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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 July 2013 – 30 September 2013

Version 08 October 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: UNICEF, 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 July 2013- 30 September 2013
Date of annual review: <i>[Indicate if planned or actual]</i>	12 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
	Others	
	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 3, 2013	LAK 1,430,948,690
	Total expenditures (estimates by Programme)	LAK 1,301,183,681 POA
	Delivery Rate %	91 %

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 to build the institutional capacity of the National Regulatory Authority (NRA), through the provision of policy advice, aid coordination, 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, in particular, MDG9 concerning the UXO Sector.

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 II* approved in June 2012. This MDG should "further function as a multiplier to MDGs 1-8 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).

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

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 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 3 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 Q3 2013, 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 Q3 of 2013, the number of victims remained low. There were 3 UXO accidents, with a total of 11 victims, including 2 boys killed, 4 men killed and 5 people injured, (1 adult and 4 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 in 2012. Entry of the data into the Lao Victim Information System (LVIS) started in Quarter 3. The Victim Assistance strategy in Lao language was presented at the NRA board meeting (May 2013) which agreed in principle, but the NRA board requested some modifications before official approval, in Quarter 3 the Victim Assistance unit worked on these modifications. In Quarter 2, the NRA organized a study tour to Cambodia to review and study Victim Assistance, and the broader disability sector in Cambodia. The Lao delegation, led by NRA Deputy Director Operations, also included staff from the NRA VA unit and representatives of the Lao Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. Lessons learned are included in the report prepared during the third quarter 2013.

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 that 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. The NRA Clearance Unit has continued data collection on the government priorities for each

²As of 30th September 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 11 commercial operators (ASA, PSD, SBH, Lao BSL, LAUNC, XTD High-tech, THB, Sengphet, Milsearch, BACTEC and Engineering Department of Ministry of National Defense associates with MMG/LXML).

province, and especially concerning key development projects. During the first quarter 2013, the NRA organized two regional planning workshops in Savannakhet and Pakse for the Southern provinces of Lao PDR. During the second quarter, the Clearance Officer collaborated with the National Leading Committee for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication to collect additional information, including conducting a joint field visit to the Northern provinces. This work continued in Q3. In addition, the first UXO Sector Policy Forum was successfully held on 20 June 2013, with wide participation by donors, operators and government representatives. Items/issues discussed included: How UXO Land Release complements Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Plans; and Planning and Prioritization for Survey and Clearance.

During the third quarter 2013, a total of 569 Ha of land was cleared; including 429 Ha of agricultural land and 140 Ha of development land. During Q3 of 2013, operators in Lao PDR destroyed more than 12,402 items, of which 42 were bombs, 7,872 were bombies, 15 were mines, and 4,473 were other UXO items.

For the last three key activity results, NRA is also on track. 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 to provide additional financial support to the sector. Funding levels will depend on the availability of funds and quality of the funding requests made to Government by the sector.

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
<p>And baseline, indicators including annual targets</p> <p>Output 1 The National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector is better able to coordinate and regulate the UXO sector.</p>	<p><i>List activity results and associated actions</i></p> <p>1. Activity Result: Risk Education methodologies improved, reinforced and better disseminated.</p> <p><u>MRE Unit:</u> MRE Unit: 1.1 Monitor MRE activities conducted by operators, including gender issues. 1.2 Ensure training and support of RE operators and local authorities</p>	<p>LAK</p> <p>89,716,839</p>	<p>The quarterly targets for this activity result are on track as highlighted below:</p>	
			<p>On track - Monitoring Mission was planned to be conducted in Q1, but the mission was postponed to Q2, due to the fact that available funding in Q1 was limited.</p> <p>On 5th May 2013, NRA and UXO Lao visited the UXO Lao, World Education Organization and village volunteers in Xieng Khouang Province. Overall, the MRE team estimated that these operators are very skilled. World Education Organization is doing remarkably well in producing and using new and attractive communication materials. UXO Laos good as well in delivering key messages, but their communication materials are not as attractive for the audiences. The NRA has encouraged UXO Lao in various provinces to cooperate more closely with other operators and to share experiences and knowledge, as well as to report more effectively. Field personnel have proposed an “exchange experience campaign” among the CA Teams in other provinces where good work experiences have been recorded, to share best practices.</p> <p>On track-Quarter 3, on 4-12 August 2013, MRE did monitoring activities in Xieng Khouang province, they visited SOS and MAG.</p>	

