

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

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

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**Record of Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting
On UXO Mine Risk Education for Quarter 03, 2016**

The UXO Mine Risk Education TWG Meeting for quarter 3, 2016 was held on 23rd September 2016, at 08:00 am in the NRA Office meeting room, chaired by Mr. Bounphamith Somvichith, Deputy Director Operations of NRA, with other 13 representatives, 3 females from operators and partners, and including officers and technicians from NRA Office.

In his opening speech, the Chairman of the meeting had emphasized about the purpose of this TWG meeting, he added that its purpose was for exchanging, discussing on the approaches of educating people about the dangers of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) to ensure they understand and be able to avoid UXO accidents.

In the meeting, the Mine Risk Education Unit of the NRA had briefly reviewed the minute of the last TWG meeting and also reporting about activities carried out in quarter 3, 2016 and estimated activities plan for quarter 4, 2016, which of this, it would be focused on: supporting Ministry of Information Culture and Tourism to produce radio broadcasting programme to propagage the dangers of UXOs in 4 provinces of (Khammouan, Salavan, Sekong and Champasack), holding technical working group meetings, publishing hand books of the UXO propagations.

Afterthat, representatives from operators and partners took turns to report the achievements in implementing their works for the last three months and raising their plans for quarter 4, 2016. Of this, the representative from Spirit of Soccer Lao PDR, representative from the Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao), Handicap International, World Education Lao, for the the UXO contamination study project in Lao PDR, representative from Danish Chuch Aid and the Halo Trust. Most of them reported the achievements of the implementation in quarter 3, 2016 and presented their work plan for quarter 4, 2016. For more details of activities of each operator and work plan can have them in the Annexes.

In the meeting, it also discussed and consulted to each other on many interesting topics such as:

- Victim Assistant Unit of NRA had informed the meeting on numbers of UXO accidents, so far, there have been 46 people who had got UXO accidents, 40 injured, 6 died, Xiengkhouang is a Province that has more victims than others.
 - The main causes of accidents were making fire, digging ground, playing with UXO.
 - In Suanmone Village, Hinherb District, Vientiane Province, the accident occurred in the camp, children played with UXO and then threw it to the camp and exploded, caused people got injured.
 - In Attapeu Province, people went for fishing and the accident occurred while they were grilling fish, caused 2 people injured; one got arm broken and one blinded.
 - IM Unit, NRA proposed to each operator to pay more attention in report, because reporting to the National Data Base is very important for proving and certifying information for fund raisings.
 - Research Unit, NRA presented that, in general funding for Mine Risk Education work is less. It was a good chance that Ms Amma from WRA has a plan to visit Laos in November 2016. There would be discussion related to the budget of 90 million US Dollars and plan for distributions, therefore, each party has been requested to prepare for asking for the fund.
 - The process of MOU consideration, currently Ministry of Foreign Affairs has notified to use 2 formats such as: the format of Memorandum of Understanding and the format of Memorandum of Agreement, both of these formats have different conditions, but the process of the approval is the same (these formats will be sent to all operators later).
 - MRE Unit of NRA requested operators for their activities plan; what did they have?, estimate activities plan, mainly we want to know what activities would be conducted?, to be in line with 5 year plan, if the activities are under old MOU, operators must identify about the villages, districts, and estimate how much budget to be spent?. If any organization has both clearance and MRE activities, they must be separated and specify to send only MRE activities, we wanted just for draft version first to know that how does each organization implement, request each organization to send answer letter together with the draft version of 2017 work plan no later than 30/10/2016.
1. The Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao); the activity that was carried out was holding refresh training for the village volunteers which funded by NRA in 2 provinces of Sekong and Champasack.
 - For quarter 4, 2016 UXO Lao has a plan to hold a conclusion and lesson learned meeting on UXO Mine Risk Education activities from 1996 up to now and improve new activities of Mine

Risk Education to suite with current time which will be held in Khammouan Province

2. DCA; the implementation of activities in quarter 3, 2016, the target areas were in Pek and Kham Districts, Xiengkhouang Province, Mai and Khoua Districts, Phongsaly Province.
 - In addition, DCA has also proposed that there was a UXO accident in Phongsaly Province, currently, DCA team has been gathering information and then the details will be reported once again (not included in 46 victims).
3. World Education proposed to Ministry of Education and Sports about the next 6 months plan of this year, the plan has already permitted by Ministry of Education and Sports through telephone discussion and also the activities already implemented.
4. Spirit of Soccer; for quarter 3, 2016 there was end-project evaluation in Xiengkhouang Province, the result of the evaluation found that children much like this activity but problem is about the coordination issue, for quarter 4 there would be a conclusion and evaluation meeting and pass new draft project in Xiengkhouang Province.

By end of the meeting, the Chairman guided that:

1. Work Plan 2017: proposed each operator send to NRA no later than 30/10/2016 for the draft activities in MOU or some activities that are still in the process can be put in the plan but it must be written clearly which activities have been already covered in the MOU and which activities are still in the process.
2. For the reports: we require operators to cover both activities and budget spent in the report.
3. MOU, MOA matters: please pay more intention to the details since from each local level (District, Province) which it will speed up the process if the documents have been completed.
4. If there is UXO accident in its target areas, it is requested to report quickly, for other details and documents can send after that.

Remarks: For the details of the results of the activities implementation and the statistic of work implementing for quarter 2, 2016 and quarter 3, 2016 work plan of operators, all can see in the annexes of this minute of meeting.

Chairman of the meeting



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Mr. Bounphamith SOMVICHITH

Recorded by: