



# Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme ( UXO LAO )



## Annual Report 2013





## 2013 AT A GLANCE

### OPERATIONS:

UXO Risk Education:	650 village on UXO risk education activities. 102% of the work plan target completed.
General Survey tasks:	2,179 survey tasks in 1,406 villages. 120% of the work plan target completed.
Roving tasks:	1,754 roving tasks in 1,176 villages. 113% of the work plan target completed.
Area clearance and Technical Survey:	3,284.6 hectares of land cleared. 104% of the work plan target completed.
Support to development agencies:	157 hectares of land for more than twenty different development projects.

### FINANCIAL:

Budget:	US\$ 8,450,326
Expenditure:	US\$ 8,819,955

### RESOURCES:

National personnel:	1,195 personnel, including 1,142 (96%) in provincial operations and offices
Number of female personnel:	248 (20%) female personnel, including 183 in operations.
International advisors:	4 personnel
Number of detectors:	1,065 functioning detectors, including 120 Ebinger 421GC and 500 Vallon VMXC1 detectors.
Number of vehicles:	170 four-wheel vehicles and 97 motorcycles

( Photo above: Delegates to the 11th High Level Round Table Meeting visit UXO Lao operation in LuangPrabang province on 21 November, 2013 )

**Foreword from  
National Programme Director**



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## Message from Chief Technical Advisor



UXO Lao went through a year of significant transition in 2013, and it was a pleasure to be part of that process. The biggest change was the move of UXO Lao from the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, to the Government's Office – within the National Committee for rural development and poverty eradication. This was without question, a major move with major implications. The move takes UXO Lao much closer to the heart of government, as well as much closer to the National Regulatory Authority. At a time of shifting focus from humanitarian actions towards actions supporting development, this move is a most welcome change.

Clearance in 2013 continued regardless of political restructuring and it is perhaps time to spare a thought to those more than 1,200 UXO Lao staff operating at the field level. These men and women work daily, not only in potentially hazardous contaminated areas, but also in hot, humid and very often unpleasant environments. Often away from their families and remote for many weeks, these men and women are at the real centre of UXO Lao's success and we should be grateful for their efforts.

Back in the management of UXO Lao, the ministerial move brought a change of director and I welcome Mr Thiphasone Soukhathammavong as National Programme Director to UXO Lao. He brings with him a wealth of experience from rural development and poverty eradication. Mr Thiphasone's experience and management are welcomed and will provide a positive continued drive forward toward the reduction of risk to the population of Lao PDR and removal of UXO to support the national development strategy.

I have also seen a continued strengthening of relationships between donors supporting UXO Lao. At the cutting edge, this is represented by the incredibly good support and liaison between technical advisors and support provided by a number of donors.

Once again, I salute the work of all of the staff members of UXO Lao, and their families, who provide on-going support to them.

**Tim Lardner**  
**Chief Technical Advisor, UXO Lao**

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## UXO Lao Operations are composed of:

### UXO Risk Education:

Increases the awareness of people in affected areas through various UXO risk education activities such as plays and puppet shows.



### Area Clearance and Roving Task:

Area clearance involves searching for UXO under the ground using detectors. Agricultural land is cleared to a depth of 25 cm.



Roving clearance involves the removal and destruction of UXO found on the surface by villagers/surveyors.



### General and Technical Survey:

General survey activities identifies locations of UXO reported as well as developing maps for use by area clearance teams.



Technical survey involves the release of land through evaluation of available information and with a 25% sampling of the area in question.



## Organizational background

The Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao) was established by the Lao Government with the support of UNDP, UNICEF, and other stakeholders through Prime Minister's Degree Number 49, dated 13 February 1996. UXO Lao is a National Implemented (NIM) Project, from the beginning to February 2013 UXO Lao was under the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and then from February 2013 to present UXO Lao is moved to the National Committee for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication, Government Office. UXO Lao is the largest national humanitarian UXO clearance operator in the Lao PDR .



### UXO Lao Mandate:

The UXO Lao's two main objectives are:

1. To reduce the number of casualties caused by UXO through the Risk Education.
2. To increase the amount of the land available for food production and for other Socio-Economic Development Projects through the UXO clearance activities.

### The affect of UXO on Human Lives

Before the establishment of UXO Lao in 1996, the people most directly affected by UXO were forced to live continuously with the problem, other with fatal consequences.

During 1996, UXO Lao commissioned a national UXO Socio-Economic Impact Survey to better quantify the scale of the problem. The survey results were published in November 1997 and the findings were used as a basis for planning in 1998 and beyond. The survey collected data on almost 11,000 accidents that have occurred since 1973. Although many of these accidents took place in the first five years immediately after the war, UXO accidents still continue at a rate of approximately 100 per year. Young children make up more than one quarter of the total accident victims reported since 1973, and the age of children involved in accidents is increasing. Accidents involving UXO often occur while people are engaged in agricultural activities or attempting to supplement their agricultural output by collecting forest product.

### The affect of UXO on Socio-Economic Development

UXO contaminations has a significant effect on the development of Lao PDR. For poor and vulnerable subsistence-farming communities, contaminated land denies the community the chance to become self-sufficient. Major infrastructure development and business projects are delayed, or must budget up to 10% of the project costs for the clearance of UXO to be undertaken before main project activities can be implemented.

With the need for both trauma and long term care, the treatment of UXO victims placed a burden on the country's existing limited medical facilities. Even those who recover from their wounds can not always carry out the work needed in a subsistence-farming village has insufficient resources left to assist any new development work within the community.

### UXO Lao 17 Years Achievements ( 1996-2013)

**COMMUNITY AWARENESS (CA) ACTIVITIES:** conducted 10,345 villages on UXO Risk Education activities, reaching 2,626,685 people, including 1,059,610 children.

**GENERAL SURVEY TASKS:** conducted 17,516 survey tasks in 3,491 villages, recording the location of 147,526 different UXO items, including 2,249 big bombs and 74,959 cluster munitions.

**ROVING TASKS:** conducted 25,296 roving tasks in 3,751 villages, removing or destroying 855,754 different UXO items reported by villagers or CA/survey team members, including 5,407 big bombs and 338,315 cluster munitions.

**AREA CLEARANCE OPERATIONS :** using UXO detectors, destroying 382,421 different UXO items, including 510 big bombs and 188,879 cluster munitions. Cleared 27,033 hectares of land, including 22,938 hectares of Agriculture land and 4,098 hectares for different development agencies in support of their various socio-economic development projects. reached 4,323,748 beneficiaries.

**TECHNICAL SURVEY TASKS:** re-classified 2,900 hectares of land as low priority for clearance through technical survey. Reached 622,337 beneficiaries. Removed or destroyed 2,065 different UXO items, including 344 cluster munitions.



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS in 2013

**COMMUNITY AWARENESS (CA) ACTIVITIES:** conducted 650 villages on UXO risk education activities, reaching 173,529 people, including 80,527 children.

**Exceeded by 102% of the 2013 work plan target of 639 villages.**

**GENERAL SURVEY TASKS:** conducted 2,179 survey tasks in 1,406 villages, recording the location of 12,541 different UXO items, including 128 big bombs and 7,692 cluster munitions.

**Exceeded by 120% of the 2013 work plan target of 1,817 survey tasks.**

**ROVING TASKS:** conducted 1,754 roving tasks in 1,176 villages, removing or destroying 25,307 different UXO items reported by villagers or CA/survey team members, including 216 big bombs and 11,174 cluster munitions.

**Exceeded by 113% of the 2013 work plan target of 1,550 roving tasks.**

**AREA CLEARANCE OPERATIONS :** using UXO detectors, destroying 35,125 different UXO items, including 24 big bombs and 17,544 cluster munitions. Cleared 2,848.5 hectares of land, including 2,431 hectares of Agriculture land and 417.6 hectares for different development agencies in support of their various socio-economic development projects. Reached 219,032 beneficiaries.

**TECHNICAL SURVEY TASKS:** re-classified 439 hectares of land as low priority for clearance through technical survey. Reached 36,312 beneficiaries. Removed or destroyed 182 different UXO items, including 13 cluster munitions.

**Exceeded by 104% of the 2013 work plan target of 3,167 hectares of land (Area Clearance + Technical Survey).**



Province	COMMUNITY AWARENESS ACTIVITIES			GENERAL SURVEY TASKS		ROVING TASKS	
	CA activities (villages)*	Beneficiaries (Children)	Total CA Beneficiaries	Survey (no. of tasks)	No. of Villages	Roving (no. of tasks)	No. of Villages
LuangPrabang	77	6,889	23,556	167	115	134	99
Huaphanh	65	7,016	14,551	183	87	111	75
Xiengkhuang	74	12,059	28,622	451	196	392	206
Khammuane	87	13,634	28,342	124	92	125	76
Savannakhet	69	7,891	18,785	300	284	277	267
Saravane	67	6,380	13,661	242	226	237	187
Sekong	67	6,682	12,274	142	89	119	59
Champasack	63	9,871	16,157	416	212	235	123
Attapeu	81	10,105	17,581	154	105	124	84
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>80,527</b>	<b>173,529</b>	<b>2,179</b>	<b>1,406</b>	<b>1,754</b>	<b>1,176</b>

*includes community awareness volunteer activities*

Province	AREA CLEARANCE OPERATIONS				TECHNICAL SURVEY TASKS				
	Farm Land (Ha)	Other Land (Ha)	Total Area (Ha)	Beneficiaries	Farm Land (ha)	Other Land (Ha)	Total Area (Ha)	Beneficiaries	
LuangPrabang	231.2	20.4	251.6	17,264	30.9	10.3	41.2	2,498	
Huaphanh	292.1	16.5	308.6	22,501					
Xiengkhuang	327.2	194.4	521.6	65,672	14.7	0.0	14.7	2,568	
Khammuane	233.2	22.2	255.4	35,810	56.9	0.0	56.9	197	
Savannakhet	456.2	9.1	465.4	5,100	45.8	10.0	55.8	3,431	
Saravane	348.7	51.4	400.1	19,635	19.4	0.0	19.4	54	
Sekong	96.1	27.4	123.6	14,650	142.0	19.7	161.7	3,774	
Champasack	285.2	13.5	298.8	28,336	7.6	7.3	14.9	1,502	
Attapeu	160.6	62.4	223.0	10,064	53.6	20.6	74.2	22,306	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,430.9</b>	<b>417.6</b>	<b>2,848.5</b>	<b>219,032</b>	<b>371.1</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>439.2</b>	<b>36,312</b>	

**Total land cleared : 3,287.7 hectares**

## FIELD OPERATIONS ACHIEVEMENT 2013

### UXO Items Found, Removed, or Destroyed

Province	General Survey Tasks					Roving Tasks				
	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	TOTAL	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	TOTAL
LuangPrabang	4	230	5	284	522	5	234	9	438	686
Huaphanh	11	199	1	223	434	11	300	1	274	586
Xiengkhuang	1	1,818	1	2,295	4,115	30	2,208	8	5,891	8,137
Khammuane	23	989	0	191	1,203	33	1,657	0	2,615	4,305
Savannakhet	18	3,046	20	718	3,802	33	3,083	21	870	4,007
Saravane	31	72	0	61	164	51	1,381	4	2,063	3,499
Sekong	2	73	0	93	168	12	726	0	357	1,095
Champasack	11	789	4	723	1,527	20	886	9	1,253	2,168
Attapeu	27	476	2	101	606	21	699	2	102	824
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>7,692</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>4,698</b>	<b>12,541</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>11,174</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>13,863</b>	<b>25,307</b>

\* UXO items surveyed are classified as found as they are either removed or destroyed through roving or area clearance operations.

Province	Area Clearance Operations					Technical Survey Tasks				
	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	TOTAL	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	TOTAL
LuangPrabang	2	1,083	2	1,270	2,357	0	0	0	0	0
Huaphanh	0	1,577	11	1,407	2,995	0	0	0	0	0
Xiengkhuang	11	4,118	1	2,170	6,300	0	0	0	0	0
Khammuane	3	836	0	3,600	4,439	0	0	0	0	0
Savannakhet	0	3,191	2	1,444	4,637	0	5	0	13	18
Saravane	8	1,006	6	2,796	3,816	0	0	0	1	1
Sekong	0	2,208	0	1,480	3,688	0	0	0	97	97
Champasack	0	2,306	25	2,504	4,835	0	0	0	0	0
Attapeu	0	1,219	1	838	2,058	0	8	0	58	66
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>17,544</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>17,509</b>	<b>35,125</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>182</b>

**Total UXO found, removed or destroyed: 73,155 items**  
**Average of UXO removed or destroyed per hectare: 22 items/ha.**

## UXO LAO PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS:

UXO Lao was able to achieve its annual clearance, survey and community awareness targets for 2013. For the period 01 January to 31 December 2013, UXO Lao released 3,284 hectares of land through area clearance and technical survey activities reaching 255,624 beneficiaries in nine provinces. Within the reporting period, UXO Lao destroyed 60,6024 items of UXO of which 28,581 were sub-munitions or bombs, through clearance, technical survey and roving tasks. Removal or destruction of UXO increases the safety of people living in UXO impacted communities and increases the amount of safe land available for food production and other socio-economic development activities. The work undertaken is in accordance with national standards and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). 85% of cleared land by UXO Lao was agricultural land.

Activities	2013 Targets	2013 Achievements
Clearance/ Technical Survey	3,167 ha	3,284 ha
Roving tasks	1,550 tasks	1,754 tasks
General Survey tasks	1,817 tasks	2,179 tasks
UXO Risk Education	639 villages visited	650 villages visited

### Area Clearance and Technical Survey

In 2013 UXO Lao released 3,284 hectares of land . 2,805 hectares (85%) of the total land released is agricultural land. Some project sites in Saravane, Sekong and Attapeu faced minor interruptions of their clearance activities due to bad weather conditions caused by a heavy storm that hit the South of Laos. It was also noted that in some provinces the project continued to encounter problems with their fleet of vehicles. Recognizing this problem, the GoL had signed an agreement with the Government of Japan to provide a new fleet of vehicles and operational equipment in the amount of ¥900,000,000 to UXO Lao. All new equipment and vehicles were successfully delivered to UXO Lao in September 2013 and distributed to provincial UXO Lao office in early 2014 deployed.

Out of 3,284 hectares of land released by UXO Lao, 157 hectares of land were released in direct support to development agencies' projects in Lao PDR that supported the construction of school buildings, roads, fish ponds, irrigation systems and the development of rice paddies among others. UXO Lao has cleared land at no cost to these development projects and thus also contributes to further socioeconomic development in the country. UXO Lao does not clear land for commercial investors or for investment purposes.

Technical survey is successful in identifying UXO locations and the release of land through technical survey increases the amount of land safe for farming and other socio-economic development purposes. It maximizes UXO Lao's resources as technical survey determines whether a particular area should be subjected to area clearance methods or not. During the reporting period, 439 hectares of land were released by technical survey teams across eight provinces, reaching 36,312 beneficiaries.

#### Land released under Clearance and Technical Survey

Province	2013 Target(Ha)	2013 Achieved(Ha)	% of Target Achieved
Luang Prabang	285	293	102.7%
Houaphan	285.3	308.6	108.1%
Xiengkhuang	520	536.3	103.1%
Khammouane	302.2	312.3	103.3%
Savannakhet	510.4	521.2	102.1%
Saravane	402.6	416.5	103.4%
Sekong	275	285.3	103.7%
Champasack	295.4	313.8	106.2%
Attapeu	291	297.2	102.1%



### Roving Tasks:

1,754 roving tasks were conducted in 1,176 villages and 25,307 items of UXO were removed and destroyed. The project is on its way to achieve its roving task targets set in the 2013 work plan. The aim of roving teams is to remove or destroy surface UXO items reported by villagers or by UXO Lao survey team members. Through the removal or destruction of UXO, land is made safe for people to walk on and use for productive purposes, as well as improving and providing equitable access to land, markets, and socio-economic services.

