



UXO Sector Annual Report 2013



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 Don't play with UXO, Play Football

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

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

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The NRA 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 2013.

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2013 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 annual report for the UXO Sector in 2013 and take this opportunity to highlight some of the key achievements this past year.

Most important is the continued great progress in reducing the number of UXO accidents in Lao PDR. From an average of 300 UXO casualties annually as recently as 2008, the number has dropped to 56 in 2012 and to 41 in 2013. This is due, in part, to ongoing Risk Education in contaminated provinces and also to clearance of UXO by a growing number of operators.

In addition to UXO Lao, which has more than 1,100 field personnel, there are now 7 humanitarian operators and 13 commercial operators undertaking survey and clearance, a total of approximately 3,500 men and women.

In 2013, 6,927 hectares were cleared, compared to 6,040 hectares in 2012 and, consistent with the strategic direction provided by Safe Path Forward II, focus development areas are increasingly prioritized to ensure the greatest humanitarian and development impact of clearance operations.

The NRA, in cooperation with operators is developing new national standards for survey that will help to confirm contaminated areas requiring full clearance and those area that do not. This could improve effectiveness and significantly increase the amount of land available for development and the safety of people who live or are relocating to area in contaminated provinces.

2013 also saw the development of a new NRA strategy for Victim Assistance, which subsequently received final approval from the NRA Board in February 2014.

In the coming year, the sector will develop legislation to ensure the full compliance of Lao PDR with the requirements of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and continue with ongoing efforts to increase and improve the quality of all aspects of UXO/Mine Action in Lao PDR.

We will not rest until there are no more UXO casualties and UXO no longer inhibit the development of our nation.

I wish to take this opportunity, once again, to extend my deep thanks to all who are active in the UXO sector and to all our supporters in Lao PDR and abroad, without whose assistance, this critically important work 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.

As H E Mr Bounheuang Douangphachanh, Chairman of the NRA Board has noted, 2013 has been a very important year for the UXO Sector. The number of UXO casualties declined once again and the UXO Sector made substantial gains in the amount of land cleared.

NRA, in cooperation with operators and development partners, will actively pursue each of these actions. After extensive consultation with operators and other stakeholders throughout the year, we are well on our way to finalizing new contamination assessment (survey) procedures. Once they are piloted and the NRA Board grants final approval, all operators will adopt the new procedures to ensure that we have a uniform approach and survey standards most suitable to the Lao context. Combined with improved technology, we expect there will be significant increases in the amount of land released each year. As the Chairman has also noted, we are placing priority on the survey and, where needed, clearance of contaminated areas slated for development.

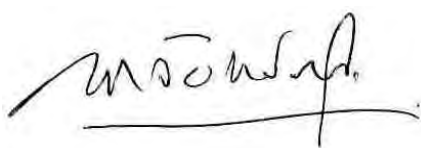
In November 2013, the National Regulatory Authority, on behalf of the UXO Sector Working Group, submitted to the National Round Table, a Sector Action Plan that was well received by Government and by the International Community. Among the recommendations put forward were the following:

- That risk education be expanded and provided in all 17 provinces (from 9 currently) and that it be offered at secondary school level, as well as at primary school level in high-risk areas;
- That NRA be authorized to support the National Committee for the Disabled and Elderly (NCDE) in the development of a Sector Wide Strategy for the disabled, including UXO survivors;
- That NRA promote an increase in survey activity and further explore the release of land on the basis of survey alone, where there is no evidence of contamination;
- That NRA continue to consult relevant national and provincial authorities and others to develop annual and multi-year work-plans for the sector which should be included in the 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan;
- There be increased financial investment in the sector, by the Government and the international community. Part of this increase should include institutional strengthening of the NRA and UXO Lao, including better capacity to measure development results from UXO sector activity;
- There should be greater involvement of the Lao Army in the UXO sector;
- Lao PDR must proceed to develop national legislation in compliance with the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Throughout the year 6,927 ha of land were cleared, of which 3,903 ha were for agriculture use and 3,024 ha were for other development purposes. In all, 82,238 items of UXO were destroyed while conducting area clearance and by roving teams following villagers' reports. Of this figure, 291 were big size bombs, 40,300 cluster bombs, 278 landmines and 41,369 other types of UXO.

Though there is much to be done, it remains a great privilege for me and the NRA team to work with so many dedicated colleagues in the UXO sector. Our collective effort saves lives and advances the development goals of our nation.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phoukhieo Chanthasomboune', with a horizontal line underneath.

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 delighted to have this opportunity to jointly make a few introductory remarks to the 2013 Annual Report for the UXO Sector.

The continuing positive trend of declining UXO casualties has already been mentioned by H E Mr. Bounheuang Douangphachanh, Chairman of the Board of the National Regulatory Authority (NRA), and Mr. Phoukhieo Chanthasomboune, Director General of the NRA. It is incredibly rewarding to see that the years of hard work in the field of risk education and clearance have started to yield lasting results. While this is an enormous achievement for everyone working in the UXO sector, let us not forget the existing survivors. More than 20,000 people have been killed or injured by the UXO since 1964; thousands of survivors and their families need ongoing support. Much more needs to be done in this regard. The new NRA UXO/Mine Victim Strategy 2014-2020 as well as the increased collaboration between the NRA and the National Committee for the Disabled and Elderly (NCDE) in developing a sectorial strategy on disability will help in focusing more attention on the UXO survivors. Broader efforts to strengthen the general health care system in Lao PDR and to improve the services provided to people living with disabilities, including UXO victims, survivors and their relatives, will be key in the coming years. It will be particularly relevant for regions with high UXO contamination, where access to quality health care for the victims and survivors as well as support to their families is still limited. More systematic approaches to the provision of physical rehabilitation services, psycho-social support and economic reintegration of the survivors are needed.

The problem with UXO in Lao PDR is not only a humanitarian issue; its impact on overall development has been felt for too long. In order to better address this, we welcome not only the directions taken by the government in integrating the NRA, as well as the UXO Lao, within its rural development policy. We also applaud the efforts taken to improve measuring the impact of UXO clearance on development. It is not an easy task, but it is one which will have significant importance for the entire sector. A good, reliable, and efficient survey methodology will be a pre-requisite for better prioritization of clearance efforts. The collaboration between NRA and the operators, as described by the NRA Chairman, in determining the most suitable approach for Lao PDR is therefore of utmost importance. We are confident that it will ensure maximum humanitarian and development impact and will help the sector effectively to allocate the scarce resources available. Due to the vast UXO presence in the country the task is enormous, and hence a smart approach is needed. New technology will play an important role in this. The on-going collaboration between private sector companies and non-commercial operators, such as UXO Lao, in introducing the appropriate tools for a better survey methodology is something we strongly support.

All of the achievements so far would not have been possible without the gracious 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 all contributes toward the goal of reducing the impact of UXO and achieving the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 9, and of several other MDGs. Your continuous support in these transformative years for the UXO sector is crucial for increasing productivity in all aspects of our collective work in this area.

Mr. Daniel Clune

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

Mr. Minh PHAM

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





2013 SECTOR ACHIEVEMENTS: THE NUMBERS

Humanitarian clearance operators

General Survey

Organization	Village	Visits
UXO Lao	1,406	2,179
HI	82	82
MAG	59	240
NPA	234	234
Halo Trust	11	18
Total:	1,792	2,753

Technical Survey to establish the Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHAs)

Organization	Agriculture/Ha	Development/Ha	Total/Ha	Bomb	Bombies	Mine	Other UXO	Total
NPA	9,169	-	9,169	0	9,729	0	0	9,729
Halo Trust	378		378					
Total:	9,547	0	9,547	0	9,729	0	0	9,729

Land Released by Technical Survey

Organization	Agriculture/Ha	Development/Ha	Total/Ha	Bomb	Bombies	Mine	Other UXO	Total
UXO Lao	371	68	439	0	13	0	169	182
SODI	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Total:	373	68	441	0	13	0	169	182

Roving Tasks

Organization	Villages	Visits	Bomb	Bombies	Mine	Other UXO	Total
UXO LAO	1,176	1,754	216	11,026	202	13,863	25,307
HI	93	93	6	1,116	8	1,102	2,232
MAG	86	1,374	5	2,019	0	554	2,578
NPA	44	44	0	0	0	2177	2,177
SODI	117	216	6	637	0	94	737
Halo Trust	11	325	13	1,169	0	1,283	2,465
Total:	1,527	3,806	246	15,967	210	19,073	35,496

Area Clearance

Organization	Agriculture/Ha	Development/Ha	Total/Ha	Bomb	Bombies	Mine	Other UXO	Total
UXO LAO	2,435	421	2,856	24	17,551	48	17,522	35,145
HI	13	15	28	1	83	0	847	931

MAG	218	9	227	3	3,407	0	1,022	4,432
NPA	0	35	35	0	770	0	52	822
SODI	109	0	109	0	273	0	190	463
Halo Trust	28	6	34	0	763	0	993	1,756
Total:	2,803	485	3,288	28	22,847	48	20,626	43,549

Organization	Agriculture/ Ha	Develop- ment/Ha	Total/Ha	Bomb	Bom- bies	Mine	Other UXO	Total
All Humanitarian	3,176	553	3,729	274	38,827	258	39,868	79,227
Total:	3,176	553	3,729	274	38,827	258	39,868	79,227

Commercial clearance operators

Clearance

Organization	Agriculture/ Ha	Develop- ment/Ha	Total/Ha	Bomb	Bom- bies	Mine	Other UXO	Total
ASA	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	-
PSD	207	0	207	0	0	0	0	-
SBH	520	0	520	0	360	18	0	378
THB	0	150	150	0	0	0	0	-
Lao BSL	0	408	408	0	203	0	42	245
XTD	0	93	93	0	0	0	0	-
LAUNC	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-
SP	0	1,458	1,458	2	320	0	501	823
LXML MMG	0	186	186	7	317	0	588	912
MILSEARCH	0	132	132	8	186	0	199	393
BACTEC	0	40	40	0	87	2	171	260
Total:	727	2,471	3,198	17	1,473	20	1,501	3,011

Organization	Agriculture/ Ha	Develop- ment/Ha	Total/Ha	Bomb	Bom- bies	Mine	Other UXO	Total
All Commercials	727	2,471	3,198	17	1,473	20	1,501	3,011
Total:	727	2,471	3,198	17	1,473	20	1,501	3,011

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

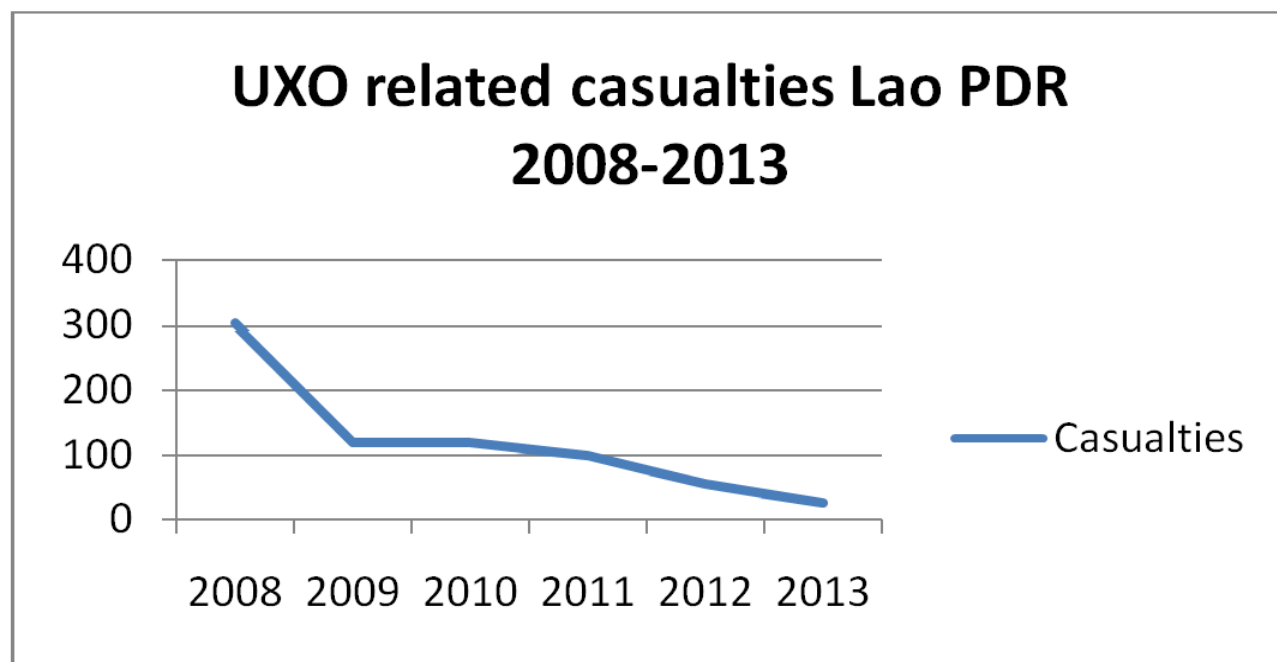
	Agriculture/ Ha	Development/ Ha	Total/Ha	Bomb	Bom- bies	Mine	Other UXO	Total
All Operators	3,903	3,024	6,927	291	40,300	278	41,369	82,238
Total:	3,903	3,024	6,927	291	40,300	278	41,369	82,238



Risk Education Operations

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Village and School Number</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Adult</i>	<i>Total</i>
UXO LAO	650	80,443	93,022	173,465
HI	90	8,412	6,021	14,433
MAG	23	802	119	921
SODI	44	4,732	2,159	6,891
Halo Trust	18	614	650	1,264
WE	2,366	228,182	9,030	237,212
SoS	12	7,734	0	7,734
CRS	77	259	1,122	1,381
Total:	3,280	331,178	112,123	443,301

Victim Assistance





UXO Operators Personnel in Lao PDR 2013

Organization	Office Support				Operations				Total
	National		International		National		International		
	Men	Women	Man	Woman	Men	Women	Men	Women	
NRA	20	14	2	0	7	2	2	0	47
UXO Lao	136	53	3	1	814	193	0	0	1200
NPA	40	16	4	0	243	77	3	0	383
MAG	38	14	2	1	180	70	3	0	308
HI	12	6	1	1	71	26	2	1	120
SODI	7	7	2	1	42	13	1	0	73
Halo Trust	17	6	0	0	73	22	2	0	120
JMAS	5	2	3	3	4	0	2	0	19
ASA	2	1	0	0	10	1	0	0	14
PSD	4	3	0	0	47	13	0	0	67
SBH	1	2	0	0	40	5	0	0	48
XTD	3	1	0	0	36	0	0	0	40
SP	15	11	0	0	86	6	0	0	118
BACTEC	1	2	1	1	109	0	1	0	115
Milsearch	3	6	4	2	278	201	13	0	507
LXML MMG	5	6	0	0	238	118	7	0	374
WE	3	5	0	1	3	3	0	1	16
AAR	1	1	0	0	7	0	0	2	11
CRS	4	3	1	1	2	0	1	0	12
CMR	9	15	0	3	77	90	1	0	195
QLA	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	11
COPE	7	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	13
SoS	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	4
Total	342	179	24	17	2,370	840	38	5	3,815



2013 FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

Cash contributions:

Humanitarian clearance operators - 2013 (USD)

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Contributions Received in 2013</i>	<i>Expenditure on UXO Operations in 2013</i>
UXO Lao	6,204,648	8,819,955
NPA	4,150,000	4,150,000
MAG	5,189,000	5,189,000
HI	1,664,636	1,664,636
SODI	1,142,067	1,142,067
Halo Trust	1,429,408	1,429,408
JMAS*	Declined to provide information	Declined to provide information
Total	19,779,759	22,395,066

Commercial clearance companies - 2013 (USD)

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Contributions Received in 2013</i>	<i>Expenditure on UXO Operations in 2013</i>
ASA	108,950	108,950
PSD	800,000	800,000
SBH	250,000	227,300
Lao BSL*	Declined to provide information	Declined to provide information
XTD	250,000	315,500
LAUNC	299,000	299,000
BACTEC	901,000	901,000
Milsearch	2,005,428	2,005,428
LXML MMG	5,782,638	5,782,638
THB	Declined to provide information	Declined to provide information
SP	3,661,128	3,183,128
Total	14,058,144	13,622,944

Risk education and Victim assistance by all operators – 2013 (USD)

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Contributions Received in 2013</i>	<i>Expenditure on UXO Operations in 2013</i>
COPE	1,081,866	814,157
WE	157,915	157,915
CRS	87,654	87,654
AAR	187,800	142,000
CMR	456,000	456,000
SoS	79,951	79,951
QLA	88,362	71,205
Total	2,139,548	1,808,882



NRA (UNDP)	1,592,320	1,393,980
NRA (Sterling)	90,747	110,217
NRA (MAG)	0	18,375
NRA (Thai Government)	15,000	15,000

In-kind contributions

Lao Government (In-kind)	4,911,120	4,911,120
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Grand total	42,586,639	44,275,583
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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 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 41 new casualties in 2013**
- **In the last decade, 40% of all casualties were children**
- **Accidents caused by bombies increased to 30% of all ERW casualties in the last decade**

What is UXO?

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

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

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

OVERVIEW OF NRA ACTIVITIES IN 2013:

- NRA worked closely with Government in an effort to access Government funding for the sector. In 2013, the Government of Laos contribution equated to approximately \$4.9M (In-kind) to the sector of a total of approximately \$42.5M. Future funding will depend on the availability of funds and quality of the funding request made to Government by the NRA.
- The NRA organized milestone 'Regional Planning Workshops for UXO Clearance' in 3 regions, to support planning and prioritization of survey and clearance activities.
- NRA held a major workshop in Pakse, in order to inform the updating of national standards for survey. The workshop covered both operational and policy issues.
- NRA presented the Strategic Objectives of the UXO Sector, as detailed in the National Strategic Plan and Notification No. 093 on UXO clearance for socio-economic development projects in the Lao PDR, to Development Partners and relevant line Ministries. Notification 93 requires that all development projects undertaken in contaminated areas must plan for survey and clearance as necessary, and build the cost into their budgets.
- NRA and UNDP signed a new project document outlining their continued co-operation for the period 2013-2015. The project document, which includes a comprehensive strategy and action plan, was developed after a 2012 evaluation of UNDP's support to the sector and consultations with donors and partners.
- Some Progress has been made in assistance to victims. In 2012, a Survivor Tracking System was established to facilitate the collection of detailed information on survivors. This system will yield valuable information on the needs of the UXO survivors and will enable better tracking of progress in meeting their needs. Data analysis and dissemination will take place in 2014. Another achievement was the development and subsequent approval of the Victim Assistance Strategy for the NRA. The strategy was presented at the NRA board meeting (May 2013). While agreed in principle, the NRA Board requested several modifications before granting official approval in February 2014.

