



Case Study on UXO Vulnerability and Poverty in Selected Villages of Kaleum District, Sekong Province

Environmental Study Center (ESC)

Environment Research Institute (ERI)

Science Technology and Environmental Agency (STEA)



Why case study?

- In what extent UXO versus Poverty eradication
 - August 2003, ESC Proposed to WB for supporting on UXO vulnerability study.
 - Early 2004, proposal accepted and came into practice.
 - Pilot study in selected villages of Kaleum District, Sekong.
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How relevant to PEN2?

- Reflecting aims of NGPES:
 - ❑ Poverty reduction, phasing out shifting cultivation, and opium elimination
 - ❑ Open land for agricultural production
 - ❑ Mobilize resources for humanitarian UXO action programs
 - MDGs
 - LNUOP
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Background

- 15 provinces contaminated with UXO (Study in 1997):
 - ❑ 25% of villages
 - ❑ 50% of agriculture land
 - Since 1975:
 - ❑ 12,000 UXO related accidents
 - ❑ 6,000 deaths
 - ❑ Handicap
 - ❑ Limiting of using arable land and land expansion
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Objectives

- To identify qualitatively and quantitatively primary data and information on UXO vulnerability contributed to poverty status of the targeted villages in Kaleum District through field survey; and
 - To be a reference for further actions on UXO decontamination planning and operations.
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Overview of case study and Methodologies

- Based on:

- (i) respect of local and indigenous cultures where the study took place; and

- (ii) consultative approach, while acknowledging opinions, comments and recommendations from the stakeholders.



Province

Sekong

Districts

Kaleum

Lamam

Dak Jeung

Thateng

- The most frequent aerial bombing missions and highest density of UXOs presented.
- Based on national criteria on poverty level and UXO contamination of the Government; and the researching guidelines of the World Bank.

Villages

Pak Xay

La Kai

Kroung

Bak

Proy

Trak

- located along new road, consolidated;
- located along new road, not consolidated;
- no road access, with stable location and population;
- with high UXO presence,
- without UXO program activity; and
- with lower UXO presence.

Households

- the poorest;
- the moderate;
- the wealthiest;
- practicing shifting cultivation;
- practicing paddy field farming;
- Two HH practicing both shifting cultivation and paddy field farming
- Practicing trading.



Main content of the questionnaires

- Information to access
 - UXO contaminations
 - Natural resources
 - Farmlands tend to be located in areas with fewer bombs
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Village	Original	Year immigration	Distance	Located	UXO	Reason
Pak Xay	Moved	1975	3 days by foot	Near road	Low	A voiding from slope area & UXO risks
La kai	Original			Near road	High	
Kroung	Moved	2003	15 minute by foot	Access by river	High	Follow resettlement plan of district
Bak	Moved	1973	15 minute by foot	Access by river	High	Use more able land
Proy	Moved	2003	15 minute by foot	Access by river	High	Follow resettlement plan of district
Trak	Original			Access by river	Low	

