

Lao People Democratic Republic
Peace Independent Democracy Unity Prosperity



National Regulatory Authority for
UXO Action Sector in Lao PDR
Office

No. /ONRA
Vientiane, Date:

Meeting Minute
Q3 2024 Victim Assistance Technical Working Group Meeting

To : **Acting Director of NRA**
Subject : **Reporting Minute of Q3 2024 Victim Assistance Technical Working Group Meeting**

- Referring to the Prime Minister's Agreement No. 152/PM dated 08 December 2023 on NRA Structure and Mandates.
- Referring to Q3 2024 workplan of Victim Assistance Unit.

I. Objective

This activity will contribute to accomplishment of Output 3 for Project Document: *Improved capacity of the NRA in strategic direction for the sector, supervision, data use and resource-mobilization including discourse on alternative financing modalities*. More specifically, the VA TWG will enable UXO stakeholders and concerned line ministries to better coordinate the provision, planning and prioritization of UXO Victim Assistance, as well as the improvement of the Victim Assistance Database and National Standard on Victim Assistance.

Major agenda of this activity was as follows:

- Update on the progress of implementing action plans agreed in the last TWG Meeting
- Achievements in Q3-2024 Victim Assistance compared to the 9th NSEDP 2021-2025 (# of victims VA unit shall support) and SPFIII 2021-2030 targets (integration)
- Progress and results of VA Operators' information management (Database on victim assistance)
- 2024 Victim Assistance Work-Plan with regards to MOU, MOA etc.
- Update Victim Assistance Project Implementation in Xeingkhouang and Hauphan Province (KOICA Project)
- PRAs' presentations on victim assistance issues
- Update Lao PDR National UXO/Mine Action Standard (NS) on UXO/Mine Victim Assistance revised
- Sharing information of project implementation
- Progress of Gender-mainstreaming in VA to implement the Gender & Diversity Action Plan
- Any Other Business (AOB)
- Summary and Closing Remarks

II. Participants

The meeting was chaired by NRA Deputy Director Mr. Douangsy Thammavong and 27 participants (13 female, 48.14% and 1 PWDs 3%) including by online participation of XKH, HP, VTE, Attp province and SVK provinces' PRAs.

The participants included NRA staffs, INGO department DoFA, Policy for The Devotees, Disability & The Elderly Department MLSW, Inclusion Education Center MoE, Center of Medical and Rehabilitation (CMR), Department of vocational development training Lao Youth Union, Skill Development Center Vientiane Capital LSW Department, Xiengkhaung PRA, Haouphan PRA, Savannakhet PRA and VTE Province PRA, UNDP, KOICA-PIU, UXO Lao, Humanitarian Inclusion (HI), COPE, Halo Trust, World Education, Quality of Life Association, Lao Disable People Association.

III. Summary

NRA Deputy Director Mr. Douangsy Thammavong welcome and thanks for all participants and opens the remark and informs to the VA TWG as followings:

- The TWG meeting is the one of the sub meeting to support the SWG meeting on UXO Sector.
- We are ongoing discussion on how can we reduce the number of accidents.
- The achievements of Q3 2024 on UXO/Mine Victim Assistance and the plan for Q4 2024.
- Victim Assistance Work is one of the elements which defied the indicators into SFW III and also included in 9th NSEDP 2021-2025.
- Currently MPI who responsibility on evaluated on 9th NSEDP 2021 -2025 as Victim Assistance is included in the topic will be evaluated.
- NRA closely coordinated with MOFA and MPI for reporting the progress of achievement of UXO Sector.
- For the database of VA now on the progress of improving and updating.
- National Standard (NS) revision as NRA and GICHD organized the workshop on NS revision especially Chapter 14 Victim Assistance.
- VA Implementation Plan 2024-2030 still not yet approved by the NRA Board.
- Coordination at the local authority level need to be clarify on roles and responsibility due to still confusion and also it is now on the process of improving of the structure of the NRA. For the handover NRA works from DLSW to DoFA at provincial and district level still complete.
- For the gender mainstreaming into UXO Sector is the important task as well that we have to further following up and updating.

