

# LAO PDR NATIONAL UXO/MINE ACTION STANDARDS (NS)



## Chapter Twenty Post Clearance Assessment (PCA)

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

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## Post Clearance Assessment (PCA)

### 1. Introduction

UXO clearance carried out for humanitarian or development purposes in Lao PDR is required to support the Government of Lao PDR's (GOL) strategies and plans which aim to facilitate development and to reduce the socio-economic impact of UXO on communities. UXO clearance provides land safe from UXO for specific use and reduces UXO impact on communities.

The Lao PDR National Regulatory Authority (NRA) has a responsibility to ensure the effectiveness of UXO clearance and the safe and efficient use of UXO clearance resources. In order to ensure that UXO clearance is effective, the achievement of the objectives of clearance (providing land safe from UXO for use and reducing UXO impact) should be measured. This is carried out through a process of Post Clearance Assessment (PCA).

### 2. Scope

This chapter describes the procedures for the conduct of PCAs on UXO clearance operations in Lao PDR.

### 3. Definitions

This chapter refers to UXO clearance and cleared land.

The definition of UXO clearance operations includes survey (amongst other elements of UXO clearance). Therefore, when the term UXO clearance is used in this chapter of NS it is also to be taken as including survey.

Survey may determine that land can be released for use without full clearance being carried out. This is not cleared land but released land. However, when the term cleared land is used in this chapter of NS it is also to be taken as including released land.

Note: Full clearance is where UXO clearance must fully achieve the clearance requirements. This means that the whole area identified to be cleared must be cleared to the required depth of clearance and to the required quality of clearance.

### 4. Aim of PCAs

As indicated in the introduction, the objective of UXO clearance has two elements; providing safe land for use and reducing impact. To measure the achievement of the objective PCAs must examine these two elements.

### 5. The Requirement for PCAs

Due to the huge number of EOD roving tasks that are carried out in Lao PDR it is not practicable for PCAs to assess these. Accordingly, PCAs are only to be carried out where UXO area clearance operations have been completed for humanitarian or development purposes, and for which a **Completion Survey Report** has been prepared.

Note: Land released through survey also requires a **Completion Survey Report**.

Land identified for UXO clearance must comply with the current priorities of the GOL. This land is then required to meet the additional criteria of having a planned use within 6 months of clearance being completed. The 6 month time period is relevant to the conduct of PCAs.

Note: All land identified for clearance should either be 'high priority/high value' in accordance with Lao PDR's Millennium Development Goal 9; 'priority' in accordance with the current UXO Sector Strategic Plan or some other priority as specified by the NRA.

## **6. Purpose of PCAs**

PCAs have different purposes for different organisations operating at different levels within the Government of Lao PDR structure.

At the strategic level PCAs should provide information to show the impact (or otherwise) that UXO clearance is having on National Social Economic Plans and if necessary, permit the realignment of UXO clearance priorities and assets at the strategic level to increase the positive impacts.

At the operational level PCAs provide information to the NRA national and provincial offices, organisations that the UXO clearance supports and UXO clearance organisations to confirm (or otherwise) that the released land is being used as intended and the quality of the work was satisfactory. At this level PCAs provide Quality Assurance (QA) on clearance task planning and prioritisation processes and de facto Quality Control (QC) on the quality of the completed work.

The NRA has an integral role as the link between the operational and the strategic levels.

### **6.1. PCAs at the Strategic Level**

The responsibility for monitoring progress in terms of National Social Economic Development Plans is vested with the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI).

The NRA will work with the MPI to assess the impact and value from UXO clearance operations based on information provided by PCAs and from other sources.

Attached at **Annex A** to this chapter are examples of some indicators of change to measure impact of UXO clearance operations.

### **6.2. PCAs at the Operational Level**

The purpose of PCAs at the operational level is to:

- a. Identify that released land is being used, and the purpose for which it is being used. If areas are not being used, the PCA is to identify these and determine the reasons why the land is not being used. If land is being used for purposes other than those indicated prior to clearance, this is also to be identified.
- b. Identify if any UXO have been located on the land released for use. Details of these, including locations where they were found and the action taken by the community in relation to them, are to be reported.
- c. Identify if further UXO/mine action is needed in the community in terms of further UXO/mine clearance, UXO/Mine Risk Education (UXO/MRE) or UXO/mine Victim Assistance (VA).

## **7. Conduct of PCAs**

The process and procedures for the conduct of PCAs to provide information to assess impact at the strategic level are still under development and will be incorporated in this chapter of NS at a later stage.

PCAs at the operational level are conducted by UXO clearance organisations, and may be carried out by teams from the NRA. PCAs by UXO clearance organisations are mandatory.

PCAs should be conducted a minimum of 6 months, but no later than 8 months, after land has been released for use. The 6 month delay is to allow sufficient time for any work to have been started.

PCAs should not involve any physical inspection of the land. Information for PCAs should be obtained by a visual inspection of the land and discussion with local communities, land owners/users, humanitarian/development agencies or local authorities as required.

When PCAs identify deficiencies in the quality of the clearance work carried out, the organisation concerned should take appropriate action internally to prevent the deficiencies reoccurring and to correct the deficiency.

## **8. Reporting PCA Information**

The information that should be reported from a PCA for each UXO clearance task is shown on the **Post Clearance Assessment Report**, a copy of which is included in the NS Support Document **NRA Quality Management Procedures for Lao PDR**.

When PCAs are carried out, copies of the **Post Clearance Assessment Report** should be provided to the NRA national and provincial offices in accordance with **Chapter 24 of NS, Information Management**. Clearance organisations supporting humanitarian or development agencies should also provide copies of the report to the supported organisation.

## **9. Acting on PCA Information**

If land is being used as intended and there are no problems with the quality of clearance then this is to be acknowledged by the NRA on the **Post Clearance Assessment Report** and the original report filed.

When a PCA indicates that cleared land is not being used, or not being used as intended, the NRA will raise the matter with the clearance organisation concerned and any other organisation that the UXO clearance supports.

When a PCA identifies a deficiency in the quality of the clearance work carried out, the NRA will note the reported action taken by the organisation concerned. If the action is considered satisfactory this is to be annotated on the report. If the action is considered less than satisfactory the NRA will raise the matter with the organisation concerned.

In all cases, any action taken as a result of a PCA is to be annotated on the **Post Clearance Assessment Report** by the NRA.

## **Annex A**

### **Indicators of Changes to Measure Impact of UXO Clearance**

Changes to the well being of communities, for example:

- a. Increase in land available for use.
- b. Increase in productivity of land through better irrigation systems.
- c. Greater diversification of land use.
- d. Removal of obstructions to normal daily activities.
- e. Greater feeling of safety amongst individuals, and for their families and property (domestic animals).
- f. Improvement to the food security situation.
- g. Improvement to transport infrastructure.
- h. Better access to services such as electricity, water, telecommunications etc.
- i. Local development such as schools, markets, communal facilities or industry.
- j. Increased employment opportunities.

Quantifying the benefits of UXO clearance to communities, for example:

- a. Increase in area (m<sup>2</sup>) of land being used.
- b. Increase in agricultural produce yields.
- c. Increase in agricultural activities being carried out.
- d. Reduction in time taken or distances to travel to carry out normal everyday activities.
- e. Increase in percentage of annual food supply now able to be secured.
- f. Changes in number of families with access to services.
- g. Increase in household income.
- h. Numbers of individuals and families that benefited and the types of benefits for each.
- i. Any other measurable socio-economic benefits to the communities.