- The NRA continued to lead in the development of policy for the Sector and to regulate and coordinate the activities of operators. Collectively, survey and clearance operators in Lao PDR identified and destroyed approximately 82,238 items of UXO (including 40,300 cluster sub-munitions) and released 6,927 hectares of land (6,486 hectares through full clearance and 441 hectares through technical survey).
- However, the most notable sector result was a significant reduction in the number of UXO casualties, from approximately 300 per year as recently as 2008, to 41 in 2013. The NRA worked with operators to improve risk education methodologies and messages, and to better disseminate risk education messages throughout contaminated areas. In 2013, the NRA initiated radio programmes in two provinces, with messages tailored to address the main causes of UXO accidents. The NRA also collaborated with the Ministry of Education to revise UXO risk education curriculum materials to be used in primary schools.

NRA ACTIVITIES BY UNIT IN 2013:

Victim Assistance Unit:

The Technical Working Group on Victim Assistance contributes to support the establishment of a network of VA organizations providing services to UXO survivors. Previously, the VA Technical Working Group (TWG) highlighted the need for further progress in the Survivor Tracking System, especially data collection including reporting by operators and the consolidation and analysis of data.

In 2013, the targets for the Victim Assistance Unit were partially achieved, with some delay in the entry of data from the forms collected via the Survivor Tracking System. Some important milestones achieved include the collection of more detailed information on survivors, which will lead to the analysis and dissemination of more comprehensive information regarding the needs of the UXO survivors and better delivery of services by service providers. An NRA Victim Assistance strategy was also developed in order to guide the NRA Victim Assistance Unit's work to assist UXO victims within the broader disability and development frameworks in Lao PDR. The first draft of the VA strategy was discussed with operators and changes were made to the document. It was first presented to the NRA Board in May 2013. The document was further refined and a new section on resource requirements was added. (N.B. The strategy subsequently received final approval from the



NRA Board in February 2014).

Clearance Unit:

The NRA held three regional planning workshops and conducted data collection throughout the year, in order to identify development focus areas which will become priorities for survey and/or clearance.

After the regional planning workshops, the Clearance unit cooperated with the National Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Committee to meet Provincial Rural Development and Poverty Eradication officials in the central and southern provinces as well as relevant operators, to discuss detailed UXO Clearance Plans.

The sector also continued to explore new technologies and procedures in order to improve efficiency and increase the pace of land release. In November 2013, the NRA convened an important survey workshop in Pakse, to discuss and develop new UXO contamination assessment procedures.

Technical Working Group meetings were held in Q1 and Q2. TWG meetings did not take place in Q3 and Q4, but were replaced by the workshop on UXO Contamination Assessment Procedures, which involved the same stakeholders as the Technical Working Group and included many of the topics which had been planned for discussion during the TWG meetings.

An extensive range of issues were addressed in technical discussions throughout the year including Senior Explosive Ordnance Disposal (SEOD) training, training standards, restructuring of governance arrangements in the UXO sector at the national and provincial levels, feedback from the participants at a Quality Management workshop (including recommendations), further work on Survey/Land Release, and coordination within the sector.

The NRA will organize a workshop for provinces in early 2014 to further enhance coordination and regulation of the UXO sector and to impart a better understanding of the role and responsibilities of the NRA and other actors in the sector.

Research Unit:

Responsibility for the District Focused Approach (DFA) pilot project was transferred from the Research Unit to the Clearance Unit in November 2012. DFA has since been brought to conclusion and the results have informed the development of new Contamination Assessment Procedures. The Research Unit has since 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 Research Unit will help with the development of domestic legislation that is required for Lao PDR to maintain compliance with CCM obligations.

Information Management Unit:

The NRA maintains the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database for the UXO sector in Lao PDR. In 2013, 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. 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 March 2013, the Information Management Unit organized training on the use of IMSMA for operators and commercial companies in Vientiane Capital.

In December 2013, the IM unit, in cooperation with Norwegian People's Aid and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining organized a regional workshop to introduce IMSMA Version 6, which will replace IMSMA Version 5 currently used by the NRA and other operators. Version 6 has several new features and a simplified reporting approach.

Risk Education:

The 2013 targets for risk reduction were achieved with a further decrease in the number of UXO casualties to 41 in 2013, compared to 56 in 2012. This outcome was due, in part, to the collective efforts of the UXO Sector. Risk Education operators were supported by monitoring missions by the NRA, and regular exchanges of information during quarterly Technical Working Groups, including the sharing of best practices in the sector. Operators discussed various ways of maintaining a level of less than 75 casualties per year (the target established in Safe Path Forward II), specifically how to best address one of the main causes of accidents in 2013, "making fire". This led to the MRE unit, in cooperation with the Ministry of Information and Culture, developing specific risk education messages that were broadcasted via radio to vulnerable communities in two severely contaminated provinces, Xiengkhuang and Saravane.

Other discussions in MRE TWG meetings highlighted the need to establish effective reporting mechanisms and clear guidelines on the use of MRE materials. Operators also exchanged knowledge on how to further improve and organize advocacy and engagement events such as the "Spirit of Soccer" tournament in Xieng Khouang and an MRE radio program in Xieng Khouang and Saravane

Provinces. The TWG was also involved and assisted with the printing and distribution of MRE curriculum materials for primary schools in 42 districts in nine provinces, funded by UNICEF.

In addition, the Unit sent notification to all operators and related ministries on the situation of the scrap metal trade. After consideration again in 2013, it recommended against formulating a decree specific to scrap metal trade at this time, as it has been determined that the trade in scrap metal is no longer the main cause of UXO related accidents. The NRA will continue to follow-up on the situation and may undertake further review and reconsideration of this issue in the future.

Public Relations:

In 2013, the Public Relations (PR) Unit facilitated many important events, including International UN Day for Mine/UXO Action on 4th April. 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. A “fun run” was held on Lane Xang Avenue in Vientiane, with more than 1,000 people gathering in the early morning to run, walk from Patuxay to the Presidential Palace and back. Prior of the walk, agencies involved in UXO clearance in Laos held a special ceremony and beat drums to celebrate this important day.

To celebrate the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) on 1 August, the PR Unit, with Handicap International (HI), organized a full day of activities. The day started with an official opening ceremony, which was followed by exhibition on the UXO issue in Lao PDR by many organizations working in the UXO sector. Sporting events were also held and in the evening, a charity concert was organized by HI, together with the Lao Ban Advocates, NRA, UNDP, World Education, the Lao Disabled People Association, the Quality of Life Organization and Lao Bangfai. Approximately 1,000 people actively and enjoyably engaged in the various events.

The PR Unit, supported by an Australian volunteer until the end of June 2013, developed a better communication planning capacity and improved the use of NRA print communications.

The NRA seeks to further improve its capacity for effective communication, including methods and materials. To this end, the NRA reviewed the content of its website and the PR unit made recommendations to NRA management regarding possible changes. The NRA also sent one staff from the Public Relations Unit for training on website

upgrading and maintenance.

The NRA supported Lao media (Vientiane Times, Vientiane Mai, Army Media, Lao Star, Lao National television and more local media) to conduct a media field visit to Saravane and Champasack Provinces. Many questions were posed and responses given. Several articles were produced. The NRA highlighted the importance of providing and publishing accurate information including figures. The NRA also organized a UXO display to be exhibited at the Lao National Museum in Vientiane, to further raise awareness of the UXO issue in Lao PDR.

In 2013, more than 50 articles were published in local newspapers (Vientiane Times and Lao language newspapers) concerning the UXO issue, and the achievements of the various operators active in the UXO Sector.

Programme Unit:

The Programme Unit helped to organize the NRA Board meeting which was held on 29th May 2013. This meeting was an excellent opportunity to present (i) the 2013 Annual Work Plan, (ii) the NRA Victim Assistance strategy and (iii) a new project document concerning UNDP support for NRA and UXO LAO for the period 2013-2015, and to update the Board on general developments within the UXO sector.

On June 2013, the NRA organized the first UXO Sector Policy Forum on the topic “Planning and Prioritization in the UXO Sector”. More than 65 stakeholders participated, including Lao Government officials, development partners, UXO operators and technical advisers. The aim was to brief stakeholders on the plans and processes to establish priorities in the sector and to allow operators and donors to engage in substantive discussions on these and other topics. In order to further strengthen policy dialogue in the sector, the NRA is planning to organize another Policy Forum in 2014.

The NRA, with support from UNDP and financial commitments from Australia and Switzerland, developed a concept paper to establish a Small Grants Facility in support of civil society activities in the areas of Victim Assistance, Risk Education and UXO survey. Further work is expected to commence on establishing this Facility within the NRA, once regulations concerning international support to civil society organizations have been clarified.

An Annual Review Meeting was organized by the NRA with UNDP and donors on 12th February 2013, to assess performance against yearly targets and to



discuss the Annual Work Plan for the following year. The review was informed by the Annual Project Report and an up-to-date Combined Delivery Report. This meeting was followed by a meeting of a Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) to consider a new three year programme of cooperation between NRA/UXO Lao and the UNDP to “Support for the Institutional Strengthening of the National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector (NRA) and of the Lao National UXO Programme (UXO Lao) 2013-2015.”

In June 2013, the NRA held a UXO Trust Fund Steering Committee meeting which was attended by UXO Trust Fund contributors (Australia, France, Ireland, SDC), and UNDP. The meeting was co-chaired by H.E Alounkeo Kittikhoun, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Minh Pham, UN Resident Coordinator in Lao PDR. The aim of the meeting was to report on the contributions received, the use of the funds administered by UNDP and results achieved.

Quality Management Unit:

During all monitoring missions, the NRA QA/QC Unit assesses the compliance of operators with National Standards. In 2013, the Quality Management Unit (QM) inspected the work of UXO Lao, HI, NPA, Halo Trust, MAG and ASA Power Engineering Company in 10 UXO contaminated provinces. The missions found that, in some instances, the UXO clearance team leader did not ensure proper marking in the field and, in a few cases, the team leader did not record on the map, information collected after conducting QC of cleared lanes.

In April 2013, the NRA QM team conducted an investigation regarding an accident which occurred in Xieng Khouang Province in Kham district on 7th April. The accident resulted in the death of 1 child and injury of 2 other children. The NRA submitted a series of recommendations to the NRA Board, which were approved, in order to prevent accidents as much as possible and to promote continuous improvement. If the funding situation allows, the QM unit of NRA would like to field a second Quality Assurance/Quality Control team, to help monitor the increasing number of survey and clearance operators (19).

UPDATE ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING:

In February 2013, the NRA assigned a female Programme Technician to be the Gender Focal Point for the NRA. She was tasked to ensure that gender considerations

are taken into account within the NRA and to coordinate a Gender Mainstreaming workshop.

The NRA subsequently convened the first training workshop on Gender within the Lao UXO Sector, on 9 May 2013. Gender training specific to the UXO/Mine Action sector was provided by the Geneva-based Gender and Mine Action Programme (GMAP) for 35 staff from the NRA, UXO Lao, Humanitarian Operators and UNDP. Participants learned about gender issues related to employment, recruitment and training, project cycle management, land release, UXO risk education, community liaison and victim assistance. Overall, feedback was very good and participants requested additional training, including at the provincial level, if possible.

PARTNERSHIPS AND SUPPORT:

Lao PDR continues to engage actively in the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions at the international level, as well as in country. Lao PDR participated in the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) Intersessional meetings in Geneva in April and in the Fourth Meeting of State Parties held in Lusaka, Zambia in September 2013. The Lao delegation made substantive statements in all key sessions and co-chaired the Working Group on Risk Reduction and Clearance. Before the April meetings in Geneva, the NRA submitted the annual CCM Article 7 (Transparency) report and submitted it to MoFA for onward transmission to the UN Secretary General, as CCM depositary.

Lao PDR must develop domestic legislation in order to remain compliant with its obligations under the CCM. Among other things, legal penalties must be put in place for the commission of acts prohibited under the Convention. In 2013, the International Committee of the Red Cross, which has developed CCM ‘model legislation’ for the consideration of States Parties, offered to assist and advise Lao PDR on the development of its law. The NRA will also engage a local consultant with the requisite legal and related expertise to assist the Ministry of Justice and the NRA in the drafting of the legislation.

In 2013 the Australian Foreign Minister announced an additional AUD 5.4 million in support of the ongoing Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) clearance, mine risk education and survivor assistance work in Laos. Of this amount, AUD 2.6 million has been earmarked to support the NRA and UXO Lao.

In 2012, the European Union (EU) renewed its commitment to assist the UXO sector in Lao PDR, through its contribution to the UNDP to support UXO clearance and risk education operations in Attapeu province as well as the NRA's institutional capacity development. Through this, the EU provided a multi-year contribution of 1.3 million Euros, covering the period from October 2012 to August 2015.

In 2013, the UK provided funding 126,052 USD to support NRA and UXO Lao. USD 39,447 were used to fund training courses at the UXO Lao Training Center. NRA has utilised 86,605 USD to support the overall NRA operations with focus on institutional capacity development.

The Government of Ireland also announced that it will make a multi-year contribution to the UXO sector in the amount of €2 million (approx. 2.7 million USD) through to 2015. This support will further strengthen the capacity of the NRA and UXO Lao, and will be channeled through the UXO Trust Fund, administered by UNDP.

The Government of Switzerland extended its support to the UXO sector in Lao PDR with an additional contribution of US\$3.79 million for the period 2013-2015, also through the UXO Trust Fund. US\$3.16 million is un-earmarked support for the day-to-day operations of NRA and UXO Lao, including UXO sector coordination and regulatory work, clearance, survey, risk education and training. The remainder of the funds will be allocated to Non-Governmental Organizations to develop capacity in the area of UXO survey.

In 2013, the USA committed USD 175,996 to strengthen the capacity of the NRA to coordinate the sector. Two technical advisors were also provided to the sector, one TA supporting the operations unit of NRA, the other supporting the QM unit of UXO Lao. US funds will be disbursed over the next two years.

The USA also contributed to the provision of Senior EOD training for 19 persons (including 3 women) representing six organizations and 2 Lao Army observers. The training was carried out by Sterling International at the UXO Sector Training Centre and field. This is the fourth SEOD course organized in Lao PDR. A total of 66 Senior SEODs, including 6 women, have been trained and work with various operators active in the UXO sector in Lao PDR.

In 2013, for the first time, the Royal Thai government contributed to the UXO sector in Lao PDR, in the amount of 500,000 THB.

The Republic of China, through the NRA, provided equipment for UXO victim assistance in Lao PDR, valued at

1 M Chinese Yuan. This equipment has been distributed to district hospitals in Huaphan and Khammoune provinces.

In addition, China provided 3 months training in China for 30 personnel from the NRA, UXO Lao and Lao People's Army, in the areas of UXO clearance and medical training. This pioneer initiative has helped to expand Lao national capacity in the UXO sector.

In 2013, the NRA also collaborated closely with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) which provided valuable training which:

- Strengthened capacity within the UXO Sector (NRA, UXO Lao, operators) in Quality Management.
- improved understanding of concepts and techniques related to cost-benefit analysis and how they can be applied to measure development results in the UXO Sector.
- Strengthened capacity and understanding in the area of contacting and liability. (Three workshops were held in October 2013, adapted to different audiences: line ministries, the NRA and UXO LAO, INGOs and commercial companies).
- Introduced Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Version 6, which will replace IMSMA Version 5, which is currently used by the NRA and other operators. Version 6 has some new capabilities and a simplified reporting approach.



2013 NRA FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial contributions to the NRA and expenditure in 2013 (USD).

<i>Donors</i>	<i>2013 Contributions</i>	<i>2013 Expenditure</i>
UNDP	1,592,320	1,393,980
Sterling International	90,747	110,217
MAG	0	18,375

NRA Total 2013	1,683,067	1,522,571
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Funding channeled through UNDP - Breakdown per donor for the year 2013 (USD).

<i>Donors</i>	<i>2013 Contributions</i>	<i>2013 Expenditure</i>
Australia	801,541	404,578
European Union	0	143,987
France	0	1,151
Ireland	362,500	297,426
Switzerland	300,000	348,734
United Kingdom (DFID)	16,779	86,605
UNDP TRAC Fund	111,500	111,500
Total 2013	1,592,320	1,393,980

NRA expenditure in 2013.

<i>CATEGORIES</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Personnel Costs	914,398
Trainings, Workshops and Events	102,495
Travel expenses	115,210
Office Operating, Administrative and Installation Costs	138,864
Field Operating Costs	0
Equipment	74,626
UNDP General Management Support Fee	45,873
Unrealized gain & loss	2,515
Total 2013	1,393,980

Donor Contributions to the NRA through UNDP Lao PDR, 2003 - 2013 (USD):

<i>Donors</i>	<i>2013 Contributions</i>	<i>2003-2013 Contributions</i>
Australia	801,541	2,624,844
Canada	0	81,161
European Union	0	217,160
France	0	54,867
Ireland	362,500	1,264,919
New Zealand	0	450,907
Switzerland	300,000	2,260,000
United Kingdom (DFID)	16,779	652,478
United States of America	0	95,238
UNDP TRAC Fund	111,500	2,006,129
Total	1,592,320	9,707,703



"Fun Run" to celebrate the 2013 International UXO/Mine Awareness Day, 4th April 2013.



Ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the Entry into Force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), 1st August 2013.



Project document signing ceremony between UNDP programme of Co-operation with NRA and UXO Lao, 2013-2015.



Workshop on measuring development results in the UXO sector in Lao PDR.



