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Lao People's Democratic Republic



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

**Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic
National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector
in the Lao PDR**

United Nations Development Programme

PROJECT ID: 00080296

**PROJECT TITLE: "Support to the National Regulatory
Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR
2012 - 2015"**

QUARTERLY PROJECT REPORT (QPR)

Reporting period: 01 January 2013 – 31 March 2013

Version 12 April 2013

I. PROJECT INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Project Number:	00080296
Project Title:	Support to the National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR 2012 – 2015
Implementing Partner:	National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector in the Lao PDR (NRA)
Responsible Parties (if applicable):	
Donors:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Via UNDP: Australia (AusAID), Ireland, Switzerland (SDC), UNDP TRAC, European Union and United Kingdom • Other: United States (via Sterling International)

Project Starting date		Project completion date	
Originally planned	Actual	Originally planned	Current estimate
January 2013	January 2013	TBC	TBC

Period covered by this report:	01 st January 2013 - 31 st March 2013
Date of annual review: <i>[Indicate if planned or actual]</i>	12 th February 2013

Total Budget	Original Budget (US\$)	Latest Signed Revision (US\$)
	USD 1,918,000	USD 1,918,000
Resources	Donor	Amount (US\$)
	UNDP (Trac)	61,500
	UNDP UXO Trust Fund	
	AusAID	48,600
	Ireland	402,419
	SDC	352,900
	UNDP CPR Thematic Trust Fund	
	DFID	87,000
	UNDP Close Trust Fund	
	EU	252,788
	Unfunded budget	712,793
	<u>In kind contributions</u>	
	2 Technical Advisors (in-kind)	USA
	2 Australian Volunteers (in-kind)	Australia
	Total budget	US\$ 1,918,000

Summary of expenditure for period covered by this report	Amount (US\$)	
	Budget Quarter 1, 2013	\$ 324,104.14
Total expenditures (estimates by Programme)	\$156,818.19 POA \$ 135,267.88 Direct Payment	
Delivery Rate %	% 90 est.	

II. PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The objective of this Project is to assist the Government of the Lao PDR to continue strengthening the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) for the Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Sector. The NRA is an inter-ministerial body established by a Prime Ministers Decree with key roles of coordination, regulation and monitoring to maximise the performance of the UXO sector. Its secretariat, the NRA Office supported by UNDP, provides a UXO focal point in Government administration and has instituted a framework within which implementing organizations work.

The NRA is mandated to coordinate, regulate and oversee all operations in the UXO sector. It has a role to ensure that UXO sector activities take place in accordance with the National Strategic Plan for the UXO Sector, the 2010-2020 *Safe Path Forward II (SPF II)*.

UNDP's support to the NRA and the sector is in line with the UNDAF Outcome "**By 2015, national and local governments and communities have reduced the impact of unexploded ordnance on people in the Lao PDR**". UNDP provides on-going support in building institutional capacity of the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) project, through the provision of policy advice, aid coordination and provision of technical advisory support and the mobilization of financial resources.

The key objective is to enhance national ownership and results in order to fulfil the legal obligations contained in the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) and other relevant treaties, to achieve Lao PDR national objectives for the UXO sector as set out in *Safe Path Forward II (SPF II)*, and to accelerate efforts to attain the MDGs.

The NRA is a key actor to ensure the implementation of the Millennium Development Goal Nr 9 (MDG 9): "Reduce the Impact of UXO" in Lao PDR in accordance with the National Strategic Plan for the UXO sector *The Safe Path Forward IP* approved in June 2012. This MDG should "further function as a multiplier to MDGs 1-7 by providing increased access to assets and services for improved livelihoods."¹

The Project comes under the UNDAF Outcome 9 of the Country Action Programme Plan 2012-2015 (**By 2015, national and local governments and communities have reduced the impact of unexploded ordnance on people in Lao PDR**)

Activity results of the Project as described in the 2013 Annual Work Plan included the following:

Activity Result 1: Risk Education methodologies improved, reinforced and better disseminated.

Activity Result 2: Practices of information management and surveillance of UXO survivors improved; a strategy for victim assistance formulated (AusAID sub-project 6/ SDC output 2.3).

¹ "The MDG Compact for Lao PDR: Fully committed to attaining the MDGs by 2015 and the Lao PDR specific MDG 9 on the reduction of UXO impacts by 2020 on the occasion of the Vientiane High Level Round Table Meeting," 20 October 2010.

