



2009 Annual Report

Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme

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Father and son activity. Scrap metal collection along the Ho Chi Minh trail in Khammuane province.

Photo by Edwin Faigmane - UNDP/UXO Lao





Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

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Bombing impact map	Inside back cover



*Above: Submunitions lying on the forest floor
Opposite page: a female deminer at work.*

Cluster Munitions

“Cluster munition/s” means a conventional munition that is designed to disperse or release explosive submunitions each weighing less than 20 kilograms.

“Submunition/s” is defined as a conventional munition that in order to perform its task is dispersed or released by a cluster munition and is designed to function by detonating an explosive charge prior to, on or after impact.

Submunitions are known throughout Lao PDR as “bombies.”

More than 270 million bombies were dropped onto Lao PDR.

Up to 30% failed to detonate.

Approximately 80 million unexploded bombies remained in Lao PDR after the war.

Over the last decade, accidents caused by cluster bombs rose to **30%** of total casualties.



2009 AT A GLANCE

OPERATIONS

Community Awareness activities:	617 UXO risk awareness activities. 98% of the work plan target.
General Survey tasks:	1,828 survey tasks in 1,135 villages. 139% of the work plan target.
Roving tasks:	1,320 roving tasks in 876 villages. 96% of the 2009 work plan target.
Area clearance operations:	2,552.3456 hectares of land cleared. 100% of the work plan target.
Technical Survey tasks:	released 387.3519 hectares of land. 95% of the work plan target.
Support to development agencies:	316.3752 hectares of land for ten different development agencies

FINANCIALS

Budget:	US\$6,859,494
Contributions received:	US\$5,489,819
Expenditure:	US\$6,709,518

RESOURCES

National personnel:	1,039 personnel, including 993 (96%) in provincial operations and offices
Number of female personnel:	166 (16%) female personnel, including 117 in operations.
International advisors:	08 personnel
Number of detectors:	1,017 functioning detectors, including 132 Ebinger421GC and 480 Vallon VMXC1 detectors.
Number of vehicles:	179 four-wheel vehicles and 111 motorcycles



Community Awareness



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



Area and Roving Clearance



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



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



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.

Messages

UXO Lao National Program Director

Constant improvement is a phrase that UXO Lao has taken into heart. Following the recommendations of the UXO Sector Evaluation in 2008, we established three roving quality assurance and quality control teams that will work to ensure that all land cleared by UXO Lao meets the requirements stated in the national standards. When these teams are fully functional and trained, this will support the reduction of conventional EOD technical assistance and the shift towards a systematic and holistic operations monitoring approach.

Typhoon Ketsana wreaked havoc in our southern operations when it struck. It is a source of pride to us that while we were able to support immediate relief operations of the Lao Government by deploying our personnel, vehicles, and communications equipment, we still met our clearance targets. We were also able to quickly deploy our community awareness teams and volunteers to educate the people in the flooded areas about the potential risk of UXO carried by the flood waters.

Technical survey is gaining widespread acceptance as we are able to show the people and local authorities its effectiveness. I believe that this initiative of ours will be very useful in the future after we have cleared highly UXO contaminated areas and moved to less contaminated ones.

We were able to clear more land for development agencies in 2009, bringing more socio-economic benefits to people living in UXO impacted areas. While we are doing it at no cost to such agencies, it would be nice if they could help us offset the costs of clearance in the light of our funding needs.

Our resource mobilization efforts did not yield as much as we expected, but we appreciate the efforts and commitments of our donors, who despite being affected by the global financial crisis, were still able to support us.

Our accomplishments in 2009 underscore the collective strength and drive of more than 1,000 UXO Lao staff members and technical advisors who are stationed around the country. We benefit from their commitment, expertise, and positive approach to constant improvement on a daily basis. When the Lao Government established UXO Lao in 1996, it gave the organization a very challenging mandate. This mandate is still very much alive and relevant today and continues to guide us now and in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Lao Government, the United Nations, and the international donor community for keeping the trust and continually supporting UXO Lao.

Bounpone Sayasenh

UNDP Senior Technical Advisor to UXO Lao

2009 saw UXO Lao consolidate and stabilize its improved performance in area clearance and in land covered by Technical Survey where we improved the output by one percent. However, these results were impacted in the 5 southern provinces by Typhoon Ketsana that completely destroyed some of our field camps in Attapue, Sekong, and Saravane while totally submerging the Provincial Office in Attapue town. This however had a positive outcome in that it gave UXO Lao the opportunity to demonstrate its ability to react and assist in an emergency. UXO Lao teams assisted the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare in Sekong and Attapue provinces to deliver much needed emergency supplies, provide communication, and evacuate victims in the immediate aftermath. Then in the recovery process, UXO Lao staff realigned the work plan to support the recovery effort by supplying roving teams to clear exposed UXO and check areas before recovery efforts could take place. In spite of this set back, UXO Lao achieved its targets which should be commended.

2009 also saw the final formation of the Quality Management Teams in the North, Centre, and South and the arrival of two Swiss TA's to support the existing US ArmourGroup TA in carrying out the capacity building necessary to see a successful implementation of the project over the next 18 to 24 months.

It is once again gives me great pleasure to introduce this annual report as the results are good and demonstrate sustained improvement over past years that did not see the problems caused by Mother Nature.

2010 will be a busy year, with UXO Lao reaching a number of milestones, including destroying its 1 millionth UXO item and its 500,000th bombie as well as taking centre stage during the work up to and during the First Meeting of States Parties to the Oslo Convention.

John Dingley



ACCOMPLISHMENTS in 2009

COMMUNITY AWARENESS (CA) ACTIVITIES: conducted 617 UXO risk awareness activities in different villages reaching 158,148 people, including 76,818 children.

Achieved 98% of the 2009 work plan target of 631 activities.

GENERAL SURVEY TASKS: conducted 1,828 survey tasks in 1,135 villages recording the location of 11,013 different UXO items, including 250 big bombs and 5,053 cluster munitions.

Exceeded by 39% the 2009 work plan target of 1,316 survey tasks.

ROVING TASKS: conducted 1,320 roving tasks in 876 villages, removing or destroying 26,044 different UXO items reported by villagers or CA/survey team members, including 271 big bombs and 12,511 cluster munitions.

Achieved 96% of the 2009 work plan target of 1,372 roving tasks.

AREA CLEARANCE OPERATIONS: using UXO detectors, cleared 28,933 different UXO items from 2,552.3456 hectares of land, including 35 big bombs and 16,235 cluster munitions. Reached 131,301 beneficiaries. Agricultural land was cleared to the national standard depth of 25 centimetres.

Cleared 316.3752 hectares of land for ten different development agencies in support of their various socio-economic development projects. Development agencies utilized only 83% of UXO Lao's clearance commitment at the beginning of the year.

Achieved just over 100% of the 2009 work plan target of 2,543.6281 hectares of land despite extreme weather events.

TECHNICAL SURVEY TASKS: released 387.3519 hectares of land through technical survey. Reached 234,544 beneficiaries. Removed or destroyed 177 different UXO items, including 16 cluster munitions.