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. Solidarity Service International (SODI)
7. 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. Sengphet UXO Clearance Co., Ltd (SP)
5. XTD UXO Clearance Co., Ltd (XTD)
6. Bactec Lao Ltd (BACTEC)
7. Milsearch Lao EOD Sole Company Limited (Milsearch)
8. Engineering Department, Ministry of National Defence associated with MMG LXML (MMG)

Victim Assistance and Risk Education Operators

1. Association for Aid and Relief (AAR)
2. Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
3. Cooperative Prosthetic and Orthotic Enterprise (COPE)
4. Center of Medical and Rehabilitation (CMR)
5. Quality of Life Association (QLA)
6. World Education (WE)
7. 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 2013:

In 2013 Handicap International kept working in the three districts of Nong, Sepone and Vilabuly in Savannakhet province implementing the following activities:

- 1) Community liaison: supported by community volunteers, it is done before and during clearance and roving operations for the beneficiaries to be involved in the process (by cutting vegetation, by promoting safety of the population).
- 2) General district survey: it aims at combining different sources of information (history of the village, known past and current contamination by UXOs) to further improve the priority of interventions.
- 3) Roving spot task: where there are UXOs reported (by HI field teams or external sources) the roving team is deployed, within one month, for further disposal of the UXOs.
- 4) Clearance: it supports the development projects of its partners such as the construction of schools, health centers, community building, extension of rice paddy and farming lands.
- 5) Risk Education: it consists of (1) safety briefing in group sessions separated for men, women and children (2) door-to-door visits to teach parents (3) kid clubs organized in schools in collaboration with teachers (4) movie events at night in the villages. A pre and post impact assessment is implemented in the target villages for evaluating the knowledge and attitudes of villagers

towards UXOs before and after the interventions.

6) Victim Assistance: the Victim Assistance project effectively started in July 2013 after the signature of the MOU. Baseline and KAP surveys were undertaken in 40 villages of the 2 districts of intervention (Nong and Sepone). It aimed, respectively, at understanding the local socio-economic context of targeted population and to assess the situation and the needs of people with disability including UXO victims and their relatives to allow the development of a comprehensive livelihood support action plan.

Handicap International continued its support to the Laos Ban Advocates. Since 2010 the Laos Ban Advocates, a group of eight UXO accident survivors in Lao PDR, are particularly active in advocacy on the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) and the Mine Ban Treaty (MBT) as well as the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD).

Handicap International also pursued its support to the Provincial Office of NRA in Savannakhet, consisting of providing financial support to cover some running costs and strengthening their capacities in managing the budget.



Signing MOU ceremony by NRA and Handicap International at Novotel hotel, Vientiane, July 2013.



Main successes in 2013:

In July 2013 the MOU between the NRA and Handicap International has been signed (and the accreditation delivered). Both documents covered the period 2013-2017. The MOU ceremony took place on 15th of July with, attending it, 30 people from different government and non government organizations.

Another success has been the confirmation of a new funding from European Union-contributing to the implementation of the program as defined in the MOU, in complement to the grant from Dutch government. It allowed hiring new UXO technicians to increase the number of clearance sections up to 4 in addition to the roving team.

Key achievements in 2013:

- General district survey: completed in Sepone and started in Vilabuly districts.
- Roving: 557 spot tasks have been conducted in 93 villages allowing the disposal of 2,232 UXOs.
- Clearance: 27.8 hectares of land have been cleared in 28 villages; 74 Post Clearance Assessments were conducted showing that 100% of lands were used as planned after clearance.
- Risk Education: 90 activities have been conducted in 28 villages reaching more than 14,000 beneficiaries.
- Victim Assistance: during the 3-month survey (09 to 12/2013) the team has undertaken 6 Participatory Rural Appraisals activities in each of the 40 selected villages. 162 people with disability have been interviewed in Nong (73 women and 89 men) and 159 in Sepone (78 women and 81 men). It allowed the identification of 626 persons with disabilities in the two districts (352 in Sepone and 274 in Nong)

with among them 81 UXO survivors (38 in Nong and 43 in Sepone).

- Laos Ban Advocates have conducted advocacy activities such as:
 - 10 meetings at village level in Savannakhet, Khammouan and Xiengkhouang provinces to conduct risk awareness sessions and to assess the situation of Victim Assistance services;
 - 4 meetings at district level in Savannakhet and Xiengkhouang provinces to support and monitor the implementation of the CCM;
 - Participation to the 13th Meeting of State Parties to the MBT (Geneva, Switzerland), to the 4th meeting of state parties to the CCM (Lusaka, Zambia) and to the intercessional meetings for the CCM (Geneva again).
- Coordination: Handicap International continued to ensure its close coordination with NRA and other operators notably through its participation to sector working groups and workshops. The organization reported on a monthly basis its activities to the NRA through the sending of monthly reports and filling of IMSMA database. A special attention is paid to strengthen strong relationship and coordination with provincial, districts and villages authorities.

A main challenge remains the access to the remote villages especially during the rainy season which may affect seriously the work in the field (no access at all or stopping of activities for days).

The good news: Preventing children from accident

In 2013, Handicap International undertook the clearance of 8 school yards in the three districts of Nong, Sepon and Vilabuly in Savannakhet province in accordance with local development plans. The clearance of 5.6 hectares allowed removing 437 UXOs and preventing more than 11,000 at-school children to be exposed to UXO risks.

Laos Ban Advocates Celebrated the Convention on Cluster Munitions' 3rd Anniversary.

This year, the Laos Ban Advocates wanted to take a step forward by involving the people of Vientiane in the fight against Cluster Munitions and in the efforts to support the UXO survivors. In so doing, the Laos Ban Advocates involved a group of organizations, NRA, UNDP, LDPA, QLA, World Education and Lao Bang Fai, to set up an all day-event. The 3rd of August has then been dedicated

to the annual official ceremony and the photo exhibition on the UXO issue in Lao PDR; the day ended with a charity event. “Let’s Party against Bombies”, through a combination of speeches, performance of Lao Puppet and of Pongsavath/Lao Bang Fai, Performances of dancers from LDWDC and of blind students from CMR, aimed to inform people from Vientiane on the UXO issue as well as to promote the rights of persons with disabilities. About 800 people attended this successful “Let’s party against bombies”.

Focus areas of work in 2014:

- A major expansion of activities is also planned consisting of:
 - Starting technical survey as soon as the NRA guidelines on “UXO contamination assessment” are available and the staff is hired (expectation: 3 sections comprised of 18 technicians).
 - Expanding the number of its clearance sections from 4 to 6 sections. Such expansion would allow Handicap International to increase its clearance capacities above 40 hectares in 2014.



- Implementing training on Community-Based Reporting System and Provincial Order on the use of scrap metal detector.
- The roving interventions will continue where there is a need; risk education activities will be implemented in at least 21 villages (7 in each of the three districts). The non technical surveys should be completed in Sepone and Vilabuly districts as it was already done for Nong district (ending field survey, record and analysis of data, reporting).
- The Victim Assistance project will focus on (1) improving national and local capacities to coordinate VA efforts, particularly as concerns socio-economic inclusion (2) increasing opportunities for UXO survivors, their families as well as the families of



those killed by UXO and other people with disabilities to improve their vocational and business skills and thus enhance their income generating capabilities (3) deploying Disability Rights and Equality Training in the two target districts to reduce social barriers and attitudes that limit the economic inclusion of UXO survivors/People with disabilities. (4) producing and disseminating a service providers’ directory and (5) supporting awareness events on disability. In 2014, 100 persons with disability, UXO survivors and their families will benefit from income generating activities.

- In 2014, the Laos Ban Advocates will continue advocating for the total ban of UXO/Mine as well as to advocate for victim assistance at national and international level.

Implementing Partners:

Direct beneficiaries are the population of the 3 districts of Nong, Sepone and Vilabuly in Savannakhet province. In 2013, Handicap International reached:

- 13,717 beneficiaries through clearance operations;
- 14,433 beneficiaries through Risk Education activities (54% males / 46% females; 42% adults/ 58% children);
- Population of 93 villages also benefitted directly from roving interventions;
- 321 people with disability have been interviewed in Nong and Sepone districts (47% women and 53% men) for the purpose of victim assistance project which widely targets people with disability, UXO survivors, widows from UXO victims and their families;
- 8 Ban advocates received training and support to conduct their advocacy activities

Main partners of Handicap International are:

- National Regulatory Authority (NRA) Vientiane
- National Regulatory Authority (NRA) Savannakhet Provincial Office
- The National Committee for Disabled People and Elderly (NCDE)
- Lao Disabled People's Association (LDPA)
- Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Education
- Rural Development department
- Provincial and districts authorities
- Development organizations (PRF, Welthungerhilfe, CRS)



Roving activities, HI, Nong district, 2013

Personnel in 2013:

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
National		International		National		International	
Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
12	6	1	1	71	26	2	1

Detailed statistic figures in 2013:

<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										
Time of visits	Men	Women	Boy	Girl	Financial	Medical	Villages	Time of Visits	Villages	Time of Visits
90	3,426	2,595	4,338	4,074	8	8	82	82	93	93
Total	14,433 beneficiaries				8 beneficiaries		82	82	93	93

Area cleared:

<i>Clearance (Ha)</i>			<i>Technical Survey (Ha)</i>		
Agriculture	Development	Total area	Agriculture	Development	Total area
13.2	14.6	27.8	0	0	0



UXO found, removed and destroyed:

<i>UXO Removed/Destroyed</i>					
Task	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	Total
Roving	6	1,116	8	1,102	2,232
Clearance	1	83	0	847	931
Total	7	1,199	8	1,949	3,163

Geographic operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in</i>
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, Savannakhet, Khammouane and Xiengkhouang provinces

Financials: Expenditure for 2013: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	954.971,12
Operational costs	277.606,11
Special Operational costs	0,00
Equipment – expendable	383.977,71
Equipment – non-expendable	48.081,65
Total	1.664.636,59

Donor contributions for 2013: (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2013</i>
MOFA Netherlands	1.412.566,94
European Union	106.606,69
ADC	54.844,41
GAA	14.964,43
Handicap International	75.654,13
Total	1.664.636,59



JAPAN MINE ACTION SERVICE (JMAS)

Activities in 2013:

UXO Clearance in Champasack and Saravan Provinces

Work continued on the planned agricultural site in both provinces. In the project, local villagers were employed for pre-clearance work of UXOs and it made good effect of social economic benefits to villages.

UXO Clearance in Attapue Province:

The overall project objectives are to improve people's living circumstances on UXOs and decrease victims by improving technique on disposal of UXOs and clearance of contaminated area.

Key achievements in 2013:

UXO Clearance in Champasack and Salavan Provinces:

JMAS's project is yearly but stretches over two years. The work continued well, safely and made effect in planned though its proceeding was delayed in latter half year because of land acquisition issue.

UXO Clearance in Attapue Province

JMAS Technical Adviser(TA) advises and transfers of way of project management and disposal techniques to UXO Lao Attapue. Transfer of cutting bomb by saw method is one of those and notable success was accomplishment of live bomb cutting experiment.

The Good News:

Twice cutting bomb by saw experiments were executed successfully in January and May. 500lb live bomb with fuze was cut smoothly in a bit more an hour by a trained SEOD. No problem was found in evaluation check items. Participated SEODs expressed their request for inducing it as an authorized method and teaching at Training Center.

Focus areas of work in 2014:

- Continue to work for safety of UXO Clearance in Champasak and Salavan Provinces to the extent of planned space.
- As for Attapue project, JMAS focus on maximum transferring techniques and make them mark good final test results. Finish Cutting bomb experiment successfully and induce it as an authorized method.
- Proceed NGO project finding on improvement of on- going Training Center both in curriculum and old building.

Implementing Partners:

JMAS is in cooperation with UXO Lao Attapue and private de-mining company in unique activities for safety and socio-economical effect to villagers with Lao Tsumura Co., Ltd.

Personnel in 2013:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
5	2	3	3	4	0	2	0

Geographic operations:

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in
Area clearance	Pakxong district-Champasak province. Salavan and Laognam districts-Salavan province and Attapue province.



JMAS Technical Adviser trained UXO Lao staff for fuze removal.

Financials:

Expenditure for 2013: (USD)

JMAS declined to provide information.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	
Operational costs	
Special Operational costs	
Equipment – expendable	
Equipment – non-expendable	
Total	N/A



LAO NATIONAL UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE PROGRAMME (UXO LAO)

Activities in 2013:

For the period 01 January to 31 December 2013, UXO Lao released 3,295 hectares of land through area clearance and technical survey activities reaching 255,624 beneficiaries in nine provinces. Within the reporting period, UXO Lao destroyed 60,634 items of UXO of which 28,590 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, 650 risk education activities were conducted by UXO Lao staff and Village Volunteers and reached 173,529 people (including 88,380 women of whom 40,316 were children and 85,149 men of whom 40,211 were children).

Risk education activities are closely linked with survey activities by allowing villagers to assist survey teams in identifying the location of UXO. Furthermore, 1,754 roving tasks were conducted in 1,176 villages removing 25,307 items of UXO including 11,026 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 2013:

UXO Lao was able to not only achieve its annual targets, it exceeded them.

In 2013 through the support of the Government of Australia, UXO Lao trained and equipped 5 new clearance and 3 new CA teams in three provinces and through this will provide direct support to the "Laos-Australia Rural Livelihood Programme" (LARLP) in six districts in Laos. In rural Laos, access to secure land is one of the critical factors for ensuring subsistence, income generation, and greater resilience. The exceptional contamination of rural Laos by UXO means that any efforts to increase the productivity of land will require prior clearance of UXO. The LARLP is a 4-year, Au\$ 41.5 million programme whose goal is to increase the economic security and resilience of poor women and men in rural areas and with the objective to provide poor rural families, in particular women, with greater and inclusive access to social protection, financial services, productive assets and opportunities to generate income. In order to being able to implement the activities of the Laos-Australia Rural Livelihood Programme prior clearance of land is required which will be undertaken by UXO Lao.

Between January and December 2013, 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.

The good news:

As part of the UXO Lao-JICA project on "Supporting the Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Clearance in Surrounding Areas of Main Roads in the Lao PDR" the Government of Japan provided UXO Lao with much needed new equipment and vehicles in the amount of Japanese Yen 900,000,000 (approx. USD 9 million).

In December 2013, the Government of Japan agreed to provide a grant in the amount of Japanese Yen 864,000,000 (approx. USD 8.4 million) to the Government of Lao PDR for brush cutting activities. This Project is to introduce mechanization to, and increasing efficiency of, brush cutting work as part of UXO clearance operations while establishing a forward post that will

Activities	2013 Targets	2013 Achievements
Clearance/ Technical Survey	3,167 ha	3,295 ha
Roving tasks	1,550 tasks	1,754 tasks
General Survey Tasks	1,817 tasks	2,179 tasks
Risk Education Activities	639 villages visited	650 villages visited

become a Field Base for local clearance operations. Furthermore, through supporting the smooth operation of these elements in the model areas, the project seeks to accelerate UXO clearance operation in order to remove obstacles to development in the poverty stricken areas of Laos.

UNDP was able to mobilize additional funding from the Government of Australia in the amount of AUD 1.7 million to be used as unearmarked funds for UXO Lao operations and AUD 1.8 million as part of the Laos-Australia Rural Livelihood Program under a three-year program. The Government of Switzerland further signed an agreement with UNDP to support UXO Lao and the NRA with a total of USD 3.79 million out of which USD 632,000 will be used in support of NGOs under the new Civil Society Funding Facility.

Focus areas of work in 2014:

In 2014, UXO Lao plans to further update its internal information management systems through introducing a HR database and an asset management system among others.

Pending ongoing discussions with the NRA and the UXO sector, it remains to be seen in what capacity, and in what form, technical survey will further be used.

The work planning process continues to be revised and streamlined and will draw from lessons learned during the 2013 work planning process. The 2014 work plan focuses more on developmental activities in accordance with the national strategy to support the 7th NSEDP.

UXO Lao is further looking forward to collaborating with the Laos-Australia Rural Livelihood Program (LARLP) to potentially undertake an assessment of M&E in UXO Lao and find ways to better track the impact and outcomes of UXO clearance on the livelihoods of people and poverty reduction.

During 2014, UXO Lao will work in 64 districts in nine provinces including 37 of the poorest districts; undertake 679 Community Awareness visits, conducted by both CA teams and village volunteers. UXO Lao will also undertake 1,789 General Survey tasks and expects to complete 1,537 Roving tasks. Following on our previous survey and planning work, UXO Lao expects to release 3,490 Ha of land through clearance and technical survey to support development and poverty reduction in Laos.