<b>Number of Roving Tasks Conducted</b>			
<b>Province</b>	<b>2013 Target</b>	<b>2013 Achieved</b>	<b>% of Target Achieved</b>
Luang Prabang	120	134	111.6%
Houaphan	110	111	100.9%
Xiengkhuang	335	392	117%
Khammouane	120	125	104.1%
Savannakhet	251	277	110.3%
Saravane	182	237	130.2%
Sekong	132	119	90.1%
Champasack	185	235	127%
Attapeu	115	124	107.8%



### General Survey Tasks:

2,179 survey tasks were conducted in 1,406 villages, mapping out 12,541 items of UXO. Survey teams collect data which is then shared with the NRA.. Data collected includes location of UXO found, areas requested to be cleared, as well as cleared or released land. Data is also used to generate detailed maps for use by UXO clearance teams and for use by government and other development authorities. UXO data is available for policy and development planning. Additional data fields are identified and collected as well such as information on the accessibilities of roads, whether the roads are safe to drive on, and whether the communication network is ok, etc. This information is collected for internal purposes in order to ensure effective operations.

<b>Number of General Survey Tasks Conducted:</b>			
<b>Province</b>	<b>2013 Target</b>	<b>2013 Achieved</b>	<b>% of Target Achieved</b>
Luang Prabang	143	167	116.7%
Houaphan	150	183	122%
Xiengkhuang	419	451	107.6%
Khammouane	120	124	103.3%
Savannakhet	300	300	100%
Saravane	233	242	103.8%
Sekong	132	142	107.5%
Champasack	205	416	202.9%
Attapeu	115	154	133.9%



### Community Awareness:

Activities to convey the messages include puppet shows, songs, dances, and games that are adapted for specific age groups. During such activities, villagers are also encouraged to identify the location of UXO they may have found in the surrounding areas. The CA teams conducted 650 CA activities reaching 173,529 people (including 80,257 were children). The project continues to attract active village volunteers for community awareness activities. UXO currently engages 372 CA village volunteers including 82 males and 290 females who raise awareness on the risk of UXO within their communities.

<b>Number of UXO Risk Education Activities Conducted</b>			
<b>Province</b>	<b>2013 Target(village)</b>	<b>2013 Achieved</b>	<b>% of Target Achieved</b>
Luang Prabang	76	77	101.3%
Houaphan	65	65	100%
Xiengkhuang	65	74	113.8%
Khammouane	87	87	100%
Savannakhet	69	69	100%
Saravane	67	67	100%
Sekong	66	67	101.5%
Champasack	63	63	100%
Attapeu	81	81	100%





## UXO Clearance to support Development Agencies

UXO Lao's activities contribute not only to saving the lives of people living in areas of UXO contamination, but also to increasing socio-economic opportunities in some of the poorest districts. In addition to areas cleared for agriculture, UXO Lao also contributes to the Lao Government's development projects, as well as those of other international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGO) to allow infrastructure development to happen including the establishment of irrigation projects, schools, hospitals, health centers, clean water projects, roads, and other development activities. UXO Lao works in alignment with the Government's strategy on rural development and poverty eradication in accordance with the 7<sup>th</sup> Social-Economic Development Plan of Lao PDR.

Province	Development Agencies support	Project type	Area cleared (ha)	No. of Beneficiaries
LPB	Lao-Japan, FTI	School construction	1,2789	534
LPB, HP, SVK, SRV	Poverty Reduction fund	School construction	3.6516	2,026
LPB, SVK	CARE.	Road, school, irrigation, water supply	17.2136	2,960
LPB	World Food Program, UNDP	School construction, install the radio	0.6030	3,001
HP	GIZ	Road construction	7.3637	526
XKH	Achao Project, US	Water Supply	5.6710	3,167
XKH	USA/GCAC, NGO of Thailand	School construction	1.4214	2,100
KHM	Langle Project	Irrigation construction	0.5840	35
KHM,SVK	Project Shoot	Rice field, irrigation	81.8744	1,751
SVK	NGO	Rice field	9.6297	70
SRV, SK	Word Education	School construction	0.9539	1,082
SRV	EFA	School construction	3.6119	586
SRV, CHS	JICA	School, Sanitation, Rice field	11.3518	20,210
CHS	EFA-FTI	School construction	1.1715	181
SK	BESDP	Coffee bush	0.8535	350
ATP	Rural Development Project (RDP)	Garden	10.0293	347
<b>Grand Total:</b>			<b>157.2630</b>	<b>38,926</b>

### 2013 Training Courses:

Between January and December 2013, the following training courses have been completed:

Training Courses	No. of Courses conducted	Total Graduates	No. of female graduates
Deminer/clearance (EOD Level 1)	3	112	37
SEOD (EOD Level 4)	1	19	3
Medic	2	13	6
Risk Education/ Non-Technical Survey	1	9	0
Risk Education	1	11	4
Clearance Team Leader (EOD Level 3)	1	30	7
Risk Education Team Leader	1	7	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>57</b>

Besides the regular training conducted at the Training Centre, 34 UXO Lao staff from nine provincial offices, HQ and the Training Center completed four separate training courses on the use of Vallon, Ebinger, Mine Lab detectors as well as the new handheld and vehicle mounted radios. The objective of these training courses was to re-train UXO Lao staff on new equipment received through the Japanese Government.



In addition, UXO Lao had five students who graduated from the EOD level 4 – Senior EOD – training course run by the NRA with support from UXO Lao and other operators. This course generally runs every two or three years and provides the highest level of training possible for EOD operators in Lao PDR.

## Capacity building through the provision of Technical Advisors

UXO Lao is supported by a Chief Technical Advisor and a Technical Advisor (Specialist) for Programme and Finance.

### UNDP Chief Technical Advisor

The Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) works closely with the senior management of UXO Lao to support their work and their liaison with UNDP and the donor community. This has involved numerous field visits to UXO Lao operations to undertake observation and follow up visits. The CTA has supported UXO Lao and contributed to and attended workshops on subjects such as quality management, information management, survey processes and principles. During the course of the year, he has assisted the transition of UXO Lao from the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare to the Prime Minister's Office as well as supported the introduction of a new National Programme Director, Mr Thiphason Soukhathammavong. Part of this process was working with the new director to begin to understand the UNDP systems and processes as well as accompanying him on a fact-finding mission to Cambodia where he met the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) and was introduced to technologies which may have potential to benefit clearance in Laos. UXO Lao has also supported a number of high level visitors including the Australian Foreign Minister, the Governor-General of New Zealand and the High Level Round Table meeting. These field visits, although organised by UXO Lao, were additionally supported by the CTA.

### UNDP Technical Advisor for Programme and Finance

Support provided by the TA for Programme and Finance focused on the areas of Programme, Finance and Logistics in 2013. In 2013, the TA worked closely together with the Programme Unit to develop donor proposals, annual work plans and progress reports. The TA worked with the unit on a new improved reporting template for Quarterly Progress reports as well as the Annual Review Report template and has been further working with the unit to introduce an improved results-based planning and reporting approach to UXO Lao. This is an on-going activity. The TA supported the Finance Unit through coordinating the introduction of a new provincial financial management software and worked closely with the unit on reviewing and improving internal budget categories to improve the financial planning and reporting of UXO Lao operations. The TA has further started the process of reviewing UXO Lao internal Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and together with the relevant units updating its internal UXO Lao SOP to be aligned with the newly issued National Implementation Mechanism (NIM) SOP that were published in September 2013. The review thus far includes the areas HR, logistics, procurement, finance and admin. The update of UXO Lao's internal SOPs is expected to be completed by June 2014. Together with the procurement unit, the TA further worked with UXO Lao staff to introduce proper standardized procurement templates that follow Government guidelines as well as the newly introduced UNDP NIM (National implementation mechanism) guidelines. In Q4 of 2013, the TA worked closely with the Finance and Programme Units to introduce an improved results-based annual work plan and encourage provincial offices to review their needs and base the work plan on targets to be achieved in 2014. The improved 2014 UXO Lao annual work plan provides more results-oriented details as to what each unit plans to achieve and is intended to be used as a management tool to be able to monitor and review the progress of the organization against set targets.

