



UXO Sector Annual Report

2008



2008 UXO Sector Annual Report

Contents

■ Foreword: Chairman of the NRA	iii
■ Foreword: NRA Director	iv
■ Foreword: UNDP Resident Representative	vi
■ UXO Sector in the Lao PDR	8
■ UXO in the Lao PDR	13
■ What is UXO?	14
■ The Impact of UXO in Lao PDR	15
■ The Safe Path Forward	16
■ The National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action in Lao PDR	19
■ International Conventions	24
■ Sector Capacity Development and Support	27
■ Financials	28
■ UXO Operator Reports	30
■ Annex 1: The Safe Path Forward	66
■ Annex 2: Decree on the Establishment of the NRA	76
■ Annex 3: The Conventions on Cluster Munitions Fact Sheet	78
■ Annex 4: The Anti-personnel Land Mine Ban Treaty Fact Sheet	79
■ Annex 5: The Convention on the Rights of Disabled People Fact Sheet	80
■ Annex 6: Vientiane Declaration on Aid Effectiveness	81
■ References	87







Foreword:

Chairman of the National Regulatory Authority

I am pleased to present to the readers, The 2008 Annual Report of the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR. Since it was created in 2005, the NRA has performed a wide range of activities in response to the dynamic nature of the sector and its position therein; however, UXO clearance activities remain a priority. There are many projects ongoing, which strive to address the varying issues posed by UXO, and aim to support and help Lao people, of many different ethnic groups, to lead their lives free of the dangers and fear posed by UXO. The situation remains that a large quantity of UXO is scattered all over Lao PDR territory. Each year, more than 300 children and adults fall victim to UXO accidents. They are instruments of death and too many children and adults have died from them. Those who survive often become handicapped, which can be a heavy burden on those effected households. Often such families have no choice but to use what assets they have to help pay for the treatment needed to save the lives of their husbands, their wives, or children, who fall victim to such an accident. The serious effect UXO has on the country, particularly the poorest districts, remains acute, and represents a large obstacle for infrastructure building and the socio-economic development efforts in Lao PDR. These are indeed serious challenges for the NRA and UXO operators. There are development projects that have to halt or cannot be launched due to UXO coverage. Numerous people living in contaminated provinces and districts have requested that their land be cleared; these are the areas in which homes are built and fields are cultivated. Clearing these lands would immediately strengthen the security of the area and the community.

It is a well known fact that between 1964 and 1973 more than 580,000 sorties dropped more than two million tons of bombs on the territory of Lao PDR. These were mostly cluster munitions that the Lao people call "bombies". An estimated 270 million bombs of this kind was dropped, of which 30 per cent failed to explode and remain live. That is to say, around 80 million bombies are today scattered and buried all over our land. Among other munitions that were used and remain dangerous remnants in Laos, there are big bombs weighing between 100 to 3,000 pounds, rockets, heavy artillery shells, hand grenades, mines and large quantities of other types of shells.

2008 was quite a satisfactory year for the NRA for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR. The most outstanding achievement was serving as the secretariat for the government in hosting the Southeast Asian Regional Meeting on Cluster Munitions, in Xiengkhuang province, October 2008. It also took part in the process of drafting the International Convention against Cluster Munitions. Then on 3 December 2008, Lao PDR solemnly became a signatory to the International Convention Against Cluster Munitions, having signed the treaty in Oslo on the day it was opened. Alongside these achievements, the NRA successfully developed a set of National Standards and strategies for all three of its sub-sectors: Clearance, Mine Risk Education, and Victim Assistance Units. It improved its information management system, conducted a national UXO victim survey, and studied and considered aid projects for addressing UXO. Through an extensive information dissemination effort, people inside the country and the international community have increasingly become aware of the UXO issue. And the NRA continues to mobilize funds for implementing UXO activities in Lao PDR.

In my capacity as the Chair of NRA, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the UXO/Mine sector and acknowledge my great appreciation for UXO sector's achievements. I congratulate the operators, sector personnel and experts for their high degree of commitment and responsibility. I thank the donors, development partners, and international organizations for their humanitarian aid and support given to the NRA for UXO/Mine Action Sector work in Lao PDR. I hope that in the future, further such support and cooperation will continue to be forthcoming, in order to progress our effort to address the debilitating blight that is UXO. This is needed to guarantee that people live free from the threat of UXO, to help alleviate poverty amongst our people, and to achieve the government's goal of eliminating poverty in Lao PDR by 2020.

Lt. Gen. Douangchai Phichith
Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister of National Defence,
Chairman of the NRA



Foreword:

Director of the National Regulatory Authority

I am pleased to present to readers the 2008 Annual Report of the National Regulatory Authority; the supervising body for UXO/Mine action in Lao PDR. In 2008, the NRA has achieved success in several areas such as the development of the National Standards, and the consideration and monitoring of projects' MOUs. It also arranged multiple meetings of the technical working groups to discuss varying issues including: land clearance technology, moving and demolishing UXO, mine risk education and the national UXO victim survey.

A major development of the year was the endorsement by the Chairman of the NRA of the National Standards document, which is now the decisive reference for guiding activities of the sector's operators. The NRA also continued to be the primary source of information on activities that address UXO related issues for operators and development projects in Lao PDR. It coordinated and arranged multiple meetings of the Technical Working Groups, to discuss and examine pressing technical matters. One achievement to come out of these meetings was the formulation of strategies for each of the three sub-groups, namely the strategy for Mine Risk Education, for Clearance, and for Victim Assistance. Enjoying the cooperation of the UNDP, we also conducted a sector wide evaluation in implementing the National Strategic Plan "Safe Path Forward". Through the exercise, suggestions were received, and these were very useful for the process of reviewing and improving the future orientation and direction of UXO/Mine Action Sector policy. The two sector wide technical meetings held during 2008, aimed to learn as much as possible from the outlining of all the different activities undertaken, and to discuss the Round Table Policy implementation, in which eight national development sectors were integrated; the plan that the government has already proposed to the international community to promote efficiency in the use of aid in order to achieve the goal of eliminating poverty by 2020.

The NRA, together with the National Rehabilitation Centre, also conducted the Phase 1 Lao National Victim and Accident Survey to gather accurate data on the number of deaths and injuries caused by UXO accidents. The survey indicated that annually there are over 300 UXO accidents. This knowledge is useful information for the sector to determine policy and priorities that influence activity implementation, in particular clearance and demolition, mine risk education, and assistance for the physical and emotional rehabilitation of those who survive UXO accidents; an area that is still a great challenge for us.

In 2008 Lao PDR was honoured to host the Southeast Asian Regional Meeting on the Convention on Cluster Munitions, on October 20 to 22, 2008, in Xiengkhuang Province. The NRA, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ICRC, conducted field visits in Xiengkhuang province for both local and international media, out of which a great deal of positive media coverage was generated. The government also this year assigned me and other members of the Lao delegation to take part in a number of local and international meetings, including the diplomatic conferences focused on drafting and finally endorsing a treaty document to ban cluster munitions in Austria and Ireland. Throughout this process we welcomed good cooperation from all sector partners concerned. At the beginning of December 2008, the Lao government attended the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Oslo, Norway, and determinedly was the second nation to sign the treaty. The ratification of the treaty into domestic law took place swiftly in early 2009, demonstrating the government's commitment to this issue.

In 2008, UXO operators in Lao PDR greatly contributed to the implementation of the national socio-economic development plan, in particular the poverty alleviation agenda by 2020. In practical terms, these operators have cleared land then released for agriculture production and other development projects. They have delivered various health projects, helped construct houses, and generally assisted to meet the people's needs for places to grow rice and vegetables. These were people living in contaminated areas and who faced the constant threat of UXO. In addition, they have provided clearance services to benefit infrastructure building projects, and investment projects by local and foreign businesses in hydropower energy, mining, and industrial tree plantations.

Throughout the year, more than 5,791 ha of land were cleared, of this 3,196 ha were for agriculture use and 2,595 ha were for other development purposes. In all, 176,997 items of UXO were demolished while conducting surface clearance and by roving teams following villagers' reports. Of this figure, 565 were big size bombs, 45,410 cluster bombs, 185 land mines and 130,837 other types of shells.

Over the long-term, 1996 until 2008, land areas that have been cleared total more than 19,857 ha, of which 13,221 ha was used for agriculture, and 6,636 ha for other development purposes. The total number of UXO identified and demolished during surface clearing numbers 1,012,518 items. Of this figure, 4,822 items were big size bombs weighing 100 - 3000 pounds, 440,971 cluster munitions, 5,969 land mines and 960, 956 items were of other varieties of shells. Looking from percentage perspective of UXO destroyed, only 1.4% was land mines, and the rest were cluster munitions.

At the same time to clearance work, great effort has gone into awareness raising, particularly among children, but generally to the whole population of different ethnic groups, so that they better understand the dangers associated with UXO and learn how to prevent and avoid these threats. MRE teams visited 2,388 villages, during which 162,960 people benefited from the information given; of this figure 72,359 were children. Over the long-term of Mine Risk Education, a total 1,878,150 participants have benefitted from these activities; 708,831 were children, and 1,169,319, were adults, living in the nine contaminated provinces in Lao PDR.

On this occasion, I would like to express my gratitude to the various donors for their humanitarian support in terms of grants, material and equipment, and the technical personnel provided to NRA. Our sincere thanks also go to the different operators for dealing with UXO/mine action in the Lao PDR. I appreciate the contribution of Lao and foreign experts within the UXO/Mine Action Sector for your hard work, physically and mentally, in addressing the UXO problem in many communities. These problems remain a serious threat to children and adults alike, as they go about their everyday lives. I very much hope that you will continue supporting the work in the future; work that will guarantee the safety of our multi-ethnic people, so that they can lead a safer life and can contribute to the task of poverty elimination by 2020.



Dr. Malinga Saignavongs,
NRA Director



Foreword:

UNDP Resident Representative,

Co-Chairperson of the UXO Sector Working Group

2008 was a landmark year for everyone involved in the UXO/Mine Action sector in Lao PDR and throughout the world, as in December the Oslo Process achieved the ambitious goal of concluding a convention to ban cluster munitions. When the Convention on Cluster Munitions became open for signature on 3 December 2008, Lao PDR, represented by H.E. Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, was the second of 94 countries to sign, following the host country, Norway. The Lao Government did not only sign the Convention; as the state most affected by cluster munitions it also played a leading role in the entire process. As a continuing show of its commitment to ratify the convention at the earliest possible time, the Lao Government has offered to host the first meeting of States Party to the Convention.

The data collection system which the NRA is currently setting up, recorded over 300 UXO casualties across the country in 2008. This clearly indicates that more accidents are happening in Lao PDR than previously estimated, with the possibility that these incidents are still under-reported and under-recorded. As you will see in this annual report, there is much good work being done by all operators in the UXO Sector in the Lao PDR. However, the commitment made to implement this Convention will require an acceleration of all our work in 2009; work to reduce risks and to contribute to socio-economic development of Lao PDR through targeted and effective risk-reduction education, increased resources to enable more responsive roving tasks, more efficient and effective clearance support, and increased assistance to survivors and to victims' families.

The UXO Sector Working Group and sub-sector working groups have provided an effective forum to coordinate our concerted efforts and to link to the Round Table Process in 2008 and the NRA and UNDP as the chair and co-chair of the UXO Sector Working Group will continue our work to further strengthen these coordination mechanisms to create an enabling environment for all the operators who are carrying out important tasks for the affected communities on the ground.

The most important task ahead of us in 2009 is the revision of the National Strategic Plan for the UXO Sector, the Safe Path Forward, for which substantial ground work was achieved in 2008 including the UXO Sector evaluation and the development of sub-sector strategies. For full integration into the Government's development planning, the new strategy should be aligned with the next 5 year National Socio Economic Development Plan. Following on from a very informative and insightful UXO gender assessment in 2008, gender perspectives should also be reflected in UXO related activities in Lao PDR for and with the affected people. Building on these elements and the obligations of the Convention, the strategy review process will start in 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sonam Y. Rana".

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



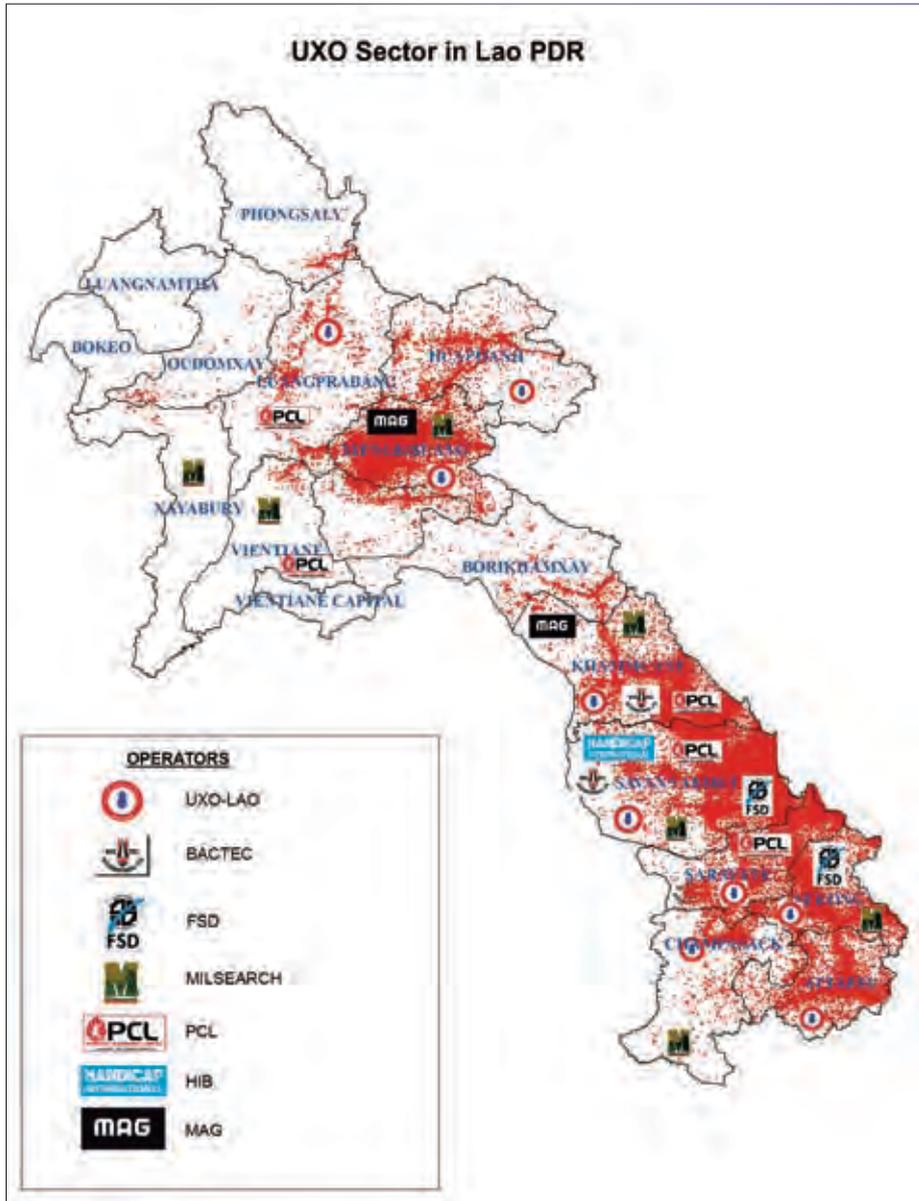


UXO Sector in the Lao PDR

A number of organizations work throughout the Lao PDR to reduce the impacts of unexploded ordnance (UXO) on individuals and communities, and to enable infrastructure and economic development. They include government institutions, international non-government and local organizations, as well as commercial clearance operators. This report outlines the contributions each made throughout 2008 to the overall Government-set aim of one day making the Lao PDR free from the negative impacts of UXO.¹



UXO/Mine Action Sector Operators by location in the Laos PDR



Snapshot-2008 UXO Sector Achievements

- 176,997 UXO items cleared
- 5,791 Ha of land cleared
- 322,762 people benefitted from MRE activities
- 1,851 Villages and/or School visited for MRE activities
- Phase 1 of the National UXO Victims and Accidents Survey was completed
- MRE sub-sector Strategy finalized
- Clearance sub-sector Strategy finalised
- UXO Sector National Standards approved by the Lao Government
- 'Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)' signed by the Lao Government
- 'Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' signed by the Lao Government

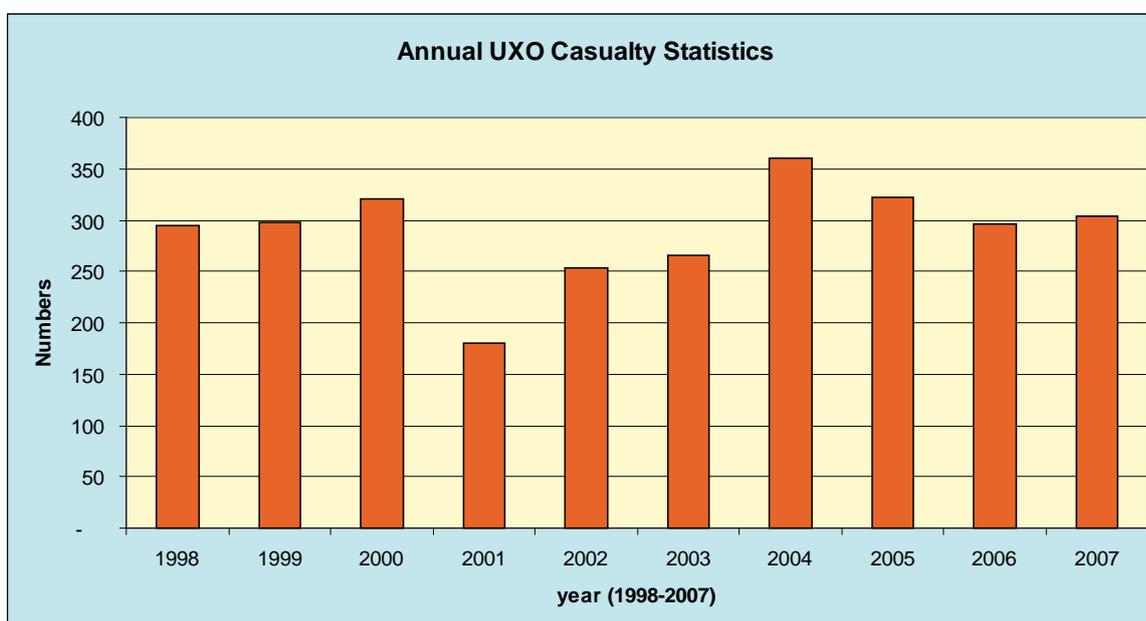


Work undertaken in the sector throughout 2008 brought numerous developments, including the completion of Phase 1 of the National Survey of UXO Victims and Accidents. This survey was conducted by the NRA Victim Assistance Unit with support from the National Rehabilitation Centre (NRC). In Phase 1, records of over 50,000 casualties have been collected. Work continues into 2009 to have all the forms entered and verified into the database, after which the final analysis can begin. Well over 80% of the data have been entered at the time of writing and preliminary analysis has identified a number of trends.

For the past decade, the survey shows that the annual accident rate is much higher than previously reported. The graph below details the survey results for victims killed or injured for the decade 1998-2007, with an average of 289 victims per year.

Phase 1 of the survey was conducted over the period of February to October 2008; however, it did not gather data for all the accidents/casualties that occurred in 2008. Phase 2 of the survey, which is beginning at the start of 2009, will complete the collection of 2008 statistics and provide ongoing

Graph 1: UXO Victims in Lao PDR from 1998-2007



national coverage. Thus, the available information on 2008 comes from an as-yet incomplete data source; however, extrapolation from this data already collected shows a sharp increase in casualty numbers for the year.

The seven UXO clearance operators, including four humanitarian and three commercial, collectively cleared **176,997** UXO items through a combination of area clearance and roving tasks in 2008. All area clearance tasks also rendered safe **5,791** hectares of land in 2008; this is an increase of more than 30 percent compared to the year before. The table below details the types and quantities of UXO cleared in 2008 by each operator, as reported to the NRA by those operators on a monthly basis.

