving skills; everyone sees the importance now. The CRS training has had an incredible impact on our small village. I hope I can learn even more in the future to be able to help my neighbors."

Personnel in 2012:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
3	1	0	0	5	2	0	2

Geography of operations:

Activity	Which provinces and districts of Lao PDR were activities implemented in?
Risk Education	Xaibouathong District, Khammouane Province
Victim Assistance	Xaibouathong District, Khammouane Province

Financials:

Expenditure for 2012: (USD)

Item	Amount (USD)
Total	14,0781

Donor contributions for 2012: (USD)

Donor	Contribution received in 2012 (USD)
WRA	14,078.80
Total	14,078.80

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COOPERATIVE ORTHOTIC & PROSTHETIC ENTERPRISE (COPE)

(VA AND MRE)

Activities in 2012:

In 2012 COPE continued its strong commitment to improving the lives of disabled people and strengthening the capacity of the Government of Lao's (GOL) Center for Medical Rehabilitation (CMR) under the Ministry of Health to meet disabled people's needs. Our work is made up of three interlinking and complementary components:

- COPE covers the costs of prosthetic and orthotic devices, surgery and treatment so that it is free for those that cannot afford to pay. COPE also provides transport costs to and from people's homes to the rehabilitation centers and a daily allowance for patients and their care givers. This is important because a key barrier to access is the cost involved in travel and living expenses while undergoing treatment
- COPE works to increase awareness of the services available for people with physical disabilities. This is done through an innovative outreach program that goes directly to communities to raise awareness about the services available in their province or in Vientiane capital at the GOL's CMR



Child receiving treatment for club foot at the Center of Medical Rehabilitation in Vientiane.



In July 2012 US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and US Ambassador Karen Stewart visited the COPE visitor center. Here a COPE staff member briefs them on the UXO situation in Lao PDR.

Photo: US Embassy, Vientiane

- COPE also brings in experts in the fields of prosthetics and orthotics (P&O), physiotherapy and occupational therapy to work with national GOL staff to provide on the job training, support skills development, and upgrade clinical processes. COPE supports the CMR in Vientiane as well as the Provincial centers in Xiengkhouang, Champhasak, LuangPrabang, and Savannakhet Provinces.

Detailed key achievements in 2012:

- 1,131 patients receive 1,190 prosthetic and orthotic devices in 2012. Of those patients; 623 (52.3%) received prosthetic legs, 70 (5.9%) received prosthetic hands and/or arms, and 438 (36.8%) received orthotics
- Of these, 496 (43.8%) new patients were fitted for new prosthetics and orthotics, 635 (56.1%) patients returned to replace old devices
- COPE's visitor center welcomed 17,000 people in 2012 and served to raise awareness of the UXO issue in Laos as well as the important work being done at the GOL's Center of Medical Rehabilitation
- 278 UXO survivors received a new or replacement prosthetic limb in 2012, of these 31 (11.1%) were new victims who received their first prosthetic limb



A cast is being taken of the patient's arm which will be used to custom make his prosthetic.

The good news: Patient story - Mr. Boun

After losing his left eye and hand at age 11 when a cluster bomb exploded, Boun was fitted with a prosthetic arm at COPE.

Boun is a 27 year old monk living in Tolakhorm District, Vientiane Province. After hearing about COPE from a friend in his village who had received similar services, Boun travelled to meet with technicians and was fitted with his new prosthetic arm on 2 July 2012.

Boun lost both his left hand and left eye when he was 11. While he was playing in the old American soldier camp next to his village with three of his friends, they came across a bombie. Boun and his friends were interested to see if they could dismantle the bomb to use the explosive to make a Lao traditional rocket. Boun had a knife with him and attempted to use it to open the bombie while his three friends sat around him.

The bomb went off in his hand. One of Boun's friends died immediately. Boun and his other friends were badly injured. They were sent to a district hospital however Boun's wound became badly infected so he was sent to Vientiane for an amputation. Boun lost one friend, one arm and one eye from his bomb accident.

Boun became shy about his appearance and stopped participating in school activities. In addition, his family were very poor and not able to support him. Boun left school and became a monk in 2008. He is currently still practicing. Boun is very content with the donation of his new arm and says, "Now I have an arm like normal people I am very confident in participating in Buddhist activities, even though I only have one eye left. Thank you very much to COPE and the people who make donations. This prosthetic arm has changed my life."

Focus areas of work in 2013:

COPE will continue to focus on improving the lives of disabled people by supporting the GOL's Center of Medical Rehabilitation and enabling access to quality care and services.

Implementing Partners:

COPE's beneficiaries include survivors of UXO accidents, road accidents as well as those with leprosy, polio, CVA (stroke), clubfoot, cerebral palsy and congenital abnormalities. COPE also works directly with the Ministry of Health's Center of Medical Rehabilitation to train staff and offer technical expertise.



Bounthan is treated for a club foot at the Center of Medical Rehabilitation in Vientiane.