Villager pointed UXO Lao staff where he found UXO located in his rice field

Personnel in 2013*:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
136	53	3	1	814	193	0	0

Detailed statistical figures in 2013:

MINE RISK EDUCATION Community Awareness		VICTIM ASSISTANCE No. of people who received assistance		UXO Survey		UXO Roving	
Visits	Beneficiaries	Financial	Medical	Villages	Time of Visits	Villages	Time of Visits
650	173,529	N/A	N/A	1,406	2,179	1,176	1,754

Area cleared:

Clearance (Ha)			Technical Survey (Ha)		
Agriculture	Development	Total area	Agriculture	Development	Total area
2,435	421	2,856	371	68	439



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	216	11,026	202	13,863	25,307
Clearance	24	17,551	48	17,522	35,145
Technical Survey	0	13	0	169	182
Total	240	28,590	250	31,554	60,634

Training:

<i>Training Course</i>	<i>No. of Courses conducted</i>	<i>Total Graduates</i>	<i>Number of female graduates</i>
Deminer/Clearance (EOD Level 1)	3	112	37
SEOD (EOD Level 4)	1	19	3
Medic	2	13	6
Risk Education/Non-Technical Survey	1	9	0
Risk Education	1	11	4
Clearance Team Leader (EOD Level 3)	1	30	7
Risk Education Team Leader	1	7	0
TOTAL	10	201	57

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 2013: (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Funding Received</i>
<i>Bilateral Fund (A)</i>	
USA/Sterling	1,075,593
JMAS	213,782
World Without Mines	149,820
MAG	13,730
Poland	15,536
Intrepid travel foundation	7,102
<i>Total Bilateral Income received</i>	<i>1,475,563</i>
<i>Funding Through UNDP (B)</i>	
Luxembourg	198,006
Switzerland	753,000
DFID	39,447
Ireland	562,857
Australia	2,825,775
Republic of Korea	350,000
<i>Total UNDP Income received</i>	<i>4,729,085</i>
<i>Total (A) + (B)</i>	<i>6,204,648</i>

2013 Interim Expenditure by Category*: (USD)

<i>CATEGORIES</i>	<i>TOTAL UNDP + UXO LAO BILATERAL EXPENDITURE 2013</i>
Personnel Cost	5,284,125
Trainings, Workshops and Events	223,944
Travel	129,863
Office Operating, Administrative Cost and Installation Cost	415,751
Field Operating Cost	1,360,329
Equipment (Field & Office)	654,976
Consumables (such as batteries, explosives, etc)	185,347
Field Uniforms and Medical Equipment	172,535
Community Awareness Equipment Cost	18,570
UNDP General Management Support Fee	325,313
realized gain	(5)



realized loss	18,908
unrealized gain	(18,580)
unrealized loss	48,881
Total	8,819,955

*As of 24 February 2014. UNDP financial books officially close in April 2014

2013 Financial Interim Expenditure*: (USD)

2013 INTERIM EXPENDITURE BY DONOR			Expenditure (USD)
UNDP PROJECT UXO LAO	TRUST FUND	AUSTRALIA	1,700,827
		IRELAND	249,740
		LUXEMBOURG	388,170
		NEW ZEALAND	1,016,135
		SWITZERLAND (SDC)	1,183,078
	TOTAL TRUST FUND		4,537,950
	COST SHARING AGREEMENTS	AUSTRALIA C/S	1,189,661
		AUSTRALIA Rural Livelihood	510,758
		EU	224,849
	TOTAL COST SHARING AGREEMENTS		1,925,268
	THEMATIC TRUST FUND	DFID	39,385
		REP. KOREA	15,000
	TOTAL THEMATIC TRUST FUND		54,385
	UNDP RESOURCES	UNDP TRAC	418,357
TOTAL UNDP RESOURCES		418,357	
UNDP TOTAL	6,935,959		
* expenditure as of 24 February, UNDP financial books officially close in April 2014			
BILATERAL FUNDS UXO LAO	JAPAN	91,567	
	JMAS	75,472	
	MAG	12,714	
	POLAND	15,056	
	USA/STERLING	1,442,829	
	WWM	144,399	
	OTHER FUNDS* (such as payments from NGO, visitor center, Intrepid travel foundation, reimbursement for training of staff, etc)	101,959	
	TOTAL BILATERAL	1,883,996	
TOTAL UXO LAO 2013			8,819,955

New funding mobilized in 2013:

UNDP:

- Australia: AUD 1.7 million (out of a total agreement for AUD 2.6 million with UNDP for NRA and UXO Lao)
- Australia: AUD 1.8 million for UXO Lao operations to support the Laos-Australia Rural Livelihood Programme
- Switzerland: USD 3.158 million (to be split between UXO Lao and NRA. Allocation of funds yet to be decided by the project board)
- Republic of Korea: USD 34,000

BILATERAL:

- Japan: approx. USD 570,000 for Sekong province* (pending approval)
- USA: USD 1.38 million for Champasack and Savannakhet province
- WWM: USD 220,000 for Khammouane province

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS TO UXO-LAO:

In-kind contributions are expected to be received through the Government of Japan for the new brush cutter project in the amount of around USD 8.4 million, as well as the construction of and equipment for a new UXO Lao Training Center through the support of JMAS.



MINES ADVISORY GROUP (MAG)

Activities in 2013:

The MAG Vision is one of: A safe and secure future for men, women and children affected by armed violence and conflict.

We work to save lives and build futures by working with others:

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

In 2013 MAG continued to run operations in two of the most heavily UXO contaminated provinces in the country: Xieng Khouang and Khammouane.

Across the year, over 2,000,000m² was released from Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) contamination by MAG clearance teams. During this time they removed over 7,000 items of UXO. On average, MAG's clearance technicians were identifying and destroying a UXO item every 286m² of land cleared.

The vast majority of this land went on to be used for agricultural production activities such as farm land and animal grazing. By partnering with district and provincial authorities and INGO partners such as World Vision and Child Fund International, MAG was also able to make land safe for infrastructure development projects, construction of health centers and schools, and the establishing of safe water and irrigation systems.



A crucial element of MAG's clearance teams are the Community Liaison (CL) capacity. By engaging and consulting with local communities, the CL teams ensure that MAG clears land that is of the highest priority for them. A number of factors are considered when deciding on priority for clearance including direct evidence of UXO contamination, if there has been an UXO accident on the land, official USA bombing data, and what the planned land-use is post MAG's clearance.

MAG's major donors during 2013 were the US State Department's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (WRA), Department for International Development (UK Government), European Union and the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Development (DFATD), Canadian Government. We thank them all for their very generous support of MAG's mission to save lives and build futures within Lao PDR.

Key achievements in 2013:

2013 was another successful year for MAG in the implementation of well targeted clearance operations on high impact areas of UXO contaminated land in Lao PDR. MAG works hard to ensure that all clearance is undertaken on land for which there is a clearly identified plan for its use for a developmental purpose. Over 92% of the land MAG cleared during 2013 went on to be used for a productive activity such as agricultural extension, infrastructure construction and livelihoods training. All of these activities ensure that poor communities have access to opportunities to lift themselves out of poverty, enhance their well-being and have access to important support services. Alongside these benefits, MAG's clearance operations significantly increase community safety and security and reduce peoples' fears regarding



living in UXO contaminated areas and being involved in a UXO accident.

In the middle of the 2013, MAG undertook an extensive Impact Assessment survey of a thirty month project funded by DFID in our operational provinces of Khammouane and Xieng Khouang. The survey was conducted in 1,054 villages over a two month period. A baseline survey of similar scope was conducted by MAG in 2011 and it was against the results of this that the information collected during Impact Assessment survey was compared. Household questionnaires and focus groups discussions were staged with the aim of gathering conclusive evidence of the changes brought about to the lives of the beneficiary's of MAG's humanitarian UXO operations.

The key findings of the survey were that, as a result of MAG's action in Laos PDR, there was:

- An increase in safety within UXO affected communities, with both a reduction in accidents and the use of UXO contaminated land.
- An increase in land safe for agricultural use and, critically, an increase in food security.
- An increase in economic opportunities, with communities experiencing higher employment and increased income.

Some significant statistics coming out of the survey help demonstrate the multiple benefits brought around by MAG's UXO clearance work:

- 21% reduction in the number of people who felt compelled to use contaminated land due to limited livelihood options.
- Following MAG's clearance, there was a 43% decrease in those who felt that land was inaccessible due to UXO contamination.
- 18% reduction in the number of respondents who worry about UXO every day, with a roughly equal reduction (16%) in respondents rating UXO contamination as a sizable problem in their community.
- Following MAG's activities, 92% of respondents stated that they did not experience any months of food shortage in the last year, a considerable increase from 65% in the baseline survey.



The good news:

In March 2013 MAG was working in Naphai village, Phaxay district in Xieng Khouang province.

MAG had been issued with a request from the local authorities to undertake clearance in the village because extremely high levels of UXO contamination had been reported in the area by the local communities.

Following the completion of MAG Community Liaison activities in March 2013, MAG clearance resources were deployed to Naphai village in May 2013.

Mr. Chan and his family of seven have been living in the village all their lives and were already aware that the area was heavily contaminated with UXO items. He says: "Previously when attempting to extend my farm land I found bombies. Whenever I did I moved them myself and dumped them in a bomb crater. I knew this was very risky behavior but I was desperate to grow rice for my family."

MAG cleared 4,500m² of land for Mr. Chan during which time they identified and destroyed 492 BLU26 items (cluster munitions). That means that MAG Technicians were finding a cluster munition item every 9m² they searched which, even in a country as heavily contaminated with UXO as Lao PDR, is extremely high.

Mr. Chan states: "Thanks to MAG I can now use my land safely and do not have to worry about a UXO accident occurring. Since my land was cleared I have been able to use a tractor instead of a buffalo and basic farming tools. This makes farming much quicker and easier for me and my family now. We are very pleased and grateful to MAG."

Focus areas of work in 2014:

MAG will continue to work in close partnership with authorities from the Government of Laos at national,



provincial and district levels to ensure that our clearance activities are aligned with the country's development plans. The office of Rural Development and Poverty Eradication will be a key partner for MAG in this, as will the NRA. We will also be working with local communities to ensure that those who do not fall directly under a specific Government development plan still have access to the benefits of UXO clearance, both to ensure they have land safe for agricultural production and other income generating activities, and also improved community safety and security.

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 Xieng Khouang
- Child Fund International
- World Vision Laos
- HELVETAS,
- Care International
- Caritas
- CRS
- World Education
- Quality of Life Association
- Red Cross
- Health Poverty Action
- Triangle

Personnel in 2013:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
38	14	2	1	180	70	3	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2013:

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
23	64	55	427	375	N/A	N/A	59	240	86	1,374
Total	64	55	427	375	N/A	N/A	59	240	86	1,374

Area cleared:

Clearance (Ha)			Technical Survey (Ha)		
Agriculture	Development	Total area	Agriculture	Development	Total area
2,180,941	93,909	2,274,849	0	0	0

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

UXO Removed/Destroyed					
Task	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	Total
Roving	5	2,019	0	554	2,578
Clearance	3	3,407	0	1,022	4,432
Total	8	5,426	0	1,576	7,010

Geography of operations:

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in
Area clearance	Khammouane and Xieng Khouang
Survey and roving clearance	Khammouane and Xieng Khouang
Risk education	Khammouane and Xieng Khouang

Financials:

Expenditure for 2013: (USD)

Item	Amount
Personnel costs	2,285,000
Operational costs	833,000
Special Operational costs	0
Equipment – expendable	139,000
Equipment – non-expendable	1,932,000
Total	5,189,000

Donor contributions for 2013: (USD)

Donor	Contribution received in 2013
Altadis Foundation	188,000
DFAIT	428,000
DFID	1,428,000
EU	122,000
Public Donations	25,000
WRA	2,998,000
Total	5,189,000



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>
UXO Laos	13,000
GICHD	9,000
Total	22,000



NORWEGIAN PEOPLE'S AID (NPA)

Activities in 2013:

NPA has conducted three basic set of activities during 2013; survey (including Non-Technical and Technical), clearance and roving tasks. The focus in 2013 has again been to fully implement the Cluster Munition Remnant Survey (CMRS), introduced at the end of 2010. The CMRS is basically a survey process adapted to establish the real extent of the cluster munition contamination in the Lao context. The CMRS approach, including Non-technical survey in each village in the three provinces we work, also identifies all other UXOs in addition to cluster munitions.

NPA has also conducted some clearance at the request of local authorities, and to verify the solidity of the CMRS process.

Key achievements in 2013:

The production of NPA in 2013 is again impressive; we have surveyed more than 60 km² in Sekong, Salavan and Attapeu, establishing 438 Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHAs) totaling some 26 km². During the CMRS NPA has found and destroyed more than 10,000 devices. In addition, NPA has cleared almost 400,000 m² of primarily agricultural land, assisting some 300 villagers in the process.

NPA has also expanded to almost 400 people during 2013. Per end 2013 NPA have 18 multi-functional teams in the three Areas of Operation.

The good news:

The good news stories from NPA are still related to the introduction and effective use of CMRS. NPA has to date established more than 550 Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHAs) and reported them to NRA and onto the IMSMA database. These are the first CHAs on the IMSMA database, and are there for NRA to start tasking operators to clear according to defined priorities. We are also happy that there is real talk about a national survey agenda in Laos – prioritizing survey on the areas set aside for development makes a lot of sense, but the entire country will have to be surveyed and agreement on this is helpful.

Focus areas of work in 2014:

For NPA the focus again in 2014 will be on survey, and CMRS will continue to be the main method and product.

NPA still experience interest in what we do in Laos and expects additional funding to be added throughout the year, very much focused on survey. The new money could be used for a pilot surveying some of the GoL Focal Development Areas.

We will also do some clearance, on priority areas and in cooperation with local authorities.

Implementing Partners:

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

We work to develop and maintain a good working relationship with all stakeholders.



Using Tablet For CMRS Reporting.



NPA Team Leader Instructs a CMRS Team.

Personnel in 2013:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
40	16	4	0	243	77	3	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2013:

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

Area cleared:

Clearance (Ha)			Technical Survey to establish the Confirmed Hazardous Areas (Ha)		
Agriculture	Development	Total area	Agriculture	Development	Total area
0	34.5	34.5	9,169	0	9,169

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

<i>UXO Removed/Destroyed</i>					
<i>Task</i>	<i>Bombs</i>	<i>Bombies</i>	<i>Mines</i>	<i>Other UXO</i>	<i>Total</i>
Roving	0	0	0	2,177	2,177
Clearance	0	770	0	52	822
Technical Survey	0	9,729	0	0	9,729
Total		10,499	0	2,229	12,728

Geographic operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in</i>
Area clearance	Salavan district-Salavan province, Thateng district-Sekong province
Survey and Roving clearance	All district in Salavan, Sekong and Attapeu provinces

Financials:

Expenditure for 2013: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	1,900,000
Operational costs	1,600,000
Special Operational costs	N/A
Equipment – expendable	450,000
Equipment – non-expendable	200,000
Total	4,150,000

Donor contributions for 2013: (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2013</i>
Norwegian MFA	2,000,000
Norwegian Telethon	1,250,000
Norwegian Trade Union	150,000
US Dept of State/ WRA	750,000
Total	4,150,000



SODI! SOLIDARITY SERVICE INTERNATIONAL (SODI)

Activities in 2013:

SODI Laos continued to conduct activities within Bolikhamxay Province, with specific focus on Khamkeut District. SODI Laos focused on Battle Area Clearance (BAC) within Khamkeut District. However SODI Laos also had the capability to respond to spot tasks by an EOD Roving Team, when they arise within our area of responsibility, which can extend to other districts within Bolikhamxay Province. Such UXO findings were either reported through community liaison (CL) and mine risk education (MRE) activities or through the UXO hotline that was operated by SODI. The CL/MRE Team interacted on a daily basis with the local communities that in turn highlight high social and economic priorities for the BAC/EOD Roving Team(s) to follow up on. The main target of the MRE/CL team's effort has been to provide UXO risk education to children and adults in affected communities so they are more aware of the danger, recognize dangerous objects and how to behave correctly to UXO findings, such as how to safely mark and area and then inform SODI by calling the SODI emergency hotline. In addition, the MRE team has collected UXO information to support the survey team. The MRE team also monitors and assesses areas post-clearance and after hand over to ensure and report that cleared areas have been used as intend or not. This brings with it a close working relationship with the community members and in turn allows SODI Laos to work relatively freely in our work area with community support.

Priority areas for clearance were:

- Agricultural land
- Schools
- Housing areas
- New settlement areas.

In the second half of the year, SODI Laos adjusted its Concept of Operations from focusing on request based clearance to evidence-based clearance. In order to obtain accurate and reliable evidence of contamination, SODI Laos has increased the number of Non-technical Survey (NTS) teams to four teams that visited villages and communities and gathered the required evidence in order to determine priorities for follow-up actions. In addition to the deployment of the NTS teams, SODI Laos has adopted a principle of clearance-to-fadeout.

After a restructuring of the teams in the second half of the year, the team structure consisted of:

- 2 BAC teams consisting of two sections each,
- 1 Mobile team,
- 4 Survey teams,
- 1 QA/QC team,
- 1 MRE and Community Liaison team.

These operations teams were supported by logistics, finance and administration units. A Quality Management Advisor supported the development of a quality management system and better procedures and processes. The utilization of village assistance for ground preparation work was discontinued.

Key achievements in 2013:

The targets set in the 2013 work plan were mostly reached. In the second half of the year the operations concept was changed from request-based clearance to evidence-based clearance. Another change concerned the introduction of the clearance-to-fadeout approach. This entails the clearance of an area only up to the point where no further evidence of contamination is detected and extending the clearance to a reasonable buffer (50m) beyond these evidence points. This approach reduces the probability of unnecessarily clearing land that is not contaminated. Related to these new approaches was the development of new survey tools as well as a refinement of task prioritization and information management systems. The team structure was changed to reflect this change. As a result, more than 2,700,000m² could be released through technical or non-technical surveys in three villages. More than 948.000m² were cleared through battle area clearance while around 140.000m² were cleared through small area clearance. Nearly 1.200 UXO were found and destroyed throughout the year. Through Mine Risk Education activities close to 7.000 people were reached. Connected to MRE activities were Community Liaison activities to engage with the local population and to plan and coordinate survey activities.

The sad news:

In 2013 the SODI UXO Clearance Programme in Lao PDR was facing several difficulties and challenges. The Programme Manager had to be replaced at short notice end of 2012 by an interim Acting Programme Manager; the new Country Director, Mr. Johannes Odendaal, who took over the position in July sadly and unexpectedly passed away in early September, a successor could not

be appointed before end of October. The programme underwent a comprehensive review and restructuring process which brought up a new staff structure, administrative system, rules & regulations and also changes in the operational approach. Thus for the Lao programme staff this period was probably felt as an unstable situation connected with uncertainties about the continuation of their employment. Nevertheless, the majority of the national employees fulfilled their duties with full commitment and loyalty to the programme, some made extraordinary efforts to ensure the continuation of the programme. SODI highly appreciates this tremendous engagement of the SODI Laos staff with gratefulness and the highest respect.

Furthermore, on this occasion SODI would like to stress the outstanding support that the SODI programme received from the NRA and other international UXO operators in Laos: whenever necessary help and advice was offered and given without hesitation. SODI thanks everyone involved for this very good cooperation and positive spirit.

Focus areas of work in 2014:

Due to a change in funding regulations by the German Federal Foreign Office, SODI could not continue clearance activities in 2014. The clearance program will be continued by the Belgium NGO APOPO. The focus of SODI's work in Laos will now be the continuation of development projects.

Implementing Partners:

The SODI UXO Clearance Project collaborated closely with the Bolikhamxay Provincial authorities and steering committees as well as district authorities in Khamkeut District. Implementing partner for the development projects is the German Lao Association for Development (GLAD).





Personnel in 2013:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
7	7	2	1	42	13	1	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2013:

MINE RISK EDUCATION Community Awareness					VICTIM ASSISTANCE No. of people who received assistance		UXO Survey		UXO Roving	
Beneficiaries					Financial	Medical	Villages	Time of Visits	Villages	Time of Visits
Time of visits	Men	Women	Boy	Girl						
44	1,079	1,080	2,366	2,366	N/A	N/A	0	0	0	216

Area cleared:

Clearance (Ha)			Technical Survey (Ha)		
Agriculture	Development	Total area	Agriculture	Development	Total area
		108.7982			1.8924

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

UXO Removed/Destroyed					
Task	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	Total
Roving	6	637	0	94	737
Clearance	0	273	0	190	463
Total	6	910	0	284	1200

Note: The total amount does not include administration and personnel costs that incurred in SODI HQ in Berlin.

Geography of operations:

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in
Area clearance	Bolikhamxay Province, Khamkeut District
Survey and Roving clearance	Bolikhamxay Province, Khamkeut District, Pakkading District, Thaphabath District, and Paksan District.
Risk Education	Bolikhamxay Province, Khamkeut Districts

Financials:

Expenditure for 2013: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	907,223
Operational costs	195,479
Special Operational costs	N/A
Equipment – expendable	9,626
Equipment – non-expendable	29,740
Total	1,142,067

Donor contributions for 2013 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2013</i>
German Federal Foreign Office	1,123,214
Own contribution (SODI donations)	18,853
Total	1,142,067



HALO TRUST (HALO)

Activities in 2013:

In 2013, The HALO Trust conducted UXO clearance, non technical (general) and technical (CMRS) survey, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Risk Education (RE) in Vilabouly and Sepon districts, Savannakhet province. Funded by the USDoS PMWRA, HALO deployed three multidisciplinary survey/EOD/RE teams and three UXO clearance teams in January 2013. With additional funding from PMWRA, the number of deployed teams expanded in October 2013 to six multidisciplinary survey teams and five UXO clearance teams.

HALO multidisciplinary survey/EOD/RE teams

The multidisciplinary character of HALO's survey/EOD/RE teams yields numerous valuable advantages in terms of quality and resource-effectiveness of operations.

Risk Education

HALO considers RE activities to be of key importance and ensures that each multidisciplinary team comprises members that speak local ethnic languages in order to make RE activities as inclusive as possible. In 2013 HALO has conducted 18 RE sessions, thereby reaching 1,264 beneficiaries.

EOD

HALO actively engages with communities to identify the location of UXO contamination. HALO EOD roving tasks then remove the hazardous UXO from the village. In 2013, HALO teams conducted 325 roving tasks, thereby removing 2,476 items of UXO.

Survey

HALO has continued to refine its non-technical and technical survey methodologies with the aim of bringing greater efficiencies to the sector in Laos.

Non Technical / General Survey

After consultation with the NRA and district authorities, HALO began implementation of a community based non-technical survey methodology where HALO survey teams engage with village authorities and land owners. Where no evidence of cluster munitions is present HALO will formally document this and, in line with National Standards, designate it as land not requiring clearance. If UXO other than cluster munitions is encountered this will be destroyed.

Technical (CMRS) Survey

Where UXO evidence is physically verified the team will conduct technical survey of the site, destroying all found items of UXO in the process. Once technical sur-



vey has been completed, a new Confirmed Hazardous Area (CHA) is created and prioritized for follow on UXO clearance. All information is shared with government authorities, which they can then utilize in planning of development projects.

In 2013, HALO teams surveyed 59 Confirmed Hazardous Areas, with a total area of 3,784,974m².

HALO UXO clearance teams

HALO operates a strict evidence based clearance methodology. Only where there is confirmed presence of cluster munitions, through technical survey, will HALO conduct full UXO clearance. In 2013, HALO cleared 333,304 m² of CHA established by our technical survey, during this a total of 1,765 cluster munitions and items of UXO were destroyed. All tasks cleared contained cluster munitions and UXO.

Key achievements in 2013:

In October 2013 additional funding from U.S. Department of State Bureau of Political Military Affairs Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement saw an expansion of HALO's capacity from three to six multidisciplinary survey/EOD/RE teams and three to five UXO clearance teams. In total HALO expanded from 80 staff to 125 national staff.

HALO's prime focus for 2013 has been on implementing and refining the new survey methodology. The introduction of this new method to HALO staff, as well as to external stakeholders, brought about various related developments. In order to optimally process and analyze the data gathered by the new survey methodology, the HALO GIS department has been further improved. HALO Laos now employs an experienced GIS cell that is very capable of fully enhancing necessary communications within HALO as well as to other beneficiaries outside HALO.

Another noteworthy achievement is the training of many members of staff. Because 2013 was the first year that HALO was operational, numerous training courses contributed to the capacities and confidence of HALO staff. In 2013, various training and refresher courses were offered to employees such as EOD 1 and 2 courses, medic (refresher) trainings and strimmer operator courses. HALO is proud to offer its operational training courses in house, always provided by qualified and experienced (international) trainers. HALO's administrative staff is also offered various training possibilities, such as excel, access and GIS courses.

HALO believes that this training will not only improve the capabilities of HALO staff in the short run, but also enhances their long term future career prospects. The medical knowledge and skills that HALO staff acquires at these courses does, for example, not only prepare for casevac situations in the field but also allows employees to provide first medical assistance in case of road traffic accidents and emergencies with burn wounds.

The good news:

Lateung is a village in Sepon district that is primarily habituated by the Try ethnic tribe, who moved there around 800 years ago. The remote village of Lateung is located near the Eastern Vietnamese border, at 42km distance from Sepon district center. Currently, the village population counts 245 people, divided over 43 households. Changes in environmental circumstances greatly affect the village, which mainly depends on the cultivation of upland rice for its income and subsistence.

The German NGO Welthungerhilfe (GAA) has started their Food Security project in Lateung village in 2013.

The project directly targets the current vulnerable food insecurity by extending paddy fields, digging fishponds as well as delivering various other (educational) projects. As the soil needed for these projects is still suspected to contain hazardous UXO, GAA has requested The HALO Trust to provide survey and clearance for their project sites. GAA's project faces the pressure of deadlines though, as the funding for the projects in Lateung ends in July 2014. Thanks to constructive cooperation with the Sepon district authorities, HALO has been approved to work in Lateung in 2013/2014. Through technical survey, HALO has been able to effectively distinguish between contaminated and non-contaminated areas in the village. In January 2014, HALO clearance teams will start work in Lateung, making the completion of GAA's project an imminent reality.

Both the HALO Trust and GAA look positively on this humanitarian coordination project. It shows that, when communications between operators, other NGO's and government authorities are carefully managed, humanitarian development funding can have an optimal impact.

Focus areas of work in 2014:

In 2014, HALO Laos will continue to survey and clear the UXO contamination in Sepon and Vilabouly districts, Savannakhet province. HALO continuously aims to improve the standard and efficiency of its operations, thereby contributing to the accuracy of the data on the remaining UXO threat in Lao PDR.

In 2014, HALO will further refine a task prioritization system within the Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation plan. This means that tasks are prioritized where future (rural) development projects are due, thereby delivering socio-economic benefits for the rural communities in Savannakhet. In this process, HALO will coordinate closely with governmental and non-governmental development organizations.

HALO strongly believes in continuous improvement and has therefore recruited a new community liaison/RE officer that speaks multiple local (ethnic) languages. This new member of staff will revise the current RE programme and hence improve the reach and impact of HALO's RE/community activities.

HALO will aim to continue to expand in 2014 and look forward to a continued good working relationship alongside UXO Laos in Savannakhet.

Implementing Partners:

HALO partners, such as development organizations and

(local) authorities, play a vital role for HALO operations. Through active cooperation and communication with these partners, HALO Laos is able to optimally target and reach the beneficiaries of UXO survey and clearance. HALO works together with several international NGO's in Savannakhet such as Welthungerhilfe (GAA), Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and World Vision (WV). In order to multiply the impact of international donor funding, HALO believes that humanitarian coordination results in enhanced impact for the UXO-affected communities in Savannakhet. The schools where CRS implements its Food for Education program are targeted by HALO's RE team in order to optimize the reach of RE activities for children. The partnership with WV focuses on providing UXO survey and clearance preceding (agricultural) development projects.

The primary beneficiaries of HALO's operations are the people in Savannakhet province. People who face the daily threat of UXO on their land, infrastructure, schools and/or village will mainly benefit from HALO's survey, clearance, EOD roving tasks and RE in Sepon and Vilabouly district. HALO recruits its operational staff from Sepon and Vilabouly district and hence contributes, through employment, to the local socio-economic situation.

Additionally, HALO is engaging with entities within and outside the UXO sector to continuously evaluate and improve the standard of operations in general and survey in particular. HALO believes that evaluation and innovation of survey procedures greatly contributes to achieving Millennium Development Goal No 9 in Lao PDR, thereby making the Government of Laos a direct beneficiary of HALO operations.



The children in Ban Lateung are now able to safely play again. HALO provided them with Risk Education and conducted (non-) technical survey and clearance in their village.

Personnel in 2013:

<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
17	6	0	0	73	22	2	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2013:

<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						
18	333	317	312	302	N/A	N/A	11	Over 12 months	11	Over 12 Months

Area cleared:

<i>Clearance (Ha)</i>			<i>Technical Survey (Ha)</i>		
Agriculture	Development	Total area	Agriculture	Development	Total area
27.7902	5.5402	33.3304			378.4974

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

<i>UXO Removed/Destroyed</i>					
<i>Task</i>	<i>Bombs</i>	<i>Bombies</i>	<i>Mines</i>	<i>Other UXO</i>	<i>Total</i>
Roving	13	1,169	0	1,283	2,465
Clearance	0	763	0	993	1,756
Total	13	1,932	0	2,276	4,221

Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in</i>
Area clearance	Savannakhet province, Sepon and Vilabouly districts
Survey and Roving clearance	Savannakhet province, Sepon and Vilabouly districts
Risk Education	Savannakhet province, Sepon and Vilabouly districts



Financials:

Expenditure for 2013: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	560,642.40
Operational costs	535,743.99
Special Operational costs	N/A
Equipment – expendable	20,507.72
Equipment – non-expendable	312,513.69
Total	1,429,407.80

Donor contributions for 2013 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2013</i>
USDOS PM/WRA	1,339,407.80
HALO Unrestricted Donations (Core Funds)	90,000.00
Total	1,429,407.80



COMMERCIAL CLEARANCE OPERATORS

ASA POWER ENGINEERING CO., LTD (ASA)

Activities in 2013:

In 2013, 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 2013:

- Finished clearing the area for the 115 KV electricity post installation. In total there were 20 posts, with an area of 6x6m cleared for each post, with a total 80 holes (2,880m²)
- Finished clearing the area for the 500 KV electricity post installation. In total there were 9 posts, with an area of 10x10m cleared for each post, with a total 36 holes (36,000m²)

Personnel in 2013:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
2	1	0	0	10	1	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 2013: (USD)

Item	Amount (USD)
Personnel costs	73,500
Operational costs	5,350
Special Operational costs	8,500
Equipment – expendable	12,250
Equipment – non-expendable	93,350
Total	108,950

Focus areas of work in 2014:

ASA will continue the 2013 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 Koksaart electricity sub station to VITA PARK in Saythany district, Vientiane Capital (10,000m²).
- Continuing to monitor the golf course construction is progressing in Kham district-Xiengkhouang province.
- Continuing to carry out the UXO survey in the area for Nam Gneb Electricity Power Dam in Borlikhamxay province.

Clients:

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



Donor contributions for 2013 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2013</i>
ASA self funded	108,950
Total	108,950



PHONSACKDA UXO CLEARANCE CO., LTD (PSD)

Activities in 2013:

In 2013, 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 2014:

- 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 Huaohan province with 154km.



Clients:

- Sumura Company
- Janpan Mine Action Service (JMAS)

Personnel in 2013:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
4	3	0	0	47	13	0	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2013:

Area cleared:

Clearance (Ha)		
Agriculture	Development	Total area
207	0	207

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

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



Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in</i>
Area clearance	Pakxong district-Champhasack provinces

Financials:

Expenditure for 2013 (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	
Operational costs	
Special operational costs	
Equipment: expendable	
TOTAL	800,000

Donor contributions for 2013 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2013</i>
PSD self funded	800,000
Total	800,000



SIBOUNHUEANG UXO CLEARANCE CO., LTD (SBH)

Activities in 2013:

In 2013, Sibounheung UXO Clearance CO., Ltd (SBH) undertook UXO clearance operations in the areas designated for Eucalyptus Tree plantations by the company Stora Enso Lao in Nong and Sepone districts in Savannakhet province and Taoi district in Saravane province.



Key achievements in 2013:

In 2013, SBH's key achievement centred on reaching clearance targets. SBH is proud to report that in 2013 a total of 520 Ha of land was cleared of UXO (382 Ha were cleared in Savannakhet province and 138 Ha were cleared in Salavan province).

Clients:

Our major partner in 2013 was Stora Enso Lao Company.



Personnel in 2013:

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
1	2	0	0	40	5	0	0



Detailed statistic figures in 2013:

Area cleared:

<i>Clearance (Ha)</i>		
Agriculture	Development	Total area
520	0	520

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	360	18	0	378

Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in</i>
Area clearance	Savannakhet, Saravane and Luangprabang provinces

Financials:

Expenditure for 2013: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	139,000
Operational costs	31,600
Special Operational costs	0
Equipment – expendable	37,500
Equipment – non-expendable	19,200
Total	227,300

Donor contributions for 2013 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2013</i>
SBH self funded	250,000
Total	250,000



SENGPHET UXO CLEARANCE CO., LTD (SP)

Activities in 2013:

In 2013, SP UXO Clearance Company has carried out UXO clearance for the Power Transmission Line, substation and Electricity Power Dam constructing investment.

- Throughout our activities done we have cleared and destroyed of UXO for Namjien Power Dam constructing boundary which belonging to State Enterprise Electricity of Laos (Thatom district to Koun district-Xiengkhoung province) with total areas of 1,100 ha.
- Finished clearing the area for the 115 KV electricity transmission line from Nongdern substation to Xeno to Pin district-Savannaket province with areas of 3,020,000 m².
- Finished clearing the area for Nongdern substation, Xeno substation and Pin substation boundaries-Savannaket province with areas of 240,000 m².

- Finished clearing the area for the 500 KV electricity post installation. In total there were 473 posts, with an area of 15x15mx3m cleared for each post with areas of 319,275 m²

Focus areas of work in 2014:

SP UXO Clearance Company plans to carry out UXO clearance in the area for 115 KV Power Transmission Line and substation from Savannaket to Saravan provinces with total 75 km (187 ha).

Clients:

Our major partner in 2013 was Ministry of Energy and Mine.

Personnel in 2013:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
15	11	0	0	86	6	0	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2013:

Area cleared:

Clearance (Ha)		
Agriculture	Development	Total area
0	1,458	1,458

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

UXO Removed/Destroyed					
Task	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	Total
Clearance	2	320	0	501	823

Geography of operations:

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in
Area clearance	Xiengkhoung and Savannaket provinces



Financials:

Expenditure for 2013: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount (USD)</i>
Personnel costs	
Operational costs	
Special Operational costs	
Equipment – expendable	
Equipment – non-expendable	
Total	3,183,128

Donor contributions for 2013 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Amount</i>
SP self funded	3,661,128
Total	3,661,128



XTD UXO CLEARANCE CO., LTD (XTD)

Activities in 2013:

In 2013, XTD UXO Clearance Company has carried out UXO clearance for Ministry of Energy and Mine in the area for Power Transmission Line and substation, which started in May 2013. In addition, XTD also conducted the UXO clearance for the 115 KV power transmission line project from Thasala to Laksao and Laksao substation in Borlikhamxay province.

Key achievements in 2013:

1. UXO clearance in Khamkert district for the 115 KV electricity transmission line from Thasala to Laksao:

- Finished clearing the area for electricity post installation 151 holes, with an area of (15x15mx6m) cleared for each post with areas of 94,375 m².
- Finished clearing the boundary of electricity transmission line project with areas of 750,000 m².

2. UXO clearance in Khamkert district in the area for Laksao substation:

- Finished clearing the boundary of Laksao substation with areas of 90,000 m².

Focus areas of work in 2014:

In 2014, XTD UXO Clearance Company plans to carry out UXO clearance for Nam Ou Power Dam constructing in the area for power transmission line project and substation at Namor-Oudomxay province to Bountai district-Phongsaly province with total 120 Km.

Clients:

Our major partner in 2013 was Ministry of Energy and Mine.

Personnel in 2013:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
3	1	0	0	36	0	0	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2013:

Area cleared:

Clearance (Ha)		
Agriculture	Development	Total area
0	93	93

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

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

Geography of operations:

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in
Area clearance	Thasala, Laksao-Khamkert district-Borlikhamxay province



Financials:

Expenditure for 2013: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	96,000
Operational costs	7,500
Special Operational costs	0
Equipment – expendable	200,000
Equipment – non-expendable	12,000
Total	315,500

Donor contributions for 2013 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Amount</i>
XTD self funded	
Total	250,000



BACTEC LAO LIMITED (BACTEC)

BACTEC International Limited (Lao) is a subsidiary of the BACTEC group of global companies and has been established in Lao PDR to provide high quality professional Explosive Ordnance and Mine Action Services to the region including the Pacific Rim.

BACTEC International is a member of the Dynasafe group of companies providing explosive ordnance disposal and mine action services globally. The BACTEC International Limited Head Office is located in the UK, with offices and branches located in Dubai, Australia, Cambodia, Iraq, Lao PDR and Mozambique. BACTEC has been providing EOD and mine action services globally since 1991 and to date has completed projects in over 45 countries.

An example of the range of services provided by BACTEC are UXO remediation, landmine clearance, site investigation and survey, marine clearance services, quality management, risk assessment, EOD and mine action training, equipment provision and consultancy.

BACTEC provide high quality, independent specialist services on all matters relating to explosive ordnance and landmine remediation services and our clients include governments, national defence organizations, the UN, EC, DFID, NATO, multi nationals in the oil, gas and construction industries and other domestic and international organizations in normal, conflicted and post conflict environments.

The company is committed to effective and efficient project implementation through dedicated professional and innovative management, a healthy interested in the development and introduction of new technologies and an international staff of highly trained field operatives, BACTEC abide by stringent quality standards through our accreditation under ISO 9001:2008, ISO 18001 and ISO 1400L.

Activities in 2013:

Activities conducted by BACTEC during 2013 were as follows:

- Support to Lao Sanxai Minerals bauxite exploration project at Sanxai in Attapeu Province.
- Path finding in support to the UMMC mining exploration at Viengkham in LouangPrabang Province.

- UXO operations for the Nam Theun 2 Hydro-electric project clearing Log Booms, access tracks, fish "landing areas and a track network to 500 KV TL towers at Gnommalath, Khammouane Province.
- UXO clearance support to UMMC for mineral exploration in Viengkham, LouangPrabang.
- Underwater clearance support to water environment in submersion research Toulouse University for the NTPC project at Nakai, Khammouane province.
- BACTEC cleared land for geophysical testing in Sanxai bauxite mineral exploration project for LSM.
- BACTEC conducted uxo clearance in support to NTPC for borrow pits in Khammouane Province.
- UXO clearance in support to NTPC to construct new gully dams in Nakai, Khammouane Province.
- Path finding services to NN3-biodiversity and herpetology surveys in the north of the country.

Key achievements in 2013:

In what continues to be a very tough market for quality commercial UXO clearance, BACTEC has managed to win contracts and support the development of infrastructure, agricultural land and mineral exploration.

In addition to support of above activities that contribute to the overall economic development of the Lao PDR, BACTEC has continued and expanded in the area of Mine Risk Education. BACTEC sees great merit in the delivery of MRE that is made possible through the generous support of our clients.

BACTEC has also been able to continue training programs with a three days auger course conducted for its deep search teams, medical first aid refresher training and computer training.

In the harsh economic climate of 2013, BACTEC like various other organizations has been faced more than our share of challenges and has had to be quite vigorous in the pursuit of commercial projects. However in the face of such challenges we were able to increase our number of high quality Lao staff and continue with capacity development of our staff through training.



We have provided our GIS staff with internal ATcGIS training Courses, continued develop senior staff through enrolment in a Master Development Management study programme, English language training “for Lao permanent staff two Level 3 EOD, one Level 4 EOD, Admin Assistant, improvement and development of business skills and business planning and marketing service training to maintain and increase local capacity building.

First aid refresher courses for all staff involved in the LSM bauxite exploration project. The training provided is internationally accredited and was implemented by International SOS at the pre-start training prior commencement of the exploration season in November.

BACTEC also has expanded to employ more than 100 local EOD technicians during 2013, to implement UXO remediation services in the Lao PDR. By the end of 2013 BACTEC Lao had conducted operations in four provinces:

- Attapeu
- Sekong
- Khammouane
- Louang Prabang

Additionally BACTEC Lao supported geophysical investigation trials in Sanxai, continuing to develop our clearance technology and improve the capacity of current equipment.

The good news:

BACTEC this year has continued our contract with Lao Sanxai Minerals (RioTinto-Mitsui) in support of bauxite exploration Attapeu Province.

We also have continued regular project support to the United Mining and Mineral Co with the conduct of UXO Clearance in support exploration in northern Laos and with UXO remediation support NTPC in the hydro-electrical power sector.

During the implementation of the above services, BACTEC trained and employed more than one thousand Lao villagers during 2013 as cutters and marking team members, injecting well needed funding into the communities where we have operated.

Focus areas of work in 2014:

BACTEC will continue to work with all organizations throughout the Lao PDR in the pursuit of remediation of landmine and UXO contaminated areas. We will continue to employ local people in the delivery of services to our clients who include Lao Sanxai Minerals, UMMC in Viengkham, Louang Prabang, NTPC in Khammouane Province.

Additionally BACTEC will continue to pursue new opportunities and foster good relations and strong partnerships with international and domestic organizations with whom we are involved. Examples of opportunities that the company will focus on for 2014 are new China-Lao railway project, Phu Bia Mining UXO remediation in Xiengkhouang.

BACTEC will continue to focus on the maintenance, further development of our safety performance and strive to achieve zero incident and accident outcomes on tasks.

We will continually attempt to improve the company’s standards in areas of human resources, health, safety, environmental management and training for:

- Communications
- CASEVAC Procedurss
- Safe working practices
- Compliance with IMAS, NSs and SOPs
- Internal QA
- Daily Documentation
- Completion/recordingprocedures
- Handover process

Clients:

In 2013, BACTEC retained our strong partnerships with three key client organizations, namely Lao Sanxai Minerals, NTPC and United Mining and Minerals Company Limited.

During 2013 BACTEC has cleared more than 100ha of contaminated land and handed it over to land owners to use for production without the risks of landmines and UXO.



Personnel in 2013:

<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
1	2	1	1	109	0	1	0

Area cleared:

<i>Clearance (Ha)</i>			<i>Technical Survey (Ha)</i>		
Agriculture	Development	Total area	Agriculture	Development	Total area
0	39.73	39.73	0	0	0

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

<i>UXO Removed/Destroyed</i>					
<i>Task</i>	<i>Bombs</i>	<i>Bombies</i>	<i>Mines</i>	<i>Other UXO</i>	<i>Total</i>
Roving	0	0	0	0	0
Clearance	0	87	2	171	260
Total	0	87	2	171	260

Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in</i>
Area clearance	Sanxai district-Attapeu Province; Gnommalath and Nakai districts-Khammouane Province; Viengkham district-Louang Prabang Province.
Survey and Roving clearance	Viengkham district-Louang Prabang Province.

Financials: Expenditure for 2013: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Total	901,000

Donor contributions for 2013 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Amount</i>
BACTEC self funded	901,000
Total	901,000



MILSEARCH LAO EOD SOLE COMPANY LTD

Activities in 2013:

In 2013 Milsearch completed its first full year in operation as a Sole Limited Company. It also marked 20 years of continuous operation in Lao PDR. In over 2 decades of work in the Lao PDR we have successfully completed over 70 UXO clearance projects, cleared thousands of hectares, and destroyed tens of thousands of dangerous items of explosive remnants of war (ERW).

In 2013 Milsearch Lao committed to the adoption of a Quality Management System (QMS) as part of its ongoing improvement to Safety and productivity. Milsearch Lao has adopted the policies and procedures in use by our Head Office, Canberra, Australia. Our QMS is now in place and an external audit is planned in 2014. Following a successful external audit Milsearch Lao will be accredited to ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management System and to OHSAS 18001:2007.

During 2013 Milsearch Lao also established a Representative Office in Vietnam. Located in the capital, Hanoi, it is our intention to offer the skills learnt in ERW Clearance Operations in the Lao PDR to the people of Vietnam.

The clearance of land to facilitate safe development in some of Lao's poorest provinces provides benefits to all Laotians. As a one hundred percent commercial entity these benefits are provided to the Lao PDR by Milsearch without impacting donor contributions.

Throughout 2013 Milsearch Lao cleared 646,370m² to a depth of 250mm and 673,171m² to varying depths greater than 250mm making this land available for:

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

Milsearch found and destroyed 393 items of hazardous explosive remnants of war (ERW), and several hundreds of rounds of small arms ammunition.

Milsearch Lao remains committed to long term and ongoing ERW hazard reduction within the Lao PDR and will strive to maintain its reputation as "Asia's Premier UXO & De-mining Company".



Searching with Minelab large coil.

Key achievements in 2013:

Quality Manager Fieldwork – In 2013 Milsearch created the position and appointed Lingphet Phoutmasone as the Milsearch Lao Quality Manager Field work. Lingphet has worked for Milsearch since 1997 and is an experienced L3EODT. Lingphet conducts external audits of all aspects of Milsearch's fieldwork for all Milsearch projects.

New Technology - Milsearch continually reviews the "tool box" of technologies it currently employs throughout

Australasia and the South Pacific with regards to their suitability in SE Asia. Milsearch geophysicists closely monitor emerging search technologies throughout the world which may offer potential improvements over the tried and tested analogue approach in Laos.

In order to reduce costs and improve safety for the mineral extraction industry Milsearch has been very interested in a variety of new technologies which offer greater depth detection for large target ERW.

In May 2013 Milsearch conducted trials with the Ultra UXO Detection System at KTL in Xiengkhouang Province. Partially funded by Phu Bia Mining the trial results highlighted the Ultra as a potentially suitable technology for employment in the mineral extraction industry.

MMG at Sepon have kindly been very open in sharing their trial results and experiences with this technology, and Milsearch will remain in contact with MMG and any future employment of this system will be closely monitored.

Whilst the 2011/2012 dry season was a period of very strong growth for Milsearch in Lao, the second half of 2012 and 2013 proved to be quieter. We did however expand our client base diversifying our revenue stream. We created two completely new permanent Laotian positions and two more Laotian casuals were given permanent employment contracts. The expanded client base and the Hanoi Representative Office are seen as forming strong roots for further growth in 2014/15.

Focus areas of work in 2014:

The challenges of the future for Milsearch Lao are both commercial and technical.

Commercially we need to continue to expand our client base spreading our revenue sources to a variety of industries and reduce our exposure to industry specific downturns. We also need to expand our business throughout the region and the Hanoi Representative Office is seen as a critical step in this direction.

Servicing a variety of industries brings with it a variety of technical challenges. Increased detection depth has always been critical to Mineral extraction in ERW contaminated areas however it is also seen as very important for future Lao infrastructure projects such as rail lines.

Clients:

Phu Bia Mining (PBM) – With Mining operations at Phu Kham and Ban Houaxai and extensive exploration

in Xiengkhouang, PBM has an ongoing and strong commitment to the sustainable development of the communities with which they interact. PBM maintains the very highest of standards regarding the clearance of UXO from its worksites and provides considerable funding for UXO clearance to aid local communities.

Milsearch Lao also worked with several other Local and Foreign Companies on various smaller projects throughout Lao PDR in 2013:



Mr Malathong receiving a certificate of Merit and a Cash Bonus.

- Geomap Laos
- GL Garrad Hassan
- Minevex Lao
- Sinsay
- 3 Mining
- Dominion (Laos) Mining
- Mott MacDonald
- Impact Energy Asia
- Xekong River Mining

All the Milsearch clients above stand out as providing Lao communities with world’s best practice ERW clearance as part of their sustainable development programs.

The good news:

Of great satisfaction to Milsearch is the input which we have into local communities. There are the obviously tangible benefits such as employment, use of local suppliers, and other financial inputs, but perhaps of more importance is the ongoing training and education provided. Leadership training, language, education and computer skills have a positive effect on family life.



On 22nd December, 2013, Mr Phonsavan Malathong, a trained Milsearch Trauma Medic, was attending a social function at his friend's house in Vientiane. Whilst there, his friend's wife, Mrs Vongsa, was heard screaming inside the house. She had gone inside to check on her baby son, Talo. Moments later she came running frantically outside clutching her baby.

Mr Malathong took the baby from the hysterical mother and laid him on the ground. Talo was cyanosed, not breathing, and unresponsive. Mr Malathong proceeded to carry out Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation on the two year old boy, Talo. The welcome sounds of the baby crying were evidence of success and Talo was subsequently taken to hospital for further care.

Personnel in 2013:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
3	6	4	2	278	201	13	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2013:

Area cleared:

Clearance (Ha)		
Agriculture	Development	Total area
0	131.95	131.95

UXO found, removed and destroyed:

UXO Removed/Destroyed					
Task	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	Total
Clearance	8	186	0	199	393

Geography of operations:

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in
Area clearance	Xiengkhuang, Saysomboune, Bolikhamxay, Khammuane, Savannakhet, Sekong, Salavan and Attapeu.
Survey and Roving clearance	Vientiane province
Path finding	Houphan, Xiengkhouang and Attapeu provinces

Financials:

Expenditure for 2013: (USD)

Item	Amount
Personnel costs	1,039,006
Operational costs	829,352
Special Operational costs (Training)	26,500
Equipment – expendable	28,002
Equipment – non-expendable	82,568
Total	2,005,428

Donor contributions for 2013 (USD)

Donor	Amount
Milsearch self funded	2,005,428
Total	2,005,428



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

Activities in 2013:

MMG LXML Sepon UXO Department searched 607 Hectares of land with a total of 1,164,128 man hours and destroyed 912 items of UXO, in direct support of MMG LXML Sepon Operations and local community development projects.

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

Key achievements in 2013:

Safety Achievement in 2013 (see table below)

Lost Time Injures	Medical Treatment Injuries	First Aid Injuries	Total Recordable Injuries	Man-hours	TRIFR
01	01	01	03	1,164,128	1.72

Local Capacity Building Achievements in 2013 (see table below)

Course	Location	Personnel
Trauma Medic	Sepon	90
Laos Driving License	Savannakhet	08
English for Laos	Sepon	17
Computer/Software	Sepon	09
MMG Safety Courses	Sepon	393
Supervisor Development Programme	Sepon	05
Laos for Expats	Sepon	04
Superintendent Development Programme	Sepon	02
Menzi Muck Driver	Sepon	03

Production Achievement (Continuous Improvement)

MMG LXML UXO Department – UltraTEM Deep UXO Detection System

Background

After conducting extensive geophysical equipment trials in 2012 to both increase operational efficiencies and to overcome the limitations of currently used UXO

detection equipment due to geological interference; the Geophysical Cell of the UXO Department went into 2013 with an increased focus and understanding of the characteristics which would define a successful instrument. The goal was to detect an MK81 250 GP bomb in any orientation in excess of 2.6m. Gap EOD came to Sepon to trial their UltraTEM system; a time domain electromagnetic geophysical system characterized by a relatively large transmitting loop, high transmitting current and advanced receivers and data processing techniques.

Trials

A brief but successful trial in March 2013 was followed by a more comprehensive trial in June. The trials consisted of establishing various test areas across the mine and strategically placing dozens of inert MK81 and MK82 seeds at various depths and orientations. All tests were 'blind' to the contractor who had no knowledge of the types of seeds present, how many and at what depth the seeds were buried. Operational aspects specific to the working environment were also successfully trialled such as searching on sloped terrain and boggy areas as well as integrating real time kinematic (RTK) GPS for improved positioning. As many Lao UXO Technicians at MMG have been involved in geophysical equipment trials at Sepon and use digital instruments on a daily basis, they became proficient operators in a relatively short period of time.

Results:

The trial clearly demonstrated that the UltraTEM was able to meet and exceed the stated goal. Two unexpected highlights were the dramatic decrease in 'false positives' as well as an increase in production rates by using an expanded array and surveying dynamically. Acquiring digital data during UXO clearance has proved itself at Sepon to improve the quality of the clearance and reduces the company's exposure to risk.



The good news: Menzi Muck M540

In November 2013 MMG LXML UXO Department purchased a Swiss made Menzi Muck M540 excavator for the purposes of vegetation reduction/preparation as a precursor to UXO clearance. This reduces exposure to the potential significant risks associated with manual vegetation reduction and UXO clearance. Three Laos National UXO personnel conducted four weeks of intensive operator training onsite. The Menzi Muck will be ready for NRA accreditation early 2014.

Key features:

- Cabin is fitted with 12mm Lexan polycarbonate plastic windows for operator protection.
- Roll Over Protection System (ROPS) and Falling Object Protection System (FOPS).
- Independently movable legs allow the Menzi Muck to operate on very steep and uneven terrain.
- Many commercial attachments can be fitted.
- Large forestry puncture resistant tires.

Focus areas of work in 2014:

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

Clients:

MMG LXML, Self-Funded



Personnel in 2013:

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
5	6	0	0	238	118	7	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2013:

Area cleared:

<i>Clearance (Ha)</i>		
Agriculture	Development	Total area
0	186	186

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	7	317	0	588	912

Geography of Operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in</i>
Area clearance	Vilabouly district-Savannakhet Province

Financials:

Expenditure for 2013: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	3,909,080
Operational costs	924,776
Special Operational costs	0
Equipment – expendable	198,782
Equipment – non-expendable	750,000
<i>Total</i>	<i>5,782,638</i>

Donor contributions for 2013 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Amount</i>
MMG LXML self funded	<i>5,782,638</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>5,782,638</i>

VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND MRE OPERATORS



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



VHVs receive first aid kits, booklets, flipcharts and posters at the end of trainings.

AAR Japan has provided first aid trainings with a focus on injuries resulting from UXO accidents to Health Center Nurses (HCNs) and Village Health Volunteers (VHVs) in Xieng Khouang. AAR Japan has also supported UXO-Lao of its MRE activities by providing MRE materials

Activities in 2013:

In 2013, AAR Japan worked on strengthening emergency medical care particularly for UXO victims and a patient transportation system through first aid trainings of HCNs and VHVs. Prior to these trainings, training of trainers (ToT) had been provided to District Hospital staff who took a role in teaching in later first aid trainings.

During the first 4 months of 2013, AAR Japan provided first aid trainings to HCNs and VHVs in the districts of Pek, Phaxai, Kham and Phoukout to wrap up the 2nd phase of the project. Starting the 3rd phase in June, AAR Japan expanded the target area to the districts of Khoun and Nonghet, where ToT and first aid training to HCNs and VHVs were conducted.

Besides the first aid training, AAR Japan created a song on awareness raising of the dangers of UXOs for children. The song was handed over to UXO-Lao Xieng Khouang to be used in its MRE activities.

The main activities undertaken in 2013:

- Provided 6-day ToT to Khoun and Nonghet District Hospital staff.
- Provided 3-day first aid trainings and distributed first aid kits to VHVs in the districts of Kham, Phoukout and Khoun.