Chart 1: UXO cleared in 2008 by operators

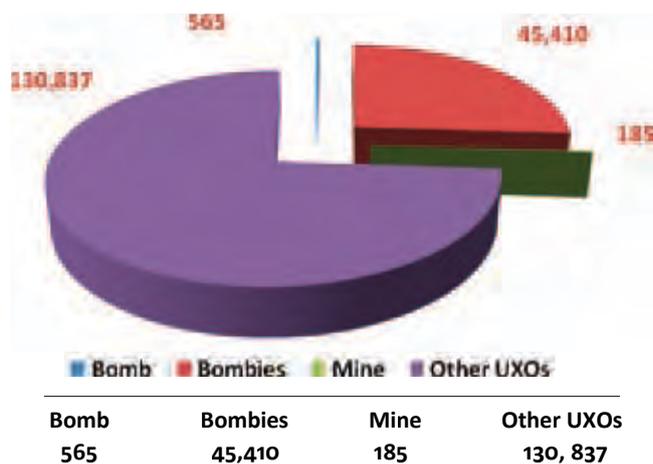


Table 1: UXO cleared in 2008 by operators

Organization	Roving Operations				Total
	Bomb	Bombies	Mines	Other UXOs	
UXO Lao	288	14,275	85	23,028	37,676
HIB	27	302	-	294	623
MAG	8	1,345	-	241	1,594
FSD	49	643	-	3,443	4,135
BACTEC	-	-	-	1	1
Milsearch	6	21	-	12	39
PCL	1	434	-	145	580
TOTAL	379	17,020	85	27,164	44,648

Organization	Clearance Operations and Enhanced Technical Survey				Total
	Bomb	Bombies	Mines	Other UXOs	
UXO Lao	112	18,237	67	11,703	30,119
HIB	-	454	-	694	1,148
MAG	32	7,263	8	*89,155	96,467
FSD	14	305	1	600	911
BACTEC	28	826	1	524	1,379
Milsearch	-	709	1	545	1,255
PCL	-	596	22	452	1,070
TOTAL	186	28,390	100	103,673	132,349

* Figure includes 60,300 items of small arms ammunition

Summary	565	45,410	185	130,837	176,997
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Table 2: Breakdown of Land Clearance by Use

I. Land Released by Clearance (m2)			
Organization	Agriculture	Development	Total
UXO Lao	2,386.98	326.75	2,713.73
BACTEC	-	861.88	861.88
FSD	40.66	15.56	56.23
HIB	27.18	3.61	30.79
MAG	268.24	149.89	418.13
MILSEARCH	-	1,059.69	1,059.69
PCL	259.07	117.78	376.85
TOTAL	2,982.14	2,535.17	5,517.30
II. Land Release by Enhanced Technical Survey (m2)			
Organization	Agriculture	Development	Total
UXO Lao	162.03	41.95	203.98
BACTEC	-	-	-
FSD	0.68	0.34	1.02
HIB	3.14	-	3.14
MAG	47.68	18.38	66.06
MILSEARCH	-	-	-
PCL	-	-	-
TOTAL	213.54	60.66	274.20
Grand Total (I+II):	3,195.67	2,595.83	5,791.50



School children learn about the dangers of UXO at a community awareness raising session in Xiengkhuang Province



UXO/Mine Risk Education (UXO/MRE) continued in 2008 as an integral component of UXO/Mine Action in the Lao PDR. UXO/MRE refers to activities that seek to reduce the risk of injury and death from UXO by raising awareness and promoting behavioral changes among “at-risk groups” in highly UXO contaminated areas.

2008 also saw great developments internationally with the Government of the Lao PDR signing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). Throughout the preparation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), the Government of Lao PDR took on a leadership role, as a strongly affected nation, and proceeded to host the Southeast Asia regional government meeting in October 2008. The Government of Lao was also the second state

to sign the convention at the Oslo Convention on Cluster Munitions Signing Conference on the day it was opened for signature, December 3rd 2008, after the host nation, Norway.



Table 3: UXO/MRE Activities in the Lao PDR in 2008

UXO/MRE Operator	UXO/MRE Activities	Location
UXO LAO	Community Awareness and Village Volunteer	Active in 9 UXO contaminated Provinces
MAG	Community liaison and scrap metal dealers education	Xiengkhuang and Khammouane Province
HIB	Parenting Module and Village Volunteer	36 villages within Nong, Sepon and Vilaboury district, Savannakhet Province
World Education/Consortium and the Ministry of Education	UXO curriculum in primary schools	4,890 teachers teaching 155,244 primary school children in 533 complete primary schools and 1,077 village schools
FSD	UXO risk reduction strategies and effective child education messages	Lamam and Darcheung district, Sekong Province

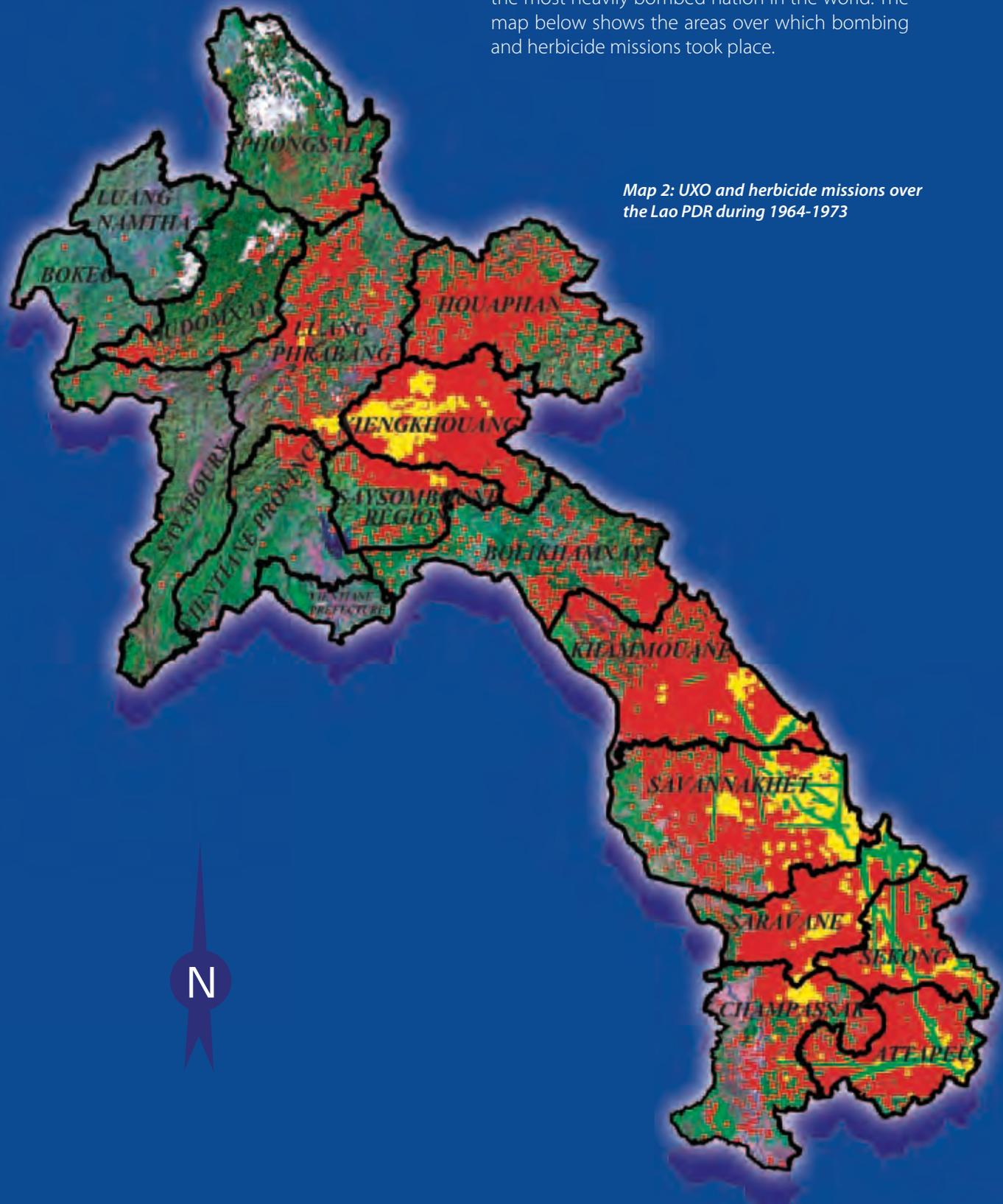
Table 4: Beneficiary of UXO/MRE activities in the Lao PDR in 2008

Organization	UXO/MRE Operations			
	Total Villages or Schools Visited	Child Beneficiaries	Adult Beneficiaries	Total Beneficiaries
UXO Lao	601	69,417	75,915	145,332
MAG	575	1,219	10,929	12,148
HIB	140	1,494	3,615	5,109
FSD	1	15	24	39
Milsearch	1	-	-	-
WEC	533	155,244	4,890	160,134
TOTAL	1,851	227,389	95,373	322,762



UXO in the Lao PDR

Throughout the Second Indochina War, spanning 1964 to 1973, more than 580,000 bombing missions dropped over two million tons of explosive ordnance on the Lao PDR³, making it per capita the most heavily bombed nation in the world. The map below shows the areas over which bombing and herbicide missions took place.



Map 2: UXO and herbicide missions over the Lao PDR during 1964-1973



Snapshot – The UXO Problem in Laos

- Laos is the most heavily bombed country, per capita, in history
- 25% of villages in Laos are reported to be contaminated with UXO and ERW
- Over 2 million tons of ordnance were dropped on Laos between 1964 and 1973
- Cluster Bombs or ‘Bombies’ are the most common form of UXO remaining
- More than 270 million bombies were dropped on Laos
- Up to 30% failed to detonate
- Approximately 80 million unexploded bombies remained in Laos after the war
- Over 50,000 people have been killed or injured since 1964
- There are approximately 300 new casualties each year
- Today over 40% of all casualties are children
- The World Bank estimates GDP growth is curtailed significantly by the presence of UXO and ERW

What is UXO?

Unexploded ordnance, or UXO, are explosive weapons that failed to detonate when they were fired, dropped, launched or projected, and still pose the risk of exploding.⁴ UXO contamination in the Lao PDR consists of large bombs, rockets, grenades, artillery munitions, mortars, landmines and cluster munitions and submunitions.

A cluster munition is a conventional weapon that consists of an outer canister that is designed to disperse or release smaller bombs (submunitions or bomblets) that weigh less than 20 kilograms each.⁵ These submunitions are known throughout the Lao PDR as ‘bombies’. The cluster munition is dropped from a plane or launched from the ground into the air, where it ejects the bombies over a wide area. Bombies that were dropped on the Lao PDR had a high failure rate leaving an estimated 30 percent unexploded and scattered across a wide area after deployment.

When disturbed, even decades later, bombies and other UXO can explode, injuring and killing civilians as they carry out their daily activities.

The Lao PDR today is one of the most heavily UXO and cluster munitions affected countries in the world, with up to 25 percent of the country’s 10,000 villages blighted by the presence of these remnants of war.⁶ More than 270 million bombies were dropped over the Lao PDR during the nine years of conflict and an estimated 80 million failed to detonate, remaining unexploded and scattered throughout the country.⁷ In addition over four million large bombs were dropped and extensive ground battles in predominantly Northern provinces left behind substantial amounts of other unexploded weaponry, including mortars, artillery, shells, landmines and grenades.



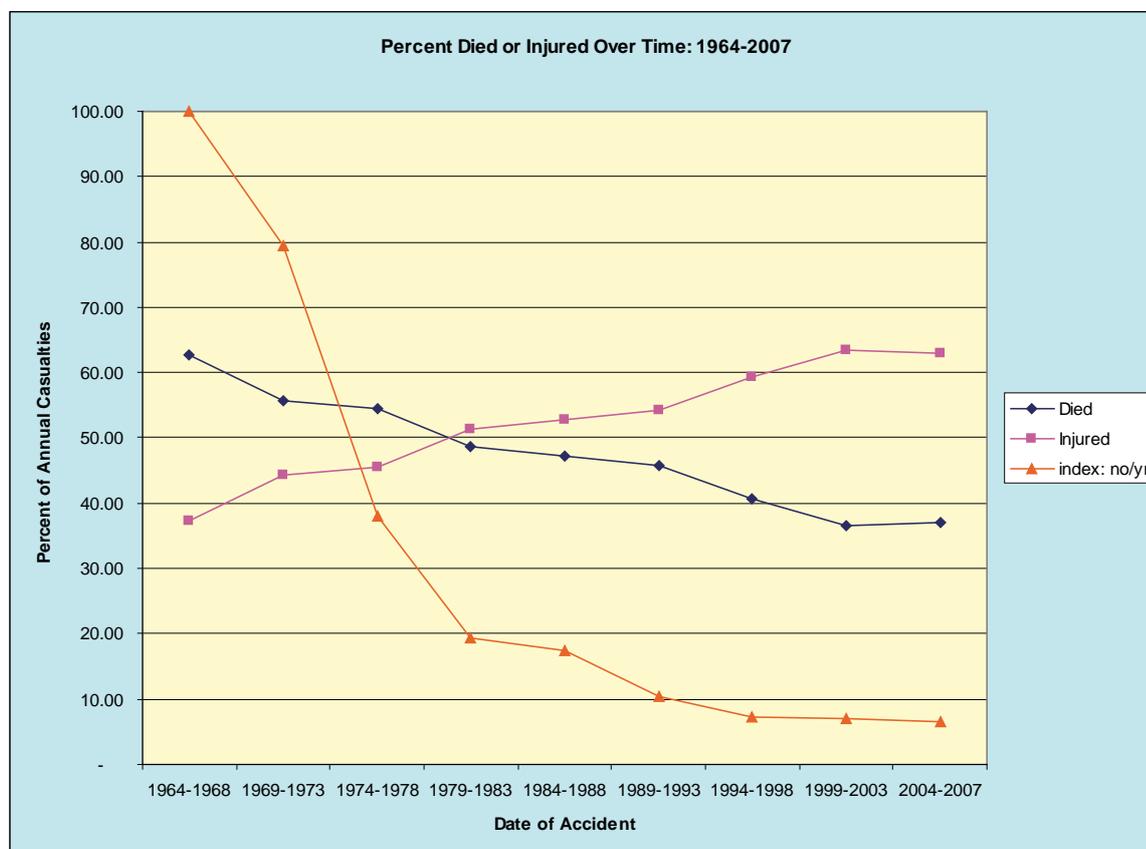
The Impact of UXO in the Lao PDR

Until 2008, the best information available on the total number of casualties (killed and injured) as a result of UXO accidents in Lao PDR was about 14,000.⁸ With the work of the National Survey of UXO Victims and Accidents, we now know that the true number is over 50,000.⁹

The Lao National Survey of UXO Victims and Accidents show that the number of people killed and injured has historically been declining on an annual basis. These reductions can be attributed in large part to successful clearance work of UXO in high priority areas and ongoing UXO/MRE raising awareness of the dangers of UXO. There has also been a decrease in the proportion of those killed to injured; primarily due to the development of emergency health care facilities in some affected areas, improvement in services provided by health care personnel, and to higher community awareness in handling UXO.

However, Graph 1 on page 9 shows that over the course of the last 10 years, the number of casualties unfortunately has been rising; having declined to a low of 180 in 2001, the number rose to a peak of 360 in 2004. The increase in the price of scrap metal was cited as one possible cause of this rise in victims.¹⁰ A higher price for scrap metal encourages more risky searching for anything metal, in order to supplement meager cash incomes. Metal frequently means UXO and encounters can lead to injury or death. The evidence suggests that high prices for scrap at the beginning of 2008 may have been responsible for an increase in the numbers of casualties, but the price is known to have fallen steeply later in the year and the data is not yet available to establish what, if any, effect this had.

Graph 2: UXO casualties in the Lao PDR from 1964-2007





The Safe Path Forward

The Government of the Lao PDR passed the National Strategic Plan for the UXO Programme 2003-2013, "The Safe Path Forward", as the governing directive for the UXO sector in early 2004. The strategy focuses on the aims for UXO Lao, the national clearance organization, and lays down the establishing foundations of the NRA, the regulatory and coordination body for the sector.

The Safe Path Forward sets out key objectives for the sector, with specific annual goals. With regards to clearance, the scope of the strategy outlines high, medium and low priority clearance categories; with specific aims for the calendar year of 2008 for UXO Lao to clear at least 2,000 hectares of land. This was achieved, with UXO Lao clearing 3036 hectares of land in 2008.

In terms of building awareness within communities of the dangers of UXO, the strategy prescribes UXO/Mine Risk Education (MRE) teams should visit 450 UXO-affected villages in 2008. UXO/mine risk education continues to evolve for many actors within the sector and take different forms, such as the establishment of targeted education to those most at risk of injury or death from UXO, risk education in school curricula, and building Village Volunteer networks. Despite the expanding nature of UXO/MRE work, the 2008 target prescribed by the Safe Path Forward was met, with UXO Lao Community Awareness teams visiting 601 villages in 2008.

As a substantive result of continuing risk education and clearance, the strategy sets the goal to see new UXO accidents reduced to fewer than 100 per year. In light of the findings from the National UXO Victim and Accident Survey, this aim has never been met since the UXO was dropped on Laos. As figures quoted here show, the level over the period 1998-2007 has been generally around 300 a year, with no sign of any long-term decline. The indications are that, once full details are collected, this average figure of 300 will be significantly exceeded for 2008.¹¹ This is of great concern to the NRA, Government Ministries and all stakeholders in the sector and demands further analysis be conducted and subsequent mitigating strategies implemented, in order to reduce the frequency of accidents.

The National UXO Victim and Accident Survey will form the basis of a national database that will

be used in priority-setting for clearance and MRE tasks, as well as in victim assistance, all of which are objectives of the Safe Path Forward. With Phase 1 and the survey of 9,066 villages¹² throughout the Lao PDR completed and the majority of data entered into the database during 2008, these objectives are able to be realized. Completion of data entry and analysis will be continued in 2009, with a report on findings expected to be released by mid-2009.

However, since the Safe Path Forward's inception the UXO Sector in the Lao PDR has grown far beyond the scope of the strategy. New research gives a much more accurate picture of the UXO problem in the Lao PDR compared to the limited understanding of the scope of the issues in 2002, when the strategy was written. In 2002 the only clearance and MRE operator actively working in the sector and included within the strategy was UXO Lao. Today nine international humanitarian not-for-profit organizations and three commercial clearance operators are actively working on issues caused by UXO in the Lao PDR. The Safe Path Forward also set out the foundations for the NRA, which has now been operational since mid- 2006, and whose creation has caused a structural change within the sector, in turn altering the context for a sector-wide strategy. Lastly, the strategy was also in place before the Government signed the Conventions on Cluster Munitions and on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Consequently, the Safe Path Forward is in much need of revision, a process that will be undertaken in consultation with all the sector stakeholders.

This process of revision, as directed by the Government of the Lao PDR, commenced in 2008 with the coordination of an evaluation of the sector, funded through the UNDP. The evaluation was conducted by three consultants in June and July 2008 and produced a list of recommendations.¹³ A Management Response was subsequently drafted by the staff of the UNDP, NRA and UXO Lao, with input from numerous stakeholders, and will be used as one of the documents informing the review of the sector strategy.¹⁴ Throughout the beginning of 2009, numerous meetings with stakeholders – the Government of Lao, operators and donors alike - will be coordinated by the NRA to discuss the revision of the strategy, with the aim of developing and seeking approval for a new sector-wide strategy by the middle of the year.

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

The National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action in the Lao PDR is a public institution of the Government of Lao PDR. Established in 2005 and operational since mid-2006, the NRA coordinates overall management of the sector and is responsible for providing policy direction and accreditations. The institution was established in partnership with the UNDP and continues with its ongoing support. The principal vision of the NRA is to work towards 'people from the most highly impacted communities to live free from the impacts of landmines and UXO.'¹⁵

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

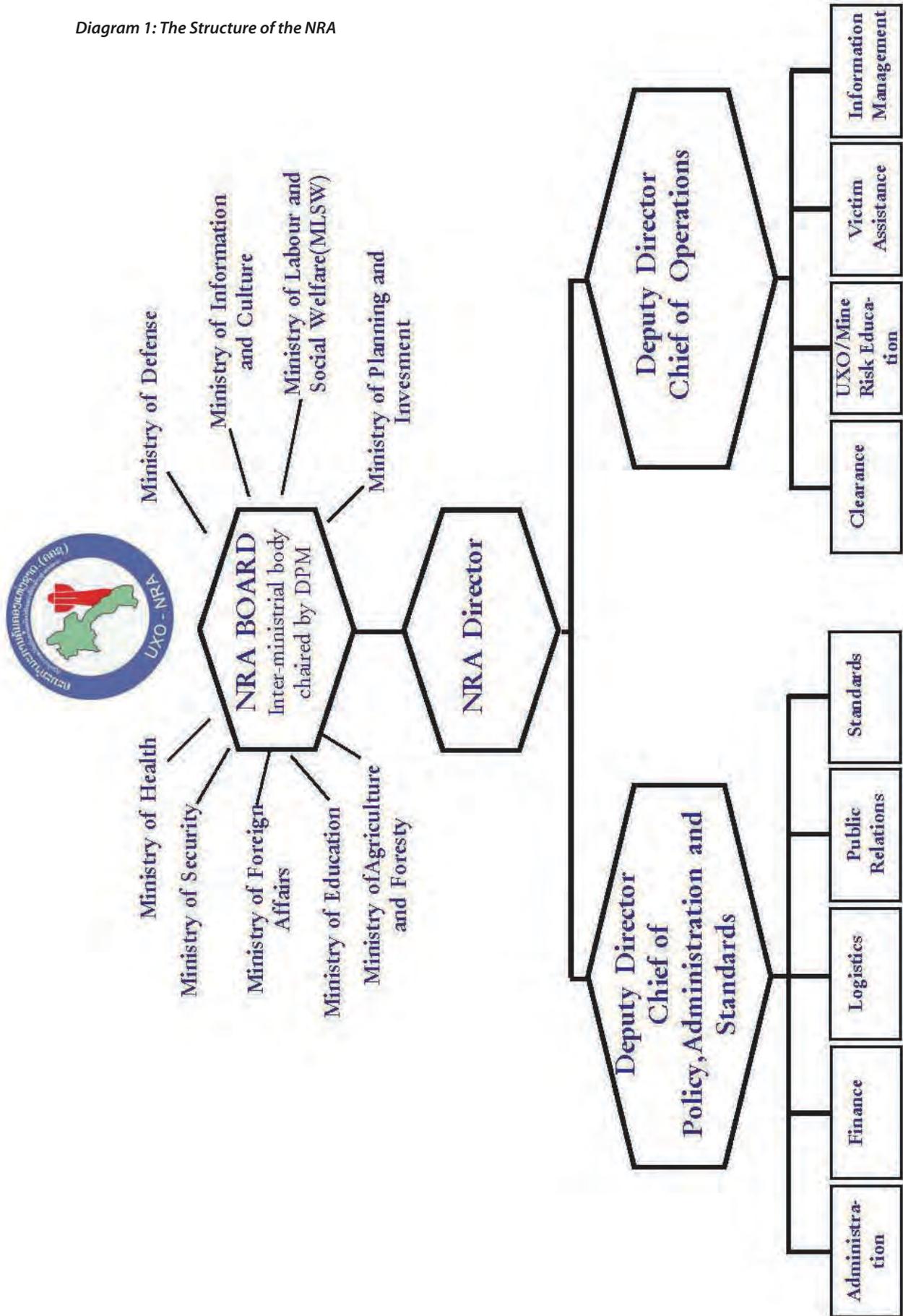
The NRA is a high-level inter-ministerial board composed of representatives from nine ministries of the Government of the Lao PDR: Agriculture and Forestry, Defense (Chair), Education, Foreign Affairs, Health, Information and Culture, Labor and Social Welfare (Vice-Chair), Planning and Investment, and Security.

The NRA Office provides secretariat support for the Board as well as implements the operations of the organization. Throughout the reporting period, the NRA Office had 25 national staff

members and 7 international technical advisors. The structure of the organization is divided into two sections: Policy, Administration and Standards section, and Operations section. There are a number of units within each section, and these are under two respective Deputy Directors. See below for a detailed diagram of the structure of the NRA.

A primary role of the NRA is the coordination of operational activities across the sector, part of this responsibility is discharged through the work of sub-sector Technical Working Groups (TWGs) in Clearance, Risk Education and Victim Assistance. The TWGs in 2008 continued to operate effectively, and in particular the improvement of translation services better allowed the meetings to be held effectively in both Lao and English. Each TWG is chaired by the NRA Lao National Officer of their respective areas, and they provide a forum for sub-sector coordination, planning and review. The conclusions of the TWGs are then fed back towards operational improvements, and forwards into the Sector Working Group, which in turn inform the Government Round Table Meetings for the development industry as a whole in the Lao PDR. The Sector Working Group facilitates broader discussions of the work of the sector, as well as providing a forum to involve donors to participate actively in the design and execution of programmes. Two Sector Working Group meetings were held during 2008 with a wide range of stakeholders participating, from donors to operators to government representatives.

Diagram 1: The Structure of the NRA



Units of the NRA

Policy, Administration and Standards Department

This section of the NRA has had a highly productive year, particularly with regards to the work done on the international negotiations to ban cluster munitions, the development and approval of National Standards for the sector, and the coordination of a sector-wide strategy evaluation; all whilst continuing the daily functions of the organization.

The Administration, Finance and Logistics units continued to manage their areas throughout 2008, as primary support roles for the projects and work undertaken by the organization.

Public Relations Unit

The beginning of 2008 saw the creation of the NRA Public Relations Unit, which sits within the Policy, Administration and Standards Section. It works with all other units of the organization and UXO sector to raise the profile, locally and internationally, of the issues caused by UXO in the Lao PDR and the efforts undertaken to combat such problems.

The key achievements of the Unit throughout 2008, as outlined in the Work Plan, included: producing the UXO Sector Annual Report, producing brochures and fact sheets, updating content of the NRA website, coordinating several NRA Board and sector meetings, and organizing several media field visits.

The Unit also undertook additional work to support the Government of the Lao PDR's involvement in the international negotiations to ban cluster munitions, the majority of which was not in the original Work Plan. This included: producing the book Hazardous Ground –

Cluster Munitions and UXO in the Lao PDR, coordinating the production of Determined to Put an End, a 5-minute documentary on cluster munitions in the Lao PDR that was shown at the opening of the Oslo Convention on Cluster Munitions Signing Conference, and undertaking a key coordination role for the Southeast Asia Regional Conference on the Convention on Cluster Munitions held in Xiengkhuang province from 21-23 October.

The Unit also worked with the International Committee of the Red Cross to facilitate and run an international media visit in April to Xiengkhuang province focused on highlighting the negative humanitarian impacts of cluster munitions on civilian populations. Another international media visit alongside the Regional Conference was coordinated with the Cluster Munitions Coalition. A large number of printed articles, radio spots and television stories were released from both media visits all over the world. Finally, a media visit for national media in the Lao PDR was also coordinated by the Unit funded by UNICEF and run in Savannakhet province in December.

Standards Unit

In the year 2008, the Quality Management Unit focused on the development of the National Standards for UXO/mine action in the Lao PDR. Throughout the process numerous consultative meetings were held. On September 18, 2008 the Standards were initially approved by the NRA Board and subsequently formally approved by the NRA Chairman on January 8, 2009.

The regulation of the sector is managed by the NRA through the production and application of UXO/Mine Action National Standards. These are comprehensive documents spanning 24 subject chapters and minimum

International Day for UXO/Mine Awareness, 2008, the official opening ceremony





standards for operations. They are based on international best practice (IMAS), and have been applied to the specific context of Lao PDR and the primary UXO threat.

Additional key activities included: conducting external inspections on area clearance operation and proposing to the NRA to issue two more full accreditations to two UXO/mine clearance agencies.

The National UXO/Mine Actions Standards are available on the NRA website

Operations department

The Operations half of the NRA - the Victim Assistance, Mine Risk Education, Clearance, and Information Management units - have also had a productive year. Their achievements include: the completion of Phase 1 of 'The Lao National Survey of UXO Victims and Accidents', the installation and rollout of upgrades to IMSMA, and the creation of sub-sector strategies and monitoring processes.

Victim Assistance Unit

During the year, the Victim Assistance (VA) Unit held six Technical Working Group meetings with VA stakeholders. These TWG Meetings were

instrumental in guiding the work of the Unit, as described below.

The primary focus of the VA Unit has been the completion of the Phase 1 of the Lao National UXO Victim and Accident Survey. Preparation preceding the reporting period started with training activities for District Enumerators, who were identified by the National Rehabilitation Centre of the Ministry of Health (NRC). The survey proper commenced in February and lasted through to October 2008, when data collection was completed in 95% of all villages in the country.¹⁶

Whilst Phase 1 of the survey was occurring, considerable time input was required of VA Unit staff in supervision and support; this required extensive and frequent travel to the provinces.

The results in Table 5 show the range of victim density per village, from less than 1 in Phongsaly to over 12 in Savannakhet and Xiengkhuang. Even those provinces where there are no UXO have a relatively high incidence of victims per village, such as Vientiane Capital with 2.4. This is because the survey collected details of UXO victims where they live today, and not just where the incident occurred.

Table 5: Results by Province from the National UXO Victim and Accident Survey

Province Name		Districts	Villages			victims	victims/ village
No			No	Surveyed	%		
1	Vientiane Capital	9	500	480	96	1,151	2.40
2	Phongsaly	7	578	567	98	523	0.92
3	Luang Namtha	5	372	303	81	1,095	3.61
4	Oudomxay	7	499	499	100	2,899	5.81
5	Bokeo	5	337	337	100	912	2.71
6	Luang Phrabang	11	833	753	90	3,638	4.83
7	Houaphan	8	756	756	100	4,221	5.58
8	Xayabouri	10	476	435	91	881	2.03
9	Xiengkhuang	8	569	566	99	6,840	12.08
10	Vientiane Province	12	556	446	80	1,823	4.09
11	Bolikhmxy	6	327	305	93	1,394	4.57
12	Khammouane	9	686	644	94	2,880	4.47
13	Savannakhet	15	1,022	1,022	100	12,530	12.26
14	Saravane	8	675	675	100	3,746	5.55
15	Sekong	4	255	238	93	1,407	5.91
16	Champasak	10	937	835	89	1,915	2.29
17	Attapeu	5	205	205	100	2,281	11.13
Total		139	9,583	9,066	95	50,136	5.53



Towards the end of the survey period, the Victim Assistance Unit deployed three Quality Assurance Consultants to visit two villages in each district and verify the information collected. The results indicate an under-recording of victims. Village elders failed to refer District Enumerators to all of the casualties in the village at the time of the first visit, and it was only with the second visit they were able to correct this. The evidence suggests an under-reporting of 21% at the national level.

If all of the villages in the country were visited, it is estimated that details of a further 1,460 casualties would have been collected, making a total of almost exactly 51,600 casualties. If the indicators of the quality assurance exercise are reasonably accurate, the true figures might be as high as 65,000 for the country as a whole over the period 1964 to mid-2008.

Another major focus during the year has been to input the data from the national survey into a database, which has proved a slower process than the actual data collection. At the end of 2008, about 36,000 of the completed victim forms were on the database and verified. This allowed a preliminary analysis of the results to be conducted and those initial findings were subsequently used at the Conference on the CCM in Xiengkhuang province in October. The completion of the remaining data entry will be a major focus for early 2009, followed by analysis of the results.

With the completion of Phase 1, the work of the VA Unit is shifting to two major activities:

- The preparation of a victim assistance strategy for the nation, which will fit in with

both the NRA strategy development and the requirements of the CCM. This has been made possible by the collection of details about victims.

- Commencement of Phase 2 of the survey, which will use a different method to collect complete details of all victims and accidents in 2008, and all ongoing accidents thereafter.

Mine Risk Education Unit

The Mine Risk Education Unit (MRE Unit) of the NRA is responsible for overseeing, regulating and coordinating the work of the UXO/MRE operators in the Lao PDR. 2008 was another full and productive year for the Unit.

One notable accomplishment was the approval and initial implementation of the national sub-sector MRE strategy. This was approved in early 2008 by the NRA Director. The vision of the strategy is for "A Lao PDR in which stakeholders work together to achieve a significant reduction in the number of UXO victims through a sustainable targeted risk reduction strategy." It consists of four goals: (1) Focus on high risk areas and high risk groups; (2) Sustainable risk education programmes; (3) Effective coordination and management of the risk education programmes; (4) Effective monitoring and evaluation of risk education programmes.

Other main achievements for 2008 include:

- Coordination of six MRE Technical Working Groups and three regional workshops for MRE operators on behavior change communication and the use of MRE materials.
- Key principles for MRE activities in the Lao PDR were approved by the NRA Director and had begun to be implemented.
- Printing of additional MRE materials was completed and these were distributed to operators throughout the country for MRE work. Guidelines on the use of such materials were also developed.
- A new MRE IMSMA report form was also written and distributed and is now in use.

Clearance Unit

The Clearance Unit within the NRA has a range of responsibilities, from technical development of clearance methods to the coordination of where clearance takes place. It also manages the prioritization and monitoring of projects and monitors the overall outcomes, measured in terms of risk and poverty reduction. The NRA Clearance Unit has two full time staff working under the supervision of the Chief of Operations. The Head of Unit joined the NRA in April 2008 from UXO Lao.

The main forum for dialogue on clearance issues is the Clearance Technical Working Group (TWG) mechanism. The TWG involves all stakeholders with an interest in clearance. As a formal working group it met 9 times during 2008. Although much of the work is ongoing, the following is an illustration of the work undertaken 2008 within the TWG:

- Developed a sub sector strategy to help target clearance resources more precisely in relation to poverty reduction needs. The strategy also covered the need to increase resources that remain flexible and able to improve responses to individual requests from communities to deal with UXO found (roving tasks).
- Discussed and contributed to the development of monitoring and prioritization systems as part of the overall development of policies and procedures that work with Government poverty eradication and development strategies.
- Discussed the design and approval of National Standards as they relate to clearance.
- Developed a project with TWG members to establish detailed core competency standards and training standards across the sector.
- Information shared about detector trials and test standards.
- Supported the development of enhanced survey and land release systems.

Outside of the TWGs, the NRA clearance unit participated in monitoring missions to UXO Lao, HIB, MAG and FSD. The unit also inspected and endorsed a minefield clearance operation in support of a commercial power line project.

The Clearance Unit was also instrumental in supporting a series of workshops across the country looking at Provincial UXO support needs and requirements.

In a technical awareness and development role, the Clearance Unit participated in three international activities:

- A Mine Action Technology Workshop in Geneva, Switzerland.
- An international workshop on "Detectorsystems and Tools" in Germany.
- A visit with UXO Lao to Schonstedt Industries and Tetra Tech in the USA to discuss development and application of improved detection systems.

In summary the Clearance unit has had a busy year developing foundations for its prioritization and monitoring support to the UXO sector, along with the technical application of appropriate clearance systems and procedures. It moves into 2009 with a full work plan that builds on these foundations.



Information Management Unit

The Information Management Unit of the NRA continued in 2008 to undertake its range of responsibilities. The following was undertaken in 2008:

- Installation of the latest version of the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA)
- Installation and configuration of a new server, a new tape backup drive and network.
- Installation and configuration of the Symantec Backup Exec v.12 to backup all NRA data.
- Installation of Lao Victim Information Survey (LVIS) survey data entry network.
- Setting up IMSMA for data entry of LVIS survey.

Operationalisation of the new generation IMSMA proved problematic and several visits from the software design and maintenance team from GICHD were required. Initially there were a significant amount of system bugs causing it to be unreliable as a information platform for the national UXO database. NRA Information Unit staff, with assistance from the Swiss Information Management Technical Advisor, worked tirelessly on the appropriate solutions and fixes. By the end of 2008 the software was in use and dependable. 2009 will focus on bringing all operators into the IMSMA System and seeing the benefits of a single comprehensive UXO National Database.

IMSMA was also a major focus of the VA unit throughout 2008, particularly with regards to the LVIS, and the installation of IMSMA on location with an external data entry contractor. This was followed up with training and ongoing technical support for the external personnel performing the LVIS data entry process. Systems of reporting and evaluations of LVIS data were also established, and testing and preparation of IMSMA for operational data entry were also completed. The situation at the end of 2008 was that data input problems were solved but production of reports and analysis was still technical and laborious with some queries still having to be sent to GICHD to be set up.

Despite these challenges, the production of Maps, DVD's and reports upon requests, the programming of a monthly reporting database and production of several spatial analyses were all undertaken. On-the-job training in GIS, SQL and IMSMA was also provided for Lao national staff.

In the second half of 2008, the NRA IT staff attended a 'Dreamweaver' and web design course. Subsequently, they used the new knowledge acquired to renew and improve the NRA website.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Thongloun Sisoulith, on behalf of the Lao government, on December 3 2008, signs a treaty banning cluster bombs, in the Norwegian capital, Oslo. Lao PDR was the second signatory to the Convention after the Host Nation, Norway



International Conventions

The NRA is tasked to be the technical focal point for the Government of Lao PDR's participation in the conferences and negotiations of international treaties relating to UXO and landmines.

Convention on Cluster Munitions

On the 3rd December 2008 in Oslo Norway, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Government of Lao PDR, signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) committing to a comprehensive ban on the use, stockpile, production and transfer of the weapon. This concluded the Oslo Process, 18 months of international government negotiations to prepare and agree to the text of a treaty to address the global negative humanitarian impacts of cluster munitions.

As one of the most cluster-munitions-affected states in the world, The Government of Lao PDR was a leader in the Oslo Process calling for a comprehensive ban that addresses the many humanitarian issues caused by these weapons. As H.E. Mr. Bounkeut Sangsomsak, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR stated at the Dublin Diplomatic Conference on Cluster Munitions, May 2008, where the text of the CCM was agreed by 107 governments, "Laos has attached enormous importance to the banning of cluster munitions... we do not want other peoples to experience the same pain and suffering as the Lao people have endured."

In the same vein the Government of Lao PDR offered to host the Southeast Asia Regional Conference on the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The conference was held in the most-cluster-munitions



affected area of the Lao PDR and thus potentially the most densely cluster-munitions-affected area in the world, Xiengkhuang province. Thirteen governments sent representation to the regional meeting, along with civil society and United Nations personnel, totaling to over 170 participants. The three-day meeting included a field trip for the delegates to observe clearance efforts, witness detonations, and visit either a UXO Lao community awareness raising presentation or a MAG project dealing with UXO in the scrap metal trade. The success of the conference was commended by many of the delegates, some of whom who had never been to a cluster-munitions-affected area before.

The regional conference was one of three that were held around the world in the lead-up to the Oslo CCM Signing Conference in December 2008 that saw 95 governments sign the Convention. As the second government to sign the CCM, the Lao PDR was featured in the opening session of the conference when a 5 minute documentary 'Determined to Put an End' was shown; the film was produced by the NRA with support from UNDP Laos.

The Government of the Lao PDR plans to ratify the CCM in early 2009. The Convention itself will become international law six months after the 30th state ratifies. Once completed the key obligations of the CCM for the Government of the Lao PDR, are:

- Clear all land suspected to be contaminated with cluster munitions and submunitions within 10 years of the treaty coming into force. Where this is not feasible, affected states can apply for 5-year extensions.
- Destroy all cluster munitions stockpiled in its stores within 8 years.
- To conduct risk reduction education to ensure awareness among civilians living in cluster- munitions-affected areas.
- Appoint a focal point in Government for victim assistance.
- Collect reliable relevant data with respect to cluster munition victims and provide assistance to victims, including medical care, rehabilitation and psychological support, as well as provide for their social and economic inclusion.

Such obligations will provide substantial challenges and the Government of the Lao PDR will be looking to partner with donors to meet these. As continuing support to the full implementation of the CCM, the Government has offered to host the first Meeting of States Parties, which will be convened within 12 months of the CCM becoming international law.

A one page summary of the CCM is annexed to this report.



Panel addresses attendees at the Southeast Asia Regional Conference on the Convention on Cluster Munitions, held in October 2008 in Xiengkhuang Province





Ottawa Convention

The Government of Lao PDR continued their engagement with the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, otherwise referred to as the Ottawa Convention, by attending the Intercessional and the 9th Meeting of States Parties (9MSP) in 2008. At the 9MSP, as the Head of the Government of Lao PDR delegation, the Director of the NRA, Dr. Maligna Saignavongs, stated that his government is committed to the principles of the Ottawa Convention and “the Government of the Lao PDR, however, is still considering signing the Ottawa Convention.”¹⁷

The Government continued to affirm their support of the Ottawa Convention supporting again in 2008 the UN General Assembly Resolution on the “Universalisation and Implementation of the Ottawa Convention”, as it did in 2007.

A one page summary of the Ottawa Convention is annexed to this report.

Disability Convention

The Government of Lao PDR signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the 15 January 2008 and is working towards ratification in 2009, having developed draft legislation on disability in the Lao PDR in 2008.

This Convention was developed in recognition that persons with disabilities throughout the world continue being denied their human rights and are kept at the margins of society. As such States Parties to the Convention commit to: developing and carrying out policies, laws and administrative measures for securing the rights recognized in the Convention; abolish laws, regulations, customs and practices that constitute discrimination¹⁸ ; as well as working to combat stereotypes and prejudices and promote awareness of the capabilities of persons with disabilities.¹⁹ Signatories also commit to ensuring that persons with disabilities enjoy their inherent right to life on an equal basis with others²⁰ , and recognize all persons equally before the law.²¹

The Conventions on the Rights of People with Disability and Cluster Munitions have occupied the attention of the NRC and COPE during the latter part of 2008. In matters dealing with victim assistance, there are similarities between the CCM and the former Convention, and there is merit in addressing both at the same time. Both Conventions require the appointment of a focal point to act as facilitator and point of referral between the UN and the in-country activity under the Conventions. The work of the NRC and COPE is feeding into the Victim Assistance Strategy of the NRA and will, in turn, feed into the NRA’s revision of its strategic plan, ‘The Safe Path Forward’.

A one page summary of the Disability Convention is annexed to this report.





Sector Capacity Development and Support

A number of international organizations working in the Lao PDR provide technical assistance to build capacity of national staff in local organizations. Those active in 2008 were ArmorGroup North America (AGNA), Mines Advisory Group (MAG), The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and Japanese Mine Action Service (JMAS).

ArmorGroup North America

As part of a three year bi-lateral program the US Government continued to provide support to the NRA and UXO Lao during 2008 through ArmorGroup North America. The project provided US \$50,000 of funding to the NRA for operations and coordination, and US \$1,142,922 for UXO Lao to support their Provincial operations in Savannakhet and Champassak.

In addition the ArmorGroup North America project provided four international technical advisors to support the capacity development of the UXO sector, via an integrated project that supports regulation development through to operational implementation.

In the NRA a technical advisor provided support in the areas of quality management and operational coordination. While in UXO Lao assistance was provided in the areas of finance, quality management and field operations. The technical advisor support

was in response to requests from the organizations for assistance and was structured in a progressive way to ensure that capacity development, both organizationally and individually, can be measured. As an example of progress, during 2008, it was possible to start to reduce the inputs from the advisory team from full-time to part-time support. Heading the phasing-out of full-time international advisors was the area of financial systems support to UXO Lao. Building on many years of support, UXO Lao has developed effective financial systems and procedures, and has highly competent national staff in place. As such it now only requires part-time monitoring and 'special needs' assistance from the ArmorGroup North America project. It is expected that the other areas of technical support will reduce in a phased way at an appropriate time. Full-time support is still required in areas of operations and quality management, both in UXO Lao and the NRA.

Under its current contract arrangements, ArmorGroup North America will continue to support both the NRA and UXO Lao until September 2009.

Outside of the US-funded project, the ArmorGroup North America country manager also provided an oversight and monitoring function for USD \$233,000



of bilateral funding to UXO Lao from the Swiss Foundation World Without Mines, which was donated in support of UXO Lao operations in Khammouane Province.

Mines Advisory Group

The NRA's Mine Risk Education Unit is operating with confidence following almost two years of in-kind support from MAG in the form of a technical advisor to work closely alongside the MRE Officer. The work was funded by Jersey Overseas Aid Commission. The full time support provided since March 2007 by MAG's MRE Advisor has now been phased out to allow the MRE unit staff to operate on their own.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

UNICEF continued in 2008 to provide financial support to the MRE and PR Units. The funds were used to conduct a workshop on behavior change communication, print MRE materials, develop UXO school curricula, distribute UXO information to raise issue awareness, and to organize a national media visit to increase the domestic profile of the UXO issues in the Lao PDR.

Japanese Mine Action Service (JMAS)

JMAS continued in 2008 to provide technical support to the national clearance organization, UXO Lao.

Financials

Contributions in 2008: Total contributions to the NRA in 2008 were \$1,226,968 US.

Table 6: Financial Contributions to NRA 2007 & 2008 (US\$)

Donor	2007	2008	Total
ArmorGroup (North America)	-	49,890	49,890
Australia	-	313,081	313,081
European Union	-	115,832	115,832
MAG	80,660	135,288	215,948
New Zealand	211,267	-	211,267
Switzerland	500,000	300,000	800,000
UNDP (regular resources)	270,000	278,000	548,000
UNICEF	103,440	34,877	138,317
USA	95,238	-	95,238
TOTAL	1,260,605	1,226,968	2,487,573

Expenditure in 2008

Expenditure in 2008 was disbursed via the NRA, UNDP, UNICEF, MAG, Armour Group, and the EC/EU

Table 7: Expenditure of UNDP funds (US\$)

Item	Total
Personnel Costs	352,231
Consultants (National and International)	56,238
Operational Costs	225,837
Equipment Costs	121,133
Running Costs	72,717
ISS and GMS Fees	57,247
TOTAL	885,403



Table 8: Expenditure of UNICEF funds (US\$)

Item	Total
Training to MRE operators in the use of MRE materials	13,836
Workshop with Ministry of Information and Culture	2,003
Printing of UXO Risk Education materials	11,823
Reprint updated MRE message materials	2,458
Field visit costs	2,428
Mine Awareness Day costs	969
Equipment costs	1,359
TOTAL	34,877

Table 9: Expenditure of MAG funds (US\$)

Item	Total
MRE activities	135,288
TOTAL	135,288

Table 10: Expenditure Armor Group Funds (US\$)

Item	Total
Provincial Workshops and Training Sessions	18,900
NRA Staff capacity building – course fees and travel	8,155
Translation and Interpretation fees	750
TOTAL	27,805

Table 11: Expenditure EU funds (US\$)

Item	Total
Phase 1 National Survey of UXO Victims and Accidents Costs	115,832
TOTAL	115,832

The overall expenditure in the sector for 2008, including humanitarian and commercial operators, for 2008 was 20,636,831 (US\$)

Table 12: Expenditure in the UXO Sector in the Lao PDR for 2008 (US\$)

Organization	Expenditure on UXO Operations in 2008
AAR Japan	115,168
Cooperative Orthotic and Prosthetic Enterprise (Cope)	639,796
Handicap International Belgium (HIB)	369,001
UXO LAO	6,795,781
Lao Disable People's Association(LDPA)	162,830
Mine Advisory Group (MAG)	2,367,593
Milsearch-BPKP EOD Joint Venture Limited	2,128,198
OZ Lane Xang Minerals Ltd (LXML)	3,283,688*
BACTEC	4,150,000
Phoenix Clearance Limited (PCL)	(approx.) 1,500,000
FSD	1,063,868
Laos Army	No figure supplied
World Education/Consortium	160,908
TOTAL	20,636,831

* Of the total LXML reported figure, 2,100,000 US\$ was contracted out to BACTEC. Hence this figure will not be included in the sector expenditure total as it is already reflected in the BACTEC total.

UXO Sector Annual Report 2008

Operator

- Association for Aid and Relief Japan
- Cooperative Orthotic and Prosthetic Enterprise (COPE)
- Handicap International Belgium
- Lao Disabled People's Association (LDPA)
- Lao National UXO Programme (UXO LAO)
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)



Reports

- Milsearch-BPKP EOD Joint Venture Limited
- OZ Lang Xang Minerals Ltd (LXML)
- BACTEC
- Phoenix Clearance Limited
- Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD)
- World Education/Consortium





Association for Aid and Relief Japan

Activities in 2008

The Association for Aid and Relief Japan (AAR Japan) has been working with the National Rehabilitation Center (NRC) and Ministry of Health since December, 2000 to support the NRC's service to provide wheelchairs and hand propelled tricycles to people with disabilities. Production quantity of these devices has increased gradually year by year, and in recent years the annual production average is approximately 400 devices.

The achievements of the project to date are as follows;

December 2000 – December 2003: 1st phase of the project (funded by JICA)

- Construction of NRC Wheelchair workshop
- Dispatch of Japanese wheelchair production expert
- Target Area/ Vientiane Capital, Luang Prabuang, Xiengkhuang, Savannakhet, Champasak

November 2004 – October 2007: 2nd phase of the project (funded by JICA)

- Improvement of beneficiaries assessment process, wheelchair fitting
- Establishment of NRC wheelchair workshop's operational and financial management system.
- Target Area/ expanded to Vientiane, Bolikhamxai, Khammouane, Saravan, Sekong, Attapu

June 2008 – May 2011: 3rd phase project (funded by JICA)

- Development of Rough Terrain Type Wheelchair
- Establishment of repair system

- Enhancement of administrative skills of NRC staff
- Target Area/ expanded to Luang Namtha, Bokeo, Udomxay, Xaynaboury, Phongsaly, Houaphan

The third phase of the 3-year project started on June 1st, 2008. Throughout this year activities were primarily focused on expanding the target areas to six new provinces in northern Lao PDR. Wheelchair Assessment Training was provided to Lao national staff working in the provincial hospitals of each province, and distribution of wheelchairs/tricycles to the northern areas started in December 2008.

Achievements

Throughout 2008, the AAR Japan had a number of achievements. The AAR Japan built relations with the six new northern target provinces, which was the most time consuming activity for the year. When providing a wheelchair to a person with disability, it is most important that the person receives proper assessment in order to receive an appropriate device. Still in its early stages, staff of each provincial hospital continued to further their knowledge and experience relating to assessing the clients and prescribing the right type of wheelchair. This education will continue.

With regards to the development of the Rough Terrain Type Wheelchair much coordination has ensued with the relevant organizations to properly prepare for production training. The training introducing the new type of wheelchair fit for outdoor use is expected to take place in 2009.

As for setting up a repairing system of wheelchairs in each province, discussions have been going on with each provincial hospital to collect ideas from each province. This issue is also planned to be realized in 2009.

The quantity of devices distributed to each province is shown in following chart. Within these figures the number of UXO victims totals 13, all of which received tricycles.

Table 1: The number of devices supplied to client by type and province

Province	Wheelchairs	Tricycles	Total
Vientiane Municipality	71	46	117
Vientiane Province	19	17	36
Luang Prabang	19	6	25
Xiengkhuang	9	0	9
Borikhamxai	20	8	28
Khammuane	15	11	26
Savannakhet	14	10	24
Saravan	10	3	13
Sekong	2	7	9
Attapu	12	2	14
Champasak	21	16	37
Stock	4	0	4
Others	17	22	39
TOTAL	233	148	381



Mr. Kasak, 48 years old, lives in Vientiane municipality. He became a victim of UXO in 1994. In August 2008 he visited the National Rehabilitation Center, where he was assessed and then received a tricycle in October that year. He now uses his device regularly to travel around.

Implementing Partners and Clients

AAR Japan works directly with the NRC and Provincial Rehabilitation Centers (PRC) or Rehabilitation Section of Provincial Hospitals. The operational budget, which funds trainings, administration and staff costs, and field trips, is supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The production costs of wheelchairs are supported by various international and local organizations.

Financials:

Table 2: AAR Japan Expenditure for 2008 (US\$)

Item	Amount
Personnel costs	35,417
Operational costs	27,714
Special Operational costs	
Equipment – expendable	49,353
Equipment – non-expendable	2,684
TOTAL	115,168

Table 3: AAR Japan Donor contributions for 2008 (US\$)

Donor	Contribution received in 2008
JICA	41,004
AAR Internal Fund	51,171
External Sponsorships (Production Costs)	29,839
Beneficiary Contribution	2,113
General Donation	262
Others	829
TOTAL	125,218



Cooperative Orthotic and Prosthetic Enterprise (Cope)

In 2008, 1282 devices were manufactured at 5 centres around the country. The most common need following a UXO accident is a prostheses (Artificial Limb) Of the 840 prostheses made, 396 were required as a result of UXO accidents. This amounts to 45% of cases and is the most common reason why someone is fitted with prosthesis in Lao PDR.

An extensive training programme continued throughout 2008 including clinical training as well as developing capacity in other skills. Clinical guidelines for rehabilitation were developed and implemented and activity planning groups, to ensure engagement of local staff, have created a greater and confirmed sense of ownership of the project.

Within communities, raising awareness of available services began in 2008 and will be expanded in 2009 with an outreach programme.

Achievements

All objectives set out in the work plans were achieved and 2008 saw a greater sense of stability for the project. Long-term funding for a major part of the project has been achieved and funding for an outreach programme was secured during 2008. Productivity is rising and a greater number and range of people are benefiting from the services available.

Raising awareness of the cluster munitions issue has also been a key activity for 2008 with the opening of the Visitor Centre which is already contributing significantly to the funding of the project and

to greater visibility for the project and its work, with appearances on international television programmes. The Visitor Centre is a major part of the sustainability plan for the Lao Rehabilitation Services.

The skills development programme is yielding solid results with evaluation of skills levels of staff showing consistent improvement and Lao staff playing key roles in delivering training and internal audits.

Reporting systems and internal policies and procedures have been strengthened in conjunction with the local management team and the next strategic plan has been developed in consultation with staff. This plan is due for completion in early 2009.

New proposals are under development for capital investment and a more strategic approach to education to assist the government in meeting its own needs for the education of health care professionals in the future.

Implementing Partners or Clients:

COPE works in partnership with the Ministry of Health at the National Rehabilitation Centre and 4 Provincial Rehabilitation Centres throughout Laos.

There are currently 4 formal partners within COPE that contribute to the overall objectives of the project. Those partners are AAR (Association for Aid and Relief – Japan) Power International UK, World Vision and the Ministry of Health.

Geography of Operations:

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in
Victim Assistance	COPE Supports 5 Provincial Rehabilitation Centres throughout Lao PDR thereby providing a nationwide service for prosthetics and orthotics. The Centres are in Luang Phrabang, Xiengkhuang, Vientiane, Savannakhet and Pakse.



Financials:

Table 1: Expenditure for 2008 (US\$)

Item	Amount
Personnel costs	240,193
Operational costs	66,711
Special Operational costs	176,024
Equipment – expendable	125,877
Equipment – non-expendable	30,990
TOTAL	639,796

Table 2: Donor contributions for 2008 (US\$)

Donor	Contribution received in 2008
Australian Government – Aus AID (Three years funding)*	319,414
CBM (Germany)	49,811
ICRC / SFD	36,640
POWER International (UK)	40,148
Adopt-A-Minefield	99,775
The Leprosy Mission International	59,841
Fundraising	102,490
TOTAL	708,120

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Handicap International Belgium

Activities in 2008

During 2008, Handicap International Belgium (HIB) continued working on the "Integrated UXO Threat Reduction Program" in the Lao PDR. Community volunteers were recruited, trained, coached and monitored in all 36 target villages creating a vital link between the villagers and HIB UXO clearance, roving teams and Risk Education teams. Community liaison was therefore an important activity.

HIB finalized a Risk Education (RE) module entitled - How to Protect Your Children from Unexploded Ordnance – A Guide for Parents, (referred to as the "Parenting technique module") funded by UNICEF. HIB Volunteers were trained to use the module with parents. HIB conducted a KAP survey to measure knowledge, attitude and practice concerning UXO and scrap metal collection in the three districts. Other RE activities included village mapping, art competitions, FGDs and village meetings and material development.

Clearance and roving work was carried out 29 villages in Nong, Sepon and Villabully districts in Savannakhet province. General village surveys were carried out in 8 villages. Level 2 technical surveys were conducted for all roving and area clearance tasks in accordance with HIB Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs). Level 3 clearance reports on finished area clearance tasks documented the handover of cleared areas to beneficiaries. Post Clearance Assessments (PCA) were carried out by survey staff 6-12 months after clearance.

Quality control and quality management were ongoing activities. Clearance was carried out in compliance with HIB SOP's and the National Standards with zero incidents. A Technical Adviser was recruited once every two-three months to conduct QC and refresher training to HIB technicians.

HIB continued to participate in national technical working groups (TWG).

Achievements

With AUSAID funding HIB supported 29 villages with area and roving clearance

Area clearance:

- 339326 m2 of land cleared of UXO items
- 1148 items UXO destroyed
- 2426 direct beneficiaries

Roving sections visited 15 villages & destroyed 623 UXO including 27 aircraft bomb

Surveys completed in 2008:

- 8 Level 1 village surveys.
- 97 Level 2 surveys for area clearance.
- 13 level 2 surveys for Roving tasks.
- 83 level 3 area clearance completion reports.
- Site handover certificates provided for a total of 83 cleared sites.
- Post clearance assessments on 104 cleared sites.

Other achievements 2008:

- Medic training - Global Medic consultants trained 3 HIB medics and HIB sponsored a medic from Sepon District Hospital to attend the training
- Application for accreditation with the NRA submitted in July 2008
- HIB UXO Reference Manual updated in July 2008



- HIB SOPs & CASEVAC/Medivac Procedures updated in June 2008
- Training exercises on SOPs and practical CASEVAC exercises conducted regularly
- QM tests and assessments carried.

RE and other 2008:

Training and capacity building to 36 Community Based Risk Education Volunteers (CBREV) by HIB staff. Subjects included; Roles and Responsibilities of the Community Volunteers, What is Risky Behaviour, Mine/ UXO basic safety messages, What to do if you find a mine/UXO, What to do if there is a mine/UXO incident, Characteristic of a "good" Community Volunteer, KAP surveys.

HIB RE team attended training by NRA and training by UXO Coordinator. RE materials were distributed by HIB and used to educate communities on the danger of UXO and the risks associate with scrap metal collection. HIB continued using a Behavioural Change Communication (BCC) approach to RE. Monthly focus group discussions and village meetings also were organised, as well as competitions, village mapping exercises and quizzes conducted. HIB - with funding from UNICEF - developed a Parenting Techniques module: a guide to parents on how to protect their children from UXO. 1500 copies of the module were utilised and distributed in 2008.

HIB conducted a "KAP survey" to measure knowledge, attitude and practice concerning UXO and scrap metal collection in the 3 districts; established 3 village billboards; and was also instrumental in discovering and providing information and referrals regarding accidents. 10 incidents were investigated, documented and reported to the NRA in 2008.

Case Study

HIB has been conducting an integrated UXO program since 2004. Its UXO program was an outcome of over 10 years of project and technical support to UXO Lao. HIB's UXO program is focused as much on prevention of disability and the rehabilitation of communities affected by UXO as it is on making a meaningful contribution to Lao

poverty reduction strategy. For this reason, HIB strives to reduce poverty through UXO clearance, mine risk education, assistance to survivors and aims to facilitate community ownership and empowerment, by providing linkages with development NGOs.

HIB's holistic approach is centered on the community's needs and capabilities. Empowering communities at risk has emerged as a vital component to achieving outcomes, allowing communities to sustain the benefits of integrated approach in a meaningful and progressive way. One example of this is in Ban Nalong Mai where HIB has been able to integrate school clearance, Risk Education, Roving activities and community development in cooperation with the Belgium Technical Cooperation and Local Authorities utilizing Community Volunteers identified under HIB programming.



*HIB Community Volunteer using Risk Education materials in Savannakhet province.
Photo: Jim Holmes*

Over the past year, HIB's integrated program has been focused in Savannakhet province. The program combines UXO clearance with Risk Education and community development in association with development NGOs and local authorities. The program also works closely with HIB Community Based Rehabilitation Program providing rehabilitative care for survivors of UXO.

HIB's Program Coordinator, Kim Warren says the most satisfying and memorable aspect of her job is seeing cleared land being used by appropriate beneficiaries. "Before fields were cleared, the land was covered with brush as it could not be used.



Now, poor people have been provided with land to farm. From our Post Clearance Assessments we can really see that people have increased availability to land, an increased sense of security, improved food security and improved access to local development infrastructure such as schools”, she said.



HIB technician clearing land in Tangalai Tai Village Nong District, SVKT
Photo: Jim Holmes

Through its integrated mine action program, HIB helps to save lives, reduce injuries and improve the socio-economic conditions of poor communities affected by UXO.

Implementing Partners or Clients

In 2008, HIB was not formally working with a project partner. Funding in 2009 from the European Community will allow HIB to partner with the NRA to open a provincial office in Savannakhet province. While no formal partners were involved in the program in 2008, HIB does work closely with all relevant stakeholders and coordinates activities with NGO's, government departments and local authorities. HIB views cooperation and collaboration as essential for project success and for a truly integrated approach. Regular meetings are held by HIB for all Program Coordinators and national staff to ensure integration and harmonization of programs and projects. HIB works closely with the Poverty Reduction Fund, World Education Consortium, Laos Disabled Peoples Organization, Lao Women's Union representatives and Provincial Rehabilitation Centre as well as development NGOs including World Vision and Concern Worldwide.

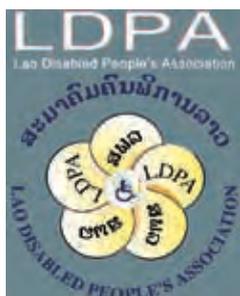
Financials:

Table: HIB Expenditure for 2008 (US\$)

Item	Amount
Personnel costs	251,585
Operational costs	84,509
Special Operational costs	
Equipment – expendable	
Equipment – non-expendable	32,907
TOTAL	369,001

Table: HIB Donor contributions for 2008 (US\$)

Donor	Contribution received in 2008
AUSaid	500,000 Australian Dollars Exchange rate USD / AUD: 1.1326 441,462 US Dollars
UNICEF	10,000 USD for Parenting Module
TOTAL	451,462



Lao Disabled People's Association (LDPA)

The Lao Disabled People's Association (LDPA) is a membership based, self-help organization established to promote the rights of all people with disabilities (PWD) and bring about their full participation in society. The LDPA works at the village, provincial and central levels to remove barriers and promote the inclusion of PWD into the community, largely through advocacy. The activities undertaken to achieve this in 2008 are outlined below:

- Input & technical advice into policy development such as in the UXO sector, Education Sector, and for selected Government Ministries and donors on disability issues in Laos.
- Training workshop for Provincial Branch Secretaries, who represent the LDPA in the provinces and act as a source of information for members.
- Ongoing activities to promote disability issues through the media, including short films broadcast on Lao National Television and regular radio programs on national and provincial stations, produced as part of the LDPA's Radio Listening Clubs from within self-help groups.
- Representatives attended international conferences & trainings on a variety of disability-related issues such as employment, statistics, education, advocacy and leadership. Also called on the expertise of international advisors for workshops in areas such as radio production, statistics, international law & disability action plans.
- Began two new projects to address Human Rights issues:
 - At the provincial level in collaboration with Handicap International Belgium (HIB) to establish Disability Rights Village Networks.

- At the central level to encourage mainstreaming disability and assist Ministries to develop Disability Action Plans, with funding from AusAID.
- Assisted LDPA members to access vocational training and employment opportunities; most notably through a new project with HIB that aims to deliver services and advocate for inclusive employment and economic opportunities for people with disabilities.
- Collaborated with Basic Needs to highlight mental health issues for PWDs and improve referral networks in Vientiane Capital.

Most significantly, in 2008 the LDPA held the Second General Meeting of the Association which included the drafting of new bi-laws, election of the LDPA President and Committee members, and the drafting of the 2nd LDPA strategic plan.

Other achievements included:

- The establishment of a new center by a self-help group of LDPA members for people with intellectual disabilities.
- Identified Government Officials in 7 ministries as Disability Focal Points and trained them on disability rights and developing action plans
- Launched a series of Human Rights DVDs in collaboration with the National University Faculty of Law and Political Science, with funding from the Danish Institute of Human Rights.
- Conducted awareness raising about human and disability rights through production of television, radio and DVD products as well as banners, brochures, posters and t-shirts.



- Provided training to 80 people with disabilities on disability rights and mental health.
- Established a new database tool to be used as an employment service for members, to match potential employees with disabilities to job vacancies.
- Provided sign language training for interpreters, teachers, and people who are deaf and their families, as well as the production and distribution of a DVD and book of Lao Sign Language.

Case study of an achievement of the organization in 2008

In the 2008 the LDPA received a grant from the Australian government's Human Rights Small Grants Scheme to support its work in strengthening Lao institutional structures for the protection and promotion of disability rights. The most important part of this project in 2008 involved organizing and conducting training workshops for government representatives from seven different ministries.

These hands-on training sessions covered a variety of topics with a goal to equip Lao Government Ministries with the expertise to develop action

plans in order to implement the decree on disability and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Topics included disability models and approaches to mainstreaming, technical skill development, tools and disability instruments, statistics, and methods that can be used to draft the action plans themselves.

Most importantly, participants had the chance to share knowledge and ideas, and to understand the barriers facing people with disabilities first hand. This was done by facilitating interviews with LDPA members, visiting vocational training centers for people with disabilities, and even giving participants the opportunity to test out life in a wheelchair to better understand the difficulties faced by people with disabilities in daily life.

Implementing Partners or Clients

LDPA implements projects in collaboration with the National Commission for Disabled People and the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare.

In 2008 it has also worked with organizations and international agencies, such as: AusAID, DfID, POWERInternational, UNESCAP, UNDP International Law Project, COPE, NRA, APCD, UNICEF, Handicap International Belgium, AAR, Basic Needs, SHIA, DIHR and Hope Haven International.

Geography of Operations:

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in
Victim Assistance	Champasak, Huaphanh, Luang Prabang, Oudomxay, Saravane, Sekong, Vientiane Capital, Vientiane Province, Xayabury, Khuang, Savannakhet.

Financials:

Table 1: Expenditure for 2008 (US\$)

Item	Amount
Personnel costs	65,643
Operational costs	82,032
Special Operational costs	1,221
Equipment – expendable	11,091
Equipment – non-expendable	2,844
TOTAL	162,831



Table 2: Donor contributions for 2008 (US\$)

Donor	Contribution received in 2008
DFID	71,933
AusAID	70,365
SHIA	18,738
HIB	10,331
Basic Needs	9,950
POWER International	6,116
TOTAL	187,433





Lao National UXO Programme (UXO LAO)

1. UXO Lao's Activities in 2008:

In 2008 Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Program continued its mandates to increase the land available for agriculture and for other development activities, and reduce the number of victims through risk education activities. In order to achieve its mandates UXO Lao conducted activities such as:

1. Community Awareness
2. Survey Task
3. Roving Task
4. Clearance Task
5. Enhance Technical Survey (ETS)

2. Achievements 2008

2.1 Key Achievements

a. Technology

- Participated in a technology workshop in Geneva. Shared experiences of UXO Lao on the use of the Vallon VMXC1 detector.
- Examined the Geophysical Survey technology and its possible applications in road clearance.

b. Procurement

- Detectors
 - Ebinger Magnex 120L magnetometer with data logger: 8 units
 - Vallon VMXC1 detector: 212 units
 - Ebinger UPEX 740M large loop detectors: 12 units

■ Vehicles

- Ford Ranger pick-up: 7 units
- Toyota Hard Tops: 8 units
- Toyota Prado Land Cruiser: 2 units

c. Other Initiatives

- Gender – revised CA messages in line with recommendations from the conducted Gender Study.
- Enhanced technical survey – deployed the ETS advisor. Currently revising forms, standard operating procedures, and evaluating new magnetometers.
- Pre and Post-clearance impact assessment – field tested the questionnaires. Currently revising and integrating questionnaires for inclusion in the ETS forms.
- Accreditation – submitted accreditation application to the NRA.
- Public Information – produced display stands to place in each UXO Lao Provincial Office and National Office, as well as revised its factsheets for distributions. Currently undertaking the construction of UXO Lao display rooms in the Luang Prabang office, which will be opened soon.
- Managed a display booth exhibited in Oslo, Norway during the Cluster Munitions Signing Ceremony
- Village volunteers – training provided to increase the number of volunteers assisting UXO Lao with its village education program. 126 village volunteers and 17 CA staff in 3 provinces received training.



2.2 Operations:

1. Community Awareness: 601 villages of the target 648 villages were visited.
2. Area Clearance: 2,653 hectares of the target 2,617 hectares of land were cleared.
3. Survey Tasks: 1,916 tasks of the target 1,379 tasks were completed.
4. Roving Tasks: 1,415 tasks of the target 1,379 tasks were completed.
5. Enhance Technical Survey: 383 hectares of the target 417 hectares of land were cleared.

Detailed 2008 achievements

Province	Community Awareness		Survey		Roving	
	Visits	Beneficiaries	Villages	Visited	Villages	Visits
Luangprabang	51	16,495	76	127	54	77
Hauphanh	60	21,280	78	184	56	124
Xiengkhuang	105	16,205	199	266	157	231
Khammuane	61	20,445	81	113	78	109
Savannkhet	68	11,238	170	269	126	138
Saravane	59	16,072	166	194	182	244
Sekong	64	9,825	81	122	49	81
Champassack	79	22,461	227	499	184	364
Attapeu	54	11,311	96	142	40	47
TOTAL	601	145,332	1,174	1,916	926	1,415

Province	Clearance			Beneficiaries	ETS			Beneficiaries
	Agriculture	Others	Total Area		Agriculture	Others	Total Area	
Luangprabang	238.9122	11.8032	250.7154	8,234	26.7414	4.0319	30.7733	5,069
Hauphanh	221.7742	11.5084	233.2826	4,299	41.2830	0.0000	41.2830	925
Xiengkhuang	396.1492	55.2306	451.3798	23,477	68.3869	9.7786	78.1655	7,737
Khammuane	169.5343	54.1306	223.6649	18,948	36.7496	4.7266	41.4762	3,282
Savannkhet	404.6804	19.2435	423.9239	5,550	39.7576	0.6966	40.4542	961
Saravane	247.0165	73.0986	320.1151	13,810	13.6627	15.0961	28.7588	8,550
Sekong	187.6915	28.454	216.1455	11,534	34.9514	7.1868	42.1382	1,412
Champassack	272.7886	20.7524	293.541	72,762	35.6635	5.0714	40.7349	3,680
Attapeu	182.3108	58.719	241.0298	24,152	21.0159	18.4085	39.4244	19,405
TOTAL	2320.8577	332.9403	2653.798	182,766	318.2120	64.9965	383.2085	51,021

2.3 TRAINING

Course	Course count	Number of participations
UXO Clearance	1	12
Survey	1	8
Survey Team Leader	1	9
Medic	1	7
Team Leader	1	19
Medic Review	6	51
TOTAL	11	106



3. Implementing Partners or Clients

1. Armor Group North America(AGNA)
2. Japan Mine Action Service(JMAS)
3. Mines Advisory Group(MAG)
4. Norwegian People's Aid(NPA)

4. Clients

1. World Food Programme
2. UNICEF
3. IFAD
4. Room to Read (USA)
5. Poverty Reduction Fund
6. Oji Plantation
7. Lao Government
8. Bouyong
9. JICA
10. World Vision
11. World Bank (EDP II)
12. ADRA
13. Vietnamese Organization
14. GTZ and Lao Gov.

15. Belgium NGO
16. ADP 2
17. Provincial Education and villages
18. CMI
19. Korean Organization

5. Geographic Operations:

1. Luangprabang – CA, SV, RV, CL and ETS
2. Huaphanh – CA, SV, RV, CL and ETS
3. Xiengkhuang – CA, SV, RV, CL and ETS
4. Khammuane – CA, SV, RV, CL and ETS
5. Savannakhet – CA, SV, RV, CL and ETS
6. Champasak – CA, SV, RV, CL and ETS
7. Saravane – CA, SV, RV, CL and ETS
8. Sekong – CA, SV, RV, CL and ETS
9. Attapeu – CA, SV, RV, CL and ETS

Remark: CA (Community Awareness), SV (Survey), RV (Roving), CL (Clearance) and ETS (Enhance Technical Survey)

Financials:

Table 1: Expenditure Details 2008 (US\$)

UXO LAO Operations	Amount
Personnel Expenses	3,155,013
Operating Expenses	1,337,092
Special Operating Expenses	330,655
Non-Expendable Equipment	1,444,672
Expendable Equipment	274,473
TOTAL	6,541,905
Support Costs	Amount
UNDP GMS Support Costs LAO/03/M12	10,331
UNDP GMS Support Costs LAO/03/O12	243,545
TOTAL	253,875
GRAND TOTAL	6,795,781



Table 2: Donor Details 2008 (US\$)

<i>Income</i>	<i>1996 2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>Total Fund</i>
UNDP Managed Trust Fund			
			<i>Received</i>
Lao/95/A12			
United Kingdom	138,020	0	138,020
Netherlands	2,901,220	0	2,901,220
Norway	2,874,201	0	2,874,201
New Zealand	1,213,077	0	1,213,077
Sweden	394,176	0	394,176
Australia	1,341,193	0	1,341,193
Canada	607,982	0	607,982
Finland	1,589,348	0	1,589,348
United State of America	3,103,086	0	3,103,086
Belgium	555,734	0	555,734
Denmark (UXO LAO)	1,973,022	0	1,973,022
Denmark (MAG)	3,539,360	0	3,539,360
Japan	442,924	0	442,924
Luxembourg	1,724,747	0	1,724,747
South Korea	48,584	0	48,584
Trust Fund Interest	878,147	34,358	912,505
TOTAL	23,324,821	34,358	23,359,179
Lao/02H12			
United Kingdom	221,202	0	221,202
TOTAL	221,202	0	221,202
Lao/03/M12			
United Kingdom	1,003,729	0	1,003,729
Canada	595,118	0	595,118
Japan	194,001	0	194,001
Germany	1,189,102	0	1,189,102
South Korea	90,000	0	90,000
Italy	161,464	0	161,464
TOTAL	3,233,413	0	3,233,413
Lao/03/O12			
UNDP for CTA/NRA	559,505	0	559,505
New Zealand (NRA)	39,690	0	39,690
Germany	200,000	640,000	840,000
UNDP Trac Fund 2004	427,375	0	427,375
UNDP Trac Fund 2005	657,153	0	657,153
UNDP Trac Fund 2006	504,878	0	504,878
UNDP Trac Fund 2007	349,973	- 3,213	346,760
UNDP Trac Fund 2008	0	500,000	500,000
Ireland	1,348,601	0	1,348,601
AusAid	254,237	-6,303	247,934
Switzerland	1,959,935	249,975	2,209,910
Japan Phase 1	741,806	0	741,806
Japan Mine Action Service	1,103,535	562,063	1,665,598
Japan Phase 2	875,239	0	875,239
Japan Phase 3	0	861,280	861,280
Luxembourg	659,477	348,189	1,007,666
Poland	11,100	0	11,100
Japan Asean Integration Fund	913,264	0	913,264
TOTAL	10,605,769	3,151,992	13,757,760
OVERALL TOTAL 1	37,385,205	3,186,350	40,571,554



Income	1996-2007	2008	Total Fund Received
Other Funding Sources			
<i>Funding channeled through Partners</i>			
United States of America via ArmorGroup	154,726	1,142,922	1,297,648
United States of America via NPA/MAG	3,491,712	0	3,491,712
Ireland via MAG	541,757	616,881	1,158,638
AusAid via MAG	0	175,251	175,251
Norwegian People's Aid	0	202,583	202,583
Australia Embassy Donation	0	10,203	10,203
European Commission	0	186,050	186,050
Foundation World without Mines	0	230,000	230,000
TOTAL	4,188,195	2,563,890	6,752,085
Direct Funding to UXO Lao			
	495,358	0	495,358
Australia Direct Aid	2,880	0	2,880
United State of America	176,013	0	176,013
United Kingdom	344,497	0	344,497
TOTAL	1,018,747	0	1,018,747
Other Funding Source			
UNDP	2,120,000	0	2,120,000
Mennonite Central Committee	25,000	0	25,000
Private Contributions	64,423	2,141	66,564
Government Donation	0	1,706	1,706
Exchange Rate Rev Reserve	-48,402	-2,885	-51,287
UXO Lao Operation Account	6,401	0	6,401
Sale of UXO LAO Asses	47,393	1,988	49,381
Reimbursable Operations	20,948	13,281	34,228
TOTAL	2,235,763	16,231	2,251,993
OVERALL TOTAL 2	7,442,705	2,580,121	10,022,826
GRAND TOTAL (Total 1 and 2 combined)	44,827,910	5,766,470	50,594,380



Mines Advisory Group

Activities in 2008

Mines Advisor Group (MAG) activities for 2008 focused on achieving goals set out in the Lao Government National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy (NGPES) and the Millennium Development Goals that aspire to remove the Lao PDR from the list of least developed countries by 2020. In support of these goals MAG implemented the following activities:

Operations

MAG deployed 11 Unexploded Ordnance teams (UCT) to Xiengkhuang and Khammouane provinces, undertaking clearance of irrigation, gravity fed water systems, sanitation, roads, paddy extension, and school sites.

Community Liaison

Community Liaison (CL) teams continue to be the main contact between the MAG project team, village, district authorities, and local communities. They ensure stakeholders are informed of and consulted on project progress and future plans. Using inclusive Participatory Rural Appraisal techniques that are informed by key cross cutting issues such as gender, CL teams facilitate a series of information sessions with target communities. These sessions include

raising awareness of risks of UXO through Mine Risk Education as well as information on clearance sites to be collected, facilitating identification and prioritization of clearance tasks.

Village Assistance Clearance (VAC)

Through Village Assisted Clearance local personnel are hired on temporary basis to help remove vegetation on tasks sites in preparation for clearance activities. By using local people MAG provides income generating opportunities for the community and provides villagers with training and experience in a formal work environment. Every effort is made to hire members from the most vulnerable households.

Technical Advisors (TA)

MAG continues to support both UXO Lao and the NRA to achieve their respective goals by employing technical advisors to build the capacity of key personnel within each organization. In 2008, MAG TAs were positioned in the NRA MRE unit, as well as UXO Lao Huaphan, Savannakhet and Champassak provinces.

Achievements

The MAG programme continued to perform above target indicators.

Target Areas	2008
Communities accessed by CL teams	258
Beneficiaries of CL	12,148
Land cleared of ERW m ²	3,763,582m ²
Emergency / Spot tasks completed	224
Direct beneficiaries of clearance	45,861
Village Assisted Clearance (VAC) personnel recruited	3,730
% of staff Female by Dec 2009	34%



Members of Khammouane's All-Female team at work.
Credit: Roger Arnold / MAG

All female Teams: Proving a Point

UXO clearance requires a certain toughness, and is considered by some to be a 'man's job'. But there are also women involved, such as those in the two all-female UXO clearance teams used by MAG (Mines Advisory Group).

MAGs all-female teams are one component of the organization's gender equity policy (35% of the programme's staff are women). Successfully undertaking what is often seen as 'men's work' raises the status of women in their communities.

There is a Lao proverb saying women are always one step behind men,' says Vilaphan Soukvilay, head of the all-female team in Khammouane. 'It's not fair or true.'

Noimany Pialeuxay, driver for the Xiengkhuang team, says that some men cannot believe that women can carry out the demanding work of UXO clearance. "But that is one benefit of our team. When people see us at work, they realize that we can do it," she says.

As well as changing attitudes, the teams also carry out the same vital work as MAGs other teams. "Our work really benefits communities. In Nong Het district, where we are currently working, the next

generation won't have to face the same problems," says Noimany.

Implementing Partners or Clients

MAGs work in the Lao PDR is directly focused on achieving goals as set out by the Government of Lao PDRs National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy (NGPES) and the Millennium Development Goals. MAG Lao therefore aims to develop linkages with development partners as much as possible and as a result, has extensive experience of working with partners to contribute to poverty reduction in the Lao PDR.

In 2008 MAG worked closely with the following development partners to ensure that once UXO clearance is complete development activities are implemented to benefit the target population; World Food Program, Humpty Dumpty International, International Relief & Development, and Triangle.

In 2008 the UNDP commissioned the First Assessment of Gender Perspectives in UXO Action in the Lao PDR with support from MAG. The assessment is a significant step forward in the recognition of gender roles in UXO contamination, poverty and UXO action.



Table: MAG Expenditure for 2008 (US\$)

Item	Amount
Personnel costs	1,466,983
Operational costs	331,214
Special Operational costs	145,637
Equipment – expendable	89,910
Equipment – non-expendable	333,849
TOTAL	2,367,593

Table: MAG Donor contributions for 2008(US\$)

Donor	Contribution received in 2008
AUSAID	333,097
AMOUR GROUP	124,931
DFID	709,733
JERSY OVERSEAS AID COMMITTEE	135,288
IRISHAID	605,000
HUMTY DUMTY	250,000
WRA	579,100
TOTAL	2,737,149

•—————•



Milsearch-BPKP EOD Joint Venture Limited

During 2008 Milsearch-BPKP undertook UXO clearance of access tracks and drill pads ahead of minerals exploration for Phu Bia Mining in Xiengkhuang Province and the Saysomboune Region. Similar activities were conducted on behalf of Ord River Resources in Champassak Province. Search and clearance of construction sites was also conducted for the ITD-NCC JV on the Nam theun 2 Hydropower Project in Khammouane Province and on Clinic sites in Sekong Province for the US Embassy.

Other activities included a General UXO Survey of the Nam Tha 1 Hydropower Project construction areas and proposed transmission line easement in Bokeo Province and a General Mine Survey of sites in Xiengkhuang Province for Phu Bia Mining.

Milsearch-BPKP shallow and deep searched some 105 hectares during 2008. This figure was down significantly from previous years due to several factors including:

- The slower clearance achievement rates on widely dispersed access tracks and drill pads (the main work undertaken during the period).
- Fewer opportunities for work caused by the greater competition for the limited commercial UXO clearance market in Lao.

- The slowdown in the world economy in the later part of the year which has limited mining, minerals exploration and infrastructure development activities.

The company's activities did however result in the disposal of some seven large aircraft bombs, 660 bomblets, one landmine and 399 other items of ordnance.

Implementing Partners or Clients

Milsearch-BPKP is a Joint Venture between the Australian Company Milsearch Pty Ltd and Bolisat Phathana Khetphoudoi (BPKP) of the Lao Prime Minister's Office.

Clients during the period included:

- Phu Bia Mining Limited,
- ITD-NCC Joint Venture Limited
- Ord River Resources (SARCO),
- Guangxi Electric Power Industry Investigation and Research Institute,
- US Embassy

Geography of Operations:

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in
Area clearance	Xiengkhuang, Saysomboune, Champassak, Sekong and Khammouane.
Survey and Roving clearance	Bokeo and Xieng Khouang

Financials:

Table: Milsearch Expenditure for 2008 on UXO Operations (US\$)

Item	Amount
TOTAL	2,128,198

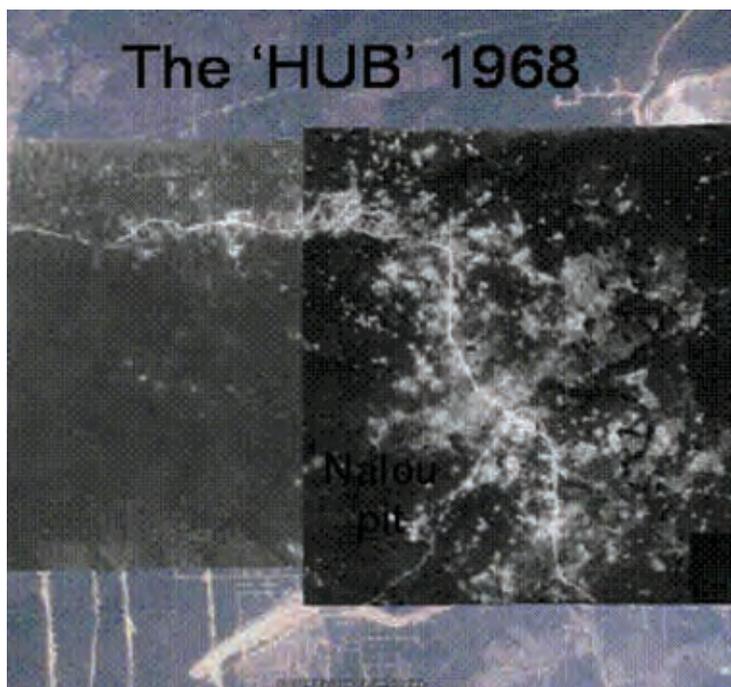


OZ Lang Xang Minerals Ltd

Lane Xang Minerals Ltd (LXML) operates the Sepon Copper & Gold Operation in Savannakhet Province of Lao PDR; commencing in 1993 the operation undertakes extensive exploration, survey and mineral extraction activities across a 2,400 hectare site.

The LXML Sepon site sits astride the former Ho Chi Minh Trail, which was subjected to intense aerial bombing during the Vietnam War, and is today subject to extreme UXO contamination ranging from hand grenades and incendiaries through cluster munitions and rockets to large 2000lb general purpose bombs. The depth at which these UXO have been located varies from the surface to approximately 12 metres below the surface.

LXML recognizes the need for safe, efficient and effective UXO remediation, in a manner that minimizes disruption to its core activities of mining copper and gold and the milling and processing of ore.



OZ LXML Sepon Copper and Gold Operation with 'The Hub 1968' overlaid.

Activities in 2008

Bactec Lao Limited conducted UXO clearance operations on behalf of OZ LXML in 2008; supporting mining, exploration and construction

projects at the Sepon Mine Site in Vilabouly District, Savannakhet Province and 115Kv Power Line Project in Mahaxai and Xaybouathong Districts, Khammouane Province.

UXO finds in 2008								
Bombs	Projectiles	Mortars	Cluster Munitions	Incendiary	Grenade	SAA	Fuse	Mine
12	302	17	1026	26	4	25	63	1

Tasks	Vegetation Reduction	Shallow Search (25cm)	Deep Search (Max 14m)	Total Search
233	672 Ha	438 Ha	540 Ha	978 Ha

Note: In some cases the same area of land is subjected to multiple searches in 2.5m layers as part of the mining process.



Achievements

A number of significant milestones were achieved at OZ LXML Sepon Copper and Gold Operation during 2008, primarily relating to understanding the affect of soil magnetism and the UXO detection depth capability of various search instruments in the OZ LXML Sepon area.

Key achievements include:

- Development of a broad soil magnetism categorisation system
- Development of a UXO detection depth capability matrix
- Development of a minimum separation distance matrix for drill rigs & UXO bore hole checks
- Implementation of a UXO Area Risk Assessment Model
- Commenced external QA/QC program of UXO contractor
- Achieved ISO 14001 accreditation



Test Area Test Grid Delta

Construction of UXO Testing Areas

LXML constructed three UXO testing areas containing inert, commonly found General Purpose aerial bombs, with the geological characteristics of each test site being typical of the varying geological conditions encountered within the project area.



UXO Lateral Bore Hole

The objective of the UXO test area is to determine the vertical and lateral detection distance capabilities of various UXO detection instruments over a variety of geological conditions. A number of General Purpose bombs were buried at various aspects and depths ranging from 2 to 5 meters. Smaller items are available and can be buried at shallow depths if required.

The location of UXO targets and test area turning points were surveyed in using both DGPS and compass and bearing methods.

Where possible, cavities to facilitate UXO targets were created using a drill rig to minimise disturbance to the surrounding geological structure, where this was not possible, an excavator was used.

A series of equipment trials were conducted using Time Domain Electromagnetic, Digital and Analogue Magnetometers, with the maximum detection depth capability achieved being 3.5 metres.



NRA Site Inspection

The test area is available to other UXO operators in Laos by appointment, coordinated through the National Regulatory Authority.

Implementing Partners or Clients

OZ LXML Sepon Copper and Gold Operation fully fund its UXO remediation as part of their normal mining and processing operations.



Test Pit Construction

Geography of Operations:

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in
Area clearance	Vilabouly District, Savannakhet Province, Xaybouathong District, Khammouane Province

Financials:

Table: LXML Expenditure for 2008 on UXO Operations (US\$)

Item	Amount
TOTAL	3,283,688



BACTEC Lao Limited

BACTEC Lao Limited, a subsidiary of the BACTEC group of global companies, has been established in the Lao PDR to provide high quality professional Explosive Ordnance and Mine Action Services to the region including the Pacific Rim. BACTEC has extensive experience in the survey, investigation, consultancy, training, and clearance of areas contaminated with explosive remnants of war and mines, both on land and underwater. BACTEC provides high quality, independent services on all matters relating to explosives.

Oz Minerals LXML Sepon Gold – Copper Operation: BACTEC was awarded the contract for Unexploded Ordnance Remediation services to the Sepon Gold and Copper Operation in July 2007. During 2008 the UXO Remediation has consisted of multiple teams conducting remediation, shallow search, deep search, Flitch checks, Bore hole checks, cutting supervision, and path finders.

Salamander Energy: BACTEC was contracted to provide UXO Clearance services in support of a seismic oil exploration project. Services provided included level 1 survey and risk assessment, path finding/survey work, vegetation reduction, seismic line clearances (both shallow and deep), marking, and area clearance of nominated areas. The project was conducted within three districts, Songkhone (Savannakhet), Thapangthong (Savannakhet), and Lakhonephang (Saravan). Due to the remoteness substantial Community Liaison activities occurred including disposal of ordnance located in villages outside the scope of the project.

Phu Bia Mining Limited: BACTEC during 2008 provided on several occasions an Emergency Response Team to respond to urgent disposal tasks for Phu Bia Mining, in their Xiengkhuang Province Operations, as UXO was recovered during mining processes.

Handicap International Belgium (HIB): As part of BACTEC's commitment to supporting Non Governmental Organisations and assisting with humanitarian programs, BACTEC has an ongoing relationship with HIB to provide a Senior EOD Technician in support of Training and Quality Assurance as required.

Oz Minerals Thakhek, Mahasay and Xaybuathong: BACTEC was contracted to provide a clearance for the construction of a new 115kv power line. The nominated construction area consisted of a narrow corridor 121km in length, commencing at Thakhek and concluding at the LXML Sepon mine site. BACTEC commenced works in June 2008, and the project was suspended in December 2008 until a later date due to the economic down turn.

Achievements:

For BACTEC, 2008 presented many achievements, but by far the greatest achievement was the commitment, dedication and hard work from all BACTEC staff throughout the year.

Village Assisted Clearance

BACTEC wherever possible utilises local community members when conducting clearance operations, enabling investment and capacity development to return to the village. During 2008 this included the following opportunities, Level 1 and 2 EOD Technicians (longer term projects), Vegetation Cutters, Cooks, Logistics, Administration, Cleaners and Drivers.

Community Liaison

During 2008 BACTEC had two projects that were spread over large areas including a Power-line and Seismic Oil Exploration project. With these came the opportunity to develop BACTEC's new Community Liaison Program. After a few minor crinkles were ironed out the program became very successful.

Research and Development

2008 was a busy year for BACTEC globally in trialing and developing new technologies to assist better, more efficient UXO/Mine clearance. Within Lao several technologies were trialed with mixed results. One of these technologies showed great potential and has been taken back to Australia for further development and trials in partnership with a leading university.



Staff Advancement

BACTEC fully encourages and assists local employees wanting to advance their position. During 2008 several BACTEC local staff were given the opportunity to take on more responsibility and leadership. This proved to be very successful with advancements being made, which in turn means more money and opportunities for families. BACTEC has been very impressed with the dedication and professionalism shown by all our staff in 2008. Allowing staff to take on extra responsibility can bring out the true value of that staff



Female Field Staff

Case study of an achievement of the organization in 2008

CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The capability development program of BACTEC's Lao Nationals was a great achievement within the BACTEC 2008/09 Work Plan. BACTEC has a strong employee progression/development plan in place that allows opportunities for growth and advancement of its employees. During 2008 BACTEC Lao National employees were offered numerous development courses, which otherwise would not often be available including:



Deep Search Re-Checking Hole after Removal of Fragmentation

• Level 1 and 2 EOD	• DGPS and GPS
• Field Trauma Medics	• Accounting
• CASAVAC Drill	• Digital Geophysical Surveying including EM61 and Foerster DLG
• Oxy Viva	• Logistics management
• Automated External Defibrillation	• GIS
• Vehicle Driver Training	• Hazard Awareness and Control
• Mechanical Excavation of UXO	• Job Safety and Environmental Analysis
• Vallon, Minelab, Schonstedt, Foerster, & Ebinger	• Various Computer programs



BACTEC Level 1 EOD Technician Course

What has made this program such a success in 2008 was the dedication and commitment shown by BACTEC Lao National employees during this training and the better than expected results achieved.

This development program will continue in 2009 with similar courses offered but also with the addition of a Level 3 EOD Training course programmed to commence in January 2009.

It is also hoped that in 2009 we may be able to deploy some of our Lao local staff on one of BACTEC's global operations to gain international experience.



Geography of Operations:

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in
Area clearance	Savannakhet, Khammouane, Salavan, Xaysomboune, and Sekong.
Survey and Roving clearance	Salavan and Sekong.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OF UXO CLEARANCE SITES

The BACTEC group of global companies is committed to promoting healthy living and working conditions, and encouraging sound environmental practises during projects within our local employees and their communities.

During 2008 BACTEC strived to implement a positive hands-on approach to Environmental Management of UXO clearance sites. Involving input not just from management, but from all BACTEC personnel this was achieved well. BACTEC has been very fortunate in that its commercial clients have been just as committed to such practises and as such, all round positive results were achieved.

Though personnel safety shall always be the primary concern, UXO clearance activities may also be carried out in ways that do not unduly cause environmental pollution or degradation, especially with respect to:

- Surface and groundwater quality,
- Identified sensitive areas,
- Fish, wildlife and their habitats,
- Vegetation, including riparian plant communities (absolute minimum reduction to enable effective clearance),
- Carbon emission reduction,
- Soil conservation and erosion control,
- Archaeological, heritage and cultural resources.

BACTEC prides itself on producing a positive approach to Environmental Issues and the deployment of teams within the Lao PDR; BACTEC will always have Lao Nationals involved in ensuring environmental consideration is prominent during the selection of sites, mobilization and demobilization of a project.



Geophysical Survey With EM61-M2



Cleared Easement for Mahaxay to Sepon Power Line

Financials

Table: BACTEC Expenditure for 2008 on UXO Operations (US\$)

Item	Amount
TOTAL	4,150,000



Phoenix Clearance Limited

Activities in 2008:

1. Nam Theun 2 Community UXO Education project Nakai District Khammouane Province
2. Nam Theun 2 Response teams Nakai District Khammouane Province
3. Nam Theun 2 Down Stream Livelihood security Ngommulat, and Mahaxai Districts
4. Nam Theun 2 Wetlands and Wildlife sustainment project Nakai District Khammouane Province
5. Nam Theun 2 Construction Division Minefield Clearance 500kv Power Line Alignment Mahaxai District Khammouane Province
6. Theun Hinboun Power Company Resettlement Land Borikhamxai Province
7. Nam Theun 2 Construction Division Regulating Pond UXO Clearance
8. USACE UXO Clearance on schools in Attapeu, Khammouane and Xiengkhuang Provinces
9. Forestry Nurseries in Sepon, and Nong Districts Savannakhet and Taoi District Saravan Province
10. Ministry of Mines and Energy UXO Clearance Project SMALL Hydro Power construction lands Phongsali Province.

Ongoing operations in 18 villages within Nam Theun 2 resettlement areas in Nakai

UXO Clearance Program for the supply of Shallow search, Deep Search, Magnetometer application, cleared area marking and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Services in the Downstream Areas of, Khamkeut, Ponsali, Nakai. Other projects in Xiengkhuang, Savanakhet, Borikhamxai

Achievements:

PCL cleared over 600ha of land for clients without incident and every task on schedule and to the client's satisfaction.

UXO Destroyed

- Bombies = 1237
- Mines = 22
- Other = 713
- Bombs = 3

PCL employed and provided initial and ongoing training to over 100 Lao National staff during the activities in 2008. All targets for 2008 achieved.

Case study

Phoenix Clearance Limited formally cleared a 100mwide by 300m long breach through a pattern laid minefield in Mahaxai District for the Nam Theun Power Company the task took 90 days and yielded 67 landmines, 202 UXO and 1 x 1000lbs Air delivered bomb. PCL formally trained 12 Lao National staff as deminers the difficult task was performed on time without incident.



Figure 1: PCL Minefield visitor briefing area (PCL Staff briefing NRA on the task using scale model)



Figure 2: PCL Deminer at work, note crossed sticks indicate mine located and lane closed awaiting demolition action

Implementing Partners or Clients

See paragraph 1 Activities

Geography of Operations:

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in
Land Mine and UXO Area clearance	Phongsali, Xiengkhuang, Khammoune, Savanakhet, Attapeu Udomxay, Borikhamxai.
Survey and Roving clearance	Khammoune, Savanakhet,
UXO Risk Education	Khammoune,

Financials:

Clients paid PCL approximately USD\$1,500,000 in 2008



FONDATION SUISSE DE DÉMINAGE

Swiss Foundation for Mine Action / Fondation Suisse de Déminage

Activities in 2008

UXO Clearance Support to the World Food Programme (WFP)

The Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD) continued to provide UXO clearance support to the WFP's food security projects in Savannakhet and Sekong provinces. With Lao Government authorities, the WFP identifies communities with food security difficulties and then works with the communities to design schemes that the villagers can implement themselves such as building fish ponds, earth dams, roads, or rice field expansions. FSD provides UXO clearance for the schemes, which see the villagers utilise the land as soon as clearance is completed.

UXO Clearance Support to CARE

In March FSD commenced UXO/mine action support to CARE's livelihood improvement project in Sekong province. FSD's support has four components: area clearance for community development tasks, roving clearance, mine risk education focusing on children and those involved in the scrap metal trade, and first aid training for village health volunteers.

Mine Risk Education (MRE)

FSD provides MRE to the villages supported by the CARE project. During 2008 the MRE component of the project was developed culminating with the presentation and acceptance of the FSD/CARE MRE strategy by the NRA MRE TWG in September. Following the acceptance of the strategy, draft MRE procedures were developed and MRE activities commenced in November. The project's MRE procedures will continue to be developed during 2009.

Development of Training Standards

FSD commenced a project to draft training standards for 11 key UXO/mine clearance appointments for the UXO sector in the Lao PDR. The training standards will regulate the quality of training in the country and ensure an internationally recognised minimum standard of training is followed. This project builds

on the National Standards that FSD developed in 2006/2007. The project will continue in 2009 but most of the drafting was completed during 2008.

Google Outreach Project

FSD began a project, funded through Google, to develop the Google Earth system for use in Mine Action in South East Asia. Through this project, the FSD will provide the Mine Action sector in the Lao PDR with a complete mosaic of the old 1:50,000 US military topographic map sheets covering the three countries affected by the Vietnam War (Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam), and the USAF bombing database for SE Asia, converted to a format useable in Google Earth.

Attendance at Regional Activities

FSD participated in the South East Asia Regional Conference on the Convention on Cluster Munitions: The Safe Path from 20-22 October. A display was set up showcasing FSD's current work in the Lao PDR.

Two FSD international staff attended a four-day GICHD sponsored workshop on Linking Mine Action and Development, held in Hue, Vietnam from 3 to 6 November 2008. FSD provided a presentation to this workshop.

Three FSD technicians (one international and two national) attended a two day regional workshop in Cambodia where common problems and possible solutions were demonstrated and discussed. Topics at the workshop included detection technologies, low order techniques, explosives needs and supply and the use of pyrotechnic burning tools.

Development of Innovative EOD Techniques

FSD Sekong hosted three people from the UK-based research organisation Qinetiq. During the visit trials were carried out on various EOD equipment and procedures including plane table surveying techniques, use of 'pancake' charges, use of termite for remote initiation and methods for protecting against the effects of fragmentation from small UXO.



Cooperation with Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) in Vietnam

FSD's National Technical Advisor was deployed to Quang Tri province in Vietnam for two months to provide training and operational management support to the NPA's RENEW project. FSD's support was provided on a cost recovery basis and served to increase the international and training experience of the National TA, which will be of direct benefit to FSD in the future.

Achievements

On 21 April 2008, FSD became the first UXO clearance NGO in the Lao PDR to obtain full accreditation. In addition, in September 2008 the NRA board comprising a number of high ranking Lao Government ministers and officials approved the National Standards. This was the culmination of the work that FSD completed in 2006/2007.

UXO Clearance Savannakhet

The WFP's 2008 work plan for FSD in Savannakhet had 99 tasks. These tasks were all completed by 9 May 2008 and FSD then offered its support to the local authorities in the districts of Sepone, Nong and Vilabuly. For the remainder of 2008 FSD's Savannakhet teams supported local authority tasks. In Savannakhet, 127 tasks clearing 453,725 meters squared were completed through area clearance destroying 572 UXO. Roving clearance in the province undertook 75 tasks removing 3,817 UXO including 26 aircraft bombs.