Personnel in 2012:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
3	2		1	6	2		3
Total							

Detailed statistic figures in 2012:

VICTIM ASSISTANCE	
No. of people who received assistance	
Financial	Medical
	278

Geography of operations:

Activity	Which provinces and districts of Lao PDR were activities implemented in?
Victim Assistance	All provinces with specific support to MOH Provincial Rehabilitation Centers in Savannakhet, Xiengkhouang, LuangPrabang, Champasak Provinces and the Center for Medical Rehabilitation in Vientiane
Other	Awareness raising through the COPE Visitor Center - Vientiane Outreach project 'COPE Connect' Xiengkhouang, Houaphan, Oudomxay, Luangnamtha, Vientiane, Bolikhamxay, Khammouane, Champasak, Sekong, Attapeu Provinces.

Financials:

Expenditure for 2012: (USD)

Breakdown not available at time of publication

Item	Amount (USD)
Total	837,000

Donor contributions for 2012 (USD)

Donor	Contribution received in 2012 (USD)
USAID	537,000
AusAID	200,000
Christoffel Blindem Mission	100,000
Total	837,000



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

Activities in 2012:

QLA received its official registration as a Non-Profit Association from Xiangkhoun Province in September 2011. Its goal is to provide services to UXO survivors and people with disabilities (PWD) and to provide information to the general public about how these services improve quality of life.

The direct services component is to provide treatment assistance to UXO survivors and livelihoods development training to improve family income. The UXO Survivor Information Center provides an exhibit space in Phonsavanh, Xiangkhoun Province to provide information about the impact of UXO injuries and information about UXO survivor activities. QLA also runs a small 'Village Shop' where the handicrafts produced in villages impacted by UXO are available for sale.

During 2012, the main activities have been:

- Improving the UXO Survivor Information Center and 'Village Shop':
 - Renovation of the center, including new exhibits and video room
 - Set up the 'Village Shop' to sell handicrafts produced by UXO survivors and PWD
 - Recruited new staff and volunteers for the center
 - Organized an official re-opening of the UXO Survivor Information Center (USIC) in March 2012
- 'Improving Livelihoods Programme' implemented in UXO-affected villages with a significant number of UXO survivors and PWD:
 - Handicrafts training in ten villages, which included silk weaving in three villages and making products such as handbags, laptop bags and cell phone holders in seven villages. These training activities included training in naturally dyed silk thread produced in Xiangkhoun Province for 45 women and handicraft training for 90 women
 - Animal raising/ veterinary skills training for thirty people



Financial literacy training activity during QLA stakeholder meeting.

- Both sets of trainings included modules in economic planning, information on disability rights and organization of producers' groups
- Fund-raising and providing funds to the WVMF (In coordination with World Education):
 - The QLA received donations from visitors to the center and were able to provide treatment funding for thirteen people in Xiang Khouang Province, for a total of USD 4,574

Key achievements in 2012:

Initially, World Education provided management and oversight; however, over the past year, the QLA has become an independent NPA. The QLA has continued to develop the management skills necessary for effectively planning and organizing activities.

The current QLA membership consists of twenty UXO survivors and PWD, which meets biannually. The content of the meetings include information about QLA activities and training which benefits the members, most of whom have attended livelihood activities organized by the QLA. The meeting in June 2012 included training in financial literacy, which can help the members to better manage their small businesses in handicrafts and animal raising.

The QLA managed the USIC and provided information to over 5,000 visitors during 2012. In addition to

providing information about the importance of victim assistance and its life changing effect on the lives of UXO survivors and PWD, the USIC has also collected funds to provide services through donations and sales of handicrafts produced by UXO affected communities. This has allowed the QLA to fund the care of thirteen UXO survivors in 2012.

The good news: Developing options for a brighter future

Chong Lee is a 20 year old man, living in Khoun District, who was injured when he was burning trash after cleaning up the yard around his house. The fire ignited a UXO in the ground, and shrapnel from the explosion injured his face, leaving him blind in one eye and with facial scarring.

Since the accident, Chong Lee dropped out of school and has been feeling very sad. He would like to return to school in the future but feels he can not concentrate. His friends do not visit him and they no longer invite him to their houses or to ceremonies in the village.

In October, QLA staff visited Chong Lee to discuss his current life and ideas for his future plans. Chong Lee discussed his desire to complete high school and continue college to learn accounting and finance. At the end of November, the QLA staff organized an animal raising/ veterinary skills workshop in Phou San Village in Pek District. Chong attended the training, staying with relatives in the village. After the training, he received an \$80 grant to buy vaccinations, build a pig pen and to buy a pig. His family provided funds for raising two more pigs when they saw how well Chong Lee's pig was doing.

He now feels more optimistic about his future. The animal raising training helped him to feel that he could contribute to his family's income, and that he is able to learn new material. The QLA will continue to work with him to develop more options for this future.

Focus areas of work in 2013:

The QLA plans to continue to strengthen the Board of Directors and the membership of the QLA, particularly to expand the membership from twenty members to include representatives of producers groups. This will include capacity development so the board can learn to lead effectively.

The QLA staff also will be expanding its staff and work to improve the management of the NPA. New staff will start working in 2013 to improve the QLA 'Village Shop' management and general management of the NPA.



Chong Lee, injured in a UXO accident in 2012, attended QLA organized training in November and now helps his family by raising pigs.

During 2013, the QLA will continue to develop village based training to develop the livelihoods of UXO survivors through both initial training activities as well as short term training in the villages to develop the management of producer groups. The QLA also will develop supply chain methods and work planning so that groups have the supplies they need to keep the QLA 'Village Shop' stocked with the producer groups' products.

Implementing Partners:

The primary beneficiaries of the QLA in 2012 were UXO survivors and PWD from Xiengkhouang Province.



Above: The QLA organized a training in making laptop bags in Dong Dan Village which has many UXO survivors.



Above: Handicraft training, organized by QLA, in Hai Hin Village.



Financial literacy training during QLA stakeholder meeting in June 2012.



Above: Mrs. Noon Thammavong, wife of Ladone, a UXO survivor, attended a QLA-organized weaving training in Nyuanthong Village.



Mrs. Bounmy of Kham Handicrafts Center, giving feedback on quality of weaving during weaving training in Nyuanthong village, which has many UXO survivors and PWD.



Above: Thoummy Silamphan giving a tour and explaining exhibits at the UXO Survivor Information Center.



Personnel in 2012:

Office Support*				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
				2	1.2		
Total							

*World Education still provides technical management support.

Detailed statistic figures in 2012:

VICTIM ASSISTANCE No. of people who received assistance	
Training	Medical
135 people in ten villages**	13 UXO** survivors who received treatment funding through the WVMF

**These figures are also reported in the World Education report.

Geography of operations:

Activity	Which provinces and districts of Lao PDR were activities implemented in?
Victim Assistance	All districts, Xiengkhouang Province

Financials:

Expenditure for 2012: (USD)

*Breakdown not available at time of publication

Item	Amount (USD)
Personnel costs	Unable to provide this detail
Special Operational costs	11,862
UXO survivor treatment funds for 13 people	4,574
Total	16,436

Donor contributions for 2012 (USD)

Donor	Contribution received in 2012 (USD)
Bread for the World for animal raising and QLA staff development	5,768
Samdhana Institute for handicrafts development	5,420
AAR for handicrafts development	3,942
French Embassy Social Development Fund (November 2012 through October 2014)	64,525
Total	79,655

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Activities in 2012:

UXO Victim and survivor assistance: Emergency/ continuing medical care

- WE works with government partners to upgrade skills of health providers. In Sekong, 172 people attended activities, ranging from project management meetings, district and province training in emergency care and first aid training for sub-district health center staff and village health volunteers. In Xiengkhouang 202 people attended the same range of activities. In addition, 44 staff attended training of trainers activities
- The War Victims Medical Fund (WVMF) provides direct funding of UXO survivor treatment in seven provinces. Thirty newly injured UXO survivors in Xiengkhouang and two UXO survivors in Sekong received funds for initial medical treatment. Sixteen UXO survivors received assistance for continuing medical care
- WE worked with the Center for Medical Rehabilitation to expand the work space of the Wheelchair Workshop. Welding and painting areas now have improved ventilation and work areas. There is now space for wheelchair user evaluation and assessment within the work shop

Livelihoods development:

- After discharge from the hospital, WE and partners schedule follow-up visits and enroll patients in appropriate livelihoods development training as part of WE's Quality of Life (QLA) programme. Fifty five UXO survivors and/ or family members attended animal raising/veterinary skills trainings in Xiengkhouang and Sekong Provinces. After completing the course, participants received small grants to buy animals, supplemental food and vaccinations. The QLA also organized handicrafts trainings for 150 people in weaving and handicraft production

UXO RISK Education

WE and government partners strengthened UXO risk education through training of trainers approach, developing capacity of partners at central, provincial, district and school levels. While the program organizes training in the in-school curriculum at the primary school level, it also has been developing modules for pre-service teacher training program at eight Teacher Training Colleges (TTC):



Teacher training.

In the 2011 - 2012 school year, UXO risk education project expanded to four new districts: Mok and Thatom Districts, Xiengkhouang Province and Pak Ou and Phoukhoun Districts of LuangPrabang Province. The project team together with government partner staff organized training sessions in teaching the UXO curriculum in 36 primary schools for 186 teachers (70 female), 5,497 students (2,756 female) and provided supporting materials.

Puppetry has been a successful method for providing UXO risk information to both students and communities during community events, such as National Teachers Day and International Children's Day. The project trained seven new puppetry troupes, each troupe composed of six primary school students and a teacher in the new districts, bringing the total number of troupes to thirty-three.

The UXO education project has provided support TTC through integrating UXO lessons into teacher training curriculum as well as training on teaching UXO lessons and developing training plans on UXO education within the TTC curriculum.

Key achievements in 2012:

Include meeting targets set in work plans for 2012; general country program milestones reached, expansion of activities, and any other notable successes.

Achievements of Victims Assistance Activities

- The Sekong Province components finished in August 2012, after three years of implementation. The

funder, DOS/ WRA, approved funding for another year in Xiengkhouang Province

- In July/August, the program did an internal evaluation, finding that quality of care had improved and that the training network was able to promote more local learning opportunities for staff from province through to village levels
- Work on organizing and editing current materials to develop a competency based curriculum, in training of trainers and emergency medicine topics, has started
- Since 2007, WE has worked with UXO survivors to develop a non-profit association. The “Quality of Life Association” received registration approval in 2011, and works with WE Laos in providing UXO survivor assistance in fund-raising, providing funds through the War Victims Medical Fund and livelihoods development

UXO Risk Education:

Piloting UXO education modules in TTC

- Integrated UXO lessons into teacher curriculum and provided training
- Developed teaching plans with TTCs and completed workshops to discuss and review effectiveness of the teaching/learning plans

- Expanded the number of TTCs from three in 2010/11 to eight TTCs in SY 2011/ 12

- Trained three teachers in each TTC, so there are now 24 trainers

- Provided trainings on puppetry performance to teachers in eight TTCs

Province-based training

- Provided training to teachers in four new districts and follow up on teaching methods
- Conducted workshops on puppetry performance with 33 troupe leader teachers from 9 provinces
- Completed gathering data for a KAP study on UXO education in primary schools grade 1 to grade 5, the report will be distributed in mid 2013
- Supported puppetry performances on UXO risk information dissemination during the National Children’s Day, National Teacher’s Day and Lao PDR National Day in nine provinces

Provision of training materials:

- Printing and providing material to support UXO teaching to four districts and eight TTCs. The materials consisted of UXO teaching plans, story books, posters, UXO song books, drawing books, and UXO teaching handbooks



Learning about the risks of UXO in a classroom setting.



Making paper puppets as part of MRE activities.

The good news: Victims Assistance

On the first of September, 2012, Youa Yang (12) and his cousin, Koua Lor (10) were playing outside their house in Mone Village in Phonsavanh City, Xiengkhouang. Another friend, Ye, found a piece of metal nearby and struck it with a stone. It exploded, killing Ye immediately and wounding Youa and his cousin Koua. Koua was injured in the stomach, both arms, under his left knee and on the right side of his mouth (6 teeth were broken). Youa's upper right arm was fractured and he received an open wound on his left knee, which required a one month hospital stay.

The case of Youa Yang and Koua Lor illustrates the importance of funding the care of UXO survivors, as UXO accidents can cause serious injuries which require long-term hospital treatment, which puts a huge strain on family incomes. The total treatment costs for Youa Yang was five million kip, which the WVMF was able to pay for. The family did not qualify for funding assistance for the poor since they had a small amount of savings. If they had to pay for the treatment themselves, their entire life savings would have been depleted and the financial security of the whole family would have been compromised.

Focus areas of work in 2013:

UXO Victim and Survivor Assistance:

Implementation of "Strengthening Emergency Care" Project in Xiengkhouang

- Medical training courses at the province, district, sub-district and village levels, along with providing essential medical equipment
- Organizing and updating of emergency medical and TOT curricula

- Printing and distribution of medical curricula
- Implement a water and sanitation project in four UXO impacted communities in Xiengkhouang Province which includes using SMS and village mapping to track and report childhood diarrhea

Coordinate with QLA and government partners on UXO survivor assistance:

- Follow up visits with UXO survivors to identify needs and resources
- Continuing to raise funds for UXO survivor care and livelihoods development
- Continue to implement livelihoods and other programming for UXO survivors

UXO Risk Education:

The UXO education project will strengthen capacity of the education staff both in primary school and TTCs as well as provide technical and financial support to the pre-service teachers in TTCs:

- Support of puppet troupes as a method to bring UXO information to the communities
- Provide and support teacher training and follow-up
- Conduct training to teachers in teacher college and pre-service teachers
- Finalize the standard manual for teaching about UXO risks in TTCs



New graduate nurses at Xiengkhouang Provincial Hospital. Training activities helps them develop confidence in providing trauma care.



Children with puppets used for MRE activities.

- Conduct an assessment of district officials and teachers in 21 districts
- Provide classroom materials

Implementing Partners:

Provide a brief description of all your major partner groups or beneficiaries.

UXO victim/ survivor assistance:

National Rehabilitation Center is the main counterpart on the central level and provides coordinated central and province level activities.

The Department of Health and province and district hospitals in Xiengkhouang, Houaphan, Khammouane, Savannakhet, Saravane, Champasak and Sekong Provinces are involved in management of WVMF and implementing training activities.

Beneficiaries:

- Medical staff and village health volunteers in the targeted districts
- UXO survivors and family members who will receive treatment funding assistance and livelihoods development
- Families of people who died as a result of a UXO accident and people identified during the NRA VA survey and may be selected for livelihoods activities

UXO Education:

Department of Preschool and Primary education (DPPE), Ministry of Education and Sports.

Beneficiaries:

Grade 1-5 teachers, principals and pedagogical advisors who continue to use the UXO curriculum and receive follow-up guidance from DPPE experts, as well as those who will receive training and support from the project in four districts (Mok, Thatom, Pak Ou and Phoungkhoun) which will include 3,757 students, 22 schools and 93 teachers. In TTCs, the target population will be 15 teacher training professors and 1,000 student teachers.