- Produced and distributed information booklets, flipcharts and posters about UXO and first-aid to VHVs in the districts of Kham, Phoukout and Khoun.
- Provided 4-day first-aid trainings for HCNs in the districts of Pek, Phaxai and Khoun.
- Provided medical equipment for trauma care and booklets to HCs in the districts of Pek, Phaxai and Khoun.
- Conducted village workshops in target villages of Pek, Kham, Phoukout and Khoun which are highly affected by UXOs and distributed brochures and posters about first-aid.
- Provided medical equipment for trauma care to Pek, Phaxai, Kham, Phoukout, Khoun and Nonghet District Hospitals.
- Provided an MRE song to UXO-Lao Xieng Khouang.
- Assisted NRA Xieng Khouang in interviewing the UXO victims in line with NRA data collection.

Key achievements in 2013:

Major achievements of UXO project in Xiengkhuang Province in 2013 are:

- 8 District Hospital staff in the districts of Khoun and Nonghet enhanced skills and knowledge of first aid and teaching skill by through ToT.
 - ToT trainees in Khoun district provided basic first-aid training to 136 VHVs in the district.
- 185 VHVs in the districts of Kham, Phoukout and Khoun enhanced skills and knowledge of first aid through basic first-aid trainings.
 - The result of pre-/post-training test shows a remarkable improvement of knowledge after trainings.
 - VHVs have become more responsible and motivated for their role in emergency medical care in villages.
- More than 300 information booklets and flipcharts and 2,000 posters about first-aid were produced and distributed to VHVs in target districts.
 - Post-training evaluation shows that these booklets, flipchart and posters have practically been used by VHVs for reviewing and passing knowledge on to villagers.



- 75 HCNs in the districts of Pek, Phaxai and Khoun enhanced skills and knowledge of first aid through first aid trainings.
- 6 District Hospitals were equipped with medical equipment for trauma care.
- 185 VHV in the districts of Kham, Phoukout and Khoun were equipped with first-aid kits, booklets and flipcharts.
- 18 Health Centers of the districts of Pek, Phaxai, Kham and Phoukout were equipped with medical equipment for trauma care, booklets and flipcharts.
- Village workshops were conducted in 36 villages of the districts of Pek, Phaxai, Kham and Phoukout.
 - 1,797 villagers (male: 653, female: 833, Children: 311) of 36 villages participated in workshops.
 - Villagers became aware of the importance of first-aid and dangers of UXOs through workshops, and relevant brochures/posters were distributed.
 - ‘Emergency drivers’ who own vehicles were designated in each village for an emergency transportation of UXO victims to hospitals.
- 29 UXO victims in the districts of Pek, Phaxai, Phoukout, Kham and Nonghet were interviewed.
- UXO-Lao Xieng Khouang was provided with MRE song in Lao language for its MRE activities

Focus areas of work in 2014:

In 2014, AAR Japan will continue to provide trainings to VHV and HCNs and supply medical equipment for trauma care to HCs in Nonghet. The AAR Japan mobile team will also visit selected villages at high risk of UXOs in Nonghet to raise awareness on UXOs and teach basic first-aid. Working in collaboration with the Community Awareness Team of UXO-Lao Xieng Khouang for its MRE activities, AAR Japan will provide MRE posters, notebooks and MRE song in the languages of Hmong and Khmu.

Implementing Partners:

- AAR Japan works directly with Center of Medical Rehabilitation Center, Provincial Rehabilitation Center, Provincial Health Department as well as local hospitals and village authorities.

The good news:

In 2013, AAR Japan visited 25 VHV and HCNs for post-training evaluation on their first aid knowledge and practical skill learnt through trainings and the change in behavior. Average percentages of correct answers on a post-training quiz reached 60-70% while some of them had difficulty maintaining knowledge. On our visit, VHV and HCNs also brushed-up the techniques of CPR, stop-bleeding, burn and fracture treatments.

One of VHV, Ms. Omma, told us about her experience. “There was a terrible UXO accident that caused injury to a boy in the past. At that time, I used a dirty cloth to stop the bleeding. Then he got severe wound infection. If I had known the correct treatment, I could have avoided his infection. But now, I’m very happy to have gained new knowledge of first aid through AAR’s training. I can apply the right treatment to patients with confidence.” She is not only a VHV, but also she is the village chief. “I hope to have more opportunity to expand knowledge to help villagers in my village. When I learn more, I would like to teach other VHV.” she added.



VHV practice the fracture treatment at trainings.



HCNs practice how to take blood pressure at trainings.



AAR Japan hands over the equipment for trauma care to HCs in the presence of District Hospital staff.



AAR Japan works on an original MRE song to support MRE activities of UXO-Lao Xieng Khouang.



AAR Japan visits UXO victims for data collection. Two children are victims in Kham district.

Personnel in 2013:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
1	1	0	0	7	0	0	2

Detailed statistic figures in 2013:

Beneficiaries				
First Aid Training			Village Workshop	Data Collection
District Hospital Staff	Health Centre Nurse	Village Health Volunteer	Villagers	UXO victim
8	73	1,797	1,797	29



Geography of Operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in</i>
Other: First-aid training	Pek, Phaxai, Kham, Phoukout, Khoun and Nonghet districts in Xieng Khouang Province

Financials:

Expenditure for 2013: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	39,000
Operational costs	90,300
Special Operational costs	0
Equipment – expendable	12,700
Equipment – non-expendable	0
Total	142,000

Donor contributions for 2013: (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2013</i>
Japanese MoFA	187,800
Total	187,800



CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS) (VA AND MRE)

Activities in 2013:

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is currently implementing Village First Response: Integrated Trauma Care and Mine Risk Education in High Risk Communities in Xaibouathong 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 Phase I, 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 is providing Boualapha district with needed medical equipment to Medics in the health centers, VHVs and VFRs.

Achievements from July – December 2013:

- CRS reached an agreement with local government officials and community members to expand project activities to 47 target villages in Boualapha District.
- 41 VEDC Members from 20 high risk villages in Xaibouathong received training on incorporating active learning methods into MRE activities.
- VEDCs in 20 high risk villages in Xaibouathong carried out MRE activities in each of their communities, concentrating on increasing women's and children's participation.
- Trauma Care Foundation Cambodia provided a five-day Training of Trainers on First Aid and Trauma Care to 6 core trainers in Khammouane Province: 2 from

each of district health centers in Xaibouathong and Boualapha and 3 from the Provincial Hospital.

- Core Trainers conducted basic first aid and trauma care training for 20 UXO medics in Boualapha.
- Core Trainers conducted a refresher training for 12 UXO medics in Xaibouathong District on basic first aid and trauma care.
- 13 Villages in Xaibouathong completed community maps and emergency plans.

Key achievements in 2013:

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 2013, UXO medics were prepared to extend this cascade training approach to VHVs and VFRs in Xaibouathong and Boualapha in 2014.

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 2014.



Focus areas of work in 2014:

CRS will continue to extend first aid and trauma care training to VHVs and VFRs in both Xaibouathong and Boualapha throughout 2014. 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: Village Health Volunteers

Mr. Bounma is the 38 year-old Chief of Phakhad village, a small community of almost 650 people located 20 kilometers from the district center of Xaibouathong, remains high risk for UXO contamination. In September 2013, CRS and district partners held a workshop with Mr. Bounma and other community members on developing community maps and emergency plans. While the community had received prior instruction on creating basic community maps on paper, CRS' workshop sought to create more detailed maps and plans that could then be placed permanently and prominently within the community.

With CRS and partner support, Mr. Bounma set the stage, dividing the community into two groups, one that would construct the wooden boards and the other

to work with a local artist to draw the map and plans. Mr. Bounma expressed great support for the initiative, saying that the "community map and emergency plan is very useful for members in my village and visitors from other villages because the map shows the dangerous areas contaminated by UXO in the mountains, forest and fields surrounding the community. The maps also show the roads and small paths into the village, allowing visitors to quickly find their relatives. The emergency plan also shows the contact number for medical volunteers who can assist when there are accidents around the village".

CRS is working with all 40 villages in Xaibouathong to complete community maps and plans. Under Mr. Bounma's leadership, Phakhad village was the 4th fastest community in finalizing the map. Upon completion, many of the villagers and VEDC members commented that the map was easy to understand, as the painted map looked just like actual village!.



Mr. Khamla, partner staff from Xaibouathong DEB conducts rapid assessment in Ponsavanh village.



Nakaphor Village health center, which has only one VHV and very few medical supplies.

Personnel in 2013:

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 2013:

MINE RISK EDUCATION Community Awareness					VICTIM ASSISTANCE No. of people who received assistance		UXO Survey		UXO Roving	
	Beneficiaries				Financial	Medical	Villages	Time of Visits	Villages	Time of Visits
Time of visits	Men	Women	Boy	Girl						
Nov. & Dec.	256	866	99	160	0	0	0	0	1026	77

Geography of Operations:

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in
Risk Education	Xaibouathong district
Victim Assistance	Boualapha district & Xaibouathong district in Khammouane province

Financials:

Expenditure for 2013: (USD)

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

Donor contributions for 2013: (USD)

Donor	Contribution received in 2013
USDOS's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement	87,654
Total	87,654



COOPERATIVE ORTHOTIC & PROSTHETIC ENTERPRISE (COPE)

(VA AND MRE)

Activities in 2013:

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 support the development of 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 is currently working through five CMR centres nationwide in Luang Prabang, Xieng Khuang, Savannakhet, Champasack and Vientiane. COPE supports people with disabilities at all these centers through reimbursing patients' transport costs and food and accommodation during treatment for the patients and for carers and/or interpreters when necessary. In addition, COPE supports the costs related to the treatment and production of prosthetic and orthotic devices, by providing technical training to Government of Lao staff and material support to CMR and provincial rehabilitation centers (PRCs).

Although the focus is on prosthetics and orthotics (P&O), there is also an emphasis on ensuring a multi-disciplinary approach in order to provide the necessary services for the patients. COPE continues to strengthen the knowledge and skills of CMR staff related to the multidisciplinary approach of the rehabilitation services, including physiotherapy and occupational therapy. During the year, COPE has worked through three Mentors (P&O, Occupational Therapy and Paediatric Physiotherapy) to build technical skills at the five rehabilitation centres across the country.



The COPE and CMR P&O staff working together, producing artificial limbs requires concentration and patience.

In addition, COPE organized a broader Quality Control Seminar for 50 CMR P&O and management staff in November. The seminar took place with the support of ICRC-Special Fund for the Disabled and USAID, using experts from India and Vietnam as facilitators to help identify challenges and opportunities for how to ensure the necessary quality in rehabilitation services in Laos. As a result a CMR Quality Control Task Team was set up at the end of the year, and has started the process to evaluate and implement quality control procedures and policies at CMR and its provincial centers.

The COPE Connect outreach project was launched in 2009 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. During 2013, COPE Connect teams conducted clinical patient assessments in five provinces (more details below) to facilitate access to services for people with needs. In addition, COPE Connect developed 2,800 brochures, 2,300 posters, 1,100 comic books in order to increase the awareness of services available.



Detailed key achievements in 2013:

One of the barriers to access is the financial cost of



A man who has lost his leg, practicing on crutches outside the Center of Medical Rehabilitation in Vientiane. The process of casting and fitting a new prosthesis, and receiving the necessary training, can take up to two weeks.

seeking treatment where it can take days or weeks to be properly fitted with a device and learn to use it. 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 to December 2013, COPE’s support contributed to that:

- 913 devices were distributed to 845 people, of these devices 572 were prostheses and 341 orthoses.
- 233 patients were UXO accident survivors and of these 10% were new patients.
- In addition, 113 positioning devices (corner chairs, standing frames etc were distributed).
- Furthermore, 1,017 paediatric patient received physiotherapy/occupational therapy treatment, and 722 adult patients occupational therapy, and 97 people underwent clubfoot manipulation treatment.

In addition to the quality control seminar mentioned above and described in detail below, COPE organized a number of training courses and provided additional on-the-job training opportunities to increase the technical skills of the CMR and PRC staff involved.

Furthermore, COPE Connect organized one introductory workshop and two coordinator trainings during the year. The introductory workshop brought together 38 people in Sayabouly from the provincial and district health authorities and representatives from health centers to ensure local ownership and set up a coordination network within the existing governance structure. The two coordinator workshops ensured training

of provincial and district doctors on target patient identification and referral network. During the year, COPE Connect outreach teams undertook assessments in 22 districts in five provinces (see details below). 858 people were assessed during these visits and 426 people were invited to attend rehabilitation services at the PRCs or CMR. In addition, 80 people were referred to other institutions or organizations.

The good news:

Towards quality rehabilitation services in Laos:

How do we ensure the necessary quality of physical rehabilitation services for UXO victims and other people with disabilities across Laos? This was one of the key questions during a Quality Control Management seminar which took place at the Centre of Medical Rehabilitation (CMR) in November.

The seminar – titled “Quality Control in Prosthetics and Orthotics” – was organized by CMR together with COPE, supported by USAID and the ICRC-Special Fund for the Disabled. Participants included 50 people involved in rehabilitation service management across Laos, with expert facilitators from India and Vietnam.

“COPE has helped the prosthetics and orthotics project in the whole country by supporting with material and training staff” said the Minister of Health, Associated Professor Dr Bounkong Sihavong, during the 3 opening of the seminar. “Hopefully the CMR can learn more from this seminar and exchange experiences.”

COPE started supporting CMR activities in 1997 and has since then worked to ensure high quality prosthetic and orthotic services for people with needs and are today working through five government rehabilitation centres across the country.



Providing the necessary equipment and technical training to CMR staff is an important part of COPE’s support.

“We are grateful for the international support and hope this seminar will lead to a clear plan of action for how we together – CMR, COPE and international partners – can move forward and provide the best possible services for the people with disabilities in Laos,” said the CMR Director-General, Dr Khamphet Manivong.

During the four day seminar challenges were identified and a plan for the future agreed upon. A CMR Quality Control Task Team was set up, and will be responsible for evaluating and auditing the implementation of quality control procedures and policies in CMR’s five physical rehabilitation centers in Laos.

Focus areas of work in 2014:

- Increase quality of services through continued focus on technical trainings of CMR P&O staff and bench technicians, through specific courses, audit trips and one-on-one trainings in Vientiane and at the PRCs, and through ensuring implementation of the necessary quality control measures.
- Implement a beneficiary survey and develop a plan of action to ensure that users’ perspectives are systematically included in quality control follow-up work and the ongoing training efforts.
- Support provision of P&O services for those who cannot afford to pay for the services in the five rehabilitation centres.
- Improve quality of care for prosthetics and orthotics,

inclusive of turn around time and production quality.

- Provide support to the transition phase for the Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy involvement, aimed at supporting increasing transfer of responsibility for these activities to CMR.
- Increase the percentage of COPE assessed patients who access services through individual follow-up of previous cases through COPE Connect.
- Develop and implement a follow-up plan to identify and address potential obstacles for access to services for people with disabilities across the country.
- Identify feasibility of establishing mobile clinics to increase access to services.
- Improve data collection efforts to ensure the data collected fit the organizational needs.

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.



People with different kinds of disabilities spending time together outside of CMR.

Personnel in 2013:

<i>Office Support</i>				<i>Operations</i>			
<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>		<i>National</i>		<i>International</i>	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
7	3	1	2	0	0	0	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2013:

VICTIM ASSISTANCE	
No. of people who received assistance	
Financial	Medical
0	233

Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in</i>
Victim Assistance	Victim assistance provided through the CMR's physical rehabilitation centers in Champasack, Luang Prabang, Savannakhet, Xieng Khuang and Vientiane, plus some activities in Oudomxay. Together, these centers aim to ensure have national coverage.

In addition, COPE Connect outreach teams conducted assessments in 22 districts in the provinces of Champasack, Khammoune, Luangnamtha, Sayabouly and Attapeu (see table below for names of districts).

<i>Province</i>	<i>District</i>
Champasack	Sukomma, Champasack, Phonthong, Mounlaphamok and Patoumphone
Khammoune	Nongbok, Sebangfai, Boualapha, Saybouathong and Nakai
Luangnamtha	Viengphouka, Long, Sing, Nalea and Namtha
Sayabouly	Phieng, Sayaboulay, Paklai, Thongmixay, Botan and Khantao
Attapeu	Phouvong

Financials:

Expenditure for 2013: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	281,998.51
Operational costs	532,158.01
Special Operational costs	N/A
Equipment – expendable	N/A
Equipment – non-expendable	N/A
Total	814,156.52



Donor contributions for 2013 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2013</i>
AUSAID	185,797.94
CBM (Christoffel Blinden-Mission)	109,071.26
GDG (Global Development Group)	28,370.05
ICRC-Special Fund for the Disabled	55,117.11
NLR (Netherlands' Leprosy Relief)	48,935.00
Norwegian MFA	41,998.59
USAID	612,576.00
Total	1,081,865.95

CENTER OF MEDICAL AND REHABILITATION (CMR)

(VA)

The Center of Medical Rehabilitation under the Ministry of health has a duty to prevent disability, to provide medical, special education and vocational Rehabilitation for all kinds of disability in Lao PDR. We work closely with INGO's for UXO's victims assistance many years ago.

- Working with INGO's such as WE and Association an emergency care for UXO's accident in 6 provinces: Xiengkhouang, Houaphanh, Khammoune Salavanh, Xekhong and Attapeu provinces (WE and AAR reported in detail).

Activities in 2013:

- Providing the prosthetic for victims with total 912 sets.
- Providing the orthotic with total 763 sets.
- Providing the wheelchair the Disabled who cannot move alone with total wheelchairs 352 sets and tricycles 143 sets.
- The Disabled students graduated from Sikeud Vocational School for Disabled with total 96 persons.
- Providing the community Based Rehabilitation for all kind of Disabled in 7 districts for 256 persons

Detailed key achievements in 2013:

Clinical Assessment in Champasack, Khammouane, Luangnamtha, Sayaboury and Attapeu provinces with total 858 clients and 424 invited for services.

Implementing Partners:

Ministry of Health, Health Care Department and the Center of Medical Rehabilitation have a Policy to provide health care service according to 7 Pillars of UXO's victims assistance throughout the countries in cooperation with INGO's like COPE, WE, AAR, CBM, DIC and HI in providing the Health care services and Rehabilitation for UXO's victims assistance .