Achieved 95% of the 2009 work plan target of 405.6507 hectares of land.

*Photo above: a female deminer at work in Xiengkhuang province.
Photo by Edwin Faigmane, UNDP/UXO Lao*

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	73	11,028	30,816	121	82	112	71
Huaphanh	65	10,273	20,066	182	100	133	82
Xiengkhuang	93	6,916	11,737	226	170	211	155
Khammuane	69	11,387	21,210	129	99	130	72
Savannakhet	64	6,812	15,464	219	149	120	104
Saravane	64	6,259	19,566	155	143	225	163
Sekong	71	5,708	10,050	116	77	57	42
Champasack	60	10,223	16,374	555	231	232	117
Attapeu	58	8,212	12,865	125	84	100	70
TOTAL	617	76,818	158,148	1,828	1,135	1,320	876

*includes community awareness volunteer activities

Province	AREA CLEARANCE OPERATIONS				TECHNICAL SURVEY TASKS			
	Farm Land	Other Land	Total Area (Ha)	Beneficiaries	Farm Land	Other Land	Total Area (Ha)	Beneficiaries
Luangprabang	215.1703	6.5187	221.6890	4,792	49.0242	3.7786	52.8028	10,481
Huaphanh	216.8356	5.0010	221.8366	19,083	33.3397	10.2693	43.6090	2,327
Xiengkhuang	451.2919	53.3968	504.6887	13,326	44.2035	0.6735	44.8770	16
Khammuane	190.3580	24.8272	215.1852	12,513	48.3556	3.9974	52.3530	1,041
Savannakhet	336.6874	11.8350	348.5224	4,509	44.5738	0.000	44.5738	130
Saravane	286.1398	45.0032	331.1430	20,406	30.4185	11.24	41.6585	11,368
Sekong	175.9270	36.3295	212.2565	8,495	26.9964	1.7291	28.7255	4,025
Champasack	245.6173	4.5761	250.1934	4,783	12.1473	34.1155	46.2628	196,295
Attapeu	221.9666	24.8642	246.8308	43,394	29.4801	3.0094	32.4895	8,861
TOTAL	2,339.9939	212.3517	2,552.3456	131,301	318.5391	68.8128	387.3519	234,544

UXO LAO OPERATIONS

Unexploded Ordnance Items Found, Removed, or Destroyed

Province	General Survey Tasks*					Roving Tasks				
	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	TOTAL	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	TOTAL
Luangprabang	3	148	2	463	616	7	405	25	1,675	2,112
Huaphanh	19	408	4	1192	1,623	22	473	4	1,347	1,846
Xiengkhuang	31	1684	2	671	2,388	29	2,366	4	817	3,216
Khammuane	55	983	0	984	2,022	60	4,086	0	1,984	6,130
Savannakhet	50	453	26	337	866	44	969	13	1,018	2,044
Saravane	41	296	1	150	488	60	1,833	6	2,759	4,658
Sekong	37	536	6	1133	1,712	31	1,589	0	2,051	3,671
Champasack	4	182	1	634	821	5	323	5	1,412	1,745
Attapeu	10	363	2	102	477	13	467	2	140	622
TOTAL	250	5,053	44	5,666	11,013	271	12,511	59	13,203	26,044

* 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	0	1,730	2	1,218	2,950	0	2	0	0	2
Huaphanh	14	862	2	295	1,173	0	0	0	0	0
Xiengkhuang	2	5,352	15	1,427	6,796	0	0	0	3	3
Khammuane	17	2,699	0	2,083	4,799	0	0	0	40	40
Savannakhet	0	579	4	1,982	2,565	5	0	0	0	5
Saravane	1	855	2	1,733	2,591	0	1	0	62	63
Sekong	0	1,767	0	1,998	3,765	0	13	0	0	13
Champasack	1	661	7	1,105	1,774	0	0	0	51	51
Attapeu	0	1,730	1	789	2,520	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	35	16,235	33	12,630	28,933	5	16	0	156	177

UXO Clearance and Development

SUPPORT TO DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

UXO clearance activities contribute not only to saving lives but also to increasing the socio-economic opportunities for some of the poorest districts. Regression analysis in the Lao PDR Poverty Assessment Report (2003) confirms that both the initial level of UXO contamination as well as the progress in UXO clearance accounts for changes in poverty from 1997/8 to 2002/3.

With the degree of UXO contamination in the country, any kind of development program taking place in UXO affected areas (road building, school construction, or tourism development) are at risk from UXO and require substantial extra resources for UXO clearance.

While UXO Lao clears land for development agency projects at no cost to such organisations, development agencies are encouraged to provide financial contributions to help offset UXO Lao costs.

Development agency	Project type	Area Cleared (Ha)	Province
Action Contre La Faim (ACF)	Aqueduct construction	0.1872	XKH
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	Demonstration garden, new rice fields, farmland	140.1786	AT
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	School construction	23.5433	SV, SK
Lao Government Rural Development	New villages	5.8918	XK
Lao Government's Poverty Reduction Fund (PRF)	School and road construction, tree plantations	45.9655	CH, SV, XK
Local village funds	Village expansion	6.8216	SV
Oxfam	School construction	1.7695	SV
UNDP	School construction	0.3496	HP
UNICEF	School construction	0.8387	LP
World Food Program (WFP)	Road, farmland, agricultural expansion	89.9291	SV, AT, HP, LP
World Vision	Health care centre	0.9003	LP
	TOTAL	316.3752	

TRAINING and TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

TRAINING

UXO Lao conducted eight courses for 164 trainees at the UXO Lao Training Centre in Ban Ilay, Vientiane. The organization has a core team of national staff as instructors with outside experts invited on occasion for special topics.

1. UXO Clearance course x 3 – 94 graduates
2. Medic refresher course x 1 – 6 trainees
3. SEOD refresher course x1 course – 5 trainees
4. Magnetometer and datalogger course x1 – 32 trainees
5. Computer training for DPC and Ops Assistance x 1 – 18 trainees

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

UXO Lao personnel benefit from the support provided by international technical advisors. In 2009, focus on technical assistance shifted from field operations (EOD) to the field of quality management. This is aimed at reducing the number of field technical advisors over the next 18 to 24 months. At the end of 2009, there are nine technical advisors supporting UXO Lao.

Headquarters technical advisors:

1. UNDP Senior Technical Advisor
2. UNDP Program Technical Advisor
3. UNDP Finance Technical Advisor
4. ArmorGroup Quality Management Technical Advisor

Field technical advisors

5. Swiss Ministry of Defense/UNDP Roving Quality Management Technical Advisor x 2 persons
6. ArmorGroup Quality Management Technical Advisor
7. Japan Mine Action Service EOD Technical Advisor x 2 persons

PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES

UXO Lao procured the following major equipment and vehicles in 2009. 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 Lao Government.