			<p>On 19-24 August 2013, they also visited HALO Trust in Savannakhet and UXO Lao in Attapeu province.</p> <p>-The team found that HALO Trust didn't take all action as agreed in the MOU. There is inadequate RE equipment and they rarely attend MRE Technical Working Group meetings. There seems to be inadequate interest in the communities in HALO's MRE materials. Another issue is that HALO Trust does not report MRE activities to the NRA (to be included in IMSMA).</p> <p>- UXO Lao still lacks adequate MRE materials.</p> <p>- To address the foregoing issues, the MRE unit recommended that HALO Trust improve and train their staff in using equipment and implementing activities more strictly, as described in the MOU. They have been invited to consult the NRA if they have any problems. For UXO Lao, NRA already reported to UXO Lao Vientiane and they will provide equipment to the provinces soon and are now training new staff on the proper use of MRE materials, etc.</p>	
	<p>1.3 Conduct four meetings of the Technical Working Group on MRE</p>		<p>On track- MRE TWG meeting was held as planned on 11 September 2013 at the NRA conference room. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Bounphamith Somvichith, Deputy Director of NRA. Line ministries concerned, representatives of UNDP and operators were present as well. The aim of the meeting was to review the minutes of the last meeting and to discuss NRA/MRE activities conducted in Q3, 2013 as well as MRE operators' achievements and challenges.</p> <p>- According to the data on UXO accidents in 2013, MRE unit must continue to consider on the PM order about the Rapid Assessment on UXO Scrap Metal in Lao PDR. UXO Lao (Risk Education Unit) should increase the budget for the RE activities and should include the details of RE activities in the workplan.</p>	

	1.4 Ensure interaction with the Ministry of Education		<p>On track - NRA is working closely with the Ministry of Education. The NRA approached UNICEF and received 54,000 USD to print curriculum materials, and will hold a workshop to update them, prior to printing. There are five different books, for each year of the primary school. Once printed (normally in Q4), these books will be distributed by the Ministry of Education in nine contaminated provinces by the end of the year 2013.</p> <p>On track - NRA coordinated to improve the curriculum, and NRA, UNICEF, and Ministry of Education agreed to hold a review meeting in Q4 (October).</p>	
	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.		<p>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.</p>	
	1.6 Capacity development of national staff: Project monitoring & evaluation training		<p>On track - 2 staff of the MRE Unit will attend the training course about project management in Q4.</p>	Planned in Q4, funding is now available for this activity.
	1.7 UXO Spot for radio program and materials for souvenir in the radio program		<p>On track - The NRA is coordinating with the Ministry of Information and Culture to gather more information on how it is going to be set-up. The NRA has completed the preparation of the radio spot programme on how to prevent UXO accidents when making fires (one of the main causes of accidents in the year 2012).</p> <p>On track - Q3, NRA coordinated and cooperated with the Ministry of Culture, Information and Tourism to set up the radio program in Xiengkhuang and Saravan provinces.</p>	
	1.8 Make available the report from the NRA about data collection on the scrap metal trade.		<p>On track - The issue was discussed at the TWG at end of the year 2012.</p> <p>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.</p>	

			<p>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. The NRA will continue to follow-up the situation and may undertake further review and reconsideration of the issue.</p>	
	<p>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</p>	<p>74,894,675</p>	<p>The quarterly targets for this activity result are partially achieved as highlighted below:</p>	
<p>No. of UXO survivors whose needs are tracked (2010: 0, 2015: 10,000, MoV: NRA Database) Actual 2012: 9,325 Survivor tracking forms collected</p>	<p>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</p>		<p>Off track but progressing. In 2012, the VA unit collected 9,325 survivor tracking forms. Entry into the LVIS system started in Q3. NRA is continuing to receive the forms in Q2&Q3. The NRA has funding available (From United States of America) for data recording.</p> <p>There has been significant progress during this third quarter. The VA unit cooperated with Administration unit to conduct a competitive process to select a company to input tracking information into the database. The company selected is Cosco. In addition, VA cooperated with Information Management unit to check the tracking forms, then gave the forms to Cosco to input the data into the database.</p>	
<p>Victim Assistance Sector Strategy drafted (2010: no, 2015: yes; MoV: NRA Annual Report) Actual 2012: Draft strategy presented in December 2012</p>	<p>2.2 Analysis of the data collected by the Survivor Tracking System and recommendations to Victim Assistance operators. 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</p>		<p>Off track but progressing - In Quarter 3, in addition to the decision about data recording, discussion took place within the NRA about the roles and responsibilities in terms of analysis of the data.</p> <p>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.</p>	

			<p>During the NRA board committee meeting in May 2013, the VA strategy was presented and comments were received. Further changes to the document have been made. Next steps: Once the Lao version is ready, the NRA office will send the proposed strategy to the NRA Chairman for his approval. It is expected that the final approval will take place by the end 2013.</p>	
			<p>On track- VA TWG met, as planned, on 11th September 2013 at NRA conference room. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Bounphamith Somvichith, Deputy Director of NRA. Line ministries concerned, representatives of UNDP and operators were present as well. The aim of the meeting was to review the minutes of the last meeting and to discuss NRA/VA activities conducted in Q3, 2013 as well as VA operators' achievements and challenges. The VA unit reported on the data collection with the Tracking System operator reporting template, and updated on operator activities.</p> <p>It was agreed to revise the reporting form for VA, to obtain more information about the plans in Q4 of each operator, in order to better coordinate. There is the need for all organizations to make clear plans for implementation during the year.</p>	
			<p>2.4 Convene quarterly meetings of the Victim Assistance Technical Working Group</p>	
			<p>3. Activity Result: More efficient and effectively-planned release of land coordinated and regulated in accordance with development goals as prioritized in the NSED and other relevant national planning and policy frameworks</p> <p>Clearance Unit:</p>	60,583,908
			<p>3.1 Complete the testing of the District Focused Approach (DFA) before to extend to other priority districts (SDC output 1.2)</p>	
No. of districts with district clearance plans based on district survey (2010: 0, 2015: 20, MoV: District Clearance Plans) Actual 2012: Pilot project in 3 districts, but not yet finalized				<p>Deputy Director Operations will need to analyze with the Clearance Officer on what is the situation of</p>

