

Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector
In Lao PDR.
Office

No: 79/NRA.O.CL
Vientiane Capital, date 25 APR 2017

Record of Clearance TWG Quarter I, 2017 Meeting
on 31 ~~April~~ 2017
Mason

I. Purpose:

To discuss on the overview of data issues related to the correcting of the errors information that recorded during surveys and other concerned issues as below:

- Overview of data issues
- The use of data recorded in paper
- Reasonable efforts of paper only record
- Overview fo draft planning guidance for NTS and TS including:
 - a. correcting data errors
 - b. use of paper record
 - c. audit trail of non-use of records/non-use of historical data and how this will be communicated/approved through the NRA.
 - d. QM of survey
 - e. liability period

II. Date and venue:

The TWG meeting for Quarter I/2017 was held on 31st March 2017, at 08:30 am to 12:00 at NRA office.

III. Participants:

Total participants in this meeting are 22 people from 5 Humanitarian UXO Clearance Organizations as: UXO Lao, NPA, MAG, HALO, IH and 2 Development partners as UNDP and JICA, 1 Doner Agency as Sterling International Group (details of the participants list is attached).

IV. Overview of discussion:

The chairman of the meeting, Mr Boumphamith Somvichith, Deputy General Operations officially opened the meeting, and then Mr Nigel Orr, Technical Advisor of Sterling International Group presented on the overview of data errors that recorded on IMSMA, said that the data errors including the use of wrong GPS markings in clearance sites, no coordinate point and etc. Some examples of the clearance sites of UXO Lao in Attapeu, Khammouan, Sekong, Xiengkhouang and Louangphrabang that made errors on coordinate points were raised. This information is for NRA and operators to solve, analyse especially which points are wrong, such as:

- the google system
- the quality of the reports, especially the determination of GPS system
- the overlap of the sites because of the errors of coordinate points or the inaccurate of the site polygon.
- some times, all polygons of the CHAs are marked with the same coordinate points
- Some points when entering landmark, there is no information occurred

For UXO Lao, they have checked, found that about 60 polygons needed to recheck and the clearance sites have overlapped about 50%. Summary the categories of the errors as below:

- First category is about the Coordinate pattern. This kind of error will be corrected by:
 1. Conduct checking each case
 2. Correction of all NTS work: data analysis, marking of coordinate points of the UXO location and etc.
- Second category:

The inaccurate of the village boundaries, this kind of errors has been found over 6 thousand tasks in UXO Lao which needed to recheck.

The EOD roving task: there are many locations that the average of the coordinate points are not accurate, causing the sites overlapped. Showing that the current system has not enough efficient and if continue using this system we will face with problem again. It has been found that 50% of the sites are overlapped.

NPA has weekly reviewed and rechecked the quality of the NTS work, especially in 900 villages that already completed NTS in the 3 southern provinces. It has found that there are lot of errors. Staff who are in charge of Information Management have checked the quality the field works and will continue to recheck all reported data from September 2016 up to now.

The errors on NTS work have occurred so long, which needed to check at organizational level and should share this information together between operators to seek for ways how to address the problems seriously to make sure that such errors would not happen any more. Working together and exchanging lessons learned together is the best way. UXO Lao, especially, there are lot of previous data which sketch maps have no coordinate points. The solving of this problem has already conducted and continued sending to NRA.

The IM Unit of NRA proposed that: when operators send clearance completion report to NRA should also be attached by the sketch maps of CHAs to NRA together with some necessary details such as: ID of CHAs, CHAs and etc.

Mr Allan Poston, the Sector Chief of Technical Advisor commented on the Survey Procedures that: we have been facing with problems when implementing the survey procedures, to solve the problems, first of all, we have to solve the NTS work, it must ensure that we record the accurate information. NRA should issue a guideline regarding how to address these problems and the problems must be addressed by NRA and operators by emphasising on the details of evidents and recording the correct data on the paper. It must be concluded and reported, and NRA must conduct quality management. In case new evidence found must liaise with the concerned survey operator.

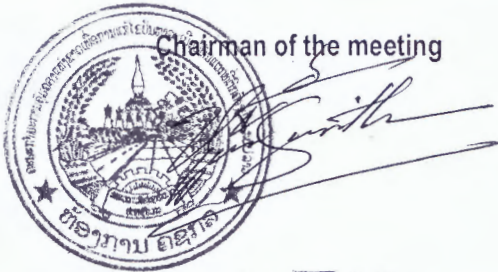
Nigel also added that the Lao PDR Survey Procedures version 2015, has been developed on behalf of NRA with the purposes is for developing these procedures as the National UXO Survey Procedures of lao PDR so that operators can follow them unanimously and systematically. Due to the limitation of time for reviewing, correcting, and sharing the lessons learned together therefore, these survey procedures have been promulgated and then sharing lessons learnt together afterwards. Through the implementing of these procedures, many operators have found that there are many points not appropriated which needed to improve. Therefore, these issues are raised for all operators to work on again and then send back to NRA.

The information and comment from operators mentioned above can be sent to NRA latest no later than 20 April 2017 by email. The meeting agreed and accepted issues to review, prepare in their organization for further discussion and conclusion together in the next TWG to be held on 3 May 2017. In addition, the meeting participants also required for increasing or improving some issues such as: the Quality Management of all field works. The operators and NRA must pay more attention to the Quality Management strictly. For more details or references of how to implement with the most effectiveness it would be further discussed again on 3 May 2017.

The final issue that some operator has raised to ask NRA to consider as the consideration of document submitted to NRA it takes so long to approve, for example the case of MAG submitted the training plan to NRA for about 2 months so far but it has no progress.

V. Conclusion:

The meeting closed at 12:30 oclock of the same day.



Chairman of the meeting

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Mr. Bounphamith SOMVICHITH

Verifed by:

Phommachanh Khammanichanh

Meeting Recorder

Bouaphanh Phanthasone