Major Item/Description	Count
Ford Ranger pick up	1
Toyota L/C Hard Top	3
Motorcycle Yamaha AG200	22
Ebinger UPEX740M Large loop	2
Vallon VMXC1 detector	127
Ebinger Magnex 120 (3 probe)	2
Desktop computer	11
Laptop computer	12
VHF Radio units	85

Detailed Procurement Activities

Donor	Equipment Type	Count	Donor	Equipment Type	Count
UXO Detectors			Brush cutters		
Ireland through MAG	Ebinger Upex 740M	1	Ireland through MAG	Yanma BC	2
World Without Mines	Ebinger Upex 740M	1	Japan - JAIF	Yanma BC	1
Japan - GGP Fund	Ebinger Magnex120	2	World Without Mines	Yanma BC	2
CARE Australia	Vallon VMXC1	2	USA through ArmorGroup	Yanma BC	5
Ireland through MAG	Vallon VMXC1	20	Total Bush Cutter		5
Japan - JAIF	Vallon VMXC1	20	Printer		
Poland	Vallon VMXC1	5	Ireland	HP Deskjet Printer	1
World Without Mines	Vallon VMXC1	4	Ireland	HP Deskjet Printer	1
UK	Vallon VMXC1	60	UNDP	HP Deskjet Printer	1
USA through ArmorGroup	Vallon VMXC1	16	USA through NPA	Canon Printer	2
Total Detectors		131	Total Printer		5
Exploder			Photocopy machine		
Germany	Reo (Exploder)	3	USA through NPA	Canon Photocopy	1
UK	Reo (Exploder)	8	Total Photocopy		1
Total Exploders		11	Fax Machine		
Radio			USA through NPA	Panasonic Fax	1
Ireland through MAG	Codan	9	Total Fax Machine		1
Ireland through MAG	Tait 8110	38	Computer		
Japan - GGP Fund	Tait 8110	8	Ireland	Dell Desktop CPU	2
ITO Supporting Comity	Tait 8110	9	ITO Supporting Comity	Dell Desktop CPU	5
USA through ArmorGroup	Tait 8110	21	UNDP	Dell Desktop CPU	2
Total Radios		85	USA through ArmorGroup	HP Desktop CPU	2
Vehicle			Total Computers		11
Ireland	Ford Ranger	1	Monitor		
Ireland through MAG	Toyota LC Hardtop	1	USA through ArmorGroup	Samsung Monitor	1
World Without Mines	Toyota LC Hardtop	1	USA through NPA	Acer Monitor	1
USA through ArmorGroup	Toyota LC Hardtop	1	Total Monitor		2
Total Vehicle		4	UPS		
Generator			Ireland	Impact UPS	3
Ireland through MAG	Generator Set	2	USA through NPA	C3C UPS	1
World Without Mines	Generator Set	1	Total UPS		4
USA through ArmorGroup	Generator Set	4	Mobile Phone		
Total Generator		7	Ireland	Nokia 2700 Phone	2
GPS			UNDP	Nokia N70 Phone	1
Germany	GPS - Garmin Extrex	3	Total Mobile Phones		3
Ireland through MAG	GPS - Garmin Extrex	25	Camera		
UK	GPS - Garmin Extrex	11	USA through NPA	Nikon Camera	1
Total GPS		39	Total Camera		1
CD Player - for CA			Air conditioning units		
Ireland	CD Player Focus	1	World Without Mines	Mitsubishi Air	1
Total CD Player		1	USA through NPA	Mitsubishi Air	1
			Total Air Conditioning units		2

MAJOR EQUIPMENT YEAR END INVENTORY AND DISPOSITION

Detectors

Make and Model	HP	XK	LP	KH	SVK	SL	CH	SK	AT	NO	ST	TC	BER	TOTAL
Ebinger 420SI			7										60	67
Ebinger 421GC	4	5	15	5	30	20	10	20	20			2	1	132
Ebinger 505C	3	26		14		23		2					114	182
Ebinger 505D	1	14		5								3	253	276
Ebinger Magnex 120	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1				3	15
Ebinger Upex740M	6	16	1	5	3	12	4	4	3		1	1	8	64
Foerster 4015											3			3
Minelab F1A4	17	35	1		52	12		6	3			24	187	337
Minelab F3				1	2	8		6	4				19	40
Schiebel ANPSS12					33			14					58	105
Schonstedt GA72	1	2	2	4	3	1	2	2	0	0	0	2	5	24
Vallon VMXC1	49	77	52	46	70	56	33	46	46	5				480
TOTAL	83	176	79	82	195	133	50	101	77	5	4	32	708	1,725
Minelab D5010 Coil	25	47		8	18	18		17	3		11	2	40	189

Vehicles

Model Number	HP	XK	LP	KH	SVK	SL	CH	SK	AT	NO	ST	TC	BER	TOTAL
Ford Everest										2				2
Ford Ranger	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2				11
Isuzu 5T Truck										1		1		2
Isuzu 7T Truck		1		1	3	2	2	1	1					11
MB UNIMOG U1550L							2							2
Nissan Patrol Ambulance					7									7
Sadko ZMZ 513 Truck	3	8	2			5		3	2					23
Toyota HiAce Van												1		1
Toyota Hilux pick-up	2		1	1	4	1	3	1	2	1	2	1	2	21
Toyota L/C Hardtop	8	10	6	10	7	9	6	7	8				2	73
Toyota L/C pick-up	1	3	2	1	4	1	1	2	1					16
Toyota L/C Prado										4				4
Toyota L/C Wagon			2		1			2		1				6
TOTAL	15	23	14	14	27	19	15	17	15	11	2	3	4	179
Motorcycle														
Honda Dream		1			1	1	1			1		1		6
Yamaha AG200	5	5	4	2	1	5	3		4				19	48
Yamaha DT175					6						3			9
Yamaha DT125	5	6	5	6	6	5	3	6	3		2		1	48
TOTAL	10	12	9	8	14	11	7	6	7	1	5	1	20	111

Other Equipment - Radios

1. TAIT Handheld VHF Radios – 667 units
2. VHF Repeaters – 21 units
3. TAIT Vehicle VHF Radios – 116 units
4. CODAN Radio vehicle units – 80 units
5. CODAN Radio base stations – 31 units

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Summary Budget and Expenditure

BUDGET LINES	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE
PERSONNEL		
International Advisors	481,813	547,997
National Staff	3,105,456	2,929,920
Travel Expenses	37,500	58,604
Total Personnel	3,624,769	3,536,521
OPERATING COSTS		
Fuel	477,079	407,087
Office Operating Costs	83,576	94,202
Capital Works and Building Maintenance	47,661	165,125
Communication Costs	22,231	21,450
Vehicles Operating Costs	388,550	405,413
Other Equipment Operating Costs	54,098	45,256
Printing Costs	20,490	10,302
Freight, Transport, Customs, Postal	44,586	24,171
Handling	18,650	24,450
Other Operating Costs	1,156,919	1,197,456
Total Operating Costs	1,156,919	1,197,456
SPECIAL OPERATING COSTS		
Equipment Trials and Pilot Projects	-	-
Training	77,263	128,502
Public Information (Radio, Video, etc.)	1,585	1,107
International Travel and Conferences	52,023	21,475
UNDP Admin. Costs on Direct Payments = ISS	200,000	37,670
Audit and External Evaluation	23,000	5,355
Other Special Operating Costs	41,020	71,294
Total Special Operating Costs	394,892	265,403
NON-EXPENDABLE EQUIPMENT COSTS		
Vehicles	206,754	407,372
Office Equipment and Furniture	63,105	46,632
Operations Equipment	662,018	583,717
Total Non-Expendable Equipment Costs	931,877	1,037,721
EXPENDABLE EQUIPMENT COSTS		
Office Supplies	36,824	28,947
Personnel and Medical Supplies	130,872	178,409
Other Consumables	263,342	246,653
Total Expendable Equipment Costs	431,038	454,009
Total Costs	6,539,494	6,491,111
UNDP GMS Costs	320,000	218,407
GRAND TOTAL	6,859,494	6,709,518

