

National Regulatory Authority
UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR

UXO SECTOR ANNUAL REPORT 2006



Vientiane
Lao PDR

UXO SECTOR ANNUAL REPORT 2006

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| Contents | Page |
|--|-------------|
| Foreword: Chairman | 6 |
| Foreword: National Director | 7 |
| Foreword: Senior Technical Advisor | 8 |
| Map 1: Poverty Map of Lao PDR | 9 |
| Map 2: UXO Contamination Map | 10 |
| Map 3: UXO Agencies Location Map | 11 |
| Map 4: Accident Map | 12 |
| 1. Introduction | 13 |
| 1.1. The UXO/Mine Problem in Lao PDR | 13 |
| 1.2. UXO/Mine Victims in Lao PDR | 13 |
| 1.3. Summary of Main Outputs of UXO Sector in 2006 | 14 |
| 1.4. Progress Against Strategic Plan 2003-13 | 14 |
| 1.5. UXO/Mine Sector Expenditure 2006 | 16 |
| 2. National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action in Lao PDR | 17 |
| 2.1. Background | 17 |
| 2.2. NRA Vision | 17 |
| 2.3. NRA Goal | 17 |
| 2.4. NRA Objectives | 17 |
| 2.5. Key Achievements 2006 | 18 |
| 2.6. Operations | 18 |
| 2.7. Development of Lao PDR UXO/Mine Action National Standards | 20 |
| 2.8. Training and Capacity Building | 20 |
| 2.9. Personnel in 2006 | 21 |
| 2.10. Donors | 21 |
| 2.11. Agreements | 21 |
| 2.12. Donor Contributions | 21 |
| 2.13. Expenditure | 22 |
| 3. Lao National UXO Programme (UXO Lao) | 24 |
| 3.1. Background | 24 |
| 3.2. Key Achievements 2006 | 24 |
| 3.3. Operations | 24 |
| 3.4. Training | 24 |
| 3.5. Personnel | 25 |
| 3.6. Implementing Partners | 25 |
| 3.7. Donor Contributions | 25 |
| 3.8. Expenditure | 25 |
| 4. Mines Advisory Group (MAG) | 26 |
| 4.1. Background | 26 |
| 4.2. Operations | 26 |
| 4.3. Training | 27 |
| 4.4. Personnel | 28 |
| 4.5. Implementing Partners | 28 |
| 4.6. Key Donors | 28 |
| 4.7. Donor Contributions | 28 |
| 4.8. Expenditure | 29 |

| | | |
|------------|--|-----------|
| 5. | Handicap International Belgium (HIB) | 30 |
| 5.1. | Background | 30 |
| 5.2. | Specific context | 30 |
| 5.3. | Operations | 30 |
| 5.4. | Results to Date | 30 |
| 5.5. | Training | 31 |
| 5.6. | Personnel | 31 |
| 5.7. | Implementing Partners | 31 |
| 5.8. | Key Donors | 31 |
| 5.9. | Donor Contributions | 31 |
| 6. | Swiss Foundation for Mine Action Laos (FSD) | 32 |
| 6.1. | Background | 32 |
| 6.2. | Key Achievements 2006 | 32 |
| 6.3. | Operations | 32 |
| 6.4. | Training | 32 |
| 6.5. | Personnel | 33 |
| 6.6. | Implementing Partners | 33 |
| 6.7. | Donor Contributions | 33 |
| 6.8. | Expenditure | 33 |
| 7. | Milsearch-BPKP EOD Joint Venture Limited | 34 |
| 7.1. | Background | 34 |
| 7.2. | Key Achievements 2006 | 34 |
| 7.3. | Training | 34 |
| 7.4. | Personnel | 34 |
| 8. | Pheonix Clearance Ltd. (PCL) | 35 |
| 8.1. | Background | 35 |
| 8.2. | Operations during 2006 | 35 |
| 8.3. | Personnel | 35 |
| 9. | Ministry of Education | 36 |
| 9.1. | Background | 36 |
| 9.2. | Key Achievements | 36 |
| 9.3. | Operations | 37 |
| 9.4. | Training | 37 |
| 9.5. | Personnel | 37 |
| 9.6. | Implementing Partners | 37 |
| 9.7. | Donor Contributions and Expenditure | 37 |
| 10. | Lao Youth Union | 38 |
| 10.1. | Background | 38 |
| 10.2. | Key Achievements 2006 | 38 |
| 10.3. | Operations | 38 |
| 10.4. | Training | 39 |
| 10.5. | Implementing Partners | 39 |
| 10.6. | Donor Contributions | 39 |
| 11. | Ministry of Health | 40 |
| 12. | Cooperative Orthotic and Prosthetic Enterprise (COPE) | 41 |
| 12.1. | Background | 41 |
| 12.2. | Key Achievements 2006 | 41 |
| 12.3. | Operations | 41 |
| 12.4. | Training | 41 |
| 12.5. | Personnel | 41 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 12.6. Implementing Partners | 42 |
| 12.7. Donor Contributions | 42 |
| 12.8. Expenditure | 42 |
| 13. Handicap International Belgium CBR Programme | 43 |
| 13.1. Background | 43 |
| 13.2. Programme Objective | 43 |
| 13.3. Specific Context | 43 |
| 13.4. Operations Chronology | 43 |
| 13.5. Achievements 2006 | 44 |
| 13.6. Training | 44 |
| 13.7. Personnel | 45 |
| 13.8. Implementing Partners | 45 |
| 13.9. Key Donors | 45 |
| 13.10. Donor Contributions | 45 |
| 14. World Education/Consortium in Lao PDR | 46 |
| 14.1. Background | 46 |
| 14.2. Key Achievements 2006 | 47 |
| 14.3. Operations | 47 |
| 14.4. Training | 48 |
| 14.5. Implementing Partners | 48 |
| 14.6. Donor Contributions | 48 |
| 15. Association for Relief and Development | 49 |
| 15.1. Background | 49 |
| 15.2. Key Achievements 2006 | 49 |
| 15.3. Operations | 49 |
| 15.4. Training | 50 |
| 15.5. Implementing Partners | 50 |
| 15.6. Donor Contributions | 50 |
| 15.7. Expenditure | 50 |
| 16. Lao Disabled People's Association(LDPA) | 51 |
| 16.1. Background | 51 |
| 16.2. Key Achievements 2006 | 51 |
| 16.3. Operations | 52 |
| 16.4. Training | 52 |
| 16.5. Implementing Partners | 53 |
| 16.6. Donor Contributions | 53 |
| 16. Annexes | 54 |
| Annex 1: National Strategic Plan for the UXO Programme in Lao PDR | 54 |
| Annex 2: Decision on Organization and Activities of NRA | 63 |
| Annex 3: Decree on the Establishment of the NRA | 69 |
| Figure 1: UNDP & NRA MOU Ceremony, 24 April 2006 | 17 |
| Figure 2: Meeting with US Congresswoman Betty McCollum | 19 |
| Figure 3: Ceremony for Australian grant to NRA | 20 |
| Figure 4: Harvesting rice on safe land, Houay Dok Kham village | 29 |
| Figure 5: Lao Youth Union Performers from Attapeu province | 39 |
| Figure 6: Child being fitted with a prosthetic leg | 41 |

Foreword: Chairman of the NRA



On behalf of The National Regulatory Authority, I am very delighted to introduce this first annual report 2006 of the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) of Lao PDR, to set-forth the progress and main achievement of the implementation of the prioritized action plans that have been elaborated in accordance to the National Strategic Plan entitled: “**the Safe Path forward**”. In this respect, the substantial funds have been mobilized to help NRA carry out its main function of coordination, management and cooperation, to develop policy and accreditation mechanisms and to provide data information to all operators in the UXO/Mine Sector in Lao PDR. Besides, the NRA has also been able to fulfill its role to oversee all the activities of the UXO/Mine operators to provide training

and capacity building, and to monitor UXO/mine clearance, roving teams, mine risk education and victim assistance in the countrywide.

Lao PDR has the distinction of being, per capita, the most heavily bombed nation in the world. From 1964 to 1973 Lao PDR was the scene of extensive ground battles and intense aerial bombardment. During that time, it was estimated that more than 580,000 aircraft conducted missions over Lao PDR, dropping more than 2 million tons of bombs. However, up to 30% of these ordnances failed to explode, leaving a lethal legacy contaminating and threats to the livelihood of multi-ethnic people within 14 out of 17 provinces in the country. A countrywide survey, conducted by Handicap International Belgium in 1996 on the Socio-Economic impact of UXO/mine in Lao PDR, found that 87,231km² of land contaminated, an estimated 25% of all Lao territory, where 2,861 villages (or 25%) are affected by UXO/mines.

As a result of the contamination of agriculture lands, rivers, mountainous areas and the villages where people are living, each year people are killed or injured by UXO/mines. Approximately 200 to 400 people become victims of UXO every year. Therefore, the UXO/mine problem really creates an obstacle to village livelihoods, and socio-economic progress in Lao PDR.

The Lao PDR has been clearing UXO/Mine since 1995. For more than 11 years the UXO/mine operators have been deploying their efforts to work in the provinces heavily impacted by UXO contamination to try and reduce the number of injured and deaths, and provide safe land for the people living in the affected areas. In the matter of fact, the UXO/mine operators clear the land for agriculture, rural development and economic investment projects. More than one third of the country is contaminated by UXO/mines; It will require a long-term mission for many decades to address the problem of UXO/Mine contamination. To respond to this contamination, the UXO/Mine operators are planning and implementing clearance activities in accordance with the National Strategic Plan “**the Safe Path Forward**” for the UXO / Mine Sector, and the V and VI National Socio-economic Plan (2001-2005) and (2006-2010), and the Millennium Development Goals. In the matter of fact, the UXO/mine operators are working in the villages in the poorest districts in the nine provinces with the highest contamination.

On behalf of the National Regulatory Authority, let me extend my high appreciation to the achievements of all the UXO/Mine operators and their staff who comprise more than 1,000 Lao technician and international advisors, deploying their efforts with high commitment. On the behalf of the Lao Government, I take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to the Donors, implementing partners and UXO/Mine international communities who have supported us and contributed so generously to the activities of the NRA and the UXO/mine operators, providing financial and equipment support. We do hope that we will continue to have further support to carry out the long-term mission so that Lao PDR will become an “**UXO/Mine Impact Free Country**” enabling the Lao multi-ethnic people to conduct their livelihood activities in safety and contributing to the achievement of our poverty reduction goals by the year 2020.



Mr. Douangchay Phichith
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence,
Chairman of the NRA

Foreword: National Director



It is a great pleasure for me to introduce briefly the 2006 Report of the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR (NRA). 2006 was a very challenging year for the NRA Office, because it was the first year that the Office was officially established and our staff faced new tasks.

As His Excellency Mr. Douangchay Phichith, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Chairman of the NRA has mentioned, Lao PDR is one of the most UXO impacted countries, which affected and continues to affect and threaten the livelihood of the Lao multi-ethnic people. In the Lao context, the UXO/mine contamination is correlated with the poverty situation, since out of the 47 poorest districts of the country, 46 of them are heavily affected by UXO. The solution to the UXO problem in Lao PDR is consistent with the National Strategic Plan for the UXO/mine action sector, linking with the V (2001-2005) and VI (2006-2010) National Socio-Economic Development Plans, and the Millennium Development Goals.

The NRA Office started to work in April 2006. During these eight months of activities, we have developed a legal framework for the NRA's institutional building and capacity building; drafted National Standards for the UXO Sector; initiated an accreditation system for UXO/mine sector projects or commercial operators; drafted a Strategic Plan for the UXO/Mine Risk Education Unit for 2007-2010; established a National Database System and developed the NRA Website; welcomed high ranking guests from donor countries; organized a workshop on National Mine Action Legislation in Lao PDR; convened a Government-Donor UXO Sector Working Group; initiated a study to set priorities for UXO clearance planning for operators in Lao PDR; interviewed and selected technicians for vacant posts in the Office; issued the internal rules of the NRA office and encouraged staff to join the social security scheme complying with the Decree No.207/PM. Besides, we have signed MOUs with some humanitarian demining organisations, namely with the Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Handicap International Belgium (HIB) and Fondation Suisse de Déminage (FSD). We have performed our coordination and functions and also attended internal as well as international meetings on UXO/Mine action problems. The NRA Office is highly committed to the long term and sustainable establishment of the NRA nationwide under the leadership of the central level. The NRA's training and capacity building in 2006 included on the job in-country and international trainings in which senior managers and officers from different Sections participated.

In the performance of their tasks for 2006, the UXO/mine sector operators cleared 4,726.77 hectares of land for agriculture and other development projects, and destroyed 60,110 UXO. Besides, Community Awareness (CA) teams visited villages in areas contaminated by UXO reaching 152,579 people, where they received education on the danger from UXO and how to protect oneself and to stay away from these devices.

On behalf of the NRA Office, I would like to thank all the staff, technicians, technical advisers and implementing partners for having devoted their physical and intellectual efforts in the performance of their duties with high responsibility; and to express thanks and gratitude to Donors, International Community, including International Experts for their continuing support to NRA and UXO/mine sector operators. We look forward to furthering support and assistance to pursue The Safe Path Forward for the sake of multi-ethnic people's livelihood in the UXO/mine affected areas.

Dr. Maligna Saignavongs
Director of the NRA

Foreword: Senior Technical Advisor



Since the start of the UXO programme in Lao PDR in 1996, the different operating agencies have produced and implemented annual workplans according to their own areas of expertise and focus. However, in recent years we have seen a more unified approach developing within the sector. In 2004 a National Strategic Plan entitled The Safe Path Forward was promulgated as a Prime Minister's Decree which laid out a 10 year plan with some firm annual targets to be met by the UXO sector as a whole. As already explained by H.E. Mr. Douangchay Prichith in his foreword, The Safe Path Forward described the creation of a National Regulatory

Authority as the government body that would bind all the different organisations of the UXO sector together and with that the foundations of the NRA were laid.

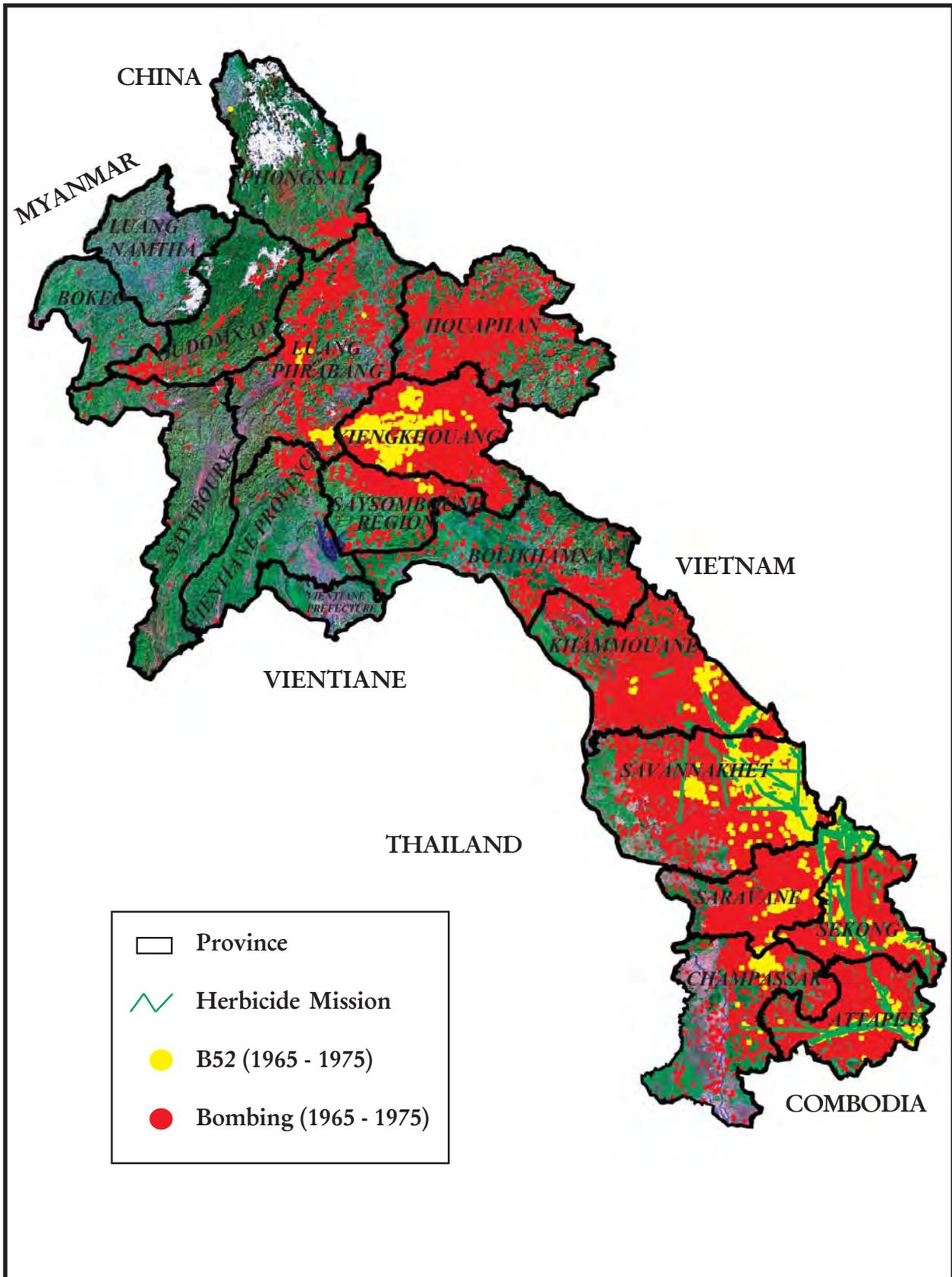
As Dr. Maligna Saignavongs has explained in his foreword, 2006 saw the NRA evolve from an institution in name only to an operational entity. His recruitment early in the year as the director of the NRA was rapidly followed by the recruitment of other key staff. All of the original NRA personnel are now into their second calendar year of business except for Joe Wenkoff who was the UNDP Chief Technical Advisor for the NRA. I replaced Joe when he retired in the middle of 2006 making me the newest addition to the team. In this short time I have been with the NRA I have seen solid progress which I hope can be sustained to meet the expectations of the operators who rely on the NRA as their focal point in government administration.