<u>District Clearance Plans.</u>				the DFA in 2013, and what are the next steps or alternatives.
	<p>Clearance Unit:</p> <p>3.2 Integrate outcomes of DFA, including district clearance plans, into NSEDP planning mechanisms, and especially for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication.</p>		<p>On track – Significant data collection concerning government development priorities for each province has been undertaken, coordinated by the Clearance Unit. This work continued during the Q3.</p> <p>On track - During 20-30 May 2013, Clearance unit of the NRA, in collaboration with National Committee for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (NCRDPE) visited LPB, HP and XK provincial authorities to collect information and discuss how to integrate those provincial development plans with NCRDPE plans, and to agree on priorities for UXO survey and clearance in the province.</p>	
<p>3.3 Monitor, train and support clearance operators, including through the development of new methodologies and technologies for clearance and survey.</p>			<p>After holding the meeting in 3 regional planning workshops: Northern, Central and Southern, the Clearance unit cooperated with the National Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Committee to meet the Provincial Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Division and discussed UXO Clearance Plans in the provinces to support the socio economic development in years 2013-2014. CL also invited operators in the province to attend the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Besides the meetings, CL also took action with monitoring missions to operators. CL monitored UXO Lao in Luang Prabang, Xieng Khouang, Huaphan, Bolikhamxay (also invited SODI to join), Savannakhet, Salavan, Sekong, Khammouane (Invited MAG to join), Champasak. - In Champasak: UXO Lao clearance task has been done very well in Paksong District where, it achieved the target and followed policy as well. In Bolikhamxay, there was not yet the transfer of responsibility for the UXO clearance tasks to the Provincial Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Division. -The NRA is planning to monitor Bolikhamxay again in order 	

				to ensure the transfer of responsibility for the UXO Clearance Tasks, to be led by the Provincial Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Division.	
			3.4 Convene quarterly meetings of the Clearance Technical Working Group	Off track this quarter. The meeting planned to be conducted in Q3 was cancelled. The key topics planned for the TWG meeting will be discussed at the UXO Contamination Assessment Procedure Workshop, which will be held on 4-8 November 2013, in Champasak province.	
			3.5 Identify linkages with other ministries and bodies to support improved integration with NSEDP and UXO sector planning and reporting	On track - See 3.2 = Significant amount of data collection on government development priorities for each province has been undertaken, coordinated by the Clearance Unit. This work continued during the Q3.	
			3.6 Recruit a Lao national specialist in Socio-Economic planning, to enable the integration with NSEDP, 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.		This position is not funded so far. It is postponed to 2014, if considered as appropriate by the capacity assessment.
			3.7 Regional planning workshops 3 times: Central, Northern, Southern (A priori funded by bilateral funding, not via UNDP)	Achieved - 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. Follow up to these workshops and further data collection will be carried	

				out by the NRA Clearance Unit in the following quarters.	
				The quarterly targets for this activity result are on track as highlighted below:	
			362,919,391		
				4. Activity Result: Effective coordination and regulation of the UXO Sector	
				4.1 Provide policy guidance and direction as required to ensure the effective coordination and regulation of the UXO sector and compliance with national strategies and plans	Achieved- The role and responsibilities of the NRA were approved by the NRA chairman. This will foster better coordination between NRA central and NRA role in the provinces, and will provide all involved in the sector with a clearer understanding of the mandate, role, structure, scope and objectives of the NRA. The Government is requesting that all development projects plan for and allocate budget for survey and clearance (if necessary). Eg. AusAID allocated additional funding to UXO LAO to ensure survey and clearance of development project areas funded by AusAID in southern provinces.
				4.2 Review National Standards and modify as required.	On track - In collaboration with the QA/QC Unit, a Technical advisor worked on the review of relevant standards. The report needs to be translated into the Lao Language for further consideration. The standard operating Procedures of the Lao Army have been submitted to NRA for review. Given important changes in the dynamic UXO Sector, this became an ongoing process.
				QM Unit:	
				4.3 Process accreditation of all operators (including NGOs, commercial operators and the Lao Army), to ensure compliance with the National Standards	On track- Accreditation for NPA, SODI, HI, Sengphet UXO Clearance Company, Engineering Department of Ministry of National Defence associated with MMG LXML Limited, have been issued.
				4.4 Conduct QA/QC of operations and investigate potential accidents	On track - During 22-25 April, NRA QM team conducted an investigation regarding the accident which occurred in XK Province on 7 April, in Kham district. The accident occurred at a UXO Lao clearance site, and resulted in the death of 1 child
				% of operators accredited (2010: 33%, 2015: 100%/MoV. NRA Annual Report) Actual 2012: 100% (as at 31st December 2012, there are 18 accredited clearance operators, 6 humanitarian and 12 commercial clearance operators)	

