



**National Regulatory Authority
UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR**

UXO SECTOR ANNUAL REPORT 2007

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2007 UXO SECTOR ANNUAL REPORT

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The NRA would like to thank all UXO/Mine Action Sector Operators who provided information on their projects and activities in 2007 for this report.

Photo on front cover
UXO Lao National staff clearing a field in Xieng Khouang province, Lao PDR
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Glossary & Abbreviations

Bombie - term used by the people of Lao PDR to describe a cluster submunition.

Cluster Munition – a bomb containing and dispensing smaller bombs (submunitions).

Explosive Ordnance – all munitions containing explosives, nuclear fission or fusion material and biological and chemical agents.

Landmine – munition designed to be placed under, or the near the ground and designed to be exploded by the presence, proximity, or contact of a person or vehicle.

Mine Risk Education (MRE) – refers to activities which seek to reduce the risk of injury from UXO by raising awareness and promoting behavioural changes among at-risk groups. In the Lao context, this includes community awareness, school curriculum and community volunteer programs.

Oslo Process – a series of international government meetings to develop a treaty to ban cluster munitions that were initiated in Oslo in February 2007 and aim to conclude with a comprehensive treaty banning cluster munitions by the end of 2008.

The Safe Path Forward – the Government of Lao PDR National Strategic Plan for the UXO Sector from 2003-2013.

Unexploded ordnance (UXO) - explosive ordnance that has been primed, fused, armed or otherwise prepared for use or used but failed to explode either through malfunction or design.

UXO/Mine Action - umbrella term that encompasses the comprehensive response to the impact of landmines and unexploded ordnance. The pillars of UXO/ Mine Action are clearing land, assisting victims, educating affected communities of the dangers of UXO and landmines, destruction of stockpiles of landmines, and advocating for a world free from the impact of UXO and landmines.

Acronyms & Abbreviations

AGNA - Armor Group North America

AAR – Association of Aid & Relief

BLU - Bomb Live Unit

CA – Community Awareness

COPE – Cooperative Orthotic and Prosthetic Enterprise

EOD – Explosive Ordnance Disposal

GICHD – Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

FSD - Swiss Foundation for Mine Action

HIB – Handicap International Belgium

HMA – Humanitarian Mine Action

IMSMA – Information Management Systems for Mine Action

Lao PDR – People’s Democratic Republic of Lao

LDPA – Lao Disabled Peoples Association

LVIS – Lao Victim Information System

MAG – Mines Advisory Group

MOFA – Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MRE – Mine Risk Education

NRA – National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action in Lao PDR

PCL – Phoenix Clearance Limited

SDC – Swiss Development Cooperation

TA - Technical Advisor

TWG – Technical working group

UNDP – United Nations Development Program

UNICEF – United Nations

UXO Lao – Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme

UXO – unexploded ordnance

WE/C – World Education/Consortium

WFP – World Food Program

Foreword: NRA Chairman



I am very delighted to present the 2007 annual report of the UXO National Regulatory Authority (NRA). Throughout 2007 the UXO/Mine Action sector continued to grow and develop working to meet the needs of the Lao peoples who live daily with the threat of UXO in their surroundings. This report is a detailed account of the activities that were undertaken in 2007 and the achievements reached.

Lao PDR has the distinction of being the most heavily bombed country in the world. Over the period 1964-1973, more than two million tons of ordnance was dropped onto the country. Cluster munitions accounted for the largest percentage of the bombs used during the aerial bombardments, with an estimated 270 million cluster submunitions, known in Lao PDR as bombies, deployed. It is estimated that 30 percent of the bombies failed to explode, leaving around 80 million unexploded across the country.

The Safe Path Forward 2003-2013, the national strategic plan for the UXO program in Lao PDR, continues to provide direction for the operations of the NRA, and UXO/Mine Action sector in general. This strategic plan is closely linked to the fifth (2001-2005) and sixth (2006-2010) Government National Development Plans, and the Millennium Development Goals.

Over the past year, the NRA Office was able to continue to grow into its role as the national coordinating body of the UXO/Mine sector in Lao PDR. This included; establishing legal frameworks to enhance institutional and capacity building, developing National Standards for the UXO/Mine Action sector, developing the work plan for the UXO/Mine accident survey, formulating the strategy for UXO/Mine Risk Education, providing accreditation to operators, conducting monitoring visits and coordinating external inspections, and developing further the database of UXO/Mine impact maps and the ability to supply them when requested.

On behalf of the National Regulatory Authority, let me extend my highest appreciation and congratulations to all those involved in the UXO/Mine Sector in Lao PDR, all of whom have been working with relentless commitment to reduce the impact of UXO on the peoples of Lao. Together we have been able to save lives, clear land, increase community food security, and enable survivors to re-integrate into their communities. However, for Lao PDR to become a country safe from the impact of UXO we will need to ensure our efforts continue for many years to come.

On behalf of the Lao Government, I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude and thanks to the donors, implementing partners, and the UXO/Mine Action international community who have assisted in the development of the NRA through their generous financial and in-kind support. We do hope that we will continue to have on-going assistance to work towards enabling all of our citizens to live safe from the impact of UXO and free to participate in the socio-economic growth of Lao PDR, working towards the goal of poverty eradication in our country by 2020.



Mr. Duangchay PHICHIT
Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Defense,
Chairman of the NRA

Foreword: NRA Director



I am very pleased to introduce the 2007 Annual Report of the National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR (NRA). This was the first full calendar year since becoming operational in April 2006, and throughout 2007 the institutional building of the NRA has grown with the aim of establishing it as the lead organization for the UXO/Mine Action sector in Lao PDR.

Over 2007, the NRA had a number of achievements including; the formulation of national standards, development and implementation of an accreditation process, creation of the UXO/Mine Risk Education Strategy for 2007-2010, and initiation of the Victim Survey Information System. In 17 provinces and 139 districts nationwide. Technical Working

Groups were also established bringing together operators from across the sector under a number of topics: UXO/Mine Risk Education, Clearance, Victim Assistance, Quality Assurance, and Database Systems. A Donor Working Group was also held in 2007 to discuss the mobilization of further funding support for the NRA and the UXO Sector. In its role as a supervising authority, the NRA staff carried out a number of field visits to coordinate external inspections and to investigate UXO accidents. The NRA in collaboration with Lao Woman's Union, UNDP and Mines Advisory Group worked together to examine the role of gender within the UXO/Mine Action in Lao PDR. The recommendations from this report will be used in the coming months to further develop policy for the sector.

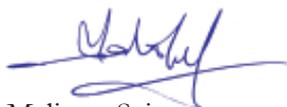
In 2007, I have been entrusted by the government with the responsibility of participating in several international conferences such as the Annual Meeting of States Parties of the Ottawa Convention and the Conferences of the Oslo Process on Cluster Munitions. The Oslo Process was established in February 2007 for states to work towards developing a comprehensive ban on cluster munitions. As one of the most cluster munition affected countries in the world, we fully support this Process and look forward to a comprehensive treaty banning all cluster munitions being completed by the end of 2008.

As part of its national coordination role the NRA is tasked to work with UXO/Mine operators to develop and improve methodology and technological practices used across the sector. All UXO/Mine Action operators were a part of this process and there has been an increase in productivity over the targeted figures for the year. As implementation of UXO/Mine Action steadily develops, operations of the sector continue to be guided by the standard of procedures and the national standards, supported by the delivery of the monthly report and sharing of experiences through the technical working groups. Capacity building of NRA staff continued in the areas of management skills, financial reporting and project implementation in 2007 to move towards national ownership and sustainability.

Organizations in the UXO/Mine Action sector in Lao PDR work in a large number of districts including the 36 UXO contaminated ones that are categorized as amongst the poorest in the country. Across the sector throughout 2007, operators cleared over 4,189.8 hectares of land, with clearance and roving teams destroying a combined total of 88,259 items of UXO, including 521 big bombs, 53,315 bombies, 149 landmines, and 34,274 other UXO. I am also glad to report that all these achievements surpass the target set for 2007 in *The Safe Path Forward*.

There were 90 reported casualties from UXO in Lao PDR in 2007, of which 29 people were killed and 61 injured. A comprehensive and national survey of UXO accidents was initiated in 2007 and is continuing into 2008. This will be an important step for victim assistance in Lao PDR, intended to inform policy to ensure that the referral system, medical treatment, physical and psychological rehabilitation, and the social and economical inclusion of UXO survivors and their families are comprehensive and relevant. In this regard, the Government of Lao PDR will continue to work with international agencies to mobilize funds for addressing the impact of UXO accidents, to reduce casualties, and mitigate the risks for affected communities.

In conclusion, allow me to express my thanks and appreciation to all the staff and international experts who work for the NRA, the operator agencies, and the concerned organizations who have all contributed to the development of the UXO/Mine Action sector. May I also extend my deep gratitude to all the Donors inspired by humanitarian motives to grant funds, equipment and technical advisors to the NRA specifically and the sector as a whole. In the future we do hope that further assistance and support will be considered in order to ensure the safety of the multi-ethnic peoples of Lao PDR to live free from the impact of UXO and enabled to participate in socio-economic growth in terms of poverty eradication.



Dr. Maligna Saignavongs,
NRA National Director

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



In 2007, we witnessed the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) grow as a respected coordinating and regulatory body for the UXO sector. At a global level the NRA together with other ministry officials represented the Government of the Lao PDR at international conferences to develop an international treaty to prohibit cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harms to civilians. Not only did the Lao delegation share their views on these devastating weapons as an affected nation, but it also contributed in both technical and political terms. This important task will continue in 2008.

Internally, the NRA also has a number of achievements to be proud of. First of all, I am pleased to acknowledge that the NRA is now regularly facilitating Technical Working Group meetings, which have become an important forum to discuss relevant issues in the sub-sectors (clearance, Victim Assistance and UXO/Mine Risk Education). Using this forum, a number of important decisions were made among key stakeholders during 2007 which include the establishment of victim/accident data collection system and the National Strategy for the UXO/Mine Risk Education. The NRA also chairs the UXO Sector Working Group together with UNDP in order to improve coordination and aid effectiveness in the Sector. We will work hard to enhance the effectiveness of the Sector Working Group meetings and strengthen the linkage with the Roundtable Process to ensure that the UXO related activities are an integral part of the wider poverty reduction and development initiatives.

One critical activity for the UXO Sector for 2008 is the planned Sector evaluation and the review of the National Strategic Plan. Based on the last evaluation which UNDP commissioned in 2002, the National Strategic Plan for the UXO Sector (2003 to 2013), 'Safe Path Forward', was developed and the NRA was established accordingly. So the aim is to measure the progress of the UXO Sector since under the leadership of the NRA. The Strategic Plan will then be revised reflecting the past achievements and current national poverty reduction and development priorities. The Plan should also provide strategic directions on ways to increase national ownership and to ensure the sustainability of UXO related activities.

The NRA was a mere concept on paper a few years back and became a well functioning institution, although more work needs to be done to strengthen the capacity. The acknowledgement and hopes for effective leadership of the NRA in the future has been translated into strong technical and financial assistance provided by a number of Partners in Development. I am very pleased with the progress and grateful for the enthusiasm and good cooperation of various stakeholders in the UXO Sector. 2008 will be another challenging yet exciting year for the NRA and the UXO Sector and I would like to request Partners in Development for their continuous engagement and support with many important activities and initiatives taking place in 2008.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sonam Y. Rana'.

Sonam Yangchen Rana
UNDP Resident Representative
Co-Chairperson of the UXO Sector Working Group

A Year in Review

The National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action in Lao PDR (NRA) is a public institution of the Government of the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Lao responsible for the coordination of all operators in the country dealing with the impact of unexploded ordnance (UXO). Established in 2004 and operational since April 2006, the NRA now plays a pivotal role in the overall management and coordination of the UXO/Mine Action sector.

For the NRA, 2007 was a dynamic and educational year. It has consolidated its role as a government focal point in an ever-evolving sector. The 6th Socio-Economic Development Plan continues to be the main guiding document for the organisation. This fits under the umbrella National Growth and Poverty Reduction 20-Year Strategy, which in turn fits with the Millennium Development Goals for Lao PDR.

Throughout the year the NRA undertook a wide range of activities. The NRA directorship participated in a number of international meetings; Memorandums of Understandings were signed with new implementing partners, and recruitment of a number of new staff was completed. Three sector Technical Working Groups became fully functional in 2007, new MRE materials were developed, and a further two operators in the sector were accredited to work in Lao PDR.

The Victim Assistance Unit was active in the preparation for the data collection and related activities associated with the new Lao Victim Information System. The process for data collection was piloted in 2007 and subsequently an agreement was signed on October 29 with the National Rehabilitation Centre, a key data collection agency. The Information Management Unit worked with GICHD on the ongoing development of the new IMSMA database.

UXO/Mine Action Sector in 2007

The achievements of the UXO/Mine Action sector in Lao PDR continued in 2007 to grow with a combined expenditure in 2007 of 18,271,030 USD and collectively clearing 4,189.8 hectares of land, well beyond the target of 1,800 hectares stated in *The Safe Path Forward* for the year.

Seven operators worked throughout Lao PDR in 2007 undertaking clearance of UXO. Collectively they removed and destroyed a total of 88,259 bombies, mines, big bombs and other UXO items.

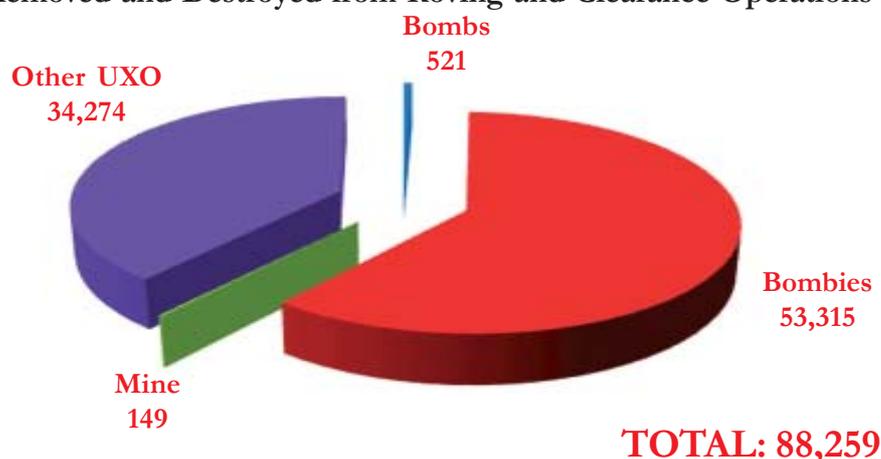
Table: Clearance Operations in 2007

UXO Operations	Area Clearance (Ha)			UXO Destroyed and Removed				
	Agriculture	Other Devel.	Total	Bombs	Bombie	Mines	Other UXO	Total
UXO Lao	2,185	361	2,546	71	18,177	46	12,810	31,104
MAG		350	350	2	11,117	0	2,180	13,299
HIB	21	1.5	22.5	4	328	0	483	815
FSD	5.3	19	24.3	3	356	2	423	784
PCL		353	353	2	302	6	119	429
Milsearch_BPKP EOD Joint Venture Limited		617	617	14	2,728	7	1,684	4,433
Bactec Lao Limited		277	277				364	364
Grand Total	2,211.3	1,978.5	4,189.8	96	33,008	61	18,063	51,228

Table: Roving Operations in 2007

UXO Operations	No. Villages	Village Visit	UXO Destroyed and Removed				
			Bombs	Bombie	Mines	Other UXO	Total
UXO Lao	879	1,306	276	17,661	53	14,343	32,333
MAG	123	312	10	1,746	0	754	2,510
HIB	19	19	112	136	0	368	616
FSD	21	41	25	355	0	369	749
PCL			1	405	0	303	709
Milsearch_BPKP EOD Joint Venture Limited			1	4	35	75	115
Grand Total	1,042	1,678	425	20,307	88	16,211	37,031

Graph: All UXO Removed and Destroyed from Roving and Clearance Operations in 2007



There are three organizations in Lao PDR that carry out UXO/Mine Risk Education activities, ranging from incorporating risk awareness into school curriculum to training MRE village volunteers in affected areas.