UXO Clearance Sekong

Due to difficulties accessing the WFP's task sites because of rain and poor road conditions in late 2007, FSD provided support to the International Management Group's Maternity Waiting Homes project. This support extended into January and February 2008.

FSD also assisted the CARE project with roving tasks in January and February 2008. From March 2008 the FSD teams supported CARE full time, however in November and December FSD temporarily reverted to supporting the WFP as the FSD teams had completed all of CARE's available tasks.

In Sekong, 46 tasks clearing 127,387 meters squared were completed through area clearance destroying 339 UXO. Roving clearance in the province undertook 55 tasks removing 317 UXO.

Training and Capacity Building

In addition to the routine on the job training that FSD carries out, FSD conducted two formal training courses in 2008. FSD ran a medical refresher course for its nine medics and an EOD level 2 course for seven of its EOD level 1 staff. The National TA attended CEIA detector training in Italy. Five senior national FSD staff attended report writing training at the Rural Research and Development Training Center in Vientiane. English lessons are provided to interested staff.

Bomb Disposal Ban Naverh - Sekong Province

In February 2008 the FSD Sekong team was carrying out roving tasks in Ban Naverh, a CARE project target village. One of the tasks the team had to deal with was a 750lb aircraft bomb located only metres away from village houses. The bomb had previously been surveyed by other organisations but deemed too difficult to deal with because it was fuzed with a chemical delay fuze that has an anti withdrawal mechanism. It could not be rendered safe and could not be moved.

The FSD team responded to the challenge of this task. First, they carefully dug around the bomb to expose it so that it could be worked on. They then built a sandbag protective wall over and on the village side of the bomb to protect the houses from damage during the operation. Over 1000 sandbags were used for this construction.





After evacuating the villagers to a safe area the FSD team used a shaped charge to split the bomb open without detonating it. This exposed the explosives which were then removed and burned a safe distance from the village. The dangerous fuze was destroyed in place. The whole task took three days to complete.

Following the successful disposal of this bomb, the villagers reported a further four aircraft bombs in the area. These were then dealt with by FSD teams in March 2008.

Implementing Partners and Clients

CARE International in the Lao PDR

FSD's partnership with CARE started in January 2007 with FSD assisting CARE with the development of their Lao Australian NGO Cooperation Agreement (LANGOCA) project 'Reducing UXO Risk and Improving Livelihoods of Ethnic Communities in

Sekong Province'. After signing a formal agreement in 2007 FSD commenced providing UXO clearance support to CARE's community development tasks in the project's target villages full time from March 2008.

World Food Programme

FSD maintains a global standby partnership with the WFP for the provision of humanitarian mine action support. It was through this partnership that FSD's UXO clearance programme in Laos was established in 2005.

FSD's work with the WFP directly supports the WFP's operations to provide relief and recovery assistance to vulnerable food insecure households. This is achieved by providing food assistance during critical times and building up physical and human assets through food for work activities.

Financials:

Table: FSD Expenditure for 2008 (US\$)

Item	Amount
Personnel costs	674,307
Operational costs	298,764
Special operational costs	46,430
Equipment – expendable	-
Equipment – non-expendable	44,367
TOTAL	1,063,868

Notes to the expenditure table:

1. Special operational costs cover the training standards and Google outreach projects.
2. The costs for expendable equipment are part of operational costs.

Table: FSD Donor Contributions for 2008 (US\$)

Donor	Contributions 2008
Australian Agency for International Development AusAID	1,004,535
US State Department PM/WRA	304,630
FSD Geneva Core Funds	112,860
Tides Foundation (Google Project)	25,000
The Johnson Foundation	60,000
E Schibli Scneider	38,394
TOTAL	1,545,419



World Education/Consortium

World Education/Consortium works on three projects in the UXO Sector. These are:

- Supporting War Victims and People with Disabilities in Salavan and Champasak Provinces Project
- War Victims Medical Fund
- UXO Survivor Assistance Program

Activities in 2008

Supporting War Victims and People with Disabilities in Salavan and Champasak Provinces Project has continued to provide funding for medical training for doctors and nurses in emergency medical topics. Staff who have received training also are trainers for other province and district staff in the target provinces.

The War Victims Medical Fund provides immediate medical treatment and continuing medical care for UXO survivors in five provinces. UXO Survivor Assistance Programming also provides follow-up, surveying the needs of UXO survivors, providing educational/ vocational training support and small grants for economic development.

The UXO Education and Awareness Program teaches and in-school curriculum to primary school students in thirty-seven districts in nine provinces by teacher training, provision of teaching materials, monitoring and follow-up of teaching activities, support of puppetry teams and pre- and post-testing. Currently, there are 4,890 teachers teaching 155,244 primary school children in 533 complete primary schools and 1,077 village schools.

Achievements

After renovation of the facility and training of medical staff, the operating room in Ta-Oi District opened in April 2008. Staffed by surgical teams from Salavan Province hospital, it has provided services to 4 UXO survivors, as well as other people who need minor or mid-level surgery.

Better quality of care at the province and district hospitals in Salavan. The rate of infections after surgery has decreased.

Initial medical treatment and continuing medical treatment was provided to 74 UXO survivors in Xiengkhuang, Houaphan, Savannakhet, Salavan and Champasak Provinces.

Animal raising and veterinary training was provided to 33 UXO survivors in Xiengkhuang Province.

Follow-up activities of UXO survivors in Xiengkhuang indicates that UXO survivor income after training and receiving small grants has increased.

With funds provided through UNICEF and NRA for reprinting of teaching materials, the UXO Education and Awareness Program has been distributing the 1,500 sets of materials to schools during school director and teacher training sessions, providing materials for new teachers entering the schools as well as replacing old materials.

Case study of an achievement of the organization in 2008

In November, 2007, Da Chang was severely injured by a cluster bomb. After emergency surgery at the Province Hospital, World Education and Department of Health staff followed up on his health and economic status in the village, and worked together with the family to identify his needs in education and economic development. In October 2008, Da Chang attended the Animal Raising/Veterinary workshop in Xiengkhuang to learn how to develop a supplementary income in raising animals, after which he received a grant for raising chickens. The fund also helped him to re-enter college and he is now studying English at the Khan Khay Teacher Training College. In December 2008, he volunteered to help with the Animal Raising/ Veterinary workshop for another group.

Implementing Partners or Clients

The National Rehabilitation Center is our counterpart for Project to Support War Victims and People with Disabilities, as well as UXO Survivor Assistance in Xiengkhuang and Houaphan Provinces. The direct implementers in the provinces are the Departments of Health and Hospitals.

The Department of Primary and Pre-Schools in the Ministry of Health is our counterpart for the UXO Education and Awareness Program. The director implementers are staff from the Province and District Education Bureaus.

Our funding partners include USAID, Department of State/ Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, the McKnight Foundation, Grapes for Humanity, and private donors for UXO survivor support.



Da Chang participating in a vaccination practice session at an Animal Raising/Veterinary workshop. UXO survivors and/or family members learn about more effective ways to raise animals before receiving livelihood grants.

Geography of Operations:

Activity	Provinces of Lao PDR implement activity in
Area clearance	NA
Survey and Roving clearance	NA
Risk Education	Xiengkhuang, Huaphan, Louang Prabang, Khammouan, Savannakhet, Salavan, Sekong, Champasak and Attapeu
Victim Assistance	Xieng Khouang, Huaphan, Savannakhet, Salavan and Champasak provinces – and treatment of UXO survivors who come from surrounding provinces (Xaisomboun District and Sekong Province in the past)

Financials:

Table: Expenditure for 2008 (\$US\$)

Item	Amount
Medical upgrading and Socio-economic project costs	91,660
UXO Education and Awareness costs	45,315
Treatment and re-treatment costs for emergency medical care and continuing medical care	19,872
Equipment – non-expendable	4,061
TOTAL	160,908



Table: Donor contributions for 2008 (US\$)

Donor	Contributions received in 2008
USAID/ Patrick Leahy War Victims Fund for Support for War Victims and People with Disabilities in Salavan and Champasak Provinces for 2009	45,992
Department of State/ Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (2008 – 2009) for survivor assistance programming for 2008	45,300
Department of State/ Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement for UXO Education and Awareness (reported in 2007 report for 2007-08))	
McKnight Foundation for Survivor Assistance (reported in 2007 report for 2007-08)	
Private donations to UXO survivor assistance for 2008	2,850
Grapes for Humanity	10,000
TOTAL	104,142





Annexes

- Annex 1: The Safe Path Forward
- Annex 2: Decree on the Establishment of the NRA
- Annex 3: The Conventions on Cluster Munitions Fact Sheet
- Annex 4: The Anti-personnel Land Mine Ban Treaty Fact Sheet
- Annex 5: The Convention on the Rights of Disabled People Fact Sheet
- Annex 6: Vientiane Declaration on Aid Effectiveness

Annex 1 – The National Strategic Plan for the UXO Programme; ‘The Safe Path Forward



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

Prime Minister's Office

**Ref 01/pm
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 continue to consider the possibility of becoming a state party to the Convention.
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, officially approved by 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 in 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. Houaphan |
| 2. Xiengkhuang | 5. Sekong | 8. Attapeu |
| 3. Saravane | 6. Champassak | 9. Luang Prabang |

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

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

PART III. OBJECTIVES

8. More specifically,

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

PART IV. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

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

- (a) A National Regulatory Authority (NRA) will be established and will report directly to the Office of the Prime Minister. The NRA will be composed of representatives of all line ministries concerned with or affected by UXO/landmines, by the CPC, as well as of observers from the donor community. It will be responsible for :

- The periodic review and implementation of this Strategic Plan,
- The definition and provision of policy direction,
- The accreditation, licensing, and oversight of all UXO/Mine Action operators (in clearance operations, in Community Awareness, and in Victim Assistance),
- The management of the database and, as such, the prioritisation and related tasking of all UXO/mine action operators,
- The coordination of all UXO/mine action activities throughout the country,
- The external Quality Assurance of all UXO/Mine Action activities,
- The conduct of Post Clearance Impact Assessments, etc.;

(b) All UXO/Mine Action operators will work under the tasking orders and the oversight of the National Regulatory Authority. Each operator will act as a self-standing entity and will be fully accountable to its funder(s) as well as to the National Regulatory Authority. In and through their work, international operators will be expected to support the establishment and development of national UXO/mine action entities, and they will conduct all their operations in accordance with national standards as promulgated by the NRA. Operators will be grouped into sectoral components as below :

- i. UXO/Mine Risk Education operators, national and international as relevant,
- ii. Clearance operators, whether humanitarian, commercial or military, national and international as relevant. UXO Lao will remain the “preferred national humanitarian UXO/mine clearance operator”, and
- iii. Victim Assistance operators, national and international, as relevant;

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

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

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

PART V. PRIORITIES

11. The 1997 Impact Survey recorded a total of 2,861 villages (i.e. 25% of all villages in Lao PDR) reporting UXO contamination either within the residential perimeter of the village, or in immediate outlying areas - 2,636 of those villages are in the 9 provinces where UXO Lao currently operates. The Survey does not however provide an estimated size of contaminated

areas, neither in individual villages nor in aggregate terms. A reasonably accurate estimate of total suspected contaminated areas will be determined as a matter of priority, through stepped-up Technical Surveys.

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

Table 1 : UXO/Mine Clearance Priorities

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

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

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

PART VI. Planning Assumptions

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

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

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

18. It is assumed that the UXO/mine clearance sector will be composed of the full range of autonomous UXO/mine clearance operators, including UXO Lao, the military (which has been involved in a number of commercial-type contracts), local as well as international operators,

both humanitarian and commercial. The proposed clearance objective of this Plan, approx. 180 km², is based solely on UXO Lao output; clearance output by other operators will be in excess of the objectives of this Plan.

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

- a. Improvements in prioritisation and tasking of clearance assets
- b. The strengthening of the organisation's internal management processes (e.g. budgeting, procurement, logistics, etc.) through the introduction of Quality Management practices (2003);
- c. The streamlining of practices in procurement, in equipment maintenance and in general support functions, in order to ensure optimal use of all assets;
- d. The widespread introduction of new clearance methodologies and procedures (e.g. Villager Assisted Clearance) in order to maximise the use of technically-trained personnel;
- e. The on-going training/capacity building of the organisation's personnel through the continued deployment of both short- and long-term international advisors; etc.

20. More streamlined planning and tasking of UXO/mine action assets during the rainy season will be done, which may involve, amongst others, the following :

- (a) As an integral part of the provincial planning process, "dry area tasks" will be earmarked for operations during the monsoon season;
- (b) A portion of Area Clearance resources will be re-directed towards Roving Tasks; and
- (c) Increased Technical Survey capacity will be constituted from Area Clearance resources otherwise under-utilised;

21. Equipment replacement costs are factored in the estimated costs outlined under Section IX below.

22. Productivity of UXO Lao deminers will reach a peak of 235 square meters per day per deminer in year 2005 - from a current national average of 133 sqm/day/deminer.

23. The UXO Programme will gradually introduce new clearance methodologies and technologies (e.g. Villager Assisted Clearance (VAC), Explosive Detection Dogs, bio-sensor technology, etc.). The increase in yearly output by of UXO Lao accounts *only* for improvements brought about by the introduction of new work methodologies, not of new technology. This may be properly accounted for in future reviews of the Plan.

24. All operators in the sector will work autonomously from one another, and will report directly to the National Regulatory Authority.

25. UXO Lao will continue to operate under the umbrella of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

26. By the end of year 2003, all Mine/UXO Risk Education will be conducted under the umbrella of the Ministry of Information and Culture. MRE activities will continue to be funded through the Trust Fund.

27. The Ministry of Health has expressed an interest in establishing a National Victim Assistance programme. UNDP will support such an initiative, as may other bilateral and multilateral agencies. The Trust Fund will also support activities in this sector.

28. The mandate of UXO Lao will be modified to reflect its new responsibilities as strictly a UXO/mine clearance operator. The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, in consultation with donors, will determine the best modality for the oversight of UXO Lao's operations.

29. The Training Centre currently operated by UXO Lao will be maintained, and will serve as the national training facility for all UXO programme-related needs. UXO Lao will thus train deminers and support staff of all independent operators on a cost-recovery basis.

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

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

<u>Province</u>		<u>Province</u>	
Savannakhet :	4 teams	Champassak :	2 teams
Xiengkhuang :	4 teams	Houaphan :	3 teams
Saravane :	3 teams	Attapeu :	2 teams
Khammouane :	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 :

Province

Savannakhet : 8 teams
 Xieng Khouang : 8 teams
 Saravane : 6 teams
 Khammouane : 4 teams
 Sekong : 4 teams

Province

Champassak : 4 teams
 Houaphan : 6 teams
 Attapeu : 4 teams
 Luang Prabang : 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	HI, involving Min. Health By UNDP, to be taken over by National Regulatory Authority
	2. Review of UXO Lao Management	30 Sept. 2003	
	3. Initiation of Post-Clearance Impact Assessments (PCIA)	01 Oct. 2003	
	4. Establishment of increased Tech Survey capacity	31 Dec. 2003	
	5. Establishment of Regulatory Authority	31 Dec. 2003	Min. Info & Culture, Min. Education, LWU, LYU, etc.
	6. IMSMA installed and running	31 Dec. 2003	
	7. Transfer of CA capacity to other IPs	31 Dec. 2003	
	8. Tech. Survey of 500 villages	31 Dec. 2003	Per approved UXO Lao Work Plan CA teams of UXO Lao Min. Health, Operators
	9. 942 ha of land cleared by UXO LAO	31 Dec. 2003	
	10. 60 “new” villages visited by CA	31 Dec. 2003	
	11. Victim Assistance Plan of Action	31 Dec. 2003	
2004	1. New CA curriculum developed	30 June 2004	Min. Info & Culture, Min. Education
	2. Review of Strategic Plan	31 Aug. 2004	
	3. CA outreach to 300 “new” villages	31 Dec. 2004	Increased output due to introduction of QM and new methodology
	4. Tech. Survey of 1300 villages	31 Dec. 2004	
	5. 1300 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao	31 Dec. 2004	
2005	1. Tech. Survey of 840 villages	30 June 2005	All Tech Surveys completed
	2. Review of Strategic Plan	31 Aug. 2005	
	3. CA outreach to 450 “new” villages	31 Dec. 2005	
	4. 1500 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao	31 Dec. 2005	
2006	1. Review of Strategic Plan	31 Aug. 2006	
	2. CA outreach to 450 “new” villages	31 Dec. 2006	
	3. 1800 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao	31 Dec. 2006	
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	All UXO-affected villages visited at least once by CA
	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	31 Aug. 2010	
	2. 2000 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao	31 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	As required
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 US\$ 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 US\$ 600,000 per year);
- (c) Training in Technical Survey is estimated at US\$ 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 US\$ 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. US\$ 215,000. The yearly operating costs of the NRA, with a maximum staff of 25, is expected to be in the range of US\$ 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 US\$ 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 US\$ 750,000.

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

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

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

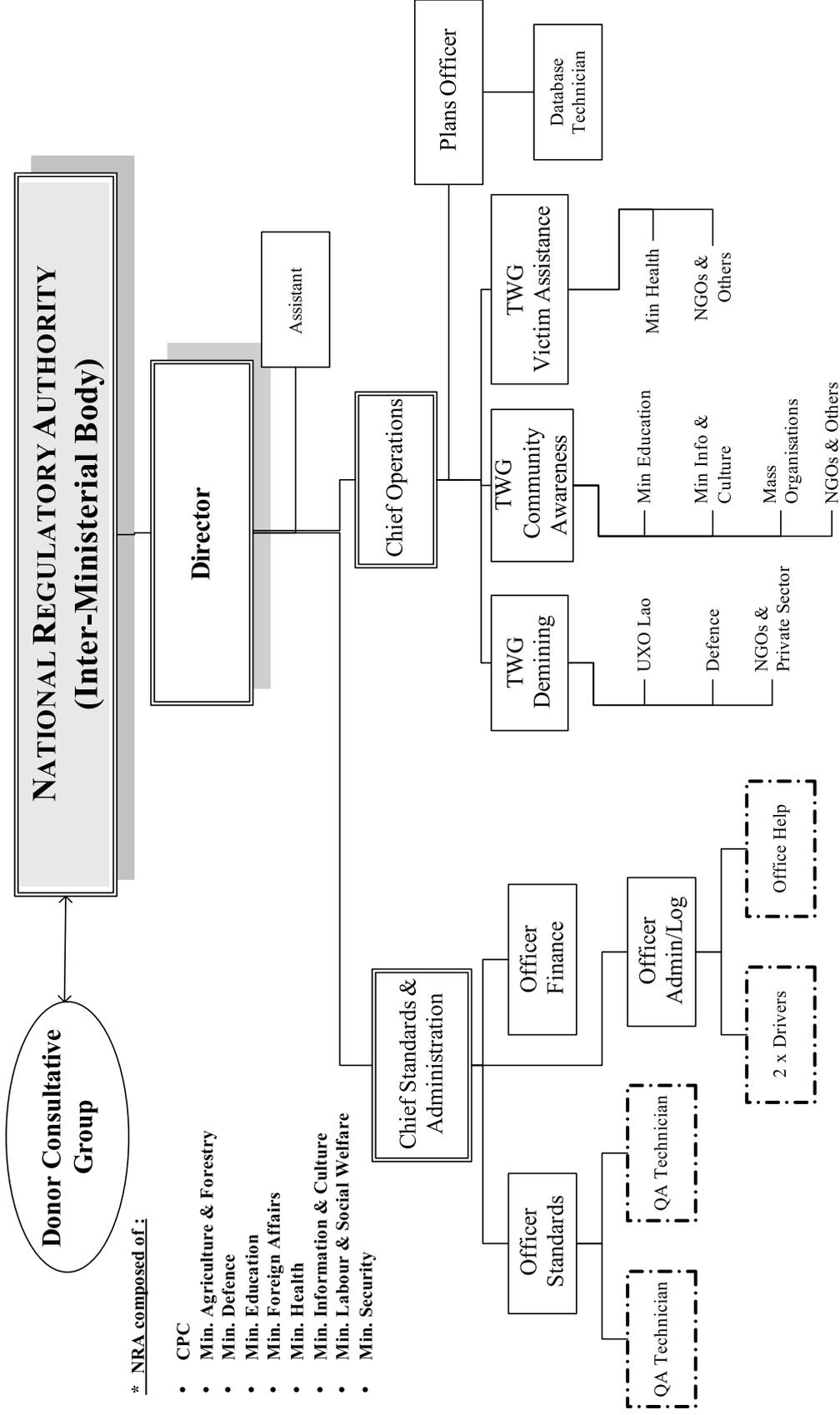
(This strategic plan has been considered and approved in the government meeting held on 29 – 31 July 2003 according to the document proposed by the Minister of Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Chairman of the National Steering Committee of UXO Lao Programme No. 2480/LSW dated 25 August 2003).