98% of
initial budget

UXO Lao is audited on an annual basis by an external auditor commissioned by UNDP. Financial reports for funds managed through UNDP in this annual report were seen by the external auditor. Some figures may have been rounded off to the nearest whole number by the program MS Excel which may affect manual addition results.

FUNDS THROUGH UNDP	CONTRIBUTION			EXPENDITURE		
	1996-2008	2009	TOTAL	1996-2008	2009	TOTAL
Lao/95/A12						
United Kingdom	138,020	0	138,020	138,020	0	138,020
Netherlands	2,901,220	0	2,901,220	2,901,220	0	2,901,220
Norway	2,874,201	0	2,874,201	2,874,201	0	2,874,201
New Zealand	1,213,077	0	1,213,077	1,213,077	0	1,213,077
Sweden	394,176	0	394,176	394,176	0	394,176
Australia	1,341,193	0	1,341,193	1,341,193	0	1,341,193
Canada	607,982	0	607,982	607,982	0	607,982
Finland	1,589,348	0	1,589,348	1,589,348	0	1,589,348
United States of America	3,103,086	0	3,103,086	3,103,086	0	3,103,086
Belgium	555,734	0	555,734	555,734	0	555,734
Denmark (UXO Lao)	1,973,022	0	1,973,022	1,973,022	0	1,973,022
Denmark (MAG)	3,539,360	0	3,539,360	3,539,360	0	3,539,360
Japan	442,924	0	442,924	442,924	0	442,924
Luxembourg	1,724,747	0	1,724,747	1,724,747	0	1,724,747
South Korea	48,584	0	48,584	48,584	0	48,584
Trust Fund Interest	912,505	0	912,505	898,660	13,845	912,505
Total	23,359,179	0	23,359,179	23,345,334	13,845	23,359,179
Lao/02/H12						
United Kingdom	194,175	0	194,175	194,175	0	194,175
UNDP Trac Fund 2007	27,027	0	27,027	27,027	0	27,027
Total	221,202	0	221,202	221,202	0	221,202
Lao/03/M12						
United Kingdom	1,003,729	143,062	1,146,790	914,829	231,961	1,146,790
Canada	595,118	0	595,118	595,118	0	595,118
Japan	194,001	0	194,001	194,001	0	194,001
Germany	1,189,102	351,617	1,540,719	1,189,102	351,617	1,540,719
South Korea	90,000	0	90,000	90,000	0	90,000
Italy	161,464	0	161,464	161,464	0	161,464
Total	3,233,413	494,679	3,728,092	3,144,513	583,579	3,728,092
Lao/03/O12						
UNDP for CTA/ NRA	559,505	0	559,505	559,505	0	559,505
New Zealand (NRA)	39,690	0	39,690	39,690	0	39,690
Germany	840,000	0	840,000	811,535	28,465	840,000
UNDP Trac Fund 2004	427,375	0	427,375	427,375	0	427,375
UNDP Trac Fund 2005	657,153	0	657,153	657,153	0	657,153
UNDP Trac Fund 2006	504,878	0	504,878	504,878	0	504,878
UNDP Trac Fund 2007	346,760	0	346,760	346,760	0	346,760
UNDP Trac Fund 2008	500,000	-4,590	495,410	467,732	27,677	495,410
UNDP Trac Fund 2009	0	400,000	400,000	0	409,466	409,466
Ireland	1,348,601	1,367,093	2,715,694	1,286,226	1,187,909	2,474,135
AusAid	247,934	0	247,934	242,917	5,017	247,934
Switzerland	2,209,910	250,000	2,459,910	2,015,381	353,457	2,368,838
Japan Phase 1	741,806	0	741,806	741,806	0	741,806
Japan Mine Action Service	1,665,598	574,277	2,239,875	1,609,644	527,485	2,137,129
Japan Phase 2	875,239	0	875,239	875,239	0	875,239
Japan Phase 3	861,280	0	861,280	705,798	155,482	861,280
Japan Phase 4	0	618,774	618,774	0	449,138	449,138
Luxembourg	1,007,666	0	1,007,666	623,779	328,246	952,025
Poland	11,100	0	11,100	11,100	0	11,100
Japan Asean Integration Fund	913,264	0	913,264	464,834	170,571	635,406
Total	13,757,760	3,205,553	16,963,314	12,391,354	3,642,914	16,034,267
TOTAL FUNDS THROUGH UNDP	40,571,554	3,700,232	44,271,787	39,102,403	4,240,337	43,342,740
NON-UNDP FUNDS						
Funding channeled through Partners						
United States of America via ArmorGroup	1,297,648	897,017	2,194,665	1,155,292	1,197,203	2,352,495
United States of America via NPA/MAG	3,491,712	0	3,491,712	3,491,466	246	3,491,712
Ireland via MAG	1,158,638	411,625	1,570,263	1,077,114	454,867	1,531,981
AusAid via MAG	175,251	-20,957	154,294	110,254	44,040	154,294
Norwegian People's Aid	202,583	269,362	471,944	41,716	425,120	466,836
Australian Embassy Donation	10,203	0	10,203	9,806	397	10,203
European Commission	186,050	0	186,050	372	158,485	158,858
Poland Embassy	0	15,025	15,025	0	15,025	15,025
Foundation World Without Mines	230,000	88,170	318,170	217,816	100,354	318,170
ITO Supporting Comity	0	53,600	53,600	0	53,600	53,600
Total	6,752,085	1,713,842	8,465,927	6,103,837	2,449,337	8,553,174
Direct Funding to UXO Lao						
UNICEF	495,358	0	495,358	495,358	0	495,358
Australia Direct Aid	2,880	0	2,880	2,880	0	2,880
United States of America	176,013	0	176,013	176,013	0	176,013
United Kingdom	344,497	0	344,497	255,286	0	255,286
Total	1,018,747	0	1,018,747	929,536	0	929,536
Other Funding Sources						
UNDP	2,120,000	0	2,120,000	2,120,000	0	2,120,000
Mennonite Central Committee	25,000	0	25,000	25,000	0	25,000
Private Contributions	66,564	11,255	77,818	45,365	19,826	65,191
Government donation	1,706	1,262	2,968	0	0	0
Exchange Rate Rev. Reserve	-51,287	17,275	-34,012	0	0	0
UXO Lao Operation Account	6,401	0	6,401	5,516	12	5,528
Sale of UXO Lao Assets	49,381	6,390	55,771	1,157	0	1,157
Reimbursable Operations	34,228	39,564	73,792	3,859	6	3,865
Total	2,251,993	75,745	2,327,738	2,200,897	19,844	2,220,741
TOTAL NON-UNDP FUNDS	10,022,826	1,789,587	11,812,413	9,234,271	2,469,181	11,703,452
GRAND TOTAL	50,594,380	5,489,819	56,084,199	48,336,674	6,709,518	55,046,192

Funding Balances (per donor)

Source of Funding	Funds Received	Funds Disbursed	Balance of Funding	Contribution Purpose
Funds Through UNDP				
LAO/95/A12				
United Kingdom	138,020	138,020	0	Technical Advisors
Netherlands	2,901,220	2,901,220	0	Un-earmarked
Norway	2,410,643	2,410,643	0	Un-earmarked
Norway	463,558	463,558	0	Sekong & Attapeu
New Zealand	772,558	772,558	0	Un-earmarked
New Zealand	440,519	440,519	0	Technical Advisors
Sweden	394,176	394,176	0	National UXO Survey
Australia	669,270	669,270	0	Un-earmarked
Australia	671,923	671,923	0	Khammouane / Savannakhet
Canada	425,500	425,500	0	Un-earmarked
Canada	182,482	182,482	0	Community Awareness
Finland	1,589,348	1,589,348	0	Un-earmarked
United States	460,000	460,000	0	Earmarked Trucks/XK
United States	750,000	750,000	0	Training Support
United States	682,000	682,000	0	Earmarked Operations
United States	200,000	200,000	0	Earmarked Equipment
United States	1,011,086	1,011,086	0	Earmarked Operations
Belgium	555,734	555,734	0	Earmarked Operation
Denmark	349,925	349,925	0	Earmarked XK Phase I
Denmark	3,046,134	3,046,134	0	Earmarked MAG Phase I
Denmark	1,623,098	1,623,098	0	Earmarked XK PhaselI
Denmark	493,227	493,227	0	Earmarked MAG PhaselI
Japan	242,924	242,924	0	Un-earmarked
Japan	200,000	200,000	0	Earmarked
Luxembourg	1,504,747	1,504,747	0	Un-earmarked
Luxembourg	220,000	220,000	0	Savannakhet
South Korea	48,584	48,584	0	Un-earmarked
Interest	912,505	912,505	0	Un-earmarked
Sub-total	23,359,179	23,359,179	0	
LAO/02/H12				
United Kingdom	194,175	194,175	0	Trust Fund Manager
UNDP Trac Fund 2007	27,027	27,027	0	Trust Fund Manager
Sub-total	221,202	221,202	0	
LAO/03/M12/NC				
United Kingdom	1,146,790	1,146,790	0	Un-earmarked
Canada	595,118	595,118	0	Un-earmarked
Japan	194,001	194,001	0	Earmarked Khammouane
Germany	1,540,719	1,540,719	0	Earmarked Houaphan / LuangPr.
South Korea	90,000	90,000	0	Un-earmarked
Italy	161,464	161,464	0	Un-earmarked
Sub-total	3,728,092	3,728,092	0	
LAO/03/012/01				
UNDP	559,505	559,505	0	Chief Technical Advisor + NRA
New Zealand	39,690	39,690	0	STA / NRA
Germany	840,000	840,000	0	Earmarked Luang Prabang /
UNDP Trac Fund 2004	427,375	427,375	0	Houaphan
UNDP Trac Fund 2005	657,153	657,153	0	Earmarked Operations + 11 vehicles
UNDP Trac Fund 2006	504,878	504,878	0	Earmarked Operations
UNDP Trac Fund 2007	346,760	346,760	0	Earmarked
UNDP Trac Fund 2008	495,410	495,410	0	Earmarked STA + TA Programme
UNDP Trac Fund 2009	400,000	409,466	(9,466)	Earmarked STA + TA Programme
Ireland	2,715,694	2,474,135	241,559	Earmarked STA + TA Programme
AusAid	247,934	247,934	0	Un-earmarked
Switzerland	2,459,910	2,368,838	91,072	Earmarked Khammouane
Japan Phase 1	741,806	741,806	0	Un-earmarked
Japan Mine Action Service	2,239,875	2,137,129	102,746	Earmarked
Japan Phase 2	875,239	875,239	0	Earmarked
Japan Phase 3	861,280	861,280	0	Earmarked
Japan Phase 4	618,774	449,138	169,636	Earmarked
Luxembourg	1,007,666	952,025	55,642	Earmarked
Poland	11,100	11,100	0	Un-earmarked
Japan Asean Integration Fund	913,264	635,406	277,859	Earmarked
Sub-total	16,963,314	16,034,267	929,046	
Total through UNDP	44,271,787	43,342,740	929,046	
Fund Channelled Through Partners				
United States / ArmorGroup	762,000	849,242	(87,242)	Earmarked Champassak
United States / ArmorGroup	1,432,665	1,503,254	(70,589)	Earmarked Savannakhet
United States / NPA	519,300	519,300	0	Earmarked Attapeu
United States / NPA	496,091	496,091	0	Earmarked Sekong
United States / NPA	522,578	522,578	0	Earmarked Champassak
United States / NPA	703,567	703,567	0	Earmarked Savannakhet
United States / NPA	200,000	200,000	0	Earmarked Vallon Detectors
MAG Donation 2005	23,245	23,245	0	Un-earmarked
United States / MAG	691,580	691,580	0	Earmarked Salavane
United States / MAG	284,854	284,854	0	Earmarked Savannakhet
United States / MAG	50,496	50,496	0	Earmarked Khammouane
Ireland / MAG	1,570,263	1,531,981	38,282	Earmarked Houaphan
AusAid / MAG	154,294	154,294	0	Earmarked Khammouane
Norwegian People's Aid	53,944	53,944	0	Earmarked 2 cars & Khamsay
Norway / NPA	418,000	412,892	5,108	Earmarked Khammouane
Australian Embassy Donation	10,203	10,203	0	Luang Prabang Museum
European Commission	99,875	70,979	28,896	Earmarked Sekong
European Commission	86,175	87,878	(1,703)	Earmarked Attapeu
Polish Embassy	15,025	15,025	0	Earmarked Equipment
World Without Mines Switzerland	318,170	318,170	0	Earmarked Khammouane
ITO Supporting Comity	53,600	53,600	0	Earmarked
Sub-total	8,465,927	8,553,174	(87,247)	
Direct Funding to UXO Lao				
UNICEF	495,358	495,358	0	Earmarked CA
Australia Direct Aid	2,880	2,880	0	Earmarked Printing
United States of America	176,013	176,013	0	Earmarked Operations
United Kingdom	344,497	255,286	89,211	Un-earmarked
Sub-total	1,018,747	929,536	89,211	
Other Funding Sources				
UNDP	2,120,000	2,120,000	0	Un-earmarked
Mennonite Central Committee	25,000	25,000	0	Earmarked Houaphan
Private Contributions	77,818	65,191	12,627	Un-earmarked
Government donation	2,968	0	2,968	Un-earmarked
Exchange Rate Rev. Reserve	(34,012)	0	(34,012)	Un-earmarked
UXO Lao Operation Account	6,401	5,528	873	Un-earmarked
Sale of UXO Lao Assets	55,771	1,157	54,614	Un-earmarked
Reimbursable Operations	73,793	3,865	69,928	Un-earmarked
Sub-total	2,327,739	2,220,741	106,998	
Total other funding	11,812,413	11,703,452	108,961	
GRAND TOTAL	56,084,199	55,046,192	1,038,008	

BUDGET (all amounts are in US\$)

	NO	UNDP	TC	AT	SK	CH	SL	SVK	HP	XK	KH	LP	TOTAL
PERSONNEL													
International Advisors													
National Staff		481,813											481,813
Travel Expenses	175,875	28,848	24,274	272,981	260,070	282,228	344,007	492,110	272,565	489,415	224,146	238,938	3,105,456
Total Personnel	12,000	4,200	200	3,587	1,000	1,812	2,000	3,000	3,000	2,200	1,500	3,000	37,500
	187,875	514,861	24,474	276,568	261,070	284,040	346,007	495,110	275,565	491,615	225,646	241,938	3,624,769
OPERATING COSTS													
Fuel													
Office Operating Costs	19,639		6,802	33,924	51,186	50,507	50,174	62,791	43,073	64,564	44,302	50,116	477,079
Capital Works and Building	9,700		4,500	7,512	5,700	6,920	7,209	8,721	9,705	10,000	7,209	6,400	83,576
Maintenance	100		4,500	1,992	5,000	5,814	5,814	5,000	5,000	7,441	2,000	5,000	47,661
Communication Costs	8,711	940	1,000	1,058	1,000	977	1,221	1,744	1,628	907	1,605	1,440	22,231
Vehicles Operating Costs	5,220		3,833	43,153	42,021	47,942	40,702	56,219	42,326	53,174	23,117	30,844	388,550
Other Equipment Operating Costs	5,000		1,500	5,000	2,824	4,000	5,000	6,000	7,500	6,000	4,578	6,696	54,098
Printing Costs	18,000			233	233	384	581	116	87	581	174	100	20,490
Freight, Transport, Customs, Postal Handling	6,000	35,000		437	500	233	581	349	100	1,070	116	200	44,586
Other Operating Costs	2,800		150	1,651	3,100	1,163	2,326	1,512	1,100	2,326	581	1,941	18,650
Total Operating Costs	75,170	35,940	22,285	94,960	111,564	117,939	113,609	142,451	110,518	146,062	83,683	102,738	1,156,919
SPECIAL OPERATING COSTS													
Equipment Trials and Pilot Projects													
Training	16,000		28,000	4,167	2,349	4,036	4,535	3,488	4,700	4,756	2,674	2,558	77,263
Public Information (Radio, Video, etc.)	400			58	100	58	58	593		151	116	50	1,585
International Travel and Conferences	1,000	50,000		442							581		52,023
UNDP Admin. Costs on Direct Payments = ISS		200,000											200,000
Audit and External Evaluation		13,000		5,000	5,000								23,000
Other Special Operating Costs	14,100	295	1,100	3,416	1,720	2,296	2,442	2,907	3,300	4,651	2,093	2,700	41,020
Total Special Operating Costs	31,500	263,295	29,100	13,083	9,169	6,390	7,035	6,988	8,000	9,558	5,465	5,308	394,892
NON EXPENDABLE EQUIPMENT													
Vehicles				22,826	22,826	22,826	23,486	23,486	22,826	22,826	22,826	22,826	206,754
Office Equipment and Furniture	8,375	8,000	4,650	6,118	7,573	7,365	2,989	2,965	3,590	2,495	6,365	2,620	63,105
Operations Equipment			20,130	96,539	59,680	92,500	60,811	78,453	64,550	81,005	42,188	66,162	662,018
Total Non Expendable Equipment	8,375	8,000	24,780	125,483	90,079	122,691	87,286	104,904	90,966	106,326	71,379	91,608	931,877
EXPENDABLE EQUIPMENT													
Office Supplies	7,000		1,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	4,000	4,000	3,000	2,945	2,879	36,824
Personnel and Medical Supplies			1,508	13,308	9,419	11,595	15,419	21,394	12,965	22,299	9,611	13,356	130,872
Other Consumables			9,672	23,371	25,280	26,627	30,286	31,381	21,808	39,863	25,745	29,309	263,342
Total Expendable Equipment	7,000		12,180	39,679	37,699	41,222	48,705	56,775	38,773	65,162	38,301	45,544	431,038
TOTAL COSTS	309,920	822,096	112,819	549,773	509,580	572,282	602,642	806,228	523,821	818,723	424,474	487,136	6,539,494
Estimated UNDP GMS Costs													320,000
Total 2009 Budget													6,859,494

NO: National Office; TC: Training Centre; AT: Atapeu; SK: Sekong; CH: Champasack; SL: Saravane; SVK: Savannakhet; HP: Huaphanh; XK: Xiengkhuang; KH: Khammuane; LP: Luangprabang

EXPENDITURE (all amounts are in US\$)

Cost Center	NO	UNDP	TC	AT	SK	CH	SL	SVK	HP	XK	KH	LP	TOTAL
PERSONNEL													
International Advisors	0	547,997	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	547,997
National Staff	191,504	1,964	22,840	240,868	264,254	259,590	326,231	428,874	259,720	429,100	245,112	259,863	2,929,920
Travel Expenses	19,230	6,566	1,228	3,839	729	1,713	3,260	5,364	2,234	4,121	5,521	4,799	58,604
Total Personnel	210,734	556,527	24,068	244,706	264,983	261,303	329,491	434,238	261,954	433,221	250,633	264,663	3,536,521
OPERATING COSTS													
Fuel	26,032	0	5,905	33,182	32,760	27,776	50,286	50,450	35,110	51,546	44,259	49,781	407,087
Office Operating Costs	13,332	0	5,795	7,826	6,638	6,620	10,918	10,604	7,624	9,298	7,750	7,797	94,202
Capital Works and Building	74	0	1,579	1,851	1,575	17,220	1,331	101,833	29,074	375	3,090	7,123	165,125
Maintenance	8,803	788	407	728	1,479	1,292	1,447	1,917	1,434	474	1,304	1,377	21,450
Communication Costs	4,577	105,471	1,500	13,811	20,612	34,602	31,794	57,630	39,904	20,515	42,613	32,384	405,413
Vehicles Operating Costs	3,381	9,185	2,207	2,384	2,519	1,914	5,607	3,324	3,049	3,270	3,633	4,783	45,256
Other Equipment Operating Costs	2,454	1,879	88	304	862	296	683	541	337	524	484	1,850	10,302
Printing Costs													
Freight, Transport, Customs, Postal Handling	2,953	11,549	0	958	1,040	925	1,015	1,323	1,003	994	1,286	1,125	24,171
Other Operating Costs	2,237	0	17	1,972	4,067	2,535	2,659	2,090	2,639	3,119	1,199	1,916	24,450
Total Operating Costs	63,844	128,871	17,499	63,014	71,553	93,181	105,741	229,712	120,175	90,114	105,618	108,136	1,197,456
SPECIAL OPERATING COSTS													
Equipment Trials and Pilot Projects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Training	12,620	7,877	58,519	3,181	4,018	5,016	6,164	7,692	8,261	4,146	7,246	3,762	128,502
Public Information (Radio, Video, etc.)	588	0	0	41	31	0	68	178	102	0	42	57	1,107
International Travel and Conferences	576	20,799	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	21,475
UNDP Admin. Costs on Direct Payments = ISS	0	37,670	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37,670
Audit and External Evaluation	0	5,355	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,355
Other Special Operating Costs	25,008	23,584	999	1,326	2,040	3,250	1,184	3,031	2,463	1,810	4,639	1,960	71,294
Total Special Operating Costs	38,791	95,286	59,517	4,548	6,090	8,266	7,417	10,901	10,925	5,956	11,927	5,778	265,403
NON EXPENDABLE EQUIPMENT													
Vehicles	11,475	265,047	0	0	0	0	0	32,500	32,500	0	65,850	0	407,372
Office Equipment and Furniture	5,899	22,458	1,223	749	1,139	1,148	1,220	1,889	1,054	792	4,248	4,813	46,632
Operations Equipment	3,332	282,118	0	1,254	1,119	31,373	1,132	54,981	153,463	912	53,885	148	583,717
Total Non Expendable Equipment	20,706	569,623	1,223	2,004	2,258	32,522	2,351	89,370	187,017	1,704	123,982	4,960	1,037,721
EXPENDABLE EQUIPMENT													
Office Supplies	2,566	610	513	1,696	1,822	1,037	3,056	2,210	2,618	3,030	6,868	2,921	28,947
Personnel and Medical Supplies	0	86,908	529	4,242	6,121	10,079	5,710	17,312	12,397	9,078	14,936	11,097	178,409
Other Consumables	59	77,297	41	6,332	5,988	11,977	8,174	18,731	35,694	11,243	58,407	12,710	246,653
Total Expendable Equipment	2,625	164,814	1,083	12,270	13,931	23,094	16,940	38,254	50,709	23,351	80,211	26,728	454,009
TOTAL COSTS	336,700	1,515,121	103,390	326,542	358,815	418,366	461,940	802,475	630,780	554,346	572,371	410,265	6,491,110
UNDP GMS Costs													218,407
TOTAL EXPENDITURE													6,709,517

SHARING THEIR TALE OF TRAGEDY

Interview by Heuangphachanh Panpadith, UXO Lao Programme and Public Information Chief
Photo by Edwin Faigmane, UNDP Program Specialist to UXO Lao



Fragments from the sub-munition still remain in his chest and stomach and he is still in danger. Doctors at the provincial hospital have said they will not be able to operate at this time due to his age and the delicacy of the procedure.

Savannakhet Province, Lao PDR. Mr. Hongkham Chanhthavongsa did not know that his life would change that fateful day in December as he went out of his house to work on his rice field. Like most rural farmers, he farmed for subsistence living while trying to raise a family and send his children to school. His three children had a different idea that day though as they decided not to go to school. They instead went off to a different rice field in the village and started playing.

As young children do, they started picking up things on the ground that they threw at each other. Kee, a girl and the youngest, saw something different from the rocks and picked it up – a metal ball with interesting features! They all got excited about the new “ball” they had and started playing catch with it. After a few minutes, the metal “ball” went off. Unknowingly, what Kee picked up was a sub-munition from a cluster bomb that was dropped during the Vietnam War.

Hongkham heard an explosion from afar, but thought nothing about it and he continued to work on his rice field. Suddenly, he saw villagers running towards him and his worst fears were confirmed. His youngest daughter Kee died from the explosion he just heard and his two sons were injured.

Bounkhouang, the older brother, received fragmentation wounds from the explosion in his chest and stomach. Ket, the younger brother, suffered wounds on his leg. Without having time to grieve for the loss of his daughter, Hongkham brought the two boys to the district hospital for first aid. They were subsequently brought to the provincial hospital for further treatment.

Today, the family is still at a loss on what happened during that one fateful day in December when they lost their youngest daughter. Bounkhouang and Ket are still traumatized by the incident. Bounkhouang, the older brother, has metal fragments near his heart. Doctors have told the family that this must be removed once he grows a bit older.

There was one accident in the village previously. This is the second, and hopefully the last.

ACCIDENTS RECORDED BY UXO LAO

UXO Lao receives accident reports from provincial authorities in the provinces it operates in. The organization does not actively collect UXO accident data. The table below is a summary of reports received in 2009. It does not reflect the nationwide figures of UXO accidents.

Province	No. of Accident Reports Received	No. of victims			Victims - Injury				Victims - Death			
		Injury	Death	Total	Child		Adult		Child		Adult	
					Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Luangprabang	2	5	1	6	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	1
Huaphanh	3	3	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Xiengkhuang	9	15	2	17	2	6	1	6	0	0	0	2
Khammuane	2	2	5	7	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
Savannakhet	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Saravane	3	3	1	4	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1
Sekong	1	2	5	7	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	3
Champasack	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Attapeu	4	1	3	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
TOTAL	26	32	18	50	3	9	3	17	2	2	0	14



UXO Lao equipment, vehicles, and office premises after Typhoon Ketsana hit Attapeu province

THE RAVAGES OF TYPHOON KETSANA

Typhoon Ketsana hit Lao PDR on 28 and 29 September 2009 causing extensive damage to agriculture, property, and infrastructure. The country's five southern provinces of Attapeu, Sekong, Saravane, Savannakhet, and Champasack were affected to various degrees, with Sekong and Attapeu having the most damage. Twenty-six districts in the provinces were affected to various degrees, 18 of which severely. The floodwaters swept away houses, crops, schools, hospitals, roads, and bridges. The Lao Government reported that more than 180,000 people were affected with 28 storm-related deaths.

The floodwaters brought an additional threat, that of unexploded ordnance or UXO. The provinces are among the most UXO affected in the country, especially those affected districts in Sekong, Saravane, and Attapeu. Floodwaters may have carried UXO along and deposited them near riverbanks, roads, farms, or areas of human settlement. This scenario requires a quick response.

The United Nations Flash Appeal was issued in October 2009. Part of the appeal was to support UXO Lao operations in the Typhoon Ketsana affected provinces of Sekong, Saravane, and Attapeu. UXO Lao received US\$278,000 from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and US\$180,723 from the Government of Ireland (Irish Aid.) The funding received by UXO Lao was earmarked for personnel expenses, operating costs, and equipment procurement.

