



# **Minutes taken at the 'Safe Path Forward' UXO Sector Strategy Review and Revision Follow-up Workshop**

**Held at:  
The International Cooperation and  
Training Centre (ICTC)**

**July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

*BACKGROUND:* A one-day, all-stakeholder workshop that is the follow up to the original two-day workshop held in May. This event brought together all the stakeholders represented at the last workshop and the primary aim of the day was to discuss and review a 'Safe Path Forward II' working document, which was produced utilising all the input produced at the original meeting. This draft working document was produced to be a simple strategic framework containing a defined vision, aim, set of objectives, action plan, and responsibilities for the revised sector strategy.

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# UXO Sector Strategy Review and Revision Follow-up Workshop, July 8<sup>th</sup> 2009

## Agenda Item 1: Opening Remarks by Chair

### Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith (Director General DIO, MOFA)

- Welcome all participants - UNDP representative, delegates from embassies, NGOs, and all other participants.
- Yesterday was a successful Lao reference group.
- Consensus was achieved on the Vision, Scope, and Objectives as outlined by the Safe Path Forward II Working Draft.
- However more discussion needs to take place in regards to Prioritisation.
- The old strategy was not harmonious with the National Socio-economic Development Plan (NSEDP) and so that is one of the main reasons this process of strategy review is taking place.
- We need to develop a strategy that is appropriate for the Lao context.
- This meeting is significant for provincial operators because when we set the priorities these operators are the actors that perform them.
- We want to emphasise the building of national capacity and increase Lao government ownership.
- Laos has a big challenge in meeting the goals set out by the MDG's.
- The main objective of this workshop is how to make all the reference groups, Lao, Donor and NGO, fully understand the UXO strategy and to harmonise all of the input into this document.

## Agenda Item 2: Remarks by the UNDP

### Mr Stephane Vigie, Resident Representative a.i, UNDP

- UXO sector has strong foundation and good processes in place already.
- Today is a great chance to achieve some strategic consensus. Workshop format in which the reference groups will be reporting back on their own meetings and then feeding that back into the formation of the revised Safe Path Forward is a very inclusive approach and hopefully agreement on a Safe Path Forward II (**SPF II**) can be reached.
- Strategy revision important to any successful strategic implementation.
- Next Sector working group, along with board meeting in September, both form important accountability measures for Sector strategy review process. At SWG a draft version of new strategy should be presented for review, and hopefully a finalised version is ready to be presented to the board. Process needs to stay on track to meet these deadlines.
- The Sector strategy will feed into the next NSEDP – the NSEDP is an existing framework endorsed by the government and we should be wary of being too inventive with the UXO strategy to the detriment of it being able to integrate it into NSEDP. It is crucial that these two documents align and work in harmony.
- Strategy needs to have clear indicators.
- Strategy needs to link to CCM, VTD, NSEDP - Strategy needs to be flexible enough to successfully integrate into these documents, but also not too prescriptive so as to be unworkable in concert with other strategic frameworks.
- National ownership: how do we achieve that?
- Prioritisation: more thinking needed on this issue.
- Congratulations to the Government of Laos on success of Berlin conference, and for ratifying CCM.
- Mentioned the possibility of a 1<sup>st</sup> member States Party Conference in Laos.

[Speech attached as Annex 2](#)

## Agenda Item 3: Additional Remarks by Chair and Explanation of Day's Format

- Mr Saleumxay informs the group about the First CCM states party conference and the likelihood it will be held in Laos.
- Lao Government considers this sector very important and is fully supportive of the Sector's efforts to update the guiding strategy.
- The States Party Conference will be an opportunity to highlight the tragedy that is cluster bombs damage and to show to the world how badly impacted Laos is.
- Berlin conference was an opportunity for Laos to network and further strengthen ties with international community.
- **Workshop format explained:** Initially reference groups held prior to the conference will present the outcomes of those meetings in plenary. In the afternoon the focus will shift to reviewing the working document of revised Safe Path Forward. The main group will divide itself into breakout groups in order to discuss the document format, strategy structure, and content.

## Agenda Item 4: Reference Group Feedback – Lao Reference Group (Representing Ministries)

Represented by Mr Somnuk Vorasarn, Deputy Director of NRA

- The Laos reference group focused heavily on the objects of the SPF II working draft, and did not go through the document section by section.
- The original strategy is still a valuable document and much can be learned from it in helping to guide an updated version.
- Too many objectives – we need fewer.
- An annual work plan needs to be established to guide sector activities, as the practical application of the strategy is too complicated to be written into the SPF II.
- How do we incorporate the strategy into the NSEDP?
- How do we gather all relevant sector information? All sector agents need access; all must report in. Some operators are out of the loop and we must include them.
- How do we address complicated situations? e.g. unaccredited clearance operators and their activities.
- Building National capacity (individual, governmental, institutional) needs to be articulated well in the strategy as this is a key objective needing to be achieved and one already highlighted in the sector review last year.
- SPF II should have a preamble that defines all the key strategic documents it needs to integrate with.

**Vision:** Laos Reference group agrees with SPF II Vision - ‘Laos to be free from threat of ERW’

**Aim:** changed some wording to include mine threats

### Objectives

1. To reduce and assist victims of ERW by **75%** of current figure by **2020**.
2. To ensure health care (Emergency care, physical and psychological rehabilitation) and economic and social inclusion provided to a **comprehensive** level.
3. To ensure **60,000** ha of land is cleared by 2020.
4. To improve national capacity, especially technical capacity, and to gradually increase national ownership of clearance activities.
5. To collect and manage the national victims database that is able to deliver information as needed.
6. To develop appropriate legislation for UXO/Mine action that underpins and enables the SPF II and other treaty obligations being complied to.

**Prioritisation:** Lao group agreed principally with new model, but would like to suggest the themes might need some revision and the various key stakeholders will need to be involved in that discussion.

[Click here for Laos Reference Group Presentation](#)

### Mr Saleumxay adds some points about Lao Reference Group Outcomes

- Mentions the history of 1st SPF. It was originally written in English by an International TA. Some key messages were lost in the translation into Lao because of the quintessential difference in the use of some words in English and Lao. Working in dual language does lead to some cross-cultural loss and the challenge is that the two languages do not always translate exactly. We need to be careful with languages.
- The term ‘Comprehensively’ in VA objective is highlighted as an example of such translation difficulties. The literal English meaning of this cannot be delivered by government. Basic or fundamental is what the Lao term used would literally translate into in English, but this does not imply the level of support needed.
- In English we use Vision, Aim, and Objectives: these terms translated into Lao do not sound correct – goals and targets perhaps might be better terms and more translatable into Laos.
- Our wording needs to be clear so that there is no ambiguity in the two versions and no problem in applying the strategy.
- Lao Reference group wanted to quantify target figures for SPF II in order to ensure an easier application of SPF II.

## Agenda Item 5: Reference Group Feedback – NGO Reference Group

(Representing MAG, WEC, COPE, FSD, SODI, HIB, NPA)

Represented by Mr. Luc Delneuve, Director of Handicap International

- Apologises for the group not working in both languages and for making suggestion directly on the SPF II working document.
- Strategy needs to be precise and accompanied by comprehensive sub-sector workplans (with objectives, activities, planned results, and indicators) that are worked out in each TWGs.

- Document should be reviewed again within next 5 years to ensure continuing relevance.
- Some reference should be made in SPF II to the mainstreaming of gender and disability equity into all sectors

**Vision:** Should be more people focused.

*'People and communities should live free from threat and ongoing consequences of ERW/UXO'*

**Aim:** should we re-term this as 'end-state', or 'strategic goals'?

**Scope:** Intervention should not be limited to 47 poorest districts – prefer to delete this reference.

**Objectives:**

- 9.2 - Should be more comprehensive for VA activities.
- 9.4 - Full transition? This needs to be more clearly defined. There needs to be understanding of the mechanisms to perform that transition and the roles of each ministry in such a process.
- Needs to be understanding of what transition means for each sub-sector.
- Transition needs to have clear timeframes.
- Exit strategies needs to be designed and incorporated into sector in an inclusive way.
- 9.6 - Reference to scrap metal should not narrow itself to just impacted provinces – trade happens across whole country.
- **Institutional Arrangements:** NRA should be strengthened as a focal point for UXO activity and the main communication vehicle between operators and government.
- Question: some NGO's incorporated UXO activities into their primary strategic work and signed MOUs directly with ministries. What role does NRA have with such NGOs and vice versa?
- Proposal that UNDP Trust fund not be codified as the 'preferred funding vehicle'.
- **Coordination:** NRA should have provincial representation, to what degree and where, warrants further discussion.
- **Priorities:** Too clearance orientated.
- Need a similar exercise for MRE and VA.
- Suggestion to see if proposed system practically works and a review can be done in TWGs.
- **Budget:** Budget difficult, but it would be better to have at least a 3 or 5 year cost projections prepared.
- Government contribution: this should be greater.
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[Click here for NGO Reference Group Remarks](#)

## Agenda Item 6: Reference Group Feedback – Donor Reference Group

(Representing Germany, Japan, Switzerland, USA, and one private foundation)

**Phil Bean, Programme Manager, Armour Group North America**

The approach of the donor group was to help construct a strategy against which they could justify support.

**Summary of reference group:**

- Very strong will from donor group to support the Sector.
- Donors need to be able to justify support (see progress, register progress, and see overall destination/vision).
- International funding is limited; let's take advantage of existing opportunities whilst they are available.
- Key points: define the UXO priorities, resource them, and build residual capacity.

**What the Donors wanted:**

- A long-term strategic understanding.
- Clear commitment from the Government of Laos (GoL).
- A Strategy that describes the whole sector and designed with the whole country in-mind.
- A plan that identifies the next phase.
- A plan that clearly describes what outcomes will be.
- What the costs will be, a specific projected budget breakdown can be discussed later.
- What resources GoL (Government of Laos) will provide and what gaps donors should focus on
- A plan that measures progress and help donors to prepare support based on results
- A plan that allows priorities to be set, plans developed and progress effectively monitored.

### Comments about SPF II Document:

**Introduction:** In the opening strategy remarks/context, suggestion to include reference about how compliant SPF II compliance will be to all international treaties and strategies.

- The idea of residual capacity should also be introduced.

**Vision:** needs to explain where we want to take Laos via this strategy, and that it will need to extend beyond the 10 years of the strategy; **a Vision that speaks beyond 2020.**

**Scope:** needs to be more comprehensive; remove the 47 district reference, include all UXO agents e.g. commercials

- Forward planning: explain the steps; what needs to be cleared, how success is measured.

**Objectives:** needs to strengthen national management and ownership, and outline clear activities to achieve this.

- Define 'Transition' – no need to come up with specifics such as who owns what.
- Strategy needs to be designed so that standards are enforceable across the whole sector.
- Development projects/practitioners need to factor in UXO risk, and the strategy needs to be written to account for these additional stakeholders.
- Management of the sector? Provincial representation?

**Funding:** different options for funding should be explained.

- The preferred method can be highlighted but spell out all options available.

**Priorities:** TWGs should drive development of a prioritisation system, with advice from GoL.

- Regulations need to be applied so that all operators working according to same standards.
- Further discussion needed about nature of the document and how it will be monitored? Is it a guiding document, or seminal work that needs constant revision?
- GoL funding needs to be progressively increased.

[Click here for Donor Reference Group Presentation](#)

### Additional Comments from the floor:

#### **Duiven Remy, SDC:**

- How do we establish capacity by 2020, so that the situation is significantly improved and the role of the donor significantly decreased by then. This is a key point and one crucial to Donor thinking. How do we ensure creating residual capacity does not become a huge problem?

#### **Mr Saleumxay, MOFA:**

- Ultimate aim of GoL is to guide Laos out of LDC status by 2020. But that does not mean that it will be free of UXO by then. Government committed to moving towards a much stronger ownership of UXO sector by 2020.

### Agenda Item 7: Comments from the floor regarding Reference Group's Reports

- **Luc Del Neuville, HI:** Question: Will the Donors support long-terms strategies that facilitate residual capacity building?
- **Duiven Remy, SDC:** It is difficult to fund past one or two years as the long-term vision of the strategy is ill-defined. Knowing where the sector is going will help.
- **Phil Bean, Armour Group North America:** Short-term funding should not hold back long-term strategic planning. The strategy should be conceived and funding found later.
- **Mr Saleumxay, MOFA:** GoL and Donor goals are in-sync; ownership is to be transferred over to national hands and strong residual capacity established. But this takes times. Question: How does the international/donor community perceive national capacity right now? An assessment of current ability will help Laos understand how far it has to go and how to plan towards this.
- **Tim Horner, NRA:** If UXO Lao was funded by GoL then it would be considered 'national capacity'. The Donors need guidance from GoL as to where they see the residual capacity being housed, and that will help Donor community support efforts to strategise and plan for this handover.

- **Mr Saleumxay, MOFA:** Question; how do we overcome the standoff that exists, each side waiting for the other to be decisive? Laos will not be 100% ready for full ownership of the sector by 2020.
- **Phil Bean, Armour Group North America:** Results in the 10 years of the plan dictate size of residual capacity. Hard to answer now what the extent of capacity should be, better to focus on identifying the requirements and nature of the capacity, rather than extent.
- **Mr Somnuk, NRA:** In principal we agree with residual capacity but by 2020 it will hard for GoL to assume full responsibility.
- **Unknown participant:** If clearance objective is not a figure of 60,000ha, then what should it be?
- **Phil Bean, Armour Group North America:** Aim is to move Laos out of LDC status. LDC status is not determined by land cleared alone, it is a factor. So the figure needed should reflect more the drive to end LDC status and the goals of the NSEDP plan. It is difficult to identify a figure for it needs to be based on the strategies for moving Laos out of LDC.
- **Unknown participant:** No M&E elements in the strategy. The indicators need defining and action plans need devising.
- **Mr. Mytong, MOFA:** There are issues of ownership by 2020. If we review how heavily International Donors have been relied up in the past then it appears that full transition by 2020 not possible. Should softer wording that 'full' be used in the strategy?
- **Mr Thongdy, NRA:** Objective of 60,000 ha cleared by 2020 does not align with CCM obligations requiring all land to be cleared.
- **Dr Maligna, NRA:** Clarifies to the group in response to many comments about 10 years being too short to achieve these goals, that under the CCM, Laos has a 10-year obligation to clear all bombies, but extensions can be granted.
- **Stephane Vigie, UNDP:** Member states have the right to request assistance and this is supported in the VD. 2008 Sector evaluation talks about residual capacity, it needs to be talked about here. Question: What is the status of roving teams within the SFP II?
- **Mr. Saleumxay** – Winds up the question period and explains the afternoon breakout group session.
- He explains the format; 3 groups will be established that are themed in line with each sub-sector.
- Each group will discuss that sub-sector in reference to the SFP II, go through the SFP II working document format, and also discuss important areas such as objectives, prioritisation and residual capacity.

## Agenda Item 8: Breakout Groups Report back in Plenary

**VA Breakout Group: facilitated by Mr. Pouviengsavanh Keosouphan, Senior Explosive Ordnance Officer**

- Conversation starts with who will be focal point for VA in relation to CCM implementation? NRA in the interim? Transition to MoH?
- Further discussion coming out of the plenary session about the terms used (translation issues). Suggestion is 'Indicators' should be 'targets'.
- Not sure if 'Aim' is relevant. It can be discussed in TWG's.
- Group agrees that the structure of the document is fine, better to focus on content.

### **Vision:**

- *'People and Communities of the Lao PDR are free from the threat of UXO and their ongoing consequences'*

**Aim:** Group would like to see a distinction between vision and aim made at a later point.

**Scope:** Change term 'survivor' to 'victims'.

- 'Victims' as defined as by CCM should be referenced in scoping definition and used as the authoritative definition of the term.
- Scope should be nationwide and not limited to 47 poorest districts.

### **Objectives:**

- Group debates what should be a primary VA objective.
- Possible alternative suggested to 9.1.

- 9.1.4 - (additional sub-point) 'Reduce death rate of UXO accidents from 40% to 20%.
- 9.2 - 'Ensure all victims from UXO receive **appropriate** assistance'.
- 9.2.1 - (additional sub-point) 'Actions will be designed to be non-discriminatory'.
- VA working group will publish strategic plans in each of the seven VA pillars in order to help clarify VA part of strategy.
- 9.3 – unchanged.
- 9.4 - Group debates the use of 'full' in full transition. What is the definition of full transition? Can a complete hand over including all strategy, implementation, management, and funding duties, be passed on to the respective government ministries in 10 years?
- 9.4.3 – amend to '**A Commitment to full transition of VA to...** '
- Full transition should be discussed and identified in TWG. The term transition needs to be truly understood and perhaps made a bit more flexible; perhaps it should be split into strategy and implementation. Strategy and policymaking could be transitioned to GoL, some implementation goes to ministries, but also some goes to Civic society and NGO's.
- 9.5 – unchanged in agreement.
- 9.6 – unchanged in agreement.

**Institutional Arrangements:** Group agrees NRA should be the focal point for interaction with government.

- Incidents where UXO operators negotiate separate MOU's with other ministries needs to be addressed.