### Update on gender mainstreaming

UXO Lao follows the Lao Government's policy on gender. Around 20% of UXO Lao staff are female. UXO Lao provides equality in the workplace and in its HR policies, encouraging female applicants at all levels.

UXO Lao employs female staff in management and in operations. UXO Lao has three all-female UXO clearance teams, and also employs women as medics, deminers, and CA personnel. In 2013, UXO Lao has further seen an increase in the number of its female staff in more senior field positions. Out of 30 graduates of the EOD 3 clearance team leader course organized in 2013, 7 were women. One female team leader in Attapeu province recently supervised the bomb cutting trial that was organized by JMAS.

In 2013, UXO Lao has also for the first time established a Gender Focal Point who also participated in the NRA organized Gender workshop this year. Data collected at Community Awareness Events are now disaggregated. More than 50% of recipients of CA sessions are female, 45% are children and 78% of village volunteers are female.

## UXO Lao Operation support to the Poverty Reduction.

UXO Lao operation is focus on supporting the Lao Government Poverty Reduction Plan. In 2013 UXO Lao is worked in 38 poor districts which were affected by UXO, to clear the land for poor families, to give them safe land to make agricultural productions to improve their lives. The two tables below are shown the UXO Lao operations for support Poverty Reduction Plan:

Province	All Districts	UXO Lao Districts	Poor Districts	UXO Lao in poor districts	Number. of tasks		Beneficiaries for all tasks	
					Clearance	Tech. survey	Clearance	Tech. survey
LuangPrabang	12	12	5	5	173	24	17,264	2,498
Houaphan	9	8	8	7	119	0	22,501	0
Xiengkhuang	8	5	5	4	218	3	65,672	2,568
Khammouane	9	4	5	4	209	30	35,810	179
Savannakhet	15	9	6	6	287	26	5,100	3,431
Saravane	8	7	3	3	198	6	19,635	54
Sekong	4	4	2	2	116	67	14,650	3,774
Champasack	10	10	4	4	166	6	28,336	1,502
Attapeu	5	5	3	3	244	65	10,064	22,306
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1,730</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>219,032</b>	<b>36,312</b>

Province	All Districts	UXO Lao Districts	Poor Districts	UXO Lao in poor districts	Number of households		Beneficiaries from households	
					Clearance	Tech. survey	Clearance	Tech. survey
Luang Prabang	12	12	5	5	148	15	1,812	209
Houaphan	9	8	8	7	108	0	9,364	0
Xiengkhuang	8	5	5	4	152	3	2,782	2,568
Khammouane	9	4	5	4	183	30	1,098	97
Savannakhet	15	9	6	6	272	24	2,841	219
Saravane	8	7	3	3	164	6	1,678	54
Sekong	4	4	2	2	92	57	2,873	1,603
Champasack	10	10	4	4	154	3	6,513	15
Attapeu	5	5	3	3	113	41	4,442	976
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1,386</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>33,403</b>	<b>5,741</b>



## MAJOR PROCUREMENT IN 2013

UXO Lao procured the following major equipment and vehicles in 2013. Items procured with funds managed by UNDP are procured for UXO Lao by UNDP following UNDP's rules and regulations. Items procured with funds provided direct to UXO Lao follow UXO Lao's procurement system which are approved by both UNDP and the Government of Lao PDR. Under the project for support UXO clearance in surrounding areas of the Main Roads in Lao PDR worth 900,000,000 Yen supported by the Government of Japan, numbers of vehicles and equipment were procured in 2013.

Major Item/Description	Number
Toyota L/C Hard Top	05
YAMAHA 250 CC	05
Vehicle Tyre	28
Ebinger UPEX740M Large loop detector	10
Vallon VMXC1 detector	45
Desktop computer	04
Laptop computer	06
Printer	04

### Vehicles and equipment supported by JICA (Japan):

ISUZU Truck	23
Nissan Navara	14
Nissan Patrol	60
YAMAHA AG 250 Motobikes	50
Detectors	406
Computers (Desktop & Laptop)	91

## UXO ACCIDENTS RECORDED BY UXO LAO IN 2013

UXO Lao received accident reports from our CA and Survey teams in the provinces it operates in. The table below is summary of reports received in 2013. It does not reflect the nationwide figures of UXO accidents.

Province	Number of Accident	Number of Victim			Injury				Death			
					Child		Adult		Child		Adult	
		Injury	Death	Total	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Luang Prabang	1	5	1	6	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Houaphan	2	6	1	7	2	2	1	1	0	1	0	0
Xiengkhuang	3	6	2	8	4	0	1	1	2	0	0	0
Khammouane	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Savannakhet	6	4	6	10	0	1	3	0	2	0	4	0
Saravane	3	2	2	4	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
Sekong	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Champasack	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Attapeu	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>



## UXO Lao Expenditure by Province Details in 2013 ( all amounts are in USD)

Description Category	NO	UNDP	TC	LP	HP	XK	KM	SVK	CH	SL	SK	ATP	TOTAL
Personnel Costs	323,063.47	517,939.23	44,894.26	412,992.56	381,334.28	698,602.99	425,996.73	732,073.44	393,823.92	551,224.14	418,929.78	398,477.10	5,299,351.90
Training, Workshop and Events Costs	21,302.51	440.00	122,469.16	12,860.01	8,074.62	9,966.03	8,945.71	8,028.41	6,766.62	7,517.08	8,915.64	9,556.00	224,841.79
Travel Costs	17,972.16	23,340.71	2,736.69	4,898.17	12,917.51	10,952.75	14,385.98	16,527.24	5,288.95	3,002.53	1,824.23	16,586.84	130,433.76
Office building and Installation Costs	8,298.23	00	11,634.69	37,685.11	13,619.89	25,690.47	3,967.19	19,571.55	4,239.34	7,634.83	10,503.65	12,219.43	155,064.38
Office Operating and Admin.Costs	48,286.49	335,461.28	10,302.27	23,445.21	17,587.72	32,038.17	15,476.17	31,085.53	11,581.39	24,654.38	20,169.42	16,281.83	586,379.86
Field Operating Costs	3,882.14	465.00	5,189.82	11,898.40	3,634.34	6,525.44	3,443.89	8,703.55	2,858.80	12,686.05	8,720.54	2,355.77	70,363.74
Vehicle Operating Costs	59,047.48	00	14,582.08	151,576.09	102,903.66	148,874.34	167,452.94	168,221.81	93,150.09	126,515.30	161,098.45	102,079.27	1,295,501.51
Field Equipment Costs	2,130.85	584,492.73	00	114.84	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	19,819.35	606,557.77
Office Equipment Costs	4,065.39	20,736.00	2,433.92	3,290.91	956.60	582.84	2,232.20	2,499.23	2,829.82	1,376.42	00	7,522.56	48,524.89
Consumables	00	29,786.59	740.02	28,923.09	5,802.32	15,685.12	15,302.12	21,321.43	12,467.53	9,216.16	5,500.21	10,525.35	155,269.94
Field Uiniforms and Medical Equipment	00	88,692.50	820.87	28,616.50	6,581.49	8,900.93	20,565.93	27,723.38	11,599.72	6,568.66	8,499.14	4,732.44	213,301.56
Community Awareness	323.67	16,515.57	00	568.72	358.38	271.06	5,609.84	5,104.40	5,104.40	136.22	77.60	139.57	34,207.23
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>488,372.39</b>	<b>1,617,869.61</b>	<b>215,803.78</b>	<b>716,869.61</b>	<b>553,768.81</b>	<b>958,090.14</b>	<b>683,378.50</b>	<b>1,040,859.97</b>	<b>549,709.58</b>	<b>750,541.77</b>	<b>644,238.66</b>	<b>600,295.51</b>	<b>8,819,955.33</b>