			<p>and injury of 2 other children. The investigation clearly reveals that the UXO Lao team did not follow the SOP or National Standards. An official report with recommendations was produced, and approved by the NRA Board Chairman, and the report is available at the NRA office. The NRA circulated the report to other operators and donors. The NRA QA/QC Officer reported to the Technical Working Group in July 2013.</p> <p>On track - The NRA checked the work of three operators during the third quarter 2013: HI in Savannakhet province, UXO Lao and NPA in Saravan, Sekong and Attapeu provinces. The mission found that NPA clearance team leader did not do well in reporting about signs used in the field and didn't have good communication system. Sometimes the leader didn't mark the information after conducting the QC in the cleared lanes into the map.</p>	
	<p>4.5 Review MoU of operators, considering the MoU as a tool of mutual accountability between NRA and operators, and for compliance by operators with applicable Lao laws</p>		<p>On track - During all its monitoring missions, the NRA QA/QC Unit assesses compliance with the National Standards. The NRA reviewed and negotiated MOU with two organizations during the second quarter 2013: MAG and HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL. Signature of the MOUs took place in Q3 2013.</p> <p>On track - During all its monitoring missions, the NRA QA/QC Unit assesses compliance with the National Standards. The NRA has reviewed and negotiated MOU with two organizations during the third quarter 2013: SoS and MAG in XiengKhouang province.</p>	
<p>% of operators reporting electronically to the NRA (2010: 13% (2/1), 2015: 80% MoV: NRA database) Actual 2012: 44% (6 operators among 18 accredited operators)</p>	<p>4.6 Manage, maintain and publicize information from databases, including IMSMA, as required</p> <p>4.7 Ensure the monthly reports from the NRA to Lao Government</p>		<p>On track – This is a regular activity of the Information Management Unit, this unit is also responding to requests for information from various stakeholders.</p> <p>On track – Permanent responsibility, reports are prepared and</p>	

			managed by the national staff, and submitted monthly to NRA chairman and NRA board members.	
	4.8 Develop UXO Sector work plans and reports, with increasing attention to NSEDP integration		<p>Ongoing process - The Chief Technical Advisor concentrated efforts with NRA management on developing the programme document for support from UNDP, 2013 – 2015. The next priority will be to develop a Multi-year Work Plan 2013 – 2020 including a transition strategy.</p> <p>On track - See 4.19, Annual Review Meeting was organized by the NRA in February 2013. Other meetings will be organized later in the year.</p> <p>The NRA Board meeting was held on 29th May 2013. This meeting was an excellent opportunity to present and to get approval for the NRA annual work plan for the year 2013, VA strategy and new project document for NRA and UXO LAO supported by UNDP for the period 2013-2015. The result is a better understanding of the situation within the UXO Sector and of these reference documents, by board members.</p> <p>By suggestion from MPI, the NRA will submit a letter to MPI to register the new project before signature between NRA and UNDP. MPI has already issued the official letter.</p> <p>On track- NRA is going to hold the Sector Working Group Meeting in November or December and the NRA Board Meeting will also be held after the Annual Review Meeting in December.</p>	
	4.9 Convene meetings of the UXO Sector Working Group, the NRA Board, the Programme Board and any other meeting required for UXO Sector needs			
	<u>IM & PR/Programme Units:</u>			
	4.10 Consolidate the information on the UXO sector and in collaboration with UNDP, to strengthen the Sector Working Group contribution to Round Table		<p>On track - The Programme Unit is consolidating a lot of information from the operators, especially during the first quarter while preparing the UXO Sector Annual Report 2012. In addition to operators' reports, the NRA Programme Unit consolidated the achievements of the whole sector, not only in terms of number of hectares of land released through clearance, but also area which underwent technical survey, roving tasks, contributions received and expenditure, including the private</p>	<p>To get reliable and complete information is still a challenge due to late replies and conflicting figures, an important work of cross-checking is taking place.</p>

