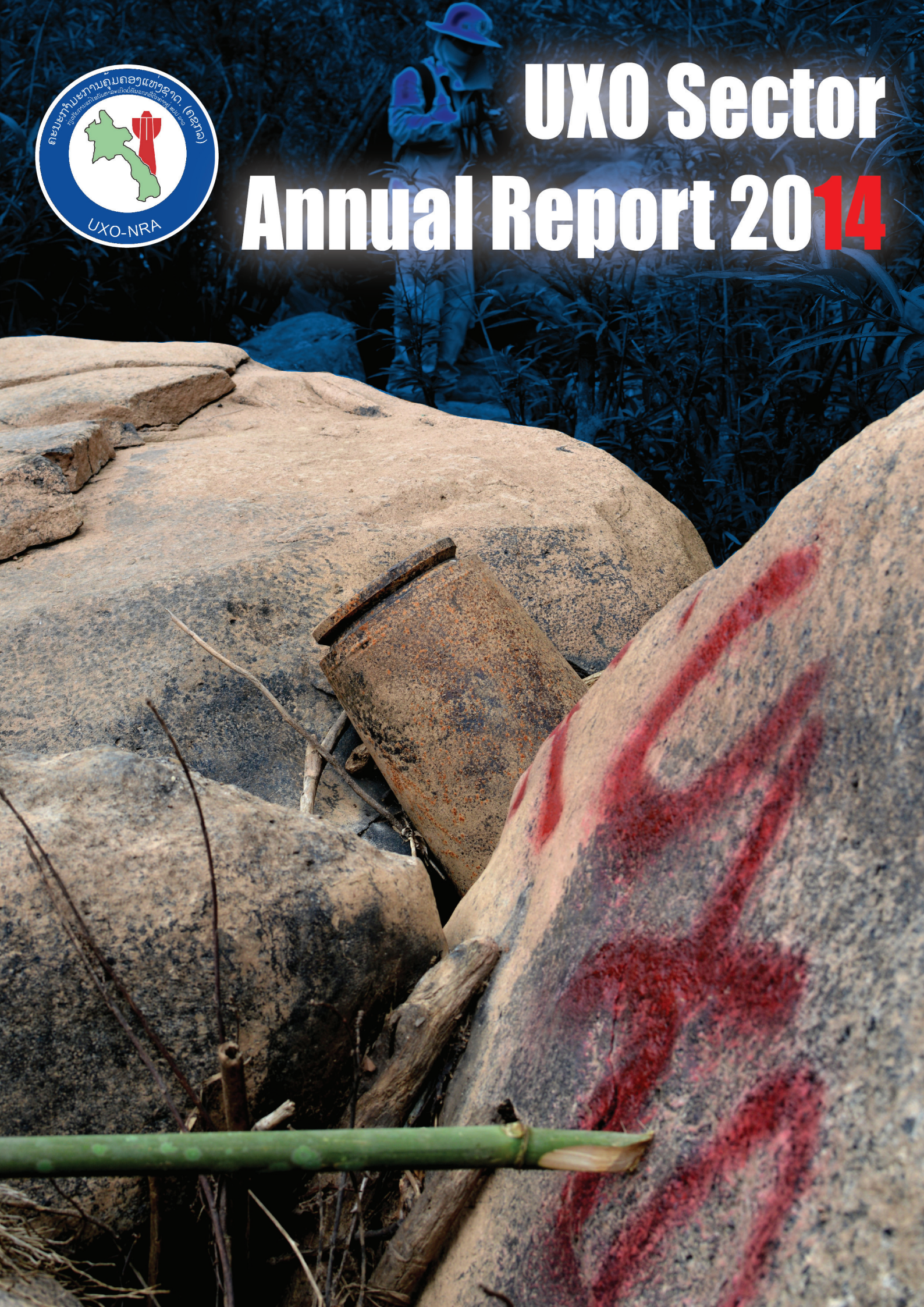




UXO Sector Annual Report 2014



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

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

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Donation for UXO victims: your support can make a difference. Your contribution to the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action in Lao PDR can support for families and children whose lives have been suffered by the UXO from the Indo-China War. For how to give, please contact Victim Assistance Unit of the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action in Lao PDR, Mr. Bountao Chanthavongsa via email: bountao.chanthavongsa@gmail.com

Compiled and designed by: Vilavong SYSAVATH and Olivier BAUDUIN

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Acknowledgements:

The NRA would like to thank all UXO/Mine Action Sector Operators who provided images and information on their projects and activities in 2014 for this report.

The NRA Programme and Public Relations Unit would also like to acknowledge the support and effort put in by all Members of the NRA team in helping to compile the UXO Sector Annual Report 2014.

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2014 UXO SECTOR ANNUAL REPORT

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FOREWORD:

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

I am very pleased to present the 2014 annual report for the UXO Sector and take this opportunity to highlight some of the key achievements this past year.

2014, the NRA as the government of Lao made every efforts to address UXO with high commitment and care, especially, oversee the development of new evidence based survey approach and was conducted since end of 2014. This approach is a good start to improve the UXO clearance to save time, resources and increase efficiency in clearance significantly, with the number of UXOs per hectare cleared rising substantially. The result of the trial shown that we cleared UXO on areas confirmed as contaminated. In addition, the UXO clearance activities are also supporting for focal development areas of the government.

2014 also saw the development of victim assistance, the NRA has taken steps to improve coordination in this area with the development and approval of a Victim Assistance Strategy 2016-2020 with an initial good step to support UXO survivors in Lao PDR. In the same time, according to this strategic plan, NRA will focus on the use of data collected on the needs of UXO survivors for the project creating to support them as needed to ensure implementing this strategic plan.

In conclusion, UXO clearance in Lao PDR in 2014 was satisfactory even though some operators did not receive funding in line with their work plan, but made every effort to achieve the best results as feasible.

On behalf of Lao government and chairman of the NRA would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the UXO/Mine sector and acknowledge my great appreciation for UXO sector's achievements over the past year. The progress and outcomes achieved have involved operators, sector personnel and experts all demonstrating a high degree of commitment and care to this important cause. At the same time, I thank the donors, UNDP, international organizations for your support given to the NRA and UXO operators are working in Lao PDR, without your support and commitment, the work undertaken would not be possible.

H.E. Mr. Bounheuang DOUANGPHACHANH

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



FOREWORD:

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

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

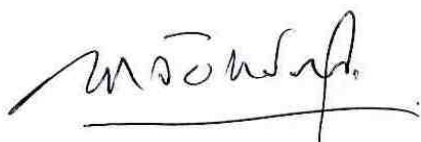
In cooperation with Ministry of Education and Sport completed the printing of UXO curriculum book 1,400 sets and integrated to primary school's curriculum in more than 150 places in 10 UXO contaminated provinces which aimed to teach children how to live in UXO contaminated areas and better understand the dangers associated with UXO and learn how to prevent and avoid these threats. At the same time, we also conducted UXO/mine risk education activities in more than 400 places; it helped to maintain the number of UXO casualties down to 45 people this year.

In the area of the victim assistance the Lao government approved a new Victim Assistance strategy from 2016-2020. In this works, we provided the medical care for 42 survivors, 196 clients benefitted from Physical rehabilitation, 118 survivors had access to Psycho Social Care, education support for 50 people and 156 from economic inclusion that made gradually them lift from the poverty even though it was a small amount of supporting but it was a first good start.

In the area of clearance, we have cleared 6,754 ha and destroyed 79,440 UXO items.

On behalf of the NRA office I would like to express gratitude to NRA as Lao government for their close oversight of the UXO action with the appropriate manner, serve for focal development areas especially contributed to the implementation of the 7th five years National Socio-Economic Development Plan.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Phoukhieo Chanthasomboune', written over a horizontal line.

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



FOREWORD:

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

We are honored to have this opportunity to provide introductory remarks to the 2014 Annual Report for the UXO Sector.

There were a number of transformative achievements in the UXO Sector in 2014. These include: the development of a new survey methodology that provides a stronger evidence-based system for survey; the new Concept of Operations for UXO Lao, which prioritizes the identification of Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHA) and very quickly led to an increase of the number of UXO cleared per hectare; and the development of a Capacity Assessment of both the NRA and UXO Lao which led to both institutions defining medium and long term strategies for organisational development.

The UXO/Mine Victim Assistance Strategy was formally approved in 2014 to target deficiencies in the existing provisions of support to victims and survivors. This is indeed a positive development, but we should remind ourselves that the legacy of UXO contamination in Lao PDR includes thousands of survivors and their families that require ongoing support. In addition to the goals outlined in the new Strategy, much more needs to be done. Strengthening the health care system in Lao PDR and improving services to people living with disabilities, including UXO victims, survivors and their relatives, will be key in the coming years. More systematic approaches to the provision of physical rehabilitation services, psycho-social support, and economic reintegration of survivors are needed particularly in the regions most affected by UXO contamination.

The problem with UXO in Lao PDR is not only a humanitarian one. UXO's impact on economic and social development has been felt for many years. In order to better address this, we welcome the direction taken by the Government in the participatory development of the new evidence based survey methodology as a way to better prioritize clearance efforts throughout the sector, and to ensure accurate mapping of remaining cluster munitions contamination. The collaboration between NRA and UXO operators continues to improve, and the broad range of experiences of all agencies active in the sector should continue to be used to improve the overall effectiveness of the UXO program. These strategic steps will increase the level of trust with Development Partners in future years.

Sustainable funding for the sector remains a concern. Both the NRA and UXO Lao faced funding shortfalls in 2014, with some financial difficulty resulting from the inflexibility of some existing funds and a general lack of resources for all planned activities. A more robust and responsive financial planning system within the NRA and UXO Lao would allow for a more timely response to programme requirement changes and provide better reporting to donors in the sector.

All of the achievements to date would not have been possible without the support from the many Development Partners active in this sector. Whether support is provided through the UNDP-administered UXO Trust Fund or provided bilaterally, it contributes toward the goal of reducing the impact of UXO in Lao PDR. The positive developments in 2014 have the potential to substantially elevate the performance of the sector, and your continuous support will be crucial in ensuring that the UXO sector can continue this trend, develop effective intuitions and practices, and positively change the lives of the Lao people.

Mr. Daniel Clune

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

Mrs. Karrina Immonen

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

2014 SECTOR ACHIEVEMENTS: THE NUMBERS

Humanitarian clearance operators

General Survey

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Village</i>	<i>Visits</i>
UXO Lao	1,336	2,331
HI	68	68
MAG	193	2,063
NPA	-	-
Halo Trust	30	30
APOPO	19	-
Total:	1,646	4,492

Technical Survey to establish the Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHAs)

<i>Organization</i>	Technical survey outside of the CHA (Ha)	Number of CHA established	Total area of CHA established (Ha)	<i>Bomb</i>	<i>Bombies</i>	<i>Mine</i>	<i>Other UXO</i>	<i>Total</i>
UXO Lao		965	3,020	34	6,189	9	4,229	10,461
NPA	7,919	1,053	3,489	215	13,534	0	504	14,253
Halo Trust	1,081	102	325	0	1,365	0	719	2,084
HI	180		31	0	125	0	44	169
Total:	9,179	2,120	6865	249	21,213	9	5,496	26,967

Land released through Technical Survey

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Agriculture/Ha</i>	<i>Development/Ha</i>	<i>Total/Ha</i>	<i>Bomb</i>	<i>Bombies</i>	<i>Mine</i>	<i>Other UXO</i>	<i>Total</i>
UXO Lao	77	6	83	0	0	0	110	110
Total:	77	6	83	0	0	0	110	110

Roving Tasks

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Villages</i>	<i>Visits</i>	<i>Bomb</i>	<i>Bombies</i>	<i>Mine</i>	<i>Other UXO</i>	<i>Total</i>
UXO LAO	949	1,603	259	10,314	71	13,326	23,970
HI	46	58	24	813	0	321	1,158
MAG	102	3,074	7	3,689	-	1,086	4,782
NPA	-	-	7	279	0	116	402
Halo Trust	34	552	48	1930	0	388	2,366
APOPO	18	-	0	275	1	44	320
Milsearch	4	-	0	37	0	12	49
Total:	1,153	5,287	345	17,337	72	15,293	33,047



Area Clearance

Organization	Agriculture/ Ha	Develop- ment/Ha	Total/Ha	Bomb	Bombies	Mine	Other UXO	Total
UXO LAO	2,261	829	3,090	26	15,491	78	16,063	31,658
HI	45	22	67	0	409	0	725	1,134
MAG	356	26	382	4	7620	0	611	8,235
NPA	37	1	37	6	777	0	25	808
Halo Trust	43	36	79	0	1,429	0	270	1,699
APOPO	8	0	8	0	840	0	3	843
Total:	2,749	913	3,662	36	26,566	78	17,697	44,377

Organization	Agriculture/ Ha	Develop- ment/Ha	Total/Ha	Bomb	Bombies	Mine	Other UXO	Total
All Humanitarian	2,826	920	3,745	381	43,903	150	33,100	77,534
Total:	2,826	920	3,745	381	43,903	150	33,100	77,534

Commercial clearance operators

Clearance

Organization	Agriculture/ Ha	Develop- ment/Ha	Total/Ha	Bomb	Bom- bies	Mine	Other UXO	Total
ASA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PSD	200	0	200	0	20	110	0	130
SBH	44	466	510	2	288	0	16	306
Lao BSL	25	331	355	7	301	0	1	309
XTD	13	140	153	0	0	0	0	0
LAUNC	0	550	550	0	0	0	0	0
OUMMA	357	0	357	2	363	0	22	387
AUSLAO	0	638	638	0	0	0	0	0
MILSEARCH	7	56	63	0	87	0	69	156
BACTEC	0	44	44	2	99	3	196	300
MMG	0	139	139	2	124	0	192	318
Total:	646	2,363	3,009	15	1,282	113	496	1,906

Organization	Agriculture/ Ha	Develop- ment/Ha	Total/Ha	Bomb	Bom- bies	Mine	Other UXO	Total
All Commercials	646	2,363	3,009	15	1,282	113	496	1,906
Total:	646	2,363	3,009	15	1,282	113	496	1,906

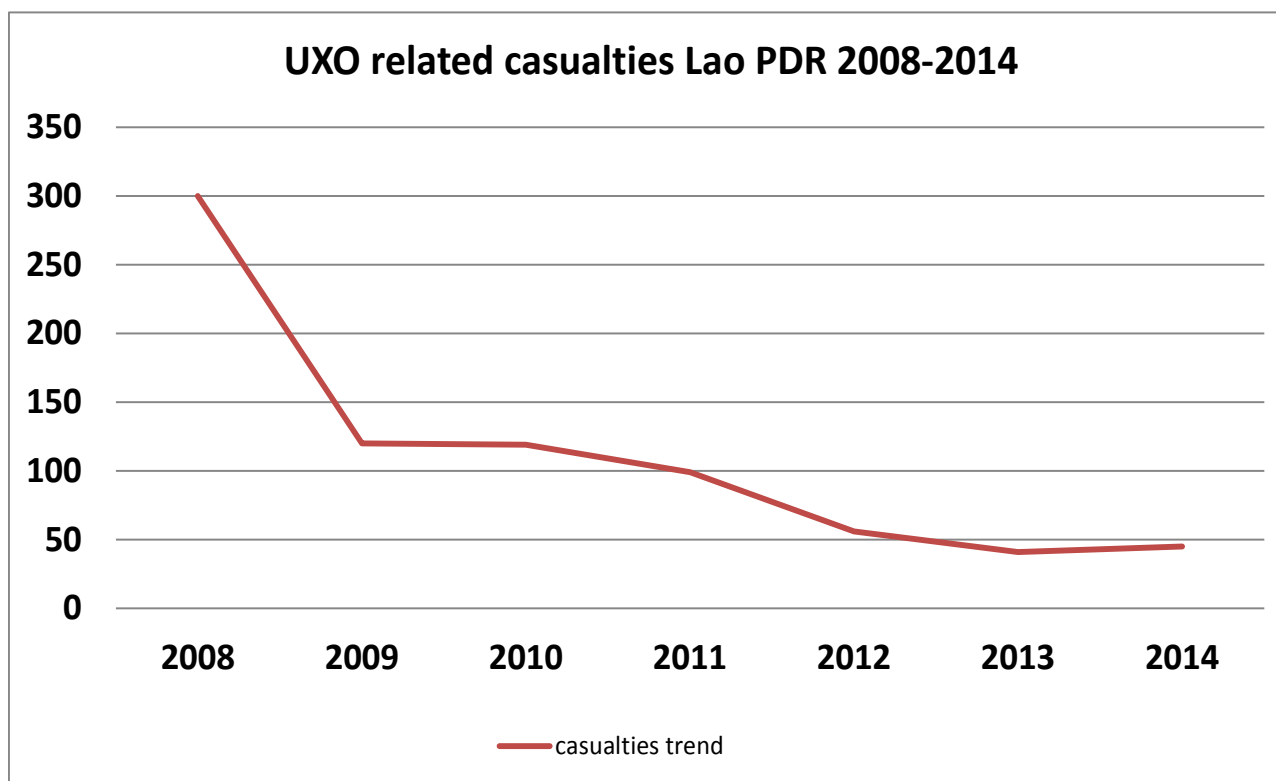
GRAND TOTAL (UXO found/destroyed and land cleared/released through technical survey and Area clearance)

	<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	3,471	3,282	6,754	396	45,185	263	33,596	79,440
Total:	3,471	3,282	6,754	396	45,185	263	33,596	79,440

Risk Education Operations

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Village and School Number</i>	<i>Children</i>		<i>Adult</i>		<i>Total</i>
		Boy	Girl	Mem	Women	
UXO Lao	608	46,789	46,774	49,582	53,275	196,420
HI	40	3,693	3,190	2,659	3,392	12,934
MAG	250	1,752	1,880	1,181	1,491	6,304
Halo Trust	37	2,060	1,933	1,626	1,979	7,598
WE	2,152	109,472	98,962	4,106	3,875	216,415
SoS	11	4,423	1,925	0	0	6,348
CRS	-	1,965	2,230	349	1,085	5,629
APOPO	-	1,376	1,399	518	489	3,782
Total:	3,098	171,530	158,293	60,021	65,586	455,430

UXO casualties





UXO Operators Personnel in Lao PDR 2014

Organization	Office Support				Operations				Total
	National		International		National		International		
	Men	Women	Man	Woman	Men	Women	Men	Women	
NRA	21	15	2	0	5	2	2	0	47
UXO Lao	88	32	3	0	722	135	0	0	980
NPA	30	15	4	1	205	62	3	1	321
MAG	57	25	2	1	246	77	3	1	412
HI	15	11	2	1	90	40	1	2	162
Halo Trust	23	10	1	1	122	46	2	0	205
JMAS	1	2	0	1	4	0	3	0	11
ASA	2	1	0	0	19	0	0	0	22
PSD	5	4	0	0	48	14	0	0	71
SBH	2	1	0	0	24	4	0	0	31
Lao BSL	3	0	0	0	30	2	0	0	35
LAUNC	4	1	0	0	55	0	2	0	62
BACTEC	1	2	1	1	71	0	1	0	77
Milsearch	3	6	2	1	128	73	3	0	216
MMG	6	10	2	0	177	96	2	0	293
WE	3	5	0	1	3	3	1	1	17
CRS	4	3	1	1	2	0	1	0	12
QLA	3	2	0	0	4	2	0	2	13
COPE	6	5	1	2	0	0	0	0	14
SoS	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	4
Total:	278	150	21	11	1,958	556	24	7	3,005

2014 FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

Cash contributions:

Humanitarian clearance operators - 2014 (USD)

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Contributions Received in 2014</i>	<i>Expenditure on UXO Operations in 2014</i>
UXO Lao	10,192,803	7,201,710
NPA	3,993,707	3,443,264
MAG	3,381,000	4,010,000
HI	2,352,008	2,352,008
Halo Trust	1,192,061	1,992,683
JMAS	758,194	758,194
Reduction to avoid double counting due to transfer among operators	-509,803	-509,803
	-37,000	-37,000
Total:	21,322,970	19,211,056

Commercial clearance companies - 2014 (USD)

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Contributions Received in 2014</i>	<i>Expenditure on UXO Operations in 2014</i>
ASA	96,600	96,600
PSD	570,000	480,880
SBH	520,000	406,500
Lao BSL	248,300	248,300
LAUNC	500,000	500,000
XTD	400,000	400,000
AUSLAO	705,228	705,228
OUMMA	500,000	500,000
BACTEC	779,518	779,518
Milsearch	1,295,904	1,295,904
MMG	3,708,100	3,708,100
Total	9,323,650	9,121,030

Risk education and Victim assistance by all operators – 2014 (USD)

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Contributions Received in 2014</i>	<i>Expenditure on UXO Operations in 2014</i>
COPE	362,167	890,090
WE	432,584	432,584
CRS	87,654	87,654
SoS	105,600	105,600
QLA	151,147	133,685
Total	1,139,152	1,649,613



NRA (UNDP)	1,157,414	1,313,969
NRA (Sterling)	133,392	134,029
MAG	Included in MAG here above	Included in MAG here above

In-kind contributions

Lao Government (In-kind)	1,067,922	1,067,922
Chinese Government (In-kind)	278,000	278,000

Grand total	34,422,499	32,775,619
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UXO facts and figures

- Lao PDR is the most heavily bombed country, per capita, in history
- 25% of villages in Laos are contaminated with UXO
- 14 of Lao PDR's 17 provinces suffer UXO contamination
- More than 2 million tons of ordnance were dropped on Laos between 1964 and 1973
- 580,000 bombing missions were flown over Laos
- Cluster submunitions or 'bombies' are the most common form of UXO found in the country
- More than 270 million bombies were dropped on Laos
- Up to 30% failed to detonate
- Approximately 80 million unexploded bombies remained in Laos after the war
- Over 50,000 people have been killed or injured since 1964
- There were approximately 45 new casualties in 2014
- In the last decade, 40% of all casualties were children
- Accidents caused by bombies increased to 30% of all ERW casualties in the last decade

What is UXO?

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

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

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

ພັນທຳກວດລະເບີດ
CLEARANCE UXO AREA



OVERVIEW OF NRA ACTIVITIES IN 2014:

2014 has seen the NRA take several steps towards more effective coordination of the UXO sector in terms of clearance, mine risk education and victim assistance with the support of UNDP.

In 2014, the NRA worked closely with Government in an effort to access Government funding for the sector. In 2014, the Government of Laos contribution equated to approximately USD 1,067,922 which include: the NRA and UXO Lao rental, tax exemption for project equipment of UXO operators, UXO Lao new provincial office construction in Attapeu province, Lao army humanitarian team training and operation cost for survey and clearance.

With regards to clearance, the NRA has made progress towards implementing an evidence-based survey methodology to focus clearance efforts on land that is confirmed as contaminated. This approach was trialed during 2014 in Xiengkhouang and Savannakhet and has already proven to increase efficiency in clearance significantly, with the number of UXOs per hectare cleared rising substantially. Now, we are applying land release methodology appropriate to the Lao context that will enable us to focus clearance efforts through a stringent “evidenced based survey process”. The result of the trial shown that we are well on our way to use the new national survey procedures. Combined with improved technology, we expect there will be significant increases in the efficiency of our operations, the amount of UXO removed each year and the effectiveness of the operations in terms supporting social and economic development and reduction of risk. A total of 6,754 hectares of land was cleared during 2014.

In the area of Mine Risk Education, we continued to develop and improve risk education materials and methodologies and seek to expand coverage even beyond contaminated areas to all provinces in Lao PDR, to be certain that Lao people are aware of the danger of UXO no matter where they might move to or travel in the country. We are stepping up the use of local media – especially radio in rural areas, and are working with the Ministry of Education to assist them in considering a risk education curriculum to be used in secondary schools to reinforce the education already provided at primary school level.

With regards to Victim Assistance, the NRA has taken steps to improve coordination in this area with the development and approval of a Victim Assistance Strategy in 2014. Support to the delivery of assistance to UXO survivors has also been improved with profiles of 8,581 survivors entered into the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA). This information is available to Ministries, local and international NGOs, and donor countries. Over time, the Survivor Tracking System will provide Lao PDR with an accurate picture of survivor needs, an essential step in ensuring that the needs of cluster munitions survivors are addressed in compliance with our UXO Sector Strategy “Safe Path Forward II”, MDG9 and Article 5 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. A Policy Forum was also organized at which the key issues for the UXO sector were discussed.

In November 2014, the NRA Board was approved to allow for better coordination of the direction of the UXO sector in Lao PDR and strengthened oversight over the sector by the Government of Lao PDR. The NRA was supported by UNDP to carry out a comprehensive institutional capacity self-assessment in order to determine where capacities need to be further strengthened to meet stated objectives. The process of taking those recommendations forward has begun.

The National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector (NRA) is in the process of developing a multi-year work plan for the sector through to 2020, reflecting the direction provided in the national strategy. It will focus specifically on clearance of contaminated district sub-areas that have been identified as development priorities by the Government. At the same time, the NRA will ensure that operators continue to address, on a rapid-response basis, all situations of high risk, throughout the country.

2014 has been characterized by a difficult funding situation, affecting the UXO sector as a whole. Funding within UXO Lao reached a critical point this year, and the NRA will face a similar situation at the beginning of 2015. This situation led to reductions in the number of UXO Lao clearance personnel, but it has also led to new strategic thinking. For example, a new Concept of Operations has been introduced, which will reinforce evidence-based survey and focus efforts on the clearance of Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHA). This Concept of Operations is in line with the UXO Contamination Assessment procedures currently developed and tested under the leadership of the NRA, with other humanitarian clearance operators.

NRA ACTIVITIES BY UNIT IN 2014:

In 2014, the NRA met most of the targets stated in its Annual Work Plan for 2014. It has continued to perform its important role in the UXO sector, coordinating, regulating and monitoring the work of UXO sector operators, and has contributed to maximizing the performance of the sector as a whole. The NRA continues to assist the Government in achieving UNDAF Outcome 9, in a manner consistent with the Safe Path Forward II (SPF II) and the achievement of MDG 9 (reduce the impact of UXO).

Risk Education:

There are two key results to highlight in this area. Firstly, UXO Education textbooks for primary school were updated in 2014; the NRA Office encourages all operators to coordinate with the education department in contaminated provinces and districts before conducting risk education activities in schools. Secondly, the broadcasting of UXO information and risk education messages was extended from 2 to 4 provinces.

Achievements and challenges were reviewed by the NRA and operators through four Risk Education Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings, which also discussed coordination, work planning and priorities for the sector.

With relation to the strategic objective of the UXO Sector Strategy "Safe Path Forward II" to reduce annual UXO casualties to below 75, this was achieved in 2014, with 45 casualties recorded from 22 accidents. Of these, 29 resulted in injuries and 16 resulted in deaths. Children represent the majority of the casualties, making up 65%.

According to accident reports, the two main causes of these accidents follow the pattern of recent years - playing with UXO and the setting of fires over sub-surface UXO. The Risk Education approach is focused on these two causes.

Victim Assistance Unit:

Victim assistance is one area where the NRA has given more attention-but still needs to do much more to ensure better service, broader coverage and a more timely response to the full range of needs of survivors-physical, psycho-social and economic. The goal remains their full rehabilitation and reintegration as productive members of their communities. A specific UXO Victim Assistance Strategy for the NRA has been developed and approved on 14th February 2014. This document was designed as a tool to guide the NRA Victim Assistance unit to assist UXO

victims within the broader disability and development frameworks in Lao PDR.

The number of UXO victims was down again for a 6th year in succession from 302 in 2008, to 41 in 2013 and in 2014 there are 45 casualties. 2013 is the lowest annual figure recorded since the Indochina war. The steady decline is in part due to ongoing Risk Education efforts, UXO removal and an increase in the range of safe income generation options which has reduced risk taking behavior.

In 2014, the unit also organized a Charity Golf event to raise funds to support UXO survivors. These activities were attended by a large cross section of Government, UXO operators both humanitarian and commercial and other private sector enterprises.



H.E. Mr. Bounyang Vorachith, Vice President of Lao PDR has joined with pleasure.

Clearance Unit:

In 2014, the various approaches to survey were assessed, tested and the evidence-based survey procedures were revised. A number of important changes were made. NRA Clearance unit organized a final consultation meeting on 29th August 2014 with humanitarian clearance operators (UXO Lao, MAG, NPA, HI and Halo Trust) at which it was agreed to produce a "Lao PDR UXO Survey Procedures" document. The first pilot project was started in Xieng Khouang province by UXO Lao and MAG, in Savannakhet province by UXO Lao, HI and Halo Trust and in Sekong province by NPA.

Accordingly, the NRA is now applying a land-release methodology appropriate to the Lao PDR context, which will enable a focus on clearance efforts through "evidence-based survey process". In September 2014, a trial survey was completed with positive results which showed the utility of the new national survey procedures. At the Policy Forum and UXO Sector Working Group at ICTC, the Clearance Unit presented



an update on the trial of the new UXO Contamination Assessment Procedures and on data collected for UXO survey and clearance in the focal development areas.

In November, the Clearance Unit participated in the NRA Board Meeting for 2014 and reported on progress made with the new evidence-based survey procedures. It was approved, but the board directed that if there is an issue in the implementation then the NRA will have to revise accordingly. The NRA intends to dedicate more assets in the UXO sector for survey and to give priority, as directed by the government, to 64 areas that have been identified as focal development areas and 167 rural areas identified for stabilization for settlement and secure livelihoods, in keeping with the 5 year Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Plan 2010-2015

Following the direction of the NRA chairman in the workshop called “UXO coordination, work planning and budgeting strengthening with provincial authorities across the country” who informed operators that priority will be placed on focal development areas and resettlement areas. In 2014, the unit continued to cooperate with the National Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Committee, NRA board members and met with the Borlikhamxay, Khammouane, Savannaket, Salavan and Sekong Provincial Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Division and relevant operators to discuss UXO Clearance Plans in the provinces-especially in provincial focal development areas. The clearance team also visited the sites of focal development areas in Phanam and Jalat, Lungkang and Nongma-Namjala in Khammouane, Pajoudon, Atouk, Nonhkae, Kokmoung-Kamap Focal Development Areas in Salavane - Silivangvern Focal Development Areas in Sekong. Those are used for settlement and stable Livelihoods. NRA was also provided with relevant maps and GPS information for some focal development areas.

In 2014, the Clearance Technical Working Group Meetings did not take place in Q3 and Q4. The meetings were partially replaced by the discussions at the Policy Forum, which involved the same stakeholders as the CL Technical Working Group. However, key topics which had been planned for discussion for the third and fourth TWG meetings were discussed at the Policy Forum and UXO Sector Working Group.

In the year 2014, a total of 6,754 hectares of land were cleared. These included 3,471 hectares of agricultural land and 3,282 of development land. This illustrates a significant change in favor of clearing land for agriculture rather than development, due to a focus on development priority areas identified by the Government of Lao PDR. The use of cleared land is

an important factor in the effectiveness of UXO work in addressing livelihoods issues and should continue to be monitored closely and reported upon clearly to Development Partners. The operators in Lao PDR destroyed more than 79,440 items of UXO, of which 396 were bombs, 45,185 were bombies, 263 were mines, and 33,596 were other UXO items.

Research Unit:

The Research Unit has focused on activities that advance international cooperation, including establishing and reviewing Memoranda of Understanding with operators and the preparation of project proposals for the consideration of donors. In addition, the Unit prepared the annual Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) Article 7 transparency report.

In 2014, the unit also reviewed MoU of operators, considering the MoU as a tool of mutual accountability between NRA and operators, and for compliance by operators with applicable Lao laws. These included: NPA (DFID funding), Halo Trust (DFID funding), MAG amendment to MOU (with additional funds from DFID for 3 months) and MAG MOU (supported by EU and World Vision). APOPO replaced SODI in the beginning of 2014, but this organization continued to face several difficulties and challenges, especially due to the change in funding regulations by the German Federal Foreign, APOPO could not continue their activities in Q3. In addition, the unit also conducted the monitoring of humanitarian operators to ensure compliance with signed MOUs and CCM.

With regards to help prepare domestic legislation to be compliant with CCM, including the recruitment of a local legal consultant, It was delayed in 2014 due to a delay in the contracting between the local consultant and UNDP.

in 2014, the CCM intercessional meeting took place under the Presidency of Wylbur Simuusa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zambia and President of the Fourth Meeting of States Parties. The Lao delegation informed on the developments of the sector at the international level; and raised awareness about the need to support the UXO sector in Lao PDR, in addition to formally representing Lao PDR.

From the 2-5 September 2014, the Lao delegation participated in the 5th MSP of the CCM meeting, under the Presidency of Manuel Antonio Gonzalez Sanz, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Costa Rica. The Lao delegation made substantive statements in all key sessions and co-chaired the Working Group on Clearance.

Information Management Unit:

The NRA maintains the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database for the UXO sector in Lao PDR. In 2014, the IM unit continued to enter and validate historic and current data from UXO Sector operators and to encourage and enable operators to gradually move to electronic reporting. In 2014, 76% of the operators (13 among 17) are reporting electronically to the NRA Office. The IM unit also responded to requests for information from various stakeholders, including whether or not a specific area is contaminated or the provision of clearance statistics.

In 2014, collected information on development focus areas for UXO survey and clearance is available at NRA. NRA was provided with relevant maps and GPS information for some development focus areas. Between the 21 and 22 October 2014, the IM and Clearance Units presented data collected for UXO survey and clearance in the focus development areas, and also updated on the progress of the trial for the new UXO Contamination Assessment Procedures.

After a regional workshop to introduce IMSMA (Information Management System for Mine Action) Version 6 held in December 2013 in Vientiane. In February 2014, the Advisor and Coordinator of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) had an opportunity to evaluate the software and assess the work to upgrade to IMSMA version 6 in Lao PDR. Some highlights include updated terminology, vastly extended functionality for Victim Assistance, online interactive manuals, revamped and simplified reporting approach.

Public Relations:

In 2014, the Public Relations (PR) Unit facilitated many important events, including International UN Day for Mine/UXO Action on 4th April and celebrate the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) on 1 August. With regard to international UN Day for Mine/UXO Action on 4th April, 2014, NRA only hanged the visual banner across the main streets around Vientiane capital and several articles were published in local newspapers (Vientiane Times and Lao language newspapers) concerning the 4th April celebration, and the achievements of the various operators active in the UXO Sector. This annual event aims to raise awareness of the continuing humanitarian threat and obstacle to development posed by UXO and to promote commitment to a world free from the threat of UXO.

To celebrate the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) on 1st August, we welcomed the new UNDP Deputy Resident Representative to

Lao PDR Ms Azusa Kubota, who delivered a speech together with H.E. Mr. Bounheuang Douangphachanh Minister of the Prime Minister's Office, and President of the National Committee for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication, Chairman of the National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR. This event was attended by a broad audience of Government, UXO operators both humanitarian and commercial and other private sector enterprises, with a total of around 120 people.

In February 2014, PR unit recruited new PR technician and started effectively to work in March 2014. He has worked with NRA IT technician to update and to improve the website contents, and especially the newsfeed.

The NRA has space for a UXO display at the Lao National Museum in Vientiane. In 2014, the NRA Public Relations unit associated with the Lao National Library, to further improve the knowledge on UXO problem by distributing 50 books of UXO Sector Annual Report 2013 both Lao and English versions.

In 2014, PR unit also collaborated with UNDP to produce the Film on UNDP Goodwill Ambassador. The aim of this documentary film is to highlight the importance of the UXO issue in Lao PDR and also was shown on the 4th Anniversary of the Entry into Force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. In October, NRA sent a request to Mass Media Department, Ministry of Information Culture and Tourism (MICT) as NRA Board member and received authorization for the broadcasting of the film entitled 'One Day at the Time - Alexandra on the Bombie Trail'.

In 2014, 1,000 copies of UXO Sector Annual Report 2013 (500 English and 500 Lao versions) were printed and distributed to line ministries, donors, international organizations and operators. <http://www.nra.gov.la/> in the section "Resources".



"Press Conference" to celebrate the 2014 International UXO/Mine Awareness Day, 4th April 2014.



Group photo on the occasion to celebrate the Entry into Force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), 1st August 2014, at ICTC.

Programme Unit:

The programme unit is responsible to prepare drafting of funding proposals and the narrative and financial reporting obligations for donors, UN agencies, and other stakeholders. The unit manages the preparation of narrative reports for Lao Government, drafting of the NRA annual report, produce the UNDP quarterly report, and consolidate the internal monthly reports from all NRA units. Furthermore, it acts as a key role to consolidating of the UNDP Annual Work Plan and Annual Project Report to ensure the follow up of the implementation of the NRA annual work plan. Beside that, it also progress monitoring and recommendations to management and manage the liaison with different Lao Government Ministries and authorities, UNDP, and other stakeholders.

On 28-29 January, the unit organized the workshop “Strengthening UXO coordination, work planning and budgeting with provincial authorities across the country”. It was attended by the NRA at central level, UXO Lao headquarters, line ministries, relevant provincial departments including the planning department, NRA provincial coordination officials and UXO Lao provincial coordination officials. The aim was to better coordinate and regulate the UXO sector and to have a better understanding of the role and responsibilities of the NRA at the national and provincial levels. After the meeting, NRA submitted to all participants the minutes of the meeting and a new draft of the role and responsibilities of provincial steering committees with respect to UXO issues. Some provinces indicated they were ready for a transfer of responsibility to the Provincial Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Division.

On 24th March 2014, the Programme Unit helped to organize the NRA Board meeting which was attended by NRA Boards members from line ministries who are chosen to address the UXO problem in Lao PDR, NRA, UXO Lao and UNDP Resident Representative Mr. Minh Pham and his team. The aim of the meeting was to report on the activities in 2013 and present the work plan for 2014 of NRA and UXO Lao; to present on UXO Contamination Assessment Procedures; contributions received and the use of the funds administered by UNDP; present on Victim Assistance Strategy (approved on 14 February 2014) and Civil Society Funding Facility (CSFF) concept note.



NRA Board Meeting for 2014, at Lao Plaza Hotel.

On 25 March 2014, based on the agreement between NRA and UNDP at the Trust Fund Steering Committee in 2013 to streamline the Annual Review, UXO Trust Fund Steering Committee and Project Board Meetings the NRA together with UNDP organized joint meetings which were attended by line ministries, Trust Fund contributors, donor countries, UNDP, NRA and UXO Lao.

