



Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

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Ministry of Labor and Social welfare
National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action
Sector in Lao DR.

NO. **344** /NRS.MRE

Vientiane Capital, date: **1.9 DEC 2017**

Record of TWG Quarter 04, 2017 Meeting for Mine Risk Education

The TWG meeting for the Mine Risk Education, Quarter 04, 2017 has opened on 06 December 2017, at 08:30 a.m. at the meeting room of the NRA Office, chaired by Mr. Bounpheng Sisawath, Deputy Director General, in charge of NRA Support Section, and attended by implementing partners, officers and technicians from the NRA Office totalling 14 people; 04 females.

In the opening speech, the Chairman of the meeting outlighted to the purpose of this TWG meeting, it was for exchanging and discussing about the approaches of conduting Mine Risk Education activities for the people to understand and can avoid from UXO accidents. The MRE Unit from the NRA Office has briefly reviewed the record of the last TWG meeting and reported about the MRE activites in Quarter 04, 2017 as well as briefing the estimated plan for MRE activities in Quarter 01, 2018 which it is focused on: setting up TWG meeting and the meetings for reviewing the MRE equipment, publishing MRE materials that getting from the meetings, coordinating with Ministry of Informtion, Culture and Tourism to conduct broadcasting of radio program in 5 provinces.

- The statistic of the UXO accidents occurred this year, including the recent accident occurred in Sekong Province, total number of the victims are 31 people.

The representatives from the operators and the Implementing partners took turns to report the achievement of the implementation of their work in the previous time and raise the activities plan for Quarter 01, 2018 which of this, the representative from Department of General Educations, Ministry of Education and Sports and the representative from the Department of Mass Media, Ministry of Culture, Information and Tourism, from UNDP, Lao National Radio Stations, Lao Youth Union, SOS Lao, UXO Lao, Sterling International Group, HI, HALO TRUST and Worl Education. They all reported about the achievements in the implementation of their activities for Quarter 04, 2017 and reported their work plan for Quarter 01, 2018. For more details of each party and their work plan can be found in the annexes.

In the meeting, the participants also discussed on many interesting topics as:

1. The Department of Mass Media, Ministry of Culture, Information and Tourism reported that previously they conducted the MRE Radio Program in 4 provinces of (Khammouan, Champasack, Sekong, Salavan) and then it has been added to 5 provinces as Vientiane capital was added. In fact, It will be good if we can conduct MRE activities through the radio program at the village level, he reported.
2. Tha Lao National Radio, even though in some period of times they had no fund to support this radio program but they used the normal radio program to improve and broadcast about the MRE, if possible or if fund is available it will be good to broadcast MRE through the Radio Program of the National Radio Station.

3. The Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao) together with the MRE Unit of the NRA Office organized MRE Training Course in Xiengkhouang and Louangphrabang Provinces. Other Provinces greeted visitors in Champasack Province (in the UXO Activity Exhibition for Round Table Meeting) and during the middle of this month we held annual meeting at Vientiane Capital. The next activity plan of the RE Unit of UXO Lao in the provinces will conduct their activities in the target villages, continue the join activities with SOS and continue negotiations for MOA of phase II, which the existing one will finish in January 2018, some work concerning the improving and using GPS for the RE Team, improve technical work such as playing UXO games, toy drama and in terms of photos some of the contents is needed to update.

4. The Lao Youth Union proposed to be involved in the MRE activities and for the activity plan it will be drafted first.

5. Handicap International (HI); the areas for conducting MRE for 2017; there were 18 villages in Viabouly, 27 villages in Sepon, 20 villages in Phin and 18 villages in Nong Districts. The activities that conducted in Quarter 4, 2017 as conducted MRE activities and assessed final activities at school and village levels (KAP Survey and TOT PIA).

- The results of the assessment the TOT and KAP Survey for this MRE project, at the present the consultant is writing report, it is estimated to finish by December 2017 and also for improving the implementation of the project activity plan and sharing lessons learnt in the future.

- Handed over the emergency numbers of the HI to HALO TRUST to continue receiving people report about the UXO found in 4 districts due to HI will move these activities to operate in Houaphanh Province

- The activity plan for January to March 2018 is preparing for transport equipment to Houameuang District, and set up places for conducting KAP Survey activities in the target villages first.

6. Halo Trust; MRE activities: when finished conducting activities in the village and if people or school children reported about the UXO found, the team recorded into the form and then sent a copy to the UXO operation section, passed posters to the village and then visited new village, conducted assessment on people's understanding about MRE activities 3 times a month. In case of people reported on UXO the team recorded into the form and then send to operation section.

- Problems and challenges in the actual implementation of the activities previously the team have faced with difficulties on travelling to the target villages in rainy season and in the harvest season people leave their house to the paddy field early, causes less people attended the MRE activities, some villages not yet given good cooperation, some people do not like to report about the UXO found.

7. Spirit of Soccer (SOS); by associated with the Department of Physical and Art Education organized a project proposal meeting for phase 3 of the project to learn about UXO matter through football sport in Xiengkhouang Province. The said meeting held at the Provincial Education and Sport Division of Xiengkhouang Province.

- The activity plan for continuing the learning about UXO matter through the football sport in Phoukout, Kham and Nonghet Districts is expected to cover totalling 45 schools.

- In Quarter 1, 2018 SOS will conduct a project monitoring and evaluation in Salavan Province which this plan has been proposed to the NRA already to include this issue in their plan and then we will send an invitation letter to NRA again.

8. World Education; based on the 2017 Annual Work Plan there were 12 activities, of these 10 of them have already implemented, for the remain 2 activities, one is implementing, but another 1 activity will not be able to continue because MOU will finish in December, it means that the project can be implemented only 90% of the project budget. One more activity that World Education will do as organize a final meeting in Vangvieng before closing the project. Therefore, World Education would like MRE Unit to present about the policies of the Government concerning the MRE work in such meeting.

By the end of the meeting the Chairman directed that:

1. The Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao) is planning to improve, develop, increase and forming the village volunteers, increasing communication tools which it is a good thing but it should improve base on the real situation and the base on the purpose of the donors.
2. Propose MRE Unit of the NRA to draft a letter to the Department of General Education, Ministry of Education and Sports requesting for the list of the schools in 9 provinces.
3. About closing of the project of HI in Savannakhet, it was proposed that HI should handover project equipment that formulated in the old MOU to the Government first, and then develop the new MOU for Houaphan Province.
4. Propose Halo Trust to produce more materials to distribute and publish T-Shirts, writing-book, pencils with the Halo logos submit to NRA office first before publishing.
5. Propose Sterling to consider for more budget support to MRE, especially to support the village volunteers and MRE Radio Program.

❖ **Remarks:** For the details of the activities and work plan for the next quarter and the work plan for Quarter 01, 2018 of the operators, can see in the annexes attached.

Chairman of the Meeting



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Mr. Bounpheng SISAWATH

Meeting Recorded by: