



Thee National Regulatory Authority for
UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR
NRA Office

No. 325/NRA.O.EORE
Vientiane Capital, Date: 28th March 2023

The Minutes of the First Quarter 2024 Meeting of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Technical Working Group (Q1,2024)

I. Date, Venue and Participants:

The First Quarter 2024 Meeting of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Technical Working Group (Q1, 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, Humanitarian UXO Demining of Army 58, the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union, and World Education), Lane Xang Minerals Limited (LXML) 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 over 40 people (15 females).

II. Objectives of Meeting

- To exchange technical lesson on Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) including the achievements, limitation, and remaining issues.
- To briefly report on the coordination, the monitoring to the implementation of UXO operations on EORE, lesson learnt in the previous year, and other achievements and challenges.
- To briefly review on the national standards, chapter 13 on EORE.
- 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 information on the report template in IMSMA
- To share the 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 quarter, 2024 (Q1, 2024)
- To share and update the progress of EORE operations by the UXO operators.
- Other issues related to EORE operation.

III. Detail/Content of Meeting

The meeting was officially started at 13:30 am. 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 quarter of 2024; briefly reviewed on the management, achievement, and remaining issues during the EORE implementation, specifically the coordination with related stakeholders for further improvement.
- Briefly reviewed on the national standards, chapter 13 on EORE, particularly when the UXO accident occurred, the UXO operators shall reconduct another EORE. The EORE staffs shall pass the EORE technical training course in prior to the actual EORE operations. The EORE operation shall be in the same standards, direction, and provision.
- 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 quarter of 2024. It is found that the number of victims has significantly and rapidly increase in 2024.
- The UXO operators reported on the implementation of EORE operations and their challenges in the first quarter and presented on the future workplan for 2024. This included discussing challenges, achievements, limitations, constraints, lessons learnt in 2023 and others.
- Additionally, the meeting also facilitated an exchange views and further discussion.

IV. Proposals of the Meeting

- The meeting proposed and requested the UXO operators to keep implementing their plan of activities under MOUs, jointly signed with NRA Office.
- The meeting proposed the UXO operators to enhance coordination between the UXO operators and related organizations to facilitate and improve the implementation of EORE.
- The meeting proposed the UXO operators to review on their EORE teams, including the contents of EORE, equipment/tools, and advocates, in accordance with the national standards to ensure a consistent direction in EORE operations.
- The meeting proposed the EORE Unit and Victim Assistance Unit take their leadership roles in reviewing and reevaluating the occurred accidents, including the causes of accidents, and whether the victims used to participate in EORE previously.
- The meeting proposed UXO operators to inspect and check on the EORE disseminator whether have passed the UXO training course or not?
- The meeting agreed that the EORE Unit and IM Unit to discuss and consult in deep detail on the report template, and jointly provide a training for UXO operators.
- The meeting agreed that the EORE Unit to be a key person in monitoring and encouraging UXO operators. Some UXO operators have yet implemented their activities in accordance with workplans and stipulated indicators.
- It is required the UXO operators to submit their workplan 2024 to NRA Office.

- The meeting proposed that beside the Prime Minister’s Order No. 39/PM, it is necessary to have a strict measure for those who aim to buy any scrap metal or remnant of iron.
- The meeting proposed on the coordination between the UXO operators and provincial department of labour and social welfare regarding EORE activities. Up to this point, related stakeholder has clearly clarified that it is required UXO operators 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 proposed the Victim Assistance Unit to improve the hotline (1603) as it is found that no one is standby and pick up the call, and quite delay.
- 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. It is required to implement and follow the MoFA’s announcement letter on the coordination between central and local level.
2. It is proposed to have a meeting to focus and consider on media improvement.
3. It is proposed Victim Assistance Unit to inspect and coordinate in providing assistance to the victims and urgently improve its hotline.
4. It is proposed EORE Unit and IM Unit to regularly collect data and find out how many UXO operators have provided reports in database.
5. If there were an UXO accident occurred in a village, it is required to reconduct EORE in that village.
6. Regarding the conduct of EORE in a village that is not stipulate or indicate in MOU, the EORE Unit in conjunction with Humanitarian UXO Demining of Army 58 to deploy and conduct EORE activities.
7. It is proposed the EORE Unit and Victim Assistance to study and analyze the cause of UXO accident.

The meeting was officially closed on 14th March 2024, at 16:30 of the same day.

Chair of the Meeting

Prepared by

(Signed and Stamped)

(Signed)

Douangsy THAMMAVONG