On 26 March 2014, the first UXO Sector Working Group (SWG) of the year took place. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Bounheang Douangphanh, Minister to the Prime Minister’s Office, President of the National Leading Committee for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication and Chairman of the NRA Board (Chair), Mr. Daniel Clune, Ambassador of United States of America to Lao PDR (Co-Chair) and Mr. Minh Pham, UNDP Resident Representative in Lao PDR (Co-Chair). The meeting was attended by the same participants as the Annual Review Meeting plus some line ministries and UXO operators. The highlights included the 2013/2014 UXO Sector Progress Report and UXO Sector Action Plan, victim assistance strategy and the new UXO Contamination Assessment Procedures.



The first UXO Sector Working Group (SWG) for 2014.

On 26-28 August 2014, the NRA organized a workshop on UXO management for provincial authorities across the country. This workshop was attended by the same participants as the first meeting held in January. The aim was to train the person who is in charge for UXO management in their own provinces for better understanding on who is doing what between NRA centre and NRA provincial level. NRA management also highlighted to NRA provincial that the workshop was not aimed at listening to what the NRA centre had done but aimed to encourage provincial authorities to implement the correct role and act as UXO provincial authorities to control and to manage the UXO Sector because provincial staff are more familiar with the local realities in the provinces. In addition, the NRA Office also shared a new draft monthly report for provinces which includes substantive contents needed to be reported to NRA centre, especially, in the area of international staff's working, MRE, VA and Survey and Clearance. After the workshop, some provincial representatives met with NRA centre again for more learning on UXO work planning and budgeting, especially, how to budget for UXO clearance annually for development projects and how money will be used and where it will come from.

On 21 October 2014, the UXO Sector Policy Forum was organized (in addition to 3 TWGs) on Policy, Coordination and Planning. More than 80 stakeholders participated, including Lao Government officials, development partners, UXO operators and technical advisers. Key topics discussed in the meeting included a progress update on data collected for UXO survey and clearance in the focus development areas; a progress update on the trial of the new UXO Contamination Assessment Procedures; the dissemination of the data collected on the needs of UXO survivors, and linkage with



The second UXO Sector Working Group (SWG) for 2014.

broader disability sector initiatives; the Capacity Assessment exercise of NRA and UXO Lao; a progress update on the Civil Society Funding Facility (CSFF). The Policy Forum this year intended to complement the Sector Working Group Meetings to further advance communication and discussion among key actors in the UXO Sector. The NRA hopes that such Policy Forum will address broad issues of common interest in the Sector, in an environment conducive to substantive discussion and debate.

On 22 October 2014, the NRA together with the US embassy in Lao PDR and UNDP held the second UXO Sector Working Group Meeting (SWG). The meeting was chaired by the Minister to the Prime Minister's Office, President of the National Leading Committee for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication and Chairman of the NRA Board (Chair), the Ambassador of United States of America to Lao PDR (Co-Chair) and the new UNDP Resident Representative in Lao PDR Mrs. Kaarina Immonen (Co-Chair). This meeting was designed to inform and discuss progress with Sector Working Group members prior to the Round Table Meeting in November. Key topics discussed in the meeting included the 2014/2015 UXO Sector Progress Report; the Fifth Meeting of States parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) which took place in Costa Rica in September 2014; progress update on data collected for UXO survey and clearance in the focus development areas; progress update on the trial of the new UXO Contamination Assessment Procedures; dissemination of the data collected on the needs of UXO survivors, and linkage with broader disability sector initiatives; the Capacity Assessment exercise of NRA and UXO Lao; and a progress update on the Civil Society Funding Facility (CSFF).

Quality Management Unit:

The unit continued to process accreditation of all operators



(including NGOs, commercial operators and the Lao Army), to ensure compliance with the National Standards. In 2014, there were 17 accredited clearance operators (5 humanitarian, 12 commercial).

In 2014, the QA/QC Unit inspected the work of UXO Lao, HI, NPA and MAG in UXO contaminated provinces. The missions found that some operators faced the same issues as in 2013 regarding equipment for UXO disposal. Radios, white phosphorous protection equipment and safety jackets for boat travel were inadequate, medical equipment was not available in the medic list and when any UXO has been found during conducting clearance in the site, it should have a sand bag put on it. The NRA recommended that operators have to provide adequate materials and equipment to conduct the work safely and in accordance with SOPs and in order to avoid accidents in the field. Some operators adjusted their Concept of Operations from focusing the CMRS into both working on CMRS and full clearance operations.

UPDATE ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING:

The Gender and Mine Action Programme (GMAP) undertook the assessment of the Gender for UXO sector in Vientiane, Lao PDR. It was the second collaboration between the NRA and GMAP after a one-day workshop for NRA staff in May 2013 on mainstreaming gender in UXO programming.

The assessment included an analysis of issues internal to the organization but also an analysis of operations through self-assessment, Focus Group discussions (Female Group / Male Group) and individual interviews mainly with NRA staff but also with some INGOs. Full details are in the report.

PARTNERSHIPS AND SUPPORT:

In 2014, UNDP supported the strengthening of the NRA through the facilitation of a Capacity Assessment (CA), which formed concrete recommendations and activities for the NRA to undertake to strengthen the capacity of the body to coordinate the UXO sector in line with the development priorities and international obligations of Lao PDR. UNDP also provided Technical Advisors to support the NRA's strategic direction and operational management.

NRA Capacity Assessment:

UNDP facilitated a capacity self-assessment of the NRA Office through the deployment of a Senior Policy Advisor, Mr. Terrence Jones, in Q2 of 2014. The aim was to review and assess current capacity within the NRA and to develop concrete plans to improve the NRA's capacity to more effectively and efficiently fulfill its mandates. This was an opportunity for the NRA to present a vision for the future.

A Capacity Development Strategy and Action Plan for 2014 – 2016 was drafted, with 16 Action Points proposed for discussion. The NRA has considered the recommendations and is in the process of prioritizing the steps needed to fulfil the recommendations of the assessment. The NRA presented the main recommendations at the Policy Forum on 21 October 2014, when the draft report was also shared with relevant stakeholders. UNDP also used this opportunity to review and assess the capacities that have been built with UNDP support to date, and to identify those which require further support.

Provision of Technical Advisors:

UNDP Technical Advisors have continued to support the development of Lao national capacity to undertake the full range of activities in the UXO/Mine Action Sector primarily in the areas of donor relations, resource mobilization, programme and financial management.

A Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) supported the NRA full-time for the first half of 2014, and after his departure part-time/ad-hoc support was provided by UNDP UXO Portfolio Manager and CTA to UXO Lao. UNDP provided assistance in:

- sector coordination, strategic planning and policy development processes;
- participation in international forums of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
- new initiatives in 2014 such as the development of a concept note with supporting documents on the establishment of a Civil Society Funding Facility;
- the preparation of multi-year work plans to implement the UXO sector strategy;
- input to communications products (including UNDP Brochure, UXO Sector Annual Reports, UXO sector fact sheets);
- preparation for, participating in and following up on the Annual Sector Working Group meeting and the quarterly Technical Working Group meetings, as well as ad hoc staff meetings in NRA.

The NRA was also supported through the provision of a Technical Advisor for Programme and Finance throughout 2014. The TA supported the NRA in the areas of:

- strategic advice on all matters relating to finance and programming;
- the strengthening of financial oversight;
- improvement of the financial management capacity of the NRA;
- coaching of the Finance Unit in strategic financial management, budget preparation, internal monitoring of more than 286 financial transactions, variance analysis, and financial reporting;
- appropriate response to audit recommendations;
- continuous improvement of the coordination of support services, including financial management, human resources management and procurement;
- the development of the 2014 Annual Work Plan;
- the monitoring of the 2014 Annual Work Plan implementation;
- capacity development of the Programme Unit, particularly in the areas of collecting and reporting more accurate information.
- Preparation of the 2013 UXO Sector Annual Report, quarterly reports and other donor reports; with focus on capturing the achievements of the sector and accurate financial data.

Results-Based Management:

On 4th December 2014, the NRA Office with support from UNDP facilitated a session on Results-Based Planning. This was supported by Ms. Kamolmas Jaiyen, an Evaluation & RBM Specialist from UNDP's Bangkok Regional Hub. The training aimed to strengthen knowledge of NRA staff and understanding of UNDP supported project management teams and staff on results-based management, to help the NRA on preparation for 2015 Results-Focused Project Annual Work Plan, to assist NRA in preparing a monitoring plan to effectively monitor annual results including the use of effective indicators.

For the NRA, the 2014 Annual Work Plan was not fully funded (8% of the 2014 AWP was not funded), but the actual expenditure was adapted to available means. The real challenge is for 2015 with limited confirmed funding so far, and especially for the

first quarter 2015 (current funding perspectives are too limited to cover the operating costs of the NRA). UNDP is working to support the NRA in ensuring that incoming funds in 2015 are adequate to cover the costs outlined in the Annual Work Plan.

On 6 June 2014, the US Ambassador Daniel Clune met the Director of NRA, Mr. Phoukhieo Chanthasomboune at the NRA Office. The aim of this visit was to make the announcement of the increase funding for the UXO Sector in Lao PDR. The United States is strengthening its commitment to the UXO sector in Laos by increasing its assistance to \$12 million this year.

The Government of Korea committed to support the UXO Sector for 3 years with a total grant 3,000,000 USD (2015-2017). Based on the series of consultations amongst NRA, KOICA and UNDP, a revised project proposal and a number of supporting documents and grant submission formats have been developed. This work will continue in early 2015.

The Republic of China, through the NRA, provided equipment for UXO victim assistance in Lao PDR, valued at 3 M Chinese Yuan (278,000 USD). This equipment has been distributed to provincial hospitals in UXO contaminated provinces.

In 2014, the NRA also collaborated closely with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHHD) which provided valuable training which:

- Strengthened capacity within the UXO Sector (NRA, UXO Lao, operators) in Quality Management.
- Strengthened capacity and understanding in the area of contacting and liability for provincials. (two workshops were held in March 2014, adapted to different audiences from each UXO contaminated province. Participants included representatives from Education and Sport Dept, Agricultural and Forestry Dept, Planning and Investment Dept, Health Dept, Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Dept, NRA coordination and UXO Lao offices. Total number of participants was 93 people.
- With support of GICHHD, on 12-16 May 2014, 2 NRA staff attended the South East Local Consultant Orientation workshop in Geneva, Switzerland. In addition, on 8-12 September 2014, 3 NRA staff also attended the Management of Residual Explosive Remnants of War (MORE) regional workshop in Hanoi, Vietnam. The MORE project explores the development of policy and practice in response to the presence of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in countries still contaminated by pre-1945 conflicts. It aims to inform today's decision makers and promote change in the ways countries affected by more recent wars, particularly in Southeast Asia, apply measures to mitigate the hazards of residual ERW.



2014 NRA FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial contributions to the NRA and expenditure in 2014 (USD).

<i>Donors</i>	<i>2014 Contributions</i>	<i>2014 Expenditure</i>
UNDP	1,157,414	1,313,969
Sterling International	133,392	134,029
MAG	4,000	4,222
Total 2014	1,294,806	1,452,220

Funding channeled through UNDP - Breakdown per donor for the year 2014 (USD).

<i>Donors</i>	<i>2014 Contributions</i>	<i>2014 Expenditure</i>
Australia	0	85,929
European Union	180,073	117,381
France	0	-
Ireland	235,324	413,411
Switzerland	616,017	571,248
United Kingdom (DFID)	0	-
UNDP TRAC Fund	126,000	126,000
Total 2014	1,157,414	1,313,969

Donor Contributions to the NRA through UNDP Lao PDR, 2003 - 2014 (USD):

<i>Donors</i>	<i>2014 Contributions</i>	<i>2003-2014 Contributions</i>
Australia	0	2,624,844
Canada	0	81,161
European Union	180,073	397,233
France	0	54,867
Ireland	235,324	1,500,243
New Zealand	0	450,907
Switzerland	616,017	2,876,017
United Kingdom (DFID)	0	652,478
United States of America	0	95,238
UNDP TRAC Fund	126,000	2,132,129
Total	1,157,414	10,865,117

OPERATOR REPORTS

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. HALO Trust (HALO)

Commercial Clearance Operators

1. ASA Power Engineering Co., Ltd (ASA)
2. Phonhsackda UXO Clearance Co., Ltd (PSD)
3. Sibounhueang UXO Clearance Co., Ltd (SBH)
4. Lao BSL UXO Clearance Co., Ltd (Lao BSL)
5. Bactec Lao Ltd (BACTEC)
6. Milsearch Lao EOD Sole Company Limited (Milsearch)
7. Engineering Department, Ministry of National Defence associated with MMG LXML (MMG)

Victim Assistance and Risk Education Operators

1. Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
2. World Education (WE)
3. Quality of Life Association (QLA)
4. Cooperative Prosthetic and Orthotic Enterprise (COPE)
5. Spirit of Soccer (SoS)

HUMANITARIAN CLEARANCE ORGANIZATIONS



HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL (HI)

Handicap International

HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL is working since 1996 in the UXO sector in Lao PDR. The most important added value of the organization is to have an integrated approach operating in Mine Risk Education, Explosive Ordnance Clearance, Victim Assistance and Advocacy at local, national and international levels. This combined approach enhances the reduction of the risk of accident by improving the targeting of at-risk areas while sensitizing at-risk population.

Activities in 2014:

In 2014, HI continues its intervention in the three districts of Nong, Sepone and Vilabuly, Savannakhet province, thanks to the financial support of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union, the Agence Francaise de Developpment and HI's private donators. HI's activities in Lao PDR cover 4 out of the 5 Mine Action pillars (Mine Risk Education, Explosive Ordnance Clearance, Victim Assistance and Advocacy). Activities are implemented through a comprehensive approach which allows reducing the threat posed by UXOs while reducing the vulnerability of population towards this threat.

Non-Technical / Technical Survey:

In 2014, HI has completed the District Focus Survey in Vilabuly district (which was already completed in Nong and Sepone districts in 2012 and 2013, respectively). Overall, the UXO contamination and its socio-economic impact have been surveyed in more than 220 villages and it led to the destruction of thousands of UXOs as well as the huge enrichment of the evidence point database. In the second semester 2014, HI has started implementing Technical Survey, in line with the Lao UXO survey procedures; three sections are now operational.

Roving spot task:

Where there are UXOs reported (by HI field teams or external sources), one permanent roving section is deployed for further disposal of the UXOs. In 2014, 1,158 UXOs have been destroyed through roving intervention in 46 villages.

Clearance:

Six clearance sections are deployed on sites prioritized based on two main criteria that are the evidence-based UXO contamination and the perspective for a development project. HI is working in close coordination with the district authorities, with the development partners (e.g. Welthungerhilfe; Poverty Reduction Fund) and the communities to identify realistic and feasible development projects at community and household levels, like the construction of schools, health centers, extension of rice paddy or again gardens. In 2014, 67 hectares of lands have been cleared benefitting to more than 13,000 beneficiaries.

Risk Education:

In 2014, HI has implemented community-based risk education session (safety briefing in group sessions gender and age-orientated, door-to-door visits and movie events) in 40 villages. It has allowed delivering direct UXO risk education messages to 13,000 beneficiaries, including 45% of women/girls and 53% of children. In addition, HI has developed a partnership with the NRA and the Ministry and Education and Sports for the implementation of school-based risk education activities as part of the national curriculum at primary school level.



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



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

Victim Assistance:

After completed the baseline survey in 2013, the Victim Assistance (VA) Project started its livelihoods intervention in early 2014 (identification of beneficiaries, formulation of individualized business plan, provision of in-kind grants and training to support the business/Income Generating Activities start up). Follow-up of 104 persons with disabilities including 25% of UXO survivors benefitted from it. In collaboration with LDPA, five sessions of Disability Rights and Equality Training (DTET) were provided to local authorities at village, district and provincial level, for a total of 135 participants.

Community Liaison:

All activities are supported by community liaison done before, during and after activities, with the contribution of community volunteers. HI pays attention to the involvement of communities at all stages of all activities to ensure their adherence and contribution to the project.

Advocacy:

In 2014, HI has continued its support to the Laos Ban Advocates, a group of eight UXO survivors that are particularly active in advocacy on the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), the Mine Ban Treaty (MBT) as well as the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). The Ban Advocates also organized some major events (“Lend Your Leg” campaign in April to celebrate the UN International Day for UXO/Mine Awareness and Assistance; reception in August 2014 to celebrate the anniversary of the CCM) and participated to some others (International Ban Advocates workshop in Vietnam; Lao National Workshop to disseminate the Lao Disability Decree 137).

Key achievements in 2014:

As planned in 2013, HI has significantly increased in 2014 its volume of staff from 4 EOD sections (3 for clearance and 1 for roving) to 10 sections (3 for technical survey, 6 for clearance and 1 for roving). It has resulted in a significant increase of HI’s support to the UXO-affected communities in the three districts of intervention.

With regards to survey: In December, HI has organized a provincial workshop to present the Lao UXO survey procedures to the provincial and district authorities as well as to the development partners, with the support of the NRA representatives from Vientiane and Savannakhet. This step was really important for the local stakeholders to understand and adhere to these procedures and to further promote their participation to and acceptance of the prioritization and planning process.

With regards to clearance: Efforts were pursued on the prioritization and planning process to target areas that are not only UXO-contaminated but also where perspectives for development projects to be achieved and responding to the expectations of local stakeholders are. Efforts kept being fruitful, with 96% of lands that are proven to be used as initially intended 6 to 8 months after clearance.

With regards to Risk Education: HI has developed a tri-partite partnership agreement with the NRA and with the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) to support the implementation at local levels of the UXO Risk Education in primary schools. In 2014, the first implementing steps consisted on the printing of teaching materials validated by the MoES as well as the training of trainers from Provincial/District Education offices by the MoES, to which HI Risk Officers also attended to. In 2015, HI will support the training of 300 teachers by the District Education Offices, which would indirectly allow the delivery of Risk Education messages to about 10,000 children enrolled in primary schools.

With regards to Victim Assistance: An assessment on barriers to priority services for persons with disabilities including UXO survivors has been completed in Nong and Sepone districts with service providers. This initial assessment will be followed by the implementation, in 2015, of the barrier assessment action plan to improve the access of UXO survivors and persons with disabilities to the available services.

With regards to advocacy: On 1st of August, HI has organized in Vientiane an event to celebrate the entry into force of the CCM. It was a great time for the authorities, the donors, the humanitarian actors as well

as UXO survivors to get together, discuss and renew their commitment in fighting against the UXO threat.

The good news: Nouay, 18, cluster munition victim and deminer.

When he was eight years old, Nouay was gathering stones on a river bank in his village, in Sepone district, Savannakhet province. When he picked up what he thought was a slightly larger stone, it was actually a cluster munition. When Nouay dropped it, it exploded. Nouay lost four fingers on his right hand and kept scars on his body and face.

As a young UXO survivor, he accepted 6 years ago to become one of four actors in an UXO awareness film produced by Handicap International in partnership with UNICEF; this film which is still screened in villages in Laos today.