The presentations are delivered by VA Unit to the VA TWG Meeting as followings:

- **Assistances provided Q2 2024**
 - Updated on progress of follow up issues raised from Quarter 2 to ensure all issues are solved.
 - The UXO/Mine accidents occurred with large numbers **22** accidents with **45** casualties (8 killed).
 - The progress of Victim Assistance information entry into Data Base system 575 Records with USD 517,820 supported to UXO victims.
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- **Assistances Provided to UXO/Mine Victims compare to the 9th NSEDP's indicators (2021-2025)**
 1. 62.00% of Medical treatment support.
 2. 70.40% of Physical rehabilitation support.
 3. 79.50% of Vocational training and livelihood support.
 4. 30.80% of Mental health support.
 5. 111.80% of Advocacy on Right of PWD attendants.
- **Information Unit updating on progress of information entry**

- The VA data base improving currently IM Unit is ongoing entry, due to VA operators are not yet be able to provide because of capacity of the personal and their equipment's. however, NRA provided training to district focal points and providing equipment to ensure all information are in database system.

➤ **KOICA VA Project in Xiengkhouang and Hauphan province**

- Funded by South Korea in amount of 2.5million
- Duration of time: 2022-2024
- This project implemented in 15 districts in XK and HP provinces
- NRA signed MOA with COPE, Lao Youth Union and QLA
- The project implementation including UXO/Mine Needs Assessment, Vocational Training, Mobile Clinic Support and Livelihood supports.
- 407 victims received vocational training.
- 916 PWD received assistance on P&O (134 PWD caused by UXO).
- 480 victims received cows and training on cows raising. QLA provided supports assistance including who completion of vocational training provided by Lao youth Union.

Presentation from Provincials:

- **Attapue:** After handover from DoLSW to MoFA we have some coordination issues especially on the accidents and victim assistance reporting. Atapue DoFA is very happy to support and facilitate on victim assistance.
- **Savannakhet:** Savannakhet is very high rate of UXO accidents however, it is still difficulty on coordination among local authority due to there is no phone signal in some areas and road access as well including travel cost.

Progress of NS Revision UNDP:

Patrick:

- Currently NRA and UND organize the workshop on revision of National Standard and sent it out for operators to input the comments and send back to NRA by the 30 September 2024. And NS focal point will be further draft and present to the TWG Meeting. As UNDP facilitate TA to responsibility on consolidate all comments from the operators. World Education is responsibility to coordinate on NS chapter 14 UXO Victim Assistance.
- NRA will review the drafted NS and return to TWG Meeting to have additional comments prior submit to the NRA board for further approval.

Rebeca:

- The NS revision is conducted by comparing to the IMAS for general review and we will discuss of the roles of the NRA to NS.
- The recommendation from MoFA should be clear on roles and responsibility to ensure that patients will not suffer as it is relation with the NS on who is should be in charged and leading.
- In case of conducting survey in the ground in term of coordination at the provincial and district level should not have too many people attending during interview.

Operators:**HI-Vilaysak Saysana**

- 104 PWD (8 UXO victims) received assistance on physical rehabilitation (crutches, glasses, etc and next plan will support on transportation of PWD to
- 50 PWD (5 UXO victims for raising cows and chicken) livelihood support in two districts.
- Conduct peer to peer (Disable person consultation)

MLSW-Vilayphone:

- I would like to update on OKARD project as we organized the workshop on PWD Information System development as it is responsibility by NCDE to establish the National Information System on PWD.
- I would like to propose NRA to consider the integrate UXO victim Assistance information in to National Information System for PWD.

COPE:**Manisone:**

- COPE is responsibility on Physical Rehabilitation to all PWDs, currently there are four branch of rehabilitations in Lao PDR.
- COPE visiting center is receiving fund supported by USA through NRA to repairing progress is completed of ceiling works and flooring and also toilets repairing ongoing however, it will be completed prior ASEAN Submit.