The good news: UXO Risk Education

Tok (8) a primary school student in Hadpang Village, Pak Ou District, Luang Prabang Province, found a UXO while he was walking with his grandfather along the road to their rice field. The UXO was in the irrigation canal. He could see it because the canal was dry. He knew, from his classes at school, that it was dangerous, so instead of picking it up and playing with it, he went to his grandfather and told him about the UXO. His grandfather warned him not to go near it, because it could explode at any time. He reported it to the village chief, who then reported it to UXO Lao so it could be destroyed. Together their actions saved the village from a potential tragedy. This story highlights the value of mine risk education in contaminated villages.



Group activity in MRE in school.



Personnel in 2012:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
2	4	1		6	4		5

Detailed statistic figures in 2012:

MINE RISK EDUCATION Community Awareness		VICTIM ASSISTANCE No. of people who received assistance		Livelihood Assistance (QLA)	
Visits	Beneficiaries	Financial	Medical	Villages	Participants
Schools	1,962	New UXO survivors	XX – 30 SK - 2	Animal raising: 2 villages	30 people
Students	182,345	Retreat-ment	16 survivors for 22 treatment visits	Handicrafts:10 villages	150
Teachers	6,237	Total costs \$20,000			

Geography of operations:

Activity	Which provinces and districts of Lao PDR were activities implemented in?
Risk Education	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Houaphan: 4 districts of Xamneu, Houameung, Viengthong and Viengxay Xiengkhouang: 8 districts of Pek, Phoukout, Kham, Nonghat, Khoun, Phaxay, Thathom and Mok LuangPrabang: 4 districts of Gnoi, Nambak, Pak Ou and Phoukhoun. Khammouane: 4 districts of Mahaxay, Ngommalath, Boualapha and Xaybouathong Savannakhet: 6 districts of Nong, Sepon, Vilabouly, Phin, Phalanxay and Thapangthong Saravane: 5 districts of Saravane, Lao Gnam, Toumlan, Ta Oi and Samoui Champasak: 2 districts of Paksong and Bajieng Sekong: 4 districts of Lamam, Thateng, Kaleum and Dakcheung Attapeu: 5 districts of Phouvong, Sanxay, Xaysettha, Samakixay and Sanamxay <p>In 2012 - 2013. The project will be implemented in 4 districts of LaungPrabang and Xiengkhouang provinces:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Phoukhoun District in LaungPrabang Province Pek Ou District in LaungPrabang Province Mok District in Xiengkhouang Province Thatom District in Xiengkhouang Province
War Victims Medical Fund	All districts in Xiengkhouang, Houaphan, Khammouane, Savannakhet, Saravane, Champasak and Sekong Provinces
Medical services upgrading	Xiengkhouang Province in Thathom, Mok, Kham, Khun, Nonghat, Pek Districts (provincial hospital)



Financials:

Expenditure for 2012: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount (USD)</i>
Special Operational costs	213,221
Total	213,221

Donor contributions for 2012: (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2012 (USD)</i>
U.S. Department of State, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement for 'Strengthening First Responder Care'	136,000
Niarchos Foundation for education and UXO survivor care and livelihoods development	26,500
MAG for village livelihoods development	10,684
Australian Embassy (Direct Aid Program) for expansion of the wheelchair workshop	17,964
Grapes for Humanity for UXO survivor care and equipment for the wheelchair workshop	20,000
Total	211,148

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Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity and Prosperity

Prime Minister

Ref: 406/PM
Vientiane Capital, dated 8/11/2011

Decree

**On the establishment of the National Regulatory Authority
for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR**

- Refer to the constitution of Lao PDR, No 02/LNA, date 6 May 2003.
- Refer to the Prime Minister of Labour Taskforce dividing to Deputy Prime Ministers, No 71/PM, dated 15 August 2011.
- Refer to the purpose of president of NCRDPE, Chairman of NRA, No 730/NCRDPE, dated 2 September 2011.

The Prime Minister issues decree:

Article 1: Nominated Mr. Asang Laoly, Deputy Prime Minister, in charge of Steering Cultural-Social and UXO Programme in Lao PDR.

Article 2: Establishment of the national Regulatory Authority for UXO programme in Lao PDR, which composed of following members:

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1. The Minister of the Prime Minister Office, President of NCRDPE | Chairman |
| 2. The Vice Minister of Foreign Affair | Vice Chairman |
| 3. The Vice Minister of Labour and Social Welfare | Vice Chairman |
| 4. The Director General of Engineering, Ministry of National Defence | Member |
| 5. The Director General of International Organization Department,
Ministry of Foreign Affair | Member |
| 6. The Director General of Mass Media Department,
Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism | Member |
| 7. The Director General of Therapy Department, Ministry of Public Health | Member |
| 8. The Director General of International Cooperation Department,
Ministry of Planning and Investment | Member |
| 9. The Director General of Budget Department,
Ministry of Finance | Member |
| 10. The Director General of Planning and Cooperation Department,
Ministry of Public Work and Transportation | Member |
| 11. The Director General of Planting Department,
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry | Member |



- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 12. The Director General of Security Police 106 Department,
Ministry of Security | Member |
| 13. The Deputy Chief of Cabinet, Ministry of Education and Sport | Member |
| 14. Deputy Director General of Organization and Personal Department,
Lao Front for National Construction | Member |
| 15. The Director General of Training-Procession Department,
Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union | Member |
| 16. The Deputy Chief of Cabinet, Lao Women's Union | Member |
| 17. The Director, National Regulatory Authority
for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR (NRA) | Member and
Secretary |

Article 3: The NRA has an **overall responsibility** for the implementation of this sector strategy. As such, it will have the role in policy formulation, priority-setting, progress monitoring and coordination. While **the specific responsibilities** of the NRA are:

1. The periodic review and implementation of this Strategy Plan,
2. The definition and provision of policy direction,
3. Accreditation, licensing, and oversight of all UXO/Mine Action operators,
4. The management of the database and, as such, the prioritization and related tasking of all UXO/Mine Action operators,
5. The coordination of all UXO/Mine Action activities,
6. External Quality Assurance of all UXO/Mine Action activities,
7. The conduct of post clearance assessment, etc,
8. Reporting about UXO/Mine Action activities implementation to Government,
9. Coordinating with various agencies, centre to grass roots level, and internal-external organizations.

Article 4: Assigning the National Regulatory Authority to be a focus point for coordination of all UXO/Mine action activities throughout the country to successfully implement the decree.

Article 5: Ministries, ministerial level organizations, province and members are nominated to acknowledge and implement this decree strictly.

Article 6: This decree switched the decree No 164/PM, dated 9 June 2011 on the establishment of the National Regulatory Authority for UXO programme in Lao PDR and will enter into force from the date of signature.

Government of Lao PDR
Signed and Sealed

Thongsing Thammavong



Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity and Prosperity

Government Office
National Regulatory Authority
For UXO/Mine Action Sector In Lao PDR

Ref___096___ / NRA.
Vientiane Capital, date.21 Nov 2012

Decision

**On the Organization and Activities of
National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR**

- Reference to PM Decree 406/PM dated 08 November 2011 on establishing the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR.
- Reference to the National Strategic Plan for the UXO Programme in Lao PDR, 2011 – 2020, Ref No 01/Gov dated 22/6/2012.

**Minister of Government Office, Chairman of National Regulatory Authority
for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR has issued:**

**Chapter 1
General Provision**

Article 1: Objectives

The present decision defines the status, roles, responsibilities, general functions, organization structure and staffing of National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR.

Article 2. Status and Roles

National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR is the organization structure of the Government playing the role as headquarter of Polit-Bureau Party Central Committee and Government in managing at macro level. NRA is responsible for formulating policies, plans, projects and coordinating in order to implement national strategic plan in terms of the solution of UXO/ Mine Action in Lao PDR nationwide.

National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR hereinafter is called 'NRA'

**Chapter 2
Responsibilities and Rights**

Article 3. Responsibilities of NRA

- 3.1 To study and assimilate Party's policy leading to the mobilization of both Party's and Government's policy in the sector of UXO/Mine Action
- 3.2 To formulate, organize and review the implementation of the strategic plan or other relevant plans



- 3.3 To promote good governance to Lao and foreign staff working for UXO/MA
- 3.4 To approve and monitor the use of funding of NRA on a regular basis and Lao national UXO program
- 3.5 To coordinate with Ministries, ministerial level agencies and local authorities in order to prioritize the field work, to promote mine risk education and to provide assistance to the victims from UXO
- 3.6 To supervise and give accreditation and to issue license to implementing agencies of UXO/MA
- 3.7 To collect, analyze and build up mapping as well as to ensure the management of the database in relation to UXO/MA
- 3.8 To coordinate with donor countries and international organizations in order to promote funding and provide technical assistance to the UXO/MA
- 3.9 To maintain National Training Center
- 3.10 To conduct research and carry out experiment and technology in UXO/MA
- 3.11 To conduct assessment on post clearance impact, mine risk education and assistance to the survivals of UXO/MA task-based agencies
- 3.12 To manage the vehicle and technical equipment inventory of NRA and UXO/MA task-based agencies
- 3.13 To summarize and regularly report UXO/MA activities to the Government

Article 4. Rights of NRA

- 4.1 To issue agreement, directives, information and measures in relation to UXO/MA
- 4.2 To establish and terminate working groups at both central and local level
- 4.3 To approve the use of government funding and the grant from international organizations in relation to UXO/MA as well as to conduct monitoring of that use on a regular basis
- 4.4 To attend meetings and international treaty conferences regarding to the issue of UXO/MA
- 4.5 To sign MOU or Agreements of cooperation in relation to UXO/MA
- 4.6 To call for meetings of UXO/MA
- 4.7 To follow other rights in relation to UXO/MA