In 2014, the paths of Nouay and Handicap International crossed again. In March, he applied to become one of the organisation’s deminers. When asked about his motivation, Nouay answered: “I wanted to help rid my country of these weapons. It’s really important to me. I also want everyone to understand that the main victims of these weapons are children who didn’t live through the war, like me at the time.” Because HI’s team members are sensitized about the fact that there’s still a deep-seated prejudice against people with disabilities and that it would have been difficult for Nouay to find a job, he has been given a chance after having proven his line manager his ability to work as a deminer as anyone else.

“I’m not scared of working with cluster munitions every day - even though they turned my life upside down,” says Nouay. “Unfortunately, I know what an accident does to a person and it’s made me even more determined to find and destroy these cluster munitions.” Although the youngest member of the clearance team, Nouay is just as conscientious and motivated as everyone else.

Focus areas of work in 2015:

Through its experienced comprehensive approach in Mine Action, HI will pursue its efforts in making a safer and socio-economically more sustainable environment to the UXO-affected communities in Savannakhet province: Risk Education, Survey, Roving and Clearance, Victim Assistance, Advocacy.

In addition, HI’s main objectives for 2015 are:

- To increase Technical Survey capacities so as to quickly check the hundreds and hundreds of evidence points identified through the District Focus Survey.



- To develop a community-based risk management strategy to allow the population to cope with the UXO residual risk in a sustainable way.
- To improve the access of UXO survivors and persons with disabilities to the available priority services.

It is worth noting that the Laos Ban Advocates project will be ended in March 2015. As part of its mandate, HI will however continue its work on advocacy from local to international levels.

Implementing Partners:

- National Regulatory Authority (NRA) Vientiane
- National Regulatory Authority (NRA) Savannakhet Provincial Office
- National Committee for Disabled People and Elderly (NCDE)
- Ministry of Education and Sports
- Provincial and Districts authorities
- Development organizations (Poverty Reduction Fund, Welthungerhilfe, etc)
- Lao Disabled People’s Association (LDPA)
- District Agriculture and forestry Office (DAFO) of Nong and Sepone Districts

Personnel in 2014:

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
National		International		National		International	
Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
15	11	2	1	90	40	1	2

Detailed statistic figures in 2014:

<i>MINE RISK EDUCATION Community Awareness</i>					<i>VICTIM ASSISTANCE No. of people who re- ceived assistance</i>		<i>UXO Survey</i>		<i>UXO Roving</i>	
Beneficiaries					Financial	Medical	Villages	Time of Visits	Villages	Time of Visits
Time of visits	Men	Women	Boy	Girl						
40	2,659	3,392	3,693	3190	140 people which include of 25 UXO survivors (22 males and 3 females)	0	68	68	46	58

Area cleared:

<i>Clearance (Ha)</i>			<i>Technical Survey (Ha)</i>		
Agriculture	Development	Total area	Agriculture	Development	<i>Total area</i>
44.75	21.28	66.57	0	0	0

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

Technical survey outside of the CHA (Ha)	Number of CHA established	Total area of CHA established (Ha)
180	N/A	31

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

<i>UXO Removed/Destroyed</i>					
Task	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	<i>Total</i>
Roving	24	813	0	321	1,158
Clearance	0	409	0	725	1,134
Technical Survey	0	125	0	44	169



Geographic operations:

Activity	Provinces/districts of Lao PDR where the activities were implemented
Area clearance	Savannakhet province: 3 districts of Nong, Sepone and Vilabuly
Survey and Roving clearance	Savannakhet province: 3 districts of Nong, Sepone and Vilabuly
Risk Education	Savannakhet province: 3 districts of Nong, Sepone and Vilabuly
Victim Assistance	Savannakhet province: 2 districts of Nong and Sepone
Other: Advocacy	Ban Advocates in Vientiane, Khammouane, Savannakhet and Xiengkhouang provinces

Financials: Expenditure for 2014: (USD)

Item	Amount
Personnel costs	1,509,201
Operational costs	740,049
Equipment – expendable	102,758
Equipment – non-expendable	0
Total	2,352,008

Donor contributions for 2014: (USD)

Donor	Contribution received in 2014
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Office	947,267
European Union	702,291
Agence Francaise de Developpement	467,764
MoFA Norway	133,886
HI own funds	100,801
Total	2,352,008



JAPAN MINE ACTION SERVICE (JMAS)

Activities in 2014:

UXO Clearance in Attapue Province:

Technical transfer and UXO clearance. JMAS transferred EOD techniques and conducted UXO clearance with UXO Lao in Attapue province.

UXO Clearance in Champasack and Saravan Provinces

JMAS secured the land from UXO with private UXO clearance company. The land is used for agricultural land by a Japanese company.

Key achievements in 2014:

UXO Clearance in Attapue Province:

JMAS technical Advisor advised and transferred EOD techniques to UXO Lao in Attapue province. JMAS complete 3 year project in Attapue province.

UXO Clearance in Champasack and Salavan Provinces:

JMAS completed securing 200 hectares of land in Champasack and Saravane provinces and cleared 129 UXOs with a private UXO clearance company. In 2014, JMAS

completed the project and secured 607 Hectares of land for 3 years.

The Good News:

Method Authorization of Bomb cutting method with saw for UXO Lao SOP.

JMAS Technical Advisor will transfer the Technique of the method to UXO Lao for the new project. (Please see attachment for the photo of bomb cutting by saw)

Focus areas of work in 2015:

Technical transfer to UXO Lao and rebuilding the uxo training center:

- JMAS Technical Advisor will provide training by lecture and on the job training to UXO Lao staff including the bomb cutting method with saw.
- Facilities of Training center will be rebuilt.

Implementing Partners:

The Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)

Personnel in 2014:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
1	2	0	1	4	0	3	0

Geographic operations:

Activity	Provinces/districts of Lao PDR where the activities were implemented
Area clearance	Pakxong district-Champasak province. Salavan district-Salavan province and Attapue province.



Financials:

Expenditure for 2014: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	50,453.59
Operational costs	6 91,203.01
Special Operational costs	9,879.22
Equipment – expendable	6,658.07
Equipment – non-expendable	0
Total	758,193.89

Donor contributions for 2014: (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2014</i>
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan	758,193.89
Total	758,193.89



LAO NATIONAL UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE PROGRAMME (UXO LAO)

Activities in 2014:

2014 has seen important progress by UXO Lao in the areas of clearance, capacity development, adherence to national standards, and incorporation of new technologies for efficiency.

For the period 01 January to 31 December 2014, UXO Lao released 3,173 hectares of land through area clearance and technical survey activities reaching 239,053 beneficiaries in nine provinces. Within the reporting period, UXO Lao destroyed 55,738 items of UXO of which 25,805 were sub-munitions or bombies, through clearance, technical survey and roving tasks. Removal or destruction of UXO increases the safety 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 in accordance with national standards and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). 85% of cleared/released land by UXO Lao was agricultural land.

UXO Lao further conducted risk education activities in the nine provinces designed to increase the awareness of people living in UXO affected areas about the dangers of unexploded ordnance and to change the behaviour of 'high risk' target groups. During the reporting period, 608 risk education activities were conducted by UXO Lao staff and Village Volunteers and reached 196,420 people (including 53,275 women, 49,582 men, 46,789 boys and 46,774 girls).

Risk education activities are closely linked with survey activities by allowing villagers to assist survey teams in identifying the location of UXO. Furthermore, 1,603 roving tasks were conducted in 949 villages removing 15,501 items of UXO including 7,253 sub-munitions or bombies, with a response time of not more than two weeks from request to task completion.

UXO Lao's activities contribute not only to saving the lives of people living in areas of UXO contamination, but also increasingly to develop socio-economic opportunities in some of the poorest districts. In addition to areas cleared for agriculture, UXO Lao also contributes to the Lao Government's development projects, as well as those of other international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGO) to allow infrastructure development to happen including the establishment of irrigation projects, schools, hospitals, health centers, 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 7th Social-Economic Development Plan of Lao PDR.

Key achievements in 2014:

With regards to capacity development, 2014 saw a major step forward for UXO Lao with the conduct of a Capacity Assessment in June, facilitated by UNDP, which identified key areas to focus on to develop the capacity of the organization, and provided Action Points to pursue. Following the Capacity Assessment, a new Concept of Operations was developed for UXO Lao which incorporates an evidence-based survey methodology into the prioritization of clearance activities. This means that Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHA) are now the focus of clearance activities. The result of this will be that a much larger number of UXOs will be found and destroyed per hectare cleared. Combining this with a strategic focus on government focal areas will support the ongoing development of the country. This has occurred at the same time as ongoing development of a national standard on survey. Both of these processes were endorsed by the NRA board at their meeting in December 2014.

UXO Lao has also continued to train its staff in line with national standards, in order to ensure that safe practices are undertaken in clearance activities. Between January and December 2014, 201 people have graduated from various training courses organized at the UXO Lao Training Centre near Vientiane. It is worth mentioning that five students from UXO Lao graduated from the EOD level 4 – Senior EOD – training course run by the NRA with support from UXO Lao and other operators. This course generally runs every two or three years and provides the highest level of training possible for EOD operators in Lao PDR.

Development of the organisation's skill-base in the area of database management has also continued in 2014, which is aimed at better coordination of the sector as a whole in cooperation with the NRA.

At the same time as the positive developments in survey methodology within the sector, the UXO sector in Laos, and in particular UXO Lao, has come under significant financial pressure which has resulted in a requirement to scale down the size of the organization – from around 1,200 staff in January 2014, to around 1,000 at the end



of the year. In this context, the Capacity Assessment has highlighted areas within UXO Lao where improvements can be made for greater effectiveness and efficiency in an increasingly challenging environment. UXO Lao is predominantly funded and supported via a UNDP-managed Trust Fund.

Implementing Partners:

- Donor: Lao PDR, Japan, Australia, USA, EU, Canada, Norway, Belgium, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Luxemburg, Intrepid, Poland.
- Partner: UNDP, NPA, NRA, Aus Aid, JMAS, JICA, JICS, Sterling, World Without mine, CMAC.

<i>Activities</i>	<i>2014 Targets</i>	<i>2014 Achievements</i>
Clearance/ Technical Survey	3,490 Ha	3,173 Ha
Roving tasks	1,537 tasks	1,603 tasks
General Survey Tasks	1,789 tasks	2,331 tasks
Risk Education Activities	679 villages visited	608 villages visited

Personnel in 2014:

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>		<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
88	32	3	0	722	135	0	0

Detailed statistical figures in 2014:

<i>MINE RISK EDUCATION Community Awareness</i>					<i>VICTIM ASSISTANCE No. of people who received assistance</i>		<i>UXO Survey</i>		<i>UXO Roving</i>	
Beneficiaries					Financial	Medical	Villages	Time of Visits	Villages	Time of Visits
Time of visits	Men	Women	Boy	Girl						
608	49,582	53,275	46,789	46,774	-	-	1,336	2,331	949	1,603
Total	196,420									

Area cleared:

<i>Clearance (Ha)</i>			<i>Technical Survey (Ha)</i>		
Agriculture	Development	Total area	Agriculture	Development	Total area
2,261	829	3,090	77	6	83

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

Technical survey outside of the CHA (Ha)	Number of CHA established	Total area of CHA established (Ha)
		3,020

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	259	10,314	71	13,326	23,970
Clearance	26	15,491	78	16,063	31,658
Technical Survey				110	110

Geography of operations:

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Luang Prabang | 12 district | CA, SV, RV, CL and TS |
| 2. Huaphanh | 8 districts | CA, SV, RV, CL and TS |
| 3. Xiengkhuang | 5 districts | CA, SV, RV, CL and TS |
| 4. Khammuane | 7 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 | 7 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:

Donor contributions for 2014: (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Funding Received</i>
<i>Bilateral Fund (A)</i>	
US Department of State through NRA/Sterling	100,000
US Department of State through Sterling	1,640,100
Japan (JMAS)	103,428
Cleared JMAS (2011-2014)	314,221
Japan (GGP grant for grass root for peace keeping)	705,242
Japan (JICS)	1,111,588
World Without Mines	219,820
Poland	16,700
Intrepid travel foundation	1,596
<i>Total Bilateral Income received</i>	4,212,695
<i>Funding Through UNDP (B)</i>	
Luxembourg	204,082
Switzerland	753,000
Canada	452,489
New Zealand	1,911,699
Belgium	61,958
European Union	779,675
Norway	886,132
Australia Rural Livelihoods	511,073
Australia C/S	0
Ireland	400,000
Republic of Korea	20,000
<i>Total UNDP Income received</i>	5,980,108
<i>Total (A) + (B)</i>	10,192,803

2014 Interim Expenditure by Category*: (USD)

2014 INTERIM EXPENDITURE 2014 UXO LAO*			Expenditure (USD)
UNDP PROJECT UXO LAO	TRUST FUND	CANADA	452,489
		IRELAND	388,435
		LUXEMBOURG	159,582
		NEW ZEALAND	962,961
		SWITZERLAND (SDC)	1,055,165
	TOTAL TRUST FUND		3,018,632
	COST SHARING AGREEMENTS	AUSTRALIA C/S	513,242
		AUSTRALIA Rural Livelihood	376,923
		Belgium	133,489
		EU	568,202
		Norway	101,132
	TOTAL COST SHARING AGREEMENTS		1,692,988
	THEMATIC TRUST FUND	DFID	-
		REP. KOREA	55,000
UNDP RESOURCES	UNDP TRAC	-	
TOTAL UNDP RESOURCES		-	
UNDP TOTAL		4,766,620	
* expenditure as of 31 December, UNDP financial books officially close in December 2014			
BILATERAL FUNDS UXO LAO	JAPAN (GGP)		214,053
	JAPAN (JICS)		383,867
	JAPAN (JMAS)		25,486
	Clear JMAS(2011-2014)		314,221
	Sterling (Oct.14-Sep.15)		235,714
	Sterling (2002-2017)		936,828
	NRA/Sterling		99,999
	POLAND		480
	WWM		219,820
	Intrepid Foundation		4,622
	OTHER FUNDS* (such as payments from NGO, visitor center, Intereprid travel foundation, reimbursement for training of staff, etc)		
	TOTAL BILATERAL		2,435,090
TOTAL UXO LAO 2014		7,201,710	

*as of 31 December 2014. UNDP financial books officially close in December 2014



2014 Interim Expenditure by Category*

CATEGORIES	TOTAL UNDP + UXO LAO BILATERAL EXPENDITURE 2014
Personnel Cost	4,698,536
Trainings, Workshops and Events	150,913
Travel	79,321
Office Operating, Administrative Cost and Installation Cost	529,842
Transfers and grants to counterparts	97,500
Field Operating Cost	913,198
Equipment (Field & Office)	96,102
Consumables (such as batteries, explosives, etc)	137,054
Field Uniforms and Medical Equipment	104,782
Community Awareness Equipment Cost	51,628
UNDP General Management Support Fee	338,291
realized gain	-710
realized loss	115
unrealized gain	-304
unrealized loss	5,442
TOTAL	7,201,710

*UNDP financial books officially close in December 2014



saves lives builds futures

MINES ADVISORY GROUP (MAG)

Activities in 2014:

2014 marked the 20th anniversary of MAG operating in Lao PDR. Over the past two decades, MAG has pursued its mission of saving lives and building futures in the world's most heavily bombed country per capita by working with others to:

- reclaim land contaminated with the debris of conflict;
- find ways to reduce the daily risk of death or injury for civilians, and;
- create safe and secure conditions for development free from armed violence.

In 2014, MAG continued to carry out land release activities in two of the country's most heavily Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) contaminated provinces: Xiengkhouang and Khammouane.

MAG Mines Action Teams (MATs) have released a total of 3,281,500m² of land across the year. This has enabled some 175,300 local community members to live in a safe environment, without the daily risk of death and injury and improve their livelihoods and development prospects. A total of 13,070 items of UXO were found and destroyed. MAG Community Liaison (CL) teams also conducted 250 Mine Risk Education (MRE) sessions imparting important safety messages to over 6,300 community members at risk of being involved in a UXO accident.

Community Liaison, which MAG pioneered within the UXO sector in the late 90s, is an integral part of MAG's



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

impact-driven land release strategy in Lao PDR. Working together with targeted beneficiaries throughout the land release and impact assessment processes enables MAG to ensure that the needs, preferences and priorities of local communities, including the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, are effectively addressed. This also ensures that MAG's UXO clearance leads to a positive developmental impact.

In 2014, MAG's land release enabled the implementation of a range of socio-economic development activities by MAG's development partners. Examples include weaving houses generating income for local women, wells and irrigation systems providing clean and secure water supply for households and repaired and new school buildings providing a safe and appropriate study environment. Land release also allowed individual landowners to resume or expand their agricultural production and enhance nutritional security for their families.

The numerous developmental results enabled MAG to continue furthering the objectives of the Government of Lao PDR's (GoL's) 7th National Socio-Economic Development Plan and Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets, in particular MDG9 aiming to reduce the impact of UXO on communities. MAG's land release also supported Lao PDR in delivering on its commitments under the GoL's current UXO sector strategy 'Safe Path Forward II, 2011-2020', and the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions.

MAG thanks all its institutional and individual donors and supporters for their generous support in 2014, which helped improve human safety and advance so-



Sy free to farm her land after one of MAG's Roving Team destroyed seven bombies in Xieng Khouang province.



cio-economic development at grassroots and broader district, provincial and national levels.

Key achievements in 2014:

MAG constantly seeks to innovate and develop its operational strategies and methodologies, and expand its UXO clearance toolbox. 2014 saw the introduction of a number of operational innovations and developments which resulted in a significant increase in operational efficiencies and effectiveness.

From 2014, MAG has introduced a new Task Planning and Prioritization Process which enhanced the link between MAG's land release activities and local and national developmental planning and programming. Involving the Office of Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (RDPE) in MAG's Task Selection Committee ensured that areas where follow-on development activities were planned and funded were going to be cleared as a priority.

MAG also restructured its teams into smaller and multi-skilled units, called Mine Action Teams (MATs) which can undertake the full spectrum of survey, clearance and roving Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) tasks. MATs can be deployed separately as well as joined into larger units as required by the task site profile. This enhanced flexibility and enabled optimum deployment of operational resources throughout the year.

MAG also established dedicated Brush Cutter Teams. These teams carry out vegetation removal and ground preparation work ahead of the MAG MATs so that Technicians can maximize their time spent on their core activity of UXO clearance. This resulted in an additional 630m² that could be cleared on average by one MAT per day, and an overall team productivity increase by 158% within 2014.

Thanks to the various innovations and developments, MAG MATs could make 44% more land safe from UXO contamination in 2014 compared to the previous year. This represents a four percent increase of average m² output per team from 2013. 86% more items of UXO were found and destroyed across 2014, resulting in a 35% increase of average UXO finds per team compared to 2013, demonstrating that MAG effectively prioritizes lands and focuses its clearance resources on areas of high UXO contamination.

In 2014, MAG also supported the construction of four, provincial and district-level Explosive Storage Areas (ESAs) in XiengKhouang province. The new facilities significantly enhanced the safety and security of the local communities living and working in or around the

ESAs. They also ensured the safe storage of explosive materials required for Humanitarian Mine Action purposes in accordance with International Mine Action Standards.

2014 saw the establishment of village volunteer networks by MAG in both XiengKhouang and Khammouane provinces. Trained in Mine Risk Education and first aid, the 80 volunteers reinforce and multiply the outreach of important MRE safety messages to at-risk community members. MAG also continued to support the production of MRE education materials by the MRE Unit of the National Regulatory Authority. 3,000 copies of UXO curriculum books, 2,500 copies of UXO story books and 500 copies of UXO song books of high quality were prepared for distribution and use within primary schools.