2006 will be marked as a year when an international instrument to limit the use of cluster munitions was conceived. This treaty is expected to be drafted through 2007 and in place in early 2008 and will serve as a legal instrument to ban the use of cluster munitions which have affected civilian populations in so many countries during recent years. This weapon system was used recently in places such as Afghanistan, Iraq and Lebanon and has been in the media spotlight regularly. However no other country has been so badly affected by this weapon as Laos. This report is a measure of how the problem of cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war is being addressed systematically and methodically in 2006.

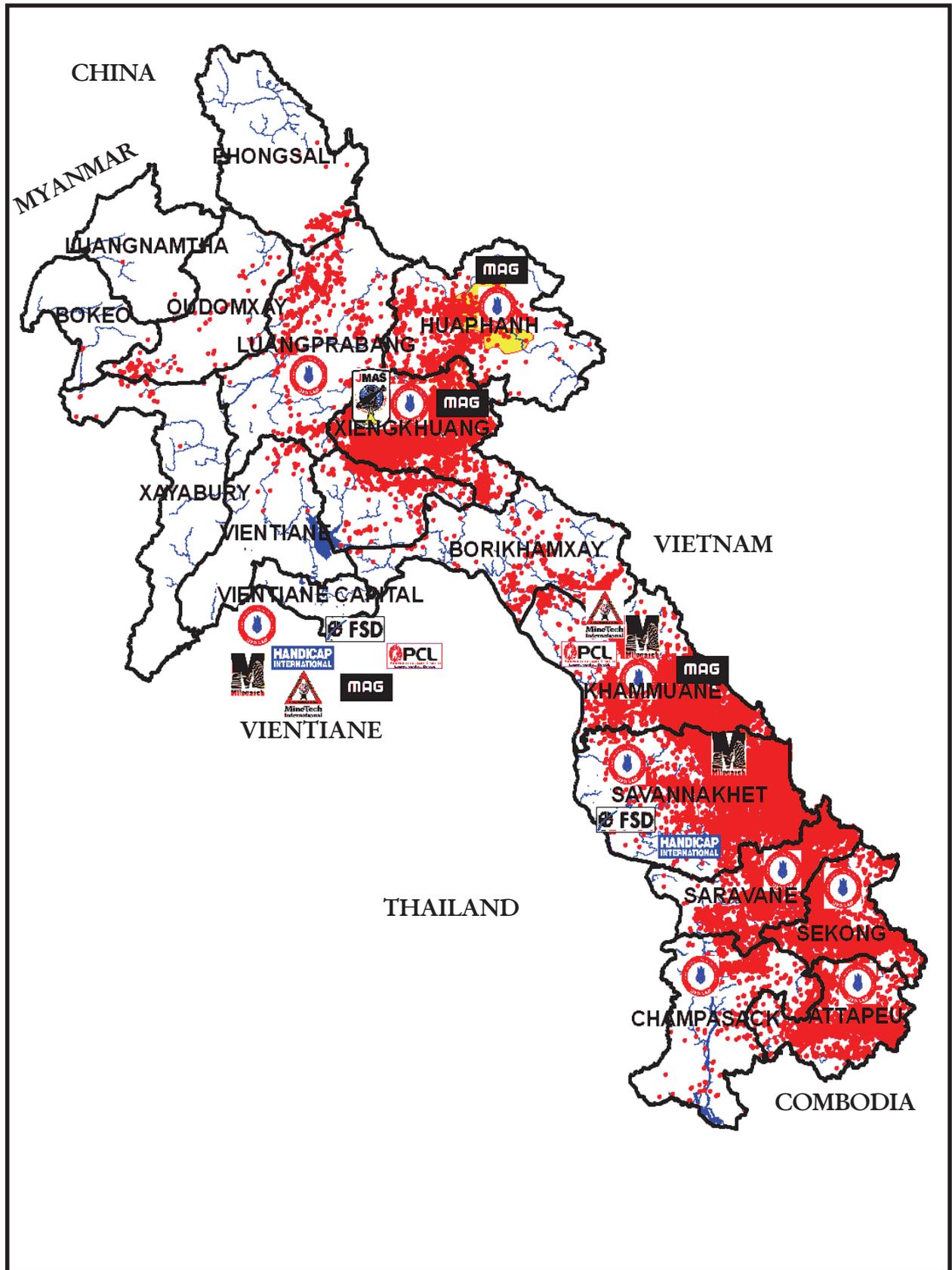
A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Tim Horner
Senior Technical Advisor
NRA

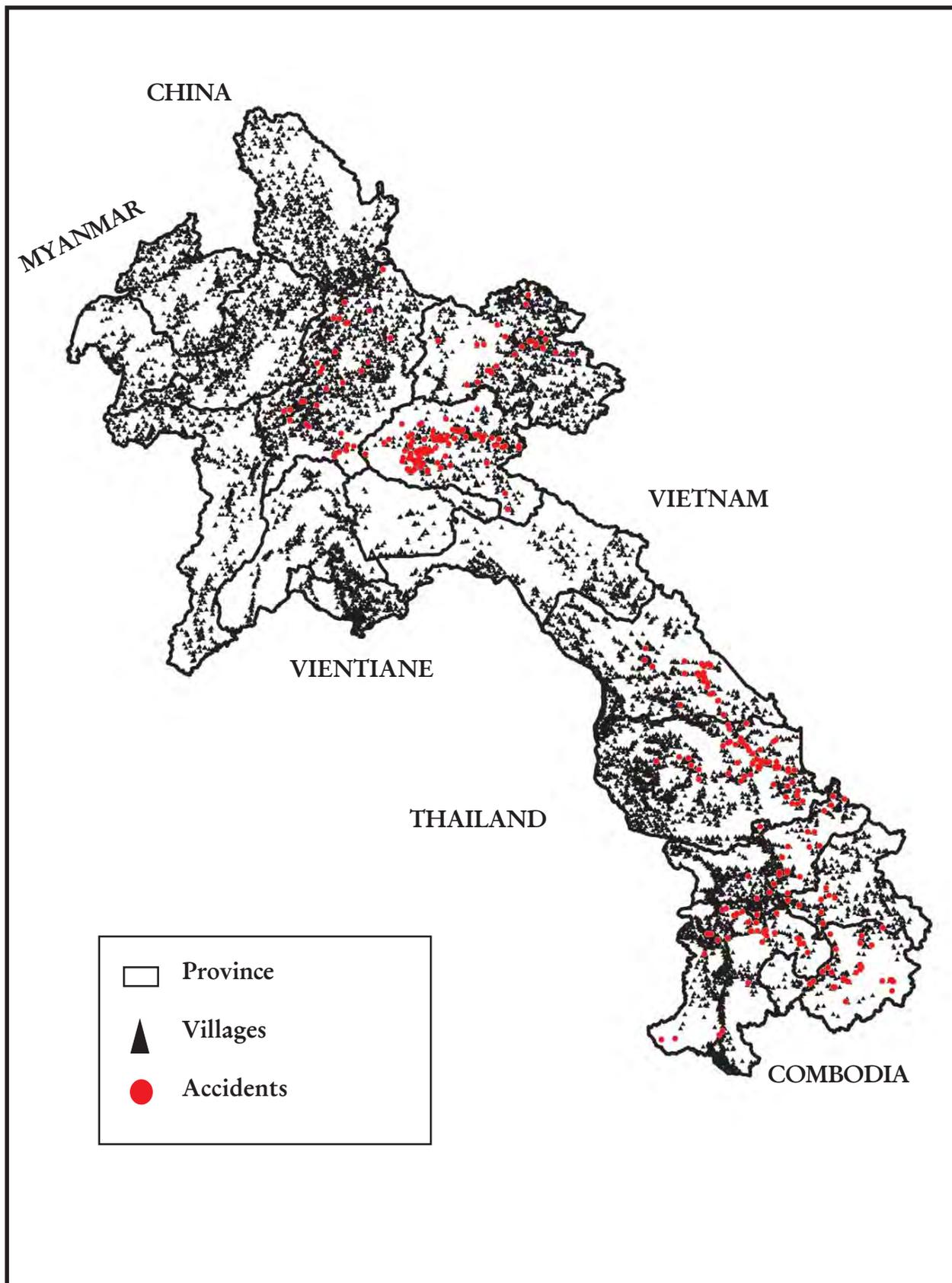
Map 2. UXO Contamination Map



Map 3. UXO Agencies Location Map



Map 4. Accident Map



1. Introduction

1.1. The UXO/Mine Problem in Lao PDR

The Lao PDR has the distinction of being, per capita, the most heavily bombed nation in the world. As a result of the broader conflict in Indochina during the 1960s and 1970s, Lao PDR was the scene of extensive ground battles and intense aerial bombardment.

From 1964 until 1973, more than half a million bombing missions were carried out over the country, and as a result over two million tonnes of explosive ordnance were delivered. It has been estimated that up to 30% of all ordnance dropped failed to detonate on impact, leaving a lethal legacy that continues to kill, maim and impoverish over 30 years later. This explosive ordnance included vast quantities of cluster bombs, which released anti-personnel 'sub-munitions' bomblets (referred to as 'bombies' by the Lao people). Such unexploded bomblets become, in effect, *de facto* anti-personnel landmines. Recent research indicates that in excess of 260 million bomblets were dropped over the country.¹ In addition to the bombies, there are also vast quantities of unexploded heavy bombs, rockets, grenades, artillery munitions, mortars, anti-personnel landmines and improvised explosive devices.

A countrywide survey, conducted in 1996 on the socio-economic impact of UXO in Lao PDR found that 25% of all the villages in the country are affected by UXO contamination. 87,213 square kilometres of land out of country-wide total of 236,800 square kilometres are considered to have UXO contamination. 12,427 square kilometres of land are seen to be high risk and 74,786 square kilometres are seen to be moderate risk.²

In rural communities, high levels of poverty are clearly linked to high levels of UXO contamination. Villagers living in such impoverished conditions often find that they are confronted with "enforced risk taking": either they continue to live in acute poverty and, in many cases, chronic malnutrition, or they risk injury and death by working UXO contaminated land.

1.2. UXO/Mine Victims in Lao PDR

There is currently no accurate information on the number of UXO victims in Lao PDR. In 1996 Handicap International Belgium conducted a survey of UXO and UXO victims. The survey recorded 10,649 accidents/victims between 1973 and 1996, from which it concluded that there had been 5,495 deaths and 5154 survivors. Of these survivors, 65% suffered at least amputation of a limb and 13 per cent were paralysed. Other injuries reported included loss of hearing and eyesight and burns.

The HIB survey showed that between 1973 and 1976, the numbers of accidents averaged 1,100 per annum, but this declined to an average of 360 in the period 1977 to 1986. From 1987 to 1996 the average fell again to 240 per annum. Since 1996, limited UXO victim information has been collected by UXO Lao in nine provinces, although early years are very incomplete and only the more recent 8 years are reported here.

¹ Handicap International (2006), *Fatal Footprint: The Global Human Impact of Cluster Munitions*. Brussels: HI

² US bombing records and Handicap International (1997), *Living with UXO: Final Report*. Vientiane: HI, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and UXO Lao

| | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | Average |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---------|
| Accidents | 63 | 58 | 57 | 43 | 60 | 90 | 98 | 25 | 62 |
| Injured | 75 | 63 | 86 | 70 | 76 | 128 | 128 | 33 | 82 |
| Dead | 26 | 39 | 35 | 28 | 33 | 66 | 36 | 16 | 35 |
| Total | 101 | 102 | 121 | 98 | 109 | 194 | 164 | 49 | 117 |
| Children | 59 | 50 | 52 | 47 | 50 | 112 | 88 | 24 | 60 |
| Boys | 47 | 43 | 36 | 32 | 36 | 95 | 77 | 17 | 48 |
| Girls | 12 | 7 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 17 | 11 | 7 | 12 |
| Women | 3 | 15 | 13 | 8 | 14 | 12 | 7 | 3 | 9 |

Some observers have suggested that the total of injured and dead may be as much as double those recorded.³ Nonetheless, it is thought that the decline in numbers experienced in 2006 is likely to be real. It reflects a similar pattern in Cambodia.

A recent publication on the incidence of cluster munitions worldwide⁴ identifies 23 contaminated countries, within which it reports a total of 11,044 confirmed casualties. The Lao PDR, with 4,813 confirmed casualties (44% of the total), is the most severely affected. The report states that 98% of all casualties are civilian.

1.3. Summary of Main Outputs of UXO Sector in 2006

A summary of the main outputs of 2006 is as follows:

- Cleared over 4,726 hectares of land, destroying over 28 big bombs, 15,052 bombies, 40 landmines and 16,590 other UXO.
- Community Awareness teams visited over 571 villages, reaching at least 152,579 people.
- A UXO Risk Education Needs Assessment for Lao PDR was conducted.
- Roving teams conducted tasks in over 770 villages. They destroyed a total of 40,950 items of UXO (392 big bombs, 20,356 bombies, 106 landmines, and 20,096 other items of UXO).
- At the end of 2006, the NRA Victim Assistance Unit had reached the advanced stages of planning and preparing for a survey of all UXO accidents and all victims of such accidents. It is hoped that this survey will be completed during 2007 and that it will have 100% geographical cover and 100% cover of victims.

1.4. Progress Against Strategic Plan 2003-13

The Safe Path Forward is the current National Strategic Plan for the UXO Sector in Lao PDR for a ten year period, 2003-2013. While it is generally acknowledged that the plan needs to be reviewed and revised, and that it focuses only on UXO Lao rather than other operators, it is currently the main benchmark against which to measure the progress of the UXO Sector. The following chart provides a summary of the yearly outputs of the UXO programme from 2003-2006 as outlined by the strategy and a summary of progress to date.

³ Because the UXO Lao reporting system is passive, it does not cover the whole area of the nine provinces where UXO Lao is present, and there are undoubtedly UXO accidents in some of the other eight provinces.

⁴ Handicap International (2006), *Fatal Footprint: The Global Human Impact of Cluster Munitions*. Brussels: HI

| Year | Activity | Completion Date | Progress to Date |
|------|---|-----------------|---|
| 2003 | 1. Feasibility of national Victim database | 30 Sept 03 | Carried out by HI |
| | 2. Review of UXO Lao Management | 30 Sept 03 | Completed by MAG in 2005 |
| | 3. Initiation of Post-Clearance Impact Assessments (PCIA) | 01 Oct 03 | Pilot project initiated by UNDP |
| | 4. Establishment of increased Tech survey capacity | 31 Dec 03 | Established but capacity not fully built until 2006 |
| | 5. Establishment of Regulatory Authority | 31 Dec 03 | Established under a Prime Minister Decree 2004 |
| | 6. IMSMA installed and running | 31 Dec 03 | Version 2 in use. Version 4 update planned for 2007 |
| | 7. Transfer of CA capacity to other IPs | 31 Dec 03 | Other IP's built CA capacity in addition to UXO Lao |
| | 8. Tech. Survey of 500 villages | 31 Dec 03 | Initiated but not completed |
| | 9. 942 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao | 31 Dec 03 | 880 ha cleared by UXO Lao |
| | 10. 60 "new" villages visited by CA | 31 Dec 03 | 512 villages visited |
| | 11. Victim Assistance Plan of Action | 31 Dec 03 | Not developed until 2006 |
| 2004 | 1. New CA curriculum developed | 30 June 04 | Curriculum developed by Consortium & MoE |
| | 2. Review of Strategic Plan | 31 Aug 04 | Review process in 2007 |
| | 3. CA outreach to 300 "new" villages | 31 Dec 04 | 495 villages visited |
| | 4. Tech. Survey of 1300 villages | 31 Dec 04 | Not completed |
| | 5. 1300 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao | 31 Dec 04 | 1,255 ha cleared |
| 2005 | 1. Tech. Survey of 840 villages | 30 June 05 | Not completed |
| | 2. Review of Strategic Plan | 31 Aug 05 | Review process in 2007 |
| | 3. CA outreach to 450 "new" villages | 31 Dec 05 | 535 villages visited |
| | 4. 1500 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao | 31 Dec 05 | 1,566 ha cleared |
| 2006 | 1. Review of Strategic Plan | 31 Aug 06 | Review process in 2007 |
| | 2. CA outreach to 450 "new" villages | 31 Dec 06 | 571 villages visited |
| | 3. 1800 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao | 31 Dec 06 | 2,097 ha cleared |

1.5. UXO/Mine Sector Expenditure 2006

The following table provides an approximate annual expenditure for the UXO Sector in 2006, based on the available figures provided by the non-commercial operators.

| Operator | Expenditure 2006 |
|---|-------------------------|
| NRA | USD 578,762 |
| UXO Lao | USD 4,286,954 |
| Mine Advisory Group (MAG) | USD 2,460,804 |
| Handicap International Belgium (HIB) | USD 1,549,225 |
| Federation Deminage Swiss (FSD) | USD 1,490,845 |
| Consortium/World Education/MOE | USD 114,000 |
| Lao Youth Union (LYU) | USD 61,159 |
| HI Community Based rehabilitation(CBR) | USD 1,117,600 |
| Consortium/MOH | USD 440,000 |
| AAR | USD 118,755 |
| COPE | USD 360,488 |
| Lao Disabled People's Association(LDPA) | USD 300,00 |
| PCL | Approx USD 2,000,000 |
| Millsearch | Approx USD 4,000,000 |
| Mine Tech | N/A |
| Lao Army | N/A |
| TOTAL | USD 18,878,592 |

2. National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action in Lao PDR

2.1. Background

The National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action in Lao PDR (NRA) is a public institution of the Government of Lao PDR responsible for providing policy direction, accreditation and managing and coordinating national and international operators. The NRA also acts as the technical focal point for all matters relating to international conventions and treaties and has a mandate to participate in international meetings and conferences related to UXO/Mine Action and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) as assigned by the Government of the Lao PDR. The NRA is responsible for the development and implementation of the National Strategic Plan for the UXO/mine action sector through a consultative process with the implementing agencies. External quality assurance, post-clearance impact assessment and overall monitoring of the sector are also responsibilities of the NRA.