## 2013 Financial Expenditure by donors support (in USD)

2013 Interim Expenditure		Expenditure(USD)	
UNDP PROJECT UXO LAO	Trust Fund	Australia	1,700,827
		Ireland	249,740
		Luxembourg	388,170
		New Zealand	1,016,135
		Switzerland (SDC)	1,183,078
	<b>Total Trust Fund</b>		<b>4,537,950</b>
	Cost Sharing Agreements	Australia C/S	1,189,661
		Australia Rural Livelihood	510,758
		EU	224,849
	<b>Total Cost Sharing Agreements</b>		<b>1,925,268</b>
	Thematic Trust Fund	DFID	39,385
		Rep.of Korea	15,000
	<b>Total Thematic Trust Fund</b>		<b>54,385</b>
UNDP Resources	UNDP TRAC	418,357	
<b>Total UNDP Resources</b>		<b>418,357</b>	
<b>UNDP TOTAL:</b>		<b>6,935,959</b>	
BILATERAL FUNDS UXO LAO	Japan	91,567	
	JMAS	75,472	
	MAG	12,714	
	Poland	15,056	
	USA/ Sterling	1,442,829	
	Word Without Mines (WWM)	144,399	
	Other Funds	101,959	
	<b>TOTAL BILATERAL FUNDS</b>		<b>1,883,996</b>
<b>TOTAL UXO LAO EXPENDITURE 2013</b>		<b>8,819,955</b>	
<b>LAO GOVERNMENT ESTIMATED CONTRIBUTION IN 2013(amount in Kip):</b>			
For rent UXO Lao's offices ( in Vientiane and provinces): 1,234,000,000 Kip			
Import Tax Exception for vehicles supported by JICA: 31,472,472,000 Kip			



## Update on Donors and Partners

### Australia



In January 2013 the Australian Foreign Minister announced an additional AUD 5.4 million (approx. USD 5.5 million) in support of the ongoing Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) clearance, mine risk education and survivor assistance work in Laos. As part of the pledged AUD 5.4 Million, the Government of Australia and UNDP have thus far signed an agreement in 2013 in the amount of AUD 2.6 million to support the NRA and UXO Lao. During the course of 2013, UXO Lao, supported by the CTA, hosted a visit by the Australian Foreign Minister, Bob Carr.

The Government of Australia also announced in June 2013 that it is further increasing its support to UXO Lao with an additional AUD 1.8 million contribution under the Laos-Australian Rural Livelihood Program. The new funding enables UXO Lao to increase its survey, clearance and risk education capacity in six districts, including Phine and Sepone (Savannakhet), Sukhuma and Moonlapamok (Champasak), and Lao Ngarm and Saravane (Saravane), where poverty reduction activities are hindered by the presence of UXO.

### Canada



In October 2013, Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird announced that the Government of Canada will be providing more than CAD 1 million to support the UXO sector in Laos. The funds will be channelled through UNDP to UXO Lao and directly to the Mines Advisory Group (MAG). The funds will go towards clearance of UXO-contaminated land to make it available for economic and agricultural development as well as to assist the Government of Laos in meeting its obligations under the CCM. CAD 500,000 will be provided to UXO Lao for the period January – March 2014 for clearance and QM activities.

### DFID/ UK



In 2013, USD 39,447 were used to fund training courses at the UXO Lao Training Center. NRA has utilised 86,605 USD to support the overall NRA operations with focus on institutional capacity development.

### The European Union (EU)



In 2012, the European Union (EU) renewed its commitment to assist the UXO sector in Lao PDR, through its contribution to the UNDP to support UXO clearance and risk education operations in Attapeu province as well as the NRA's institutional capacity development. Through this, the EU provided a multi-year contribution of 1.3 million Euros, covering the period from October 2012 to August 2015.

### Ireland



In January 2013, the Government of Ireland confirmed its commitment to support the UXO Sector in Lao PDR through a multi-year contribution of •2 million (approx. 2.7 million USD) through to 2015. The contribution will further strengthen the capacity of the NRA and UXO Lao, the two national institutions tackling the deadly legacy of unexploded ordnance in Lao PDR. The funding will be channelled through the UXO Trust Fund, administered by UNDP.

### Luxembourg



In 2011, the Government of Luxembourg committed 750,000 Euros to the UXO Trust Fund in support of UXO Lao operations. The funds will be distributed over a 5-year period (2011 – 2015). These are vital resources to support the Government of Lao PDR in fulfilling its obligations under the Convention on Cluster Munitions that entered-into-force in August 2010.

### New Zealand



The Government of New Zealand has been funding UXO Lao Xieng Khouang operations since 2011 through the UNDP administered Trust Fund. In order to support the Lao Government to meet the obligations under the CCM, New Zealand had extended its support in 2012 with a three year contribution to UXO Lao for operations in Xiengkhuang province in the amount of USD 1,889,330. (2012-2014)

### Republic of Korea



The Republic of Korea provided USD 15,000 to UXO Lao operations in 2013. The funds were used for operations equipment.

## Switzerland

The Government of Switzerland extended its support to the UXO sector in Lao PDR with an additional contribution of USD 3.79 million for the period 2013-2015. The funds will go towards strengthening the capacity of the 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 UNDP. USD 3.16 million of the latest contribution is un-earmarked support for the day-to-day operations of NRA and UXO Lao, including the UXO sector coordination and regulatory work, clearance, surveys, risk education and training. The remainder of the funding will be allocated to Non-Governmental Organizations for developing UXO survey methodologies. The funds will be spread over the next two years until 2015

## Government of Japan

- As part of the UXO Lao-JICA project on “*Supporting the Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Clearance in Surrounding Areas of Main Roads in the Lao PDR*” for the amount of ¥900,000,000 UXO Lao, together with the supplier agencies in Laos, completed the process of gathering the necessary documents for the tax exemption and import of the equipment and vehicles under this project to Lao PDR. All equipment and vehicles were delivered to UXO Lao Training Centre and officially handed over to UXO Lao in October 2013.
- The Government of Japan supported UXO Lao operation in the provinces Saravane and Sekong with a total of USD 786,516 for the periods April 2012 – March 2013.

### JMAS (Japan Mine Action Service)

JMAS supported UXO Lao operations for the period August 2013 – July 2014 in the amount of USD 236,184. JMAS and UXO Lao are currently in discussion for JMAS to fund the construction of a new training centre for UXO Lao, including new equipment for the centre. This project is scheduled to take place in 2014.

In 2013, JMAS further conducted trials with UXO Lao on cutting bombs with an electric saw. The purpose of cutting bombs, according to JMAS, is that the method can be used mostly for bombs found close to residential areas, which allows a lower degree of risk to property damage and fewer evacuations. In the trial, a 250Lb bomb with a M904 nose fuse and a dummy tail fuse was used. The bomb was cut as planned by the JMAS TA and a UXO Lao SEOD. JMAS is expecting that the method will be a part of UXO Lao operations in the future when it comes to destroying bombs in Lao PDR. The introduction of the method will be on the agenda of discussions among UXO clearance operators within the coming months.

## Government of Poland

In 2013, the Government of Poland signed an agreement with UXO Lao to provide funding for operations equipment in the amount of USD 15,651. Polish Government has supported UXO Lao for procurement detectors and field equipment since 2007. The total contribution until 2013 worth 70,667 US\$.

## USA/ Sterling International

In 2013, the USA has provided USD 1,058,750 to UXO Lao for direct operational support for two provinces: Savannakhet and Champasack, with one TA being located in the QM unit. The US Government has supported UXO Lao since 1996 for capacity building as well as providing vehicles and field equipment. After 1999 the US Government has supported the operation to UXO Lao through Implementing Partners (MAG, NPA, Armor Group and Sterling International).

## World Without Mines(WWM)

In 2013, WWM provided USD 150,000 to UXO Lao. As part of the agreement, WWM conducts a short monitoring mission once a year. In September/October 2013, the UXO Lao QM Unit Chief accompanied representatives of World Without Mines on a field visit in Khammouane province to undertake a monitoring mission. This represents also a good opportunity for UXO Lao to work together with WWM to follow up on the development progress of WWM sponsored activities. The result of the assessment was satisfactory.

## Intrepid Travel Foundation

In September 2013, UXO Lao received additional bilateral funding from the Intrepid Travel Foundation in the amount of USD 4,618. These funds have been raised by Intrepid travellers, along with matching donations from Intrepid Travel to support UXO Lao activities especially on Risk Education. The funds are planned to be used in 2014 for CA awareness materials that are handed out to Lao villagers as part of the UXO Lao Mine-risk education (MRE) efforts.