			sector, gender disaggregated data on field personnel, etc... The information will be used in the Sector Working Group, and in the SWG report, which will be an important input to this year's High Level Round Table Meeting.	
	4.11 Initiate 4th TWG on Policy, Coordination and Planning (target audience will be the programme managers).		Achieved - On 20 th June, for the first time, the NRA organized the first UXO Sector Policy Forum on the theme "Planning and Prioritisation in the UXO Sector". More than 65 stakeholders participated, including Lao Government representatives, development partners, UXO operators, technical advisers.	
			Ongoing process - The NRA has as an objective of improving its communications. To this end, the NRA is currently reviewing the content of its website, and the PR unit will make proposals to NRA management about potential change. Written content and images are ready to be uploaded. The Technical Advisor on Public Relations proposed that NRA should re-design the website. This is under consideration.	
	4.12 Update the NRA website		NRA plans to send one staff from the Public Relations unit for training on website upgrading, in Q4.	
			An Australian volunteer supported the NRA Public Relations technician until the end of June 2013.	
	4.13 Establish NRA communication planning capacity		On 17-18 September, NRA staff participated in communications training at UNDP Country Office. Participants learned how to improve their communication capacity, including techniques to write stories that have meaning and how to use various tools of communication.	
	4.14 Improve use of NRA print communications		On track - In Q2 2013, more than 15 articles were published in local newspapers (Vientiane Times and Lao language newspapers) concerning the UXO issue, and the achievements of various operators active in the UXO Sector. In addition to the important coverage on UXO issues, the NRA organized a media field visit to improve the quality of the articles, by giving the	

			opportunity to reporters to see activity in the field. PR technician staff and TA participated in the Communications Workshop at UNDP, 17-18 September 2013.	
		4.15 In collaboration with UNDP, Formulate and implement UXO sector communication strategy, with participation from all sector stakeholders	UNDP provided communication training to NRA staff in September 2013.	
		4.16 Initiate exploration of options for establishing a competitive bidding mechanism	This activity started in Q2. A GICHD representative visited the NRA office in May 2013, to assess interest in developing activities on the subject of contracting and liability. Next potential actions are under discussion.	
		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.	Funding from donors was received in July. TOR for the officer who will be in charge of this project at NRA were drafted during Q3. Recruitment of the staff is also planned for Q4. TA and the officer of PO Unit discussed with the NRA Management the Terms of Reference (TOR). The draft of the TOR was sent to the management for review and consideration.	
		Programme/PR Unit:		
		4.18 Develop UXO sector annual report (SDC output 1.1, 2.1)	On track - 500 copies of UXO Sector Annual Report (English version) were printed. Distribution took place in Q3.	
		4.19 Convene UXO TF Steering Committee and Annual Project Review meeting (for 2012)	Following the UXO Trust Fund (TF) meeting postponed in Q1 due to the insufficient number of members; on 20 th June, the NRA together with UNDP held the UXO Trust Fund Steering Committee attended by UXO Trust funded members (Australia, AusAid, France, Ireland, SDC) and UNDP. The meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Alounkeo Kittikhoun Vice-Minister Foreign Affairs and Mr. Minh Pham UN Resident Coordinator in Lao PDR. The aim of the meeting was to report on the contributions received and the use of the funds administered by UNDP. It was an excellent occasion for discussion among UXO TF members. Donors are requesting more detailed reporting on the use of	

			<p>funds and copies of audits. It was recommended and agreed that processes would be streamlined, and that the Trust Fund Steering Committee and the (future) project board described in project document 2013 – 2015, hold joint meetings.</p>	
<p>4.20 Organize anniversary celebration of the entry into force of the CCM and Mine Awareness Day</p>			<p>On track - In cooperation with the Lao Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NRA organized a large celebration to mark Mine Awareness Day on 6th April 2013. The event was attended by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Alounkeo Kittikhoun, and Mr. Minh Pham, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, and many government bodies, UN agencies, embassies and international organisations.</p> <p>International UXO/Mine Awareness Day aims to raise awareness of the continuing humanitarian threat and obstacle to development posed by UXO and to promote commitment to a world free from a threat of UXO. A “fun run” was held on Lane Xang Avenue in Vientiane. More than 1,000 people gathered for the early morning walk/run, with a route that took them from Patuxay to the presidential Palace and back. Prior of the walk, the agencies involved in UXO clearance in Laos held a special ceremony and beat drums to celebrate this important day.</p>	
<p>4.21 Media field visits</p>			<p>Achieved - On 3rd June, the NRA supported Lao media (Vientiane Times, Vientiane Mai, Army Media, Lao Star, Lao National television and local media) to conduct a Media field visit in Saravane and Champasak Provinces. Many questions were posed and responses given. Several articles were produced and released (articles available at PR Unit).</p> <p>After the field visit, NRA and local media agreed that every three months they will meet to discuss progress being made in these matters. The NRA highlighted the importance of providing and publishing accurate information and figures in the articles.</p>	