***MRE Breakout Group: facilitated by Mr. Thongdy Phommavongsa, Mine Risk Education Officer***

- Format of the strategy should remain, but input from the workshops obviously needs to be built into the revised SPF

**Vision:** Group agreed with vision contained in working SPF II. No need to re-word it in a more people focused way as under Lao law, the term Lao PDR legally refers to the land and the people.

**Aim:** The term 'Aim' was changed to 'Goal', and the Goal established was 'to ensure people in contaminated areas live their life free from the threat of ERW /Mines and victims should receive assistance

**Scope:** should mention rights of disabled peoples and gender equality

**Objectives/targets:**

- 9.1 - reduce victims by **75%** of current figure by **2020**. Clearance teams might do more MRE activity. MRE teams need to harmonise activities.
- 9.2 –VA: to ensure health care, physical and psychological rehabilitation, and economic and social inclusion for victims of ERW at a basic level.
- 9.3 - release **60,000 ha by 2020**.
- 9.4 – unchanged.
- 9.5 - establishing database should not be an objective – should be an activity that will be finished soon as it is crucial to the effective work of the operators.
- 9.6 – not seen as an objective rather activity that needs to be achieved quicker rather than later so that the other objectives outlined in the SPF II can be achieved by 2020.

**Institutional Arrangements:** NRA should be focal point for guiding strategy, monitoring, implementation, and oversight of all sector activities.

- Provincial offices should be established also, working collaboratively with local authorities (possibly in Xiengkhouang and Savannakhet)
- Board should be expanded to include Ministry of Finance in light of GoL increasing support for sector.
- NRA should continue to be Board secretariat that reports directly to the PM.

**Coordination:** Strengthen ties between TWGs, SWGs, and the Round Table Meetings.

**MRE activities and priorities**

- o Deliver MRE activities which encourage people to change behaviour rather than raising awareness about UXO dangerous
- o Conduct MRE activities in/with:
  - high casualties areas
  - high contamination areas
  - at risk groups who are living in the UXO areas, such as scrap metal dealers, scrap metal collector, children in school and out of school, and farmers.

- MRE together with clearance to better coordination regarding UXO report response and clearance of land.
- Draft and enforce national legislation that prohibits guesthouse displaying UXO in their guesthouse.
- Conduct training to village authorities: Youth union, Women Union, teacher, security then these people can reach scrap metal collectors.
- Conduct training to scrap metal dealers regarding safer scrap metal trade.
- Training to children and people who tampering UXO regarding dangerous of UXO.

**CL Breakout Group (Lao): facilitated by Mr. Pommachanh Khammanichant , TWG Demining Officer**

**Vision:** group agrees with document phrasing

**Aim:** in principal agree with document phrasing but need to ensure that aims are connected to development plans.

- Want it to read so that a sense of socio-economic thinking can be picked up.

**Objectives:**

- 9.1 - Reduce the number of victims by 75% by 2020 – agree.
- 9.2 - VA - incorporate gender equity.
- 9.3 – agree with Lao Reference Group suggestion to insert sub-point; ensure 60,000ha cleared by 2020.
- 9.4 – agree that we need to strive harder to build local capacity, particularly technical skills for ERW work.
- Ownership transferral should be gradual.
- 9.5 – agree that we need to collect and maintain a database that can deliver accurate information related to ERW sector actions.
- 9.6 – agree that domestic legislation needs to be developed that underpins Safe Path Forward and International Treaties.

**Institutional Arrangements:** national board of land use should be included on NRA board

**Prioritisation:** agree with the matrix set out in the SPF II working document.

- Priorities should be more harmonious with NSEDP.
- UXO clearance timeframes should be more synchronised – plan approval and budgets hand-downs do not align. Clearance plans should be timed to coincide with the National budget.
- Proposal that the government legislates that all investment projects in Laos require a clearance assessment/and or clearance performed.

**CL Breakout Group (International): facilitated by Tim Horner, NRA**

**Vision:** should be more people focused. Along the lines of:

- *‘People and Communities of the Lao PDR are free from the threat of UXO and their ongoing consequences’*
- Targets needs to link back to priorities – the priorities set down in NSEDP. Otherwise large areas of unproductive land could be cleared. We also need a cost-benefit analysis.
- Scoping exercise important but needs ongoing information to keep it relevant
- Tangible indicators required
- Improve responsiveness of roving tasks – within a week

**Institutional Arrangements:** District and Provincial authorities need to be highly included and brought into the institutional arrangement.

**Prioritisation:** system ok but needs a weighting element built into it, perhaps in a point system.

- Dialogue between operators and District Administrators needs to be strengthened.
- Strategy provides guidance for prioritisation but the decisions needs to be made by operators and regional governance.

**Residual capacity:** In 50 years time, this will be done by military or local commercial operators.

- In the next 10 years of the strategy the foundation for residual capacity needs to be developed.
- There are two points to this:
  1. A report and respond framework needs to be established
  2. The local institutions need to start working towards that capacity.
- Lao national operators will handle certain % of clearance tasks.

### Closing Remarks by Chair

- Workshop starting to get some good traction on prioritisation and transition.
- Overall making good progress.
- Need to build in the feedback and suggestions from today into the working document SFP II.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop required – where a draft plan for approval can be circulated.
- NRA will collate a second working draft.
- Working document should be drafted into Lao first and then English and aim is to have document done by September – hence need another workshop in August.
- Mr Saleumxay thanks NRA for organising workshop, translators, and all participants today for their useful contributions and input into strategic thinking for document.

**Action:** to collate feedback from workshop and build into draft Safe Path Forward II

**Timing:** Prior to 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop

**Responsible:** NRA

**Action:** Organise 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop to review draft SPF II

**Timing:** Late August

**Responsible:** NRA

### Points of Consensus

**Introduction:** Reference to this document complying with international treaties and domestic strategies might be considered?

**Vision:** it was agreed a more people focused vision was needed. Draft wording to come out of the workshop:

- ***People and Communities of the Lao PDR are free from the threat of UXO and their ongoing consequences'***

**Aim:** agreement amongst Lao participants that the word 'Aim' does not translate well. Goal is the suggested alternative.

**Scope:** should not be limited to 47 poorest districts as UXO problem is more pervasive. Consider deleting reference. Change term 'Survivor' to 'Victim'

#### Objectives:

- Fewer objectives – possibly 9.5 and 9.6 can be stripped out as the general consensus is they are more activities that underpin 9.1 through 9.4 rather than objectives in their own right.
- 9.1 – A quantifiable figure of 75% reduction on current victim rates by 2020 was accepted.
- 9.1 – Improved roving responsiveness needs to be articulated in the strategy.
- 9.3 - A quantifiable figure of 60,000 ha cleared by 2020 was accepted but this needs to be better understood in terms of prioritisation, and then cross-referenced against domestic development strategy and international treaties.
- Transition needs to be more closely defined. The term Full transition within the 10 years of the plan seems untenable at this time, and the narrow designation of sector functions being transferred solely to a government ministry needs to be re-evaluated to take into account other sector agents e.g.: civic society, commercials etc.
- Annual work plans need to be established to give action to the objectives.
- Objectives must reflect the priorities of the NSEDP.

**Institutional Arrangements:** NRA needs to focal point of communication between sector and government. It needs an enlarged mandate, and it needs to have provincial representation.

**Coordination:** Ties needs to be strengthened between TWGs, SWGs and Round Table Meetings.

**Prioritisation:** It was generally agreed that the theme based matrix is a better model, however some form of weighting system needs to be built into to account for the difference in thematic prioritisation based on other development strategies.

**Budget:** other funding options need to be explained and emphasised in the document. Consider deleting reference to UNDP trust fund as preferred funding vehicle.

- Residual capacity needs to be built into the document – no specifics yet but more the requirements needed and concept of the transition process.

PREPARED BY: *MR. BOUNPHENG SISAWATH AND JOHN FENECH*

APPROVED BY: *MR. SOMNUK VORASARN DEPUTY DIRECTOR NRA*

## Annex 1: AMENDED RESOLUTIONS of the Lao PDR Government on National Strategic Plan for the UXO Programme in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, 2010 – 2020: “The Safe Path Forward II”

### PART I. CONTEXT

1. Under the authority of the Government of Lao PDR this National Strategic Plan for the UXO Sector is in line with the following documents:
  - 1.1. National Poverty Eradication Programme
  - 1.2. National Socio Economic Development Plans
  - 1.3. The Lao Millennium Development Goals
  - 1.4. The MLSW Master Plan
  - 1.5. The Vientiane Declaration on Aid Effectiveness
  - 1.6. The Convention on Cluster Munitions
  - 1.7. The Convention on the Rights of people with Disabilities
  - 1.8. Prime Ministers Decree 33 on the National Regulatory Authority (NRA)
  - 1.9. Deputy Prime Ministers Decree on the Organisation and Activities of the NRA

### PART II. INTRODUCTION

2. The Lao PDR is, per capita, the most heavily bombed nation in the world. As a result of the broader conflict in Indochina during the 1960's and 1970's it was the scene of extensive ground battles and intensive aerial bombardment which left vast areas of the country contaminated with explosive remnants of war (ERW).
3. A strategic plan was promulgated as a Government Resolution called “the Safe Path Forward 2003 to 2013”. It provided a structured framework for the sector with a Governmental National Regulatory Authority in charge of coordination and regulation of UXO Victim Assistance, Mine Risk Education and Clearance Operators.
4. This document represents the results of a consultative review and revision process involving all stakeholders to the UXO Sector carried out during the second and third quarter of 2009 before being approved by the NRA Board.

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.

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.

In regards to the International Treaty governing Anti Personnel Landmines, the Ottawa Convention, the Government of Lao PDR will continue to consider the possibility of becoming a state party to the Convention.

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 III. VISION**

5. The vision of Lao PDR is to be free from the threat of Explosive Remnants of War.

### **PART IV. AIM**

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”.

### **PART V. SCOPE**

~~Except where otherwise stated, this Plan covers more specifically UXO Lao operations in the following 9 provinces:~~

- |                             |                          |                             |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <del>1. Savannakhet</del>   | <del>4. Khammouane</del> | <del>7. Houaphan</del>      |
| <del>2. Xieng Khouang</del> | <del>5. Sekong</del>     | <del>8. Attapeu</del>       |
| <del>3. Saravane</del>      | <del>6. Champassak</del> | <del>9. Luang Prabang</del> |

7. Those impacts **described in the AIM** 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.
8. **In compliance with the VISION this strategy will address all of the territory under Government of Lao PDR control 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 47 districts identified as national priority development areas in the NPEP.**

### **PART VI. OBJECTIVES**

9. More specifically,

#### **9.1. Reduce victims of ERW**

- 9.1.1. Number of accidents reduced by 60%
- 9.1.2. MRE evaluated, improved and focused
- 9.1.3. Number of UXO destroyed by roving teams

#### **9.2. Care for the survivors**

- 9.2.1. All survivors to receive rehabilitation assistance

#### **9.3. Release productive land**

- 9.3.1. The scope of land impacted by ERW will be identified and quantified
- 9.3.2. Focus will be on 36 of 47 poorest districts in line with the NSEDP
- 9.3.3. Effective reporting and response system for spot tasks
- 9.3.4. Prioritized work based on provincial and district development plans

#### **9.4. Build capacity for transition to full government ownership**

- 9.4.1. Lao trained to replace Technical Advisors (TAs) and TAs phased out
- 9.4.2. Full transition of MRE to MOE and MIC
- 9.4.3. Full transition of VA to MOH, MLSW, and MOE
- 9.4.4. Prepare transition of clearance to MOD or MOS and national operators

#### 9.4.5. Increase proportion of resources provided by Lao government

### 9.5. Collect, maintain and analyse data

9.5.1. Create a regularized, system approach to collection and input into national database

9.5.2. All operators reporting

9.5.3. National database fully operational without full time TA

9.5.4. Regular reporting and special analysis on demand

### 9.6. Pass national enabling legislation

9.6.1. Develop and approve legislation that underpins the UXO Sector structure, Strategy and Treaty obligations

9.6.2. Scrap metal legislation, rules and procedures approved and implemented in all impacted provinces

- 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 km<sup>2</sup>) 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 VII. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

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

- (a) A National Regulatory Authority (NRA) ~~will be established and will report~~ **reports** directly to the Office of the Prime Minister. The NRA ~~will be~~ **is** composed of representatives of all line ministries concerned with or affected by UXO/landmines, by the ~~CPC~~ **Ministry of Planning and Investment** as well as of observers from the donor community. It will be responsible for:
- The periodic review and implementation of this Strategic Plan,
  - **Monitoring of performance against the Strategic Plan and compiling a sector-wide annual report, etc.**
  - The definition and provision of policy direction **including criteria for the prioritisation of all UXO/Mine Action operations,**
  - ~~The a~~ **Accreditation, licensing, and oversight of all UXO/Mine Action operators (in clearance operations, in MRE Community Awareness, and in Victim Assistance),**
  - The management of the **National Database** ~~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 **and Quality Control** of all UXO/Mine Action activities,
  - The conduct of ~~Post-Clearance~~ **Impact Assessments etc. and other relevant studies.**
  - **Representing the Government of Lao PDR at international UXO/Mine Action related fora.**
  - **Providing a secretariat function for UXO/Mine Action related International Treaties.**
- (b) All UXO/Mine Action operators will work under ~~the tasking orders~~ **the direction and** 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 sub-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 a “preferred national humanitarian UXO/mine clearance operator”, and~~
- iii. Victim Assistance operators, national and international, as relevant;

Operators will actively take part in ~~sector~~ Technical Working Groups (TWG) responsible for the coordination and planning of activities in the ~~sub-sectors of MRE, Clearance, VA, 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 UXO Sector Working Group. 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 VIII. COORDINATION**

11. In exercising effective leadership in aid coordination at the macro and sectoral levels through an ongoing process of dialogue; the Government uses mechanisms such as the Round Table Implementation Meetings (RTIM), Sector Working Groups (SWG) and sub-sector Technical Working Groups (TWG). This has been articulated in the Vientiane Declaration (VD) and in line with the principles of the VD, the UXO SWG will seek to enhance the impact of UXO/Mine Action activities in Lao PDR in reducing poverty, increasing growth, building the capacity of human resources and institutions, and accelerating the achievement of the Lao Millennium Development Goals.

12. SWGs are under direction of the Department of International Cooperation in the Ministry of Planning and Investment. Each sector works in the context of the NPEP and the five Year National Socio Economic Development Plans. The UXO SWG will provide the linkage between thematic sub-sector UXO TWGs, the other SWGs and the RTIMs.

13. The UXO SWG promotes aid effectiveness through integration of UXO/Mine Action plans and private sector input into broader Government strategies. Membership will comprise representatives from all NRA Board Ministries, all UXO/Mine Action operators, donors and interested stakeholders, (governmental and non-governmental), working in the UXO/Mine Action sector and other related development sectors. The UXO TWG will be chaired by the Director of the NRA and a representative of UNDP. There will be two meetings of members annually.

***One of the UXO Sector Evaluation recommendations was that a new prioritisation system should be developed.***

***The system below is one possible idea. It will need significant explanation, discussion and input from all stakeholders so should be viewed as only one of several possibilities.***

## **PART IX. PRIORITIES**

14. 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 of **Savannakhet, Champassak, Xiengkhuang, Houaphan, Saravane, Attapeu, Khammouane, Luang Prabang, Sekong,** 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. \(THIS NEEDS THE SCOPE IDENTIFYING/QUANTIFYING\)](#)

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.

15. Furthermore there is a need to define and prioritise actions in contaminated areas by UXO/Mine Action operator (Governmental/NGO & Commercial). Surveys should focus on ensuring that UXO/Mine Actions fall within one or more of the broad categories and at least one of the sub-categories with an increasing importance when more than one sub-category is covered.

16. The following table shows priority themes for clearance. When prioritising tasks if:
- a. 5 to 7 boxes can be ticked the task is HIGH priority,
  - b. 3 to 4 boxes are ticked it is MEDIUM priority
  - c. 1 to 2 boxes ticked it is LOW priority.

**Table 1: UXO/Mine Clearance Priority**

Themes:

	Actions in High Contamination Areas
	Actions in High Casualty Areas
	Actions in support of development (National, Provincial & District Development Plans)
	Actions in support of Poverty Reduction (National, Provincial & District Development Plans)
	Actions supporting Food Security
	Actions in poor areas
	Actions in poorest areas

Humanitarian/donor funded priority areas:

	Agricultural Land
	Public service Utilities (Medical/public health, water points etc...)
	Educational Facilities
	Grazing land and Non timber forestry areas
	Communal Facilities (markets, religious/cultural sites, recreational areas, etc...)
	Pro-poor Tourism sites
	Government facilities and offices
	Communal 'profit making areas' (Collective fields/farms)
	Public infrastructure work (Roads, bridges, dams, irrigation systems in support of the above)

Commercial priority areas

	Hydro Power projects
	Mining
	Infrastructure Development
	Private Investment Projects (Plantations etc...)
	Light Industry

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

17. For the purpose of this Plan, humanitarian UXO/mine clearance operations will focus *strictly* on High and Medium Priorities I and II, with a marked preference for High Priority I tasks. By the end of year 2013, 2020 all High Priority I tasks shall have been dealt with (i.e. either cleared or marked).