Through a sub-grant to the Lao Quality of Life Association (QLA), a Lao registered Not for Profit Association, MAG also contributed to Victim Assistance activities as part of its EU-funded project. Livelihood and first aid first responder trainings were conducted by QLA across XiengKhouang province for community members who had been victims of UXO accidents and their families so as to provide them with the means and tools to rebuild their lives and livelihoods.

The good news:

Mrs. Kamphone is 38 years old and is a happy rice farmer. In 2014, a MAG team cleared her rice paddy of 27233m² in Phose village (Phaxai district, XiengKhouang province) removing 206 cluster munitions.

"We have used the land for farming rice for many years. We found more than 50 bombies in the past and MAG came and destroyed them. But every year we would find more. It was very scary", Kamphone said. "After my husband had died, it became even more difficult. I had to do the work myself. I wouldn't let my sons help me because it was too dangerous. I continued to use the land but could not do enough on my own," she added.

Kamphone was relieved when she saw the MAG clearance team coming. "I knew I would be saved and the land would be free from bombies. I could have hit a bomby and died. It happens all the time. That is how we live." Kamphone did not know where the bombies were and did not want to work. But there was nowhere else she could have farmed.

UXO clearance has however changed her family's life. "Now it is safe here. My sons can help me on the farm and I grow a lot more rice and better quality too. I can dig deeper when we plough the soil, which helps the plants. I can also dig close to the paddy boundaries, which I wouldn't do before", she told MAG.



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



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

“After last year’s harvest we sold 20 sacks of rice and my rice store was about 70% full. This year I have sold 50 sacks, my store is full and I have more sacks in my house. This has never ever happened before. I made 8 million kip (\$1000) this year and I still have a surplus,” Kamphone concluded.

Focus areas of work in 2015:

In 2014, MAG started to develop an innovative desk-top survey methodology called Evidence Point Polygon (EPP) Mapping. This process involves the mapping of

Personnel in 2014:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
57	25	2	1	246	77	3	1

GPS reference points in a GIS system of over 18,000 UXO evidence points from MAG’s historical roving clearance tasks. This enables MAG to identify areas with confirmed evidence of UXO contamination. In 2015, MAG will finalise the development and roll-out of the methodology. EPP Mapping is expected to bring significant savings in operational resources, time and costs and will ultimately result in significantly enhanced operational efficiency and effectiveness.

In 2015, MAG will continue to explore potential partnership opportunities within the sector to achieve a UXO-free end state in selected districts of its two operational provinces and promote further socio-economic development. MAG will deploy its multi-purpose mechanical asset for excavation and vegetation cutting that will further enhance MAG MATs’ clearance productivity and the programme’s overall operational efficiency. The asset will also be used for the excavation of large bombs and will have the capability to dig foundations for development initiatives such as school buildings, health centres, sanitation, pit latrines and other water projects.

MAG will continue to work in close partnership with the GoL and provincial- and district-level authorities to ensure that its land release activities are in line with national and local development plans. MAG will also continue engaging and consulting the targeted beneficiaries with the aim of ensuring the benefits of UXO clearance to all community members and promote an inclusive and sustainable development progress.

Implementing Partners:

- National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR
- Office of Rural Development and Poverty Eradication
- Provincial and District authorities in Khammouane and Xiengkhouang
- World Vision Laos
- Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation
- Quality of Life Association
- World Education
- Altadis Foundation



Detailed statistic figures in 2014:

MINE RISK EDUCATION Community Awareness					VICTIM ASSISTANCE No. of people who received assistance		UXO Survey		UXO Roving	
	Beneficiaries									
Time of visits	Men	Women	Boy	Girl	Financial	Medical	Villages	Time of Visits	Villages	Time of Visits
250	1,181	1,491	1,752	1,880	n.a.	n.a.	193	2,063	102	3,074

Area cleared:

Clearance (Ha)			Technical Survey (Ha)		
Agriculture	Development	Total area	Agriculture	Development	Total area
355.88	26.27	382.15	0	0	0

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

Technical survey outside of the CHA (Ha)	Number of CHA established	Total area of CHA established (Ha)
N/A in 2014 yet	N/A in 2014 yet	N/A in 2014 yet

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

UXO Removed/Destroyed					
Task	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	Total
Roving	7	3,689	0	1,086	4,782
Clearance	4	7,620	0	611	8,235
Technical Survey	0	49	0	4	53
Total					

Geography of operations:

Activity	Provinces/districts of Lao PDR where the activities were implemented
Survey	Xiengkhouang: Khoun, Phaxay
Area clearance	Xiengkhouang: Khoun, Phaxay, Nonghet / Khammouane: Boulapha, Gnommalath, Mahaxay, Xaybouathong districts
Roving Tasks	Xiengkhouang: Khoun, Phaxay, Nonghet / Khammouane: Boulapha, Gnommalath, Mahaxay, Xaybouathong districts
Risk Education	Xiengkhouang: Khoun, Phaxay, Nonghet / Khammouane: Mahaxay, Xaybouathong districts

Financials:

Expenditure for 2014: (USD)

Item	Amount
Personnel costs	2,488,000
Operational costs	743,000

Equipment – expendable	426,000
Equipment – non-expendable	353,000
Total	4,010,000

Donor contributions for 2014: (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2014</i>
US State Department's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (WRA)	2,069,000
Department for International Development (UK Government)	231,000
European Union	441,000
Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Development (DFATD), Canadian Government	248,000
World Vision	380,000
ITO Supporting Comity (Japan)	10,000
Public donations	2,000
Total	3,381,000

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>
National Regulatory Authority, Mine Risk Education Unit	4,000



NORWEGIAN PEOPLE'S AID (NPA)

Activities in 2014:

During 2014 NPA have continued to focus on survey of areas contaminated by cluster munition in order to map the extent of the contamination and to identify areas for clearance. The NPA methodology achieves the following:

- Mapping the extent of the remaining cluster munition contamination.
- Establish the impact on the population.
- Ensures that scarce resources are not wasted on clearance of land with no contamination.
- Establish the cost and time required to complete the cluster munition part of the UXO problem.
- Enables for Lao PDR to achieve its obligations under the CCM.

In the project period the NPA Laos NTS/IA teams visited 165 villages. 97 out of these villages was confirmed to be contaminated by CM and almost 119,515 people affected. A total of 114,075,000 m² was covered by the CMRS and 1,053 new CHAs, a total of 34,887,766 m², was established and entered in to the national IMSMA database. These are tasks that are now ready to be cleared, with confirmed contamination. In this process of survey more than 15,480 ERWs have been found and destroyed.

Key achievements in 2014:

In the end of 2014 NPA had completed NTS of almost 60% of the villages in our area of operations and established more than 2000 CHA's through CMRS.

NPA is working closely with NRA and the other operators to finalize the national standard on Survey. The standard was expected to be approved in end Dec 2014 but this is yet to take place which is a concern for the sector. NPA believes that reporting and IM is crucial for the successful implementation of the new standard and is continuing to work closely with NRA on IM issues.

The good news:

During 2014 NPA have moved closer towards completion of survey of our current area of operations in Saravane, Sekong and Attapeu province. Efforts has been made to better communicate the survey results on a district,

province and national level in order to show the benefits with implementing survey prior to clearance. The survey progress maps has been very well received and NPA intends to continue to promote and improve IM and reporting to enable for the data to be easily accessible for the stakeholders. Example of survey progress maps are provided at the end of this report.

Focus areas of work in 2015:

During 2015 NPA will increase the focus on NTS with the aim to complete survey of our three initial provinces - Saravane, Sekong and Attapeu - within the next year. The information generated through NTS will provide valuable baseline data for planning of CMRS and enable for projections of total CM contamination.

CMRS will continue to be the core activity but clearance will play a more central role in order to increase the handover of high priority land back to the community and for NPA to continue to develop and learn about the CMRS procedures.

In the beginning of 2015 NPA will start operations in a fourth province, Xieng Khouang, in cooperation with UXO Lao.



NPA Non-Technical Survey Team.



NPA Searcher Doing CMRS In a Rice Paddy Field.

Implementing Partners:

NPA Lao PDR has recently been awarded DfID funds to conduct survey in Xieng Khouang province over a period of two years. The project will be implemented in close cooperation with UXO Lao. The mixed survey teams will consist of experienced NPA staff from Saravan and Sekong provinces and existing UXO Lao staff already based in Xieng Khouang. UXO Lao clearance teams (funded through other donor channels) will follow-up the NPA/UXO Lao joint survey teams and clear the Confirmed hazardous Areas (CHA). The survey will target areas identi-

fied by the provincial and district authorities and will be conducted in a systematic manner to establish the known extent of contamination in the province. In addition to conducting survey the project also aims at transferring knowledge and best practices in regard to evidence based survey (NTS and TS) and information management of survey and clearance operations to UXO Lao. Through on the job training and workshops the UXO Lao staff will gain an in-depth understanding of the entire process.

Personnel in 2014:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
30	15	4	1	205	62	3	1

Detailed statistic figures in 2014:

MINE RISK EDUCATION Community Awareness					VICTIM ASSISTANCE No. of people who received assistance		UXO Survey		UXO Roving	
Beneficiaries										
Time of visits	Men	Women	Boy	Girl	Financial	Medical	Villages	Time of Visits	Villages	Time of Visits
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	234	234	44	44



Area cleared:

<i>Clearance (Ha)</i>			<i>Technical Survey to establish the Confirmed Hazardous Areas (Ha)</i>		
<i>Agriculture</i>	<i>Development</i>	<i>Total area</i>	<i>Agriculture</i>	<i>Development</i>	<i>Total area</i>
36.5	0.5	37.1	0	0	0

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

Technical survey outside of the CHA (Ha)	Number of CHA established	Total area of CHA established (Ha)
7,918.8	1,053	3,488.7

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	7	279	0	116	402
Clearance	6	777	0	25	810
Technical Survey	215	13,534	0	504	14,268

Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces/districts of Lao PDR where the activities were implemented</i>
Survey	Saravane, Sekong and Attapeu
Area clearance	Saravane and Sekong
Roving task	Saravane, Sekong and Attapeu

Financials:

Expenditure for 2014: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	2,333,989
Operational costs	822,070
Equipment – expendable	27,932
Equipment – non-expendable	259,273
Total	3,443,264

Donor contributions for 2014: (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2014</i>
Norwegian Ministry Foreign Affairs (NMFA)	1,935,484
Telethon	967,742
Fagforbundet	47,719
DFID	9,224
USDoS	1,033,538
Total	3,993,707



HALO TRUST (HALO)

Activities in 2014:

In 2014 HALO continued to conduct high quality humanitarian UXO Clearance, Survey, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), and Risk Education (RE) in Sepon and Vilabouly Districts, Savannakhet Province. HALO deployed 8 UXO Clearance teams, 10 multidisciplinary survey/EOD/RE teams and one community outreach/RE team, funded by the United States and the United Kingdom.

Survey:

HALO's multidisciplinary survey/EOD/RE teams conducted non-technical and technical survey in 30 villages. Following an initial entry meeting and village RE session teams are shown items of UXO by local people, which are destroyed the same day. If the item shown is a cluster bomb, its location is then the start point for technical survey. The multidisciplinary nature of the teams saves time, resources and ensures a comprehensive assessment of the threat in each village. HALO survey teams will not leave a village until all known surface contamination has been destroyed.

Accurately defining the size and nature of cluster munition contamination through evidence based survey helps to define the real extent of the problem in Lao PDR. HALO uses only this survey methodology, and it continues to yield excellent results. A total of 4,450 items were destroyed by survey teams in 2014. 14,057,500 m² was technically surveyed resulting in 3,252,500 m² confirmed as Hazardous Area (CHA) over 102 sites identified and prioritized for follow on clearance.

Clearance:

HALO's clearance teams were deployed on 16 tasks during 2014. All had been identified through technical survey, contained high levels of cluster munition contamination, and yielded cluster bombs through clearance. During the year HALO clearance teams cleared 772,665 m² of land and destroyed 1,699 items.

CORE:

HALO's Community Outreach and Risk Education (CORE) team conducted targeted RE sessions, with separate sessions for age and gender specific groups. These sessions often provide additional information about contamination within a village and contribute to the picture built up through thorough non-technical survey. In 2014, HALO conducted 127 RE sessions, educating 7,598 beneficiaries.



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

Key achievements in 2014:

Through subsurface Battle Area Clearance over 1 million m² of formerly contaminated land has been cleared and handed back to local people by HALO. Since the beginning of operations in Lao PDR HALO teams have destroyed over 10,000 devices, including 61 Air Dropped Bombs and 6,663 Cluster Munitions.

In 2014 HALO focused on expansion and was successful in 2 competitive tenders. The US State Department's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement awarded a grant for the continuation of previous funding, as well as a small expansion. The UK Department for International Development, a new donor for HALO in Laos, awarded a grant which expanded operational staffing by 60%. DFID will fund 2 years of clearance and survey work, as well as the CORE team. On behalf of the UXO impacted communities of Sepon and Vilabouly Districts, HALO would like to thank both donors for their very generous support.



The HALO Laos Programme 2014.

HALO also introduced computer based reporting for technical survey through the innovative use of tablet computers. Using 3G in the field, survey team leaders report technical survey results directly to the HALO data cell, without the need for extra paperwork or lengthy radio calls. This significantly reduces the workload of the IM and the survey teams and is much more accurate than traditional paper based data entry.

The good news:

Naphadang Health Centre:

In 2014, HALO deployed several survey teams to assess the contamination extent of a major cluster strike in Naphadang and Dongyang villages. The teams have spent the majority of 2014 conducting technical survey around evidence points identified through non-technical survey. This process has resulted in the generation of 14 Confirmed Hazardous Areas to be prioritized for subsequent clearance.

HALO was made aware by local authorities of a plan to build a health centre in the village in late 2014. Through survey HALO assessed that only 36% of the proposed site required full clearance, and HALO teams were deployed to this contaminated part of the site in September. The contaminated area was cleared, including a substantial buffer, to ensure that the project could safely go ahead. The land has now been handed back to the village, and construction of the health center will begin shortly.

The project will give the villagers of Naphadang and their neighbours easy access to basic health care. Previously, the nearest health center was in Vilabouly, at least 40 minutes away on a road impassable for much of the year. The clearance of the full site could have taken up to 2 weeks; HALO's approach meant that the area of the site that was contaminated was cleared in just 3 days. The application of this methodology for future development projects has enormous cost and time saving implications.



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

Focus areas of work in 2015:

In 2015 HALO will continue to refine its evidence based survey process and will look to expand its operational capabilities. HALO will continue to strengthen partnerships with local authorities, as well as international NGOs, ensuring that it can facilitate as many development projects as rapidly as possible.

HALO will also seek to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its clearance and survey operations, using technological developments and innovative operational practices to achieve the highest return for its inputs. HALO's focus will be the continued delivery of high quality clearance to the impacted and marginalized communities of Sepon and Vilabouly Districts, and a comprehensive survey process to map contamination and determine the extent of work required in Lao PDR.



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

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

Implementing Partners:

HALO has had successful partnerships with several INGO's, many of which continued in 2014. HALO works closely with the Laos government, particularly the NRA in Savannakhet Province and at national level. HALO maintains a good working relationship with the local district authorities in Sepon and Vilabouly, working with local leaders to plan clearance and survey to best answer local humanitarian and development priorities.

HALO is strongly committed to a holistic approach to development within Laos. The cumulative effect of

efforts from different organisations leads to the greatest impact on the ground; multiple organisations working together can achieve more than the sum of their parts. HALO has forged links with several INGO partners working throughout Savannakhet Province. In 2014, HALO was able to assist and partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS), World Vision (WV), Welthungerhilfe (GAA), and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

As a humanitarian operator, HALO's survey, clearance, EOD and RE operations are targeted towards villages where they will have the greatest humanitarian impact. In 2014 HALO developed and refined a prioritization matrix which evaluates CHAs and ranks them according to their socio-economic and development impact. This allows HALO to deploy its clearance assets appropriately, targeting tasks which will bring the greatest change to the people of Sepon and Vilabouly Districts.

Personnel in 2014:

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>		<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
23	10	1	1	122	46	2	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2014:

	<i>MINE RISK EDUCATION Community Awareness</i>				<i>VICTIM ASSISTANCE No. of people who received assistance</i>		<i>UXO Survey</i>		<i>UXO Roving</i>	
	Beneficiaries				Financial	Medical	Villages	Time of Visits	Villages	Time of Visits
Time of visits	Men	Women	Boy	Girl						
127 Sessions in 37 Villages	1,626	1,979	2,060	1,933	N/A	N/A	30	30	34	552

Area cleared:

<i>Clearance (Ha)</i>			<i>Technical Survey (Ha)</i>		
Agriculture	Development	Total area	Agriculture	Development	Total area
43	36	79	0	0	0



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

Technical survey outside of the CHA (Ha)	Number of CHA established	Total area of CHA established (Ha)
1,080.5	102	325.25

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	48	1,930	0	388	2,366
Clearance	0	1,429	0	270	1,699
Technical Survey to establish the CHAs	0	1,365	0	719	2,084
Total	48	4,724	0	1,377	6,149

Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces/districts of Lao PDR where the activities were implemented</i>
Survey	Savannakhet province, Sepon and Vilabouly districts
Area clearance	Savannakhet province, Sepon and Vilabouly districts
Roving task	Savannakhet province, Sepon and Vilabouly districts
Risk Education	Savannakhet province, Sepon and Vilabouly districts

Financials:

Expenditure for 2014: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	1,104,056.88
Operational costs	764,358.23
Equipment – expendable	63,204.22
Equipment – non-expendable	61,063.88
Total	1,992,683.21

Donor contributions for 2014 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2014</i>
USA – USDoS PMWRA	1,192,061
UK - DFID	0*
Total	1,192,061

* The HALO UK-DFID contribution is structured around output milestones which must be reached before the concomitant funds are released. As these relate to the project's full two year duration, these targets were not reached in 2014 and as such no income has been recorded for the UK-DFID project.



COMMERCIAL CLEARANCE OPERATORS

ASA POWER ENGINEERING CO., LTD (ASA)

Activities in 2014:

In 2014, ASA has carried out UXO surveys and clearance for the 115kv and the 500kv Power Transmission Line from Xiengngern district of Luang Prabang to Hongsa of Sayyabouly and from Hongsa to Xieng Horn of Sayyabouly Province.

Key achievements in 2014:

- Finished clearing the area for the 115 KV electricity post installation.
- Finished clearing the area for the 500 KV electricity post installation.

Focus areas of work in 2015:

ASA will continue the 2014 existing works are not being achieved as following:

- Continuing to carry out UXO clearance in the area for 115 KV Power Transmission Line installation from Koksart electricity sub station to VITA PARK in Saythany district, Vientiane Capital.
- 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 Borlikhamxay province.