Fig. 1. Mr. Axang Laoly, Deputy Prime Minister, Chairman of the NRA, Mr. Laoly Faiphengyao, Vice Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Acting Vice Chairman of the NRA and Mr. Finn Reske-Nielsen, Resident-Representative of UNDP in Lao PDR at the signing ceremony on 24 April 2006 of the Memorandum of Understanding for the provision of support to the NRA.

The NRA is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the National Strategic Plan 2003-2013 for the UXO Sector which was promulgated by Prime Minister's Decree N.o 33 on 29 April 2004 (see annex one).

2.2. NRA Vision

The NRA will become the leading institution in the UXO/mine action sector to ensure that Lao PDR becomes a safe country free from the impact of UXO/mines.

2.3. NRA Goal

To enable people living in UXO/mine contaminated areas to take part in socio-economic development in Lao PDR free from the impact of UXO and mines.

2.4. NRA Objectives

Based on The Safe Path Forward, the objectives of the NRA are as follows:

- To reduce the number of casualties from UXO/mine accidents to a rate not exceeding 100 persons per year.
- To increase the release of agricultural lands for food production and for the development of other sectors.
- To ensure the rehabilitation and support for the survivors of UXO/mine accidents so they are able to take part in socio-economic development.

2.5. Key Achievements 2006

- In January 2006 the Lao government appointed the National Director of the National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Sector in Lao PDR (NRA);
- In April the NRA office was officially opened. The ceremony was presided over by Mr. Axang Laoly, Deputy Prime Minister and NRA Chairman;
- In June a meeting was held at the NRA office with the Hon. Teresa Gambaro, MP and Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Australia;
- In July the NRA organised a workshop on the proposed Geneva Internal Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) Risk Management Mitigation Study. The NRA collaborated with GICHD in undertaking this study;
- Sub-Sector technical working groups for Clearance, Mine Risk Education (MRE) and Victim Assistance (VA) were established and regular meetings organised;
- In September senior officials from the provinces of Attapeu, Champassak, Sekong, Saravane, Savannakhet, Khammuane, Bolikhamxay, Vientiane, Luang Prabang, Huaphanh, Xieng Khuang, Oudomxay, Phongsaly and Luang Namtha were briefed on the role and responsibilities of the NRA and the future plan to establish an NRA office in each of these provinces;
- In October a workshop on National Mine Action Legislation in Lao PDR was organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the NRA;
- In October a Government-Donor UXO Sector Working Group was organised and convened by the NRA;
- In November a workshop to present the GICHD Risk Management study in Lao PDR was organised by the NRA and GICHD;
- The NRA developed National Standards for the UXO Sector with technical support from FSD and funding support from AusAID;
- Regulations on the Statute, Roles and Responsibilities of the NRA were developed and approved;
- An accreditation system for UXO/mine sector operators was initiated by the NRA;
- A system for developing MOUs was set up in the NRA and MOUs were signed between the NRA and MAG in June 2006 and with FSD in January 2006;
- By the end of the year the NRA national office had the full number of 22 national staff with 5 expatriate advisors.

2.6. Operations

2.6.1. Mine Risk Education Unit

The MRE Unit of the NRA is responsible for ensuring the coordination and collaboration of operators conducting MRE activities. The Unit will ensure operators work to national standards and will assist in the development of appropriate materials.

Achievements in 2006

- A Mine Risk Education Technical Working Group Officer was appointed in September 2006 and an MRE Technician in May 2006.
- In September MRE unit staff facilitated and took part in a GICHD study on local perspectives on living with UXO in two villages in the provinces of Savannakhet and Xieng Khuang.

- In September the MRE Unit Officer attended the Field Epidemiology for Mine Action Course (FEMAC) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The course was run by the Centres for Disease Control (CDC) and supported by UNICEF.
- In October the NRA MRE Unit, UNICEF and UXO stakeholders developed a draft strategic plan 2007-2010 for UXO/mine risk education in Lao PDR. The workshop was convened by the Lao Youth Union and facilitated by the GICHD.
- In November the NRA MRE Unit organized and facilitated an MRE Technical Working Group Meeting.
- In December the MRE Unit prepared an Annual Work Plan 2007 together with UNICEF.



Fig. 2. NRA meeting with US congresswoman Betty McCollum to discuss continued US support to the Lao UXO sector, 28 December 2006.

2.6.2. Clearance Unit

In terms of survey and clearance the NRA will ensure all demining operators work to national standards and will provide coordination input to their planning processes. NRA will also be responsible for technical training and monitoring pre-clearance processes and post-clearance impact.

Achievements in 2006

- Technical Working Group meetings on UXO/Mine Clearance were convened in September and November 2006.
- Field visits were conducted by the Unit to monitor the implementation of activities by the operators.
- The Unit joined with GICHD to conduct the Mine/UXO Risk Management and Mitigation Study in Sekong, Champassak and Luang Prabang province in July 2006.
- Ongoing coordination with Ministries and operators.

2.6.3. Victim Assistance Unit

The NRA Victim Assistance Unit is responsible for ensuring the establishment of a national database on UXO/mine casualties and making sure that the specific needs of survivors of mine/UXO accidents are addressed by the relevant operators.

Achievements in 2006

- A Victim Assistance Technical Advisor was appointed in August 2006 and a Victim Assistance Technical Working Group Officer was appointed in September 2006.
- The VA Unit prepared a detailed work plan for the last quarter of 2006 and for 2007, prioritising UXO accident and victim data collection as a primary activity.

- In October a study visit to Cambodia was undertaken to gather information on the Cambodia Mine Victim Information System (CMVIS) and victim assistance activities.
- The VA Unit convened a meeting of victim assistance stakeholders in Lao PDR to discuss accident and victim data collection.
- Data collection forms for accidents and victims were developed.
- A data collection network was established through collaboration with existing organisations.

2.6.4. Database Unit

Achievements in 2006

- Developed the NRA website (www.nra.gov.la)
- Disseminated information on the NRA website
- Created 142 topographic maps
- Created UXO operation map
- Created map showing UXO data for the whole country
- An NRA database was designed and developed



Fig. 3. Ms. Teresa Gambaro, the Australian Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Special Representative on Mine Action, presents a grant of A\$300,000 for the NRA to Dr. Maligna Saignavongs, the NRA Director. June 2006

2.7. Development of Lao PDR UXO/Mine Action National Standards

The NRA Standards Section was busy for the latter part of 2006 and early 2007 with the development of the Lao PDR National UXO/Mine Action Standards. The National Standards were developed on behalf of the NRA, by a Technical Advisor from the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action supported by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). The work took place over the period 1 August 2006 until 31 January 2007. During this period 24 draft National Standard chapters were produced as part of a participatory process involving all UXO/mine action stakeholders in Lao PDR.

In addition to participating in the development of the National Standards, the Standards Section of the NRA worked throughout the development period translating the National Standards into the Lao language. This work was eventually completed in February 2007. The NRA Standards Section then continued their work with guiding the implementation and management of the National Standards and by progressing with the Accreditation and Quality Management systems within the NRA. This work is ongoing.

2.8. Training and Capacity Building

- In May 2006 one senior NRA staff member attended the UNDP Senior Mine Action Managers' Course at the James Madison University Mine Action Information Centre in the USA
- In August one senior staff member of the NRA attended the Official Development Assistance (ODA) coordination and management training in Manila, Philippines.
- In December, two senior staff members attended a training on Dynamic Performance Management and Interpersonal Skills in Thailand.

- Three senior staff and two staff of the NRA attended the course - Orientation Training on UNDP-Supported Project Management for NexDec Projects and New Project Management Teams - in Vientiane, Lao PDR.
- In July, one NRA demining technician attended the Basic Demining Course at the UXO Lao Training Centre.

2.9. Personnel in 2006

| Description | National | International | Total |
|--------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| Governing Board | 10 | | 10 |
| Directorate | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Operations section | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Policy & Admin | 11 | 1 | 12 |
| Standards & QA | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| TOTAL | 32 | 5 | 37 |

2.10. Donors

During 2006 the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR was supported financially by UNDP, AusAID and Swiss Development Cooperation. In-kind support was provided by FSD.

2.11. Agreements

In 2006 the National Regulatory Authority signed various agreements with humanitarian and commercial agencies, as follows:

| Project Name | Budget | Donor | Province | MOU Signing | Implementing Organisation | Project Duration |
|---|---------------|------------------------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| UXO Clearance project support of WFP | 700,000 USD | Aus AID | Savannakhet | 01 January 06 | FSD | 1 year |
| Village Assisted Clearance of UXO | 332,048 GBP | JOAC, UK | Savannakhet | 12 June 06 | MAG | 2 Years |
| Humanitarian UXO Clearance | 1,303,404 USD | Humpty Dumpty Institute, USA | Khammuane | 13 October 06 | MAG | 2 years |
| UXO Clearance into security and development | 482,833 USD | State Department USA | Khammuane | 13 October 06 | MAG | 1 year |

2.12. Donor Contributions

Since inception in March 2004, the National Regulatory Authority has been largely supported through the UNDP Trust Fund. Below is the summary of contributions received in 2006. This excludes the in-kind contribution received from FSD.

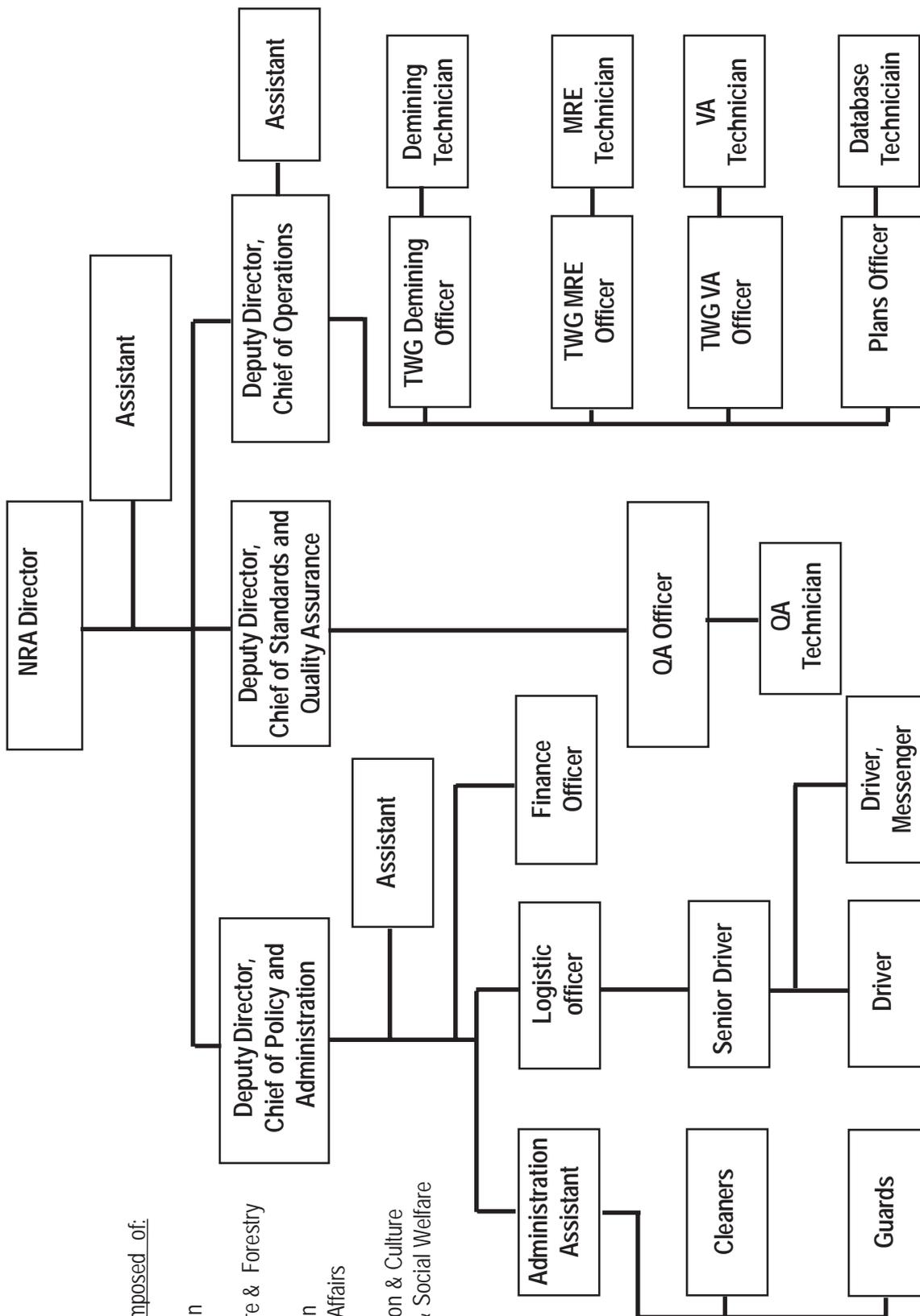
| Donor | 2006 |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| UNDP Trust fund | USD 350,000 |
| UNDP (Risk Management study) | USD 80,000 |
| Australia | USD 229,007 |
| Swiss (SDC) | USD 99,980 |
| TOTAL | USD 758,987 |

2.13. Expenditure

In 2006 the NRA expenditure totalled USD 578,762. This figure was distributed as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Personnel and Operational Costs | USD 456,171 |
| Equipment Costs | USD 42,591 |
| Special Cost: Risk Management Study | USD 80,000 |
| TOTAL | USD 578,762 |

Organisational Chart of the National Regulatory Authority Office



* NRA Board composed of:

- DPM, Chairman
- CPI
- Min. Agriculture & Forestry
- Min. Defence
- Min. Education
- Min. Foreign Affairs
- Min. Health
- Min. Information & Culture
- Min. Labour & Social Welfare
- Min. Security

3. Lao National UXO Programme (UXO LAO)

3.1. Background

In 2006 UXO Lao celebrated its 10th year of operations for the Lao Government, with the support of UNDP, UNICEF, and other stakeholders founded it in 1995. In 1996 the UXO Lao Head Office and Training Centre were established and provincial offices set up in Xieng Khuang, Savannakhet and Huaphanh. A National UXO Impact Survey was conducted with Handicap International and community awareness activities in UXO affected areas initiated. In 1997 field operations began in Savannakhet (with technical assistance from Handicap International) and Saravane (with technical assistance from MAG). In 1999 operations began in Khammuane, with technical assistance from World Vision Australia. UXO Lao Standard Operating Procedures were finalised in 2000 and in 2002 the first Senior Explosive Ordnance Disposal Course was completed.

Today UXO Lao currently operates in nine of the most heavily impacted provinces in the country. In each of these provinces UXO Lao maintains provincial offices and conducts field operations.

3.2. Key Achievements 2006

Improvement of Clearance Systems

- Adoption of new metal detectors/use of large loops
- Elimination of section commander positions
- Adoption of battle area clearance systems (BACs) instead of 100% metal free, 100% UXO free.
- Cross-training of drivers and medics as deminers (multi-tasking)

Enhanced Technical Survey

- Adoption of enhanced technical survey methods to determine task prioritization in line with risk management.

3.3. Operations

- Community Awareness (CA) teams visited 571 villages, reaching 152,579 people, 106.5 % of the annual target.
- Survey teams conducted 1,643 tasks in 967 villages. They found a total of 19,304 items of UXO (284 big bombs, 11,755 bombies, 106 landmines and 7,159 other items of UXO).
- Roving clearance teams conducted 1,216 roving tasks in 754 villages. They destroyed a total of 37,115 items of UXO (266 big bombs, 18,360 bombies, 106 landmines and 18,383 other items of UXO).
- Area clearance teams cleared more than 2,097 hectares of land (115% of the annual target). In doing so, they destroyed 30,160 items of UXO (25 large bombs, 14,796 bombies, 39 landmines and 15,300 other items of UXO).

3.4. Training

| Training Course | No. of Courses conducted | Graduates |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| SEOD | 1 | 21 |
| Medic | 1 | 5 |

| | | |
|----------------|----------|------------|
| Demining | 2 | 72 |
| Internal Audit | 2 | 57 |
| TOTAL | 6 | 155 |

3.5. Personnel

| Description | National | International | Total |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Office staff | 153 | 5 | 158 |
| Field staff | 881 | 3 | 884 |
| TOTAL | 1,034 | 8 | 1,042 |

3.6. Implementing Partners

- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) – channels funds from the US Government to support UXO Lao operations. Up until July NPA supported UXO Lao operations in Attapeu and Sekong and for the second half of the year in Savannakhet and Champassak. Provides technical advisors for finance, quality management and two EOD technicians.
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG) – channels funds from the Irish Government to support operations in Huaphanh province, provides a technical advisor in systems management/EOD
- Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS) – channels funds from the Japanese Government to support operations in Xieng Khuang province, provides two EOD technical advisors.