Activity Result 3: More efficient and effectively planned release of land coordinated and regulated in accordance with development goals as prioritized in the NSEDP and other relevant national planning and policy frameworks

Activity Result 4: Effective coordination and regulation of the UXO sector

Activity Result 5: Improved institutional development of the NRA and integration into the regular set-up of the Government (SDC outcome 1&2).

Activity Result 6: International treaty obligations met (SDC outcome 3).

III. PROJECT PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS

1. Contribution to the Strategic Goals

UNDAF Outcome 9

By 2015, national and local governments and communities have reduced the impact of unexploded ordnance on people in Lao PDR

UNDP Country Programme Outcome

By 2015, the impact of UXO on people in Lao PDR reduced with collective actions of national and local governments and communities.

Progress towards achieving the Outcome

In Quarter 1 of 2013, the NRA is on track in relation to its quarterly work plan. It has continued to perform its important role in the UXO sector, coordinating, regulating and monitoring the work of UXO sector operators², and has contributed to maximizing the performance of the Sector as a whole. The NRA continues to assist the Government in achieving the UNDAF outcome, in a manner consistent with the Safe Path Forward II (SPF II) and that advances progress toward MDG 9.

The first NRA activity result is to improve risk education methodologies, to reinforce these methodologies and to better disseminate risk education messages among the operators. In Q1 2012, NRA convened a risk education Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting with operators to coordinate and review their achievements and challenges, as well as to discuss the work plan and priorities for the sector. The NRA encourages operators to coordinate with the education department in contaminated provinces and districts, before conducting MRE activities in schools. The most notable sector outcome result achieved in 2012 was a significant reduction in the number of UXO casualties, from approximately 300 per year as recently as 2008 to fewer than 100 in 2011 and 56 in 2012. During Q1 of 2013, the number of victims remained low. There were 4 UXO accidents, with a total of 6 victims, including 2 boys killed, and 4 people injured, (2 adults and 2 children). This quarter, the NRA also successfully raised funds to cover the cost of re-printing curriculum books on UXO risk awareness. However, given the important need for awareness raising materials and activities, substantial additional resources continue to be required.

NRA's second key activity result was partially achieved. In 2012 a Survivor Tracking System was established to facilitate the collection of detailed information on survivors. The victim Assistance unit collected 9,325 survivor tracking forms. Entry of the data into the Lao Victim Information System (LVIS) is pending and needs to be addressed. NRA continued to receive the forms in Q1 2013 and plans to continue entering data into the system. With regards to the VA strategy, NRA shared the first draft of the VA strategy with operators and sought their views. The Victim Assistance strategy in Lao, will be presented at the next NRA board meeting, which is to be held after Lao New year (May 2013) in order to get the approval by NRA board.

The third key activity result of the NRA for 2013 is to improve coordination of the sector in order to be more efficient and effective; to ensure survey and clearance activities reflect the development goals as prioritized by the Government, and relevant national planning and policy frameworks. NRA is on track to achieving this key activity result. NRA, coordinated by Clearance Unit, has continued working on collecting data on the government priorities for each province, including key development project areas which will be targeted for

²As of 31st March 2013, UXO Sector operators included 17 non-profit organizations (UXO Lao, NPA, MAG, HI, SODI, Halo Trust, JMAS, AAR, COPE, CPI, CRS, NCA, LDPA, NCDP, SoS, CARE International and World Education) and 9 commercial operators (ASA, PSD, SBH, Lao BSL, XTD High-tech, THB, Milsearch, BACTEC and MMG/LXML).

development and clearance as required, allowing the development projects to proceed in safety. With this objective in mind, under the coordination of the Clearance Unit, the NRA organized two regional planning workshops in Savannakhet and Pakse which discussed priorities in all the Southern provinces of Lao PDR. This work will continue in Q2-Q3.

During the first quarter 2013, a total of 512 Ha of land has been cleared; including 392 Ha of agricultural land and 120 Ha of development land. During Q1 of 2013, operators in Lao PDR destroyed more than 10,465 items, of which 24 were bombs, 6,058 were bombies, 8 were mines, and 4,375 were other UXO items.

For the last three key activity results, NRA is also on track in achieving its plan. In November 2012, NRA Notice No 96 on the roles and responsibilities of the NRA were elaborated and approved by the NRA Board Chairman. This notice has assisted the NRA in fostering better communication and coordination with the provinces and at the sub-provincial level and will provide all involved in the sector with a clearer understanding of the mandate, role, structure, scope and objectives of the NRA. The NRA continued to advocate for increased financial support from the international community, as well as from the Government, which was agreed in principle. Funding levels will depend on the availability of funds and quality of the funding requests made to Government by the sector.