18. Few, if any, Low Priority 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 X. Planning Assumptions**

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

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.

19. Information is constantly improving in the UXO Sector; this plan will therefore be reviewed on an annual basis as new information is collected and as new developments happen.

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.

20. 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.

21. All operators will be compliant with the Decreed Lao PDR National UXO/Mine Action Standards with no exceptions.

The proposed clearance objective of this Plan, approx. 180 km<sup>2</sup>, is based solely on UXO Lao output; clearance output by other operators will be in excess of the objectives of this Plan.

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.

22. 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;

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

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.

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.

23. All operators in the sector will work autonomously from one another, and will report directly to the National Regulatory Authority in compliance with the Lao PDR National UXO/Mine Action Standards.

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

~~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.~~

~~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.~~

~~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.~~

25. The Training Centre currently operated by UXO Lao will be ~~maintained~~, transferred to become ~~and will serve as the national training facility for all UXO programme-related needs. The long term objective will be for a nationally owned and funded training centre using the national curricula to license personnel under Lao PDR National UXO/Mine Action Standards. UXO Lao. The National Training Centre~~ will thus train and license deminers and support staff of all independent operators on a cost-recovery basis.

~~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.~~

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

<del>Province</del>	<del>Province</del>
<del>Savannakhet : 4 teams</del>	<del>Champassak : 2 teams</del>
<del>Xieng Khouang : 4 teams</del>	<del>Houaphan : 3 teams</del>
<del>Saravane : 3 teams</del>	<del>Attapeu : 2 teams</del>
<del>Khammouane : 2 teams</del>	<del>Luang Prabang : 2 teams</del>
<del>Sekong : 2 teams</del>	

~~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.~~

26. The National Regulatory Authority will bear ultimate responsibility for the implementation of this Plan, for the prioritisation ~~principles~~ of UXO/Mine Action tasks, and for the related tasking of all operators.

~~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 XI. Projected Achievements**

27. In line with PART VIII, Coordination; an ANNUAL WORKPLAN will be developed by the end of each year for the following year from 2010 to 2020. The UXO/Mine Action Sector WORKPLAN will set projected achievements that can be measured from a defined baseline to a target using indicators that are specific, measurable, accurate, relevant and timebound.

28. A total of 2,636 UXO contaminated villages were identified in the Impact Survey (1997) in the ~~above~~ 9 most impacted provinces. By first focusing on the conduct of Technical Surveys in ~~these~~ the villages that are in the 47 poorest districts, a clearer picture of the total areas to be dealt with in support of the priorities laid down in the NSEDP can be addressed while not ignoring the other priorities of casualty reduction in high casualty and contamination villages in districts not classified as poor. The most pressing needs in each community/district/province, and ultimately of the total resources required to address the problem will emerge.

29. Technical Survey procedures and risk management modelling should be used to ensure accurate targeting of assets will be modified in order to classify all clearance tasks according to the Priority Chart under Table 1 above. All technical survey/risk modelling data of land released will be entered into the national database, on the IMSMA (Information Management System for Mine Action) platform.

~~yet to be installed), which will become the primary tool for prioritisation of tasks and for the recording of progress against the present Plan.~~

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

<u>Province</u>	<u>Province</u>
Savannakhet : 8 teams	Champassak : 4 teams
Xieng Khouang : 8 teams	Houaphan : 6 teams
Saravane : 6 teams	Attapeu : 4 teams
Khammouane : 4 teams	Luang Prabang : 4 teams
Sekong : 4 teams	

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

~~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**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
<b>2003</b>	1. Feasibility of national Victim Database	30-Sept. 2003	HI, involving Min. Health
	2. Review of UXO Lao Management	30-Sept. 2003	
	3. Initiation of Post-Clearance Impact	01-Oct. 2003	By UNDP, to be taken over by

	<p>Assessments (PCIA)</p> <p>4. Establishment of increased Tech Survey capacity</p> <p>5. Establishment of Regulatory Authority</p> <p>6. IMSMA installed and running</p> <p>7. Transfer of CA capacity to other IPs</p> <p>8. Tech. Survey of 500 villages</p> <p>9. 942 ha of land cleared by UXO-LAO</p> <p>10. 60 “new” villages visited by CA</p> <p>11. Victim Assistance Plan of Action</p>	<p>31 Dec. 2003</p>	<p>National Regulatory Authority</p> <p>Min. Info &amp; Culture, Min. Education, LWU, LYU, etc.</p> <p>Per approved UXO Lao Work Plan</p> <p>CA teams of UXO Lao</p> <p>Min. Health, Operators</p>
<b>2004</b>	<p>1. New CA curriculum developed</p> <p>2. Review of Strategic Plan</p> <p>3. CA outreach to 300 “new” villages</p> <p>4. Tech. Survey of 1300 villages</p> <p>5. 1300 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao</p>	<p>30 June 2004</p> <p>31 Aug. 2004</p> <p>31 Dec. 2004</p> <p>31 Dec. 2004</p> <p>31 Dec. 2004</p>	<p>Min. Info &amp; Culture, Min. Education</p> <p>Increased output due to introduction of QM and new methodology</p>
<b>2005</b>	<p>1. Tech. Survey of 840 villages</p> <p>2. Review of Strategic Plan</p> <p>3. CA outreach to 450 “new” villages</p> <p>4. 1500 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao</p>	<p>30 June 2005</p> <p>31 Aug. 2005</p> <p>31 Dec. 2005</p> <p>31 Dec. 2005</p>	<p>All Tech Surveys completed</p>
<b>2006</b>	<p>1. Review of Strategic Plan</p> <p>2. CA outreach to 450 “new” villages</p> <p>3. 1800 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao</p>	<p>31 Aug. 2006</p> <p>31 Dec. 2006</p> <p>31 Dec. 2006</p>	
<b>2007</b>	<p>1. Review of Strategic Plan</p> <p>2. CA outreach to 450 “new” villages</p> <p>3. 1800 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao</p>	<p>31 Aug. 2007</p> <p>31 Dec. 2007</p> <p>31 Dec. 2007</p>	
<b>2008</b>	<p>1. Review of Strategic Plan</p> <p>2. CA outreach to 450 “new” villages</p> <p>3. 2000 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao</p>	<p>31 Aug. 2008</p> <p>31 Dec. 2008</p> <p>31 Dec. 2008</p>	
<b>2009</b>	<p>1. Review of Strategic Plan</p> <p>2. CA outreach to 450 “new” villages</p> <p>3. 2000 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao</p>	<p>31 Aug. 2009</p> <p>31 Dec. 2009</p> <p>31 Dec. 2009</p>	<p>All UXO-affected villages visited at least once by CA</p>

<b>2010</b>	1.— Review of Strategic Plan	31 Aug. 2010	
	2.— 2000 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao	31 Dec. 2010	
<b>2011</b>	1.— Review of Strategic Plan	31 Aug. 2011	
	2.— 2000 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao	31 Dec. 2011	
<b>2012</b>	1.— Development of new Strategic Plan	31 June 2012	As required
	2.— 2000 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao	31 Dec. 2012	
<b>2013</b>	1.— 2000 ha of land cleared by UXO Lao	31 Dec. 2013	

**PART XII. PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS**

**30. It is impossible to budget for 10 years with any level of accuracy. However, all aspects of the UXO Sector totalled approximately \$20,000,000 in 2007, 2008 and 2009.....**

**31. The UXO Sector ANNUAL WORKPLANS will estimate the cost of each successive year for the duration of this strategy.....**

32. 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.

33. 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;

34. 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.

35. 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).

36. The yearly cost of UXO Lao operations is estimated to be in the range of US\$ 3,5 million.

37. The yearly cost of the nationally executed activities in Mine/UXO Risk Education is expected to be in the range of US\$ 750,000.

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

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

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

40. 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. 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 XIII. IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN**

41. The National Steering Committee ~~Regulatory Authority~~ 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.

42. 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.

43. This strategic plan has been considered and approved in the government meeting held on 29 – 31 July 2003 (**..... date to be decided**) according to the document proposed by **(to be decided)**

~~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**

## Annex 2: UNDP Remarks - Opening Remarks by Stephane Vigie, UNDP Resident Representative a.i on behalf of Madam Sonam Yangchen Rana, UNDP Resident Coordinator

Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith, Director General of the Department for International Organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Distinguished guests, development partners, United Nations colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be here today to open of this important follow up workshop which will review and revise the national strategic plan for the UXO Sector.

As we are aware that many decades after the war end cluster munitions continue to threaten the lives and livelihoods of people in Lao PDR. UNDP is a long-time supporter of the Government in this sector. We assisted the Government to establish UXO Lao in 1996 and we continue to support people working in the nine worst UXO-affected Provinces for UXO Lao. UNDP also assisted the Government to establish the NRA as it was designed in the Sector Strategy, "the Safe Path Forward" and it is the mandate of the NRA that the strategy is now revised.

Last May all of us have met for a two-day workshop for the first time since "The Safe Path Forward" was drafted in 2002 to revise the strategy where we have undertaken the SWOT analysis. Based on the SWOT analysis we have looked at the aims, vision, goals, sets of objectives, set of key indicators and timing, enabling activities and responsibility to draft the revision of these key sections of the strategy. Four reference groups have since met to discuss the output from the last workshop, in fact yesterday I understand the most important reference group; the Lao Group, met and I look forward to hearing the comments, ideas and suggestions that all of this discussion has generated. Today all stakeholders have come together again to share their views and I hope take the next step towards agreeing on key elements of the "The Safe Path Forward II" text.

We are over mid-way through "Safe Path Forward" period 2003 to 2013. It is thus a very exciting period with many opportunities that we need to seize and make the most of where a lot of valuable lessons have been learned.

How can we make the strategic links to Vientiane Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and fit with the Governments vision of exiting the Least Developed Countries-status by 2020? How to make it contributes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals? How to make it in line with the disability and cluster munitions conventions? All of these key elements have been highlighted in the draft outline strategy and later discussed in each of the four reference groups to ensure its continued relevance and appropriateness for the Lao context in 2009 and beyond.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is hoped that the results of this workshop will be considered during the MLSW 12 year review of UXO Sector which is tentatively scheduled for mid July. The Next step is the UXO Sector Working Group to meet on 7 August and finally we aim to have a final draft of the strategy submitted to the NRA Board meeting on 9 September.

Last year was in particular a remarkable year for the whole of the UXO Sector in Laos, with achievements that give us hope for the future. The success will be a small affair in comparison to the First Member States Parties' Meeting of the Convention a year after it comes into force as the Government has offered to host it in Vientiane. This confernece is expected to bring up to a hundred countries here in 2010 to discuss progress on eliminating cluster munitions for all time.

UN agencies throughout the country are supporting the UXO sector in clearance, victim assistance and risk education activities. Today, I reaffirm the commitment of the UN Country Team in Lao PDR to continuing partnerships and support for the UXO sector.

The recent Cluster Munitions Convention and the ongoing achievements of the national UXO programme gives us all the hope and confidence that the impacts of UXO in Lao PDR can be comprehensively addressed - with the continued commitment of the Government and the harmonised support of the international community. The partnerships are established, we now need an up-to-date clear and decisive strategy to guide us. It is only with good strategic leadership that the deadly threats from UXO can be lifted from the Lao people.

Once again, I would like to congratulate the Government on its achievements in the UXO sector and I am pleased to have this opportunity today to reaffirm the UN's support and wish you well with the review and revision.

Thank you!