3.7. Donor Contributions

| Donor | 2006 |
|---|----------------------|
| Through the UXO Trust Fund for Lao PDR | |
| Canada | USD 175,439 |
| Germany | USD 566,052 |
| Ireland | USD 628,140 |
| Japan | USD 805,153 |
| JMAS | USD 554,489 |
| Luxembourg | USD 318,878 |
| Switzerland | USD 900,000 |
| United Kingdom | USD 172,117 |
| UNDP | USD 500,000 |
| TOTAL THROUGH TF | USD 4,620,268 |

3.8. Expenditure (uncertified by auditors as of date of submission):

In 2006, UXO LAO spent a total of USD 4,286,954 as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Personnel Costs | USD 2,639,093 |
| Operation Costs | USD 644,901 |
| Special Operation Costs | USD 238,192 |
| Non-expendable Equipment | USD 409,889 |
| Expendable Equipment | USD 231,060 |
| NDP Management costs | USD 123,819 |
| TOTAL | USD 4,286,954 |

4. Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

4.1. Background

MAG has operated in Lao PDR since 1994. This has given MAG an excellent understanding of the UXO contamination and operational constraints in the country. MAG Lao is committed to contributing to the fulfilment of the Government of the Lao PDR's Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy and the Millennium Development Goals and to this end has established a number of partnerships in the Lao PDR to ensure that MAG's resources are deployed to where they will have the most impact.

Based on lessons learned, MAG is constantly refining and improving its approach to conflict recovery and UXO clearance operations in order to ensure its approach remains effective, efficient, safe, impact focused. MAG equips its teams with the latest UXO detection equipment and has trialled, developed and implemented new clearance methodologies – such as the MAG developed Villager Assisted Clearance (VAC) methodology. With a concern about the impact of clearance for affected communities, MAG has also developed outcome and impact indicators against which the effectiveness of UXO clearance resources can be measured. MAG community liaison teams work closely with at-risk communities to find out how the contamination affects their daily lives. With this information the MAG teams can then choose the most appropriate response. MAG technical staff do not work in isolation: the anticipated impact of the work is determined in conjunction with the local community, partner NGOs and national or local authorities.

MAG Lao currently has independent operations in Khammuane and Xieng Khuang Provinces employing over 200 staff of which 33% are female. MAG also has a history of a long and effective partnership with UXO Lao. In 2006 MAG with funding from the Government of the United States supported UXO LAO in three provinces: Saravane, Khammuane and Savannakhet and since August 2006 has been working with UXO LAO in Huaphanh Province with funding from Irish Aid.

4.2. Operations

MAG employs its innovative and systematic community based toolbox approach to UXO clearance which ensures the most appropriate tools are deployed to the task. Included in the toolbox approach:

- **Existing Technologies**

Mechanical vegetation removal, large-loop detectors, metal detectors, magnetometers, agricultural and plant machinery, remote-controlled regulation cutters and sifting machines make up MAG's toolbox approach. MAG is able to fit together complementary methods from its toolbox to come up with the best plan to suit the terrain and proposed land use.

- **Community Liaison and Survey**

Since March 2006 all MAG Lao teams have been deployed with a Community Liaison function. The Community Liaison teams ensure community and individual rights to information, participation and decision making at all stages of the clearance process. While in a village, the Community Liaison teams also gather information on and map dangerous items, reporting them back to our technical teams who then follow up and remove and destroy the item.

- **Mine Risk Education**

Commissioned by UNICEF, MAG undertook an MRE assessment in 5 provinces enabling a deeper insight into triggers for risk behaviour and recommendations on strategies and approaches in the Lao PDR.

- **Roving Teams**

It is MAG's experience that when an EOD or clearance team commences destruction of UXO in any given area, the local community brings to the attention of the team many other dangerous items known to them. In order to be prepared for this, MAG also has a Roving team capacity in each province which can respond to such requests and undertake small spot tasks. In Khammuane for example, funded by the European Commission, MAG has conducted 78 roving tasks in response to community reports and requests for assistance, clearing 2,760 items of UXO including 44 aircraft bombs and 1,464 BLUs (bombies).

- **Area Clearance**

In 2006 in Nong Het district in Xieng Khuang province MAG cleared the Thamxay primary and secondary school grounds with funding from DFID. MAG found 198 BLUs (bombies) - 76 per hectare - lying less than 25cm below the surface. Any children digging in this area could easily have triggered an explosion.

MAG has also cleared 4 school sites in support of the Lao Red Cross in Nong Het district, including one school in Tham Phong. Tham Phong's new school has brought several benefits. It is now able to teach students up to the age of 15. Before, children older than six had to go to school in the district capital, Nong Het, more than 20 kilometres away. This involved a four or five hour walk on winding mountain paths and roads. The students would be away from their families between Monday and Friday every week during term time. Now there is no need to make the journey or for families to spend money on accommodation in Nong Het.

In Houay Dok Kham village, utilising village assisted clearance, MAG has cleared over forty hectares of land benefiting about twenty families. According to one of the residents, "We have had over ten accidents here on this land. Two died and five were injured here whilst farming. Also four died dismantling bombs for scrap metal. The last accident happened last year before MAG cleared the land."

4.3. Training

MAG Lao has continued its commitment to capacity building providing support to the national clearance capacity UXO LAO in management and EOD including training and establishing a mobile big bomb disposal team in three provinces where UXO Lao operates. In addition, MAG Lao has trained its Community Liaison teams in participatory data gathering techniques and trained 27 new UXO technicians, 12 new team leaders and deputy team leaders, 5 medics and 5 Community Liaison staff, as well as providing training to its support service staff.

MAG Lao is also committed to developing the capacity of its support services staff and has provided managers with project management and leadership training as well as on-going language and computer training.

| Training course | Course Conducted | Graduates |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| UXO technician training | February and December 06 | 27 |
| Team Leader training | February and December 06 | 12 |
| Medic Training | February and December 06 | 5 |
| Community Liaison Training | February and December 06 | 5 |
| Monitoring and Evaluation | March 06 | 1 |
| MAG Cambodia programme study visit | 2-6 May 06 | 2 |
| Management and supervision training | 12-14 June 06 | 2 |

UXO Sector Annual Report 2006

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Lao Info User training | 12-14 June 06 | 1 |
| General English | July to September 06 | 1 |
| Access Database training | 7-18 August 06 | 3 |
| Project Management training | 22-25 August 06 | 2 |
| Motor Vehicle driving | 1 st August to 31 st October 06 | 1 |
| Strategic Planning | 18-22 September 06 | 2 |
| HIV and Mainstreaming HIV Issues | September 06 | 1 |
| Computer training | September 06 | 5 |
| Youth Leadership Workshop | October 06 | 3 |

4.4. Personnel

| Description | National | International | Total |
|-------------------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| UXO clearance personnel | 86 | 4 | 90 |
| Community liaison | 11 | 1 | 12 |
| Medics | 17 | | 17 |
| VAC | 48 | | 48 |
| Support staff | 41 | 2 | 43 |
| TOTAL | 203 | 7 | 210 |

4.5. Implementing Partners

MAG Lao works with a number of partners to ensure maximum impact of MAG and donor resources. In 2006 MAG's partners included the World Food Programme, Lao and Danish Red Cross, World Vision, Triangle and International Relief and Development.

4.6. Key Donors

MAG Lao was generously funded by the following donors in 2006:

- Department for International Development (DFID), UK Government
- European Commission
- Irish Aid
- Jersey Overseas Aid Commission (JOAC)
- The Humpty Dumpty Institute
- Government of the United States (DOS PM/WRA)
- UNICEF

4.7. Donor Contributions

| | | |
|---|--|----------------------|
| DFID | 1 st February 2006 to 31 st March 2007 | USD 621,099 |
| European Commission | 1 st January 2006 to 31 st December 2008 | USD 1,200,000 |
| Humpty Dumpty Institute | 1 st October 2006 to 30 th November 2007 | USD 1,400,000 |
| Irish Aid (Support to UXO Lao) | 1 st August 06 to 31 st July 07 | USD 605,000 |
| Jersey Overseas Aid Commission | 1 st September 06 to 31 st August 07 | USD 63,841 |
| UNICEF | 1 st June 06 to 30 th September 06 | USD 52,995 |
| US Department of State (Support to UXO Lao) | 1 st July 05 to 30 th June 06 | USD 952,000 |
| US Department of State | 1 st October 06 to 30 th September 07 | USD 557,643 |
| TOTAL | | USD 5,452,578 |

4.8. Expenditure

In 2006 MAG expended a total of USD 2,460,804. This figure was distributed as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Personnel costs | USD 1,028,228 |
| Operations costs | USD 753,412 |
| Special operating costs | USD 160,987 |
| Non-expendable equipment | USD 347,783 |
| Expendable equipment | USD 170,394 |
| TOTAL | USD 2,460,804 |

N.B. Expenditure includes UXO LAO support and funds transferred to UXO LAO, in addition to the start up costs for 3 projects and the training of 8 new Clearance teams and 5 new Clearance teams.



Fig. 4. Harvesting rice on safe land, Houay Dok Kham village, Xieng Khuang province.
Photo by Sean Sutton, the MAG.

5. Handicap International Belgium (HIB)

5.1. Background

Handicap International Belgium (HIB) conducted the National Socio-Economic Survey on UXO in 1996. In 1997 HIB provided technical assistance to UXO LAO clearance activities in Savannakhet province. This project was completed in December 2004. In May 2004 until April 2005 HIB supported UXO Lao with technical assistance in Khammuane province. HIB has also been active in victim assistance through direct interventions in the field varying from care and evacuation of UXO victims, to rehabilitation, to facilitating national workshops.

5.2. Specific Context

Savannakhet province is the most severely affected by UXO in Lao PDR. The districts that are the focus of the intervention are the most severely affected within the province. These remote areas suffer from a combination of isolation and poor communication infrastructure that deteriorates further during the rainy season with most villages becoming very difficult, or in some cases impossible, to access. As a result of this isolation and poor access together with low population densities, the villages have often been low on priority lists for clearance and risk education.

To further compound the problem, scrap metal collection, which invariably involves interaction with UXO at some stage, has become an income generating activity engaged in by various segments of the population in an effort to alleviate poverty and to supply the very minimum means by which they may survive. The collection and neutralisation of UXO is a hazardous activity for which the risks are extremely high, not only for those engaged in the process but for innocent bystanders who may not be aware of the activities taking place around them. The intervention aims to reduce these risks to the local population through an integrated programme of UXO clearance and risk education activities.

5.3. Operations

HIB commenced UXO clearance operations in Savannakhet province on 7 June 2006 in and around Xepon town. The team then moved to Nong district to begin work in support of the Belgian Technical Corporation (BTC) agricultural and irrigation project. During this time HIB was approached by representatives of World Vision to support a five year rural development project in Xepon and Nong districts.

Risk Education (RE) operations commenced with a needs assessment in September 07 and have since progressed into the training of Community Based Risk Education Volunteers (CBREV) in 12 villages of Xepon district. These volunteers will be joined in the future by others in Nong and Vilabuly districts.

5.4. Results to Date

- **Survey**
Since the start of project operations the Survey team has visited 21 villages.
- **Roving**
16 villages visited with a total of 23 visits, destroyed/removed 82 aircraft bombs, 532 bombies, and 461 other UXO.

- **Area Clearance**

200,871 m² of land cleared with more than 3,774 direct beneficiaries (178,327 m² agricultural land and 22,544 m² other land). During the area clearance the team has destroyed and/or removed 3 aircraft bombs, 256 bombies, 1 landmine and 1,290 other UXO.

The total of UXO clearance and roving operations is: cleared and handed over 200,871 m² of safe land and destroyed 2,625 UXO, including 82 large bombs.

5.5. Training

| Training course | No. of courses conducted | Graduates |
|--|--------------------------|-----------|
| UXO Clearance | 1 | 18 |
| Medic | 1 | 3 |
| UXO/MRE for Community Based RE volunteer | 1 | 18 |
| Survey | 1 | 1 |
| TOTAL | 4 | 40 |

5.6. Personnel

| Description | National | International | Total |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| UXO Coordinator | | 1 | 1 |
| UXO Assistant Coordinator | 1 | | 1 |
| UXO clearance personnel | 21 | 1 | 22 |
| Survey personnel | 2 | | 2 |
| UXO/MRE personnel | 3 | | 3 |
| Victim Assistance | 0 | | 0 |
| Support staff | 19 | | 19 |
| Field medic | 3 | | 3 |
| Field interpreter | 1 | | 1 |
| TOTAL | 49 | 2 | 51 |

5.7. Implementing Partners

The project works in association with the Belgium Technical Cooperation and with World Vision, but there is no formal partnership agreement.

5.8. Key Donors

European Commission

5.9. Donor Contributions

1,139,548 Euros

6. Swiss Foundation for Mine Action Laos (FSD)

6.1. Background

The FSD is a humanitarian mine action agency, operational worldwide. Following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the NRA in January 2006, the FSD began training, survey and clearance operations in Laos. The FSD is the World Food Programme's (WFP) standby partner for mine action and in Lao PDR clearance is carried out primarily in support of the WFP Food-for-Work projects. The FSD clears sites for projects such as new rice fields, fishponds, irrigation systems and roads.

The FSD will also work in a similar capacity with its LANGOCA partner CARE International in 2007 and the groundwork for this partnership was laid down throughout 2006.

The FSD has also supported Lao national agencies such as UXO Lao (with training) and the NRA (with development of the Lao National UXO/Mine National Standards and Database).

6.2. Key Achievements 2006

- Training and deployment of 4 clearance sections in Savannakhet province.
- Clearance of 24 task sites for subsequent development under WFP Food-for-Work projects.
- Training of UXO Lao and FSD senior EOD technicians.
- Drafting of Lao National Standards for UXO clearance.
- Creation of Lao UXO clearance database.

6.3. Operations

- **Survey:** During 2006, 30 clearance sites were surveyed in preparation for clearance.
- **Roving:** During 2006, roving tasks independent of area clearance tasks were not carried out as this did not form part of FSD's MoU. However, where requested by local villagers, UXO close to the clearance sites were destroyed and reported as part of the clearance task.
- **Area Clearance.** During 2006, 24 WFP project sites were cleared, all of which were followed up by development activities. A total of 46,958m² was cleared.

6.4. Training

| Training course | Courses Conducted | Graduates |
|---|-------------------|-------------------------|
| T1 Demining | 1 | 27 |
| T2 Section Commander | 1 | 9 |
| T4 SEODT (with UXO Lao/HIB/MAG/NPA) | 1 | 21 (20 UXO Lao / 1 FSD) |
| Medic (with UXO Lao) | 1 | 5 |
| HIV Risk Awareness (with PSI) | 1 | 29 |
| HIV Risk Awareness Instructor (with CARE & HIB) | 1 | 9 (7 x FSD / 2 x HIB) |
| TOTAL | 6 | 100 |

6.5. Personnel

| Description | National | International | Total |
|-------------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| UXO clearance personnel | 34 | 5 | 39 |
| Survey personnel | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| MRE/CA personnel | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Victim Assistance | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Support staff | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| TOTAL | 47 | 6 | 53 |

6.6. Implementing Partners

The FSD worked with the following partners:

Clearance Operations: WFP
 UXO Clearance and Medical Training: UXO Lao / HIB / MAG / NPA / PSI / CARE
 National Standards and UXO database: NRA (as a client)

6.7. Donor Contributions

| Source | Amount (USD) |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| FSD advance from own funds | USD 374,590 |
| Ville de Genève | USD 38,170 |
| AUSAID (1 st Tranche) | USD 443,000 |
| AUSAID (2 nd Tranche) | USD 443,000 |
| Etat de Genève | USD 78,739 |
| Commune de Choulex | USD 4,982 |
| Johnson Foundation | USD 32,136 |
| Canton du Valais | USD 15,998 |
| AUSAID (NRA support project) | USD 127,884 |
| TOTAL | USD 1,558,499 |

6.8. Expenditure

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Personnel | USD 705,738 |
| Operations | USD 189,611 |
| Special operations costs | USD 126,868 |
| Non expendable equipment | USD 436,345 |
| Expendable equipment | USD 32,283 |
| TOTAL | USD 1,490,845 |

7. Milsearch-BPKP EOD Joint Venture Limited

7.1. Background

Milsearch-BPKP EOD Joint Venture Limited is a Lao registered company formed between the Australian UXO clearance company, Milsearch Pty. Ltd. and a commercial company of the Lao Ministry of Defence, Bolisat Phathana Khet Phoudoi (now named Latvisahakit Phathana Khet Phoudoi [LPD] under the administration of the Prime Ministers Department). The partners have worked together in the Lao PDR since 1993, firstly under a teaming agreement and from 1997 within the joint venture. As a commercial company Milsearch-BPKP specialises in UXO clearance in support of private and government infrastructure development. The company does however assist in humanitarian clearance efforts when funding is available.

7.2. Key Achievements 2006

Area Clearance

- Lang Xang Minerals Limited, Sepon Gold and Copper Project in Savannakhet province. Area clearance of 524.25 Ha, destroyed 1,313 items of UXO.
- Nam Theun 2 Power Company, Nam Theun 2 Hydropower Project in Bolikhamxay, Khammuane and Savannakhet provinces. Area clearance of 580.69 Ha, destroyed 2,085 items of UXO.
- Phu Bia Mining, Phu Bia Mining and Exploration in Xieng Khuang and Xaysomboon provinces. Area clearance of 13.66 Ha, destroyed 222 items of UXO.
- CRWRC, Community Livelihood Development Project in Xieng Khuang province. Area clearance of 1.92 Ha, destroyed 14 items of UXO.
- Jacobsen Electro, Northern Power Transmission and Distribution Project in Bolikhamxay province. Area clearance of 8.32 Ha.
- Millicom Lao, Tango Mobile Network Project in Khammuane province. Area clearance of 0.95 Ha, destroyed 4 items of UXO.
- Total of 1,129.79 Ha. cleared; destroyed 3,638 items of UXO.