In the first quarter 2013, the NRA annual work plan was not fully funded, thus, NRA management decided to postpone some of its activities, including monitoring activities. It is planned that the monitoring missions will be carried out regularly, from the second quarter onwards.

Table 1. Results and Contributions at Output level

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Expenditure	Progress towards achieving outputs; Targets achieved against indicators	Reasons if progress below target and response strategies
<i>And baseline, indicators including annual targets</i>	<i>List activity results and associated actions</i>	LAK		
Output 1 The National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector is better able to coordinate and regulate the UXO sector.	1. Activity Result: Risk Education methodologies improved, reinforced and better disseminated.	39,198,068	The quarterly targets for this activity result are on track as highlighted below:	
	MRE Unit: MRE Unit: 1.1 Monitor MRE activities conducted by operators, including gender issues.		Off track - NRA management decided to postpone some of their activities including MRE monitoring activities to Q2	In Q1, NRA annual work plan was not fully funded, thus, NRA management decided to postpone some of their activities including MRE monitoring activities. It is planned that the monitoring mission will be carried out in Q2.
	1.2 Ensure training and support of RE operators and local authorities		Planned in Q3 and Q4 according to the Annual Work Plan.	
-	1.3 Conduct four meetings of the Technical Working Group on MRE		On track - MRE TWG held as planned on 26 March 2013 at NRA conference room. NRA shared NRA and UNDP approved activities and budget. MRE Operators presented their activities and results achieved during the first quarter 2013 and their challenges. The NRA will guide the operators	

				to better coordinate with the education department in provinces and districts before conducting MRE activities in schools, in order to have their work recorded in Ministry of Education.	
	1.4 Ensure interaction with the Ministry of Education			On track - NRA is working closely with the Ministry of Education. As a result, NRA has received 54,000 USD from UNICEF for curriculum materials printing. There are five different books, for each year of the primary school. Once printed (in Q3 expected), these books will be distributed by the Ministry of Education in nine contaminated provinces by the end of the year 2013.	
	1.5 Encourage women and children at local level to participate on MRE activities and also act as a key role to ensure that the activities are efficient and have long term sustainability.			On track - Monitoring operators' work and arranging TWG meetings every quarter, enables NRA to ensure that operators are selecting women and children for their MRE activities. So far, it has worked very well.	
	1.6 Capacity development of national staff: Project monitoring & evaluation training			Off track.	Postponed to Q4, due to lack of funding in Q1.
	1.7 UXO Spot for radio program and materials for souvenir in the radio program			On track - NRA is cooperating with the Ministry of Information and Culture to gather more information on how they will be produced, etc. NRA will raise necessary funds in support of this activity, using the same approach as for the book printing with UNICEF.	
	1.8 Make available the report from the NRA about data collection on the scrap metal trade.			On track - The issue was discussed at the TWG at end of the year 2012. NRA has produced and sent notification to all operators and related ministries on the situation of the scrap metal trade, and on the necessity at this time, not to formulate a decree. The internal report was produced after a study/survey of the situation regarding the scrap metal trade. It has been determined that, the trade in scrap metal is no longer the main cause of accidents, as it was in the past. The report is	

				available for review.	
			37,281,950	The quarterly targets for this activity result are partially achieved as highlighted below:	
No. of UXO survivors whose needs are tracked (2010: 0, 2015: 10,000, MoV: NRA Database) - <u>Actual 2012: 9,325</u> <u>Survivor tracking forms collected</u>	2. Activity Result: Practices of information management and surveillance of UXO survivors improved; a strategy for victim assistance formulated (AusAID sub-project 6/ SDC output 2.3) VA Unit: 2.1 Establish and maintain a nationwide Survivor Tracking System and help refer survivors to structures in a position to address their needs			Off track - In 2012, the VA unit collected 9,325 survivor tracking forms. Entry into the LVIS system is pending and need to be addressed.	NRA is continuing to receive the forms in Q1, nothing much has progressed since there is no budget available.
	2.2 Analysis of the data collected by the Survivor Tracking System and recommendations to Victim Assistance operators.			Analysis of the data will take place after the data recording.	
Victim Assistance Sector Strategy drafted (2010: no, 2015: yes; MoV: NRA Annual Report) <u>Actual 2012: Draft strategy presented in December 2012;</u> <u>revised strategy will be presented in May 2013 to NRA board.</u>	2.3 Finalize, secure adoption and promote implementation of a national Victim Assistance Strategy, with attention to VA as a component of broader disability sector			On track - After the first draft of the VA strategy was discussed with operators, comments were received and changes made accordingly. Major point is that line-ministry input is still needed to ensure its involvement to meet key VA objectives. The strategy in Lao version is waiting to be presented at the NRA board meeting which is planned to be held after Lao New year in order to get the final approval by NRA board.	
	2.4 Convene quarterly meetings of the Victim Assistance Technical Working Group			On track - VA TWG held as planned, the meeting held on 26 March 2013 at NRA conference room. The TWG highlighted the need to further progress on the data recording element of the Victim Tracking System; and consolidation of information on the various operators activities, in order to be able to accurately report the	

				provision of assistance to survivors.	
			53,138,853	3. Activity Result: More efficient and effectively-planned release of land coordinated and regulated in accordance with development goals as prioritized in the NSEDP and other relevant national planning and policy frameworks	The quarterly targets for this activity result are on track as highlighted below:
				<u>Clearance Unit:</u>	
No. of districts with district clearance plans based on district survey (2010: 0, 2015: 20, MoV: District Clearance Plans)				3.1 Complete the testing of the District Focused Approach (DFA) before to extend to other priority districts (SDC output 1.2)	Deputy Director Operations will need to analyze with the Clearance Officer on what is the situation of the DFA in 2013, and what are the next steps or alternatives.
- Actual 2012: Pilot project in 3 districts, but not yet finalized District Clearance Plans				<u>Clearance Unit:</u>	
				3.2 Integrate outcomes of DFA, including district clearance plans, into NSEDP planning mechanisms, and especially for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication.	Off track - No further progress in the first quarter 2013.
				3.3 Monitor, train and support clearance operators, including through the development of new methodologies and technologies for clearance and survey.	On track - An important effort of data collection on government development priorities for each province has been undertaken, coordinated by the Clearance Unit. This work will continue during the Q2-Q3.
				3.4 Convene quarterly meetings of the Clearance Technical Working Group	As highlighted previously, due to lack of funding no monitoring mission took place in Q1. Monitoring missions are planned for the rest of the year.
					On track - Target achieved, on 28 March 2013, The TWG Q1 was held. The TWG was very intensive, with many items on the

				agenda, including SEOD training, training standards, restructuring of governance arrangements in the UXO sector, at the national and provincial levels, feedback from the participants at the Quality Management workshop and recommendations, discussion on the organization of a workshop on the topic of Survey / Land Release, etc... TWG stakeholder discussions indicated that there are no large problems concerning coordination.	
	3.5 Identify linkages with other ministries and bodies to support improved integration with NSED and UXO sector planning and reporting			On track - See 3.2 = An important effort to collect data on government priorities for each province is being undertaken, especially as regards development projects. The exercise is coordinated by the Clearance Unit. This work will continue during the Q2-Q3.	
	3.6 Recruit a Lao national specialist in Socio-Economic planning, to enable the integration with NSED, to research and to disseminate relevant information to the operators. This person will be in charge of linkage with the Ministry of Planning and Investment.			Not planned in Q1.	This activity is currently not funded in 2013.
	3.7 Regional planning workshops 3 times: Central, Northern, Southern (A priori funded by bilateral funding, not via UNDP)			On track - Based on the lessons learned of the first Regional Planning Workshop organized by the NRA in Luang Prabang at the end of the year 2012. The NRA organized two additional regional planning workshops in Savannakhet and Pakse for the Southern provinces of Lao PDR. The aim of these workshops was to collect data at the provincial level on the development projects of the provinces which would require survey and clearance (if necessary). These workshops are a new initiative of the NRA to better integrate UXO clearance operations within the broader socio-economic development framework in Lao PDR. The importance of these workshops has been reinforced by the presence of a high level representation from the Lao Government. The workshops in Luang Prabang and Pakse were chaired by H.E Asang Laoly, Deputy Prime Minister.	