Clients:

- Xien Electric Engineering Co., Ltd
- Local people who live in the area of ASA's working

Personnel in 2014:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
2	1	0	0	19	0	0	0

Geography of Operations:

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in
Area clearance	Luangprabang province, Sayyabouly province and Vientiane Capital
Survey	Luangprabang province, Sayyabouly province and Vientiane Capital

Financials: Expenditure for 2014: (USD)

Item	Amount (USD)
Personnel costs	
Operational costs	
Special Operational costs	
Equipment – expendable	
Equipment – non-expendable	
Total	96,600



Donor contributions for 2014 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2014</i>
ASA self funded	96,600
Total	96,600



PHONSACKDA UXO CLEARANCE CO., LTD (PSD)

Activities in 2014:

In 2014, PSD continued UXO clearance for Sumura Company in Phanoundong village, Pakxong district, Champasack 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 Phanoundong village, Pakxong district, Champasack province in areas designated for medicinal tree plantations.

Focus areas of work in 2015:

- PSD will continue to conduct UXO clearance operations of 200ha in the areas designated as medicinal tree plantations for Sumura Company, in Nater, Phao and Savanmeuang villages in Salavan province.
- Continuing to carry out UXO clearance in the area for Power Transmission Line installation into 33 villages in 3 districts of Huaphan province with 154km.

Clients:

- Sumura Company
- Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS)

Personnel in 2014:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
5	4	0	0	48	14	0	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2013:

Area cleared:

Clearance (Ha)		
Agriculture	Development	Total area
200	0	200

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

UXO Removed/Destroyed					
Task	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	Total
Clearance	0	20	110	0	130
Total	0	20	110	0	130



Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces/districts of Lao PDR where the activities were implemented</i>
Area clearance	Pakxong district-Champhasack province; Salavan district-Salavan province

Financials:

Expenditure for 2014 (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	234,600
Operational costs	70,380
Special operational costs	164,500
Equipment: expendable	11,400
TOTAL	480,880

Donor contributions for 2014 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2014</i>
PSD self funded	570,000
Total	570,000



SIBOUNHUEANG UXO CLEARANCE CO., LTD (SBH)

Activities in 2014:

In 2014, Sibounheung UXO Clearance CO., Ltd (SBH) undertook UXO clearance operations for Khammouane Concrete Company at Phova village, Mahaxay district, Khammouane province.

Key achievements in 2014:

In 2014, SBH's key achievement centred on reaching clearance targets. SBH is proud to report that in 2014

a total of 510 Ha of land was cleared of UXO with total 306 items of UXO destroyed, of which 2 were big bombs, 288 were bombies and 16 were other UXOs.

Clients:

Our major partner in 2014 was Khammouane Concrete Company.

Personnel in 2014:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
2	1	0	0	24	4	0	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2014:

Area cleared:

Clearance (Ha)		
Agriculture	Development	Total area
44	466	510

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

UXO Removed/Destroyed					
Task	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	Total
Clearance	2	288	0	16	306

Geography of operations:

Activity	Provinces/districts of Lao PDR where the activities were implemented
Area clearance	Mahaxay district, Khammouane province



Financials:

Expenditure for 2014: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	103,000
Operational costs	186,000
Equipment – expendable	83,000
Equipment – non-expendable	34,500
Total	406,500

Donor contributions for 2014 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2014</i>
SBH self funded	520,000
Total	520,000



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

Activities in 2014:

- UXO Clearance for Xepon 5 roads Project; Xepon District, Savannakhet Province.
- UXO Clearance for Dakchaliou I and II Hydropower Project; Dakchung District, Sekong Province.
- UXO Clearance for Nam Gniap Hydropower I Project; Thathom District, Xaisomboune Province.
- UXO Clearance for Xepian - Xenamnoi Hydropower Project, Attapeu and Champassack Provinces.

Key achievements in 2014:

- UXO Clearance for Xepon 5 roads Project; Xepon District, Savannakhet Province.
- UXO Clearance for Dakchaliou I and II Hydropower Project; Dakchung District, Sekong Province.
- UXO Clearance for Nam Ngiap Hydropower I Project; Thathom District, Xaisomboune Province.

- UXO Clearance for Xepian - Xenamnoi Hydropower Project, Attapeu and Champassack Provinces.

Focus areas of work in 2015:

- Clear 22 KV and 0.4 KV Power line for EDL, REP II (Regional Electricity Extension Project).
- Clear 500 KV Transmission Line for Xepian-Xenamnoi Houphan province.

Clients:

- Communication and Transport Office of Xepon District, Savannakhet Province.
- VASE (Vientiane Automation Engineering Company)
- Nam Ngiap I Hydropower Company.
- SK Engineering and Construction Company (South Korean).

Personnel in 2014:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
03	0	0	0	30	02	0	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2014:

Area cleared:

Clearance (Ha)		
Agriculture	Development	Total area
24.635	330.897	355.532

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

UXO Removed/Destroyed					
Task	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	Total
Clearance	07	301		01	309



Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces/districts of Lao PDR where the activities were implemented</i>
Area clearance	Samakhixay district - Attapeu province Dakchung district - Sekong province Phonthong district - Champassack province Xepon district - Savannakhet province Thathom district - Xaisomboune province

Financials:

Expenditure for 2014: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	142,000
Operational costs	14,200
Equipment – expendable	85,000
Equipment – non-expendable	7,100
Total	248,300

Donor contributions for 2014 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2014</i>
Lao BSL self funded	248,300
Total	248,300



BACTEC LAO LIMITED (BACTEC)

BACTEC International Limited-Lao (BACTEC-Lao) is a subsidiary of BACTEC International Limited, which is a United Kingdom registered company founded in 1991. BACTEC-Lao is a mine action organization with extensive experience in the survey, investigation and clearance of areas contaminated with unexploded ordnance (UXO), land mines and other Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) on land and underwater.

BACTEC has carried out mine action projects in over 50 countries to date and as a consequence have cleared and certified ordnance free over 200,000,000m² of land contaminated with UXO, landmines or other ERW, or land which has been suspected of being contaminated with UXO, landmines or other ERW.

In the past 24 years of conducting highly successful global operations, BACTEC-Lao has also formally trained and qualified 5,000 EOD technicians.

The BACTEC Head Office is located in the United Kingdom and BACTEC country offices and branches are located in Australia, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Dubai, Falkland Islands, Iraq and Mozambique.

In 2012 BACTEC was acquired by the Dynasafe Group which consists of Dynasafe (Sweden), BACTEC (UK), Mine Tech (UK) and Luthe Gmb (Germany).

The entities that comprise the Dynasafe Group operate separately and under their existing name.

Our vision is to protect mankind from threats that are caused by explosive devices and hazardous materials.

Activities in 2014:

In Lao PDR during 2014, BACTEC UXO remediation operations focused on Xiengkhouang and Luang Prabang to the north on Vientiane as well as Khammouane in central and Savannakhet, Sekong and Attapeu in the southern provinces.

Key organizations that employed the services of BACTEC during the reporting period were Lao Sanxai Minerals, Nam Theun 2 Power Company and the United Mining and Minerals Company.

Projects and tasks that were implemented by BACTEC during 2014 were:

- UXO remediation support to the Lao Sanxai Minerals

bauxite exploration at Sanxai, Attapeu Province.

- UXO remediation support to United Mining and Minerals Company exploration at Viengkong in Luang Prabang Province.
- Nam Theun 2 Power Company (hydro-electric project) 500kv access track improvement between Mahaxay and Xabangfai
- Nam Theun 2 Power Company (hydro-electric project) clearance and borehole search at the Nam Khatang River in Khammouane Province.
- Nam Theun 2 Power Company (hydro-electric project) dam construction at Phonsavang resettlement area.
- UXO Clearance of Wind Energy Holdings access track at Savannakhet and Sekong provinces.
- UXO pathfinding task in support to Toulouse University submersoils research in Thalang in Khammouane Province
- Nam Theun 2 Power Company (hydro-electric project) UXO clearance for spoil disposal area.
- UXO Clearance for installed the carbon fibre-optic cable for Nam Theun 2 Power Company (hydro-electric project) in Khammouane Province.
- UXO Clearance at Gnommalath solid waste landfill facility Phase 2 for Nam Theun 2 Power Company (hydro-electric project).
- UXO remediation support for Phase 1 and 2 of the Gnommalath Landfill Waste Facility for Nam Theun 2 Power Company (hydro-electric project).
- Nam Theun 2 Power Company (hydro-electric project) UXO Clearance for boat camp and accommodation in Nakai district, Khammouane province.
- UXO team support to exaction activities at Nam Katang,
- Various UXO call-outs at Gnommalath and Nakai for Nam Theun 2 Power Company (hydro-electric project).

Key achievements in 2014:

Commercial UXO clearance organizations in Lao PDR had quite a challenging year when it comes to obtaining new business throughout 2014. However BACTEC continued to provide valuable UXO remediation services in support to the mineral exploration, hydro-electric, wind energy and environmental sustainment sectors.

In July 2014 BACTEC were also awarded a long term contract extension with Lao Sanxai Minerals (LSM) to continue with the provision of UXO remediation services and other relative support to their bauxite exploration project in Attapeu/Sekong provinces. BACTEC are very proud of the achievements that have been made during our association with LSM and the project to date. We look forward to expanding on the previous achievements and assisting LSM to achieve their future goals in Lao PDR. In early 2014 BACTEC surpassed a total of 1000 UXO items destroyed on the LSM project.

During 2014 BACTEC have also partnered with the LSM community relations contractor to provide landmine and UXO safety and awareness sessions in villages and communities bounded by or adjacent to the LSM project area. The training has been well received and has had very positive results.

Although times may be tough for commercial UXO remediation providers, BACTEC still recognizes the importance of training our staff in new skills and to regularly maintain existing skill levels.

Staff training in 2014 included:

- Long term basic and advanced English language courses.
- Computer training.
- Arc GIS courses.
- IMSMA training.
- SEOD course.
- Minelab F3 detector refresher training.
- Minelab F3 UXO Large Head Detector training.
- Foerster magnetometer training.
- UXO team refresher training.
- Basic first aid responder training.
- Advanced first aid course.
- Driver training.
- Occupational health and safety training.
- Workplace safety training.

The good news:

Supporting the Establishment of Wind Energy in Lao PDR:

In mid-2014 BACTEC was engaged by a renowned Thai wind energy company to clear access tracks and pads for the establishment of wind energy turbines in Khammouane, Savannakhet and Sekong provinces. Wind energy is an environmentally friendly technology that will be important to the future needs of Lao. BACTEC are very proud to have been involved at the grass roots level with the introduction of wind energy to the country. We hope to continue to be called upon to clear the way for the establishment of this type of technology which will ultimately provide a much needed and environmentally friendly energy source for communities.

In 2014 Lao Sanxai Minerals presented BACTEC-Lao with their Outstanding Contractor Award for 2013-2014. BACTEC-Lao received the honour with a great deal of pride and will ensure to provide high quality of service to LSM, other clients and to the people of Lao PDR as we move forward.

This photo below shows a BACTEC UXO Team conducting clearance of the main road between Sanxai and the Lao Sanxai Minerals Project tenement in Attapeu Province. This road often becomes re-contaminated with UXO through the migration of cluster munitions during each wet season, or through the importation of earth materials from adjacent sites during road repair efforts after each wet season.

Focus areas of work in 2015:

In 2015 BACTEC-Lao plan to continue to provide UXO remediation and associated services to our current



clients in the exploration, hydro-power, wind-energy and construction sectors and as well as to seek out new opportunities and challenges.

As per always BACTEC-Lao will take on tasks and projects regardless to size, as we consider all UXO and landmine clearance in Lao PDR and elsewhere as essential.

During 2014 BACTEC were approached by international donors on more than one occasion and offered opportunities to submit bids for humanitarian projects in Lao PDR and abroad. In the event that such opportunities present themselves in 2015 and providing that the Government of Lao PDR approve of commercial UXO

clearance organizations becoming involved, BACTEC would welcome the opportunity to add our support to the humanitarian UXO clearance effort.

- Rio Tinto Exploration – Bauxite exploration
- Nam Theun2 Hydroelectric – Hydropower
- United Mining and Minerals Company Ltd - Mineral mining and exploration in Laos PDR

Clients:

At present the three major clients that engage BACTEC-Lao are:

Personnel in 2014:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
1	2	1	1	71	0	1	0

Area cleared:

Clearance (Ha)			Technical Survey (Ha)		
Agriculture	Development	Total area	Agriculture	Development	Total area
0	43.81	43.81	0	0	0

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

UXO Removed/Destroyed					
Task	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	Total
Clearance	2	99	3	196	300

Geography of operations:

Activity	Provinces/districts of Lao PDR where the activities were implemented
Area clearance	Sanxai district-Attapeu Province; Gnommalath and Nakai districts-Khammouane Province; Viengkham district-Louang Prabang Province; Sepon district, Savannakhet and Dak Cheung, Sekong province.

Financials: Expenditure for 2014: (USD)

Item	Amount
Personnel costs	397,555
Operational costs	362,118
Equipment – expendable	19,845
Total	779,518

Donor contributions for 2014 (USD)

Donor	Amount
BACTEC self funded	779,518
Total	779,518



MILSEARCH LAO EOD SOLE COMPANY LTD

Activities in 2014:

2014 marks Milsearch’s twenty first anniversary of operations in the Lao P.D.R. and our second full year as a Sole Company Limited. During this period we have successfully completed over 80 projects, cleared thousands of hectares and destroyed tens of thousands of hazardous explosive remnants of war. It is with great satisfaction that Milsearch management looks back at the achievements of these years.

In 2014 Milsearch Lao supported the mineral exploration and extraction industry throughout the Lao P.D.R. in Xiengkhouang, Saysomboune Region, LuangPrabang, Sayaboury, Vientiane Province, Bolikhamsay, and Attapeu, and also in Sagaing Division (Myanmar). Work quantities in support of this industry were generally down due to falling commodity prices and the focus of our major client in other areas of the world.

We supported the renewable energy sector, both hydro and wind power in Bolikhamsay. We supported construction projects in Bolikhamsay and in Manila (Philippines). And we supported topographical survey and the oil and gas industry in Quang Nam Province (Vietnam).

2014 was the first full year for our Representative Office in Hanoi (RO of Milsearch Lao EOD Sole Co., Ltd. in Hanoi). It was a busy year with many enquiries and four projects being awarded:

- Desktop review and risk assessment (oil & gas);
- Pathfinding (topographical survey);
- Pathfinding and clearance (oil & gas), and
- Maritime seabed survey (oil & gas).

Milsearch Lao overseas projects bring valuable export dollars into the Lao P.D.R. and in addition to Vietnam Milsearch was awarded two other overseas projects in the Philippines and Myanmar:

- Clearance (construction), and
- Desktop review and risk assessment (mineral exploration).

Milsearch located and destroyed 129 items of hazardous explosive remnants of war (ERW) in the Lao P.D.R., and



hundreds of rounds of small arms ammunition.

Milsearch Lao “Asia’s Premier UXO & De-mining Company” remains fully committed to ongoing and long term ERW hazard reduction within the Lao P.D.R. and the SE Asia region.

Key achievements in 2014:

Milsearch achieved a number of company goals during 2014. Falling commodity prices and the focus of our major client shifting to other countries has reinforced our need to diversify our revenue streams. Milsearch Lao achieved measured success in this area winning contracts in Myanmar, the Philippines, and Vietnam in support of a variety of industries and projects. Winning four substantial projects in Vietnam was particularly satisfying given the hard work of our staff in making the RO of Milsearch Lao EOD Sole Co., Ltd. in Hanoi a reality.

As a Lao based company, revenues from Milsearch Lao regional projects contribute directly to the Lao economy.

In 2013 Milsearch created a full time position “Quality Manager Fieldwork”. This position was filled by a Lingphet Phoutmasone, an experienced Level 3 EOD Technician. In 2014 Lingphet commenced Level 4 EOD Technician training. Lingphet commenced work for Milsearch in 1997. As a long time employee and a good friend to all our staff we are very happy that he has been given this chance to progress in his chosen field. We look forward to the completion of his training and welcoming him back into the field where he will continue to conduct external audits of all aspects of Milsearch’s fieldwork for all Milsearch projects.

In 2014 Milsearch commenced inputting data directly into the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) from both its Vientiane and Phonsavan offices. The value of IMSMA cannot be overstated and Milsearch considers the collation of this data to be a very important responsibility. Milsearch met or exceeded all its regulatory reporting requirements in 2014.

Focus areas of work in 2015:

In this section of the 2013 Lao UXO Sector Annual Report Milsearch wrote “The challenges of the future for Milsearch Lao are both commercial and technical”. This statement remains extant.

Milsearch needs to:

- continue to diversify our revenue stream;
- continue to improve the quality of our product;
- continue to build the capability of our Lao National staff, and
- continue to explore new technologies.

Clients:

Milsearch Lao Clients (Lao Projects):

- DNV-GL Energy
- Geomap Laos
- Locrian Holdings Limited
- Minevex Lao company Limited
- Ngiep Nam 1 Power Company Limited
- Phonsubtavy Mining
- Phu Bia Mining Limited

- PT (Sole) Company Limited
- Wind Energy Holdings

Milsearch Lao Clients (Regional Projects):

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

The good news:

On the 31st December 2014 Milsearch had achieved 878 consecutive days without a “Lost Time Injury”.

There is nothing of greater importance to Milsearch than safety and Milsearch employs dedicated Safety Officers on all its major project sites.



Since its inception in 1989, Milsearch has not had a single explosive related injury. Milsearch considers that this is most probably unique to our industry and is justifiably very proud of its safety record.

In 2014 we distilled our Company Code of Conduct down to the following six incontrovertible points. Wherever we operate, regardless of cost, we are categorically committed to:

- Safety - Our goal is zero harm in the workplace, it is a Milsearch tenet that anything less than “Nil Incidents & Nil Accidents” requires improving;
- Health - The long term good health and well-being of all our employees and contractors is paramount to us;



- Drugs and Alcohol - Milsearch Lao conducts random BAC testing on all its worksites, and has a zero tolerance policy towards illicit drugs and alcohol in the workplace;
- Respect - Regardless of age, race, or gender, we respect the dignity and rights of all our employees, client and contractor staff, and the indigenous peoples and communities with which we interface;
- Human Rights - We support the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and are proactive in ensuring that we are not unknowingly abetting abuses committed by others, and
- Environmental - We are committed to the reduction of ERW contamination wherever it occurs, additionally we are committed to a principle of further impacting the environment in the minimum possible harmful way whenever we work.

Personnel in 2014:

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
3	6	2	1	128	73	3	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2014:

Area cleared:

<i>Clearance (Ha)</i>		
Agriculture	Development	Total area
7.3	55.8	68.1

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

<i>UXO Removed/Destroyed</i>					
<i>Task</i>	<i>Bombs</i>	<i>Bombies</i>	<i>Mines</i>	<i>Other UXO</i>	<i>Total</i>
Clearance	0	87	0	69	156

Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces/districts of Lao PDR where the activities were implemented</i>
Area clearance	Xiengkhouang, Saysomboune Region, Bolikhamsay, Attapeu, Vientiane Province
Survey and Roving clearance	LuangPrabang, Sayaboury, Vientiane Province

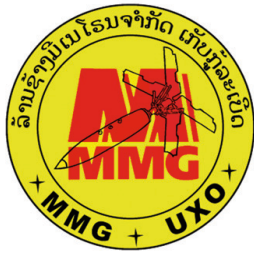
Financials:

Expenditure for 2014: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	589,221
Operational costs	659,311
Equipment – expendable	2,372
Equipment – non-expendable	45,000
Total	1,295,904

Donor contributions for 2014 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Milsearch self funded	
Total	1,295,904



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

Sepon Mine in Brief

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

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

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

Activities in 2014:

From January to September 2014, the joint effort between MMG-LXML and Ministry of defense, engineering department already released almost 140 hectares of surface land cleared of UXO not including mining pit clearance. A total of 318 UXO were found and destroyed including 2 aircraft bombs, 124 cluster munitions and 192 other types of munition.