7.3. Training

| Training course | Courses Conducted | Graduates |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Demolition of Explosive Ordnance | 1 | 2 |

7.4. Personnel

| Description | National | International | Total |
|--|-----------------|---------------|------------|
| Head Office personnel | 8 | 3 | 11 |
| Field technical employees | 560 | 22 | 582 |
| Day labour – vegetation cutters & domestic employees | Several hundred | | |
| TOTAL | 568 | 25 | 593 |

Note: Field staff numbers vary considerably over time depending on contracts being worked. Figures above are approximate numbers for the period of peak activity prior to commencement of the 2006 wet season.

8. Phoenix Clearance Ltd. (PCL)

8.1. Background

Phoenix Clearance Ltd (PCL) is a privately owned company specialising in the field of landmine/unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance. PCL in Laos has the capability to perform all manner of clearance tasks with nothing being too big or too small.

PCL staff have extensive experience in South East Asia. Activities undertaken to date consist of landmine/UXO awareness delivery, landmine/UXO survey, UXO emergency response, landmine/UXO clearance.

PCL believes in an integrated and participatory approach to clearance by working closely with the client, national and local authorities, villagers and other concerned parties to better supply what is truly needed and sustainable.

8.2. Operations during 2006

PCL clients during 2006 were:

- **Nam Theun Power Company:**
Village Resettlement Area UXO Clearance Large Scale 1,200Ha.
- **G4 Landrover Challenge (Formally known as the Camel Rally):**
An International competition of driving and physical endurance held at various locations throughout Laos.
- **Nam Theun Power Company:**
Community UXO Education and UXO Response Teams 3 years.
- **China Cable Corporation:**
273 kilometre High Tension power line construction UXO clearance.
- **Action Contre la Faim:**
UXO clearance in support of food security in three remote villages.

8.3. Personnel

| Description | National | International | Total |
|-------------------------|--|---------------|-------|
| UXO clearance personnel | Staff levels have varied from over 200 to 40 depending on type and size of contact | 3 | |
| Survey personnel | As required | | |
| Vientiane support staff | 5 | | |

9. Ministry of Education

9.1. Background

The Ministry of Education implements a stand-alone mine risk education in-school programme, supported by World Education/Consortium in Lao PDR. The UXO Education and Awareness project was begun by World Education/Consortium as the sister of a medical project funded by USAID in Xieng Khuang province. The project was training doctors in medical emergencies and trauma care, and the province requested that UXO awareness activities were also incorporated into the programme. In 1996/97 World Education began working with the Provincial Department of Education and the first UXO awareness text book was prepared and printed with funding from USAID. The programme is now a national programme run by the Ministry of Education.

The Ministry of Education and its provincial and district offices, in cooperation with World Education/Consortium, has developed a UXO curriculum that consists of 50 lessons (10 per grade) and acts as a supplementary curriculum to the main school curriculum. The UXO curriculum is taught in grades 1 to 5 in primary school and also in mixed grade classes in situations where there are few students in each grade. The policy of the Government of Laos is to raise the number of students to 30-32 per teacher.

The curriculum aims to reduce and prevent accidents and encourages teachers to use an activity-based, student-centred approach that draws on teacher questions, visual materials, activities, songs and group work, relating the teaching and learning to daily life. The target group are primary school children, their teachers, their families and members of their communities.

9.2. Key Achievements

Coverage

- Programme start-up meetings were held for provincial level education staff in Khammuane province and at the district level for district level education staff in 8 new districts in the school year 2006-2007.
- Training workshops were held for 9 new teacher cohorts (approximately 30 teachers per cohort) in old districts in both school year 2005-2006 and school year 2006-2007 and for the new cohorts in the 8 new districts in school year 2006-2007.
- Follow-up service trainings for cohorts in 9 provinces were held in school years 2005-2006 and 2006-2007.

Capacity Building

- Annual Provincial Reviews were held in school year 2005-2006 in 8 provinces.
- An Annual National Review was held in July 2006 for 9 provinces.

Materials and Support

- Materials revision was done and development and printing was undertaken for 3 new teacher guides.
- Office equipment repair was completed in 6 provinces.
- A total of 7,574 teacher supply packets were distributed to teachers in school years 2005-06 and 2006-07.
- Support for International Children's Day UXO activities on 1st June 2006 was given to all districts that submitted approved activity plans.
- Amplifiers were provided for puppetry in all new districts.

9.3. Operations

The UXO curriculum is now taught in schools in the following nine severely impacted provinces:

- Xieng Khuang
- Huaphanh
- Savannakhet
- Saravane
- Luang Prabang
- Khammuane
- Champassak
- Sekong
- Attapeu

Thirty-three of the most severely impacted districts are covered, with approximately 1,300 schools with 3,800 teachers and 120,000 students annually. Approximately 175 government education staff work with the support of World Education, which has three field coordinators each responsible for three provinces.

9.4. Training

All teachers are provided with pre-service and in-service training in the following:

- Use of the UXO curriculum and model lessons for each grade.
- UXO Creative Arts Story writing and illustration.
- UXO puppetry production and performance.
- Pre- and post testing instruments training.
- Model teacher workshops.
- Activity based student centred teaching and learning.

The training is provided by World Education/Consortium and Government of Laos education specialists.

9.5. Personnel

| Description | National | International | Total |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| GOL Education officials | 175 | | 175 |
| Classroom teachers | 3,800 | | 3,800 |
| WEC staff | 4 | | 4 |
| TOTAL | 3,979 | | 3,979 |

9.6. Implementing Partners

World Education Consortium (WEC) in Lao PDR.

9.7. Donor Contributions and Expenditure

The annual budget for the programme is approximately USD114,000 funded by the US Department of State Department of Weapons Removal and Abatement.

10. Lao Youth Union

10.1. Background

From 2002 -2005 UNICEF supported a Sport in a Box project implemented by the Lao Youth Union (LYU) in Lao PDR that sought to:

- Reduce the risk of UXO accidents amongst children and families in UXO affected areas of Lao PDR, particularly in the most heavily contaminated provinces and districts;
- Improve the capacity of the Lao Youth Union and local communities to implement UXO awareness activities.

The project produced child-developed materials and activities for in-school and out-of-school youth, and developed safe play areas and activities in the community. The project was centred on the process of training volunteers in the village to facilitate drama, games, songs and other activities for school and out of school children that incorporate safety messages about UXO. The LYU trained 825 village volunteers and 462 child volunteers and in 2004-05 reached more than 39,000 children.

10.2. Key Achievements 2006

During 2006 the Lao Youth Union did not receive any funding for “Sport in a Box” UXO awareness and risk education activities. Some limited activities have been continued by the LYU in schools although the weekend activities have stopped.

The Lao Youth Union collaborated with MAG in conducting the UXO risk education needs assessment in 2006. The assessment was supported by UNICEF, AusAID and CDC. The Lao Youth Union worked as data gatherers for this important survey and participated in the national level workshop to disseminate the findings. Over 2,032 questionnaires (720 by children) were completed and cross tabulated in SPSS. In addition 44 focus group discussions were held in 5 provinces.

In October the Lao Youth Union Convened the South East Asia UXO/Mine Action Youth Workshop organised by the Australian Network to Ban Landmines. The workshop included a demonstration of community involvement by children and adult volunteers from the Sport in a Box project.

In addition the Lao Youth Union, with funding from UNICEF, convened a 4-day workshop for 40 stakeholders to develop a strategic plan for risk education for the UXO/mine action sector. The plan is still in draft form and will be reviewed by the key stakeholders in 2007.

10.3. Operations

The Lao Youth Union UXO awareness activities cover 14 districts in six of the most-highly contaminated provinces:

- Saravane province, Ta Oi and Saravane districts.
- Attapeu province, Sanxai and Phouvong districts.
- Champassak province, Pakxong and Bachieng Ghaleunsouk.
- Savannakhet province, Xepon and Phine districts.
- Khammuane province, Bulapha, Gnommalat and Mahaxai districts.
- Sekong province, Dakcheung, Thateng and Lamam districts

The KAP study (Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices) for the UXO risk education needs assessment was conducted in five provinces identified by UNICEF and the LYU with high, medium and low levels of UXO contamination based on the HIB socio-economic impact study (1997). The provinces were Huaphanh, Xieng Khuang, Saravan, Savannakhet and Attapeu.

10.4. Training

The Lao Youth Union data gatherers working on the UXO risk education assessment received training in data gathering for health research and additional training on the ethics of data gathering and working with children.

10.5. Implementing Partners

Mines Advisory Group (MAG), UNICEF

10.6. Donor Contributions

| Source | Amount (USD) |
|--|-------------------|
| Australian National Committee for UNICEF | USD 35,534 |
| UNICEF Funds | USD 2,402 |
| SIDA | USD 23,223 |
| TOTAL | USD 61,159 |

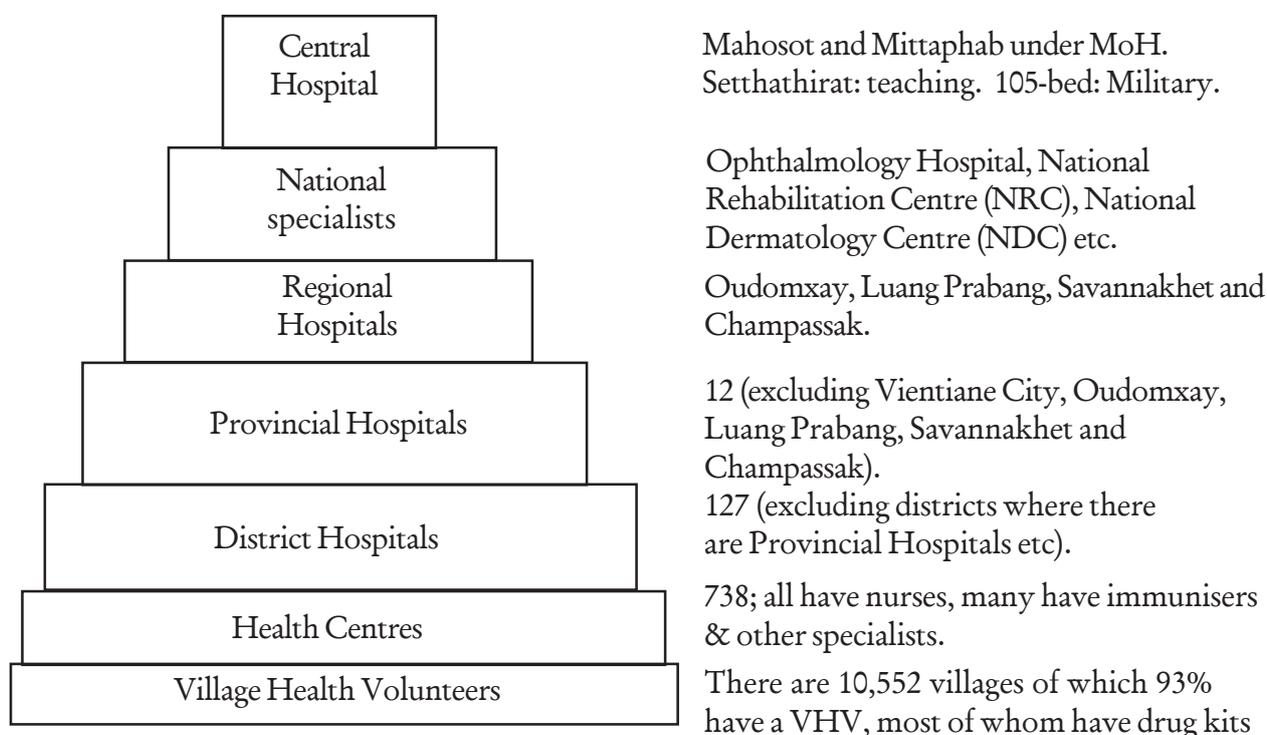


Fig. 5. Lao Youth Union performers from Attapeu province perform a mine risk education song and dance on the occasion of the UN Mine Awareness Day, April 2007.

11. Ministry of Health

Emergency medical treatment includes the types of activities that will support a UXO victim from the moment that the incident/accident occurs until his or her condition has stabilised. It includes emergency assistance from Village Health Workers, transfer to hospital, amputation/trauma surgery and recuperation from surgery.

Emergency medical treatment is almost entirely the purview of the Ministry of Health (MoH). The system operates from village level with Village Health Volunteers (VHV), through to health centres, district and provincial hospitals, regional hospitals, national specialists (such as the Ophthalmology Hospital) and central hospitals. Continuing medical care (with the exception of community-based rehabilitation) is also the responsibility of the different levels of services provided by the health system of the Government of Lao PDR.



The Ministry of Health, through the National Rehabilitation Centre, runs the Sikeud Vocational Training School for the Disabled. The activities include vocational training for mobility disabled students. One hundred students are admitted at any time on any of five three-year courses. Reception Centres for graduates from Sikeud operate in the provinces of Luang Prabang, Champassak, Savannakhet and Khammuane.

12. COPE

12.1. Background

Physical rehabilitation includes the provision of prosthetic and orthotic devices, wheelchairs and walking aids, as well as training in their use. Cooperative Orthotic and Prosthetic Enterprise (COPE) works on a National Prosthetic and Orthotic programme which provides artificial limbs, limb support devices and other mobility aids throughout the country. COPE was established by POWER UK in 1997, bringing together relevant organisations working in the field of disability in Lao PDR. COPE is a joint venture between the Ministry of Health and a number of NGOs. In the future the plan is for COPE to become a Lao organisation in its own right.



Fig. 6: A child is fitted with a prosthetic leg.
Photo courtesy of COPE

12.2. Key Achievements 2006

During 2006 COPE fitted limbs and other assistive devices to 1,264 patients, of whom 349 were victims of UXO.

| COPE Limbs and Other Devices | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Year | Patients Fitted | UXO Victims |
| 2002 | 714 | 293 |
| 2003 | 1,048 | 344 |
| 2004 | 1,487 | 468 |
| 2005 | 1,268 | 294 |
| 2006 | 1,264 | 349 |

12.3. Operations

COPE works nationwide, through the National Rehabilitation Centre in Vientiane and four regional centres in Luang Prabang, Xieng Khuang, Savannakhet and Champassak. Around 40% of the patients who use the service have been injured by UXO.

12.4. Training

COPE trained 14 Lao staff in Cambodia at the Cambodian School for Prosthetics and Orthotics. They are now working throughout Laos as Prosthetist/Orthotists (POs). COPE regularly carries out mentoring, training events and team building to involve all staff in the COPE activities.

12.5. Personnel

COPE works with 130 staff throughout Laos, of whom about 80 receive payment from COPE. As well as Prosthetists and Orthotists this includes local administrations, surgeons, therapists and technicians. A UK trained PO mentor works with the PO graduates to continue to train them and hand over management, clinical and other necessary skills. A UK trained occupational therapist and a Dutch trained physiotherapist work with the physiotherapy team in the five rehabilitation centres. The founder of COPE continues in a consultancy and monitoring role.

12.6. Implementing Partners

COPE's partners include, in addition to the Ministry of Health, AAR (Japan), POWER International (UK), The Leprosy Mission International (UK & Singapore) and World Vision (Laos & Australia).

12.7. Donor Contributions

| Donor 2006-07 Year | Purpose | Amount (USD) |
|---|---------------------|--------------------|
| Adopt-A-Minefield (USA/UK) | Lao staff | USD44,000 |
| Christoffel Blindenmission (Germany/Thai) | Patients' Costs | USD 6,000 |
| Christoffel Blindenmission (Germany/Thai) | Materials (in kind) | USD 15,000 |
| Clear Path International (USA/Canada) | Supplies in kind | USD 25,000 |
| Cost recovery at NRC | Patients' Costs | USD 2,602 |
| Clothworkers Guild (POWER/UK) | Pakse Dormitory | USD 34,200 |
| COPE Fundraising | Patients' costs | USD 16,461 |
| Fondation Pro Victimis (Switzerland) | Materials/staff | USD 22,500 |
| Grapes for Humanity (Canada) | Multiple | USD 25,000 |
| ICRC (Switzerland/Vietnam) | Materials (in kind) | USD 4,400 |
| Izumi Support Society (Japan) | Patients' Costs | USD 15,000 |
| Kadoorie Charitable Foundation (Hong Kong) | Multiple | USD 134,980 |
| Miscellaneous/individual (US, Aus, UK, Swe) | Multiple | USD 16,788 |
| National Regulatory Authority (Laos) | Consultancy | USD 39,000 |
| The Leprosy Mission (UK/Singapore/Canada) | COPE Care | USD 30,000 |
| The Leprosy Mission (UK/Singapore/Canada) | Patients' Costs | USD 30,000 |
| UNDP (Laos) | Multiple | USD 13,293 |
| TOTAL | | USD 474,224 |

12.8. Expenditure

| Item | Total (USD) |
|--|--------------------|
| Management, administration and staffing | USD 151,420 |
| Specialist short-term advice | USD 23,689 |
| Skills development | USD 58,757 |
| Supply of materials, components and services | USD 84,299 |
| Information, promotion and education | USD 13,328 |
| Capital costs | USD 28,995 |
| TOTAL | USD 360,488 |

13. Handicap International Belgium - Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) programme

13.1. Background

The project reaches out to adults and children with disabilities and their families, by providing physical rehabilitation, social counseling and medical support to individuals in their home, establishing self-help groups for problem solving and income generating activities, referring disabled people to other organizations and services, facilitating children's access to education, supporting vocational training and arranging apprenticeships. In addition the project conducts community awareness-raising on the needs and rights of disabled people.