					Sector Working Group level. On track - Planned in Q2.	
	4.11 Initiate 4th TWG on Policy, Coordination and Planning (target audience will be the programme managers).				On track - The NRA is currently reviewing the content of the website, and the unit will make a proposal to NRA management regarding potential change. This is expected to take place in the second quarter of 2013.	
	4.12 Update the NRA website					
	4.13 Establish NRA communication planning capacity					
	4.14 Improve use of NRA print communications				CTA and NRA management are planning to discuss this issues and planning for staff training	
	4.15 In collaboration with UNDP, Formulate and implement UXO sector communication strategy, with participation from all sector stakeholders				This initiatives has not yet started and will be postpone to 2014	
	4.16 Initiate exploration of options for establishing a competitive bidding mechanism				This activity will start in Q2.	
	4.17 Establish, with AusAid and UNDP assistance, and manage a Small Grants Facility (with dedicated Secretariat established in NRA) in support of civil society activities in the area of MRE and VA over 4 years.					AusAid funding not yet received by the NRA.
	<u>Programme/PR Unit:</u>					
	4.18 Develop UXO sector annual report (SDC output 1.1, 2.1)				On track - NRA has received all information provided by the operators. Currently, the PR Unit is editing and designing the report. It will be produced by Q2 as planned.	
	4.19 Convene UXO TF Steering Committee and Annual Project Review meeting (for 2012)				On track - On 12 February 2013, NRA conducted the Annual Review Meeting of NRA and UXO Lao to report on one	

			year activities and to share three years programme of cooperation between NRA/UXO Lao and UNDP. The meeting of the Steering Committee of the UXO Trust Fund was postponed due to lack of a quorum.	
	4.20 Organize anniversary celebration of the entry into force of the CCM and Mine Awareness Day		On track - NRA is preparing the 8 th celebration of International Mine Awareness Day. This year there will be speeches and a fun run, beginning at Paruxay.	
	4.21 Media field visits		Planned in Q2.	
	4.22 Liability workshop in Phnom Penh, (Deputy Director Support and UNDP IA Programme)		Planned in Q2.	
	4.23 Deliver a workshop on Quality Management in Mine Action to NRA & UXO LAO staff, to other humanitarian operators, with the support from GICHD in March 2013.		Achieved - NRA in cooperation with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), UNDP, DFID and MAG, organized the QM workshop on 4 th to 8 th March 2013. NRA Officers, UXO Lao officers, UNDP staff, NGOs and Representatives from commercial companies attended (with a total of 40 persons). The meeting was very positive. Participants got a better understanding of quality management, ISO, QA and QC, management on Project cycle, process mapping, land release, etc...	
	5. Activity Result: Improved institutional development of the NRA and integration into the regular set-up of the Government (SDC outcome 1&2)	623,157,352	The quarterly targets for this activity result are on track as highlighted below:	
	5.1 Deployment of the UNDP Chief Technical Advisor		Ongoing. The Chief Technical Advisor concentrated his efforts with the NRA management on developing the programme document concerning cooperation between UNDP and NRA/UXO Lao 2013 – 2015; the next priority will be to develop a Multi-year Work Plan 2013 – 2020 for the sector.	

<p>5.2 In collaboration with UNDP, conduct capacity self-assessment to map out current capacity baselines, and formulate 3-year Capacity Development strategy with a robust Monitoring and evaluation Evaluation framework based on current capacity baselines</p>		<p>Planned in the second half of the year 2013.</p>	
<p>5.3 Clarify NRA structure and organigramme at HQ and sub-national levels, including the review of roles and responsibilities.</p>		<p>On track - NRA mandate and structure has been clarified during the 3 Regional Planning Workshops.</p>	
<p>5.4 Consult with all NRA partners to establish contributions of support to implementation of CD strategy</p>		<p>Planned in 2014, after the Capacity Assessment (See here above 5.2).</p>	
<p>5.5 Clarify the position of NRA within the Lao Government and secure Lao government resources for the UXO Sector</p>		<p>On track - The NRA (and UXO LAO) programme and finance staff received training from the Government on how to introduce a request to get government budget. The NRA is preparing requests to cover the rent of the NRA office, and several activities. To be followed up in the coming months.</p>	
<p>5.6 Deployment of Finance and Programme Technical Advisor</p>		<p>Ongoing. We can highlight the procurement and introduction of new accounting software, including the development of codes. Also, the joint work with the programme unit to finalize the Annual Project Report, donor reports, and the 2013 Annual Work Plan. The UNDP Finance and Programme Technical Advisor is working closely with national counterparts to support and develop their capacities and strengthen their financial management skills. He stresses the importance of good supporting documents for each and every financial transaction and works to develop progressively reporting skills under the UNDP format and tries to improve accuracy, form and substance. The quality of NRA reporting improved in 2012; there is room for further improvement in reporting -especially to increase the quality of information collected from each unit within the NRA.</p>	