## MAG (Mine Advisory Group)

In 2013, MAG provided USD 11,530 to UXO Lao for the Financial Management Training including funds to procure a financial management software for the nine provincial offices.

## Financial Management Update

UXO Lao has been working with the new financial software “*AccPac*” at the National Office since early 2012. While the overall financial management capacity at the UXO Lao National Office has improved with the use of this new software, the provincial offices were still entering their financial information on Excel sheets which were then sent to the National Office and entered manually into *AccPac* by the UXO Lao Finance Unit. The additional time required to manually enter the information sent by the provincial offices to the National Office was costly and created difficulties in the timely closing of accounts.

In June 2013, UXO Lao procured the accounting software “*PAS*”, which allows UXO Lao’s provincial offices and the Training Center to enter their financial information into the *PAS* software, which is linked to the National Office software *AccPac*. With the new software, the National Office is now able to easily review and approve financial information entered by the provincial offices and the Training Center, as the financial information can now be automatically uploaded into *AccPac*. A three-day training course, sponsored by MAG, was organized for all UXO Lao finance staff from 19 -21 June 2013, where the staff received hands-on training on the use of the new *PAS* software.

The Finance Unit in the National Office started the trial period immediately after the training took place and is regularly reviewing the test entries of the provincial finance staff and is providing further individual feedback and training via phone and email. According to the Chief of Finance, the individual training and support being provided via phone and email has been proven to be successful to date and no further group training is planned before the end of 2013. The Finance Unit will continue to review the progress and conduct further training if required in 2014.

## Quality Management Update

The overarching goal of Quality Management in UXO Lao is to ensure effectiveness, efficiency and safety of UXO Lao operations through strict enforcement of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). UXO Lao has a comprehensive set of SOPs which are in compliance with National Standards and donor requirements. Compliance checks against those SOPs are conducted by staff at different organizational levels (team level, provincial HQ and National HQ level) using standard inspection checklists. Follow-up on corrective or preventive action identified during compliance checks is monitored by the QM Unit with the help of provincial Quality Representatives.

The QM inspections that are directly implemented or commissioned by the QM Unit cover two main areas: 1) UXO Lao Field Operations, inspected by three mobile QM teams, each team covering three provinces, and 2) Operations Support Services, inspected by 10 Internal Audit teams, one team in each provincial office and one team at the National HQ. Inspection follow-up is supported by a network of 18 provincial Quality Representatives (QR), each province having one QR Operations and one QR Operations Support.

In 2013, the main outputs from Mobile QM Teams comprise of 562 assessments on area clearance, each of which takes about half a day for implementation (incl. travel time):

- QA of Area Clearance Operations (152 assessments)
- QA of UXO Disposal (117 assessments)
- QA of Accident Response Practices (105 assessments)
- QC of Cleared Land (160 assessments)
- Post Clearance Assessments done 6-12 months after clearance (28 assessments)

Post Clearance Assessments have shown that nearly all cleared land is in productive use and that land users feel safe using it. There were only two instances where land was not in use, due to lack of funding or labor. It has also been identified that despite land owners being briefed on the clearance limitations (e.g. 25 cm clearance depth), many carry out activities that involve digging beyond those limitations.

Further to the assessments on area clearance, the Mobile QM Teams also conducted the following inspections:

- QA of Non-Technical Survey, also called ‘General Survey’ (20 assessments)
- QA of Risk Education Activities (8 assessments)
- QA of Provincial External QC of Cleared Land (16 assessments)
- Inspection of Free-From-Explosives UXO, e.g. display or training UXO (984 items)
- Medical Theory Tests (520 tests)
- QC of Clearance and Roving completion reports (107 reports)
- Inspection of explosives stores and records

## Human Resources Update

UXO Lao is currently looking into opportunities to procure a HR database software for UXO Lao which will be part of the 2014 Annual Work Plan. UXO Lao is currently tracking all HR related matters on Excel sheets and hard copy documents, but there is not yet a formal HR software in place.

In 2013 UXO Lao filled three new positions at the National Office including the DNP Secretary, Deputy Chief of Programme Unit and the Chief of Technical Survey (TS). While the position of a Chief of Technical Survey has been part of the organizational structure plan for many years, this marks the first time that such a position is filled and emphasises UXO Lao's commitment to an effective survey process. The Chief of Technical Survey's role will be to coordinate UXO Lao's expanding importance in the processes of technical survey to support more effective clearance processes. The Chief of the Technical Survey Unit will manage all aspects of Technical Survey activities within UXO Lao. The main duties include ensuring effective application of TS procedures and efficient use of TS resources with an aim of increasing the overall operational effectiveness of UXO Lao. Duties also include continuous improvement of TS methodologies through information sharing with other organizations, conducting trials, etc.

In addition to these posts, 56 field staff were recruited and trained in Q4 of 2013 in order to form five new clearance teams and 3 new survey/Risk Education teams funded by the Government of Australia that will operate in the provinces Savannakhet, Champasack and Saravane.

## UXO Lao Staff distribution and composition ( as of 31 December, 2013 )

Area	Office	Office (F)	SEOD	Deminer	Deminer (F)	TS Survey	CA	CA (F)	Medic	Medic (F)	Driver	Cleaner	Guard	Total (F)	Total Pers.	
NO	38	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	1	14	44	
TC	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	9	
HP	9	3	3	51	11	5	5	6	2	6	4	11	2	22	100	
LP	11	4	3	57	5	4	4	4	1	7	1	11	1	3	12	
XK	10	2	1	100	11	3	8	6	2	16	5	21	3	4	23	
KHM	9	3	2	59	7	4	5	5	1	10	4	6	5	6	20	
SVK	9	2	4	112	29	4	7	9	2	20	17	19	5	7	55	
CH	10	3	2/1w	45	15	4	3	5	1	8	3	11	0	5	22	
SL	10	1	2	98	17	4	4	6	2	11	4	11	2	4	26	
SK	9	2	2	53	11	3	5	6	2	8	1	10	4	2	20	
AT	10	1	2	51	17	4	5	5	2	8	6	9	6	4	32	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>22/1w</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>1,195</b>

## CMAC-UXO Lao Workshop (South-South Cooperation ) organized through the support of JICA

In 2012, JICA, in cooperation with the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) and UXO Lao initiated the Laos-Cambodia South-South Cooperation on UXO/Mine Action Sector with the aim of sharing knowledge and exchanging experience in the sector and eventually contributing for Lao PDR to accelerate its efforts to combat UXO problem. UXO Lao's aim is to learn from this survey and assess in what way certain practices could be applied at UXO Lao. This project is fully funded by JICA and proves to be a successful initiative in regards to the institutional capacity building of UXO Lao.

Under this initiative, there are six planned workshops taking place in Lao PDR and Cambodia respectively, out of which four have had already taken place to date:

**Workshop 1:** Demining Tools, Methodology and Technology / Survey  
Place: Cambodia. Duration: 2 weeks. Year: 2012

**Workshop 2:** Training  
Place: Cambodia. Duration: 1 week. Year: 2012

**Workshop 3:** National Standards / SOP  
Place: Lao PDR. Duration: 3 days. Year: June, 2013

**Workshop 4:** Mine Risk Education(MRE) and Victim Assistance/Information System and Data management  
Place: Cambodia. Duration: 1 week. Year: 2013

**Workshop 5:** Senior Management and Middle Management / Linking mine Action and Development  
Place: Lao PDR. Duration: 3 days. Year: June, 2014

**Workshop 6:** Feedback and Action Plan  
Place: Cambodia Year: 2014 ( second week of December)



## **Challenges and Issues**

- **SUPPORT TO CONVENTION:**

The signing of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) raised expectations that additional longer term funding would become available, allowing UXO Lao to increase its clearance capacity. This has only partially occurred yet. UXO Lao was able to increase its clearance staff by 56 people in 2013 and was able to secure funding for these additional teams until the end of 2015. Increases in clearance capacity are essential for Laos to meet its CCM targets and UXO Lao has prepared plans accordingly; however long term secure funding is needed for these plans to be implemented.

