

Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare
National Regulatory Authority Office
For UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR

Technical Working Group Minutes of the Meeting
on UXO Survey and Clearance in Q 3

I. Introduction

The Technical Working Group Meeting on UXO Survey and Clearance for quarter 3 2020, was held on the 23 September 2020 at the Women's Union Training Center, Vientiane Capital. The meeting was chaired by the Director General of the NRA office, Mr. Chomyeang Pengthong Savath, and attended by co-workers and technical personnel from the NRA office and representatives from the UXO operators, UXO companies and other related partners.

II. Purpose

- This workshop is a platform to share ideas on the technical implementation of our field work, and to discuss urgent tasks for the technical groups.
- To review the results of previous technical meetings on UXO clearance.
- To update the progress on implementation of operator on uxo clearance – survey and destroyed of uxo sector in 2020.

- To make sure on CHA priority work plan in Xiengkhoaung province, Savannakhet, Saravanh, Sekong, Attpue and Champasack which requests funds from US government in 2021.
- To update the National Mine Action Standards.
- To update the results of the NTS and TS reports.
- To report on the progress of the preparation for the UXO Priority Consultation Meeting in Saravan province.
- To summarize the Quality Management unit of the NRA and UXO Clearance companies and other related issues.

To update the ways how resolve the Lanf mine SOP of Halotrust,

- Update the test piece.
- To update the data errors and others importance topics.

III. Content

Mr. Chomyeang Pengthongsavath, Director General of NRA and chairmen of the meeting, welcomed participants and stated the purpose of the meeting. He also presented the objectives of the meeting, which were to raise issue relating to the survey – clearance and destruction of UXO, review the results of the recent uxo survey and discuss other importance tasks. In this meeting is deeps on technical work on survey and clearance and on others policy.

The meeting discussed on coordination with local authorizes as: coordination on Survey and clearance, data errors and land clearance duplicate data and also update on the national satandard. The meeting will asking the question after that the attender be answers.

Regarding the correction of errors in the database, it was noted that this issue has not been solved for a long time. This will need to be improved in the near future. This task is very important and the NRA will need to work with TT to find solutions, create specific

projects and develop ideas to send to TT for consideration. After that, a specific committee will be established that will be operated by UXO Lao.

The meeting raised the issue of using drones to work in the UXO sector, which was of interest to the participants as many countries have used and developed this technology. Lessons were learnt from Vietnam on this issue and on how they use and gather information, prioritize UXO survey, clearance and disposal. In the future, if any organizations are interested in this then they can write a concept note for a pilot project to the NRA.

In the case of minefields, the operators have to report to the NRA informing them of the type of landmine found and details of the size of land. Where a minefield is found, a report to the NRA Chairman should be made detailing the location of the minefield and its type. After the information has been submitted and presented to the NRA Chairman, a plan for its survey and clearance shall be formulated.

4. The result of the meeting

Summarize the meeting as followings:

- To update national standart requested to quality management unit to summerise etc parts as: challenging, purpose, attending and road map.
- For test piece is requested to uxo lao train it frist.
- For CHA contribution are requested to operator and concening share more ideas in particully in effectiveness uxo area.
- For fade out of CHA is belong to team learder.
- Requested to all operator to collect duplicate data areas in own responsibilities.
- For SEOD traning is now waiting for lists name from all operators.

- Some operators do not comply with the National Mine Action Standards, such as the field preparation.
- The field equipment is out of date and does not meet the correct standards.
- Some operators do not use the survey data, clearance and disposal of explosives data in the past.
- The field clearance selection does not meet the needs of villagers and local authorities.
- The villagers and local authorities do not understand 100% about the technical survey and clearance process as the teams in the field did not explain in detail.
- The QM unit of the NRA are unable to monitor all of the survey and clearance activities.
- Some operators do not cooperate with the villagers and local authorities and did not receive clear information from them.
- There is a need for the operators to coordinate to find a solution on UXO issues, as in some provinces, the operators are unable to share technical data for planning survey and clearance activities.

IV. Other issues raised at the meeting

- The determination of clearance priorities will change in the future.
- The survey tasks will be reviewed by September 2020.
- The NRA requested the operators to complete the survey plans based on the MoU.
- There will be improvement of the national mine action standards for the UXO sector.
- When reporting on GPS data, all operators should use the UTM format that is used in the online reports.
- There are still some operators that conduct clearance in the same Confirmed Hazardous Area (CHA) in the same province.

- The training of each course should be completed in accordance with the established training standards.
- Each humanitarian operator and company should inspect the old and expired field equipment
- The Army 58 radio communication is unavailable in the field for the UXO survey and clearance team.
- There are currently 6 people working in the technical survey team but they need more persons because they need extra people to watch over the cars in the parking area so as to protect them from fire and theft and to have an extra worker if one worker is on sick leave.
- The emergency destruction matters should be dealt with as soon as possible to prevent accidents.
- The dynamite usage for UXO should be in accordance with the specified technical standards.
- It is proposed that the Quality Management team, Database Management team, and survey and clearance team collect the Landmine field reports and submit to the chairman and request permission for training.
- It should be proposed to the Quality Management unit that they should focus on auditing responsibilities when monitoring the quality of some operators and companies.
- MAG has a problem in Khammuan province because the local authorities give them an area to clear that has already been cleared before.
- The NRA is responsible for the preparation of UXO information in each village which is then requested to the province, which is then sent forward to the NRA central office.
- For the commercial companies, before implementing UXO survey and clearance in each project, a request should be submitted to the NRA central office for permission and should then report to the NRA once the work is completed.

- When cutting bombs with an electric saw, only those who have been trained by Japanese experts will be allowed to conduct these activities. Only those with the qualifications in accordance with the specific standards will be allowed to cut the bombs.

V. The meeting agreed on the significant content as follows :

- The improvement of the National Mine Action Standards of the UXO sector is the responsibility of the Quality Management unit.
- For the dynamite usage, each operator must conduct the operations in accordance with recognised techniques and specific standards.
- The UXO clearance companies send reports once completed to the NRA.
- The NRA have coordinated with the UN about the radios for the Army 58 Division as radio communication is currently unavailable.

Meeting Chairman

Meeting minutes by

Mr. Bounpheng SISAWATH