The project reinforces national capacity in Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) through several measures: providing technical training; setting up CBR resource centers; establishing a CBR technical team at the National Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) and Provincial Rehabilitation Centre (PRC), Savannakhet with supervisors at the district level; promoting coordination among stakeholders working in the field of disability and rehabilitation; organising seminars, workshops and regional exchange visits; training in management and planning for national staff of the NRC & PRC; reinforcing links with other sectors such as education, social welfare and physiotherapy.

Additional strategic directions include vocational training and employment apprenticeship schemes and disability human rights training and community awareness.

13.2. Programme Objective

To provide development support to people with disabilities (PWDs) and their families in terms of rehabilitation services, social integration, accessibility, livelihoods and education towards the autonomy and inclusion of disabled people, using existing structures within the community .

13.3. Specific Context

Location: 4 districts in Vientiane prefecture and Vientiane province.
3 districts in Savannakhet plus links with inclusive education in 3 additional districts of Savannakhet.

Duration: 1999-2007:
2002-2006: CBR Vientiane capital & province.
2004-present: CBR Savannakhet province.

Beneficiaries: War and UXO victims, other disabled persons, their families and the community in the target districts, together with capacity building for NRC, local government partners, CBR staff and Lao Disabled People's Association (LDPA).

13.4. Operations Chronology

Jan. 1999: Survey on PWDs in 7 districts of Vientiane prefecture and Vientiane province.
2001: First intervention in three selected districts.
Jan. 2003: Start of three year CBR project with NRC in 30 villages.

- May 2003: First national seminar on CBR.
- Nov. 2003: Extension to 30 new villages and one more district.
- Sept. 2005: Baseline survey 3 districts Savannakhet province and Vang Vieng.
- July 2006: 3 year MoU signed with the NRC for CBR in Savannakhet to “Support War Victims and People with Disabilities in Lao PDR”.

13.5. Achievements 2006

A) Vientiane Summary 2006: PWDs & Families supported by CBR

| | |
|--|------|
| Number of PWDs + families benefiting from CBR project | 1219 |
| Number PWDs receiving adaptive devices or technical aids | 86 |
| Number PWDs receiving regular rehabilitation at home | 87 |
| Persons with mental disability followed up | 50 |
| Number Self Help Groups established | 19 |
| Number of PWDs & families benefiting from IGA loans (cumulative) | 408 |

B) Savannakhet Summary (Oct 2006 – April 2007)

The MoU signing with the Ministry of Health was delayed until July 2006. Although a baseline study of 3 districts was carried out before this date, real implementation activities began in October 2006 with the initial basic training of the 30 CBRWs (community-based rehabilitation workers - volunteers) from the 3 districts of Nong, Vilabuly and Xepon. From the 30 villages, a total of 262 PWDs were identified with a variety of disabilities including war injury.

The CBR team and Steering Committee for Savannakhet has been established comprising HIB, PRC, Provincial and District Supervisors and CBRWs. The latter are volunteers chosen from each of the 30 target villages and have received a basic rehabilitation course and specialised training in infant stimulation and child development.

The PWDs from the villages have been reviewed to confirm basic demographics and to assess needs. Referrals for assistive devices, wheelchairs, prosthetics/orthotics or treatment have been made. There are planned visits for specialised assessments for those with hearing impairment and epilepsy planned for May. The first Self Help Group was started in Sepone. Regular monthly visits are made to each of the 3 districts by the CBR team and PWDs followed up in the community.

13.6. Training

| a) Training course - VTE | No. of courses | Trainees |
|---|----------------|------------|
| OT training Chiang Mai University | 2 | 2 |
| Functional OT training - CBRWs | 2 | 40 |
| Self Help Group workshop | 1 | 30 |
| Village Savings Groups Financial course | 2 | 26 |
| Project Cycle Management | 1 | 13 |
| Project Monitoring & Evaluation | 1 | 11 |
| Budget Management | 1 | 12 |
| Proposal Writing | 1 | 11 |
| TOTAL | 11 | 145 |

| b) Training Course - SVK | No. of courses | Trainees |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Basic Rehabilitation CBRWs + DSs | 1 | 36 |
| Project Cycle Management | 1 | 10 |
| Infant Stimulation PRC + DSs + CBRWs | 3 | 44 |
| OT training Chiang Mai | 2 | 2 |
| Total | 7 | 92 |

13.7. Personnel

1 CBR coordinator, 1 project manager, 2 assistants, 1 OT trainer and 1 Disability adviser.

13.8. Implementing Partners

National Rehabilitation Center (NRC), Ministry of Health.

Provincial Rehabilitation Centre (PRC) Savannakhet.

Lao Disabled People Association (LDPA).

Inclusive Education Unit of Ministry of Education.

Ministry of Health.

Ministry of Labour & Social Welfare.

13.9. Key Donors

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

HI Luxemburg, HI Belgium, HI Germany.

UNICEF.

USAID - Savannakhet.

13.10. Donor Contributions

Vientiane CBR: 517,600 Euro

January 2002- December 2006

Savannakhet CBR: 600,000 USD

14. World Education/Consortium in Lao PDR

14.1. Background

In 2006, World Education/Consortium had four projects supporting UXO accident survivors and people with disabilities:

1) Supporting War Victims and People with Disabilities in Saravane and Champassak Provinces started implementation in July. Its objectives are to improve management and policies for treatment of UXO survivors, technical capacity in surgery and emergency medicine and training ability.

2) The Economic Self-Sufficiency Project for UXO Accident Survivors, funded by the McKnight Foundation continued implementation from 2005 in Xieng Khuang and Huaphanh Provinces. The purpose of the project is to strengthen support in victim assistance, particularly in socio-economic support.

3) Provision of Victim Assistance funded by the Canadian foundation Grapes for Humanity. This fund has been providing treatment and follow-up assistance in Saravane and other southern provinces as well as essential medical equipment in Saravane province.

4) Improving Lao Capacity to Assist UXO Survivors in Xieng Khuang and Huaphanh Provinces, funded by the US Department of State/Weapons Removal and Abatement. The purpose is to improve capacity of Lao staff in livelihoods assistance and psychological support for UXO survivors. It provides some direct treatment costs and socio-economic support for UXO survivors.

Prior to 2006, there were the following projects:

The USAID funded War Victims Project started working in Xieng Khuang Province in 1996 with the goal of improving surgical and emergency medical care for people injured by UXO. The project improved services in project management, medical training, provision of essential medical equipment, improvement of revolving drug fund management and hospital repair, in 2001, the project expanded similar activities to Huaphanh Province, with final handover of the project in 2004. Through the life of the project, services were extended to the provincial hospital and six district hospitals in Xieng Khuang, and the provincial hospital and four district hospitals in Huaphanh. In addition, the project supported provincial hospital staff to train the staff and Village Health Volunteers at eleven sub-district health centers in basic first aid.

In 2001-02, JICA funded a one-year project in Savannakhet province focusing on medical training, provision of essential medical equipment and management training to implement the War Victims Medical Fund.

Since 1996, World Education/Consortium has raised money for two separate funds to provide assistance to UXO survivors. The War Victims Medical Fund provides direct treatment support for all medical costs, including medication, transportation and per diems both immediately after the incident and for follow-up care. The Quality of Life Rehabilitation Fund provides continued follow-up and re-adjustment support in the areas of direct grants for animals, vocational training and educational support for children. This support is on-going in the five target provinces and will continue.

14.2. Key Achievements 2006

- 2005-07: Started the Economic Self-Sufficiency Project with funding from the McKnight Foundation in Xieng Khuang and Huaphanh Provinces. Surveyed 159 former UXO survivors and provided socio-economic and education assistance to 62 people. Held children's discussion groups with child UXO survivors to provide group and psychological support and follow-up for children.
- Starting in July 2006: Supporting War Victims and People with Disabilities in Saravane and Champassak Provinces. Project management training to improve medical care for people injured by UXO or other trauma. Review of War Victims Medical Fund. Funded by USAID.
- Continued to provide treatment funding for UXO survivors in five provinces. For 2006, assistance was provided to 44 people.
- Presentation to NRA stakeholders on 19 October 2006, outlining program activities and lessons learned.
- Completed draft of handbook of lessons learned from victims assistance work in Xieng Khuang.

14.3. Operations

Approaches

- A participatory approach is used to increase ownership by government staff. The War Victims Medical Fund is run by the target provinces who set up management committees, write and review policies and meet to discuss and decide issues. They provide the funds for treatment, collect data and provide summaries so that people who come to the hospital can receive immediate treatment without worrying about the need to pay.
- The foundation of all project work is project management training to give the Departments of Health the tools for improving management of their services. Through gradual handover of inputs during the project period, staff are prepared for running the program by the end of the project.
- Medical training and developing a system of continuing medical education within the province and districts develops capacity within the hospitals.
- In order to provide sustainable medical assistance to UXO survivors, training and support is necessary for all the various medical services that provide care, such as nursing management, lab and x-ray, etc.

Target areas

For immediate treatment programming (War Victims Medical Fund):

- Xieng Khuang.
- Huaphanh.
- Savannakhet.
- Saravane.
- Champassak.

There are no plans for expansion to new geographic areas for 2007.

14.4. Training

- From 1996-2004, WVAP trained approximately 400 staff in Xieng Khuang and Huaphanh Provinces in project management, technical training (in surgery, emergency medicine, nursing skills, nursing management, diagnostic services, training management, etc.) at the central, provincial, district and sub-district levels.

The Support to War Victims and People with Disabilities, in the first four months of implementation, had the following trainings:

| Training course in 2006 | No. Courses conducted | No. of Graduates |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Project orientation session | Two | Approximately 150 |
| Project management trainings in Salavan and Champasak provinces | Three courses with five sessions | 65 people |
| Data gathering sessions | Ten districts | |

14.5. Implementing Partners

- National Rehabilitation Center / Ministry of Health is the Government of Lao Counterpart.
- Departments of Health and Hospitals in target provinces and districts.

14.6. Donor Contributions

| Source/Donor | Amount (USD) |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| McKnight Foundation | USD 50,000 |
| Grapes for Humanity | USD 40,000 |
| US Department of State | USD 30,000 |
| USAID | USD 320,000 |
| TOTAL | USD 440,000 |

15. Association for Aid and Relief (AAR)

15.1. Background

The National Rehabilitation Centre under the Ministry of Public Health provided wheelchairs as part of a small-scale operation in former years, but the production was unable to meet the demand of disabled people in need of wheelchairs. In the initial stages of the operation, wheelchairs were made of wood and only a few devices were produced every year.

Since December 2000, the Association for Aid and Relief (AAR) has been working with the National Rehabilitation Centre/Ministry of Public Health on a wheelchair provision project. The project has been implemented with support from JICA. At the moment there are no other ongoing programmes providing wheelchairs in Lao PDR, except for periodic donations of wheelchairs by various organizations. The project aims to provide locally made wheelchairs and hand-propelled tricycles to people with physical disabilities.

15.2. Key Achievements 2006

- In 2006 the wheelchair workshop produced 419 devices, including 253 wheelchairs and 166 tricycles, of which 30 beneficiaries were UXO victims.
- Six monitoring field trips were made to the provinces. The AAR Physiotherapist joined as a field trip member so that he was able to provide on-the-job advice on assessing the needs and requirements for the wheelchairs.
- Through fundraising for wheelchair production, a total of 41,538USD was received. 14,208 USD (35%) was from AAR's internal fund, and 27,330 USD (65%) was received from various organizations and individuals within and outside of Laos.
- Besides the regular wheelchair operations, AAR also was involved in supporting sports for disabled people, especially wheelchair basketball. About 10 basketball wheelchairs were produced at the project workshop, and some international and domestic wheelchair basketball tournaments were supported by other organizations in Vientiane.

| AAR WHEELCHAIRS AND TRICYCLES | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| YEAR | PATIENTS FITTED | UXO VICTIMS |
| 2005 | 371 | Approx 27 |
| 2006 | 419 | Approx 30 |

15.3. Operations

The devices are distributed within Vientiane City and 10 target provinces, namely Luang Prabang, Xieng Khuang, Vientiane Province, Bolikhamxay, Khammuane, Savannakhet, Saravane, Sekong, Attapeu and Champassak. Every month staff visit people who need wheelchairs to assess what type of device they require. After collecting all the assessment reports, the devices are produced at the wheelchair workshop of the National Rehabilitation Centre and then distributed to all the target areas.

Initially the provision of devices was funded from project funding sources, but from 2004 the project has received sponsorships from local companies, charity organizations and individuals, which has helped the project to maintain a production of nearly 400 devices annually.

15.4. Training

In 2006, the following training was conducted:

- Three wheelchair production technical trainings were conducted by a Japanese wheelchair engineer. The training focused on reviewing drawing skills, the design and production of basketball type wheelchairs, and the trial production of wheelchair for rough terrains, etc.
- One assessment training was conducted by AAR physiotherapist staff for all Provincial Rehabilitation Centre staff in charge of wheelchair services.

15.5. Implementing Partners

JICA

15.6. Donor Contributions

| Source | Amount (USD) |
|--|--------------------|
| JICA | USD 70,945 |
| AAR Internal Fund (Project Implementation) | USD 5,000 |
| AAR Internal Fund (Wheelchair Sponsorship) | USD 15,480 |
| General Wheelchair Sponsorships | USD 27,330 |
| TOTAL | USD 118,755 |

15.7. Expenditure

| Item | Amount (USD) |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Expatriate staff | USD 28,800 |
| Local staff | USD 15,420 |
| Office admin. | USD 10,920 |
| Training | USD 4,600 |
| Operations | USD 11,750 |
| Assets | USD 4,455 |
| Wheelchair production | USD 42,810 |
| TOTAL | USD 118,755 |

16. Lao Disabled People's Association (LDPA)

16.1. Background

The Programme to Advance the Cause of Disability Rights and Education in Lao PDR aims to create a rights-based culture for people with disabilities (PWD) in Lao PDR by raising awareness among people with disabilities (PWD) and public officials of the rights of PWD. This disability-rights education and training programme provides knowledge and understanding of PWDs rights and seeks to develop attitudes and behaviours that respect those rights.

PWD work with authorities at village level to identify the attitudes, environment and social systems that exclude PWD from participating in the socio-economic life of the community. Networks of disability self-help groups then work with village authorities to develop solutions to these barriers.

LDPA is implementing a Draft Disability Rights Legal Framework Project for the rights of disabled people in Lao PDR. This is a joint project between LDPA, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the National Commission for Disabled People, and with support from the Netherlands Embassy Bangkok, POWER International, UNDP International Law Project APCD and UN ILO.

The resulting draft decree will be the first legal instrument in Lao PDR to formally recognise disabled people as valued members of society and it will define the barriers to participation that need to be overcome. The project aims to lay the foundation for the signing and ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Radio Listening Clubs allow members to communicate with one another across Lao PDR. It also allows the LDPA office to educate members about their rights and to distribute information. Members record materials such as interviews with government officials and businesses and send them to the head office to be edited and distributed to radio stations to be broadcast. Live discussion can take place between members. The aim of the project is to create a rights-based culture for people with disabilities in Lao PDR. This project has been implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

The Connecting Lao Disabled People with the World project aims to promote civic empowerment and provide disability rights education to people with disabilities to increase awareness of disability rights into mainstream Lao society. The prime target is members of LDPA and secondary target groups include the Lao Government officials, International NGOs and Lao businesses.

LDPA is achieving the aim by expanding the coverage of Radio Listening Club programmes to four provincial radio stations. The radio programmes are being made accessible internationally via the internet on the LDPA website www.ldpalaos.org. A quarterly newsletter is being published to communicate the main issues in each radio programme to all members.

16.2. Key Achievements 2006

- Began a Draft Disability Rights Project, a first for a not-for-profit organisation in Laos, and a first for protecting the rights of disabled people in legislation.

- LDPA conducted two cross-ministerial seminars, the first in collaboration with the UNDP International Law Project on UN Conventions and the second with ILO on Vocational Training, Rehabilitation and Social Protection Policies.
- A delegation from LDPA contributed to the Regional UN ESCAP conference on Drafting a UN Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in Bangkok, Thailand.
- The LDPA Radio Listening Project Team were invited to conduct a three week training on Radio Production and Programming techniques to the UNDP Xieng Khuang Radio Project.
- LDPA distributed 200 pairs of crutches and 21 tricycles to members around the country.
- LDPA distributed 150 tonnes of rice donated by World Vision to members.
- LDPA conducted Disability Rights and Equality Trainings to over 90 Public officials and 200 PWD.
- LDPA expanded its Radio Listening Club Project to 8 provinces.

16.3. Operations

- To develop membership.
- To build the organisational capacity of LDPA.
- To generate a method for establishing member's needs.
- To advocate members needs and rights.
- To inform members of their rights and of development and to increase their awareness.
- To create and support services and actions that provide for members needs and assist members in providing for their own needs.
- To maintain contact with, and learn from, the broader disability community.

16.4. Training

| Courses conducted by LDPA for people with disabilities and the community | Course dates | No. of courses conducted | No. of attendees |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Radio Listening Club training | January December 2006 | 11 | 265 |
| Disability Rights and Education training – training people with disabilities and government officers | March 2006- March 2007 | 16 | 440 |
| Computer Use for the Blind | December 2006 | 1 | 25 |

| Courses attended by staff | Course date | Number of attendees |
|---|---------------|---------------------|
| Inclusive Education | December 2006 | 1 |
| Computers | January 2007 | 8 |
| Gender Equality | January 2007 | 20 |
| Basic Marketing for Initial Entrepreneurs | January 2007 | 1 |
| Database training | February 2007 | 1 |
| HIV/ AIDS | March 2007 | 1 |

16.5. Implementing Partners

LDPA has implemented its projects in collaboration or partnerships with the National Commission for Disabled People, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Handicap International Belgium, UN ESCAP, UNDP International Law Project, UNDP Xieng Khuang Radio Project, ILO, Asia-Pacific Centre for Disability.