- **CASH FLOW AND DONOR REPORTING:**

Financial management is carried out properly as per the rules and regulations of NIM. However, single year funding agreements result in difficulties for long-term planning and inappropriate amounts of time are devoted to proposal development, drafting of reports and agreement management. Multi-year, un-earmarked funds assist the programme to ensure proper financial planning.

- **INTERNAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS:**

UXO Lao currently only has a Financial Management System, but is still lacking proper software systems such as a HR database and an asset management system. In 2013, UXO Lao received a large amount of equipment from the Government of Japan, which further confirmed the need for an improved asset management system in order to properly manage such large amounts of assets and also link them to UXO Lao's internal financial management system. UXO Lao plans to conduct a thorough assessment of its internal information management system and introduce a new asset management and HR database by mid-2014. UXO Lao further continues to work on improving the use of IMSMA at the provincial and national Level and plans to migrate IMSMA data from the old IMSMA version currently used to the updated IMSMA version in 2014.

- **ENSURING SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR UXO LAO AND THE NRA**

With the signing of the new project document in 2013, UXO Lao, the NRA and UNDP agreed on their respective outputs to be achieved for the period 2013-2015 with a total budget of USD 26.68 million. Out of this multi-year budget, 64% has been mobilized so far and further support will be needed in order to be able to fully fund their operations for this period.

Furthermore, in 2014, UNDP is planning to conduct a full capacity assessment of both UXO Lao and the NRA in order to assess what capacities have successfully been achieved thus far, and to determine what areas might need further support. Based on the outcome of the assessment, further funding might be required in order to fill possible gaps in human resources and/or equipment for example.



## 2014 Work Plan Priorities

### A.) 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 2014?

- In 2014, UXO Lao plans to further update its internal information management systems through introducing a HR database and an asset management system among others.
- Pending ongoing discussions with the NRA and the UXO sector, it remains to be seen in what capacity, and in what form, technical survey will further be used.
- The work planning process continues to be revised and streamlined and will draw from lessons learned during the 2013 work planning process. The 2014 work plan focuses more on developmental activities in accordance with the national strategy to support the 7<sup>th</sup> NSEDP.
- UXO Lao is further looking forward to collaborating with the Laos-Australia Rural Livelihood Program (LARLP) to potentially undertake an assessment of M&E in UXO Lao and find ways to better track the impact and outcomes of UXO clearance on the livelihoods of people and poverty reduction.
- During 2014, UXO Lao will work in 64 districts in nine provinces including 37 of the poorest districts; undertake 679 Community Awareness visits, conducted by both CA teams and village volunteers. UXO Lao will also undertake 1,789 General Survey tasks and expects to complete 1,537 Roving tasks. Following on our previous survey and planning work, UXO Lao expects to release 3,490 Ha of land through clearance and technical survey to support development and poverty reduction in Laos.

### B.) List major adjustments in the strategies, targets or key outcomes and outputs planned.

The new project document signed in 2013 outlined the strategy, targets, outcomes and outputs planned for the next three years. To date, there has been no revision of this strategy. UXO Lao follows the targets it set in the project document.

### C.) Estimated total budget required for the following year (2014): **USD 9.4 million**

The total budget includes USD 4.7 million channeled through UNDP Donor Agreements, USD 2.2 million funded through Bilateral Agreements between Lao PDR and donors directly and around USD 2.4 million unfunded. See Annual Work Plan 2014 for further details.



## **Lao PDR is the most cluster munitions and UXO affected nation with over two million tons of explosive ordnance dropped over the country.**

Lao PDR is the most cluster munitions and UXO affected nation in the world. Over two million tons of explosive ordnance were dropped over the country with more than half a million US bombing missions carried out over Laos between 1964 to 1973. This includes more than 270 million anti-personnel sub-munitions (known as “bombies” in Lao) released from cluster bombs.

Significant land battles, including those during the war for independence during the French colonial era, the Second World War, and between the Pathet Lao and the Royal Lao forces, have also contributed vast quantities of unexploded heavy bombs, rockets, grenades, artillery munitions, mortars, anti-personnel landmines and improvised explosive devices.

It is estimated that up to 30% of all ordnance malfunctioned and remain in the ground as unexploded ordnance (UXO). Such UXO continue to maim and kill people and hinders the country’s socio-economic development and food security. It is estimated that over 87,000 square kilometres of the country are UXO contaminated. A countrywide survey on the socio-economic impact of UXO in 1996/1997 found significant UXO contamination in 15 provinces, with 25% of all villages in the country reporting UXO.

The National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSED) of the Government of Lao PDR (GoL) identifies the correlation between the presence of UXO and the prevalence of poverty. Poor districts are most often the ones impacted by the presence of UXO. The UXO problem is a cross-cutting issue that needs to be addressed to achieve the GoL’s Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as well as leaving behind the least developed nation status by 2020.

The 1996/97 socio-economic impact of UXO survey states that UXO added “an unknown factor into all of the villages future plans and limits these to only the most essential and important activities.” As UXO may be found everywhere (village centres, lowland and upland rice fields, and forest areas), UXO clearance is necessary for improved and equitable access to land, markets, and socio-economic services. This leads to the enhancement of the livelihoods of poor, vulnerable, and food insecure populations through sustainable development within the MDGs and NSED framework.



## **UXO IMPACT IN THE PROVINCES**

### **SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE**

The three eastern districts of Savannakhet were extensively bombed due to the presence of the Ho Chi Minh Trail. The Trail crossed the province at Vilabuly district in the north, through Sepone in the east, and south in Nong. The Trail then continued south through Ta Oi district in Saravane Province. The role of the Pathet Lao (PL) was to protect the eastern zones, allowing the free flow of traffic along the trail area. The US planned to cut off the Ho Chi Minh trail and launched major offensives after retaking Sepone and moving the population west. One of these battles, Lam Seun 719, was intended by the US and Royal Lao Army (RLA) to change the course of the war. However, despite the deployment of 60,000 South Vietnamese troops, the US effort was defeated. Following this defeat, aerial bombing became more intense.

In the centre of the province, the districts of Phine and Atsaphangthong experienced battles as the front-line moved continuously back and forth from the Sepone border in the east to the Outhoomphone border in the west.

The other four districts of Atsaphangthong, Champhone, Xonbuly, and Thapangthong experienced similar activities during the war. These areas were more firmly under the control of the RLA but with some small incursions from the PL forces. During the early 1970’s, occasional ground battles were fought in this area with tactical air support from the Royalist troops and the US.

Of the 1,041 villages surveyed, more than 625 reported the presence of UXO, making up more than one-third of the villages in the province. In addition, 190 villages are deemed severely contaminated, and 194 are considered highly contaminated, representing more than one quarter of all the heavily affected villages in Lao. From the total number of villages in Savannakhet, 47% are still reporting contamination by UXO. A total of 730 villages were subjected to bombing strikes during the war, of which three quarters are still affected.

Savannakhet has had 2,681 accidents since 1973 to 1996, making it the province with the highest number of victims in the country.

**Savannakhet ranks 1<sup>st</sup> out of the nine provinces severely impacted by UXO.**

### **XIENGKHUANG PROVINCE**

Xiengkhuang was always considered a strategically important geographic area. Fighting has occurred in the area since the Japanese occupation during the Second World War, continuing after the French return, and on into the period when the US replaced the French in supporting the Royalist Government, and the beginning of the Second Indo-China war. Unlike other UXO affected provinces, it appears that the war in Xiengkhuang involved nearly the whole territory of the province. Intense air and ground battles occurred regularly between the Pathet Lao and their Vietnamese allies with the force allies with the Royal Lao Government.

The Plain of Jars (PoJ) is a central plateau area overlooked by mountains and hills. Control of this was essential for the control of the province and the northern military theatre. Many of the wartime military activities concentrated around this area, as opposing forces battled for control of the plain itself, the surrounding mountains, and transit routes.