Article 5. Responsibilities of the NRA Office

- 5.1 Act as the secretary of the NRA on all matters related to UXO
- 5.2 Assist NRA in the management of Lao government officials and foreigners working in all sectors of UXO/MA
- 5.3 Assist NRA in the coordination with ministries, equivalent agencies and localities in order to set up periodic plan and budget of NRA
- 5.4 Represent the NRA to coordinate with donor countries, international organizations aiming at the promotion of funding and technical assistance in the work of UXO
- 5.5 Assist NRA to conduct research and do experiment and utilize technique-technology in the work of UXO
- 5.6 Assist NRA to monitor, quality approval and licensing to implementing agencies of UXO



- 5.7 Assist NRA to collect, analyze and manage data base of UXO
- 5.8 Assist NRA to conduct assessment on post clearance impact, mine risk education and assistance to the victims of UXO
- 5.9 Assist NRA to manage the vehicle and technical equipment inventory of UXO/MA sectors
- 5.10 Write a report on the execution of the work to NRA on a regular basis
- 5.11 Assist NRA to maintain National Training Center
- 5.12 Carry out other tasks as assigned by the chair of NRA

Article 6. Rights of the NRA Office

- 6.1 Propose for the improvement or re-structuring the organization of NRA
- 6.2 Represent the NRA to release all cost of NRA office in accordance with annual budget plan which has been approved by NRA
- 6.3 Represent the NRA to monitor and revise the execution of MOU of implementing agencies related to UXO/MA
- 6.4 Represent the NRA to coordinate with ministries, equivalent agencies and localities in order to manage the work of UXO
- 6.5 Participate in the meetings and treaty conferences related to UXO/MA both nationally and internationally
- 6.6 Represent the NRA to sign MOU with implementing agencies of UXO/MA
- 6.7 Carry out other rights as assigned by the NRA

Article 7. Responsibilities of Sections of NRA Office

7.1 Administration and Finance Section

- 1) Propose and recruit Lao government and foreign officials
- 2) Coordinate with relevant ministries in order to provide working permission, visa, passport, ID card and driving license in Loa PDR to specialists and consultants
- 3) Be responsible for ceremonies, sanitation and security
- 4) Be responsible for documentation of NRA and office namely, in-and-out document, forwarding documents, printing, photocopying and others
- 5) Protect all property namely, stamps, vehicle, photocopiers, computer equipment, telephone, fax, buildings and others that belong to NRA and Implementing agencies
- 6) Be responsible for budget planning, payment, finalizing and reporting to NRA office on a regular basis
- 7) Carry out other tasks as assigned by NRA office

7.2 Planning and Cooperation Section

- 1) Introduce strategic plan, plans and projects of NRA together with finalizing and reporting what has been done on a regular basis
- 2) Prepare annual meeting, ordinary meeting of NRA, meeting of review with the United Nations and donor countries
- 3) Submit MOU, international treaties, international conventions and other legislation in



relation to UXO/MA

- 4) Hold the celebration of Treaty Day on Landmine, Cluster Munitions and others...
- 5) Coordinate with Lao and international Media and develop website of NRA
- 6) Look for funding and technical assistance from internal and external source in relation to UXO/MA
- 7) Submit and print annual report, provide information of the execution of international treaties, conventions and other legislation in relation to UXO/MA
- 8) Carry out other tasks as assigned by NRA office

7.3 Quality and Standard Section

- 1) Submit and improve national standards of UXO/MA
- 2) Submit standards of work implementation of working agencies/groups and UXO companies
- 3) Monitor quality of work implementation of working agencies/groups and UXO companies
- 4) Submit for quality approval and issue certification to working agencies/groups
- 5) Monitor standards for medical training, UXO clearance and survey undertaken by UXO/MA Sectors

7.4 Operation and Information Section

- 1) Coordinate with ministries, ministerial level agencies and localities in order to collect data for further planning, prioritize the clearance site, promote mine risk education and provide assistance to UXO victims
- 2) Coordinate with working agencies in order to support the UXO clearance, mine risk education and assistance to UXO victims
- 3) Organize meeting of Technical Working Groups, facilitate mine risk education and provide assistance to UXO victims
- 4) In case of emergency, discuss and find solutions with implementing agencies and UXO companies
- 5) Develop and apply technique-technology as well as technical equipment in UXO/MA
- 6) Exchange ideas and experiences related to UXO/MA with other organizations within and outside the country
- 7) Evaluate the clearance, mine risk education and assistance to UXO survivals
- 8) Monitor and develop IMSMA for all UXO/MA sectors
- 9) Organize training on the use of IMSMA to all UXO/MA sectors
- 10) Provide maps of UXO to all UXO/MA sectors
- 11) Keep filing all data and information related to UXO/MA
- 12) Report all information related to UXO/MA on a regular basis
- 13) Carry out other tasks as assigned by NRA office



7.5 National Training Center

- 1) Develop curriculum for training on UXO/MA
- 2) Train and upgrade administrative staff and trainers and recruit them in NTC
- 3) Set up plan, budget and conduct training on UXO/MA as well as make a summary and report training outcomes on a regular basis
- 4) Conduct training to medical staff, surveyors, UXO workers and aid-workers
- 5) Issue certification after the completion of training on UXO/MA
- 6) Monitor and evaluate the performance of participants after training when necessary
- 7) Carry out other tasks as assigned by NRA office