				<p>In Q3, The NRA, associated with the Lao National Museum, to improve the UXO display area with a contribution of 500USD.</p>	
			<p>Achieved - On 8-10 May, Deputy Director Support and UNDP Technical Specialist attended the regional Mine Action Liability Workshop in Phnom Penh. The workshop was organized by CMAC and GICHD, with 22 participants working in 5 countries of the region (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam). The report is available at Programme Unit's file.</p> <p>As a follow-up, end of June 2013, two consultants from GICHD came to collect information with stakeholders in Lao PDR in order to develop a curriculum and plan for future training. Three workshops for Government, NRA and Operators are planned to be organized in October 2013.</p>		
	4.22 Liability workshop in Phnom Penh, (Deputy Director Support and UNDP TA Programme)			<p>Achieved - The NRA in association with GICHD, UNDP, DFID and MAG organized a QM workshop on 4th to 8th March 2013. NRA Officers, UXO Lao officers, UNDP staff, NGOs and Representatives from commercial companies attended (a total of 40 persons). The meeting was very positive. Participants got a better understanding of quality management, ISO, QA and QC, Project cycle management, process mapping, land release, etc...</p>	
	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.				
	5. Activity Result: Improved institutional development of the NRA and integration into the regular set-up of the Government (SDC outcome 1&2)				
			656,504,520	The quarterly targets for this activity result are on track as highlighted below:	
	5.1 Deployment of the UNDP Chief Technical Advisor			Ongoing process - The Chief Technical Advisor concentrated his efforts with NRA management on developing the programme document for support from UNDP, 2013 – 2015. The next priority will be to develop a Multi-year Work Plan 2013 – 2020 including a transition strategy, and to draft TOR for the Civil Society Funding Facility.	
	5.2 In collaboration with UNDP, conduct capacity self-assessment to map out current capacity			Draft Terms of Reference were developed in the third quarter 2013.	

	<p>baselines, and formulate 3-year Capacity Development strategy with a robust Monitoring and Evaluation framework based on current capacity baselines</p>			
<p>5.3 Clarify NRA structure and organigramme at HQ and sub-national levels; including the review of roles and responsibilities.</p>			<p>Achieved– As reported in Q1, NRA mandate and structure were clarified during the 3 Regional Planning Workshops. The NRA organized a workshop on 27 September 2013 to present the Strategic Objectives of the UXO Sector as detailed in the National Strategy Plan. Notification No. 093 on UXO clearance for socio-economic development projects in the Lao PDR was presented to Development Partners and relevant line Ministries. This notification explains that all development projects undertaken in contaminated areas must plan for survey and clearance as necessary, and build the cost into their budgets.</p>	
<p>5.4 Consult with all NRA partners to establish contributions of support to implementation of CD strategy</p>			<p>Not Achieved in 2013 – Planned in 2014, after the Capacity Assessment (See 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>Ongoing. The NRA (and UXO LAO) programme and finance staff received training from the Government on how to introduce a request for government budget. The NRA submitted requests to cover the rent of the NRA office, and several other activities. To be followed up in the coming months.</p>	
<p>5.6 Deployment of Finance and Programme Technical Advisor</p>			<p>Ongoing. We 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 2012 Annual Project Report, donor reports, and the 2013 Annual Work Plan. The Technical Advisor supported work on the 2012 UXO Sector Annual Report, and especially on the achievements of the sector (outputs, and financial figures) as well as the NRA financial report.</p>	
<p>5.7 Manage financial, logistical & human resources of the NRA, with reference to capacity development strategy</p>			<p>Achieved – These functions are managed by the national staff.</p>	
<p>5.8 Workshop to review previous Assessment of Gender Perspectives in UXO Action in the Lao PDR</p>			<p>Achieved - The NRA organized the gender workshop in May 2013. The participants have learned how to mainstream Gender</p>	

				into Mine Action programmes. Please see the report in the section 4, "Update on Gender Mainstreaming".	
	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.			Ongoing process. The UNDP Chief Technical Advisor and his counterparts are collecting the necessary information. This work will continue in the second half of 2013. The challenge is to get accurate information, and it is also linked to the ongoing work by the NRA Clearance Unit.	
	5.10 Deployment of UXO Portfolio Manager, based in UNDP Country Office			On track -Among other activities, to support the NRA and advance resource mobilization. The UXO Portfolio Manager made an important presentation at the UXO Trust Fund Steering Committee Meeting.	
	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			This initiative has not yet started. This will be considered one of priorities 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			Achieved - A delegation from the NRA, UXO Lao and MoFA attended the sixteenth International Meeting of National Mine Action Programme Directors and UN Advisors on 10-12 April 2013 and the Inter-sessional meeting of the Convention on Cluster Munitions from 15-18 April 2013. This participation has multiple advantages: to inform the Lao delegation on the developments of the sector at the international level; and to raise awareness about and support for the UXO sector in Lao PDR in addition to formally representing Lao PDR in these important fora.	
	Finance Unit:				
	5.13 Prepare annual and quarterly workplans and reports			Permanent responsibility, managed by the national staff, with support from UNDP Technical Specialist. In July, discussions	