World Education:**Chearnkhanly:**

- Jan-May 16 survivors received assistance on medical treatment cost support.
- New MOU is submitted to NRA and MoFA hope will be approved soon.

VA Implementatioin Plan 2024-2030:**Patrick:**

- Currently, the VA Implementation Plan is translation into English and we will sent it out for feedback from the operators, stakeholders and donors prior submit to NRA Board for further approval.

Minyoung:

- For the medical fund we have available from NRA budget line can be support to the gaps.
- Gender issue information is available in UNDP's website for the last year we have appointed for two people for each TWG Meeting and for the integration of gender now TOR of gender is approved by MoFA, however, we waiting for approval of code of conduct from NRA and UXO Lao and then will have small group meeting among focal points to discuss further plan for next year.

Gender Mainstreaming into UXO Sector:

Bountao:

- I would like to inform that Mr. Vilaphon Phanthavong Gender Focal Point is now end of contract with NRA, so we will select new focal point.
- Challenging of the gender issue due to we don't have clear TOR for the focal points and there is no clear work plan. And also the victim assistance work is depending on the victim themselves as may only men or women receiving assistance.
- For the training on gender issue will be hold soon.

➤ NRA VA Q4 Work-Plan

- Conduct field missions to follow-up and collection data on new UXO/Mine accidents and provide support for UXO/Mine victims in provinces across the country.
- Conduct VA TWG meeting.
- Conduct the monitoring and evaluation of previous supported UXO/Mine victim in XKH, HP, SVK and SLV province.

Recommendations

➤ Mr. Dauongsy, NRA DD:

- The information of the victim assistance currently are recorded by the concerned unit and IM unit that is why it is necessary to improve and to ensure all data and information are available and data base in place.
- VA Unit and IM unit have to seeking how to equip VA operators to ensure they have ability to provide information into national data base.
- Accident, Victim and Victim Assistance Reporting Forms need to be updated in line with NS and IMAS.
- Next VA TWG Meeting the progress should be update on this issue.
- 2025 Annal Work Plan for VA Data Base included.
- Related to the KOICA victim assistance project is very important to support and respond to the indicators which Lao government defied into 9th NSEDP 2021-2025.
- NRA currently on the process of moving from MLSW to MOFA therefore, at the provincial needs to be closely discuses in term of role and responsibility. As some decrees are not yet completed so it is difficulty in term of implementation at the local level. However, even though MoFA issue the notice letter as Victim Assistance responsibility by MLSW, but we need to be clear on roles and responsibility to ensure that the all parties fully implemented as assigned. NRA should organize the special meeting among NRA, MoFA and MLSW and MoH.
- I would like to propose operators to consider supporting on UXO accidents and victims data collection.
- I would like to inform that MoFA issued the notice letter on revision of the DSA rate from 350,000 to 560,000kip/day which will apply to all INGOs who is working in Lao PDR.
- For the National Standard revision should be complete before December 2024.
- For OKARD project it is good for supporting on mental health rehabilitation so I would like to encourage all parties closely discussion on the issues related to mental health support.

- As Propose from MLSW on revise of reporting form of victim assistance to cover all information needed by the MLSW, so IM Unit should be consult with MLSW to ensure that all information reported are the same numbers.
- In term of providing advocating on right of PDW should coordinate with MLSW to ensure that there is no affect to the PDW due to there are very sensitive group.
- MOU on War Victim Medical Fund should wait until MoFA approve due to it is difficulty on process of pre-approval.
- VA Unit consider on discussion on using budget line from UNDP.
- Gender mainstreaming into UXO Sector should select from VA Unit to takeover on focal point. And I will advise to the NRA's gender focal point to follow as UNDP recommendation.

Bountao:

- For the coordination issue at the local level we still coordination with both DoFA and DLSW for data collection as you may know we are on the process of transition from MLSW to MoFA.