16.6 Donor Contributions

LDPA - Income Received 1st Jan – 31st Dec 06

| Source of Income | Amount (USD) |
|---|--------------------|
| POWER International | USD 214,139 |
| Swedish Organisations' of Disabled Persons International Aid Association (SHIA) | USD 10,367 |
| The World Bank | USD 6,959 |
| Handicap International Belgium | USD 6,000 |
| Netherlands Embassy | USD 27,070 |
| Japanese Embassy | USD 126,524 |
| Australian Embassy | USD 5,000 |
| Local contributions | USD 4,228 |
| Total | USD 400,287 |

17. Annexes

Annex 1: National Strategic Plan for the UXO Programme in Lao PDR

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

Prime Minister's Office



Ref: 01/P.M

Date: 29/4/2004

RESOLUTIONS
of the Lao PDR Government
on National Strategic Plan for the UXO Programme
in the Lao People's Democratic Republic
2003 – 2013
“The Safe Path Forward”

PART I. **INTRODUCTION**

1. Fifteen years of war from the early 1960s to the mid 1970s left the economy of Lao PDR in shambles after the country was sprayed with some 2 million tonnes of unexploded ordnance (UXO), of which 10 to 30% are estimated to have failed to detonate on impact. In response to the resulting humanitarian crisis, the Lao National UXO Programme (UXO Lao) was established in 1996, under the umbrella of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.
2. Seven years and some 3,500 hectares of land cleared later, the Government recognises the need to develop a longer-term view of the UXO problem, and to establish the proper linkages between unexploded ordnance and national development objectives.
3. In regards to the Ottawa Convention, the Government of Lao PDR will carefully monitor its implementation.
4. Consequently, at the end of 2002, the Chairman of UXO Lao's National Steering Committee initiated a strategic planning process, involving consultations with a cross-section of representatives from concerned ministries, within UXO Lao itself, with UN and other multi-lateral agencies, with donors, and with implementing partners. The result of this process is the present Plan, considered and approved in the Government Meeting held on 29-31 July 2003, and which shall serve as the guide for all UXO/mine action activities in Lao PDR for the period 2003-2013.

PART II. **Aim & Scope**

5. This Strategic Plan outlines the approach of the Government of Lao PDR to address the UXO/mine problem in the period extending from its approval through to the end of year 2013. Except where otherwise stated, this Plan covers more specifically UXO Lao operations in the following 9 provinces :

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Savannakhet | 4. Khammouane | 7. Huaphanh |
| 2. Xieng Khuang | 5. Sekong | 8. Attapeu |
| 3. Saravane | 6. Champassak | 9. Luang Prabang |

6. In line with priorities established in the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NPEP), the pursued end-state of this Plan is for “*people from the most highly impacted communities to live free from the impacts of landmines and UXO*”. Those impacts will be reduced by a combination of clearance operations, of mine/UXO risk education activities, of assistance to survivors of mine/UXO accidents and their dependents, and of the marking off of lower-priority areas for later clearance.

7. Without prejudice to ensuring the greatest impact of the UXO programme as a whole, the prioritisation of tasks will, amongst other factors, take into consideration the needs of communities living in the 46 districts identified as national priority development areas in the NPEP.

PART III. OBJECTIVES

8. More specifically,
- a. In terms of community awareness, UXO/Mine Risk Education (MRE) teams will visit and deliver MRE training to all impacted communities in Lao PDR (as identified in the 1997 National Impact Survey), and UXO/mine accidents will be reduced to a national accident rate not exceeding 100 persons/year;
 - b. In terms of survey and clearance, all agricultural areas considered to be “high priority” will be cleared, as well as a sizeable portion of other areas identified as “medium priority” – for a total of no less than 18,000 hectares (180 km²) of land cleared by UXO Lao alone;
 - c. In terms of victim assistance, a national database on Mine/UXO accidents (covering all 18 provinces) will be developed and updated regularly, to feed into the prioritisation of clearance and MRE tasks. The specific needs of survivors of UXO/mine accidents, in terms of both physical rehabilitation and socio-economic integration, will be factored in all national/local public health initiatives;

PART IV. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

9. The Government of Lao PDR proposes to re-structure the UXO/Mine Action sector, as follows (see Organisational Chart 1 attached) :

- (a) A National Regulatory Authority (NRA) will be established and will report directly to the Office of the Prime Minister. The NRA will be composed of representatives of all line ministries concerned with or affected by UXO/landmines, by the CPC, as well as of observers from the donor community. It will be responsible for :
 - The periodic review and implementation of this Strategic Plan,
 - The definition and provision of policy direction,
 - The accreditation, licensing, and oversight of all UXO/Mine Action operators (in clearance operations, in Community Awareness, and in Victim Assistance),
 - The management of the database and, as such, the prioritisation and related tasking of all UXO/mine action operators,
 - The coordination of all UXO/mine action activities throughout the country,

- The external Quality Assurance of all UXO/Mine Action activities,
 - The conduct of Post Clearance Impact Assessments, etc.;
- (b) All UXO/Mine Action operators will work under the tasking orders and the oversight of the National Regulatory Authority. Each operator will act as a self-standing entity and will be fully accountable to its funder(s) as well as to the National Regulatory Authority. In and through their work, international operators will be expected to support the establishment and development of national UXO/mine action entities, and they will conduct all their operations in accordance with national standards as promulgated by the NRA. Operators will be grouped into sectoral components as below :
- i. UXO/Mine Risk Education operators, national and international as relevant,
 - ii. Clearance operators, whether humanitarian, commercial or military, national and international as relevant. UXO Lao will remain the “preferred national humanitarian UXO/mine clearance operator”, and
 - iii. Victim Assistance operators, national and international, as relevant;

Operators will actively take part in sectoral Technical Working Groups (TWG) responsible for the coordination and planning of activities in each sector. TWG meetings will be convened on a regular basis, and will be chaired by the National Regulatory Authority.

- (c) Multilateral agencies (UN, EU, International Financial Institutions, and others) will be invited to support any aspect of this Plan, and may be called upon to collaborate with the Government in the established decision-making bodies;
- (d) Donors will be invited to actively take part in the design and execution of the programme, and will also be called upon to take part in the Steering Committee of UXO Lao and in the work of the National Regulatory Authority.

10. The UNDP Trust Fund established in 1996 will be maintained and will be the preferred vehicle to support all aspects of UXO/Mine Action in Lao PDR. Its resources may be used to support the implementation of all aspects of this Plan. A revised Trust Fund Agreement will be entered into between UNDP and the Government in order to reflect this change. The Trust Fund will continue to be managed by UNDP and executed by the Government of Lao PDR under the national execution (NEX) modality, according to internationally-accepted financial standards, as will all activities funded through the Trust Fund.

PART V. Priorities

11. The 1997 Impact Survey recorded a total of 2,861 villages (i.e. 25% of all villages in Lao PDR) reporting UXO contamination either within the residential perimeter of the village, or in immediate outlying areas - 2,636 of those villages are in the 9 provinces where UXO Lao currently operates. The Survey does not however provide an estimated size of contaminated areas, neither in individual villages nor in aggregate terms. A reasonably accurate estimate of total suspected contaminated areas will be determined as a matter of priority, through stepped-up Technical Surveys.

12. Furthermore, there is a need to further define and prioritise contaminated areas. Technical Surveys will therefore also focus on categorising land use in three broad categories, each composed of a number of sub categories, as listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1 : UXO/Mine Clearance Priorities

| PRIORITIES | TYPES OF TASKS |
|----------------------|--|
| Priority I(High) | 1. Agricultural tasks |
| | 2. Roving tasks |
| | 3. Public service utilities (medical/public health, water points, etc.) |
| | 4. Educational facilities |
| Priority II (Medium) | 1. Grazing land and forested areas |
| | 2. Communal facilities (religious/cultural sites, markets, recreational areas, etc.) |
| | 3. Government facilities and offices |
| Priority III (Low) | 1. Public infrastructure work |
| | 2. Communal “profit-making” areas |
| | 3. Tourism sites |
| | 4. Commercial/private business sites |

13. For the purpose of this Plan, humanitarian UXO/mine clearance operations will focus *strictly* on Priorities I and II, with a marked preference for Priority I tasks. By the end of year 2013, all Priority I tasks shall have been dealt with (i.e. either cleared or marked).

14. Few, if any, of Priority III tasks will be addressed in the context of this Plan by operators funded through humanitarian assistance programmes. These will be dealt primarily by commercial operators.

PART VI. Planning Assumptions

15. This Plan adheres to the recommendations of the Impact Survey (1997) as well as to the objectives of the NPEP.

16. There currently exists only limited comprehensive and up-to-date “hard data” on all aspects the UXO issue, e.g. on the number of victims nationwide, on trials of new methodologies and technologies in Lao PDR, or on the impacts of more streamlined planning processes. This Plan will therefore be reviewed on an annual basis as new information is collected and as new developments happen.

17. This Plan is based on the continued deployment by UXO Lao of 24 area clearance teams in the nine provinces outlined under para. 5 above. The workforce of UXO Lao will remain in the range of approx. 1100 personnel, of which over 1000 will be based in the Provinces, involved directly in the conduct of and support to clearance operations.

18. It is assumed that the UXO/mine clearance sector will be composed of the full range of autonomous UXO/mine clearance operators, including UXO Lao, the military (which has been involved in a number of commercial-type contracts), local as well as international operators, both humanitarian and commercial. The proposed clearance objective of this Plan, approx. 180 km², is based solely on UXO Lao output; clearance output by other operators will be in excess of the objectives of this Plan.

19. The projected increase in the yearly output of UXO Lao from 850 hectares (2002) to a peak of 2000 hectares in year 2008 will be accounted for by, amongst others, the following :

- a. Improvements in prioritisation and tasking of clearance assets;
- b. The strengthening of the organisation’s internal management processes (e.g. budgeting, procurement, logistics, etc.) through the introduction of Quality Management practices (2003);

- c. The streamlining of practices in procurement, in equipment maintenance and in general support functions, in order to ensure optimal use of all assets;
 - d. The widespread introduction of new clearance methodologies and procedures (e.g. Villager Assisted Clearance) in order to maximise the use of technically-trained personnel;
 - e. The on-going training/capacity building of the organisation's personnel through the continued deployment of both short- and long-term international advisors; etc.
20. More streamlined planning and tasking of UXO/mine action assets during the rainy season will be done, which may involve, amongst others, the following :
- (a) As an integral part of the provincial planning process, "dry area tasks" will be earmarked for operations during the monsoon season;
 - (b) A portion of Area Clearance resources will be re-directed towards Roving Tasks; and
 - (c) Increased Technical Survey capacity will be constituted from Area Clearance resources otherwise under-utilised;
21. Equipment replacement costs are factored in the estimated costs outlined under Section IX below.
22. Productivity of UXO Lao deminers will reach a peak of 235 square meters per day per deminer in year 2005 - from a current national average of 133 sqm/day/deminer.
23. The UXO Programme will gradually introduce new clearance methodologies and technologies (e.g. Villager Assisted Clearance (VAC), Explosive Detection Dogs, bio-sensor technology, etc.). The increase in yearly output by of UXO Lao accounts *only* for improvements brought about by the introduction of new work methodologies, not of new technology. This may be properly accounted for in future reviews of the Plan.
24. All operators in the sector will work autonomously from one another, and will report directly to the National Regulatory Authority.
25. UXO Lao will continue to operate under the umbrella of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.
26. By the end of year 2003, all Mine/UXO Risk Education will be conducted under the umbrella of the Ministry of Information and Culture. MRE activities will continue to be funded through the Trust Fund.
27. The Ministry of Health has expressed an interest in establishing a National Victim Assistance programme. UNDP will support such an initiative, as may other bilateral and multilateral agencies. The Trust Fund will also support activities in this sector.
28. The mandate of UXO Lao will be modified to reflect its new responsibilities as strictly a UXO/mine clearance operator. The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, in consultation with donors, will determine the best modality for the oversight of UXO Lao's operations.
29. The Training Centre currently operated by UXO Lao will be maintained, and will serve as the national training facility for all UXO programme-related needs. UXO Lao will thus train deminers and support staff of all independent operators on a cost-recovery basis.

30. In the course of year 2003, UXO Lao will complete a comprehensive internal Management Review, in order to rationalise its structure and management practices. This Review will include recommendations on the nature and expected duration of technical support required.

31. For planning purposes, UXO Lao's clearance capacity will remain at the levels of June 2002, i.e. :

| <u>Province</u> | | <u>Province</u> | |
|-----------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| Savannakhet : | 4 teams | Champassak : | 2 teams |
| Xieng Khuang : | 4 teams | Huaphanh : | 3 teams |
| Saravane : | 3 teams | Attapeu : | 2 teams |
| Khammuane : | 2 teams | Luang Prabang : | 2 teams |
| Sekong : | 2 teams | | |

The above allocation of UXO Lao resources per province may later be amended in accordance with the findings of Technical Surveys, in order to ensure the optimal allocation of clearance resources.

32. The National Regulatory Authority will bear ultimate responsibility for the implementation of this Plan, for the prioritisation of UXO/mine action tasks, and for the related tasking of all operators.

33. Operators will eventually deploy their own UXO/mine action capacity, over and above those currently deployed by UXO Lao. In terms of clearance statistics, the output of operators will add to the stated objectives of this Plan.

PART VII. Projected Achievements

34. A total of 2,636 UXO contaminated villages were identified in the Impact Survey (1997) in the above 9 provinces. By first focusing on the conduct of Technical Surveys in those villages, a clearer picture of the total areas to be dealt with, of the most pressing needs in each community/ district/province, and ultimately of the total resources required to address the problem will emerge.

35. Technical Survey procedures will be modified in order to classify all clearance tasks according to the Priority Chart under Table 1 above. All technical survey data will be entered into the national database, on the IMSMA platform (Information Management System for Mine Action - yet to be installed), which will become the primary tool for prioritisation of tasks and for the recording of progress against the present Plan.

36. In order to complete the technical surveys by the end of June 2005, the following survey capacity in each Province will be established, drawing from existing clearance capacity where required :

| <u>Province</u> | | <u>Province</u> | |
|-----------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| Savannakhet : | 8 teams | Champassak : | 4 teams |
| Xieng Khuang : | 8 teams | Huaphanh : | 6 teams |
| Saravane : | 6 teams | Attapeu : | 4 teams |
| Khammuane : | 4 teams | Luang Prabang : | 4 teams |
| Sekong : | 4 teams | | |

Drawing from their respective clearance assets, provinces will increase their Technical Survey capacity during the monsoon months, until completion of the Surveys.

37. Taking into account the above assumptions, yet excluding any extra capacity that will be set up and deployed under the control of other operators, the UXO Programme will achieve the outputs outlined in Table 2 below.

Table 2 : Yearly Outputs of the UXO Programme

| Year | Activity | Completion Date | Remarks |
|-------------|--|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2003 | 1.Feasibility of national Victim Database | 30 Sept. 2003 | Carried out by HI |
| | 2.Review of UXO Lao Management | 30 Sept. 2003 | Completed by MAG in 2005 |
| | 3.Initiation of Post-Clearance Impact Assessments (PCIA) | 01 Oct. 2003 | Pilot project initiated by UNDP |
| | 4.Establishment of increased Tech Survey capacity | 31 Dec. 2003 | Capacity not fully built till 2006 |
| | 5.Establishment of Regulatory Authority | 31 Dec, 2003 | PM's Decree 2004 |
| | 6.IMSMA installed and running | 31 Dec. 2003 | Version 2 in use. |
| | 7.Transfer of CA capacity to other IPs | 31 Dec. 2003 | Other IP's built CA capacity |
| | 8.Tech. Survey of 500 villages | 31 Dec. 2003 | Not completed |
| | 9.942 ha of land cleared by UXO LAO | 31 Dec. 2003 | 880 ha cleared |
| | 10.60 "new" villages visited by CA | 31 Dec. 2003 | 512 villages visited |
| | 11.Victim Assistance Plan of Action | 31 Dec. 2003 | Not developed till 2006 |
| 2004 | 1.New CA curriculum developed | 30 June 2004 | By Consotium & MoE |
| | 2.Review of Strategic Plan | 31 Aug. 2004 | Review process in 2007 |
| | 3.CA outreach to 300 "new" villages | 31 Dec. 2004 | 495 villages visited |
| | 4.Tech. Survey of 1300 villages | 31 Dec. 2004 | Not completed |
| | 5.1300 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao | 31 Dec. 2004 | 1,255 ha cleared |
| 2005 | 1.Tech. Survey of 840 villages | 30 June 2005 | Not completed |
| | 2.Review of Strategic Plan | 31 Aug. 2005 | Review process in 2007 |
| | 3.CA outreach to 450 "new" villages | 31 Dec. 2005 | 535 villages visited |
| | 4.1500 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao | 31 Dec. 2005 | 1,566 ha cleared |
| 2006 | 1.Review of Strategic Plan | 31 Aug. 2006 | Review process in 2007 |
| | 2.CA outreach to 450 "new" villages | 31 Dec. 2006 | 571 villages visited |
| | 3.1800 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao | 31 Dec. 2006 | 2,097 ha cleared |
| 2007 | 1.Review of Strategic Plan | 31 Aug. 2007 | |
| | 2.CA outreach to 450 "new" villages | 31 Dec. 2007 | |
| | 3.1800 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao | 31 Dec. 2007 | |
| 2008 | 1.Review of Strategic Plan | 31 Aug. 2008 | |
| | 2.CA outreach to 450 "new" villages | 31 Dec. 2008 | |
| | 3.2000 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao | 31 Dec. 2008 | |
| 2009 | 1.Review of Strategic Plan | 31 Aug. 2009 | |
| | 2.CA outreach to 450 "new" villages | 31 Dec. 2009 | |
| | 3.2000 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao | 31 Dec. 2009 | |

| | | | |
|-------------|---|------------------------------|--|
| 2010 | 1. Review of Strategic Plan 2. 2000 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao | 31 Aug. 2010 1 Dec. 2010 | |
| 2011 | 1. Review of Strategic Plan 2. 2000 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao | 31 Aug. 2011 31 Dec. 2011 | |
| 2012 | 1. Development of new Strategic Plan 2. 2000 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao | 31 June 2012 31 Dec. 2012 | |
| 2013 | 1. 2000 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao | 31 Dec. 2013 | |

PART VIII. PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS

38. In year 2003, the budget of the UXO Programme, as approved by the National Steering Committee in February 2003, stands at a total of USD 4,2 million. It is expected that, for future years, and with the establishment of the NRA and the establishment of new programming in Victim Assistance, UXO Programme needs as implemented by the Government of Lao PDR will remain relatively constant.