The Prime Minister

Signed

Bouyung Vorachit

Organisational Chart of the National Regulatory Authority



* NRA composed of :

- CPC
- Min. Agriculture & Forestry
- Min. Defence
- Min. Education
- Min. Foreign Affairs
- Min. Health
- Min. Information & Culture
- Min. Labour & Social Welfare
- Min. Security

* TWG = Chair of Sectoral Technical Working Group

Annex 2 – Decree on the Establishment of the NRA



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

Prime Minister Office

Ref: PM3 3 /
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 propose 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 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, 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 Minister Office, Line Ministries, centrally and locally 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 Laos

Signed and Seal

Bounyong VORACHIT

Annex 3 - Convention on Cluster Munitions

What does the Convention ban or prohibit?

The Convention bans the use, production, development, acquisition, stockpile and transfer of cluster munitions. A “cluster munition” is defined within the Convention as a weapon that is designed to disperse or release explosive submunitions.

Are there any exceptions?

The Convention does not ban a cluster munition that **contains no High Explosives** or has **fewer than 10 submunitions**, of which the submunitions must weigh less than 4 kilograms, are able to detect and engage a single target, and are equipped with electronic self-destruction and self-deactivating mechanisms.

The Convention does not apply to anti-personnel landmines.

The Convention prohibits States Parties from assisting, encouraging or inducing anyone to engage in any activity prohibited by the Convention. However, the Convention outlines this does not exclude States Parties from engaging in military cooperation and operations with States not party to the Convention that might engage in activities prohibited to a State Party.

What is required with respect to stockpiled cluster munitions?

The Convention requires each State Party to destroy stockpiled cluster munitions within **eight years** of the entry into force of the Convention for that State. States Parties may retain a minimum amount of cluster munitions that “absolutely necessary” for training purposes.

How many years does the Convention allow for clearance?

The Convention requires each States Party to clear all affected areas under its jurisdiction or control “as soon as possible and not later than **ten years** after entry into force of the Convention” for that State Party. For severely affected states that are unable to clear and destroy all cluster munitions within the timeframe, they can request extensions of up to **5 years** at a time. Extensions can be granted as many times as required for a severely affected State Party.

Does the Convention provide for assistance in implementation, monitoring and ensuring compliance?

The Convention provides each States Party with the right to seek and receive assistance in fulfilling its

obligations under the Convention. The Convention also requires each State Party “in a position to do so” to provide assistance for mine clearance, mine awareness, stockpile destruction and the care, rehabilitation and reintegration of cluster munitions victims.

The Convention requires each State Party to provide an annual transparency report on numbers and types of stockpiled cluster munitions, the status of stockpile destruction, areas contaminated, and the status of clearance programs.

What does the Convention require of State Parties with regards to assisting victims?

The Convention requires States Party to make every effort to collect reliable data on cluster munition incidences, assess the needs of victims, develop and implement a national plan to assist victims, and mobilise national and international resources to enable implementation of victim assistance programs.

When will that Convention enter into force?

The Convention stipulates it will become binding international law for State Parties six months after the 30th state ratifies or accedes. It will then come into force for states that join after this date six months after they accede.

Does the Convention propose a schedule of meetings? What about the costs for these meetings?

The Convention states that there shall be annual meetings of the States Parties until the first Review Conference and that this Review Conference shall take place five years after entry into force of the Convention. The first Meeting of States Party will be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations within one year of entry into force of this Convention.

Costs related to these meetings are borne by States that participate in these them in accordance with the UN scale of assessment adjusted accordingly. That is, only States participating in the meetings of the Convention pay for them and the costs assumed by participating States are consistent with their ability to pay.

How do States formally accept the obligations of the Convention?

The Convention opened for signature on 3rd December 2008 and will enter into force six months after the **30th state** has ratified the Convention. As of April 2009 96 countries had signed and 5 had ratified.

Annex 4 – Anti Personnel Mine Ban Convention

What does the Convention ban or prohibit?

The Convention bans the use, production, development, acquisition and transfer of anti-personnel mines. The Convention defines “anti-personnel mine” as a munition designed to be placed under, on or near the ground or other surface area, to be exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a person, and which will injure or kill one or more persons.

The Convention does not ban mines other than anti-personnel mines. For example, it does not ban mines that are exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a vehicle (e.g., anti-tank mines) and does not ban anti-personnel munitions that are command-detonated.

The Convention prohibits States Parties from assisting, encouraging or inducing anyone to engage in any activity prohibited by the Convention. This is a particularly relevant matter with respect to the interoperability of States Parties and States not Parties in military alliances.

What does the Convention require with respect to stockpiled mines and mined areas?

The Convention requires each State Party to destroy stockpiled anti-personnel mines within four years of the entry into force of the Convention for that State. States Parties may retain an amount of mines that “shall not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary” for “the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques.” Many States Parties have decided to retain no mines.

The Convention requires each States Party to clear all areas under its jurisdiction or control which contain anti-personnel mines “as soon as possible and not later than ten years after entry into force of the Convention” for that State Party.

Does the Convention provide for assistance in implementation, in monitoring implementation and in ensuring compliance?

The Convention provides each States Party with the right to seek and receive assistance in fulfilling its

obligations under the Convention. It also requires each State Party “in a position to do so” to provide assistance.

The Convention requires each State Party to provide an annual transparency report on matters such as stockpiled anti-personnel mines and the status of programs for destroying stockpiled mines, and mined areas.

The Convention encourages States Parties to work together in a spirit of cooperation to facilitate compliance.

In addition to destroying stockpiled mines, clearing mined areas and submitting an annual transparency report, what other actions must States Parties take?

The Convention requires each State Party to take “all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures” to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited by the Convention which are undertaken by persons or on the territory under the jurisdiction and control of that State Party.

Does the Convention propose a schedule of meetings? What about the costs for these meetings?

The Convention states that there shall be annual meetings of the States Parties until the first Review Conference and that this Review Conference shall take place five years after entry into force. Given that the Convention entered into force in 1999, the Review Conference will be held in 2004. Costs related to these meetings are borne by States that participate in these them in accordance with the United Nations scale of assessment adjusted accordingly. That is, only States participating in the meetings of the Convention pay for them and the costs assumed by participating States are consistent with their ability to pay.

Can States still sign the Convention? How do States formally accept the obligations of the Convention?

The Convention was open for signature from December 3, 1997 until its entry into force on March 1, 1999. During that period, 133 States signed the Convention. The Convention is subject to ratification by these signatories. Instruments of ratification or accession must be deposited with the UN Secretary General through the Treaty Section of the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs in New York. As of December 2008 156 States had formally accepted the terms of the Convention through ratification.

Annex 5 - Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

What is the purpose of the Convention?

The purpose of the Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.

Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others

What is the essential nature of the Convention?

The convention has 50 Articles, most of which are concerned with specific rights of people with disabilities, such as education, health, work, conditions of living, and participation in different aspects of life. Some issues of particular interest for victims of UXO include:

- The Convention is concerned with all types of disability suffered by peoples of all nations, races, colours and creeds, without exception
- It provides a very broad range of support to such people in exerting their rights
- The needs for people who have a mobility disorder are specifically recognised, with obligations on States Parties to provide affordable and accessible mobility assistive devices
- The need for early detection and prevention are stressed
- Professional skills to assist people with disabilities should be developed
- The provision of services close to the homes of people with disability is promoted
- States Parties are required to collect information about people with disabilities
- International cooperation is a vital ingredient, without prejudice to the obligations of host nations.

How does the Convention Work?

The Convention confirms and secures all basic human rights on behalf of people with disabilities, and expects actions to be taken through all means to that end, but most especially through national legislation.

A national focal point or focal points must be identified for the implementation of the Convention

Nations will have an obligation to make regular reports on progress, the first within two years of coming into force, and thereafter every four years.

Does the Convention propose a schedule of meetings?

Yes, there is an obligation to hold a Conference within six months of coming into force, and that occurred on October 31st to November 3rd, 2008, in New York. Laos was not represented.

Thereafter, there will be a Conference every two years, unless the Conference decides on an alternative programme.

How is the Convention run?

Internationally, a Committee of experts is established to have oversight of the working of the Convention: initially, the Committee comprises 12 member selected by election at the Conference. After 60 States have signed, the Committee is increased by 6 members. Committee members can serve for four years and can serve two terms.

The United Nations shall provide a secretariat to support the Committee.

What is the Timetable for the Convention?

The Convention opened for signature on 30th March 2007 and Laos signed on 15th January 2008. Whilst the Convention entered into force on 12th May 2008, Laos is not fully and legally bound by its terms until it ratifies.

What needs to happen now?

Signature of the Convention signals intent to ratify and, in order to do so, to pass national legislation which will have the force of implementing the Convention in the signatory country.

Annex 6 – Vientiane Declaration on Aid Effectiveness

VIENTIANE DECLARATION ON AID EFFECTIVENESS

I n t r o d u c t i o n

We, the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (the Government) and the Partners in Development (the Partners), seek to take appropriate monitorable actions to make aid more effective and assist the country in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 and the long-term development goal of exiting the status of least developed country by 2020 (the 2020 goal). We recognise that while increased volumes of aid and other development resources are devoted to achieving the MDGs, aid effectiveness also needs to increase significantly to support the efforts to strengthen governance, improve development performance, and enhance development outcomes. At this Ninth Round Table Meeting, we seek to localise the "The Paris Declaration" that emerged at the conclusion of the Second High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness held in Paris in March 2005 to fit the circumstances of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR). We seek to enhance the impact of aid in reducing poverty, increasing growth, building the capacity of human resources and institutions, and accelerating the achievement of the MDGs and the 2020 goal.

P a r t n e r s h i p D e c l a r a t i o n s

The following Partnership Declarations are developed in a spirit of mutual respect, support and accountability. They reflect the ambitions and structure of the Paris Declaration and build on the ongoing development efforts and experiences in the Lao PDR. They represent a shared recognition between the Government and the Partners to enhance the effectiveness of aid in the Lao PDR. They will be implemented to the extent possible.

Although this Declaration does not constitute a legally binding instrument, it represents a shared recognition between the Government and the Partners on enhancing aid effectiveness in the Lao PDR. The Government and the Partners, when and where possible, will make available appropriate resources, knowledge and capacity to implement the Declarations.

1. OWNERSHIP

Government exercises effective leadership over the development policies, strategies and coordinates development actions

1. The Government leads in developing and implementing its five-year National Socio Economic Development Plan or NSEDP (2006-2010) through a broad consultative process that integrates the official development assistance into mainstream planning.

2. The Government continues to translate the NSEDP into prioritised and results-oriented operational programmes in the Public Investment Programmes (PIPs) and the annual plans and budgets.
3. The Government exercises an effective leadership role in coordinating aid at the macro and sectoral levels through a substantive and ongoing process of dialogue with relevant stakeholders including the Partners in development; through such mechanisms as the Round Table Meetings and the Sector Working Groups.
4. The Partners will support the leadership of the Government and strengthen the Government's capacity to exercise its leadership.

2. ALIGNMENT

Partners align with the Government's strategies and use strengthened Government regulations and procedures

Partners align with Government's strategies

5. The Partners base their dialogue with and support to the Lao PDR on the NSEDP and related national and sectoral strategies and plans and periodic reviews of progress in implementing these strategies.

Government strengthens Government regulations and procedures with support from Partners, with Partners increasingly using the strengthened Government regulations and procedures

6. The Government and the Partners will establish mutually acceptable frameworks that provide reliable assessments of Government regulations and procedures, their performance, and work together to strengthen these as necessary and appropriate. The Partners seek to adopt harmonized performance assessment frameworks for Government regulations and procedures so as to avoid presenting the Government with an excessive number of potentially conflicting targets.
7. The Government will seek to ensure, as appropriate, that the legal framework, national regulations and procedures, institutions and procedures for managing aid and other development resources are effective, accountable and transparent
8. The Partners use the regulations and procedures of the Government to the maximum extent possible, including through integrating project implementation arrangements into line ministries. Where use of the country's regulations and procedures is not feasible, the Partners seek to establish additional measures acceptable to the Government and the Partners that strengthen the country's regulations and procedures.
9. The Partners will seek to avoid creating parallel structures that are not well integrated with the regular Government regulations and procedures, such as parallel Project Implementation Units (PIUs) or parallel Project Management Units (PMUs), for the day-to-day management and implementation of aid-financed projects and programmes.

Government strengthens development capacity with support from Partners

10. The Government will seek to integrate the capacity building objectives in the NSEDP into related national and sectoral strategies and plans and work with the Partners to develop a comprehensive, long-term capacity building programme.
11. The Partners will seek to align their analytic and financial support with the Government's capacity development objectives, strategies and long-term capacity building programme; make effective use of existing capacities; and coordinate and harmonise support for capacity development accordingly.

Strengthening financial management

12. The Government will continue to ensure timely reporting on and publication of budget planning and execution, and take leadership in the financial management improvement process.
13. The Partners will seek to enhance the predictability of future aid to the maximum extent possible through transparent decision making processes, provide indicative commitments of aid over a multi-year framework (including aid commitments covering multi-year expenditures of projects) and release aid funds in a timely and predictable fashion.
14. The Partners will seek to progressively rely on the Government's financial management system, once mutually acceptable standards have been attained.

Strengthening national procurement regulations and procedures

15. The Government and the Partners will seek to commit sufficient resources to support and sustain the improvements and capacity building in public procurement.
16. The Partners will seek to progressively rely on the Government's procurement system, once mutually acceptable standards have been attained.

Strengthening environmental and social assessments

17. With the Partners' support, the Government will seek to develop specialised technical and policy capacity for social and environmental impact analysis and enforcement of legislation.

3. HARMONISATION AND SIMPLIFICATION

Partners' actions are more harmonised, transparent and collectively effective

Partners will seek to implement common arrangements and simplify procedures

18. The Government and the Partners will seek to jointly conduct and use core diagnostic reviews (such as Public Expenditure Reviews); carry out other reviews jointly wherever possible (e.g. sector reviews); and systematically share the results of all reviews undertaken.
19. The Partners will seek to work together to reduce the number of separate and duplicative missions to the field; and promote joint training to share the lessons learned.
20. The Partners will seek to rationalise their regulations and procedures by implementing common arrangements for planning, design, funding, disbursement, implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and reporting to the Government on the Partners' activities and aid flows.
21. The Government and the Partners will seek to explore the feasibility of using increasingly programme-based approaches.
22. The Partners will seek to pursue decentralisation and delegation of authority to their country offices to the maximum extent feasible.

Complementarity: more effective division of labour

23. The Government provides its views on the comparative advantages of the Partners and on the ways to increase Partner complementarity at country and sectoral levels.
24. The Partners will seek to make full use of their respective comparative advantages at sectoral level by aligning support.

Incentives for collaborative behaviour

25. The Government and the Partners will seek to improve their procedures and strengthen incentives – including recruitment, appraisal and training – for their managers and staff to work towards harmonisation, alignment and managing for results.

4. MANAGING FOR RESULTS

Managing resources and improving decision-making for results

26. The Government and the Partners will seek to work together through a participatory process to strengthen the Government's capacities towards results-based management. They will establish results-oriented reporting and assessment frameworks that monitor progress on national and sectoral development strategies and the effectiveness of Partner inputs/support based on agreed key indicators.
27. The Government will seek to strengthen the linkages between national development strategies and annual and multi-annual budget processes.

28. The Partners will seek to harmonise their monitoring and reporting requirements, and - until they can rely more extensively on the Lao PDR's statistical, monitoring and evaluation regulations and procedures - work with the Government to the maximum extent possible on joint formats for periodic reporting.

5. MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Both Government and Partners are accountable for development results

29. The Government and the Partners will jointly carry out annual reviews on progress in implementing the commitments on aid effectiveness and improved development outcomes through existing and increasingly objective country level mechanisms. They will seek to formulate appropriate indicators and (indicative) targets on aid effectiveness.
30. The Government will seek to involve the Partners in formulating and assessing progress on implementation of the national development plans.
31. The Partners will seek to provide in a timely manner an accurate and comprehensive information on aid flows and programme intentions to enable the Government to present budget reports to the National Assembly and citizens, and coordinate aid more effectively.

6. THE WAY FORWARD

32. The Government and the Partners will seek to work together to define an Action Plan and associated Indicators to guide the implementation of this Declaration. The Indicators, reflecting those defined in the Paris Declaration, will be tailored to the context of the Lao PDR. They will include time-bound targets, as appropriate. The Indicators will be incorporated in the Action Plan that will also include a framework for monitoring progress both on implementation of the Action Plan and the outcomes. A taskforce comprising representatives of the Government and the Partners will prepare the Action Plan and associated Indicators, which will be reviewed and finalized with the involvement of the stakeholders including all the Partners. This is targeted to be accomplished by 31 May 2007.
33. We, the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Partners in Development, hereby confirm our willingness to implement the above Partnership Declarations and enhance aid effectiveness in the Lao PDR.

Signed at this Ninth Round Table Meeting on 29 November 2006, in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The Declaration was signed by the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and representatives of the following 23 partner countries and organizations on the occasion of the Ninth Round Table Meeting in Vientiane on 29 November 2006:

1. Australia
2. Austria
3. Belgium
4. China
5. Cuba
6. Finland
7. France
8. Germany
9. Indonesia
10. Japan
11. Luxembourg
12. New Zealand
13. Philippines
14. Poland
15. Republic of Korea
16. Singapore
17. Sweden
18. Switzerland
19. United States of America
20. European Commission
21. Asian Development Bank
22. The World Bank
23. United Nations

The Government of the Lao PDR welcomes expression of participation in (and signing of) the Vientiane Declaration by other partners.

References

- ¹ The Safe Path Forward, Part II, Section 6
- ² Figures are operator submitted
- ³ USAF bombing data provided by the US Department of State
- ⁴ International Mine Action Standards 04.10, January 2008
- ⁵ Convention on Cluster Munitions, Article 2.2
- ⁶ Handicap International Belgium, Living with UXO: National Survey on the Socio-Economic Impact of UXO in Lao PDR (for the Government of Lao PDR, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and UXO Lao), 1997, <http://www.handicap-international.org.uk>
- ⁷ Ray McGrath, Cluster Bombs: the Military effectiveness and impact on civilians of cluster munitions, Landmine Action, 2000, http://www.landmineaction.org/resources/Cluster_Bombs.pdf
- ⁸ Handicap International Belgium, Living with UXO: National Survey on the Socio-Economic Impact of UXO in Lao PDR (for the Government of Lao PDR, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and UXO Lao), 1997, <http://www.handicap-international.org.uk>
- ⁹ The Handicap International Belgium survey undertaken in 1995-96 covered nine most heavily contaminated provinces and made a record of about 11,500 victims, either deceased or living, in those areas since 1973. The NRA's National Survey of UXO Victims and Accidents (a) goes back to 1964 – when hostilities began, and (b) covers the whole country. One of the preliminary findings is that about 30,000 of the casualties occurred during the war years, and 20,000 since then.
- ¹⁰ Richard Moyes & Lamphane Vannachack , A Study of Scrap Metal Collection in Lao PDR, GICHD, Geneva, September 2005
- ¹¹ Currently, no explanation for this increase is available: once all of the data are collected, entered on the database and analyzed, it should be possible to draw some conclusions about causes.
- ¹² Out of a possible 9,583 villages in country, thus the survey comprehensively covers the country with almost 95% of all villages included.
- ¹³ The full report is available through www.nra.gov.la.
- ¹⁴ The Management Response is available through www.nra.gov.la.
- ¹⁵ The Safe Path Forward, Part II, Section 6
- ¹⁶ Only six provinces were able to completely survey all villages within the province; remoteness and expense being primary reasons the remaining communities could not be reached.
- ¹⁷ Statement made at the 8th Meeting of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention, Geneva, Switzerland, 2008.
- ¹⁸ Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Articles 4
- ¹⁹ Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 8
- ²⁰ Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 10
- ²¹ Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 5



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