UXO clearance commenced in several areas of the mine site and supported various mining operations including Thengkham open pit mining, Phabing waste dump expansion, WTSF dam upgrade, Houay Yeng pit extension, sediment dams construction as well as general mineral exploration.

The MMG-LXML UXO teams also assisted local communities within the exploration areas to dispose of unexploded ordnances found during path finding tasks.

The Menzi Muck, a state-of-the-art vegetation-cutting machine manufactured in Switzerland, also started its



BLU-3B found on the surface.



Casualty Evacuation Exercise (CASEVAC) conducted in a UXO clearance site by the Sepon Emergency Response Team (SERT).

full functionality to aid with site operations. Three local UXO technicians underwent training to operate the machine and 21 more are currently being trained.

Key achievements in 2014:

Production:

MMG-LXML increased its UXO clearance performance around 30% in terms of square meters cleared per person by applying more efficient techniques in UXO searches. Vegetation cutting was also increased significantly by utilizing the Menzi Muck instead of manual cutting.

Safety:

The MMG-LXML UXO department has achieved 0% lost-time injury and fatality for the first 3 quarters of this year to date which has been a challenge since the department was created. This is a result of a number of significant changes to company policies including daily alcohol checks prior to going to work, random drug tests, and fatigue management which ensures that every employee is fit to work. The Menzi Muck has also significantly reduced the risk of injuries from manual cutting activities. Moreover, the company has been constantly encouraging every personnel to consider Safety as a Value.

Localization:

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

Local Capacity-Building Achievements in 2014

Course	Location	Personnel
Trauma Medic	Sepon	18
Laos Driving License	Savannakhet	21
English for Laos	Sepon	39
Computer/Software	Sepon	31
MMG Safety Courses	Sepon	162
Supervisor Development Programme	Sepon	10
Superintendent Development Programme	Sepon	02
Menzi Muck Driver	Sepon	21
EOD Level Technician	Sepon	23

Development:

MMG-LXML has continued its commitment to being up-to-date with the latest UXO clearance techniques and technologies to be able to provide more efficient and safer methods in our clearance operations. It has been in constant communication with several geophysical companies engaged in UXO searches to be able to develop more highly-advanced UXO detection tools.

2015 Challenges and Opportunities:

- Safety Performance (Zero is Possible).
- Implementation of mechanical vegetation reduction and ground preparation for UXO clearance
- Continuation of workforce development and local capacity-building
- Elevate Current Level III EOD to Senior EOD Technicians
- Renewal of MoU with the Ministry of Defense Laos PDR
- Implementation of a more advanced, deeper detection UXO geophysical system
- Undertake continuous improvement initiatives
- Lower operating costs whilst increasing current production rate



ພະແນກເກັບກູ້ລະເບີດ ເອັມເອັມຈີ 2013 MMG UXO DEPARTMENT 2013



ຕັ້ງກຸ່ມຮ່ວມຮຽນເກັບກູ້ລະເບີດ IN FRONT OF UXO OFFICE



Menzi Muck demonstration in front of MMG-LXML Nalou Gate.

Personnel in 2014:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
6	10	2	0	177	96	2	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2014:

Area cleared:

Clearance (Ha)		
Agriculture	Development	Total area
0	138.9	138.9

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

UXO Removed/Destroyed					
Task	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	Total
Clearance	2	124	0	192	318

Geography of operations:

Activity	Provinces/districts of Lao PDR where the activities were implemented
Area clearance	Vilabouly District, Savannakhet Province
Risk education	Vilabouly District, Savannakhet Province (MMG staff, Contractors and Visitors only)

Financials:

Expenditure for 2014: (USD)

Item	Amount
Personnel costs ¹	2,670,000
Operational costs	621,300
Special Operational Costs (Training) ²	20,700
Equipment – expendable ³	396,000
Total	3,708,100

1. Includes all employee on-costs including transportation and accommodation.
2. Includes direct expense of the Project & Services Delivery Department for training and excludes MMG LXML Sepon provided general management and safety training.
3. Includes non-cash costs (depreciation of plant and equipment)

Donor contributions for 2014 (USD)

Donor	Amount
MMG self funded	
Total	3,708,100



VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND MRE OPERATORS



CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS)

(VA AND MRE)

Activities in 2014:

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is currently implementing Village First Response: Integrated Trauma Care and Mine Risk Education in High Risk Communities in Xaibouathong and Boualapha District, Khammouane Province. The 2-year project is funded by the US State Department's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement and will carry out activities through the end of December 2014, in partnership with the Ministry of Health.

CRS is extending Mine Risk Education to communities with high levels of UXO contamination. Building on lessons learned during Phasell, CRS has adapted MRE activities to include active learning methods to fully engage participants, in addition to directly targeting women and children for participation.

CRS is working with all 40 villages in Xaibouathong District to assist local Village Education Development Committees (VEDC) to develop community maps and emergency plans. With coordination from CRS and partners, VEDCs construct wooden signs with the painted maps and plans, and then display them in a prominent place within the community.

CRS is building the capacity of District Health Office Medics, Village Health Volunteers (VHV) and Village First Responders (VFR) to provide emergency first aid and trauma care to save the lives and limbs of victims of UXO accidents. This life-saving training is being conducted in all 40 villages in XBT and 47 target villages in Boualapha, with emphasis on CPR training and bleeding control. Additionally, CRS has provided Boualapha District with needed medical equipment to Medics in the health centers, VHVs and VFRs.

Key achievements in 2014:

CRS' Village First Response project employs a dual-pronged approach focusing on delivering Mine Risk Education to high risk villages while building local capacity to respond to UXO accidents through life-saving first-aid and trauma care. CRS works with the Ministry of Health, district hospitals, health centers and communities to build a "chain of survival" for trauma victims through providing training to essential stakeholders: UXO Medics, VHVs and VFRs.

CRS was successful in discussions with stakeholders from Boualapha District to incorporate 47 villages within

Boualapha into the projects VA activities. Together, CRS and partners from both Boualapha and Xaibouathong Districts selected the medical staff that will act as core trainers, taking a lead role in providing VA training to other UXO Medics, VHVs and VFRs.

CRS partner, Trauma Care Foundation (TCF) Cambodia, provided training to UXO Medics to equip them with the skills to respond to trauma victims. CRS, TCF and the Ministry of Health also prepared medics to train VHVs and VFRs – those most likely to arrive at the scene first in the event of an emergency and best positioned to administer life-saving care. By the end of 2014, UXO medics were prepared to extend this cascade training approach to VHVs and VFRs in Xaibouathong and Boualapha in 2015.

MRE activities conducted during the year were a great success. During the MRE planning and Reflection workshop, partners had emphasized that prior events largely excluded women and children. CRS worked with VEDCs to target individual households in order to close this participation gap. All 20 targeted villages for MRE activities conducted MRE events, with a women's participation rate at 77 percent and children at 19 percent. CRS will follow up with communities needing additional support in 2015.

Focus areas of work in 2015:

CRS will continue to extend first aid and trauma care training to VHVs and VFRs in both Xaibouathong and Boualapha throughout by the end of 2015. CRS will work with partners to identify training effectiveness and develop recommendations to improve future trainings. CRS will also follow up with communities that have conducted MRE activities, focusing on those identified as needing additional support. Special effort will be placed on evaluating retention of key MRE messages. Additionally, CRS will ensure that all 40 villages in Xaibouathong have completed their community maps and emergency plans.

CRS will continue to work with partners in Boualapha to identify programming gaps and identify needed project interventions in the future. Some communities in Boualapha have identified UXOs, but thus far, have been unable to coordinate for their removal. CRS will work to establish linkages between communities in Boualapha and clearance organizations operating in the district.

Implementing Partners:

CRS' main partner is the Ministry of Health. CRS also works closely with the provincial and district health offices as well as the district education offices. CRS has partnered with the Trauma Care Foundation Cambodia to train selected "core trainers" from both Xaibouathong and Boualapha to ensure that appropriate and effective methods are passed on throughout all the levels of training. Additionally, CRS, the National Regulatory Authority and the Ministry of Health will regularly monitor all trainings to ensure quality, promote sharing, and provide support and guidance to newly trained UXO Medics.

The good news:

Saengphan village is located about 35 kilometers from the Boualapha District Hospital. Mr. Thipdee, the 46-year-old chief of the village, struggled to find a location for the training. Finally, without any other options seemingly available in the community, he organized everyone to conduct the training at his home. When the project team arrived at the home of Mr. Thipdee, they saw that many more people than was originally planned to participate. When asked why there were so many people, Mr. Thipdee responded "I would like all of my village to receive this training because in the area surrounding this village, there is still a lot of UXO contaminations. So I think everyone should learn how to assist victims and avoid UXO."

Personnel in 2014:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
4	3	1	1	2	0	1	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2014:

MINE RISK EDUCATION Community Awareness						MINE RISK EDUCATION In primary schools Awareness		
Beneficiaries						Beneficiaries		
Time of visits	Men	Women	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total
Nov. & Dec.	349	1,085	122	187	1,743	1,843	2,043	3,886

Geography of Operations:

Activity	Provinces/districts of Lao PDR where the activities were implemented
Risk Education	Xaibouathong district-Khammouane province
Victim Assistance	Boualapha & Xaibouathong districts-Khammouane province

Financials:

Expenditure for 2014: (USD)

Item	Amount
Personnel costs	31,750
Operational costs	53,316
Equipment – expendable	0
Equipment – non-expendable	0
Total	87,654



Donor contributions for 2014: (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2014</i>
USDoS's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement	87,654
Total	87,654

Activities in 2014:

- **War victim Medical Fund Support Emergency Medical Treatment for UXO survivors:** the War Victim Medical Fund was created to provide financial support to UXO survivors in order to assist in covering medical costs from hospital bills, the procurement and fitting of assistive devices as well as many other costs associated to their quality and daily well-being.
- **Follow-up, Psycho-social Assessment and Support:** the Victim Assistance and Support Team followed-up with UXO survivors in villages, create case profiles through the use of a newly created psycho-social assessment. Support was provided to these survivors.
- **Education Support for UXO survivors:** in order to instill a sense of greater independence, the VAS Team helped support the educational expenses for UXO survivors so that they could better economically and socially integrate among peers by gaining marketable skills.
- **Distribution of UXO Education Curriculum (Grade 1-5):** through funding provided by UNICEF and Handicap International, the UXO Education and Awareness curriculum for Grades 1-5 was distributed to the project's target districts (which are identified as those most heavily contaminated by UXO).
- **In-service teacher training:** the UXO Education Team, in coordination with the Ministry of Education and Sports (Department of Preschool and Primary Education, Provincial Education Service and District Education and Sports Bureau) visited schools in target districts or held regional workshops for in-



service teachers to introduce them to the UXO curriculum, or, if previously trained, to reinforce concepts and improve their pedagogical techniques.

- **UXO Information Dissemination at Teacher Training Colleges:** the UXO Education team, in conjunction with the Teacher Training Department, visited 8 Teacher Training Colleges to provide information dissemination to students in their final year of schooling. These teachers will bring the lessons they learn about MRE back to the schools where they will teach; teachers returning to TTCs for their refresher trainings during the break in the school year were also exposed to the UXO curriculum through dissemination sessions and pedagogical training; pedagogical advisors (professors of the TTCs) were provided guidance under the project in order to improve their skills and the overall quality of the project.
- **New puppetry troupes were created and supported:** puppetry troupes were established through training workshops in the project's new target districts and were supported for monthly performances; all puppetry troupes (previously created and newly established) were supported to perform on Children's Day and Teacher's Day.



Detailed key achievements in 2014:

- **War Victim medical Fund Support Emergency Medical Treatment for UXO survivors:** 32 UXO survivors received

medical treatment support in 2014. Included new 19 UXO accident survivors received medical treatment support. And 13 UXO survivors who received medical treatment support for re-treatment in particularly (9 UXO survivor shrapnel remove surgery, 1 UXO survivor received hearing aid device, 2 UXO survivors received artificial teeth, and 1 received leg amputated surgery).

- **Follow-up, Psycho-social Assessment and Support:** victim Assistance and Support Team (VAST) has visited and completed psychosocial assessment with 118 (27 females) UXO survivors in year 2014.
- **Education Support for UXO survivors:** in Sept 2014, VAST provided educational support for 50 UXO survivors in different villages and districts. Those UXO survivors included 11 UXO survivors in Peak district, 11 UXO survivors in Nonghet district, 11 in Kham district, 2 UXO survivors in Phaxay district, 8 UXO survivors in Khoun district, 7 UXO survivors in Mok district.
- **Distribution of UXO Education Curriculum (Grade 1-5):** 1,000 book sets were delivered to 42 target districts of the UXO Education and Awareness project. The printing of these books sets were funded by UNICEF. Furthermore, Handicap International funded the distribution of book sets in two districts of Savahnakhet Province in conjunction with teacher trainings provided by WEL and the DPPE. Books were also distributed to the target districts covered during the 2014 school year to teachers during in-service trainings.
- **In-service teacher training:** the UXO Education and Awareness project focused in 6 target districts in the year 2014. The project, in total, maintains a system within 42 target districts. For 2014, 423 teachers were reached in the 6 target districts, receiving either first-time training on the UXO curriculum, or receiving refresher training. Overall, the project works in 2,152 schools, reaching a total of 208,434 students (98,962 females) under the guidance of 7,981 trained teachers.
- **UXO Information Dissemination at Teacher Training Colleges:** 8 Teacher Training Colleges were visited in 2014. A total of 54 pedagogical advisors (TTC technical advisors), 859 teachers, and 2,225 student teachers were exposed to the UXO curriculum through information dissemination and pedagogical training.
- **New puppetry troupes were created and supported:** 6 new puppetry troupes were established during 2014, with a total of 69,177 students attending performances during Teacher's Day and Children's Day.

Focus areas of work in 2015:

- War Victim Medical Fund Support Emergency Medical Treatment for UXO survivors.
- Follow-up, Psycho-social Assessment and Support.
- Education Support for UXO survivors.
- Peer to peer support.
- Follow-up with TTC Graduates.
- Expand Puppetry Troupe Network of Trainers.
- Improve Book Distribution and Management System.

Implementing Partners:

The UXO Education and Awareness Project works with the Ministry of Education and Sports. Specifically, the project coordinates with the Department of Preschool and Primary Education, the Provincial Education Service, and the District Education and Sports Bureau.

The Integrated Victim Assistance Program works with the Xiengkhouang Province Department of Health, the provincial and district hospitals, and with INGO and NPAs involved with UXO victims assistance.



Personnel in 2014:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
3	5	0	1 (Country Director)	3	3	1 (Volunteer)	1 (Consultant)

Detailed statistic figures in 2014:

MINE RISK EDUCATION in Primary Schools						Puppetry Programs		
Provinces	Beneficiaries							
	Schools	Men	Women	Boy	Girl	Puppet shows	Male	Female
		Teaching the curriculum		Students studying the curriculum			Attended performances	
Luang Prabang	83	174	191	5,443	5,148	38	4,615	2,740
Houaphan	244	490	352	9,888	9,008	22	2,205	1,278
Xieng Khouang	442	1,020	1,084	20,368	18,643	47	8,059	5,037
Khammouane	197	292	213	7,686	7,450	23	2,928	1,581
Savannakhet	459	643	582	21,737	18,348	28	6,019	3,483
Salavan	398	722	620	21,527	19,237	28	3,700	1,961
Sekong	133	301	329	9,005	8,132	23	3,447	1,775
Champasack	139	272	322	8,898	8,548	12	1,359	832
Attapeu	57	192	182	4,920	4,448	23	4,158	2,511
Total	2,152	4,106	3,875	109,472	98,962	244	36,490	21,198

VICTIM ASSISTANCE	
No. of people who received assistance	
Financial support	Medical support
0	32

Geography of operations:

Activity	Provinces/districts of Lao PDR where the activities were implemented
Risk Education	Luang Prabang, Houaphan, Xieng Khuang, Khammouane, Savannakhet, Salavan, Sekong, Champhasack and Attapeu
Victim Assistance	VAST: Xieng Khuang. WVMF: Houaphan, Xieng Khuang, Khammouane, Savannakhet, Salavan, Sekong and Champhasack



Financials:

Expenditure for 2014: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	432,584
Operational costs	
Special Operational costs	
Equipment – expendable	
Equipment – non-expendable	
Total	432,584

Donor contributions for 2014 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2014</i>
US Dept of State/ WRA	423,384
Starvos Niarchos Foundation	9,200
Total	432,584

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>
QLA	12,052
Total	12,052



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

Activities in 2014:

Assistance Association for Quality of Life Rehabilitation for People With Disabilities and UXO Survivors (Known as the Quality of Life Association, QLA) received its registration as a non-profit association in 2011. In 2014, through grant funding, funds from private donations and the sale of crafts produced by UXO survivors and people with disabilities, the QLA has been able to maintain a visitor center, crafts shop and provide services for UXO survivors and people with disabilities.

During 2014, the QLA organized crafts trainings in 12 villages for a total of 242 people, which included 146 UXO survivors and 96 people with disabilities. The QLA also provides materials and receives crafts for sales from villages in Paek, Khoun, Phaxay and Kham Districts and QLA we also organized first aid training in 5 villages a total of 100 people, which included UXO survivors and UXO impacted communities. Between 2013 through 2014, the QLA has organized animal raising and livelihoods trainings for 12 villages for a total of 238 people, of which 182 are UXO survivors or family members, 66 are people with disabilities or UXO impacted communities.

The QLA strengthened the organizational structure and provided training for a newly elected Board of Directors of eight people, of which five people are UXO survivors. The Board of Director holds quarterly meetings which include management training, strategic plan training and Board of Director include QLA team we also study tour has visited UXO and VA sectors in VTE.

Key achievements in 2014:

- The Board of Directors is more involvement to provide direction to QLA activities, and provides oversight so that QLA activities follow its vision and mission. QLA staff have also attended staff development trainings to strengthen the management of activities.
- In 2014 QLA providing the costs of the initial medical treatment of 14 UXO survivors and provided education cost for 5 UXO survivors or family members.
- Fixing 2 houses and build 3 new houses for UXO survivors in Phoukout and Kham district.

The good news:

Kham was a farmer and he generated income by growing and selling rice and animals; at the time he was married with two children. Kham also had experience as a masseur in Thailand.

In December 2004, Kham was injured in a UXO accident which occurred when he digging water channel to his rice farm. Shrapnel injured his face and chest and he was blinded in both eyes. His wife helped to stop bleeding. Thirty minutes later villagers came and carried him to the house and then took him to Provincial hospital where he was treated for 28 days.

Life after Kham's accident was difficult and a few months later his wife divorced him and moved away. Kham then lived with his niece.

Kham's son is a monk and lives at the temple and his daughter moved away after she was married.

In November, 2014 QLA team met Kham when visiting his Village to conduct a survey.

Later in November QLA arranged animal raising training in Kham's village and he attended along with the husband of his niece. After the training Kham received a small grant to buy animals and he used it to buy a pig and three ducks. His niece is helping to raise the animals.

In December, 2014 QLA arranged for Kham to come to Phonsavan and attend the Provincial Rehabilitation Centre where he received a walking cane and some training in how to use it.

During the same trip, Kham attended the meeting of QLA members (UXO survivors). It was the first opportunity for him to meet other UXO survivors and he had good conversation and fun with 30 other UXO survivors. At that time Kham met Mr. Lue Ha, a blind UXO Survivor who works as a Masseur in Xiengkhouang.

Shortly after, Kham visited Lue Ha at his massage business to learn his techniques.

After this, QLA arranged for Kham to go to Vientiane to learn massage at the Centre for Blind Masseurs in



Handicraft training, organized by QLA.

Vientiane for three months. Kham is learning massage and because of his previous massage experience is already earning income. He is very busy and has many customers. He has made new friends and is much happier than before.

The future:

QLA follow up in April, 2015 and Kham said that he is continuing to study at the Centre for Blind Masseurs in Vientiane and he is also earning money. He would like to stay in Vientiane until the end of the year and then return to Xiengkhouang to work as a masseur.

Focus areas of work in 2015:

The QLA plans to continue strengthening management systems and to expand its membership from the current 35 members. In 2015, The QLA will receive more funding in handicrafts training, animal raising training, first aid training, support education costs and funding for UXO survivor treatment . Most of these trainings will be at the village level, which helps the producers group members to support each other in income generation.

QLA we also plan to provide 40 assistive devices to UXO survivors and PWD in Xiengkhouang province.

Implementing Partners:

The current QLA membership includes 35 members who are both UXO survivors and people with disabilities throughout Xieng Khouang Province. Eight of the members

are on the Board of Directors, who meet quarterly and review the QLA progress towards its goals.

The QLA coordinates and reviews work planning with the Xieng Khouang Department of Health, and in particular, the Province Center of Rehabilitation and Xiengkhouang Vocational School.

There are 27 producers groups in 17 villages in Khoun, Phaxay, Paek, and Kham Districts for a total of 340 members (which include UXO survivors, people with disabilities and the most poor in the villages). The QLA works closely with the Department of Health, the Xieng Khouang Integrated Vocational Training School and the village administration in these villages to review activities, lessons learned and work plans.

Personnel in 2014:

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>		<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
3	2	0	0	4	2	0	2

Detailed statistic figures in 2014:

VICTIM ASSISTANCE	
No. of people who received assistance	
Financial support	Medical support
253 people	14

Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces/districts of Lao PDR where the activities were implemented</i>
Victim Assistance	All eight districts of Xieng Khouang province

Financials:

Expenditure for 2014: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount (USD)</i>
Personnel costs	133,685
Operational costs	0
Special Operational costs	0
Equipment – expendable	0
Equipment – non-expendable	0
Total	133,685

Donor contributions for 2014 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2014</i>
French Embassy Social Development Fund	18,188
McKnight Foundation	34,886
Helvetas	17,837
World Education	18,675
DFDL	600
EU/MAG	40,958
Private Donations	20,000
Total	151,147



COOPERATIVE ORTHOTIC & PROSTHETIC ENTERPRISE (COPE)

(VA)

Activities in 2014:

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

COPE supports the costs related to the treatment and production of prosthetic and orthotic (P&O) devices, and provides technical training to Government of Lao staff and material support to CMR and provincial rehabilitation centers (PRCs). Specifically, COPE supports people in need of P&O devices through reimbursing patients' transport costs and food and accommodation during treatment, both for the patients and for carers and/or interpreters when necessary. As a result of COPE's support on an individual level, around 1,000 people with disabilities have during the year received access to services which are essential for ensuring physical rehabilitation, and ultimately can contribute to a better quality of life and active participation in their families and larger communities.

As the majority of UXO survivors and other people with disabilities are disabled for life and need access to life-long services, a main focus of the work is to support CMR institutionally so that CMR can continue these services in the long run. COPE engages in capacity-building of CMR on both technical and organizational levels, in order to ensure the long term sustainability of the involvement.

Furthermore, the COPE Connect outreach project aims to increase awareness and help connect people with needs to the available services. Due to lack of communication technologies, poor road networks, limited or no access to accessible transportation and, significantly, lack of financial resources, people with physical disabilities have been unable to access the CMR/PRC services.



Practical exercises during the COPE-organized gait training course at the Center for Medical Rehabilitation (CMR) in Vientiane.

During 2014, COPE Connect teams conducted clinical patient assessments in seven districts in four provinces (more details below) to facilitate access to services for people with needs.

Key achievements in 2014:

Patient support:

Access to services for people with needs is a challenge as there are significant costs related to not only producing prosthetic and orthotic devices, but also ensuring that patients can afford to spend the necessary time at the centers for the required treatment, fitting of devices and integral services such as physiotherapy, gait training and occupational therapy. Depending on the disability, the treatment time can be around two weeks to ensure the necessary fitting and follow-up before the patient can return home and be able to comfortably use the device. Furthermore, many patients live in remote areas and transport costs become an additional obstacle.



In 2014, COPE continued to support expenses of P&O patients, including UXO accident survivors, who are unable to pay for treatment and associated costs such as travel, food and accommodation during their treatment.

Between January and December 2014, COPE's support contributed to that:

- 848 patients received P&O devices, of these 522 received prostheses and 326 orthoses.
- 196 patients were UXO accident survivors (185 men, 10 women, 1 boy, no girls).
- In addition, 100 children with disabilities received pediatric positioning devices.
- Additional patients received clubfoot treatment, and physiotherapy and occupational therapy. A total of 1068 patients received support through COPE during the year.

Capacity-building:

COPE has continued to build the clinical capacity of the CMR national physical rehabilitation team – including over 20 P&O staff, 15 physiotherapy (PT) staff and thirteen occupational therapy (OT) staff from the five government run centers across the country – through organizing a number of training courses and providing additional on-the-job training opportunities to increase the technical skills of the CMR and PRC staff involved.

During 2014, these technical courses included the following specific trainings:

- A hinged AFO (ankle, foot orthosis) course for P&O staff in May.
- An Ischial containment course in March.
- A training on AB clubfoot boots in April.
- A gait training course for physiotherapists in June.
- A trans-tibial P&O refresher course in July.
- A hinged KAFO (knee, ankle, foot orthosis) course in October.
- An ICRC polypropylene refresher course for P&O staff in October.
- Four workshops on different topics were organized for the OT/PT Trainer of Trainers.
- In addition, regular audit trips were undertaken to all the PRCs to monitor activities and provide the necessary support on technical (P&O) and management levels.

In addition, during 2014, a second annual quality management seminar was organized with national and international partners, taking stock of the process that was started in 2013 and initiating the next steps towards developing quality management-related policies and procedures. In addition GOL MOH physical rehabilitation staff from Vientiane and the four satellite clinics, participants included representatives from Handicap



International, World Education and the University of Health Sciences in Laos, in addition to regional experts from India (Mobility India) and Vietnam (VietCot and the ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled). The purpose of the seminar was to take stock of the current process and initiate the next steps towards developing quality management related policies and procedures, and was a success in that respect. The seminar also created an opportunity and a platform for different stakeholders to meet and strengthen communication related to service provision and policy making.

Furthermore, COPE commissioned several studies during the year to improve the knowledge in various areas that are important related to quality and sustainability of service delivery:

- A beneficiary survey was started in February and finished May 2014. This is the first such study done in Laos and has provided an important baseline that can be used to better monitor how satisfied patients are with the various aspects of the service provided, and also make sure patients' perspective contribute to shaping the future work. The study culminated in a workshop with members of COPE, CMR and the PRCs to discuss the results and develop a plan of action for how to improve patient satisfaction.
- Because cost recovery is crucial to the long term sustainability of the services, an in-depth study on this topic was commissioned by COPE during the year. The study found that "without other accompanying reforms, charging users for government services is unlikely to yield significant improvements in quality and efficiency". However, the study concluded, it would be important to ensure that service providers are ready to tap into the national social security systems once such systems are developed.

- COPE also commissioned a feasibility study to find out whether mobile clinics would be useful in Laos and what kind of model might work best. In addition to hiring in staff with specific mobile clinic experience in the region, COPE facilitated two study tours to Vietnam and Thailand for key CMR and COPE staff to observe how neighboring countries are doing mobile clinic work. The study will be used as a basis for future program planning and discussion with potentially interested future donors.

Improving access:

During 2014, COPE Connect organized introductory workshops in two new provinces, in Saravan in August and Bokeo in October. The introductory workshops brought together a total of 63 representatives from provincial health authorities, provincial hospitals, district health offices, district hospitals and health centers in order to discuss how to strengthen provincial referral systems and ensure access of all people with mobility related disabilities to the national rehabilitation services. Following the initial workshops, in October, coordinator trainings were organized in the same two provinces. During the workshops a total of 32 medical staff were trained in how to assess and identify patients that can be supported through the physical rehabilitation centers.

Clinical patient assessments were during the year conducted by outreach teams from CMR, PRCs and COPE in seven districts in four provinces. A total of 411 people were assessed and 184 invited to COPE-supported rehabilitation services at CMR or PRCs. See table below for more details.

The COPE Connect outreach activities started in 2009 to promote awareness among Lao people of the available

<i>Province</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Number of people assessed</i>	<i>Number of people invited to CMR/PRCs</i>	<i>Number of people referred elsewhere</i>	<i>Number of people not invited</i>
Sayabouly	Khob	66	26	3	37
	Xienghone	88	35	16	37
	Nguen	44	23	4	17
	Hongsa	39	23	4	12
Xiengkhouang	Mok	27	8	9	10
Bokeo	Houaysay	37	18	2	17
Saravan	Saravan	110	51	12	47
Total		411	184	50	177

physical rehabilitation services and strengthen the existing referral systems. Between 2009 and 2014 the outreach project has developed referral networks and conducted free clinical assessments in 13 provinces. The clinical teams had visited 78 districts and assessed 3,189 people, of them 1,596 people were invited to visit the PRCs and CMR, and 442 people were referred to other relevant organizations.

In addition, follow-up trips were organized by the COPE Connect team to districts in three provinces (Khammoun, Champasack, Houaphanh) where outreach visits and clinical assessments have been conducted earlier, in order to better understand some of the obstacles to access that exist. A total of 49 people were interviewed and provided useful feedback that is now being used to improve access in the future work.

Awareness-raising:

The COPE Visitor Center is an important part of COPE's involvement. The Visitor Center remains number one on tourist references sites like TripAdvisor, and between January and December last year, a record high number of 20,595 people from all over the world came to the Center. The visitors included a large number of VIPs, such as M. Wylbur C. Simuusa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zambia, Ms Julia Bishop, Australian Foreign Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Joachim of Denmark, Madame Naraporn Chan-O Cha (wife of Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O Cha), and Her Excellency Michaëlle Jean (Former Governor General of Canada). These visits are important parts of the efforts to raise awareness of the problems related to UXO in Laos and the long term needs and challenges in the sector among important international decision-makers and also the general public.

The good news:

Story 1:

Mrs. Vin is 46 years old. She is a housewife who takes care of two children. She lives in Simeung village, Sisakthanak District, Vientiane Capital. She was fitted with her tenth prosthesis at the COPE-supported Center for Medical Rehabilitation in September 2014 after her previous one wore out.

Vin was injured by a cluster bomb when she was a child during the conflict in northern part of Laos. It happened when she was out from the bomb shelter to play and to get fresh air. While she was outside a plane came and dropped bombs down next to the shelter. The bomb badly damaged one of her legs and she needed to have her leg amputated. She was immediately sent to the local hospital and received an amputation. After the war ended in 1975, her family moved down to live



Mrs Vin was injured by a cluster bomb when she was a child and in 2014 she received her 10th prosthesis through COPE (Photo: COPE)

in Vientiane and found out about COPE-supported physical rehabilitation services in 1999. She told COPE before she received the prosthesis she faced many difficulties in term of mental health. However, since she received the artificial leg, her life is better. "I am able to move around in more comfort and can take care of myself, so I don't need my husband and children to look after me all the time," said Vin.

Story 2:

Thanks to support to COPE from Australian Aid, the Luang Prabang Provincial Rehabilitation Center (PRC) now has a bespoke new building to house their Prosthetic and Orthotic Workshop. The opening ceremony for the new building was organized in October 2014 with representatives from the provincial hospital, provincial health authorities, the Center of Medical Rehabilitation (CMR) and COPE. The construction of the new building was made possible as part of a three year grant to COPE which was completed in August 2014, and which included refurbishments and maintenance of the CMR and PRC P&O workshops. For Luang Prabang PRC it was however decided it would be better to build a new building rather than renovate the old one due to the difficult access for patients to the old building, sharing the costs with Luang Prabang Department of Planning and Investment. In March 2014, the Vice Minister of Health, Mr Sihavong Bounkong, inspected this



building site and gave his approval on the floor plans, and construction started.

Mrs Vin was injured by a cluster bomb when she was a child and in 2014 she received her 10th prosthesis through COPE (Photo: COPE).

As a result, Luang Prabang PRC now has a great place where it can continue its important services to patients with physical rehabilitation needs in the northern provinces.

Focus areas of work in 2015:

COPE will in 2015 focus on the following key areas, with the various challenges and opportunities that these involve:

- Increased clinical rehabilitation skills, including P&O, physiotherapy and occupational therapy by organizing a series of technical P&O, PT and OT trainings with a multi-disciplinary approach.
- Improved quality management systems and quality of prostheses produced by CMR/PRCs by initiating work to identify quality standards and indicators for prosthetic devices and organizing trainings and developing systems related to quality management of services.
- Continued uninterrupted access to service by providing materials and meeting patients' costs in line with CMR/COPE policy.
- Ensure feedback from patients continues to be heard by organizing a follow-up to the 2014 beneficiary

survey and agree on a target score for 2016 and plan of action for how to address patients' needs through future activities.

- Look at opportunities for piloting a mobile P&O clinic in one province to ensure better follow-up and access to services and devices.
- Improved referral between the networks of clinical services to provide comprehensive treatment by reviewing COPE Connect to learn from the last five years' of experience and adapt outreach activities based on lessons learnt
- Finally, COPE will during the year also focus on increasing its own organizational capacity to proactively design, develop and implement sustainable services and fully monitor and evaluate service provision.

Implementing Partners:

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

Personnel in 2014:

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

Detailed statistic figures in 2014:

MINE RISK EDUCATION Community Awareness					VICTIM ASSISTANCE No. of people who received assistance	
	Beneficiaries					
Time of visits	Men	Women	Boy	Girl	Financial	Medical
						196 (185 men, 10 women, 1 boy, 0 girls)

Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces/districts of Lao PDR where the activities were implemented</i>
Victim Assistance	Victim assistance provided through the CMR's physical rehabilitation centers in Champasack, Luang Prabang, Savannakhet, Xiengkhuang and Vientiane, plus some activities in Oudomxay. Together, these centers aim to ensure have national coverage. In addition, during the year COPE Connect outreach teams conducted assessments in 7 districts in the provinces of Sayabouly, Xiengkhuang, Bokeo and Salavan (see table under COPE Connect above below for names of districts).

Financials:

Expenditure for 2014: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount (USD)</i>
Personnel costs	265,780.07
Operational costs	624,309.51
Special Operational costs	0
Equipment – expendable	0
Equipment – non-expendable	0
Total	890,089.58

Donor contributions for 2014: (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2014</i>
CBM	117,369.25
CMC	620
GDG	53,696.64
ICRC - SFD	58,346.67
USAID	122,134
JOHANNITER	10,000
Total	362,166.56

Note: Donor contributions reported here include only funds received during 2014. The discrepancies between donor contributions reported here and expenditures reported under X. above are due to funds which were received in 2013 (mainly from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Australian Aid) and carried over to cover expenditure in 2014.



SPIRIT OF SOCCER (SOS) (MRE)

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

Activities in 2014:

SOS coaches visit all primary and secondary schools in Xiengkhuang Province and conduct football clinics for school children that will focus on basic football skills and include mini-games amongst the participants. During the clinic, the coaches will use an interactive, specialized curriculum, with football analogies, to teach children what bombs look like, what they should do if they encounter one in their community, and how to avoid UXO accidents. Core materials include posters of UXOs, footballs with anti-UXO signs and school notebooks, which will be given to each of the participants, containing pictures of famous football players holding anti-UXO signs and slogans, such as, “Don’t play with UXOs Play football”. For the sustainability SOS provide football coaching and MRE training to school teachers and also football and MRE materials for schools to continue teaching the children.

Key achievements in 2014:

- 36 teachers from 8 district schools will participate in football/MRE coaching workshop.
- 236 teachers from primary schools and 180 teachers from secondary schools have joined the football/MRE clinic with Spirit of Soccer professional coaches and have the opportunity for technical support and learning by doing.
- Support 2 football teams from each model school 1 boys and 1 girls team. (2 model schools from each district, 16 schools from 7 districts, 32 teams in total).
- Support Cheer leader program in four model schools (7 primary schools and 7 Secondary schools)
- 82 secondary schools and 118 primary schools have attended the project activity.
- 15,000 students from secondary schools and primary schools have attended the project activity.

good news:

- SOS Laos organized first women football/MRE course with the participation of teachers from Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Myanmar to share experience in both football coaching focusing on how to use football as tool for MRE, create new methodology about MRE together which never happened in this region.
- Received more funding to expand the project to Salavan province.
- SOS has been rewarded by local authority and partner for the project implementation.
- SOS received more 3.000 football from One World Football to distribute to the kids in the project.
- SOS received grant from Coca-Cola Laos Company to organize youth football tournament with MRE during the tournament in Xiengkhuang province.

Focus areas of work in 2014:

Through out Xiengkhuang Province, extend program to other 250 primary and secondary schools and 50 schools in Salavan province.

Implementing Partners :

- Ministry of Education and Sport (Department of Physical and Arts Education)
- NRA
- MOFA
- Provincial Education and Sport
- Lao Football Federation
- INGO’s who work in UXO Sector





Personnel in 2014:

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

Detailed statistic figures in 2014:

<i>MINE RISK EDUCATION Community Awareness</i>				
	<i>Beneficiaries</i>			
<i>Time of visits</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Boy</i>	<i>Girl</i>
Jan 14			613	250
Feb 14			375	178
Mar 14			357	178
Apr 14			231	150
May 14			346	189
Jun 14			296	154
Jul 14			70	60
Aug 14			277	132
Sep 14			857	132
Oct 14			340	186
Nov 14			274	112
Dec 14			387	204
Total			4,423	1,925



Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces/districts of Lao PDR where the activities were implemented</i>
Risk Education	Xiengkhuang province, districts: Pek, Khun, Kham, Phaxai, Phoukout, Thatom, Moke and Nonghet.

Expenditure for 2014: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	21,600
Operational costs	66,000
Special Operational costs	0
Equipment – expendable	0
Equipment – non-expendable	18,000
Total	105,600

Donor contributions for 2014: (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2014</i>
US Department of State/Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement	95,600
FIFA	5,000
Laureus Sport for Good Foundation	5,000
Total	105,600



For further information please contact the:

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