			took place to improve the details of quarterly work plans developed by the NRA Finance Unit.		
			Finance unit cooperated with Programme Unit, TA and all units reviewed the actual expenditures in the first 6 months of year and requirement regarding budget in the last 6 months of 2013.		
		5.14 ensures all kind of payments and proper documentation;	Permanent responsibility, the audit of 2012 did not highlight any problems with payments and supporting documentation.		
		5.15 carry out all finance related activities such as budgeting, expenditure control and accounting;	The 2013 Annual Work Plan was finalized and signed during the first quarter of 2013.		
		5.16 Prepare various reports for UNDP, donors and the Lao Government.	Permanent responsibility, managed by the national staff. Each NRA unit provides monthly reports to NRA management, in the Lao language, which are transmitted monthly to the Lao Government. Based on these reports, the Programme Unit with the support of the UNDP technical advisor prepares quarterly reports to UNDP as well as other donors reports.		
		5.17 Introduce and maintain a new effective financial resources management system (ACCPAC)	Procurement was finalized during first quarter. Discussion took place in February and March concerning how to customize the software. Training of the national staff took place after the Lao New Year. Some work remains to be completed before it will be fully functional. Significant progress took place during the third quarter, but there is still some delay in the data entry. Further discussion will take place in Q4 to explore the full potential of reporting.		
		Logistics and Admin Unit:			
		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. QA/QC equipment was procured in the second quarter. Other procurement actions (mainly IT equipment) will occur in the Q4.		The 2013 AWP will be fully funded only from third quarter 2013.
		6. Activity Result: International treaty			
				56,564,348	
			The quarterly targets for this activity result are on track as		

	obligations met (SDC outcome 3)		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 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 this quarter. 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)			
	6.4 Participate in the intercessional meeting in Geneva (3 people from the Gov)		Achieved - A delegation from NRA, UXO Lao and MoFA attended the sixteenth International Meeting of National Mine Action <i>Programme Directors and UN advisors</i> on 10-12 April 2013 and the Intercessional meeting of the Convention on Cluster Munitions from 15-18 April 2013.	
	6.5 Participate in the 4 MSP (3 people from the Gov) In Lusaka, Zambia		Achieved - Lao PDR actively participated in the 4th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Lusaka, Zambia in September 2013. The Lao delegation with a total number of seven persons (3 from MOFA, 3 from NRA and 1 from UXO Lao, with support of the UNDP CTA) made substantive statements in all key sessions and held bilateral meetings on the margins of the event with key donors who were present and available such as: Canada, Germany, Norway, Ecuador, Australia and Japan.	
GRAND TOTAL		1,301,183,681 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 as a priority to assist in the achievement of 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 in 2012 and 2013.

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 report writing skills and is collecting and reporting more accurate information. The UNDP Finance and Programme Technical Advisor is working closely with national counterparts to improve their capacities, to strengthen financial management skills, highlighting the importance of good supporting documents for each financial transaction; to further develop reporting skills and to improve the accuracy, form and substance of reports. The quality of NRA reporting improved in 2012. There is still room for further improvement, especially to increase the quality of information collected from each unit within the NRA.

3. Update on partnerships

- i. For the first time ever, the Lao Government has received assistance from The Royal Thai government to support UXO activities, in the amount of 500,000 THB.
- ii. NRA, with the assistance from the US Government, completed the provision of Senior EOD training. This is the fourth course organized in Lao PDR. Successfully trained, were 19 persons (including 3 women) representing six organizations and 2 Lao Army observers, all of whom attended the UXO Lao Training Centre. Currently, 66 Senior SEODs including 6 women have been trained in Lao PDR. These key persons are working for the various UXO operators in Lao PDR.
- iii. There was also a significant initiative undertaken by the NRA, in association with the Embassy of China in Lao PDR to support training in China on UXO clearance and medical training for NRA, UXO Lao and Lao people's army personnel. In total 30 people will be trained in China for 3 months. This pioneer initiative will help to expand and accelerate UXO clearance in Lao PDR and also helps to further develop a sustainable national capacity in the Sector.
- iv. On 20 June, for the first time, NRA organized a UXO Sector Policy Forum on the topic "Planning and Prioritization in the UXO Sector". More than 65 stakeholders participated. The aim was to brief stakeholders on the plans and processes to establish priorities in the

sector and to allow operators and donors to engage in candid and substantive discussion on these and other topics. The NRA is planning to hold a Policy Forum for VA and MRE early in the new year.

- v. On 10-14 June, the NRA VA unit together with Staff from MoLSW and NCDP (a total of 8 delegates) exchanged views and learned about UXO victim assistance with CMAA in Cambodia. The official report will be available at VA Unit.
- vi. Following participation of NRA Deputy Director Support and UNDP Technical Advisor to the liability and contracting workshop in Phnom Penh, Cambodia 8-10 May 2013, GICHD and NRA explored liability and contracting issues in the context of the UXO sector in Lao PDR. On 16 June, UXO operators, including commercial companies, humanitarian organizations and representatives of the Lao army discussed the matter. 24-28 June, a GICHD team travelled to Laos to collect information from stakeholders, in order to adjust the curriculum for training, before holding three workshops planned for October 2013.
- vii. On 9 May, NRA together with Gender and Mine Action Programme (GMAP) organized training on Mainstreaming Gender in UXO/Mine Action Programme for 35 staff from the UXO Sector in Lao PDR, including NRA, UXO Lao, Humanitarian Operators and UNDP. Participants learned how to mainstream gender into Mine Action programmes in the areas of employment, recruitment and training, project cycle management, land release, UXO risk education, community liaison and victim assistance. Overall, feedback was very good and participants requested additional training, including at the provincial level, if possible.
- iii. On 21 August 2013, NRA together with Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) organized training on Measuring Development Results in the UXO Sector in Lao PDR for 45 staff from the UXO Sector, including line ministries, NRA, UXO Lao, Humanitarian Operators and UNDP. This meeting aims to provide information on the use of cost-benefit analysis (CBA) for UXO clearance; not only to train people how to do cost-benefit analysis, but also to ensure they are familiar with the overall concept and techniques, confident in knowing when CBA might be useful in analyzing data to inform decision-makers (e.g. for setting priorities). This will enable Government and donors to have a better picture of the contribution the UXO programme is making to development and poverty reduction and more aware of what is needed to equip NRA and its partners to use CBA effectively.
- vii. In September 2013, the Project Document in support of the institutional Strengthening of the National Regulatory Authority for the UXO /Mine Action Sector (NRA) and of the Lao National UXO Programme (UXO Lao) 2013-2015 was approved by NRA Chairman and UNDP Resident Representative in Lao PDR. This document sets out the key elements of UNDP support to the implementation of the National Strategic Plan "The Safe Path Forward 2" and the multi-year work plan for the sector which is currently being developed. This Project document will focus on institutional strengthening, providing support to UXO victims, better coordination within UXO sector and accelerating prioritised land release in line with national development priorities.

viii. On 27 September 2013, NRA organized the Grant Signing Ceremony between the Government of Switzerland and the United Nations Development Programme to Support the UXO Sector in the Lao PDR with an additional contribution of US\$3.79 million. These funds will go towards strengthening the capacity of the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action (NRA) as well as supporting the on-going clearance operations of UXO Lao. The contribution will be channelled through the UXO Trust Fund, administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

4. Update on gender mainstreaming

In 2011, the NRA pursued an active policy of recruiting women into key positions. While none of 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 September 2013.

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

In February 2013, the NRA assigned a Programme Technician, a woman, to be the Gender Focal Point. She has been tasked to plan and make sure that gender balance is taken into account.

A very first training on Gender in UXO Sector was held on 9 May 2013. With full support from Gender & Mine Action Programme, some staff from the NRA, UXO Lao, UNDP and NGOs attended. The outcome of the training was very positive, with the only negative 'remark' that it was too short. The person asked that next time, there be more training days and expansion to the provincial level. See section 3, above for more details.

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

In June 2013, the NRA received the KPMG NIM audit report for the year 2012. There are a limited number of observations and some recommendations have already been implemented (signature of the bank reconciliations by the Finance Officer). The NRA will follow-up on other recommendations.

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

The finalization of the Victim Assistance strategy has been delayed. The NRA Board gave feedback on the strategy and the VA officer responsible must submit a revised version. In December 2012, the draft document was shared with all Victim Assistance Technical Working Group members. The Victim Assistance strategy was then presented at the NRA board meeting in May 2013. Comments were received and the changes have been made accordingly in third quarter 2013. Next steps, the NRA office will send to NRA Chairman for

his approval. It is expected that the process will take place in fourth quarter 2013.

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

The National Strategic Plan Safe path forward 2 was approved on 22nd June 2012. The NRA (an inter-ministerial body) organized meetings with line ministries to present and promote stronger coordination between the NRA and the other line departments of government. The NRA printed the approved National Strategic Plan for dissemination, along with other relevant documents such as the Sector overview and the Lao PDR transparency report.

The UNDP appointed the very accomplished musician, artist and actress, Ms. Alexandra Bounxouei, to be the first UNDP Goodwill Ambassador for Lao PDR. This national Goodwill ambassador will play a meaningful role in articulating and advocating development messages, especially for the UXO Sector. She will start her activities in collaboration with the NRA in August 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 2013 Annual Work Plan for details. Activities timeframe is indicated in the 2013 Annual Work Plan.

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

- The NRA will organize a workshop on “Contracting and Liability” in October 2013, with the support of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).
- The NRA will organize a survey / land release workshop in November 2013
- The NRA will organize the next Sector Working Group meeting, and prior to the meeting will develop an Action Plan for the Sector to be presented to the Round Table Meeting in November 2013.

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 2*, as all six activity results are directly derived from the six objectives of *The Safe Path Forward 2*.

3. Estimated total budget required for the following year (2014):	US\$ 2,013,900
3. Estimated total budget required for the following quarter (Third quarter 2013):	LAK1,439,529,431 (Government Disbursement)

PREPARED BY

The NRA Programme Unit

CLEARED/APPROVED BY



ບຸນເພັງ ສີສະຫວັດ
Mr. Bounpheng SISAWATH