Personnel in 2013:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
9	15	0	3	77	90	1	0

Detailed statistic figures in 2013:

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
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	456,000 USD	2,170 patients	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Geography of Operations:

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in
Victim Assistance	Vientiane capital



Financials:

Expenditure for 2013: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	
Operational costs	
Special Operational costs	
Equipment – expendable	
Equipment – non-expendable	
Total	456,000

Donor contributions for 2013: (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2013</i>
USAid	250,000
AusAid	100,000
CBM	106,000
Total	456,000



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

Activities in 2013:

Assistance Association for Quality of Life Rehabilitation for People With Disabilities and UXO Survivors (Known as the Quality of Life Association, QA) received its registration as a non-profit association in 2011. In 2013, through grant funding, funds from private donations and the sale of crafts produced by UXO survivors and people with disabilities, the QA has been able to maintain a visitor center, crafts shop and provide services for UXO survivors and people with disabilities.

During 2013, the QA organized crafts trainings in eight villages for a total of 167 people, which included 51 UXO survivors and 46 people with disabilities. The QA also provides materials and receives crafts for sales from villages in Paek, Khoun, Phaxay and Kham Districts. Between 2011 through 2013, the QA has organized animal raising and livelihoods trainings for 18 villages for a total of 365 people, of which 147 are UXO survivors or family members, 94 are people with disabilities and 124 people being the most poor in the villages.

The QA 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. The Board was elected in the January 2013 membership meeting and in December 2013, they prepared the agenda for the January 2014 membership meeting.

Key achievements in 2013:

The Board of Directors is starting to provide direction to QA activities, and provides oversight so that QA activities follow its vision and mission. QA staff have also attended staff development trainings to strengthen the management of activities.

The QA, through donations and grants, contributed to the War Victims Medical Fund, providing the costs of the initial medical treatment of six UXO survivors and for an additional nine UXO survivors needing continuing medical care. It also provided education funds to help 3 UXO survivors continue their studies to complete secondary school and at the Khang Khay Teacher Training College.

The good news:

Chong Lee was injured in 2012 when he was burning brush near his house in Khoun district. He received facial injuries and lost one of his eyes. The QA made several home visits to develop a treatment plan with him, which included learning how to raise pigs and to re-enter secondary school, which was interrupted by the UXO accident.

He attended an animal raising training in another village and learned improved methods for raising pigs; after the training he received a grant to raise two pigs. In June 2013, he volunteered to review lessons for Hmong elders during an animal raising training organized by World Education. Starting in September 2013, he has been attending the non-formal education program to finish secondary school, so he can eventually enter college.

The QA has helped him by providing the funding for his initial and continuing medical care through the War Victims Medical Fund. The QA also organized the village-based animal raising that Chong Lee attended and provided the funds for books and materials so he could attend the non-formal education program so he can complete secondary school.

Focus areas of work in 2014:

The QA plans to continue strengthening management systems and to expand its membership from the current 30 members. It plans to recruit interns and volunteers to help with livelihoods training and keeping the QA Village Shop open. In 2014, The QA will receive additional funding for more village-based trainings, both in handicrafts and in animal raising. Most of these trainings will be at the village level, which helps the producers group members to support each other in income generation.

The QA is also part of the 'Victim Assistance Support Team' with World Education and the Xleng Khuang Department of Health. VAST will coordinate surveys, care plans and psycho-social support for UXO victims.

Implementing Partners:

The current QLA membership includes 30 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.

There are 21 producers groups in 18 villages in Khou, Phaxay, Paek, and Kham Districts for a total of 365 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.



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

Personnel in 2013:

Office Support				Operations			
National		International		National		International	
Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman
8	2	0	0	0	0	0	1

Detailed statistic figures in 2013:

VICTIM ASSISTANCE	
No. of people who received assistance	
Financial	Training
Number of newly injured patients: 06 people	Handicrafts training for 51 UXO survivors and 46 people with disabilities
Number of patients coming for continuing care: 09 people	Follow-up of crafts villages to provide materials and funds for crafts assistance for

Geography of operations:

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in
Victim Assistance	All eight districts of Xieng Khouang province

Financials:

Expenditure for 2013: (USD)

Item	Amount (USD)
Personnel costs	N/A
Operational costs	71,205

Special Operational costs	N/A
Equipment – expendable	N/A
Equipment – non-expendable	N/A
Total	71,205

Donor contributions for 2013 (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2013</i>
French Embassy Social Development Fund	26,705
McKnight Foundation	39,975
Helvetas	3,797
Private Donations	9,885
WRA (Via WEL “Strengthening First Responder Care” Project)	8,000
Total	88,362

Funds received from another UXO sector operator:

<i>What organization were the funds transferred from?</i>	<i>How much was transferred?</i>
World Education (reported above)	8,000
Total	8,000



WORLD EDUCATION (VA AND MRE)

Activities in 2013:

The UXO Education and Awareness Program works with the Ministry of Education and Sports to provide an activity-based child-centered primary school curriculum on the danger of UXO and how to prevent accidents. In School Year 2013/14, the program runs in 2,366 schools, in nine target provinces. In 2013, the program provided refresher training to teachers in four districts in addition to the follow-up of the 9,030 teachers in 2,366 schools teaching the UXO curriculum. In addition to the in-school curriculum, the program also has been working with Teacher Training Colleges to provide in-service training to students, as well as promoting community education through student puppetry. There are currently 50 puppetry troupes, made up of primary school students in Grades 3 – 5, which perform at community and school events.

The Integrated Victim Assistance components included the medical services upgrading in five districts in Xieng Khouang Province for province and district medical and nursing staff, as well as for village Health Volunteers (VHVs) in Thathom and Moke Districts. The project reviewed and printed two manuals in technical training and training of trainers targeted towards core and supporting medical and nursing trainers.

WEL, the Quality of Life Association (a non-profit association assisting UXO survivors and people with disabilities in Xieng Khouang Province) and the Department of Health followed-up and interviewed 44 UXO survivors after discharge from hospital and organized an animal raising training at the Xieng Khouang Integrated Vocational Training School for 24 recently injured UXO survivors. After the training, the participants received grants to buy and raise animals. At the end of 2013, the psycho-social support team was re-organized and key members attended a study tour to organizations providing psycho-social support in Thailand.

The War Victims Medical Fund (WVMF) provided initial medical assistance to thirteen patients and continuing medical care funding for nine people in Xieng Khouang. The Quality of Life Association in Xieng Khouang, contributed funds, raised from their donations and sales of handicrafts, to the WVMF for their care. An additional five UXO survivors in Luang Prabang province and four survivors in Vientiane Province also received care through the WVMF.



Key achievements in 2013:

The UXO Education and Awareness Program continues to strengthen the training within the Teacher Training Colleges. These teachers, once they graduate, receive occasional refresher training and materials for teaching the UXO curriculum, contributing to the sustainability of the program. At the same time, the program will provide refresher trainings to teachers in four districts in 2014, so that school directors will have increased skills to help new graduates and senior teachers to teach the curriculum.

The Integrated Victim Assistance components build on the success of the previous UXO victim assistance projects. The Victim Assistance Support Team (VAST) has developed its staff, systems, forms and methods for coordinated follow-up, making sure that UXO victims receive the support they require.

In 2013, WEL started discussions with other groups providing first aid training to village health volunteers (VHV). Although many organizations have developed first aid materials, some of the content was different, which could be confusing for VHV in the villages. The meetings of the First Aid Working Group is already improving the VHV First Aid curriculum by looking at existing materials within Laos and international models for providing CPR and first aid. The members of the working group have been very interested and active in the process. Based on their lessons learned from teaching VHV, the curriculum will be easier to teach and adapt so it is relevant to the needs of the VHV and their communities.

The pilot of Training of Trainer (ToT) and technical training manuals is targeted to district and province hospital staff working in the emergency rooms and who will be the first medical providers to assess and provide treatment for UXO survivors. The lessons learned from previous WEL organized trainings in emergency care as well as the participatory process in working with trainers, contributed to the development of the materials.

The good news:

The **UXO Education and Awareness Program** has been working with the Ministry of Education to help children understand the danger of UXO and to inform teachers, parents and village authorities about UXO that they find when they are playing, digging for worms or helping their parents in the fields. One child, nine year old Khamsai in Namphang Village (Thathom District, Xieng Khouang Province), found a cluster bomblet while he was fishing. Because he studied the UXO curriculum in his primary school, he knew it was dangerous and told the village chief, who informed MAG so it could be destroyed.

Focus areas of work in 2014:

The UXO Education and Awareness Program:

- Refresher trainings for school directors and teachers in fifteen districts in nine provinces.
- Supporting and mentoring programs in Teacher Training Colleges.
- Train new puppetry troupes to provide community education.

Integrated Victim Assistance:

- Strengthen VAST management, implement regular care planning and coordination meetings with province partners.
- Follow-up and develop psycho-social plans for 200 UXO survivors in Xieng Khouang Province, and work with QLA to organize livelihoods trainings.
- Develop system for providing assistance to UXO survivors not living in seven target provinces of WVMF.

National First Aid Curriculum:

- Monthly meetings with First Aid Working Group;

- Piloting First Aid curriculum.
- Review, revise and print materials.

Training of Trainers and Technical Training curricula

- Training of Trainers in Houaphan and Sekong provinces.
- Introduce technical training materials, support training of technical staff and evaluate.

Implementing Partners:

The **UXO Education and Awareness Program** works with the Ministry of Education and Sports, the Department of Pre- and Primary Education at the national, provincial and district levels.

The **three components of the Integrated Victim Assistance Program** work closely with its main partner of the Center for Medical Rehabilitation. The Integrated Victim Assistance Program works with the Xieng Khouang Province Department of Health, the province and district hospitals, and with iNGO and NPAs involved with UXO victim assistance. The National First Aid Curriculum Development Component has organized monthly meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Health and iNGOs and organizations which have provided training for Village Health Volunteers in the past. The Training of Trainers and Technical Training works with the Departments of Health in Houaphan and Sekong Provinces.





Personnel in 2013:

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

Detailed statistic figures in 2013:

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	
Houaphan	201	476	418	7,981	7,780	30	1,007	1,053
Xieng Khouang	453	1,307	1,164	21,347	19,483	63	2,757	2,786
Khammouane	124	223	172	6,564	6,292	14	770	745
Savannakhet	467	334	429	20,493	16,355	29	1,172	1,268
Salavan	392	641	577	21,276	18,581	14	873	870
Champasak	135	284	268	8,466	7,835	12	581	665
Sekong	146	749	409	10,237	9,762	13	905	896
Luang Prabang	256	526	408	11,955	11,469	41	963	1,773
Attapeu	192	268	377	11,544	10,762	17	892	1,090
Total	2,366	4,808	4,222	119,863	108,319	233	9,920	11,146

Victim Assistance

Training of medical, nursing staff and VHV				
Beneficiaries				
Province	District	type of training	Total	Women
Xieng Khouang	Thathom & Mok district	VHV FA training	36	18
	Thathom, Mok, Kham, Khoun and Nonghet Hospitals	District Hospital Emergency care	76	40
	Province Hospital	Training of trainers	28	19
	Province Hospital	Review and editing TOT and technical training materials	47	27
Houaphan and Sekong	Met at province level only	Technical Needs Assessment for province and district staffs in two provinces	40	20
Total			227	104

Victim Assistance

VICTIM ASSISTANCE		
<i>No. of people who received assistance</i>		
Province	Medical care	Training
Xieng Khouang	WVMF: Number of newly injured patients: 10	Livelihoods training for 24 people
	WVMF: Number of patients coming for continuing care: 9	Grants for 24 people to raise animals
Vientiane Province	WVMF: Number of newly injured patients: 4	
Louangprabang	WVMF: Number of newly injured patients: 5	

Geography of operations:

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in
Risk Education	Refresher training in Xieng Khouang (Mok and Thathom), Luang Prabang (Pakou, Phoukhoun)
Victim Assistance	VAST: Xieng Khouang Province. WVMF: Houaphan, Xieng Khouang, Khammouane, Savannakhet, Salavan, Champasak and Sekong. Pilot of TOT and technical training manuals: Houaphan and Sekong

Financials:

Expenditure for 2013: (USD)

Item	Amount (USD)
Personnel costs	N/A
Operational costs	N/A
Special Operational costs	157,917
Equipment – expendable	N/A
Equipment – non-expendable	N/A
Total	157,917

Donor contributions for 2013: (USD)

Donor	Contribution received in 2013
U.S. Department of State, Office of Weapons Removal & Abatement for “Improving Trauma Care and UXO Education in the Lao PDR”	136,000
Stavros Niarchos Foundation (previously reported in the 2012 report but used in 2013)	21,917
Total	157,917

Transfer of funds:

Funds transferred to another UXO sector operator

What organization were the funds transferred to?	How much was transferred? (USD)
Xieng Khouang Quality of Life association	8,000
Total	8,000



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 2013:

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 2013:

- 16 teachers from 8 district schools participated in football/MRE coaching workshop.
- 164 teachers from primary schools and 236 teachers from secondary schools joined the football/MRE clinic with Spirit of Soccer professional coaches and have the opportunity for technical support and learning by doing.
- Supported 2 football teams from each model school - 1 boys and 1 girls team. (2 model schools from each district, 16 schools from 8 districts, 32 teams in total).
- Supported pilot Cheer leader program in four model schools (2 primary schools and 2 Secondary schools).
- 82 secondary schools and 118 primary schools have attended the project activity.
- 12,000 students from secondary schools and primary schools have attended the project activity.



good news:

- SOS Laos will attend the Football for Hope Festival during the World Cup 2014 in Brazil.
- We will bring 3 boys and 3 girls from our project to join the football tournament, culture and life experience exchange with other youth from around the world, they could tell the story about living in the UXO contaminated area, This is great opportunity that they will represent Laos to international.
- Possibly receive more funding to expand the project to Savanakheth or Salavan province.
- SOS has been rewarded by local authority and partner for the project implementation.

Focus areas of work in 2014:

Through out Xiengkhuang Province, extend program to other 250 primary and secondary schools and possibly expand the project to Savanakheth or 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 2013:

<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 2013:

<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 13	0	0	416	296
Feb 13	0	0	453	196
Mar 13	0	0	394	224
Apr 13	0	0	456	122
May 13	0	0	449	364
Jun 13	0	0	296	154
Jul 13	0	0	189	78
Sep 13	0	0	450	213
Oct 13	0	0	592	394
Nov 13	0	0	782	449
Dec 13	0	0	567	200
Total	0	0	5,044	2,690



Geography of operations:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in</i>
Risk Education	Xiengkhuang province, districts: Pek, Khun, Kham, Phaxai, Phoukout, Thatom, Moke and Nonghet.

Expenditure for 2013: (USD)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Personnel costs	24,838.00
Operational costs	37,520
Special Operational costs	
Equipment – expendable	
Equipment – non-expendable	17,592
Total	79,951

Donor contributions for 2013: (USD)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution received in 2013</i>
US Department of State/Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement	69,951
FIFA	5,000
Laureus Sport for Good Foundation	5,000
Total	79,951



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

Prime Minister

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

Decree
On the establishment of the National Regulatory Authority
for UXO programme in Lao PDR.

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

The Prime Minister issues decree:

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Government of Lao PDR
Signed and Sealed

Thongsing Thammavong



Lao People's Democratic Republic

Peace Independence Democracy Unity and Prosperity

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

Ref 093/NRA
Vientiane Capital, date. 19 Nov 2012

Notification

To: - Ministers
- Chairman of relevant organizations
- Provincial governors

Subject: UXO Clearance for socio-economic development projects in Lao PDR.

- Pursuant to Decree No. 406/PM, dated 8 November 2011 on the establishment of the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR;
- Pursuant to National Standards for the UXO Sector in Lao;
- Pursuant to the National Strategic Plan for the UXO Sector in Lao 2011-2020 (The Safe Path Forward II).

Lao PDR is, per capita, the most heavily bombed nation in the world. During the 1964 to 1973 Indochina war, according to bombardment records of the Ministry of Defence of the United States (USA), 580,000 aerial bombing missions dropped up to 3 million tons of ordnance on Lao PDR. This included 270 million cluster submunitions (bombies) and 4 million large bombs. Military experts estimate that up to 30 percent of bombies (80 million submunitions) failed to detonate upon impact. Research from a 1997 survey indicates that unexploded ordnance (UXO) remains in 98 districts of 14 provinces, covering up to 87,231 km² of the total area of the Lao PDR.

More than 40 years after the war ended, UXO continues to injure and kill Lao people. Until very recently, there were more than 300 casualties per year. UXO is also a major obstacle to socio-economic development for the country, as many development projects, including infrastructure, industrial development, agro-forestry development, resettlement and other such initiatives often take place in UXO-contaminated provinces.

In order to ensure that all UXO clearance is carried out to National Standards, and that project areas are totally free of UXO, I, Chairman of the National Regulatory Authority on UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao (NRA) wish to inform Ministers, Chairman of relevant organizations, Provincial governors and all persons responsible for development projects under your authority, of the following:

1. All development projects in UXO-contaminated districts and provinces must conduct survey and, (where there is evidence of contamination) to undertake clearance, before commencing project activities.
2. All development projects which will be implemented in UXO-contaminated districts and provinces must allocate adequate budget for UXO survey, clearance and quality assurance, as required.
3. It is requested that all the development project holders communicate and coordinate with the NRA to obtain UXO contamination data and consult on processes of technical survey, clearance and quality in surance.



4. Only companies and organizations which have accreditation issued by the NRA can be hired to undertake UXO survey and/or clearance.
5. UXO clearance must be carried out to National Standards. The government has assigned to the NRA, the right and responsibility of checking UXO clearance to ensure that its quality conforms to National Standards.

Minister to Government Office
NRA Chairman

Cc:

- H.E. Mr. Asang Laoly, Deputy Prime Minister 'for report'
- Chief of Cabinet of Office of the Party Central Committee 'for report'
- Chief of Cabinet of Government office 'for report'
- Chief of Cabinet of National Assembly 'for report'
- Director General of Department investment control, Ministry of Planning and Investment 'for record'
- Director General of Department of Planning and Investment at Province level 'for record'



For further information please contact the:

**National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action
Sector in Lao PDR (NRA), Sisangvone Village, Unit 19,
Saysettha District, P.O Box 7261, Vientiane, Lao PDR**

Website: www.nra.gov.la