Table: Beneficiaries of MRE Activities in Lao PDR in 2007

UXO Operations	Village Visits	Child Benef.	Adult Benef.	Total Benef.
UXO Lao	574	61,919	82,867	144,786
MAG	138			26,081
HIB	36	2,973	5,914	8,887
Grand Total	748	64,892	88,781	179,754

Table: MRE Activities in Lao PDR in 2007

UXO Operators	LB	HP	XKH	KHM	SVK	SRV	SK	CHP	ATT	Total
UXO Lao Community Awareness (Number of villages visited)	63	52	104	49	70	53	45	85	53	574
UXO Lao Villages Volunteers (Number of villages with volunteers)	5	-	22	-	5	12	12	5	11	72
HIB Community Based Risk Education Volunteers (Number of villages with volunteers)	-	-	-	-	36	-	-	-	-	36
MoE and Word Education Risk Education school curriculum (Number of schools participating)	51	248	415	98	283	394	113	77	83	1,761

Key: LP- Luang Prabang; HP-Houaphan; XK-Xieng Khouang; KH-Khammouane; SVK-Savannakhet; SL-Saravane; SK-Sekong; CH-Champassak; AT-Attapeu

The reported number of people who became victims of UXO in 2007 is 90. However this figure is considered to under-represent the reality of how many people are killed and injured by UXO in Lao PDR. The Lao Victim Information System that was initiated in 2007 and will be developed in 2008 is intended to provide a much more accurate picture of the number of UXO victims in Lao PDR.

UXO/Mine Sector Expenditure 2007

The following table provides an approximate annual expenditure for the UXO Sector in 2007 based on the available figures provided by the operators.

Operator	Expenditure 2007
NRA	USD 830,827*
UXO Lao	USD 5,984,829*
Mine Advisory Group	USD 4,587,974*
Handicap International Belgium	USD 459,698
Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD)	USD 1,023,393
Consortium/World Education	USD 299,500
Association for Aid & Relief	USD 5,445**
COPE	USD 465,900
Phoenix Clearance Ltd	USD 600,000 (approximate)
Oxiana (Milsearch & Bactec)	USD 4,013,464
TOTAL	USD 18,271,030

* Note these figures may include some funds that have been reported by two organisations.

** This is an estimate on AAR's expenditure for providing wheelchairs to UXO survivors. It is 5% of ARR expenditure for 2007, as approximately 5% of their clients are UXO survivors.

UXO in Lao PDR

Living with the daily fear of unexploded ordnance (UXO) is commonplace for a large percentage of the population of Lao PDR. The continuing impact of UXO deployed on the country during the second Indochina conflict from 1964 to 1973, remains a fundamental issue for the country to overcome in order to reduce the suffering and poverty of its people.

Lao PDR has the unfortunate distinction of being the most heavily bombed nation per capita in the world. It was the site of widespread ground battles and intensive aerial bombardment, with more than half a million bombing missions carried out over the country during the Indochina conflict. It has been estimated that on average one planeload of bombs was dropped on Lao PR every eight minutes for nine years between 1964 and 1973. Parts of the country were also used as free drop zones for planes returning from missions in North Vietnam to some dump unused ordnance before landing back in Thailand.

Surveys undertaken suggest up to 30% of all the bombs released over Lao PDR during the Indochina conflict failed to explode as designed and remain scattered throughout 15 of the 17 provinces, many still equipped to detonate.¹ The UXO contamination in Lao PDR consists of heavy bombs, rockets, grenades, artillery munitions, mortars, anti-personnel landmines, and cluster munitions. Cluster munitions were one of the most extensively used weapons during the conflict. They are designed to release tens to hundreds of smaller sub-munitions, referred to in Lao PDR as bombies, over a wide area. In excess of 270 million bombies were dropped over the country, equating to as many as 80 million failing to explode at the time of deployment. A test of BLU-26 bomblets at the Nellis Airforce base in 1966 produced a 26% failure rate in optimal conditions. Today the BLU-26 is one of the most commonly found bombies in Lao PDR and research suggests their failure rate could have been as high as 50%.²

Additional to UXO, large quantities of defoliants and herbicides, including Agent Orange, which were sprayed over the land thirty years ago in the conflict continue to contaminate it today. Vast areas remain barren, chemicals continue to pollute food and water sources and children are being born with related disabilities.

UXO Contamination and Poverty

The Sixth National Socio-Economic Development Plan points to an apparent significant correlation between the presence of UXO and the prevalence of poverty.³ Poor districts are most often the ones impacted by the presence of UXO. A national survey commissioned by the Lao National UXO Programme (UXO Lao) and conducted in 1997 by Handicap International Belgium estimated that 25% of all villages in Lao PDR are affected by UXO contamination.⁴

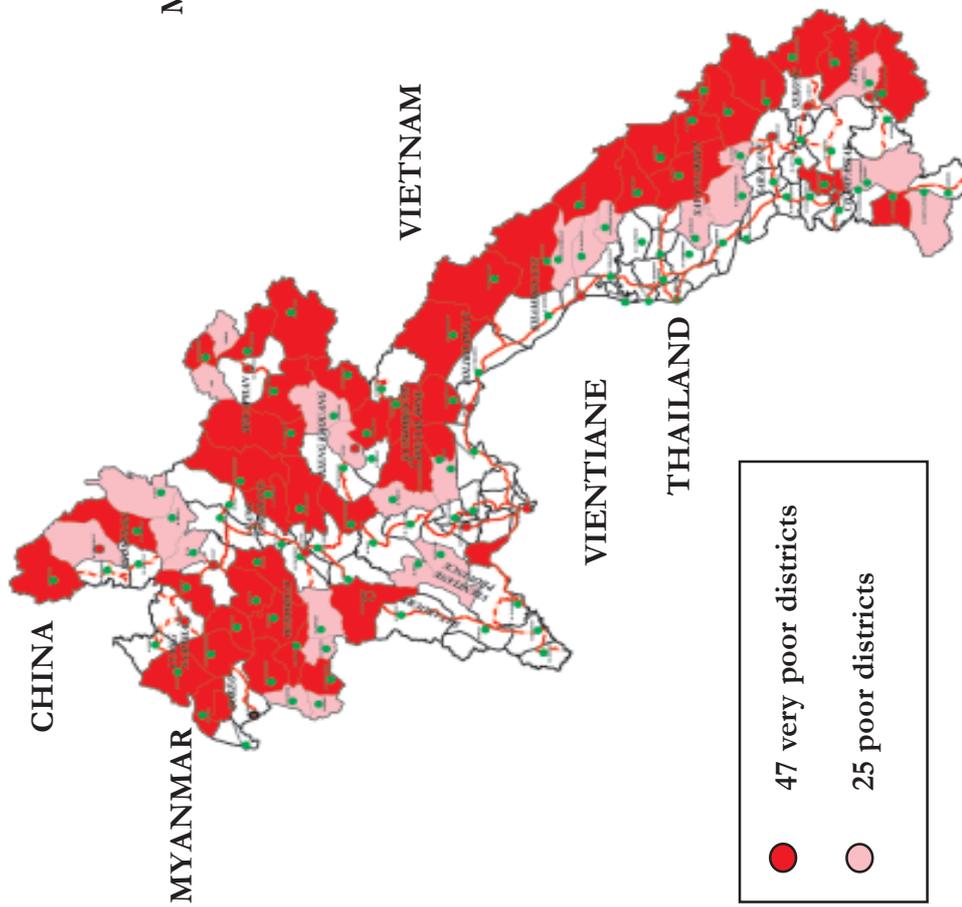
¹ Handicap International Belgium, *Living with UXO: National Survey on the Socio-Economic Impact of UXO in Lao PDR* (for MoLSW and UXO Lao), 1997

² Handicap International, *Circle of Impact: The Fatal Footprint of Cluster Munitions on People and Communities*, May 2007

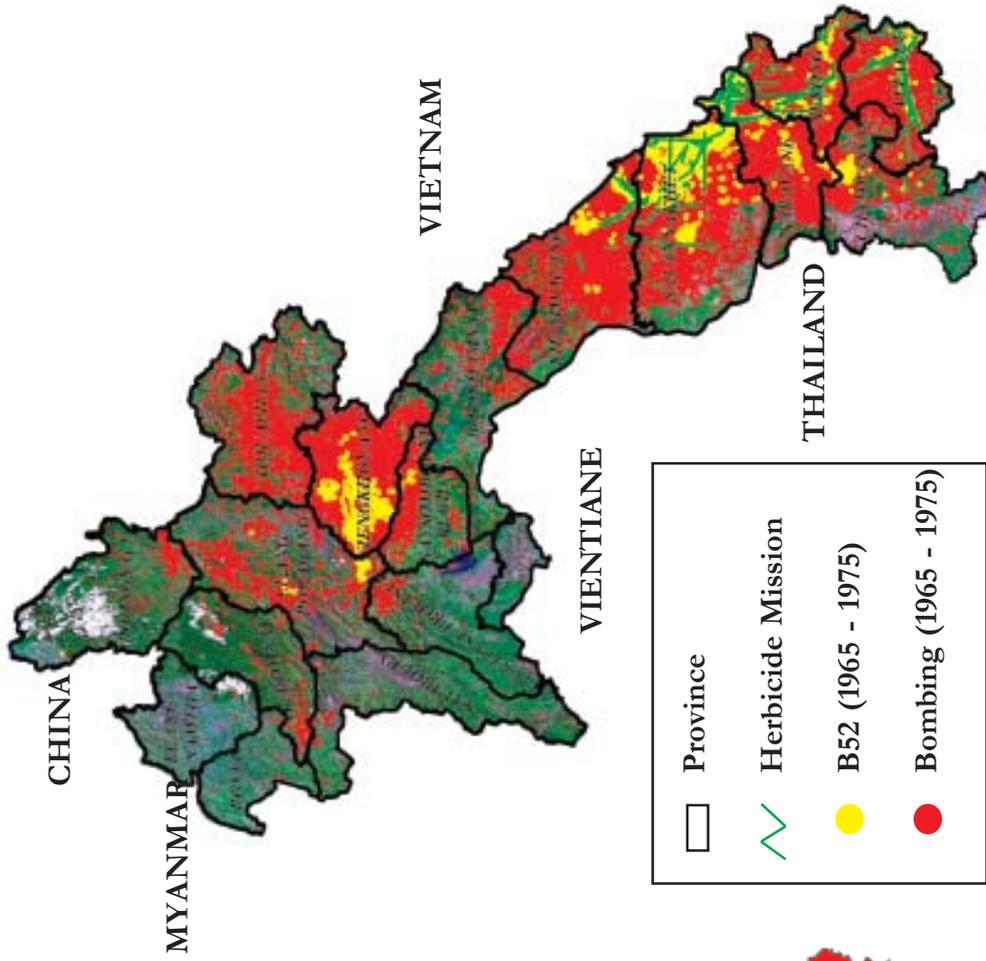
³ Government of Lao PDR, *The Sixth National Socio-Economic Development Plan 2006-2010*, Vientiane, 2006

⁴ Handicap International Belgium, *Living with UXO: National Survey on the Socio-Economic Impact of UXO in Lao PDR* (for MoLSW and UXO Lao), 1997

Map 1. Poverty Map of Lao PDR



Map 2. UXO Contamination Map



Victims of UXO

UXO have a lethal legacy in Lao PDR as they continue to kill and maim people and livestock, impede infrastructure development and deny access to agricultural and pastoral lands, often making areas such as roads, water points and schools unsafe. Living with the daily fear of UXO can reduce productivity even in low risk areas and with no alternative livelihoods villagers in impoverished areas are subsequently forced to undertake high risk activities, such as farming contaminated land. 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.

Collecting UXO to sell for scrap is another way out of the poverty trap. Many families collect scrap metal to sell to dealers. The high quality metal from the US munitions is an important attraction. This high risk activity frequently leads to accidents and fatalities.

In 1997, a survey conducted by Handicap International Belgium identified 11,000 people throughout Lao PDR were injured or killed by UXO between 1973 and 1996.⁵ Following this survey, UXO Lao and other organizations working in the UXO Sector have collected limited data of subsequent UXO accidents. However, under-reporting of incidents is certain, with only data reported from limited parts of the nine affected provinces.

UXO Reported Casualties

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Accidents	63	58	57	43	60	90	98	25	44
Casualties	101	102	121	98	109	194	164	49	90
Deaths	75	63	86	70	76	128	128	33	29
Injured	26	39	35	28	33	66	36	16	61
Men	39	37	56	43	45	70	69	22	44
Women	3	15	13	8	14	12	7	3	4
Boys	47	43	36	32	36	95	77	17	35
Girls	12	7	16	15	14	17	11	7	7

As shown in the table above, the majority of victims are male. Accidents increase hardship for families through the loss or disabling of productive family members. There are often little or no family financial resources to deal with an accident and families are forced to sell assets, including

⁵ Handicap International Belgium, *Living with UXO: National Survey on the Socio-Economic Impact of UXO in Lao PDR* (for MoLSW and UXO Lao), 1997

land and livestock, or withdraw children from school to be able to cover the cost of short and long term medical care.

Reports of UXO victims in Lao PDR suggest that approximately 40% of UXO accidents in Lao PDR are fatal. Of those who survive an accident 65% suffer at least one amputation and 13% are paralysed.⁶ Other common injuries include burns and loss of hearing and eyesight, as well as the psychological trauma from the incident.

