



**The Minutes of the Second Quarter 2024 Meeting
of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Technical Working Group (Q2,2024)**

I. Date, Venue and Participants:

The Second Quarter 2024 Meeting of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Technical Working Group (Q2, 2024) has been convened at the meeting of NRA office, Vientiane Capital, chaired by Mr. Douangsy THAMMAVONG, Deputy Director General of NRA Office. The meeting was attended by technical advisors from UN agency, Head of EORE Unit along with related technicians from its unit, NRA Office, technical officers and experts from ten humanitarian assistance organizations (including the Lao National UXO Programme, NPA, HALO Trust, MAG, HI, the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union, and World Education), and representatives of UN who is technical officers responsible for EORE. Furthermore, some of head of related units from NRA office (Victim Assistance Unit, Information Management Unit, Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Unit) and their technicians also participated in this meeting. The total number of participants is 36 people (15 females).

II. Objectives of Meeting

- To conclude the implementation of the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) in the first six month and plan for the second six month of the year, evaluate the achievements, difficulties and challenges as well as to find addressing measures for the implementation in the future.
- To report on the UXO accident
- To update on the progress of the revision of the national standards, especially chapter 13 on EORE.
- To deliver the presentation on the report of achievements on IMSMA by UXO operators
- To exchange on technical knowledges and experiences concerning EORE including the achievement/good side, weakness/limitation, and remaining issues.
- To review on outcomes of the previous meeting.
- To briefly review on public advocacy tools of UXO operators.
- To deliver a presentation on the general information of the training on Gender Equality
- To share the EORE reports which have been submitted in the database.
- To deliver presentation on the procedure for data submission in IMSMA by IM unit.
- To briefly report on the UXO accident in the first and second quarters, 2024 (Q1-Q2, 2024)

- To share and update the meeting on progress of EORE reoperation in the village where the UXO accident occurred by UXO operators.
- Other issues related to EORE operation.

III. Detail/Content of Meeting

The meeting was officially started at 13:30 pm. After opening remarks by the chair of meeting, the participants have been reported and discussed on various issues as the follows:

- The EORE Unit, NRA Office provided a report on the implementation of EORE in the first six-months and further plan for the second six-months in 2024; briefly reviewed on the management, achievement, and remaining issues during the EORE implementation, specifically the coordination with related stakeholders for further improvement.
- The EORE Unit has drafted and revised the report template for collecting data into the database, particularly the radio report template for ten provinces where the EORE has been operating, the report template for village volunteers, and the report template for UXO operators. Additionally, the EORE Unit has also shared the meeting on the results of the monitoring to the EORE operations of UXO operators.
- The Victim Assistance Unit has provided an update on the statistical number of the UXO Accidents in the first and second quarters of 2024. It is found that the number of victims has significantly and rapidly increase in 2024.
- Related staff of NPA presented on how to insert data in the IMSMA, particularly EORE data.
- UXO operator reported on result of special reconducting EORE in the village where the UXO accident occurred under its responsibility.
- UXO operators shared the implementing results and issues related EORE operation during the first and second quarters as well as presented the future direction in 2024, challenges, achievements, difficulties, lesson learnt in the first six-months, and other recommendations.
- Additionally, the meeting also facilitated an exchange views and further discussion.

IV. Meeting's Proposals and Difficulties

- The cause of UXO accidents is due to the current financial and economic issues, which have pushed local people to extend the areas or lands for productivity, leading to a high risk and an increased number of accidents.
- The area clearance operation is still limited, leaving it as key issues/challenges and leading to a high risk
- The meeting requested the UXO operators to review the cause of UXO accidents and to ensure a decrease in the number of accidents to 38 persons/year.
- It is proposed to extend EORE via local radios across the country in 2025.
- It is proposed to improve the hotline 1603 to ensure 24-hour service.
- The meeting proposed UXO operators to review the trainers and staffs responsible for EORE training to ensure providing the same standards/directions and being effective.
- The meeting proposed UN to organize a dissemination workshop on KAP Survey Result for related stakeholders.

- The meeting proposed the UXO operators to enhance coordination between the UXO operators and related organizations to facilitate and improve the implementation of EORE.
- NPA shared its challenge in conducting EORE operations for target groups, noting that some villagers have not cooperated with the EORE teams due to their superstitious beliefs
- HI informed the meeting that it has begun EORE operation through TV and TikTok channel since June 2024.
- Terra Renaissance requested for material support for EORE to display in its center. To this request, NRA office suggested to submit the official letter to NRA office with more specific and clear details. NRA office is welcome to provide the support of material.
- The Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union requested the budget for continuing the implementation and monitoring to the EORE operation by village volunteers.
- The National Radio requested for budget to support online advocacy and develop a advertising spot for schools.
- HALO Trust shared its difficulty in accessing villages where target groups are living, due to road conditions and the remoteness of the area.
The meeting proposed that the EORE Unit take a leadership role in monitoring and supporting UXO operators to ensure the implementation goes as planned, since some operator cannot achieve the plan and indicators.
- The meeting proposed that when advocators conduct EORE, it is required to disseminate the content and measures for those who aim to buy any scrap metal or remnant of iron under the Prime Minister's Order No. 39/PM.
- The meeting proposed on the coordination mechanism that since some works are related to the provincial department of labour and social welfare. Therefore, Is it possible to coordinate with both provincial department of labour and social welfare and provincial department of foreign affairs. Up to this point, related stakeholder has clearly clarified that it is required UXO operators to still need to coordinate with the provincial departments of labour and social welfare as they are the key focal points, especially in conducting EORE activities. It has been observed that the coordination has not been in the same way and standard, as evidenced by the monitoring and evaluation.
- It is proposed to indicate the media management in revising the national standards, chapter 13 on EORE.
- The meeting noted that news on UXO accidents has appeared and spread more quickly on social media than through our official channels. We should have proper measure to address this issue and ensure the public understanding.
- To propose every single UXO operator to mainstream gender equality in its operation and to ensure the enforcement of policies under the labour law.

V. Conclusion and Points of Agreement in the Meeting

1. The meeting took note the report on the EORE implementation in the first six-months and direction plan in the second six-months 2024 as well as reflected and found the cause of UXO accidents and addressing measure.
2. The meeting took note the EORE is not widely operated due to the limitation of budget and others.
3. The extension of EORE net through school radios and social media is needed and important.
4. It is necessary to have measure to ensure the participation and the access of target groups.
5. It is necessary to include the content of the Prime Minister's Order No. 39/PM in EORE operation to share information with target groups.
6. In revising the national standards, it is required to have consult and consent with UXO operators because they are the key implementors. It is proposed EORE Unit to circulate official letter to all UXO operators to provide inputs and comments on the revising draft of national standards.
7. It is requested UXO operators to use the report template which shared and presented by NPA to ensure rapid, contemporary and timely reporting.
8. The meeting took note of the achievements and difficulties of implementation in the second quarter, as well as challenges and observations regarding UXO accidents
9. In conducting EORE, it should provide small gifts or presents for participants to motivate them.
10. The meeting took note of the lack of budget for the implementation and monitoring EORE operation, especially the EORE Unit also has the financial constraint to monitor the EORE operation, to provide training for village volunteers.
11. For ease of facilitation and coordination, it is suggested to share inputs/comments on advertising/advocacy material in the online group.
12. It is proposed that UXO operators submit their advocacy/advertising material for uploading to the E-EORE Library.
13. It is proposed that UXO operation integrate gender mainstreaming into EORE operations.