



**The Minutes of the Third Quarter 2024 Meeting  
of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Technical Working Group (Q3,2024)**

**I. Date, Venue and Participants:**

In the morning of 19 September 2024, (8:30 o'clock), the EORE Unit, NRA Office convened the Third Quarter 2024 Meeting of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Technical Working Group (Q3, 2024) at Donchanh Palace Hotel, Vientiane Capital. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Douangsy THAMMAVONG, Deputy Director General of NRA Office and participated by representatives from General Education Department, Department of Teacher Education, International Cooperation Department, Informal Education Department, Department of Sport for All, Physical and Art Education, the Ministry of Education and Sport, Mass Media Department, the Ministry of Information, Cultural and Tourism, Youth Movement Department, the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union, Lao National Radio Station, the Lao National UXO Programme, Humanitarian UXO Demining of Army 58, HALO Trust, NPA, HI, MAG, World Education, Sepon Mining Company as well as representatives from Survey Unit, Information Management Unit, NRA office. The total number of participants is 33 people (21 females).

**II. Objectives of Meeting**

- To review on the outcomes of the previous quarter EORE technical working group meeting, particularly the points of meeting's agreement, the key achievements and remaining issues.
- To update on the EORE implementation progress in 9 months and direction in the fourth quarter.
- To update on the statistic number of UXO accidents, the victims and deaths in the third quarter, 2024.
- To update on revising progress of the national standards, chapter 13 on EORE.
- To update on the report template for IMSMA
- To update on the progress in implementation of gender mainstreaming in EORE operation
- To discuss and find solution in addressing issues related to EORE operation.

**III. Detail/Content of Meeting**

The EORE Unit presented on the outcomes of previous quarter of technical working group meeting, highlighting on key achievements and some challenges and remaining tasks in

EORE operation, in UXO operator's monthly, quarterly and annually workplans, and issue of budget allocation for monitoring and evaluation. The EORE Unit also reported on achievements of EORE implementation in 9 months of 2024, as well as updated on the statistic number of UXO accidents in from first to third quarters. According to the report, there are 22 cases, with 46 victims (35 males and 11 females), 9 deaths (6 children and 3 adults). The causes of accident were from digging land for agriculture, setting fire and playing/handling with UXOs.

The Meeting discussed on the report form for IMMSA, it is noted that the report form is not appropriate and consistent to the actual implementation. It is required to continue improving/revising particularly some words/terminologies including "Others" which should not being used in the form. Indeed, it should indicate content clearer. The meeting also updated on the revising progress of the national standards, chapter 13 EORE. It is suggested to have a specific workshop to work in detail with UXO operators. The meeting was informed on the result of KAP and related findings/recommendations for UXO operators to apply and improve their operators. The meeting was also reported on the progress in the implementation of gender mainstreaming activities in EORE operations, including the establishment of gender sub-focal points for EORE. Currently, it is in the progress to publish handbooks on gender mainstreaming in UXO sector.

#### **IV. Future Directions**

- The 9<sup>th</sup> National Socio-Economic Development Plan of the Government identifies UXO Action Sector as one of the key priorities in the socio-economic development as well as the livelihood of the Lao people. In line with the 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP, the National Strategic Plan for the UXO Sector in Lao PDR, particularly through EORE activities, aims to reduce number of UXO-related incidents to 40 cases per year. Achieving this target has proven challenging this year.
- It is required to have a separate workshop to consult in detail for the revision of the national standards with UXO operators.
- Continue updating on the revising progress of the national standards, particularly concerning EORE operation, which expected to complete in the end of this year.
- Continue updating the progress in the implementation of gender mainstreaming activities in EORE operations.
- Continue researching on the improvement/utilization of reporting form for IMMSMA by comparing them with the IMAS's reporting form.
- UXO operators are required to submit their monthly, quarterly and annually workplans to the EORE Unit to enable ongoing monitoring of implementation..
- UXO operators and related organizations presented on their training programme for primary schools teachers. A presentative from Department of Teacher Education proposed organizing a workshop to revise and improve curriculum of its organization to apply in teaching programme for teacher colleges.

#### **V. Guidance of the Chair of Meeting**

- UXO operators are requested to submit the data/information to E-Library. Previously, we have faced challenges in the SEOD4 training. There are numbers of good lessons and information in these years, which would benefit for the future batch of SEODs

training. Therefore, collecting/consolidating all information of UXO Action Sector into digital storage (E-Library) is important.

- UXO operators to circulate EORE training materials to NRA office to ensure consistency and alignment in content delivery for EORE training. This will also contribute to the effective EORE monitoring and management. A list of targeted participants should also be shared with the NRA office to consolidate and arrange training schedules.
- It is proposed to organize a workshop for the revision of national standards, given that UXO operators play a critical role in their implementation.
- For the publication of EORE-related content, UXO operators should proceed through the NRA office for technical review to ensure consistency with national standards. Publications related to cultural matters should be submitted to the Mass Media Department at the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism as per its mandate.
- It is proposed to UNDP in Lao PDR to proceed with printing the KAP Survey results to widely share with UXO operators as a reference for implementation, particularly the findings and recommendations sections.
- It is requested UNDP to host a separate meeting to disseminate the KAP Survey findings and discuss on some recommendations that may not be feasible for implementation.
- The EORE Unit is requested to host a quarterly meeting at an earlier date due to potential scheduling conflicts with the national standards revision meeting.
- UXO operators are requested to regularly submit their Annual Workplan for 2025 to the NRA office for consolidation, including implementation reports, to facilitate monitoring.
- UXO operators are requested to increase the per diem and accommodation budget for personnel participating in project meetings. The budget increase should be calculated at 650,000 kip per day, in accordance with MOFA Notification Letter No. 6142/MOFA, dated 18 September 2024, effective from 1 October 2024

The meeting was officially closed at 12:30 (within a day).