During 2007, the NRA initiated the Lao Victim Information System (LVIS). The LVIS will be the first nationwide database to include detailed information about all the UXO injuries and deaths in the country. This will provide a much more accurate and comprehensive picture of the number of those directly killed and injured by UXO in Lao PDR in the past forty years.

Victim assistance organizations, alongside government ministries, work towards improved services in the following major areas of Victim Assistance:

- Emergency and on-going medical care
- Physical rehabilitation
- Psycho-social support for survivors
- Economic reintegration
- Advocacy and public awareness

UXO and Nam Theun Two Dam

UXO contamination in Lao PDR is a major obstruction to many of the economic development projects undertaken. One such example of the obstacle UXO create is the Namthern Two Dam project. Located in Nakhai District of Khammouan Province, Namthern Two Dam project aims to provide a financial income for Lao PDR through selling electricity to neighboring countries.

Khammounan Province is one of the fifteen UXO contaminated provinces in Lao PDR. From February 2003 to October 2007, the Namthern Two Dam construction company has spent \$16,679,751 USD for UXO clearance. The total number of UXO items destroyed equaled 22,535, including 40 big bombs and 11,764 bombies. The total area cleared was 6,543 hectares, including the dam construction site, and resettlement and agricultural production areas for those moving from the land the dam now covers.

⁶ COPE, *National Plan of Action-Third Revision* (draft), Note 13 'UXO Victims in Lao PDR', 2007

The National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action in Lao PDR

The NRA is a public institution of the Government of Lao PDR responsible for providing policy direction and accreditation, and for managing and coordinating national and international operators in the UXO/Mine Action sector. It also undertakes work relating to international conventions and treaties.

Since its inception in 2004, the NRA has been generously funded or supported through in-kind donations from several sources: ArmorGroup North America, Government of Australia, Swiss Foundation of Mine Action, Mines Advisory Group, Government of New Zealand, Government of Switzerland (SDC & Swiss MOD), UNDP, UNICEF, and the Government of the United States of America.

Our Vision

The vision of the NRA is ‘for people from the most highly impacted communities to live free from the impacts of landmines and UXO.’⁷

UXO contamination blocks development in many areas of the country. The National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy (NGPES)⁸ list the central cause of poverty in Lao PDR as ‘problems associated with land’ and as such the UXO sector is vitally important in fighting poverty. Clearance of land for individual farmers enables food security, an essential element in the reduction of poverty. This work continues to contribute to the achievement of the first UN Millennium Development Goal to ‘eradicate extreme poverty and hunger’.

The objectives of the UXO Sector as a whole are set out in *The Safe Path Forward*.⁹ They are:

- In terms of community awareness, UXO/Mine Risk Education teams will visit and deliver MRE training to all impacted communities in Lao PDR.
- 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”.
- In terms of victim assistance, a national database on Mine/UXO accidents (covering all 17 provinces) will be developed and updated regularly, to feed into the prioritisation of clearance and MRE tasks.
- The specific needs of all survivors of UXO/mine accidents, in terms of physical rehabilitation and socio-economic integration, will be factored in all national and local public health initiatives.

Organisational Mandate

The NRA was established in 2004 by Prime Ministerial Decree¹⁰. The NRA office in Vientiane was

⁷ Annex 1: *The Safe Path Forward*, Part II, section 6

⁸ Annex 2: *name, web address*

⁹ Annex 3: *The Safe Path Forward*, Part III, section 8

officially opened 24th April 2006 and became operational in the second half of the year. 2007 was the first full year of activity for the NRA.

The NRA plays a pivotal role in the overall vision of the UXO/Mine Action sector. Its coordination and regulation activities will lead to better targeting in terms of contaminated areas and high-risk people, improving quality of service and operations, and more efficient and effective allocation of resources.

The NRA has a number of primary roles and responsibilities as laid down by the Prime Ministerial Decree on its establishment:

1. The periodic review and implementation of the National 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 prioritisation 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.

Organisational Structure

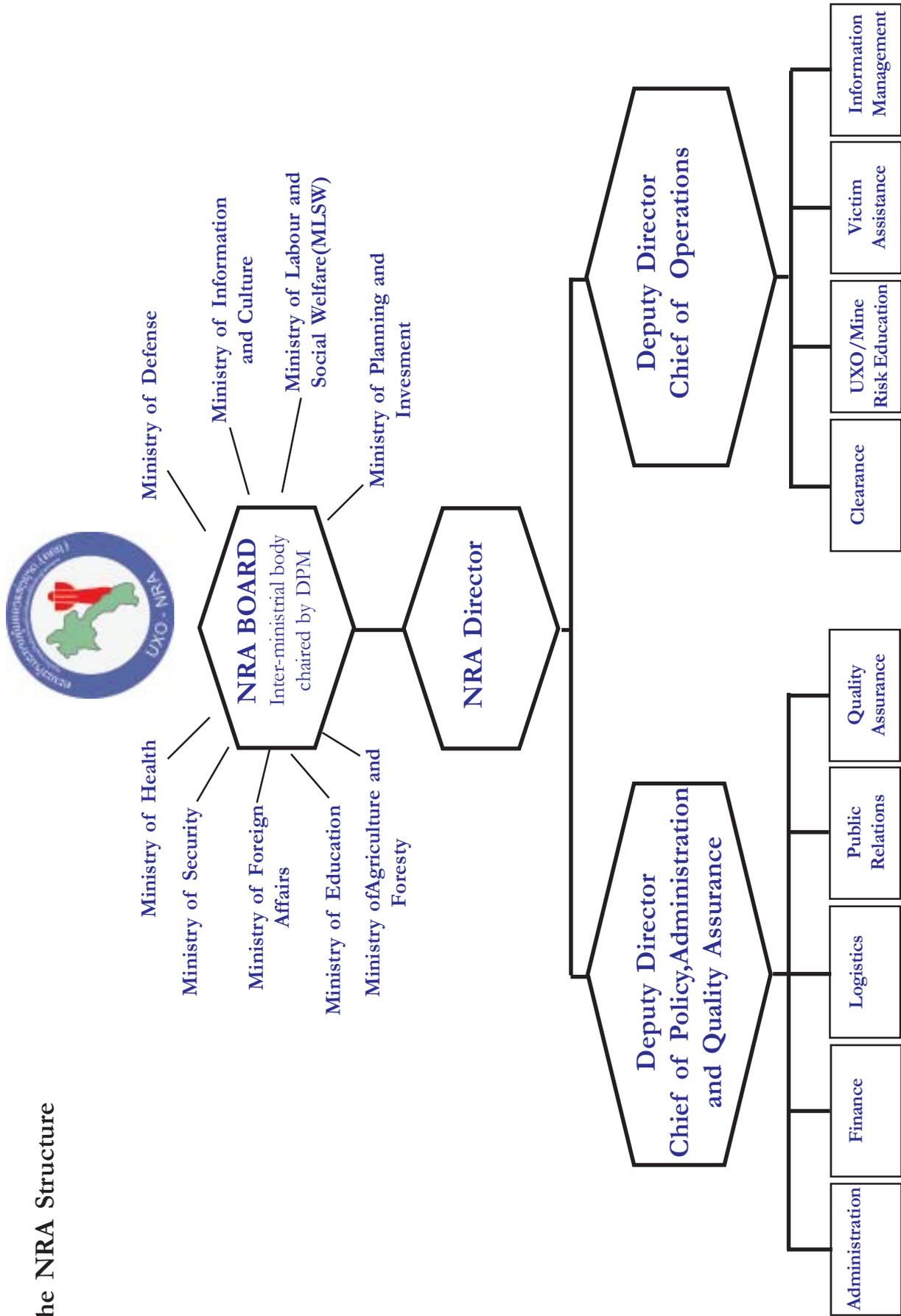
The NRA comprises ministerial representation from nine line ministries and is chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister. The Board of the NRA is a high level inter-ministerial committee, while the NRA Office holds the operational expertise and is the secretariat which provides support to the Board.

The Board of the NRA is composed as follows:

HE Deputy Prime Minister of Lao PDR, Minister of Defence	Chair
HE Vice-Minister of Labour and Social Welfare	Vice-Chair
Representatives from the Ministries of:	
1. Foreign Affairs	Member
2. Defence	Member
3. Security	Member
4. Education	Member
5. Information and Culture	Member
6. Health	Member
7. Agriculture and Forestry	Member
8. Planning and Investment	Member

As a relatively young organisation, the NRA Office is undergoing continual capacity development and expansion. The NRA is divided into two distinct sections: Operations, and Policy and Administration.

The NRA Structure



Operations

The **Clearance Unit** of the NRA is responsible for ensuring cooperation and coordination between operators and ensuring that standards of practice are being met by survey, roving and clearance teams. The Unit also evaluates clearance operations and supports operators to prioritise clearance activities through risk assessments based on the impact of contaminated areas and the needs of the local people.

The **Information Management Unit** is responsible for managing the national database that contains information and data on UXO contamination throughout Lao PDR, and the activities and outputs of all UXO operators. This information can be provided to operators and stakeholders in different formats, such as tabulated data, maps and graphs.

The **Mine Risk Education Unit** (MRE Unit) of the NRA is responsible for overseeing and coordinating the activities of the organisations and institutions implementing UXO/mine risk education, also referred to as community awareness, and liaise with operators to ensure a sustainable, targeted risk reduction strategy is maintained focusing on high-risk areas and high-risk groups. The MRE Unit has a vision of a Lao PDR where all stakeholders work together to achieve a significant reduction in the number of UXO victims through a sustainable, targeted risk reduction strategy.

The **Victim Assistance Unit** works to collect accurate information about victims and survivors in Lao PDR and their needs, provide standards of practice for operators involved in victim assistance, encourage operators to fill gaps in supply, coordinate their activities, and develop a strategic plan for the sector.

Policy and Administration

The Administration, Finance and Logistics units enable the NRA Office to function on a daily basis. The **Administration Unit** is responsible for human resource management. It coordinates with Government of Lao, donors and operators and liaises with appropriate ministries on behalf of the Technical Advisors.

The **Finance Unit** is responsible for managing the budgets and expenditure of the NRA. This involves preparing annual and quarterly budget plans, and accounting and financial reports for the NRA and its donors.

The **Logistics Unit** works with its UNDP counterpart to provide equipment for the NRA office, track and document the office inventory, and coordinate NRA drivers and vehicles.

The **Quality Assurance Unit** monitors quality assurance of all UXO/mine activities in Lao PDR, including the development and application of National Standards, accreditation, oversight, and conducts assessments and coordinate the external inspection.

Personnel

The NRA has 23 full-time national staff in its office in Vientiane and they are supported by seven Technical Advisors.

Description	National	International	Total
Governing Board	10		10
Director	1		1
Operations Section	8	5	13
Policy, Admin & QA	14	2	16
Total:	33	7	40

Technical Advisors

During 2007, several organisations provided support to the NRA through seven international Technical Advisors (TAs) in key areas. They offer continuous on-the-job training, helping to build capacities of the organisation and national staff. There is a high ratio of Technical Advisors to National Staff: the NRA is a young organisation with many varied functions, and each advisor is an expert in their own field, working together to develop the NRA's capacity.

Technical support will continue in 2008 with TAs in the following roles:

- Senior Technical Advisor (UNDP)
- Information Management TA (previously FSD, now Swiss Government)
- Mine Risk Education TA (MAG)
- Victim Assistance TA (COPE)
- Administration and Finance TA (previously UNV, now Swiss Government)
- Quality Management and Operations TA (AGNA)
- Public Relations TA (a potential new position, Australian Youth Ambassador for Development, Australian Government)

Expansion in 2008

The end of 2007 has seen the creation of a Public Relations Office for the NRA and the appointment of a Public Relations Officer. This unit will be fully operational in 2008 and may also see the addition of a Public Relations Technician.

The NRA hopes to have a Military Liaison Officer seconded from the Ministry of Defence to help enhance the coordination with all stakeholders. The NRA is also seeking a Senior Explosive Ordnance Officer secondment to provide technical expertise to all clearance operators in the sector.

To facilitate the nationwide survey of UXO victims the NRA will employ 20 Provincial Victim Assistance Technicians (PVATs) on six months' contracts. After the completion of historical data collection and data validation, 7 PVATs will be retained, based regionally to report on new accidents and undertake other duties. In addition, a number of data entry clerks will be contracted for the duration of the survey.

The UXO Action Sector

The NRA coordinates and regulates a number of operators with a wide range of functions and organisational structures that work on UXO in Lao PDR. These operators include public institutions, humanitarian and commercial clearance organisations, health care providers and several international non-governmental organisations.

A large number of international donors contribute to the sector, both Government and private institutions. The Government donors for 2007 were Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, European Union, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the United States of America. UNDP, UNICEF, the Humpty Dumpty Institute, World Without Mines and the International Committee of the Red Cross are among the private institutions that financially contribute to the UXO/Mine Action sector in Lao PDR in 2007.

International Treaties

The Prime Minister's Decree for the NRA mandates it to be the technical focal point for all matters relating to international disarmament treaties. In line with this, the NRA has participated in a range of international meetings through 2007. Notably the NRA has represented the government at the Oslo Process meetings, working towards the creation of a treaty that comprehensively bans cluster munitions. The Oslo Process will continue into 2008 with the aim of establishing a treaty by the end of the year.

22-23 February 2007

An international conference on the negative impact of cluster munitions on civilian populations, held in Oslo, Norway, established the Oslo Process and produced *The Oslo Declaration*. Forty-six States signed this Declaration committing, to conclude by 2008, establishing a legally binding international instrument that will:

1. Prohibit the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians
2. Establish a framework for cooperation and assistance that ensures adequate provision of the care and rehabilitation to survivors and their communities, clearance of contaminated areas, risk education and destruction of prohibited cluster munitions¹¹

The NRA was unable to attend this initial meeting, but has since been an active participant in the follow up meetings.

¹¹ *Oslo Declaration* - <http://www.clusterprocess.org/oslo-declaration>

12 March 2007

The Deputy Director and the Senior Technical Advisor (STA) attended a meeting on the Convention on Anti-Personnel Landmines in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, during which the Government of Cambodia announced it was to join the Oslo Process.

20 March 2007

The Director and STA represented Lao PDR at the Mine Action Programme National Directors and UN Advisors' meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

23-25 May 2007

The Deputy Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and Ministry of Defense (MOD) representatives participated in the Lima Conference on Cluster Munitions, Peru, the second Oslo Process meeting. They delivered a presentation of the effects of cluster munitions on Lao PDR to a large assembly of country representatives. A further 28 countries joined the Oslo Process at this meeting.

19-22 June 2007

The STA participated in the Convention on Conventional Weapons, Group of Governmental Experts meeting and presented the development impacts of cluster munitions on Lao PDR.

September

The Director of the NRA participated in an ASEAN regional workshop in Manila, Philippines to present the impacts of cluster munitions on Lao PDR.

3-4 October 2007

The Deputy Director and his MOFA colleague attended the Belgrade Conference of States Affected by Cluster Munitions in Serbia. This meeting was attended by representative of a total of 32 states, including 22 affected countries.

18-22 November 2007

The Director and STA and a MOFA representative attended the 8th Meeting of States Parties (8MSP) to the Ottawa Convention at the Dead Sea, Jordan. This was the first time Lao PDR had been represented at a MSP. The Director made a strong statement to the forum explaining the reservations and constraints on compliance for Lao PDR on joining the Ottawa Convention on anti-personnel landmines. He also stated that the representative for Lao PDR would vote positively for universalisation of the Convention at the next UN General Assembly.

5-7 December 2007

The Director and STA with a MOFA representative and a member of the Lao National Assembly participated in the Vienna Conference on Cluster Munitions in Austria. This was the third Oslo Process meeting and the final one for 2007. There were 138 states represented at this conference, 70 more than at the previous Oslo Process meeting in Peru. Much of the discussion at the Vienna meeting centred on how to define "cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm" in a treaty text. The Director made several statements and interventions which clarified the Lao position on wanting to ban all cluster munitions as all cluster munitions caused unacceptable harm to civilians.

Donors and Implementing Partnerships

A Donor Review took place on the 5 June 2007, which was well attended and well received. The meeting was split into three parts; a UXO sector overview, a review of the NRA, and a review of UXO Lao.

A partnership between the NRA and UNICEF was developed in early 2007 and an agreement was signed channelling all UNICEF MRE funding through the NRA for that year.

The NRA signed an MOU with ArmorGroup North America on 20 September to provide support to both the NRA and UXO Lao. This agreement facilitated a Technical Advisor to begin working at the NRA with the Quality Assurance and Operations Units.

With support from the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission (JOAC), MAG has provided financial support and a Technical Advisor to the MRE Unit. Technical assistance began in March and will be provided over a three year period, with the development of a phase out strategy and gradual reduction in TA input. MAG also planned a gender study within the UXO/mine action environment which grew with UNDP funding support into a sector wide study plan. The recommendations from this study will be used to guide policy for the sector.

An MOU was signed with Swiss Development Cooperation on 29 November. The agreement will provide three years of substantial financial support to the NRA.

A partnership with the Ministry of Land Management was developed to share mapping and land data. A like agreement has also been developed with the Mekong River Commission that has committed significant resources to a Lao Atlas Project.

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) implements Food-for-Work projects across the country. In many areas the programme requires UXO/mine action support. The WFP is supported by three clearance agencies, each with different working procedures, rules, and areas of activity. To harmonise and streamline a complex situation the NRA hosted a coordination meeting 13 October with the objective of creating synergy among the stakeholders. NRA will follow up on this theme with WFP and organisations in similar situations.

Operations

The Operations section of the NRA comprises of three separate units: Clearance, UXO/Mine Risk Education (MRE), and Victim Assistance.

Clearance

Key Activities in 2007

- Organised seven Technical Working Group Meetings to discuss varied issues such as:
 - national standards
 - training standards, training and qualifications
 - IMSMA
 - GICHHD Risk Management Study, the risk model and land release

- technical survey and clearance work plan
- work plan and progress monitoring
- UXO Coordination committee meeting
- liquid binary explosives
- mine clearance directive
- depth of clearance
- scrap metal trade
- Gender in the UXO program
- Collaborated with World Vision to collect data on the UXO impact in 6 villages in Mahaxay District, Khammaoune province, to support the LANGOCA Project.
- The Senior SEOD Officer of the NRA Clearance Unit conducted a UXO Demining Course for the MAG staff in Xieng Khouang province
- Worked with MAG to monitor a pilot project using a vegetation cutting machine (Uni Disk) in Gnommalath District, Khammaoune province
- Initiated a process of collection and analysis of a Monthly Progress Report from UXO Organisations
- Supported and participated in monitoring/inspection visits to MAG and FSD
- Assisted in the investigation of incidents, such as reports of scrap metal dealing and accidents

Risk Management

In the early part of the year, a three-month trial was completed using the Risk Management model developed by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) in 2006. This culminated with a field visit by its designer to Lao PDR in July. This mission identified modifications and revisions needed in the model. A plan for the changes to be made and a further six-month trial was agreed between all stakeholders. The model has since been revised by GICHD and will be trialled during 2008.

Information Management

In 2007, the Information Management Unit worked towards putting in place a standardised, consistent and reliable data collection system and setting up a comprehensive and compatible national UXO database that would contain information on UXO contamination, UXO accidents, UXO victims, and the activities and outputs of all UXO operators. This information can then be provided to operators and stakeholders in different formats, such as data, maps and graphs.

With much consideration, the UN's Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) was chosen for the Lao National Database. IMSMA has been used in more than 40 countries around the world and is supported by GICHD. The system has been updated several times and the latest version was installed at the NRA. However, despite considerable effort within the NRA and support from GICHD, it was not possible in 2007 to resolve the numerous technical difficulties intrinsic in the new IMSMA software and its adaptation for use with the vast volume of data from the UXO/mine sector in Lao PDR. A more reliable version will be rolled out to stakeholders in 2008.

The NRA website was also maintained and updated, with progress made on the presentation of information and with documents such as the minutes of the Technical Working Groups shared online.

Key Activities 2007

Workplan 2007	Progress	Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install IMSMA • Harmonise database • Create and print UXO Contamination Maps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing Complete Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A0 150 units • A3 700 units • A4 100 units
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the NRA website • Create UXO contamination Google Earth files for the whole country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing Complete 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Management Survey • Develop system to backup data • Gather varied geographical data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing 	

Mine Risk Education

The MRE Unit has worked with operators to develop a National Strategy for MRE and new MRE materials. It also convened regular bi-monthly Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings.

Key Activities 2007

Workplan 2007	Progress	Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up MRE Unit, March - April 07 • Convene MRE TWG meetings bi-monthly • UN Mine Awareness Day, 5 April 07 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed Routine Completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key equipment purchased • MRE TWG minutes • Printed brochures produced for NRA exhibition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field visits to MRE Operators in SVK (13-17 March), XKH (19-25 April) & KHM (20-26 May): UXO LAO, MAG, PCL, HIB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Format for field report developed, tested and finalised. • Field reports
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translate IMAS MRE Standards into Lao, May – June 07 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printed by UNICEF and distributed by NRA to operators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in GICHD workshop on Linking Mine Action and Development in Siem Reap, Cambodia, 11-14 June 07 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRE Unit presentations • Regular contact through LMAD working group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study tour to Cambodia – visit CMAC, MAG, Completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field trip report

Ministry of Education projects and CMAA, 14-20 June 07		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons learned from project activities (including MRE for Scrap Metal Trade) and coordination of MRE sector
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise National MRE Strategy in Lao and English, August – September 07 	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final MRE Strategy in Lao and English
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Monitoring for MRE’ workshop by GICHHD in Lao Plaza, 24 - 26 Sept 07 	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 participants from NRA, MRE organizations & relevant ministries trained in monitoring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop monitoring tools and framework for MRE sector 	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with stakeholders on 16 Nov 07 • Tools and framework to be developed and implemented in 2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with MAG to develop new MRE materials in project supported by UNICEF. Community workshops to develop, and pre and post test materials, Aug – Oct 07. 	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 posters, 2 T-shirts and 5 radio spots in three different languages (Lao, Hmong and Khmau) • Final report and a literature review
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop distribution strategy and guidelines for use of new MRE materials (new activity)* 	In 2008 Work Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution strategy • Guidelines for MRE material use • Training modules
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to development of NRA resource centre, July – Aug 07 (new activity)* 	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRA Resource centre established • MRE materials displayed in NRA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competency framework developed for MRE officer and technician 	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competency measurement tool

Victim Assistance

The Victim Assistance Unit is tasked with gathering data on UXO accidents and their victims throughout the country. This will ensure that the NRA collects the numbers of victims, the cause of their accidents, the locations of their accidents, and the needs of the victims. This information is necessary in developing relevant strategies to meet their needs, with particular focus on three main points: Emergency and Continuing Medical Care, Physical and Psychological Rehabilitation, and Socio-Economic Development and Re-integration.

Key Activities 2007

Workplan 2007	Progress	Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly organise VA TWG with other VA operators. Preliminary appraisal of provision of services to meet UXO victims' needs in Lao PDR Develop questionnaires for data collection. Develop guidelines for data-collection training Undertake test training to NRA staff and other INGO on data collection on accidents and victims, and on the data collection guidelines Pilot survey "Accident and Victim" Sepone and Vilabouly district, Savannakhet province Nationwide Survey's agreement between NRA and NRC (National Rehabilitation Center) Purchase equipment needed for the survey Print survey stationery Recruit and train 20 Provincial Victim Assistance Technician (PVAT) 	<p>Routine</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 VA TWGs were organised in 2007. Note of appraisal results Village and victim forms Lao version guideline Two days training with 10 participants 10 villages surveyed and 108 forms completed Signed on 29 October 2007 Equipment available Survey stationery available 20 Provincial-level supervisors trained: the link between the NRA HQ and the District-level data collectors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit and train 141 District-data collectors 	<p>In process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 141 trained District-level data level collectors who will travel to every village and get information on every victim and accident to date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collection 	<p>Started December 2007 and will be fully operational February 2008</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over a period of six months, complete data collection forms (a) at the village level, summarising information of victims and accidents and, (b) at the individual victim level, indicating brief details of the accident and its impact

Policy and Administration

The Policy and Administration section of the NRA is composed of four units: Quality Assurance, Administration, Finance, and Logistics. A Public Relations Unit will be added in 2008.

The **Administration** Unit has been responsible for human resource management and support the writing of MOUs. The **Finance** Unit has been responsible for managing the budgets and expenditure of the NRA. The **Logistics** Unit has worked with its UNDP counterpart to provide equipment for the NRA office and field operations.

Quality Assurance

The Quality Assurance (QA) Unit is responsible for the quality assurance of all UXO/mine activities in Lao PDR, including the definition of National Standards, accreditation, oversight, coordination of the external inspection, investigating some UXO accidents, and conducting post clearance assessment.

Key Activities 2007

Workplan 2007	Progress	Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Translate draft of National Standards in English to Lao, and disseminate to operators.	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 24 Chapters of National Standards, in addition to some supporting documents.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the draft of national standards in the trial period and amend where necessary before submitting them to the NRA board for approval.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comments are currently being collated and a review workshop will be organised at the beginning of January 2008.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review applications for Accreditation of operators who applied for full or provisional accreditation.	Completed & Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed 2 applications• The rest will be carried out in the year 2008.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct monitoring for clearance operations.	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conducted monitoring for FSD operations in Savannakhet province.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct accident investigation	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The QA unit investigated an accident that occurred in a cleared area in Xieng Khouang province.

There are two additional cross-cutting issues within the Policy and Administration section which must be mentioned:

Legislation

A legislation workshop took place at the end of 2006 facilitated by GICHD that produced draft legislation for the sector in English. Another workshop was planned for 2007, but was postponed so that the NRA directorship could consider the national requirements and priorities regarding legislation.

Provincial Meeting

A meeting of Provincial Government representatives from all provinces was convened in August at the NRA. The NRA mandate was explained and accompanied by a sector progress report. This was followed by a situation report from each province relevant to UXO problems and progress. There was also significant discussion and planning for the Lao Victim Information System. This meeting was regarded as a success by all participants and will be instituted as an annual event.

Capacity Building

Training in 2007

In 2007 the NRA Office supported national staff through training courses in management, basic computer skills and English language, as well as training in specialised fields specific to the UXO sector. The training undertaken by NRA staff includes:

- Computer and English courses
- Senior Management course at James Madison University, Virginia, USA
- Information Management for Operations in Mine Action at GICHD, Geneva
- NEX financial management training for project managers & project staff responsible for finance in Napakuang, Thalat
- HACT / FACE Training for Implementation Partners in Vientiane
- Workshop Programme for IPOA & HACT/FACE Refresh workshop in ICTC
- Results-Based Management training for Child Protection partners run & supported by UNICEF
- Post blast investigation course in Thailand (2 weeks)
- Monitoring fir MRE workshop, Vientiane 24-26 September 2007
- Cambodia Study tour for MRE officer, Technician and Operations Chief, 14-20 June 2007 to see risk education activities
- NRA and INGO staff training on data collection on UXO accidents and victims
- Training for 20 Provincial Victim Assistance Technicians on data collection of UXO accidents and victims.
- The Senior SEOD Officer of the NRA Clearance Unit conducted a UXO Demining Course for the MAG staff in Xieng Khouang province.

The NRA also conducts fortnightly internal Sharing Knowledge and Information (SKI) sessions to facilitate continue learning and growth of NRA staff members, which in turn adds to the sustainability of the NRA itself.

Training Needs Assessment

A Training Needs Assessment was conducted by Cranfield University from 26 July to 6 August 2007. The TNA examined the management training needs of the NRA and implementing partners of UXO Lao over the next three years. The TNA particularly identified the need for training at all management levels and the driving need for the vast majority of staff to have strong English language skills.

The Cranfield collaboration is through the ArmorGroup North America contract funded by the US Department of State. Initiating the work was delayed awaiting the agreement and signature on the MOU between the NRA and ArmorGroup North America. This agreement was signed on the 20 September.

Table: Donor Contributions Received since establishment of the NRA

<u>Contributions Received</u> (USD)	Funds Received During	Funds Received During	Total Funds Received
Funds through UNDP			
UNDP TRAC Resources	352,149.00	270,000.00	622,149.00
Australia	229,007.00	-	229,007.00
New Zealand	114,640.00	211,267.61	325,907.61
Switzerland(SDC)	100,000.00	500,000.00	600,000.00
USA	-	95,238.00	95,238.10
Funds Through UNICEF	-	103,440.17	103,440.17
Funds Through MAG	-	80,660.00	80,660.00
<u>Total Contributions</u>	795,796.00	1,260,605.88	2,056,401.88

NRA Expenditure in 2007

	Expenditure (USD)	Total (USD)
I. Expenditure of UNDP Funds		
Salary-National Staff	158,854.70	
Salary-Intl Staff(STA&UNVs)	235,906.77	
Travel expenditures	55,846.47	
Equipments(IT, Motorbikes,GPS)	49,462.88	
Furniture, Stationary & other Officer supplies	14,695.06	
Telephone, Postage,printing etc	15,955.13	
Maintenance of office & transport equipment & rent	33,219.21	
Sub-contract	22,750.00	
Insurance,Bank changes & sundries	12,636.48	
General Management Support Services	22,744.37	
Direct implementation Support Services	<u>24,655.11</u>	<u>646,727.18</u>
II. Expenditure of UNICEF Funds		
Monitoring and Evaluation MRE Workshop GICHD	3,383.28	
External Study trip to observe MRE activites in Cambodia	2,871.00	
Consultancy on UXO Materials Development Child Protection	24,933.00	
Printing UXO Risk message materials & risk Assessment	18,172.00	
Mine Risk Education Materials Workshop	422.00	
Office Furniture to support coodination of MRE	1,434.00	
IT Equipment	1,889.00	
Support planning and piloting intergration UXO victim statistics collection	<u>50,335.89</u>	<u>103,440.17</u>
III. Expenditure of MAG Funds		
Personnel Cost(includ. wages and training)	61,454.00	
Equipment (non-capital)	4,187.00	
MRE Materials	62.00	
Travel	3,402.00	
Runing Cost	615.00	
Insurance	5,627.00	
Project Administration	<u>5,277.00</u>	<u>80,660.00</u>
<u>Total Expenditure</u>		<u>830,827.35</u>

Lao National UXO Programme (UXO Lao)

Background

The Lao Government, with the support of UNDP, UNICEF, and other stakeholders, established the Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao) in 1996. The organisation's mandate is to (1) clear land for agriculture and other socio-economic development activities, and (2) reduce the number of UXO victims through risk education activities. UXO Lao currently operates in the nine of the most heavily impacted provinces in the country. The organisation employs more than 1,000 employees, of whom around 85% are in-field operators.

Operational Areas

1. Luang Prabang
2. Houaphan
3. Xieng Khouang
4. Khammouane
5. Savannakhet
6. Saravane
7. Sekong
8. Champassak
9. Attapeu

Key Achievements 2007

1. Clearance systems study - examined the introduction and use of new technology in clearance operations, including the adoption of the two-man drill in clearance operations and the use of mechanical brush cutters for ground preparation, enabling clearance operations to be faster.
 - a. Initiated procurement for 120 units of the Vallon VMXC1 detector.
 - b. Received a partial delivery of 60 units in December.
2. Enhanced technical Survey (ETS) study – increases productivity by adopting technical survey methods that allow discretion regarding where and how land is cleared. The study utilises information such as bomb data, historical reports, UXO impact information, and interviews with villagers. Data allows UXO Lao to: (1) classify the request as low priority and may be cleared on some future date; (2) use a roving team to clear the land; (3) use faster clearance methods (using magnetometers); (4) use normal clearance methods and standards; (5) or provide a combination of the above responses.
 - a. Trained 44 survey team members in the ETS.
 - b. Began ETS operations in the nine provinces.
3. National Senior Explosive Ordnance Disposal (SEOD) Training – builds the national capacity of the organisation and decreasing reliance on international EOD advisors.
 - a. Qualified 14 of the 20 SEOD candidates.
4. Information Management Systems for Mine Action (IMSMA) upgrade. The upgrade will allow UXO Lao to better: (1) plan, manage, report and map UXO clearance activities; (2) plan,

- manage, report and map CA activities; (3) record, report on, and map UXO victim information; (4) record, report on, and map socio-economic information; and (5) monitor progress.
- a. Acquired various IT equipment.
 - b. Conducted orientation for personnel in IMSMA.
 - c. Began upgrading of the current database to IMSMA version 5.
 - d. Trained 79 personnel in the use of the new computer equipment.
 - e. Trained 3 personnel in website development.
5. Redefining job functions of field support personnel – in order to increase productivity, medics and drivers are cross-trained as deminers and are tasked to do clearance work should there be two or more teams on a certain site. In addition, section leader functions were redefined as deminer functions.
- a. Trained 115 medics and deminers.
6. Village volunteers – increases the number of volunteers assist UXO Lao in educating villagers, especially in areas that are not readily accessible by regular Community Awareness teams.
- a. Trained 167 village volunteers and CA staff and deployed them in 5 provinces
7. UXO Lao impact assessment tool – covers pre- and post-clearance impact in an area to develop a better understanding qualitatively of the work of UXO Lao. Includes information collection on socio-economic and demographic indicators, land use (prior and intended), development programs and priorities in the area, among others.
- a. Conducted pilot-tests of the assessment tool.
8. Internal auditing – as part of the quality management initiative.
- a. Trained 41 internal auditors and deployed them to the nine provincial offices and the national headquarters.
9. Procurement
- a. Ordered a total of fifteen vehicles to replace part of the aging vehicle fleet.

Operations with relation to the 2007 work plan

1. Community awareness: **96%** (574 villages) of the 595 villages to be visited;
2. Area clearance: **108%** (2,546 hectares) of the 2,364 hectares of land to be cleared;
3. Survey tasks: **128%** (1,887 tasks) of the 1,473 tasks to be completed; and
4. Roving tasks: **91%** (1,306 tasks) of the 1,442 roving tasks scheduled.

Detailed 2007 achievements:

Prov.	CA		Survey		Roving		Clearance		Total Area	Beneficiaries
	Visits	Benef.	Vil.	Tasks	Vil.	Tasks	Agriculture	Others		
LP	63	20,623	67	117	48	70	183.72	29.8472	213.5683	19,035
HP	52	14,944	95	233	59	107	202.89	7.8085	210.7023	14,126
XK	104	15,392	198	271	187	244	429.91	16.4901	446.3987	34,107
KH	49	15,089	99	143	49	83	149.38	60.9734	210.3503	19,061
SVK	70	15,794	157	254	127	159	353.23	30.7873	384.0200	4,487
SL	53	14,392	130	158	133	200	249.13	54.4848	303.6100	23,611
SK	45	6,949	78	92	34	64	212.77	30.8300	243.6015	16,746
CH	85	16,452	220	501	200	330	249.86	35.6149	285.4751	166,280
AT	53	25,151	82	118	42	49	154.22	94.8042	249.0267	45,574
Total	574	144,786	1,126	1,887	879	1,306	2,185.1125	361.6404	2,546.7529	343,027

Key: LP- Luang Prabang; HP-Houaphan; XK-Xieng Khouang; KH-Khammonane; SVK-Savannakhet; SL-Saravane; SK-Sekong; CH-Champassak; AT-Attapeu

Training

Course	Course count	Number of participants
	1	12
CA village volunteers	5	155
CA staff course	2	12
SEOD assessments	4	115
Basic deminer course	2	18
Medic refresher course	1	25
PC meeting	1	41
Internal auditors course	2	4
IMSMA orientation course	1	26
Technical working group	2	33
Survey training course	5	79
IT training course	1	14
Financial/Budget course	1	9
Vehicle management course	1	1
Project management course	1	3
Website development course		

Personnel

Description	National	International	Total
Office staff	180	4	184
Field staff	833	4	838
TOTAL	1,013	8	1,022

Implementing Partners

1. ArmorGroup North America
2. Japan Mine Action Service
3. Mines Advisory Group

Donor Contributions

Donor		2007
Through the UXO Trust Fund for Lao PDR		
AusAID	USD	254,237
Germany	USD	453,106
Ireland	USD	720,461
Ireland(MAG)	USD	429,257
Japan 1	USD	(63,347)
Japan 2	USD	875,239
JMAS	USD	549,047
JAIF	USD	913,264
Luxembourg	USD	340, 599
Poland	USD	11,100
Switzerland	USD	1,059,955
United Kingdom	USD	27,027
United Kingdom	USD	206,612
USA	USD	154,726
USA	USD	842,757
USA	USD	86,894
UNDP	USD	4,878
UNDP	USD	349,973
Others	USD	(39,635)
TOTAL THROUGH TF	USD	7,176,150

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

In 2007, UXO LAO spent a total of USD 5,984,829 as follows:

Personnel Costs	USD	2,894,297
Operation Costs	USD	979,128
Special Operation Costs	USD	253,110
Non-expendable Equipment	USD	1,160,504
Expendable Equipment	USD	462,069
UNDP Admin costs	USD	235,722
TOTAL	USD	5,984,829

Mines Advisory Group (MAG)

Background

MAG has been operational in Lao PDR since 1994. Drawing on this extensive experience, MAG Lao continues to develop its approach to UXO clearance, and is striving to be the leading Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) innovator in the country.

MAG Lao is committed to increasing productivity, and has undertaken numerous studies and trials over recent years. For example, MAG is the only UXO clearance operator to have trialled the use of Explosive Detection Dogs (EDD) in Lao PDR and to have piloted the use of mechanically assisted clearance. MAG is also setting up systems to collect pre and post development impact indicators, against which the effectiveness of UXO clearance resources and MAG's contribution to poverty reduction can be measured.

MAG's work in the Lao PDR is directly linked to the Government of Lao PDR's National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy (NGPES) and the Government's overarching goal of removing Lao PDR from the list of Least Developed Countries by 2020.

MAG also works closely with development partners to ensure that UXO clearance is coupled with development activities.

MAG actively involves communities in the clearance process, via Community Liaison (CL) teams, and hires members of the most vulnerable households as part of the Village Assisted Clearance methodology. Staff are also locally recruited where possible. This enables MAG to better address issues related to ethnicity and gender; 35 percent of all staff are female. MAG Lao is committed to capacity building and appropriate training opportunities are provided to staff.

Key Achievements 2007

Growth

The MAG Lao programme grew considerably in 2007, with the formation of six completely new UXO clearance teams. A total of 11 teams were in operation during the year, including two all-female teams (one in Khammouane and one in Xieng Khouang). All teams are made up of a Team Leader, a Deputy Team Leader, eight technicians, two Medics, two Community Liaison personnel and two drivers.

The expansion of the programme was significant because it enabled MAG to increase UXO clearance support provided to development partners. Such partnerships help communities to get the most from cleared land. Following clearance, our partners and the communities can safely work together on projects related to food security, livelihoods, health and education.

Community Liaison

MAG's unique Community Liaison (CL) teams are central to MAG's approach. Using Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) techniques, the CL teams work with communities in order to facilitate the identification and prioritisation of clearance tasks. They also liaise with the UXO clearance teams and the local authorities, to ensure that key stakeholders are consulted and informed.

Village Assistance Clearance (VAC)

MAG utilises the Village Assistance Clearance (VAC) methodology whenever possible. This involves hiring community members to remove vegetation from task sites prior to clearance work and other support tasks. VAC teams are recruited from the most vulnerable households in each community, and are thoroughly trained in the appropriate methods of vegetation removal. Using local labour provides an income-generating opportunity for the community.

Clearance Methodology

MAG uses UXO methodologies and technologies designed specifically for UXO clearance, rather than those used for mine clearance. For example we now use the CEIA MIL D1 Deep Search detector which is specifically designed to detect UXO. This newly developed but proven detection technology provides superior performance in the areas of detection distance, soil compensation capability and immunity to external interference. The detector can also 'filter out' metal objects smaller than the minimum clearance target set by the draft National Standards for the sector (a half BLU at 25cm). This reduces the number of detector readings that need to be investigated, and thus increases clearance rates.

Post Clearance Impact Assessment

In striving to better understand the overall impact of clearance activities, MAG Lao has developed tools to conduct *Post Clearance Impact Assessments*. Training has been provided to Community Liaison personnel, who will start to carry out such assessments in 2008.

Operations

- Community Liaison and Survey visited 138 villages, reaching 26,081 people, over 100 % of the annual target.
- Roving clearance teams conducted 312 roving tasks in 123 villages. They destroyed a total of 2,510 items of UXO (10 big bombs, 1,746 bombies and 754 other items of UXO).
- Area clearance teams cleared more than 350 hectares of land (over 100 % of the annual target). In doing so, they destroyed 13,299 items of UXO (two large bombs, 11,117 bombies and 2,180 other items of UXO).

The clearance and community liaison activities carried out in 2007 has helped MAG in working towards its goal of helping the Government of Lao PDR to reduce poverty and help to provide opportunities for people of attain better livelihoods. However, as post impact clearance assessments will first be carried out in 2008, the true affects will not be known until this time. However, as per the case study below the positive impacts of our clearance activities are quite evident.

Communities: leading MAG's clearance process

'My family could only grow enough rice to eat for eight months of the year,' recalls Mr. Xiengnyon, a farmer from Phanop village in Khammouane province.

For this reason, when MAG came to clear Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) in this village, Mr. Xiengnyong's family were one of several prioritized by the community through the Community Liaison (CL) process.

Almost 15% of MAG Lao’s field staff are members of CL teams, dedicated to ensuring that communities are consulted and involved throughout the UXO clearance process. One of the main jobs of these teams is to help communities select and prioritize land for clearance. Several criteria are used, including the need to assist the poorest families first, the planned use of the land and the extent and impact of UXO contamination.



The solution to Mr. Xiengnyon’s food shortage should have been simple to expand rice production into new fields. But he saw one of his neighbors killed by UXO while ploughing a new field - Khammouane remains littered with UXO, more than 30 years after the last bombs were dropped.

Instead, to feed his five children, Mr. Xiengnyon collected scrap metal, which he then sold in order to buy rice. Collecting scrap leftover from the war is one of the few ways to earn an income in this part of Khammouane, and has become a common cause of UXO accidents.

When MAG cleared the land for his new field, 16 cluster bomb submunitions (or ‘bombies’ as they are known in Lao) and 54 bullets were found.

This year, Mr. Xiengnyon’s family grew enough rice to last the year – for the first time ever. So far, he has only planted rice on half of the land; he hopes to produce a surplus in 2008 that he can sell.

‘I hope that MAG can continue to help those remaining families whose land is still contaminated,’ says Mr. Xiengnyon.

Case study by Phaiphanom Malavong

Project: ‘Humanitarian UXO clearance in Khammouane Province’, funded by the European Commission

5.4 Training

Training Course	No. of Courses conducted	Graduates
UXO Clearance	1	59
Medic Review	2	25
Motorbike training CL	1	16
Post clearance assessment CL	1	19
General, Area, spot UXO survey CL	1	16
TOTAL	8	87

Personnel

Description	National	International	Total
UXO Clearance personnel	125	5	130
Survey personnel	19	1	20
VAC	2,312	0	2,312
Support	61	5	66
TOTAL	2,514	11	2,525

5.6 Implementing Partners

- In 2007, MAG's post-clearance partners included the World Food Programme, Lao Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Triangle, UNESCO and International Relief and Development.
- In addition, one MAG technical adviser is on secondment to the NRA's MRE unit, and another technical adviser is on secondment to UXO Lao in Houaphan province.

Donor Contributions

Donor

2007

MAG Lao was generously funded by the following donors in 2007

Humpty Dumpty Institute (USDoA)	USD	1,400,000
European Union	USD	600,000
DFID	USD	903,332
Irish Aid (TA to UXO Lao)	USD	605,000
Jersey Overseas Aid Commission (JOAC)	USD	161,460
Government of the United States (DOS PM/WRA)	USD	865,643
JAIF	USD	136,665
UNESCO (NZAid)	USD	330,995
UNICEF	USD	24,933
UNDP	USD	30,823
Other Smaller Grants	USD	77,164
TOTAL	USD	5,136,005

Expenditure

In 2007, MAG spent a total of USD 4,587,974 as follows:

Personnel Costs	USD	2,102,308
Operation Costs	USD	1,205,293
Special Operation Costs	USD	2,613
Non-expendable Equipment	USD	767,115
Expendable Equipment	USD	510,645
TOTAL	USD	4,587,974

Handicap International Belgium (HIB)

Context

Lao PDR is easily the world's most heavily UXO-contaminated nation. During the war of 1963-1975, extensive aerial bombing and ground battles led to more than 2 million tons of ordnance being dropped on the country, with up to 30 percent not detonating on impact. Bombing records and results from the Socio-Economic Impact Survey carried out by HIB in 1996 indicate that over 87,000 square kilometers of land could be contaminated which still causes death and injury more than 30 years after the war ended.

Savannakhet province is the most severely affected by UXO in Lao PDR. The districts that are the focus of the intervention, were the most severely affected within the province. These remote areas suffer from a combination of isolation and poor communication infrastructure that deteriorated even more during the rainy season with most villages becoming very difficult, or in some cases impossible to access. Because of this combination and a low population density the villages have been relegated in the order of priority for clearance and risk education. To further compound the problem civilians collect items of ordnance for their value as scrap metal or the explosives they contain. 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 aimed to reduce these risks to the local population through an integrated programme of UXO clearance and risk education activities.

Summary of activities and accomplishments in 2007

During 2007, HIB completed the final period of a 2-year European Community funded program entitled "Integrated UXO Threat Reduction Program" in Lao PDR. Over the course of the year, there has been a significant, long term improvement to the lives of the people in the target areas and an enhanced well being of people in UXO afflicted communities.

Overall the action has been:

- Relevant - the objectives set for the programme were consistent with government policies and the requirements of the beneficiaries;
- Effective – HIB achieved the planned objectives and enhanced the wellbeing of people in UXO afflicted communities
- Sustainable – the benefits to the people and communities will last well beyond the life of the action.

In 2006, World Vision commenced a Food Security project in Savannakhet Province without dedicated clearance support. World Vision requested cooperation from HIB to clear UXO in the districts of Nong and Sepon thereby enabling HIB to fulfil its mandate of supporting a development organisation. The World Vision food security project was mainly supported in Sepon district as these tasks were less prone to being rendered inaccessible during the rainy season. World Vision were grateful and appreciative of the support from the HIB action without which many of their planned activities for expanding rice paddy for villagers would not have been feasible. Support was also provided to local authorities and communities outside of the World Vision tasks. These tasks were usually at the request of the District Authorities and in line with District development plans.

HIB UXO clearance operations 2007

25 villages had been supported in 2007 with UXO clearance to support Nong District Authorities, World Vision, BTC and HIB target villages in Nong District.

Selection of beneficiaries and prioritisation of tasks were based on several criteria as follows:

- The development plans of provincial and district government including the district level development plans for poverty alleviation and socio economic development.
- Data and information on the impact of UXO in villages of Sepon and Nong collected from the HIB Risk Education (RE) team (using level one RE village visit reports).
- Poor and food insecure households with limited land for production (from Participatory Rural Appraisal techniques conducted by World Vision and secondary data collection in World Vision target villages).
- Villagers who had insufficient land for rice paddy and requested an extension of land for rice production.
- Villagers with a clear commitment and intention to use the land after clearance by HIB.

Work plans were formulated on a monthly basis which were approved by the UXO Program Coordinator and District officials and shared with the National Regulatory Authority in Vientiane. Work plans were used to manage the operations and to monitor progress throughout the duration of the action. They were also used to plan support requirements for the operations.

HIB Roving tasks 2007

During 2007, HIB dedicated one section to roving clearance tasks for one week every month. This level of intervention was decided based upon the need to balance our commitment to area clearance and yet still present a credible resource for roving tasks.

Prior to conducting roving tasks, a level two survey was undertaken. Roving sections visited 19 villages and destroyed 630 UXO including 112 aircraft bombs, during 2007.

Area Clearance tasks 2007

Area clearance tasks focused on those that dealt with both surface and subsurface UXOs over a specific area clearing land for a specific purpose where land is more urgently needed for agriculture or development. A survey of the area was completed before each task.

These results far exceeded expectations. The results for the area clearance in 2007 were:

- 228425 m² of land cleared
- 815 UXO destroyed
- 5303 beneficiaries.

Post clearance site handover

After clearing the land, level three surveys were completed for each task and the subsequent hand over of the cleared land was undertaken. Level three surveys accurately recorded the clearance of land and provided a permanent record of the work done. These reports were verified by quality control (QC) checks following HIB Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). After satisfactory QC checks on the cleared land the land was formally handed over to those authorities that were going to use it. Handover “ceremonies” were conducted with different parties, including representatives of the village, the beneficiary, representatives from World Vision and BTC and representatives from HIB. Site handover certificates were provided for all cleared sites.

Post clearance impact assessments were carried out at 6 months and one year after clearance. This involved the UXO Program team carrying out a systematic check on the cleared land. UXO Program staff provided reports to the UXO Coordinator detailing the use of the land.

Medical procedures

Clearance and roving tasks progressed safely and efficiently with no obstacles of either a physical or official nature. Zero incidents occurred during and after clearance or roving tasks. Basic and emergency medical support was available to the whole population of villages where HIB has been operating in all villages in the 3 selected target districts. HIB responded to medical emergencies including an accident involving a vehicle and a pregnant woman who had very serious uncontrollable bleeding while giving birth. Also HIB provided transportation from remote villages to the District Hospital on numerous occasions.

Quality Management (QM)

Quality management was an essential part of the program. Principles of the Project QM involved a focus on communities most at risk, an understanding of the current and future needs of the UXO affected communities and identifying and addressing their needs in a cost effective way. To do this HIB used both quantitative and qualitative information to make decisions before choices were made to commit clearance resources helping the communities most at risk and reducing death and injuries. Team Leaders and Section Commanders were responsible to carry out QC on clearance work done under their supervision, and ensure that their subordinates know what is expected from them in terms of the use of technical equipment and when handling UXO or Explosives following the SOPs. In addition to these checks the Team Leaders and Section Commanders monitored the work of the Demining Technicians to ensure that clearance is carried out in such a manner to ensure that 100% of the area to be cleared, is covered, and that clearance is being carried out in a manner to ensure that the required standard is being achieved. As well as checking the quality of the work, the Team Leaders and Section Commanders had the responsibility to ensure that the requirements of SOP's were being followed and that the standards of safety were being maintained. External QC Checks by TSCOM were conducted to monitor the standard of the work being carried out and to check compliance with SOP's. Additionally, in the case of completed area clearance tasks, QC checks are made to confirm to the end users of the land that the land has actually been cleared to the standards stated in the hand over certificate. The UXO Project Coordinator conducted regular external QC checks similar to those conducted by the project technical and direct supervisors

Risk Education (RE) Operations

RE staff trained 36 Community Based RE Volunteers (CBREV) thus providing a permanent presence in 12 villages in each of the 3 target districts. These volunteers were trained to help identify risky behaviors, provide and elicit community support for new ideas and changes, offer safe alternatives and liaise with development partners to enhance communication between communities and other stakeholders. Needs assessments were conducted in each district before the volunteers were selected and trained. Since then participatory activities have taken place in 36 villages of Sepon, Nong and Vilabuly to provide information and identify local solutions to risk taking behaviour regarding UXO.

CBREV have been instrumental in discovering and providing information regarding existing and new UXO victims in the target area. This has been valuable to the Victim Assistance (VA) Technical Working Group (TWG) of the NRA in highlighting deficiencies in the victim reporting system. The results of RE have been:

- 3 district needs assessments completed in 36 villages
- 36 CBREV recruited and trained in 3 district workshops (each of 4 days duration)

- Community activities undertaken in 36 villages
- 8887 people have participated in community RE activities consisting of 5914 adults and 2,973 children.

Coordination

During the action the coordination between HIB and all levels of authority was excellent. Coordination has taken place at all levels: village, district, provincial and NRA. HIB representatives attended all 3 of the sector TWG (clearance, RE and VA) together with relevant workshops and conferences at the national level.

Training and support

In accordance with SOP, periods of training have been undertaken to ensure safety and to pass on amendments to SOP and systems. Refresher training has taken place especially with regard to medical and casualty evacuation procedures. In 2007, HIB conducted de-mining technical training for 3 trainee produced and medical training to 3 medics.

External Evaluation

An external evaluation was conducted in March 2007 (14 months after the MoU was signed) by an international consultant highly experienced in mine action and evaluation of EC mine action projects. The overall conclusion was good with only minor recommendations that have been either addressed or responded to. The external evaluation document was distributed to the EC Delegation, MoFA, NRA and HIB HQ Brussels.

Lesson Learned

There is still a need to:

- initiate a system of post clearance surveys to determine whether the land and facilities cleared are (i) being used (ii) in the expected manner (iii) by the intended beneficiaries and (iv) without undue delays. More attention must be applied to monitoring and reporting on post-clearance land use.
- have an improved understanding especially by RE project staff of monitoring and evaluation methods and the relation to logframe indicators.

Conclusions and recommendations

During 2007 HIB has successfully conducted activities in the field, facilitating coordinated, collaborative programming. Funds have been allocated transparently and responsibly.

UXO area clearance has been maximised in support of rural development agencies and the district authorities. Roving tasks have been focused on disposing of all reported UXO in targeted villages to remove risk, especially to women and children. RE is proving to be an innovative and nationally sustainable intervention through the use of village volunteers, leaving a permanent and trained presence in each village.

Future Funding

HIB approached alternate major donors and in January 2008 signed a contract for a nine month extension of activities from AUSAID bridging funding from the Humanitarian and Emergency Fund. The AUSAID funding would allow time to answer calls for proposals and explore other opportunities for multi-year funding.

Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD)

Background

The Swiss Foundation for Mine Action's (FSD's) UXO Clearance Programme in Lao PDR was established in 2005 and FSD has been carrying out UXO clearance in Savannakhet province since January 2006 and Sekong province since May 2007.

FSD's UXO clearance primarily supports the World Food Programme (WFP), however FSD does support other organisations. FSD carried out UXO clearance in support of the International Management Group's (IMG's) maternity waiting homes project late in 2007. FSD also did some UXO survey work for CARE Australia during 2007, prior to FSD fully supporting CARE in 2008.

In addition to its UXO clearance activities, FSD provides support to Lao National UXO/Mine Action agencies. Examples of this include the management of a Senior Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician's Course for UXO LAO in 2006, and the writing of National Standards for the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) in 2007.

In the short time that it has been working in Lao PDR, FSD has established itself as an innovative and professional UXO clearance organisation within the UXO/Mine Action sector.

Operational Areas

FSD conducted UXO clearance in Savannakhet and Sekong during 2007:

- a. Savannakhet. FSD worked in Sepone, Nong, Phine and Vilabuly Districts. All of these Districts are classified as very poor.
- b. Sekong. FSD worked in Kaleum, Dakcheung, Lamarm and Thateng Districts. Kaleum and Dakcheung Districts are classified as very poor.

Key Achievements

Throughout 2007 there was a continual improvement in FSD's operations, which was highlighted by a continual increase in clearance outputs (tasks completed and areas cleared) throughout the year. The factors that contributed to these improvements include:

- a. The availability of qualified and experienced Team Leaders as a result of training in March/ April 2007.
- b. The provision of vehicles and detection equipment following the approval of the FSD MOUs in April 2007.
- c. Better coordination with the WFP, local Government of Lao PDR officials and the beneficiary communities.
- d. Continued refinement and improvement to FSD's clearance methodologies.
- e. Improvements in FSD's survey capability.
- f. Continued development of the knowledge and skill of national staff through training and practical experience.

Development of National Standards (NS)

From August 2006 to February 2007, FSD provided Technical Advisor (TA) support to the NRA for the development of National Standards (NS). On 1 Feb 07 the final draft 24 chapters of NS and support documents were formally handed over to the NRA.

Development of the NRA Database and Information Management Systems

From September 2006 to September 2007 FSD provided TA support to the NRA to develop its database and information management systems. During this period the FSD TA provided training for the NRA database section, information technology support to the UXO/Mine Action sector in general and assisted the NRA by:

- a. Developing and implementing systems for the internal handling of reports.
- b. Establishing filing systems to maintain information relevant to each village in Lao PDR
- c. Developing the NRA website (<http://www.nra.gov.la>).
- d. Obtaining the most up-to-date and 'relevant to UXO/Mine Action' datasets for the database. Most of the data sets were provided to the GICHD for inclusion with IMSMA.
- e. Researching the availability of additional data to improve the functionality of the database.

Operations

FSD's operational outputs for 2007 are shown below.

Surveys

150 survey visits were made to 89 villages. UXO located during these surveys include:

Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	Total
12	79	0	98	189

Roving Operations

41 roving visits were made to 21 villages. The following table shows the UXO removed/destroyed:

Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	Total
25	355	0	369	749

Area Clearance

FSD area clearance teams completed 130 tasks, 127 for the WFP and 3 for the maternity waiting homes project. Clearance outputs were:

Tasks	Land Released		Beneficiaries
	Agricultural Land m²	Development Land m²	
130	53,418	186,563	11,660

During these operations FSD teams disposed of the following UXO:

Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	Total
3	356	2	423	784

As a result of FSD's operations, WFP food for work tasks were able to be undertaken by villagers in the very poor districts of Savannakhet and Sekong.

For the 11,579 beneficiaries of this work, food security risks were reduced and the beneficiaries' capacities to sustain and develop themselves was improved.

Three tasks were completed for the maternity waiting homes project in Thateng District, Sekong Province permitting income generating projects to be implemented by expectant mothers.

Training

FSD conducted the following training during 2007:

Course	Duration	Graduates
GIS Refresher	4 days	3
HIV Awareness	0.5 days	34
Medic Venom Pump	0.5 days	5
Team Leader's Course (Level 3)	30 days	6
WFP GPS Operator's Course	2 days	10
Deminer's Course	24 days	17
Medic's Course	25 days	5
GIS Training	8 days	2
CARE GPS/Satellite Communications Operator's Course	2 days	4
Totals	96 days	86

FSD also sent one Lao SEOD Technician to Denmark for a five day communications and information technology equipment course.

7.6 Personnel

The following tables show FSD's personnel numbers during 2007. During May 2007 FSD commenced its operations in Sekong Province:

Jan 07 to Apr 07

Description	National	International	Total
UXO Clearance Personnel	29	2	31
Survey Personnel	3	0	3
Support Staff	15	2	17

May 07 to Dec 07

Description	National	International	Total
UXO Clearance Personnel	44	2	46
Survey Personnel	5	0	5
Support Staff	22	2	24
Totals	71	4	75

Implementing Partners

During 2007 FSD worked with:

- a. The NRA. FSD provided TA support to the NRA for the development of NS and the development of the NRA database and information management systems.
- b. The WFP. FSD provided UXO clearance in support of the WFP in Savannakhet and Sekong provinces. Up until March 2007 FSD supported the WFP Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations (PRRO) 10319.0 and then from April 2007, FSD supported the WFP's PRRO 10566.0.
- c. International Management Group (IMG). FSD provided UXO clearance support to the IMG for its maternity waiting homes project in Thateng District of Sekong Province.
- d. CARE Australia. FSD has been working with CARE since January 2007 assisting with the development of their project titled *Reducing UXO Risk and Improving Livelihoods of Ethnic Communities in Sekong Province*. FSD conducted some preliminary surveys in support of this project late in 2007.

Donors

FSD's operations in 2007 were funded by the following donors:

- a. Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). AusAID has supported FSD since the start of its programme in Lao PDR in 2005. AusAID principally supports the Savannakhet UXO clearance and HQ elements of the programme. AusAID also funded the FSD TA support to the NRA project.

- b. US State Dept, PM/WRA Program. The US State Dept has supported FSD since July 2007 with their contributions initially supporting FSD's operations in Khammouane province and later in Sekong province.
- c. The Swiss Canton of Geneva provided unearmarked funding to FSD that was used to support of the Savannakhet UXO clearance project.
- d. FSD also received funding during 2007 from the AusAID LANGOCA project. This funding is for work in 2008.

Donor Contributions

During 2007, FSD received the following new donor contributions:

Donor	Contribution	Project
AusAID	USD 587,439	UXO clearance for WFP, Savannakhet
US State Dept, PM/WRA Program	USD 301,260	UXO clearance for WFP, Sekong
Swiss Canton of Geneva	USD 84,972	UXO clearance for WFP, Savannakhet
AusAID LANGOCA.	USD 130,918	CARE support, Sekong, to start in 2008
Total	USD 1,104,589	

In addition to the funding shown in the table above, FSD continued to use funds received from AusAID in 2006 to continue with the NRA support project (completed in September 2007).

Expenditure

FSD's unaudited expenditure during 2007 was as follows:

Category	Cost (USD)
Personnel Costs	USD 744,727
Equipment Capital	USD 62,306
Equipment Consumables	USD 37,300
Vehicle Consumables	USD 63,054
Office Costs	USD 50,367
Indirect HQ Support	USD 65,639
Total	USD 1,023,393

Phoenix Clearance Ltd. (PCL)

Background

Phoenix Clearance Ltd (PCL) is a privately owned company specialising in the field of Landmine/Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) clearance. PCL in Lao PDR has the capability to perform all manner of clearance tasks with nothing being too big nor too small. PCL staff has 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.

Operations

Emergency Response Team

During 2007 the PCL Emergency Response Team (ERT) destroyed 709 items of ordnance, including 1 x 500lb HE bomb, 405 x Bombies and 303 other items of ordnance ranging from grenades, mortars and rockets.

The ERT responds to villagers needs in eighteen Target Nam Theun Resettlement Villages on the Nakai Plateau, Khammouane province. It is envisaged that the team will be there until at least 2009.

Community Awareness Team

As an adjunct to the Emergency Response Team, the PCL Community Awareness staff performs a variety of tasks intended to develop villagers' understanding of the risks associated with UXO and to promote safe behaviors when ordnance is encountered. To this end, the CA staff has developed posters, display boxes, photo displays and videos that communicate essential safety messages. The CA staff frequently visits with individuals and families in their homes and has also held village-wide meetings. Staff frequently visit village schools and have a strong working relationship with all teachers and are well known to students throughout the many villages.

The CA staff provides workshops on risk education concepts for specialized groups such as teachers, agricultural workers, district community development specialists, and employees of various NGO's. The CA staff maintains ongoing communication with high-risk groups such as scrap dealers and forestry workers.

Clearance Teams

The clearance teams searched and cleared more than 353 hectares of land and destroyed 429 items of ordnance, including two 500lb HE bombs, 302 bombies, 6 Anti Personnel Mines and 119 other pieces of ordnance.

Staffing Levels 2007

Description	National Staff	International Staff
UXO Clearance Personnel	PCL staff levels varied from over 200 to 40 depending on type and size of task	4
Survey Personnel	As required	
MRE Personnel	7	1
Vientiane Support Staff	6	

PCL Clients During 2007

- **Nam Theun Power Company**
Village Resettlement Area UXO Clearance Large Scale
- **Nam Theun Power Company**
Community UXO Education and UXO Response Teams 3 years
- **China Cable Corporation**
273 kilometers High Tension power line construction UXO clearance
- **BURAPHA Group, Vientiane**
Area UXO clearance for forestry industry Large Scale
- **Nam Theun Power Company**
Village Area UXO Clearance for wells, toilets and animal pens in support of the NT 2 Resettlement programme
- **Nam Theun Power Company**
UXO Clearance for Hydrological Measuring stations on the NT 2 Dam

Milsearch-BPKP EOD Joint Venture Limited

Background

Milsearch-BPKP EOD Joint Venture Limited is a Lao registered company established between the Australian company, Milsearch Pty Ltd, and the Lao Ministry of Defence group Bolisat Phathana Khet Phoudoi (BPKP) in 1997. However, the Companies worked together on UXO clearance in Lao prior to this date under a teaming agreement from 1993 to 1997. Some two years ago ownership of BPKP, including their shareholding in Milsearch-BPKP, was transferred from the Ministry of Defence to the Lao Prime Minister's Department.

As a commercial company Milsearch-BPKP undertakes UXO/Mine clearance on behalf of private developers, Government infrastructure projects (funded through various agencies) and humanitarian projects. In its 14 years of continuous operation in Lao, Milsearch-BPKP has successfully completed over 50 UXO clearance projects and together with its parent parents company Milsearch, over 90 projects in the South East Asia and South Pacific regions.

Key Achievements 2007

During 2007 Milsearch-BPKP revised its Standard Operating Procedures, Quality Management Plan, Occupational Health and Safety, Human Relations Policy, Environmental Plan and Training Management Packages to conform to the new National Standard.

The Company was pleased to be the first commercial or humanitarian organization to be granted full accreditation by the Lao National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine action in the Lao PDR

Operations

- A Level 2 Survey was conducted on behalf of the J-Power Consortium on a section of the Nam Theum 2 transmission line easement known to be contaminated with antitank and antipersonnel mines. The Survey showed the easement was mine contaminated for a depth of 325 meters across its full width of 40 meters. Indeed local knowledge and visual evidence appears to indicate that the minefield extends from the Nam Xi (river) north to limestone karsts over a distance of some 900 meters.

During the Survey 115 explosive ordnance items were found and destroyed including one bomb aircraft 500lb, four bomblets, 35 landmines and 75 other items of UXO. Due to the high levels of ordnance fragmentation, domestic scrap around defensive trench lines, rusted down barbed wire, etc. clearance to the required metal free standard will be difficult and time consuming.

- Safeguarding on project personnel conducting survey and geological assessments in UXO contaminated areas was also provided to EDF for the Nam Gniep Project and Argonaut Resources for gold exploration.

- Area clearance operations were conducted on behalf of:
 - LXML Sepon Gold and Copper Project-Savannakhet province
 - Phu Bia Mining Limited-Xieng Khouang Province & Saysomboune region
 - J-Power Consortium (Nam Then 2 Hydropower Project-Khammouane province
 - Italian-Thai-(Nam Then 2 Hydropower Project-Khammouane province
 - CR WRC-Xieng Khouang province
 - Ord River Resources – Champassak province
 - UNDP Khoun Radio Tower-Xieng Khouang province

Area search and cleared amounted to some 617 hectares of land. Within the searched areas 4,435 items of UXO including 14 large aircraft bombs 2,728 bomblets, 7 mines and 1,686 other items of UXO.

9.4 Training

Training courses for Lao staff included:

Course	No. of Courses Conducted	No. of Graduates
EOD Technician Level 2	3	30
Trauma Medic	1	12
Total	4	42

Personnel

The number of field staff employed varied depending on the contracts being undertaken at a particular time. Average numbers for the year were:

Description	National	International	Total
UXO Clearance personnel	230	9	239
Support staff	17	3	20
Total:	247	12	259

In addition to the above a large number of personnel were employed from local communities for vegetation cutting and camp domestic duties.

Implementing Partners (Client's)

- LXML Sepon Gold and Copper Project-Savannakhet Province
- Phu Bia Mining Limited-Xieng Khouang Province & Saysomboune Region
- J-Power Consortium (Nam Then 2 Hydropower Project-Khammouane Province
- Italian-Thai-(Nam Then 2 Hydropower Project-Khammouane Province
- CR WRC-Xieng Khouang Province
- Ord River Resources – Champassak Province
- UNDP Khoun Radio Tower-Xieng Khouang Province

World Education/Consortium in the Lao PDR

UXO Education and Awareness Project

Background

World Education Laos (also known as World Education/Consortium in the Lao PDR) is a field office of World Education Inc, a non profit organization based in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. For more information about World Education's programs around the world please go to World Education Boston's website www.worlded.org.

World Education has operated in Laos since 1992, under agreements with the Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Health.

World Education Laos works with rural communities in nine provinces of Laos in the fields of health, education, income generation and microfinance. Each of these nine provinces remains heavily impacted by unexploded ordnance and land mines. World Education works to reduce the impact of these explosive remnants of war by improving the quality of health care services, increasing access to education, and promoting sustainable livelihoods for accident survivors and poor communities living in UXO contaminated areas.

World Education Laos' programs are funded by USAID, the US Department of State (PM/WRA and INL), the McKnight Foundation, and other private foundations and contributions.

Key Achievements for 2007

The supplementary curriculum on UXO Education and Awareness was developed by World Education, in cooperation with Lao government partners in the Department of Formal Education, Ministry of Education. The curriculum consists of 10 hours of instruction for students in Grades 1-3, and 12 hours for students in Grades 4-5 on UXO awareness and MRE.

In addition to the curriculum and lesson plans, WEC provides supplementary material (posters and story books), and support for local puppetry troupes in each of the target schools involved in the Project.

The UXO Education and Awareness project is implemented in 37 districts of the nine Lao provinces most heavily impact by UXO.

For the school year 2007, the supplementary curriculum on UXO/MRE was taught at 1,761 primary schools by 4,884 teachers to 151,144 students.

In 2007, the Project expanded to new schools in following four districts;

- Xaybuathong district, Khammouane province
- Tahpangthong district, Savannakhet province
- Xaisaytha and Samakhixay districts, Attapeu province

In addition, the Project expanded to new schools in 16 current Project districts in 2007.

Some of the key events to take place in the 2007 school year include:

- Organized UXO education and awareness events in the 37 target districts alongside International Children's Day.

UXO Sector Annual Report 2007

- Held an annual coordination and planning meeting for 42 representatives from all target provinces in July 2007.
- Provided teacher packets including lesson plans, posters, and books to 2,048 teachers in the four new and 16 expansion districts for 2007.
- Signed an official Memorandum of Understanding for extension of the Project until September 2008.
- Organized training activities for 541 new teachers in the four new and 16 expansion districts in September and October, 2007.
- Conducted pre-testing of students in the four new and 16 expansion districts for the Project.
- Arranged monitoring and evaluation meetings for more than 2,200 teachers in the four new and 16 expansion districts participating in the Project in November and December. WE staff also conducted capacity building exercises for new teachers involved in the Project.

Personnel

The following personnel are assigned full or part-time to the Project by World Education. The Project works closely with more than 100 officials for the 9 PESs and 37 DEBs participating in the UXO Education and Awareness Project.

Description	National	International	Total
Office staff	3	2	5
Field Staff	4		4
Total			9

Implementing Partners

World Education/Consortium has a formal Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Education to implement the UXO Education and Awareness Project. The official implementing partner of WEC is the Department of Formal Education/Ministry of Education.

The Project is implemented in cooperation with:

- 9 provinces;
- 37 districts;
- 1,761 primary schools;
- 4,884 teachers; and,
- 151,144 students.

Donor Contributions

The Project is funded by the US Department of State, PM/WRA. For the 2007 school year, the total contribution to direct field expenses was \$120,000 USD.

UXO and Landmine Accident Victims Assistance Program

Background

World Education's UXO Survivor Assistance Programming started in 1996 in Xieng Khouang province. The Program assists UXO accident victims directly after a UXO accident with emergency and continuing medical care. In 2006, the Project to Support War Victims and People with Disabilities started working to upgrade emergency medical services in the Regional Hospital and two district hospitals in Champassak and with the Province Hospital and seven district hospitals in Saravane Province.

Key Achievements for 2007

Medical Services Upgrading in Saravane and Champasak Provinces (July 2006 - July 2008)

Geographic Area:

Saravane: Province Hospital and District Hospitals in seven districts (Sa-Moi, Ta-Oi, Tum Lanh, Vapy, Lakornpheng, Khongxedon and Lao Ngam)

Champasak: Regional Hospital and two district hospitals (Bachieng, Paksong)

Activities:

Capacity Building for Hospital Staff

1. Trained 81 government officials in Project management (training in needs assessment, planning and evaluation), pharmacy and equipment management and, hospital equipment services management and repair.
2. Training of trainers support for 20 provincial level doctors and nurses. On-the-job support in assisting Saravane Province and Pakse Regional Hospital trainers to design training courses, write lesson plans and put together training manuals.
3. Medical Training:
 - a. Surgical Team trainings - one three-person team training from Saravane at Pakse Regional Hospital, and surgical assisting team from Ta-Oi which trained in Saravane for six months. 6 people
 - b. Nursing management and technical skills training at province and district hospitals - including first aid, CPR, and improving the nursing services of the hospitals: 79 people
 - c. Emergency room medical staff training in Vientiane, Saravane and Pakse Regional Hospital. Number of people trained: 10 people
 - d. Rehabilitation services for pre- and post-operative care. People trained: 12
 - e. Study tour to Xieng Khouang: 15 people

War Victims Medical Fund

Geographic Area: Xieng Khouang, Houaphan, Savannakhet, Saravane and Champassak provinces

War Victims Medical Fund:

This fund is co-managed by the Department of Health in each province and by World Education staff, with funds that are raised privately. Each province committee determines its own organization structure and meets quarterly. It creates a policy based on the local circumstances of the province. The policy in each province defines the level of assistance in the areas of providing medicine, transportation, other medical costs, and living expenses. The technical staff provide care for UXO survivors when they are in the hospital and provide all documentation to World Education when the patient leaves the hospital. DoH staff also share information with UXO Lao in each province.