Article 8. Responsibilities of the NRA Coordination Office at local level (Province and District)

- 8.1 Act as the secretary of NRA at central level and local authorities on all matters related to UXO/MA at its own locality
- 8.2 Coordinate with local authority and relevant organizations in order to collect data about UXO and later prioritize the task of UXO/MA at its own locality
- 8.3 Coordinate with implementing agencies and UXO companies in order to follow, monitor and give support to the execution of UXO/MA at its own locality
- 8.4 Represent NRA to manage Lao and foreign officials working at its own locality
- 8.5 Summarize and make progress report to NRA on a regular basis
- 8.6 Carry out other tasks as assigned

Chapter 3 Organization Structure

Article 9. Core Structure

The organization structure of NRA consists of 2 levels: Central and local level

9.1 Central level

NRA has its own office which belongs to the main organization structure of Government Office in terms of Party-Cadre and budget whereas technical performance belongs to NRA. NRA is considered to be equivalent to Department of Ministry which consists of 4 Sections and 1 Center namely,

- 1) Administration and Finance Section
- 2) Planning and Cooperation Section
- 3) Quality and Standard Section
- 4) Operation and Information Section
- 5) National Training Center

National Training Center and 4 Sections of NRA thus consists of many units according to the situation of the actual work



9.2 Local level

Provincial Level:

At this level, there is a coordination office of NRA which belongs to the Provincial Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Office in terms of Party-Cadre and budget whereas technical performance is directed by NRA. This office has the same status as other sections of the provincial administration.

District Level:

At this level, there is a coordination unit which belongs to District Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Office in terms of Party-Cadre and budget whereas technical performance is directed by NRA. This office has the same status as other units of the district administration.

Article 10. Personnel Structure

- 10.1 The members of NRA are nominated as per Prime Minister Decree ref no 406/PM dated 08 November 2011
- 10.2 The NRA office is run by 1 Director who has administrative a position of category 2 or equivalent to the position of Director of Department. The Director is nominated or out-posted by The Prime Minister according to the proposal of the Chair of NRA and the agreement of UNDP. The Director is directly responsible to the Chair for the success and failure of the assigned task. The Director has to perform his/her duties in line with the rights identified in this document
- 10.3 The NRA office consists of 2 Deputy-Directors who have a position of category 3 or equivalent to the position of Deputy-Director of Department. The Deputy-Director is nominated or out-posted by The Prime Minister according to the proposal of the Chair of NRA and the agreement of UNDP. The Deputy-Director performs his/her duties as identified in labor contract and as assigned by the Director. The Deputy-Director is directly responsible to the Director for the success and failure of the assigned task
- 10.4 The NRA office consists of Heads of Section and Head of NTC who are nominated or out-posted by the Chair of NRA and the agreement of UNDP
- 10.5 The NRA office consists of Heads of unit and some technical staff according to requirement of the actual work. They are nominated or out-posted by the Chair of NRA according to the proposal of the Director and the agreement of UNDP
- 10.6 The NRA Coordination office at provincial level consists of Head and some technical staff according to requirement of the actual work. They are nominated or out-posted by the Chair of NRA according to the proposal of the Governor of province
- 10.7 The NRA Coordination office at district level consists of some technical staff according to requirement of the actual work. They are nominated or out-posted by the Chair of NRA according to the proposal of the Governor of province

Chapter 4

Principles and Operational Mechanism

Article 11. Principles

NRA performs its tasks based on the following principles:

- 11.1 NRA performs in line with centralized democracy, group discussion and decision in terms of planning, organization and international cooperation. NRA follows and performs under the one-head system and a clear individual-based responsibility as well as promotes and facilitates innovative and creative thinking among officials and staff from various levels



- 11.2 Every activity of NRA is in accordance with the regulations and laws of the Government and is to strongly support Party's and Government's policies

Article 12. Operational Mechanism

- 12.1 Good planning, detailed action plan, task-based focus and clear target on a regular basis
- 12.2 Good coordination in terms of vertical-horizontal line with national and international agencies in order to strengthen capacity building
- 12.3 Good monitoring, lessons learnt and evaluation as well as sound report
- 12.4 Regular monthly, tri-monthly and annual meeting with report

Chapter 5

Final Provisions

Article 13. The Stamp

NRA, NRA office at central and provincial level are entitled to their own stamps for operational and official matters.

Article 14. NRA, NRA office at central and provincial level are entitled to their own budget funded by the government and international agencies.

Article 15. The Implementation

The Government office, Ministries, Ministerial level Agencies, local authorities, international organizations and NRA shall acknowledge and effectively implement this decision.

Article 16 The present decision enters into force on the date of its signature. Other decisions that are not in compliance with this decision shall be void.

Minister of Government Office
Chairman of the NRA



For further information please contact the:

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Sector in Lao PDR (NRA), Sisangvone Village, Unit 19,
Saysettha District, P.O Box 7261, Vientiane, Lao PDR

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