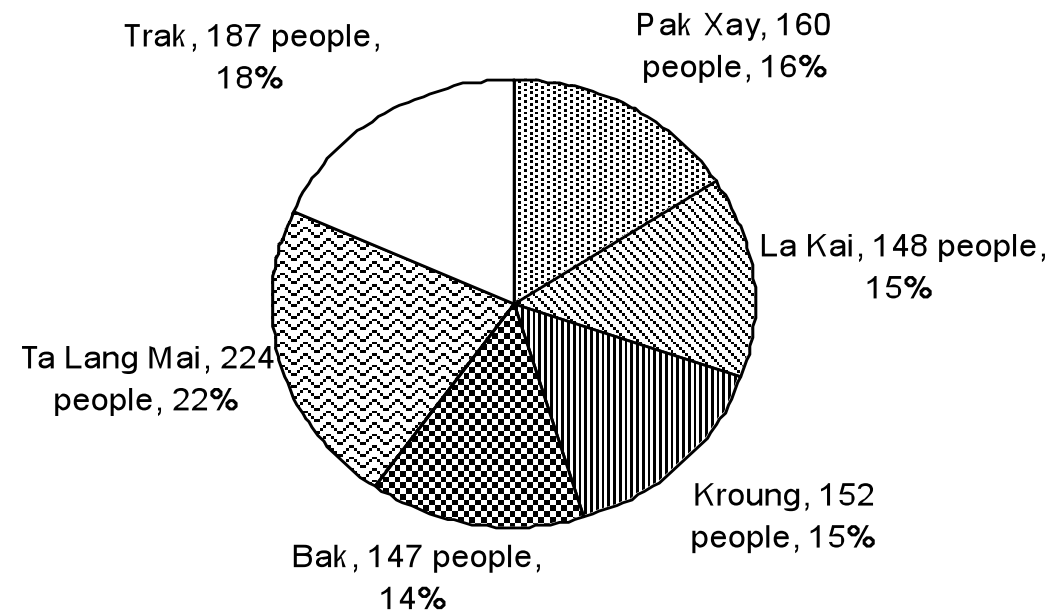


Linkage between case study & national situation

- UXOs data all Laos
- Poverty data in district
- National data sets



History of village formation



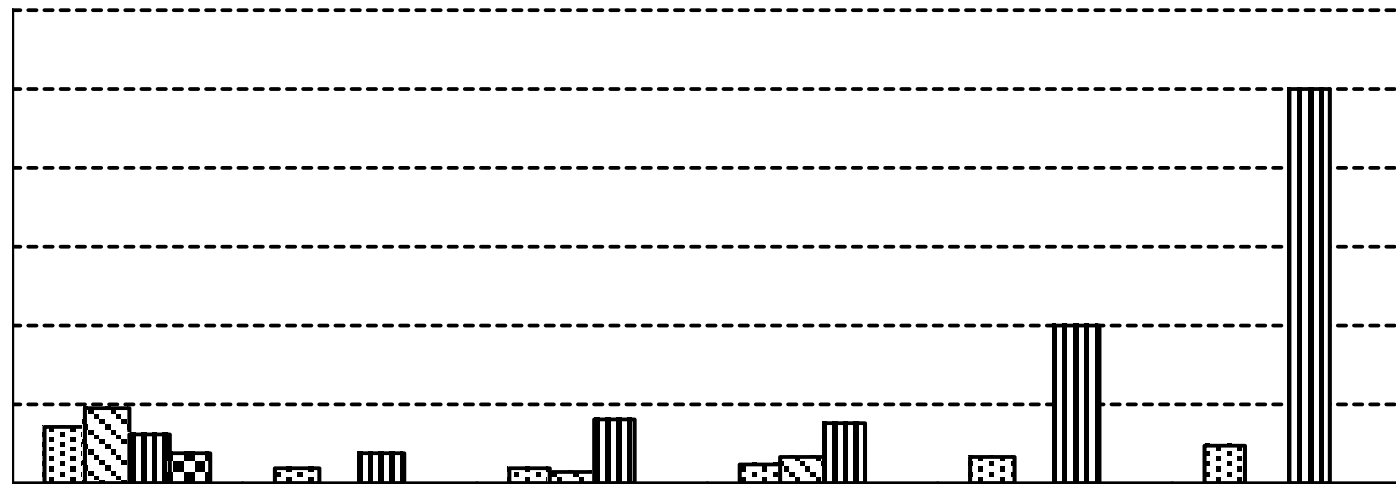


Assets poverty

- Agriculture land
 - HH consumptions
 - Livestock
 - HH poverty, and
 - Village poverty.
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Livestock raising in each village





Case study result

- To be reported, drafted by Environmental Study Center,
 - Consultant under the supervision of Environment Research Institute.
 - To be presented and analyze the evidence gathered;
 - Identify issues for further work if necessary.
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Conclusion

- poverty and restricts the local potentials, economic opportunity, infrastructure development, environmental destruction
 - UXO threatens and harms.
 - UXO clearance can not take actions on time.
 - funding for UXO program was limited and uneven, and attention from donors was still insufficient.
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Conclusions (cont.)

- People still having a high UXO risks.
 - lack of comprehensive information about impacts of UXO to the community.
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Some suggestions

- UXO education and awareness are the most effective ways in reducing UXO risk.
- the needs of capable teachers and schools in each village should be undertaken.



Suggestion (cont.)

- key element for immediate and primary treatments for the victims who have been injured from the UXOs.
 - This action would improve the villagers' physical health conditions and reduce the miss treatments by traditional believes.
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Suggestion (cont.)

- More comprehensive research activities in several dimensions should be conducted and should strongly be supported by the Government, international organizations, implementing partners, and donors. On the other hand, capacity on researching should also be build.
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