In 2007, the Program provided paid for emergency medical treatment for 50 UXO accident victims. The fund also supported follow up medical treatment for 12 other accident survivors.

The Quality of Life Rehabilitation Fund

Geographic Area: Xieng Khouang and Houaphan provinces

Activities of the Fund:

This fund provides a range of services for UXO survivors once they leave the hospital, including follow-up and referral for re-treatment, education funding, vocational training funding, psychological support and small grants for micro-enterprise development so UXO survivors and their families can develop alternative sources of income generation.

In 2007, main activities supported by the Fund were:

- **88 UXO accident survivors and their families received grants for income generation;**
- **59 children received education funds to allow them to return to school;**
- **50 children participated in Children's Discussion Groups aimed at providing psychological support;**
- **62 UXO survivors or family members attended animal raising/veterinary skills workshops;**
- **DoH staff from Xieng Khouang and Houaphan were trained in micro-enterprise development.**

Personnel

Description	National	International	Total
Office staff	7	1	8
Field Staff	8	1	9
Total			17

Implementing Partners

The main implementing partner is the National Rehabilitation Center/Ministry of Health. At the local level, the Program works with hospitals and Departments of Health in Xieng Khouang, Houaphan, Saravane and Champassak provinces.

Donor Contributions

World Education's VA and SA program is supported by five different donors in Lao PDR.

Donor	Project	Amount in 2007
USAID		USD 150,000
PM/WRA, US Department of State	UXO Clearance for Silk Production	USD 40,000
PM/WRA, US Department of State	Develop Lao Capacity to Assist UXO Accident Survivors	USD 30,000
McKnight Foundation	Economic Self Sufficiency Project	USD 30,000
DAP, Australian Embassy	Hospital Renovation – Salavan	USD 5,000
Grapes for Humanity	UXO Accident Survivors	USD 40,000
Mennonite Central Committee		USD 2,000
private donors		USD 2,500
Total		USD 299,500

Association for Aid & Relief (AAR)

Background

AAR started working with the National Rehabilitation Center (NRC) to improve the wheelchair service of the NRC wheelchair workshop. The provision of wheelchairs has improved both quantitatively and qualitatively. The NRC still remains as the only provider of wheelchairs and tricycles in the Lao PDR, and the demand for mobility devices by people with disabilities (PWD) also remains high.

The NRC has tried to meet the demand of each individual PWD by modifying the structures of the standard wheelchair. However, users which had problems in using their devices, pointed out the issues, which need improvement. Firstly, there are still users who could not receive the most appropriate device for them, which may depend on the quality of the assessment. This issue was noticeable especially in cases of complex disabilities, in such cases of children with cerebral palsy.

Secondly, there were a significant number of users who could not move around on their device, due to the surrounding living environment, such as outdoor grounds or roads.

Thirdly, there was also the issue of many devices left with the user without being repaired. Especially in remote areas, it may be very difficult for a wheelchair/tricycle user to find a shop where the device can be repaired. To tackle this problem, the project will try to establish a system so the devices can be repaired locally in all target provinces.

Last of all, this project gives focus on handing over all management tasks to NRC staff, to aim towards future sustainability of the wheelchair service.

Key Achievement for 2007

- AAR provided trainings on assessment skills to NRC and PRC. As a result, each individual wheelchair began to be produced with more details, based on assessment results.
- From users survey of 2006, 69% of wheelchairs and 87% of tricycle users were found to be using their devices.
- A total of 1,180 devices was produced in the 3 years period from November 2004 to November 2007.
- Income from sponsorships and beneficiary contribution increased to cover 62% of the total production of the 3 years.
- Assessment, production and distribution were managed by NRC staff, whereas administrative management (data management, sponsorship management, account keeping) still remained an issue.

Operations

- Regular assessment, production and distribution of wheelchairs and tricycles in Vientiane and 10 provinces

- Regular mentoring of activities by AAR physiotherapist staff
- Periodic monitoring trips to all target provinces
- Fund raising from local resources and overseas.

Training

- Wheelchair production skill trainings were provided to the NRC wheelchair workshop to produce specific types of wheelchairs.
- AAR physiotherapist staff joined the assessments and distributions of wheelchairs to mentor the activities on a regular basis.

Personnel

Description	National	International	Total
Office Staff (AAR)	3	2	5
Production Staff (AAR)	5	0	5
Production Staff (NRC)	6	0	6
Field Staff (PRC)	10	0	10

Implementing Partners or Clients

- JICA

11.7 Donor Contributions

Source	Amount (USD)
JICA	19,600
AAR Internal Fund	59,628
External Sponsors	29,669
Total	108,897

Cooperative Orthotic and Prosthetic Enterprise (COPE)

Background

Founded in 1997, COPE is a partnership between the Ministry of Health (through the National Rehabilitation Centre) and four international NGOs. It is guided by a National Plan of Action, which is now in its third revision. Its role is to support the national rehabilitation service, throughout the country, to deliver high quality products with professional staff. The service operates through five Rehabilitation Centres in Luang Phrabang, Xieng Khouang, Vientiane, Savannakhet and Champassak. About 40% of its clients are victims of UXO. Much of the past year has been spent rebuilding COPE from the very difficult position that it reached at the beginning of 2006, when funding was extremely low and the project was suspended.

Key Achievements 2007

- About 1,200 devices seen
- A total of 765 clients seen at the National Rehabilitation Centre in Vientiane alone.
- COPE's first Lao ISPO Category I graduate returned to work in the country
- The Visitor Centre was constructed

Operations

COPE supports the National Rehabilitation Centre in its remit to provide services for people with disabilities in Lao PDR. Effective surgical care, rehabilitation and provision of devices results in people with disabilities being able to play an active role in their family, community and society as a whole. COPE's financial support ensures that the service is free to those that cannot afford to pay. Further work is continuing to try to identify the barriers to accessing services and COPE is committed to ensuring the development of a locally staffed rehabilitation service with staff who have the equipment and skills to be able to carry out their work.

Training

In-service trainings

Every Friday morning we have a general in-service which is conducted in English and taught by a different member of staff each week. The idea of the in-service is to raise awareness of the other professions and to help staff improve their English and presentation skills. Staff including Prosthetists and Orthotists, Doctors, Pharmacist, Physiotherapists, nurse or administrators volunteer to present on any topic. Physiotherapist and Prosthetic/Orthotic mentors also present from time to time. The in-services have been well attended and promote very good discussion, in English amongst the staff. Weekly in services are run in physiotherapy and Prosthetic/Orthotic sections by the mentors.

Courses

Training courses in post surgical care, wheelchairs, computing skills, manufacturing a CP chair, silicone hands and club foot were also conducted alongside existing mentoring programmes. Follow up of training is crucial and the mentor role is a key element in COPE capacity building.

Personnel

<u>Description</u>	<u>National</u>	<u>International</u>	<u>Total</u>
COPE staff	3	3.5	6.5
Government staff	70	0	70
TOTAL	73	3.5	76.5

Implementing Partners

- Ministry of Health/National Rehabilitation Centre (Lao PDR)
- Association for Aid and Relief (Japan)
- POWER International (UK)
- The Leprosy Mission International (UK, Singapore)

Donor Contributions *(Note, the COPE financial year runs from April to March)*

A	Funds Received Since April 1st 2007	PURPOSE	USD
1	Adopt-A-MinefieldStaff	Payment	51,104
2	Australian Embassy	Visitor Centre	5,000
3	British Embassy, Bangkok	Equipment	6,090
4	Carried Forward	Multiple	46,635
5	Christoffel Blindemission	Patients' Costs	5,665
6	Christoffel Blindemission	Skills Development	4,516
7	Cost Recovery	Patients' Costs	1,223
8	Fobndation Pro Victimis	Patients' Costs	2,500
9	Fobndation Pro Victimis	Visitor Centre	25,000
10	Fundraising	Multiple	39,026
11	ICRC/SFD	Patients' Costs	19,971
12	Imperial Tobacco	Multiple	60,180
13	Japanese Embassy, Vientiane	Equipment	49,293
14	National Regulatory Authority	Consultancy	25,667
15	POWER International	Patients' Costs	15,060
16	The Leprosy Mission	COPE Core	29,962
	Total		386,892
B	<i>Pledged and Awaited at 31.12.2007</i>	PURPOSE	USD
1	Christoffel Blindemission	Patients' Costs	44,337
2	Christoffel Blindemission	Club Foot	31,099
3	ICRC/SFD (SFr30,000)	Patients' Costs	27,225
4	Imperial Tobacco	Multiple	58,450
5	Kadoorie Charitable Foundation	Multiple	45,000
6	Naomi Davies	Club Foot	9,782
7	National Regulatory Authority	Consultancy	24,733
8	National Regulatory Authority	Consultancy	5,600
9	The Leprosy Mission	Mentors' Costs	29,920
10	The Leprosy Mission	COPE Core/Mentors	30,000
11	POWER International	Patients' Costs	15,060
	Total		306,146
	Total Received and Pledged		693,038

Expenditure

Total Expenditure Jan - Dec 07	USD
	465,900
1. Management, Administration & Staffing	199,525
• Expatriates	131,205
• Local staff	33,228
• Expatriates other personal costs	15,610
• Travel and Subsistence for staff	2,374
• Vehicles operating costs incl insurance	1,735
• General Project Expenses	11,809
• Board Meetings and Reporting	1,713
• Repairs and Maintenance: Building	879
• Tools and Equipment R&M	936
• Vehicle R&M	36
• NGO Overheads	-
2.Specialist Short-term Advice	16,289
• Freelance or Consultancy staff	16,289
3.Skills Development	61,076
• Skill development	40,938
• Short Courses	6,187
• General expenses for training courses	7,414
• Attending International Events/Conference outside Laos incl visit to or from CSPO	6,537
4.Supply of Materials, Components & Services	85,458
• Travel and Subsistence for beneficiaries	29,225
• Materials Costs (Prostheses and Orthoses) and other	56,233
5. Information, Promotion & Outreach	4,517
• Information, Promotion & Outreach	4,517
6.Capital	99,036
• Capital costs: Building and Upgrade	41,569
• Tools and Equipment	3,205
• Computers/Printers, Photocopier and other Office supplies	2,795
• Vehicles and Others	51,467

Lao Disabled People's Association (LDPA)

Background

The Lao Disabled People's Association was established in 2001 as a membership based self-help organization, to promote the rights of all people with disabilities (PWD) and bring about their full participation in Lao society. The LDPA works with the Lao Government, international aid organizations and NGOs in eleven provinces in Lao PDR, to provide holistic support for people with disabilities. This includes work within the UXO sector that goes beyond prevention and rehabilitation.

LDPA's representation has expanded to over 140 self-help groups (SHGs) in 491 villages, 32 Districts and 11 provinces. Networks of LDPA members, staff and authorities work at the village, provincial and central levels to remove barriers and promote the inclusion of PWD into the community. This is done through three key actions: human and disability rights education, advocacy for service provision and radio listening Clubs (RLC). RLC are established within self-help groups to engage members with society and the government, to distribute information and to gather feedback. Over 107 SHGs have contributed to weekly LDPA radio programs that have been distributed to all LDPA SHG, broadcast over Lao National Radio, and on 11 Provincial Radio stations.

LDPA aims to create a rights based culture for PWD in Laos, and plays a key role as a provider of disability rights education and through the implementation of important tools such as the Draft Disability decree and The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). These tools are crucial in defining and overcoming barriers to the full participation of PWD in society.

Key Achievements in 2007

- Held a National Workshop and submitted the Draft Disability Rights Decree, the first legal framework to protect the rights of people with disabilities in Lao PDR
- Trained over 100 Government Officials in Human and Disability Rights
- Worked with Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, encouraging Lao PDR to sign the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, signed 13/01/08
- Produced a series of 7 short films on disability rights entitled 'Overcoming Barriers', which won the 2nd Prize in the UN Development Awards.
- Broadcast disability rights short films on Lao National Television.
- Provided the subject of a documentary "Making Radio with One Arm", produced by students from Singapore's Nanyang Technical University.
- Held the first workshop on data collection methods and disability statistics in Laos, in Collaboration with the National Statistics Centre and UN ESCAP.
- Developed and designed a services directory to assist members.

Operations/Objectives

- Develop 2nd LDPA Strategy Plan
- Strengthen links for mainstreaming disability into national development plans
- Support members needs and advocate for their rights by developing LDPA's capacity

Training

Courses conducted by LDPA for PWD and the community	Course Dates	No. of courses conducted	No. of attendees
Radio Listening Club training	April 2007	3	115
Human Rights and Disabilities Rights seminars and training to educate government officials and PWD	June to November 2007	11	175
Disability Rights and Mental Health Training for members and parents of PWD	December 2007, continuing through to 2008	6	180

Courses attended by staff	Course date	Number of attendees
Vietnam Study Tour for the Draft Disability Rights Legal Framework Project Team (including government representatives)	July 2007	10
Media Team training to produce documentaries on disability rights	August to September 2007	5
Draft Sessions on Biwako and the UNCRPD	July & September 2007	1
UNDP International Law Forum	November 2007	2
Database Training	November 2007	10
HIV/AIDS Training	October 2007	1
Radio Listening Club Training	March 2007	5
Media and Disability Rights Training	August 2007	4

Personnel

Description	National	International	Total
Office staff	16	4	20
Field staff	11	0	11
TOTAL	27	3	30

Note: LDPA also consists of networks of volunteers who operate village based self-help groups, current membership in these groups has reached over 5,000 people.

Implementing Partners

LDPA implements projects in collaboration with the National Commission for Disabled People and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, and has worked with organizations and international agencies, such as: AusAID Human Rights Small Grant Scheme, DfID, POWER, UN ESCAP, UNDP International Law Project, ILO, Netherlands Embassy Bangkok, JICA, CUSO, Handicap International Belgium, AAR, World Bank Small Grants Scheme and AusAID DAP Funding.

Donor contributions, 1st Jan-31st Dec 07

• POWER International (Dfid)	USD 189,400
• AusAID (HRSGS)	USD 45,579
• Netherlands Embassy	USD 27,070
TOTAL	USD 262,049

Planned Expenditures for 2008

AusAID Human Rights Small Grant Scheme	USD 75,000
POWER (DfID) 1 Jan-30 Sep 2008	USD 60,000

LDPA is also waiting for approval on a number of projects for 2008.

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 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 (Plus 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 and seal

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 depositary 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**

Annex 3: Decree on the Establishment of the NRA

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



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 of Lao PDR

Signed and Seal

Bounyang VORACHIT

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

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