	5.7 Manage financial, logistical & human resources of the NRA, with reference to capacity development strategy		On track	
	5.8 Workshop to review previous Assessment of Gender Perspectives in UXO Action in the Lao PDR		On track - The NRA is planning a gender workshop in May 2013. Participants will learn how to mainstream Gender into Mine Action programmes. The NRA will report on the workshop in the second Quarterly Report.	
	5.9 Initiate dialogue with all concerned partners in the UXO sector; to develop a Multi-year Work Plan 2013 – 2020 including a transition strategy.		On track - The Chief Technical Advisor concentrated his efforts with the NRA management to develop the programme document governing cooperation among UNDP, NRA and UXO Lao - 2013 – 2015. The next priority is to develop a Multi-year Work Plan 2013 – 2020.	
	5.10 Deployment of UXO Portfolio Manager, based in UNDP Country Office		The Portfolio Manager was recruited and assigned to oversee UXO Unit and its project portfolio. In Q1, the Portfolio Manager concentrated her efforts with donor relation and resource mobilization. The portfolio manager ensured the new Project Document (2013-2015) was finalized, presented and endorsed during a Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) meeting successfully convened on 12 February 2013. The Annual Review meeting of the project was also successfully convened on the same day. She continues to oversee the project implementation of both NRA and UXO Lao and UXO Unit. She also ensures timely utilization of donor funds in accordance with the donor agreement.	
	5.11 Development of long term resource mobilisation and financing base strategy to support the transition strategy outlining cost recovery schemes for admin expenditures, future potentials for external funding support and access to national budget allocations for clearance, risk reduction education and VA, etc. examining various fundraising opportunities, private sector cooperation, corporate social responsibility partnerships, etc		Given many priorities during 2013, the long term resource mobilization will be developed in 2014.	

	5.12 Attend the Annual Program Directors meeting, international workshops on mine action technology, information management and other subjects relevant to the NRA		Planned in Q2	
	<u>Finance Unit:</u>			
	5.13 Prepare annual and quarterly workplans and reports		Permanent responsibility, managed by the national staff, with the support from UNDP Technical Specialist.	
	5.14 ensures all kind of payments and proper documentation;		Permanent responsibility, the audit of 2012 transactions did not highlight any problems with payments and supporting documents.	
	5.15 carry out all finance related activities such as budgeting, expenditure control and accounting;		On track - The 2013 Annual Work Plan was finalized and signed during this quarter.	
	5.16 Prepare various reports for UNDP, donors and the Lao Government.		Permanent responsibility, managed by the national staff.	
	5.17 Introduce and maintain a new effective financial resources management system (ACCPAC)		On track - Procurement was finalized this quarter, discussion took place in February and March concerning how to customize the software. Training of national staff will take place after the Lao New Year This initiative will depend on the willingness to strengthen financial management of the NRA, including the deployment of a Finance Technical Advisor.	
	<u>Logistics and Admin Unit:</u>			
	5.18 Ensure logistical and administrative support for NRA activities, as well as follow-up of operators.		Procurement plan for the year 2013 was finalized during the first quarter.	
	6. Activity Result: International treaty obligations met (SDC outcome 3)	39,385,740	The quarterly targets for this activity result are on track as highlighted below:	

-	ITSU/MoFA: 6.1 Provide annual updates on CCM i.e. Article 7 and 11 of the CCM Report (SDC Output 3.4)			Achieved. ITSU Unit has updated the annual CCM Article 7 transparency report and submitted it to MoFA in early March. The report is available.	
	6.2 Help prepare domestic legislation to be compliant with CCM i.e. Article 9 (SDC output 3.1)			Not Achieved. Domestic legislation has not yet been developed, but will be in the future. The NRA will consult the UN and International Committee of the Red Cross with respect to state of the art legislation to ensure full compliance with the CCM.	
	6.3 Ensure continuity of ITSU/LAU work and advocate for CCM implementation/universalization (SDC output 3.3)			Planned in Q2 to Q4.	
	6.4 Participate in the intercessional meeting in Geneva (3 people from the Gov)			On track - The delegation from NRA, UXO Lao and MoFA will attend the Sixteenth International Meeting of National Mine Action Programme <i>Director and UN advisor</i> on 10-12 April 2013, as well as the CCM intercessional meeting from 15-18 April 2013. BTOR will be available afterwards. Ireland and Lao PDR will co-chair the clearance and risk reduction working group. The NRA decided to send the Deputy Director Operations to provide experience with such meetings and to increase his capacity to represent the sector, internationally.	
	6.5 Participate in the 4 MSP (3 people from the Gov) In Lusaka, Zambia			Planned in Q3.	
GRAND TOTAL					1,237,451,611 LAK