Pathet Lao (PL) and People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) troops used National Route 7. The Route crossed from near the Vietnamese border in the east, to the Luangprabang border in the west, and National Route 6 travelling south from Huaphanh and connecting with Route 7 on the north-eastern part of the Plain of Jars. There were also minor transit routes criss-crossing the province that were also targets for aerial bombardment. Military camps, airbases, and Lima sites were often located on mountains and hills in positions that gave them the ability to control the surrounding areas. The great majority of villages reported moderate to severe intensity of military activities near their villages during the war.

Of the 498 villages surveyed in 1996 and 1997, two-thirds of the villages reported the presence of UXO. Of these, 129 villages are severely contaminated, with only 76 villages reporting never having had a problem with UXO. The most common type of UXO reported in the provinces are anti-personnel BLUs, followed by mortars and projectiles. Only Pek and Morkmay districts did not report the presence of mines, while nearly half of all the villages in the district of Phookood reporting them. Unlike other affected provinces, Xiengkhuang has UXO in many locations and not just limited to a few areas around the villages. These include village centres, grazing lands, and lowland rice fields. In addition, significant numbers of villages report contamination of upland fields.

**Xiengkhuang ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> among the nine provinces severely impacted by UXO.**

#### SARAVANE PROVINCE

Saravane province was closed by the Ho Chi Minh Trail area. It was also affected by other major southern military campaigns of the Bolovens Plateau in 1974. The eastern districts of the province are very mountainous and difficult to travel but were the site of intense military traffic and were the target of constant bombing.

The affects of war were concentrated around the provincial road system, Important population centres, and in the area of the former Ho Chi Minh Trail. Over one-half of the villages surveyed in the 1996 UXO impact survey in the province reported the presence of UXO. UXO found are mainly bomblets, big bombs, and mortars. Villages report UXO in their lowland rice fields, Village centres, and forest areas.

**Saravane ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> out of the nine provinces severely impacted by UXO.**

#### KHAMMUANE PROVINCE

The eastern part of Khammuane province was a typical Ho Chi Minh trail area, with Mu Gia pass in Bualapha being the main entry point of Vietnamese trucks into Lao PDR. At the beginning of the war and up to the end of the 1960's, trucks were taking National Route 12 for a few kilometres, then crossing the Seybanfay river and going directly south to Savannakhet province. This route was a major supply route and played a major role during the conflict. It experienced very heavy bombing especially along its eastern end.

Of the 705 villages surveyed during the 1996 impact survey, nearly all reported UXO in all locations of the village territory, rice fields, and forest areas. Most of the UXO reported were bomblets, large bombs, mortars, and projectiles.

**Khammuane ranks 4<sup>th</sup> out of the nine provinces severely impacted by the presence of UXO.**

#### SEKONG PROVINCE

Sekong was considered strategically important due to the location of a section of the Ho Chi Minh trail in the eastern part of the province. Most Vietnamese trucks travelled through the mountainous and difficult to access districts of Kaleum and Dakcheung in the east.

Of the 324 villages surveyed in the 1996 UXO impact survey, nearly two thirds reported contamination by UXO. Most common UXO reported are bomblets and big bombs, with significant number of mortars and projectiles. UXO is reported in all locations around the villages and in upland rice fields.

**Sekong ranks 5<sup>th</sup> out of the nine provinces severely impacted by the presence of UXO.**

#### CHAMPASACK PROVINCE

During the war, most of Champasack was under the control of the Royal Lao Army (RLA), with Pathet Lao (PL) forces located mainly in some eastern areas. The US and Thai military presence was also very high, with numerous large air bases and military camps situated around the province. Aerial bombing raids from such bases were carried out over the Ho Chi Minh Trail area and in support of Royalist troops and bases on the Bolovens Plateau, a strategically important area as it overlooked the south-eastern Trail area.

In 1971, there were large battles for the central area of Pakxong, concentrating around the roads going to Bachiang District in the west, Lao Ngan north in Saravane, and north-east into Thateng district in Sekong. Airstrikes were concentrated in these areas. In addition, while Lao PDR remained neutral during the Cambodian conflict in the late 1970's and 1980's, Khmer Rouge troops entered Lao PDR and laid mines along some of its south-western borders. Landmines are still reported in the forested areas near the Cambodian and Thai borders.

Nearly one-quarter of the 894 villages surveyed during the 1996 UXO impact survey reported contamination by UXO. The province reported high numbers of big bombs, mortars, and bomblets. UXO is mainly found in forested areas, centres of villages, and rice fields.

**Champasack ranks 6<sup>th</sup> out of the nine provinces severely impacted by the presence of UXO.**

#### HUAPHANH PROVINCE

Huaphanh and Phongsaly provinces were recognised Pathet Lao strongholds since the 1950's. Due to the proximity of Vietnam and the presence of the Pathet Lao headquarters in Viengxay district, Huaphanh was a strategically important area and had many major military activities. The area around National Route 6 experience intense aerial bombing and ground offensives as well as National Route 1.

The district of Huameuang was also important as the site of the Royal Lao Government's alternative centre for the duration of the war, as well as the site of a major RLA military camp. Viengthong district was the site of an important RLA-US military base and other smaller bases built by the CIA and were subjected to intense and ongoing air and ground offensives. The districts of Xamneua, Viengthong, and Huameuang were also subjected to intense bombings by the US.



Huaphanh is a highly affected province with 149 villages reporting the presence of UXO. The war in the province was limited to specific areas which now show relatively high levels of UXO contamination. Bomblets and large bombs are the main type of UXO reported, with some mortars and projectiles. UXO are reported mainly in the forests.

**Huaphanh ranks 7<sup>th</sup> of the nine provinces severely impacted by the presence of UXO.**

#### ATTAPEU PROVINCE

During the war, Attapeu province was mostly under the control of the Royal Lao Army (RLA), with the exception of some mountainous eastern area. The RLA was based in and around the provincial capital and had many military camps stationed there. Fighting focused on military bases located on the mountains of the Phu Louang on the eastern slopes of the Bolovens Plateau.

Nearly three quarters of villages surveyed in the 1996 UXO impact survey reported that they experienced moderate to very high intensity of wartime activities. 57% of these villages reported the presence of UXO. Bomblets are the most common type of UXO reported, followed by big bombs. UXO is found in all locations - centres of villages, lowland and upland rice fields, and forested areas.

**Attapeu ranks 8<sup>th</sup> out of the nine provinces severely impacted by the presence of UXO.**

#### LUANGPRABANG PROVINCE

During the conflict, Luangprabang was strategically and symbolically important. First, it was one of the old royal capitals and the seat of the former royal family. Second, it was an important strategic stronghold for Royalist forces.

The Pathet Lao (PL) and the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) were stationed in Phongsaly province. During attempts to liberate the provincial capital, they continually pushed south through the north of Luangprabang. The two forces also moved west through Xiengkhuang province along National Route 7 to the intersection of Route 7 and National Route 13 at Sala Phoukhone

Luangprabang has had 925 people killed or injured due to UXO since the war, ranking it 4<sup>th</sup> in the country. The province had very high casualties immediately after the war with accident numbers dropping over the years, unlike neighbouring Xiengkhuang or Huaphanh. Accidents commonly occur in upland rice fields and village centres and are primarily caused by handling UXO and working in the fields.

The number of accidents involving AP bomblets is lower than the national trend. Accidents involving mines and grenades are higher. This is probably due to the nature of the ground battles in the area around Nambak district, where the majority of the accidents have occurred.

The most affected areas are Nambak, Ngoi, Pak Ou, Luangprabang, and Phoukhone districts.

**Luangprabang ranks 9<sup>th</sup> of the nine provinces severely impacted by the presence of UXO.**

#### DONOR'S VISIT



Norwegian Ambassador H.E. Mr. Steffen KONGSTAD visited UXO Lao Field Operation in Xiengkhuang province on 25 January, 2013..



Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Bob Carr visited UXO Lao Field Operation in LuangPrabang province in February, 2013.



H.E. Lieutenant General Sir Jerry Matepaea, Governor-General of New Zealand visited UXO Lao Field Operation in Xiengkhuang province on 13 August, 2013.



The Delegates to the 11th High Level Round Table Meeting visited UXO Lao Field Operation in LuangPrabang province on 21 November, 2013.

## DONORS AND IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



Lao PDR

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