39. Planning assumptions for programme requirements are as follows :

- (a) An equipment replacement cost of \$400,000 for replacement of non-serviceable mine detectors and other equipment of UXO Lao is budgeted in each programme year;
- (b) The costs related to the introduction of new technologies is not included in the following projections (for example, the cost of setting up and of operating an Explosive Detection Dog capacity could require as much as an additional USD 600,000 per year);
- (c) Training in Technical Survey is estimated at USD 20,000 budgeted in years 2003/2004;
- (d) For the foreseeable future, the Government of Lao PDR will maintain its annual contribution in cash to the overall UXO Programme at USD 50,000.

40. The start-up cost (equipment, establishment of offices, etc.) of the National Regulatory Authority is expected to be in the range of approx. USD 215,000. The yearly operating costs of the NRA, with a maximum staff of 25, is expected to be in the range of USD 175,000, excluding the costs related to the deployment of Technical Advisors to support the development of the organisation (estimated at 3,5 full-time equivalent for no less than the first three years).

41. The yearly cost of UXO Lao operations is estimated to be in the range of USD 3,5 million.

42. The yearly cost of the nationally-executed activities in Mine/UXO Risk Education is expected to be in the range of USD 750,000.

43. The yearly cost of the nationally-executed activities in Mine/UXO Victim Assistance is expected to be in the range of USD 700,000.

44. In summary, the yearly cost of the nationally-executed UXO Programme is expected to be as follows:

| | ACTIVITIES | Annual Cost |
|-----|---|----------------------|
| 01. | National Regulatory Authority (<i>Plus</i> one-time start-up cost of approx. USD 215,000) | USD 175,000 |
| 02. | UXO Lao Clearance Operations | USD 3,500,000 |
| 03. | Mine/UXO Risk Education | USD 750,000 |
| 04. | Mine/UXO Victim Assistance | USD 700,000 |
| | TOTAL | USD 5,125,000 |

45. In addition to its own contribution to the Programme, which may be increased as and when state revenues increase, the Government of Lao PDR will seek the continued support of the international community in the execution and the funding of this Strategic Plan.

PART IX. Implementation of national strategic plan

46. The National Steering Committee introduces the National Strategic Plan for UXO Programme in the Lao PDR uniformly and coordinates with various agencies in the formulation of plans, programmes, projects and activities related to UXO problem in the Lao PDR.

47. Ministries, ministerial level organisations, provinces, municipalities and special zones are the key organisations to successfully implement the National Strategic Plan for UXO Programme in the Lao PDR.

(This strategic plan has been considered and approved in the government meeting held on 29-31 July 2003 according to the document proposed by the Minister of Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Chairman of the National Steering Committee of UXO Lao Programme, No. 2480/LSW, dated 25 August 2003).

The Prime Minister

Signed:

Bounyang VORACHIT

Annex 2: Decision on the Organisation and Activities of National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR



Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity
.....000.....

Prime Minister's Office
National Regulatory Authority
For UXO/Mine Action Sector In Lao PDR (NRA)

Ref 001 / NRA.
Vientiane Capital, date.30/03/ 2005

Decision
On the organization and activities of
National Regulatory Authority For UXO/Mine Action Sector In Lao PDR

- Reference to PM Decree 33 dated 17 March 2004 establishing the National Regulatory Authority (NRA);
- Reference to the National Strategic Plan for the UXO Programme in Lao PDR 2003 – 2013, Number 01/PM, approved by the Government of Lao PDR on 29 April 2004,

Chairman of the NRA issue:

Chapter 1
General Provision

Article 1: Objectives

The present decision defines the role, responsibilities, general functions and structure of the NRA in regard to its activities to oversee UXO/MA operators and use of funding for UXO/MA Sector in Lao PDR.

Article 2: Status, Roles and Responsibility of the NRA

The NRA is public institution of the Government of Lao PDR responsible for providing policy direction, managing and coordinating with organizations, National and International agencies licensed to be UXO/MA operators in Lao PDR. The NRA also acts as the technical focal point for all matters relating to international conventions and treaties; participates in international meetings and conferences related to UXO/Mine Action and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) as assigned by Government of the Lao PDR.

Chapter 2 General structure of the NRA

Article 3: Personnel Structure

The NRA consists of the total 10 members nominated by the Prime Minister Decree 33 of 17 March 2004 establishing the National Regulatory Authority (NRA). The NRA members consist of:

- | | | |
|-----|--|---------------|
| 1. | HE Deputy Prime Minister of Lao PDR | Chairman |
| 2. | The Minister of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW) (in charge), | Vice Chairman |
| 3. | A representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) | Member |
| 4. | A representative of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) | Member |
| 5. | A representative of the Ministry of Security (MoS) | Member |
| 6. | A representative of the Ministry of Education (MoE) | Member |
| 7. | A representative of the Ministry of Information and Culture (MoIC) | Member |
| 8. | A representative of the Ministry of Health (MoH) | Member |
| 9. | A representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF) | Member |
| 10. | A representative of the Committee for Planning and Cooperation (CPC) | Member. |

The NRA has its own office that consists of the Standards & Administration Section, and the Operations Section including National staff and some International technical advisors as needed by the operation. There are also provincial offices composed of some staff in provinces that have been targeted for UXO Activities.

- The NRA Office at the central level consists of :
 1. Chief of the NRA Office (01 person) is nominated and/or terminated by chairman of the NRA with the agreement from the NRA Board members, defined in the Article 3 of this decision, as well as in consultation and agreement from UNDP as the representative of the donors.
 2. Deputy Chief of the NRA Office, Chiefs of section nominated and/or terminated by chairman of the NRA as proposed by the Chief of the NRA Office.
 3. Some technical staff as required by the work.
- The NRA Office at the provincial level consists of one chief and one deputy chief of office nominated and terminated by chairman of the NRA as proposed by the Chief of the NRA Office with the agreement from related local authorities and some staff as appropriate.

Chapter 3 Roles and Responsibilities of the NRA

Article 5: Roles and Responsibilities of the NRA

1. Provide policy direction and decide all issues related to UXO/mine action activities; responsible for implementation of the National strategic plan for the UXO/mine action sector by developing a participatory and consultative coordination system with all agencies that meets regularly.
2. Review the implementation of the strategic plan for the UXO/mine action sector,
3. Define and provide policy direction for UXO/mine action sector,
4. Accreditation, licensing and oversight of all UXO/MA operators,

5. Management of the database and, as such, the prioritisation and related tasking of all UXO/MA operators,
6. Coordination of all UXO/MA activities throughout the country,
7. External Quality Assurance (QA) of all UXO/MA activities,
8. Conduct of Post Clearance Impact Assessment.
9. Set up and operate a coordination mechanism for the UXO/MA sector
10. Set up and operate a regulatory framework for the UXO/MA sector in compliance with this decision and the law and policy of the government.
11. Develop and operate a planning, prioritization and tasking system for all UXO/MA operators
12. Develop and operate a monitoring system for the UXO/MA sector in Lao PDR.
13. Accredite the commercial demining activities in coordination with the CPI.
14. Approve and monitor regularly the use of funding for UXO/MA sector in Lao PDR.
15. Manage the vehicle, equipment and technical equipment inventory of the NRA and oversight of the same for UXO/MA operators in Lao PDR.
16. Carry out other rights and duties assigned by the government.

Chapter 4

Roles and Responsibilities of the NRA Office

Article 6: Roles and Responsibilities of the NRA Office

1. Act as the secretary of the NRA on all matter related to UXO/MA in Lao PDR as assigned.
2. Recommends to the NRA Board the relevant UXO/MA related policies, strategies, budgets and operational plans for comment, amendment and official adoption/promulgation;
3. Define, adapt and/or modify the structure, the sections and the departments of the NRA according to the needs and requirements of the organization, in consultation with the Board;
4. Responsible for the management, administration, accounting and the use of all property of the NRA.
5. Collect, analyze and disseminate information related to UXO/MA sector in Lao PDR.
6. Represent the NRA Board to coordinate with organizations, local authorities and all stakeholders related to design the management or monitoring plan for UXO/MA activities in Lao PDR that include regulations, technical issues, the awareness raising of impact of UXO on the socio-economic development and procedures to solve that problem.
7. Follow up, monitor, encourage and support the implementation of the National strategic plan for UXO/MA sector in Lao PDR and other related laws and regulations.
8. Monitor the activities of UXO/MA operators in Lao PDR and local offices as well as other related sectors in order to periodically report to the NRA.
9. Represent the NRA Board for the financial operations of the NRA and its Office, according to the budget approved by the Board and is financially accountable for those operations, in accordance with the laws of the Lao PDR.

Article 7: Roles and Responsibilities of the Administration Section

1. Internal administration of the NRA (personnel, finance, logistics, procurement, etc.);
2. Quality Assurance of all UXO/MA activities, including definition of national standards, accreditation, licensing, oversight, conduct of Quality Assurance/Quality Control, conduct of Post Clearance Impact Assessments, etc.

Article 8: Roles and Responsibilities of the Operations Section

1. Prioritization and tasking of all operators,
2. Coordination of UXO/mine action activities, through the various Technical Working Groups;
3. Compliance with IMAS, national standards, and internationally recognized best practices;
4. Preparation of the sector's annual work plan, monitoring of the execution of this plan, and achievement of stated NRA objectives.
5. Management of the national database on UXO/MA, analysis of database information, and dissemination of the relevant information to operators and other sectors related nationally or internationally as appropriate to be used as a reference for prioritizing and planning for operation.

Article 9: Status, Roles and Responsibilities of the Coordination Office of the NRA at the Local Level

The local level coordination office of the NRA acts as representative of the NRA Office at central level; operationally under the Central NRA Office and administratively under the province, and reports technical issues directly to the central NRA Office with the acknowledgement of the province. The coordination office of the NRA has following roles and responsibilities:

1. Act as the secretary of the NRA office on all matter related to UXO/MA in Lao PDR as assigned.
2. Collect and disseminate information related to UXO/MA sector in Lao PDR at provincial level.
3. Coordinate with organizations related, national and international provincial UXO/MA operators to manage, facilitate and raise awareness on the impact of UXO on the socio-economic development and procedures to solve that problem.
4. Coordinate with the provincial authorities and related national and international organizations to collect UXO/MA data and prioritize provincial activities and report to the central NRA office to compile into central planning for each period. Ensure that those priorities are in line with the central and provincial development plan.
5. Follow up, monitor, encourage and support the implementation of the National strategic plan for UXO/MA sector in Lao PDR and other law and regulations related.
6. Coordinate with local authority and national and international UXO/MA operators as well as report on the progress and results of activities in the province to the central NRA regularly.

Chapter 5
Operational Mechanism

Article 10: Planning

1. Planning for operations at the national level must integrate with national development priorities as specified in the NGPES and provincial development priorities,
2. Planning for operations must also respond to the local priorities and the needs expressed by affected communities.
3. Planning will be managed at the provincial level and shall allow for the active participation of affected communities, operators, local authorities and development agencies and organizations operating in the target areas.

Article 11: Database

All information relating to UXO/MA activities will be recorded into a national database managed by, or on behalf of, the NRA. The NRA is the depository of this information, but the information will remain public and accessible to all relevant parties. The NRA is responsible to ensure the broad dissemination of the information for the purpose of planning. UXO/MA operators will report on a regular basis to the NRA on their plans, activities and achievements according to reporting formats defined by the NRA.

Article 12: Meetings Mechanism

1. The NRA Board meets every six months according to the agreement from the chairman to review and comment on all reports and other documents of the first 6 months and to plan for the next 6 months activities as well as discuss other issues if necessary.
2. The quorum of the Board is established at 5 members, plus the Chair or Vice-Chair.
3. The Board makes decision by a majority of votes of its members present. The vote of the Chair will count double in cases of equal votes.
4. UNDP and donors will be invited to the Board meeting as observers.
5. The Chair may also convene Board meetings as and when required.
6. Meeting minutes is required for every NRA Board meeting to use as a record of the decision made.

Article 13: International Meetings

Subject to the approval of the Prime Minister's office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the NRA may represent the Government at international meetings related to UXO/MA/ERW issues. If necessary, the NRA may ask the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to assign an official from the Lao Embassy of the relevant country to attend such meetings.

Article 14: Signatures of Agreements and Protocols

- The NRA will act as representative of the Government of Lao PDR in any contracts or agreements related to UXO/MA activities within the country. The approval process for such contracts will follow the standard Lao Government procedures. All outsourced UXO/MA activities will be subject to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the NRA and the operator. All documents related to funding agreements between donors and operators shall be deposited with NRA.
- Both domestic and foreign investment businesses in the contaminated areas whose aim to use demining services, the foreign demining company must have the NRA approval.
- In order to implement the National Strategic Plan and the allow for participation of commercial sector, the NRA will be the legal technical approval body for the commercial demining companies who wish to operate in Lao PDR.

Article 15: Management of Assets

1. The NRA will be the legal holder of all fixed assets transferred to the Government by donors as part of the planned and foreseen handover of any UXO/MA physical or financial resources. Management of those assets will be made in accordance with the terms of the MoU and agreements signed between donors and the Government.
2. Management of equipment purchased with UNDP Trust Fund resources will be disposed of following UNDP Rules and Regulations.

3. In those instance where no MoU or agreement was signed between the donor and the Government of Lao PDR, or if no clause exists specifying the conditions relating to the disposal of assets at the end of the project, the donor and Government representatives will negotiate and agree on the most suitable way to dispose of project assets.
4. National and International NGOs operating as humanitarian demining organisation in Lao PDR must declare their assets, vehicles and funding spent on their operation to the NRA.

Article 16: **Funding and Budgeting**

The NRA has its own accounting system which has an account with trusted commercial bank. The system can be monitored by the Government of Lao PDR or donors. Funding and budgeting for NRA operation are from following sources:

1. The annual funding from the government,
2. Contributions received from both public and private organization, companies, domestic and foreign businesses,
3. Foreign aid, International organizations and other sectors,
4. All expenses of the NRA will be based on the yearly budget that has been approved.

Article 17: **Agreement and Decision**

Operational Mechanism of the NRA is under the system of central democracy. Agreement and decision are made in groups but one person responsible.

Chapter 6
Final Provisions

Article 18: **The Stamp**

The NRA, NRA Office at central and provincial level are entitled to their own stamps for operational matters. In addition, the NRA is permitted to have its own logo.

Article 19: **The Implementation**

The NRA, NRA Office and all related organizations shall acknowledge and implement this decision strictly. Some articles of this decision may be amended according to the real implementation needs.

Article 19: **Entry into Force**

The present decision enters into force on the date of it's signature. Other decisions and regulations related to UXO/MA sector that are not in compliance with this decision shall be void.

Chairman of the NRA

Signed:

Asang LAOLI

Annex 3: Decree on the Establishment of the NRA

Lao People's Democratic Republic
 Peace Independence Democracy Unity and Prosperity
000.....

Prime Minister Office



Ref: 33/PM
 Vientiane Municipality, date 17/3/2004

Decree On the establishment of The National Regulatory Authority (NRA) For the UXO Programme in Lao PDR

- Refer to the Constitution of Lao PDR.
- Refer to the Law on the Government of Lao PDR
- Refer to the Proposal from the Minister of Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare No. 528/LSW, date 13/2/2004.

The Prime Minister issues decree:

Article 1: Establishing of the National Regulatory Authority for the UXO Programme in Lao PDR, which composed following members:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Arxang Laoly, Deputy Prime Minister | Chairman |
| 2. The Minister of Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, | Vice Chairman in Charge |
| 3. The representative of Ministry of Defense | Member |
| 4. The representative of Ministry of Foreign Affair | Member |
| 5. The representative of Ministry of Security | Member |
| 6. The representative of Ministry of Education | Member |
| 7. The representative of Ministry of Information & Culture | Member |
| 8. The representative of Ministry of Health | Member |
| 9. The representative of Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry | Member |
| 10. The representative of The Committee for Planning and Cooperation | Member |

Article 2: The National Regulatory Authority will have the following responsibilities:

1. The periodic review and implementation of this Strategic Plan,
2. The definition and provision of policy direction,
3. The 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 throughout the country,

6. The external Quality Assurance of all UXO/Mine Action activities,
7. The conduct of Post Clearance Impact Assessments, etc.;

Article 3: Assigning the National Regulatory Authority to issue regulation, role of activities and organization of all UXO related agencies from the central to the grass root level.

Article 4: The Prime Ministers Office, Line Ministries, central and local organizations / agencies as well as designated members to acknowledge and implement this decree seriously.

Article 5: Other decrees, regulation and roles of procedure that is against to this decree are all eliminated.

Article 6: This decree will enter into force from the date of signature.

Prime Minister

Signed:

Bounyang VORACHIT



For more information, please contact the:
National Director
National Regulatory Authority
UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR (NRA)

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