2. Contribution to aid effectiveness, i.e. update on implementation of the Vientiane Declaration and its Action Plan, HACT, etc

Continuing UNDP technical assistance to the NRA is identified through the Government's capacity development objectives and strategies. In addition, the creation of the Trust Fund for the Full Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in the Lao PDR within the Framework of the Vientiane Declaration on Aid Effectiveness has enabled partners to implement common arrangements and simplified procedures. Further, Government capacities have increased in results-based management, as evidenced by the implementation of the NRA's Annual Work Plan for 2012.

The Annual Work Plan for 2013 was approved on 14 March 2013. It is the main reference document for purposes of monitoring the implementation of the activities of the NRA, and also for quarterly review and reporting. As a result of the work of the Programme Technical Advisor in 2012, the NRA Programme Unit is progressively improving its reporting writing skills and is collecting and reporting more accurate information. The UNDP Finance and Programme Technical Advisor is working together with national counterparts to improve their capacities, to strengthen financial management skills, highlighting the importance of good supporting documents for each and every financial transaction; to develop progressively reporting skills under the UNDP format and to improve the accuracy, form and the substance. The quality of the NRA reporting has improved in 2012. There is still room for improvement in the reporting, especially to increase the quality of information collected from each unit within the NRA.

3. Update on partnerships

- i. Regarding the Programme Document governing UNDP support to NRA and UXO Lao, 2013 – 2015: the first draft was discussed during the Annual Review Meeting in February 2013. The NRA recorded all comments and the NRA will review the document before submission to the NRA board for comment and approval. This document provides the elements of UNDP support to the implementation of the National Strategic Plan "The Safe Path Forward 2".
- ii. The Government of Lao PDR has received generous assistance from the Government of Ireland in support of UXO activities - 2 million Euro for the period 2013-2015.
- iii. NRA together with UNDP have submitted the End Project Report to SDC and a concept note for further funding from 2013-2015.
- iv. On 11-15 March 2013, the NRA organized training on how to use IMSMA for operators and commercial companies in Vientiane Capital.
- v. NRA, in collaboration with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), organised a workshop entitled Quality Management in UXO/Mine Action Programmes. Forty members of staff from the UXO sector in Lao PDR participated, including NRA, UXO Lao, humanitarian operators and commercial companies. The workshop, held March 4-8, was supported by GIHD, UNDP, MAG and UK Aid. During the workshop in Vientiane, participants learned about different approaches to quality

management and how to establish common management-related terminology for identifying, invigorating and improving internal processes, using quality management tools. In addition, participants also learned to improve management systems in their organisations and at the project level, as well as to improve policy development for management of UXO and reducing risk.

vi. The NRA Programme Unit played an active role in the preparation of the MDG 9 progress report provided to MOFA.

4. Update on gender mainstreaming

In 2011, the NRA pursued an active policy of recruiting women in key positions. Whereas no NRA officers were female in 2010, **three officer positions are now occupied by women** (about one third of NRA officers): Research Officer, Risk Education Officer and Finance Officer. It remains the situation in March 2013.

In 2012 particular attention to gender was ensured in several projects including The KAP Survey, the UXO casualties database and the Survivor Tracking System, which systematically disaggregated data according to age and gender. In addition, in March 2012, the NRA held a workshop on gender equality for MRE, in VangVieng.

Early in 2013, the NRA assigned a Programme Technician, a woman, to be the Gender Focal Point. She has been tasked to plan and seek to ensure that gender balance sought in all aspects of work.

The NRA is planning a gender workshop in May 2013. Participants will learn how to mainstream Gender into Mine Action programmes. The NRA will report on the workshop in the second Quarterly Report.

5. Update on the implementation of audit & spot check recommendations

In the second quarter 2012, the NRA received the audit report for the year 2011, with recommendations to implement in 2012. NRA will continue to follow DIC instructions about the application of Lao Tax Law; and the reconciliation of CDR is already taking place.

In addition, spot checks by UNDP took place on two occasions in 2011. Generally speaking, spot checks were seen as useful opportunities for dialogue between UNDP and NRA, leading to a better understanding and implementation of UNDP procedures and guidelines by NRA staff.

Spot check reports included long lists of recommendations. However one "major observation" from the spot check that took place in September 2011 was: "It seems that it is mainly the NRA Finance Unit that deals with project management and knows UNDP requirements. The Spot Check Team would like to recommend that other units, such as the Programme Unit should get more involved in compliance with UNDP and DIC rules and regulations to ensure a better, more efficient and more transparent management that will certainly lead to better development results." No spot check by UNDP was done in 2012.

Nothing specific to report in the first quarter 2013, but the KPMG NIM Audit took place and the recommendations will be shared in the second quarter 2013. We will

report on it in the next quarterly report.

6. List main challenges and issues (if any) faced during reporting period

The finalization of the Victim Assistance strategy has been delayed. NRA board gave feedback on the strategy and the VA officer is responsible to submit the revised version. Progress has been made in the fourth quarter 2012, the draft document was shared with all the Victim Assistance Technical Working Group members. The Victim Assistance strategy in Lao will be presented at the NRA board meeting, which is planned to be held after Lao New year (May 2013) in order to get the approval by the NRA board.

7. Rating on progress towards results

Activity Result 1: Risk Education methodologies improved, reinforced and better disseminated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Positive change
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative change
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unchanged
Activity Result 2: Practices of information management and surveillance of UXO survivors improved; a strategy for victim assistance formulated (AusAID sub-project 6/ SDC output 2.3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Positive change
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative change
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unchanged
Activity Result 3: More efficient and effectively planned release of land coordinated and regulated in accordance with development goals as prioritized in the NSEDP and other relevant national planning and policy frameworks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Positive change
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative change
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unchanged
Activity Result 4: Effective coordination and regulation of the UXO sector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Positive change
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative change
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unchanged
Activity Result 5: Improved institutional development of the NRA and integration into the regular set-up of the Government(SDC outcome 1&2)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Positive change
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative change
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unchanged
Activity Result 6: International treaty obligations met (SDC outcome 3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Positive change
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative change
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unchanged

IV. ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES / RESULTS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE OUTCOME AND/OR OUTPUTS

On 22 June 2012, the National Strategic Plan Safe path forward 2 was approved. The NRA (an inter-ministerial body) will organize a meeting with line ministries to present and make a stronger coordination between NRA and the other line departments of government. The NRA printed the approved National Strategic Plan for dissemination, but also other relevant documents such as the Sector overview, Lao PDR transparency report,etc...

We should highlight the participation of Lao PDR at the 3rd Meeting of States Parties to the

Convention on Cluster Munitions in Oslo, Norway in September 2012. The Lao delegation with a total number of nine persons (4 from MOFA, 2 from NRA, 1 from UXO Lao, 2 UNDP advisors) was very active, making statements in all key sessions and holding a Lao-Japan side-event, highlighting cooperation.

The NRA will be represented at the intersessional meeting of the CCM in April 2013.

V. FUTURE WORK PLAN

1. What are the priority actions planned for the following year to overcome constraints, build on achievements and partnership, and use of the lessons learned during 2012 ?

Please refer to the signed AWP for 2013, Annual Work Plan for 2013 is under discussion. Activities timeframe is indicated in the Annual Work Plan for 2013.

Priority actions planned for the second quarter 2013 include the following:

- The NRA will organize a gender workshop in May 2013
- Monitoring missions for MRE and Clearance units (postponed in Q1)
- Study tour in Cambodia organized by the NRA Victim Assistance Unit
- Trust Fund Steering Committee and a new initiative proposed by the NRA, the Policy Forum
- NRA participation at the intersessional meeting of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Geneva

2. List major adjustments in the strategies, targets or key outcomes and outputs planned.

The new template used for the NRA Annual Work Plan 2013 has been slightly adjusted in order to be consistent with the UNDAF Action Plan 2012-2015 and proposals submitted to UXO Trust Fund donors. It remains consistent with the National Strategic Plan *The Safe Path Forward II*. In the first quarter 2013, the NRA annual work plan was not fully funded, thus, NRA management decided to postpone some activities, including monitoring activities. It is planned that the monitoring missions will be carried out as per normal, from the second quarter.

3. Estimated total budget required for the following year (2014):

US\$ 2,013,900

3. Estimated total budget required for the following quarter

LAK 1,488,242,603

(Second quarter 2013):

Equivalent to 188,600 USD
(Government Disbursement)

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