While operations were affected due to equipment and office premises damage, UXO Lao was able to achieve the following during the period November to December 2009.

1. Conducted UXO risk education (CA) activities in 35 villages, reaching 8,094 people including 3,480

UXO Lao received US\$278,000 from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and US\$180,723 from the Government of Ireland (Irish Aid) to support operations post-Ketsana.

children. The National Regulatory Authority for the UXO Sector (NRA) produced community awareness messages specific for flood response which UXO Lao was able to distribute to affected communities.

2. Conducted 89 survey tasks in 82 different villages;
3. Conducted 62 roving tasks in 58 villages removing or destroying 860 UXO items including 343 bombs;
4. Cleared a total of 115 hectare of land including 18 hectares for socio-economic development projects. During the process, removed or destroyed 739 UXO items including 501 bombs.
5. Released 7 hectares of land through technical survey methods.

Equipment procured during the period include 15 units of Vallon VMXC1 detectors, 5 units of the Ebinger UPEX 740M large loop, 2 units of data logger, 4 units of computers, and 10 units of Tait VHF radio 8110.

In addition to conducting emergency tasks, UXO Lao supported Ketsana relief operations by providing information and logistical support to the Provincial Governments.



“I am now able to breathe a sigh of relief when UXO Lao came and cleared my land of UXO.”

- Ms. Phouvan
Farmer/Beneficiary of UXO Lao operations
Attapeu Province, Lao PDR

Khop Chai Lai Lai UXO Lao

An Interview with a UXO Lao Beneficiary

Interview by Ms. Heuangphachanh Panpadith, UXO Lao Chief of Program and Public Information Unit
Photo by Edwin Faigmane, UNDP Programme Specialist to UXO Lao

Ms. Phouvan of Ban Vungxay, in Sanxay District of Attapeu province is one of the beneficiaries of UXO Lao operations. For years, her family of six have worked on their two-hectare piece of land, knowing that underneath lies UXO. She knows that there already been three UXO accidents in her village but her family has no choice but to risk their lives as they work on the land as they have to plant rice in order for them to survive. She gets an additional five to six million kip per year from making charcoal and planting vegetables, but this is really not enough.

Phouvan was able to breathe a sigh of relief when UXO Lao came and cleared her land of UXO. She is now able to use her entire land without fear of getting injured or killed if a UXO is accidentally struck. With her entire land being planted with rice, she can now expect to have an additional 700 to 800 kilograms of rice that can sustain her family for the entire year.

Phouvan is like any other farmer working on UXO contaminated land in Lao PDR, risking their lives to survive.

The Lao Government's National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy lists Sanxay District in Attapeu Province as first of 72 poor districts in the country with more than 93% poor villages and around 99% poor households. UXO Lao received reports of nine separate accidents during the period 1999 to 2007 in the district.



The People of UXO Lao

Staff distribution and composition

Area	Office	Office (F)	Deminer	Deminer (F)	Survey	CA	CA (F)	Medic	Medic (F)	Driver	Cleaner	Guard	Total Females	Total Pers
NO	33	10	0	0	0					3	2	1	12	39
TC	5	1	0	0	0					1	1	0	2	7
HP	9	3	56	4	4	6	2	6	2	9	1	2	12	93
LP	10	3	53	4	4	5	1	7	2	11	1	2	11	93
XK	9	1	101	9	8	6	1	13	3	14	3	3	17	157
KH	9	3	54	3	3	5	2	6	1	9	2	3	11	91
SV	10	2	102	16	7	6	0	14	13	18	4	4	35	165
CH	9	2	51	11	4	5	0	8	2	10	1	2	16	90
SL	10	1	76	5	6	5	0	9	3	11	1	1	10	119
SK	8	2	56	11	4	5	1	7	1	9	1	2	16	92
AT	10	1	54	13	4	5	2	6	5	8	3	3	24	93
TOTAL	122	29	603	76	44	48	9	76	32	103	20	23	166	1,039



For 31-year old Keophimpa Chansima, starting the day means preparing her son for his daily activities, putting on her uniform, lacing up her boots, and then going off to the office to take a ride on a big Toyota Troop Carrier off to the field. Tools of her trade are also kind of unique, a metal detector, a shovel, a pair of wire cutters, about a kilometer's worth of electrical wire, detonators, TNT and C4 explosives, and an exploder. Her job is to supervise a team of ten people doing unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance work in Attapeu province in Lao PDR.

Keophimpa is very much aware of the day to day problem the people in her province face, "everyday, I see how people suffer from the UXO contamination in and around their villages. There are many accidents and injuries caused by UXO." This prompted her to apply for a job vacancy as a deminer in 1999 with UXO Lao, the national UXO clearance operator which is a program supported by UNDP.

A chat with a deminer

Interview by Khammane Bounyavong and Heuangphachanh Panpadith



After being accepted as a trainee, Keophimpa was sent on an eight-week training course at the UXO Lao training centre in Vientiane. After successfully passing the course, she was sent back to Attapeu province to start working. "During the first time in a real UXO clearance site, I was excited as I started swinging my detector looking for UXO underneath the surface of the ground. I was not afraid when I found my first UXO item because I knew I passed the course and I had confidence in myself to handle it. I knew that once I've cleared this UXO item out of the field, it would create a safe environment for people living in the area."

After ten years of experience, an opportunity arose to become promoted as a team leader. After evaluating her previous performance, and taking into consideration her experience, knowledge, and gender, she was promoted by the National Office to become a team leader in 2009. Keophimpa successfully completed a nine-week team leader course at the UXO Lao training centre in Vientiane. As an explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) technician level 3, she can safely handle, remove, and destroy all types of UXO (including sub-munitions, mortar shells, artillery rounds, grenades, white phosphorous, etc.) except aircraft bombs. She supervises a team of 7 other deminers, a medic, and a driver and is responsible for all the equipment and vehicles her team uses. She manages the clearance site's safety and security, ensuring that people living in the area are aware that a UXO clearance operation is taking place. When a deminer finds a UXO item, it is part of her job to investigate what the item is and make a decision on what to do with the item. It is also her job to maintain the site records as well as conduct quality management on the work done.

When asked about her plans for the future, "I may have finished only upper secondary school but I would like to become a Senior EOD like the other female SEOD working in Champasack province. I want to continue working for UXO Lao until UXO clearance operations are finally over in Lao. I want the Lao people to live their lives in safety."

An Interview with Heuangphachanh Panpadith

UXO Lao's senior female staff

I remember my mother telling me a story when I was still a little child. She is from Savannakhet province and knows first-hand about the impact of UXO on people's lives. My mother lost her younger brother and a brother-in-law when the big bomb they were trying to defuse went off. They were trying to get the metal so that they could make them into household appliances.

I remembered that story well and here I am, working for UXO Lao.

I started working with UXO Lao as the Senior Secretary reporting to both the National Program Director and the Senior Technical Advisor. Bit by bit, I was able to understand more about the UXO problem, the day-to-day management of the program, and what needed to be done to limit the danger and harm to people living in affected areas.

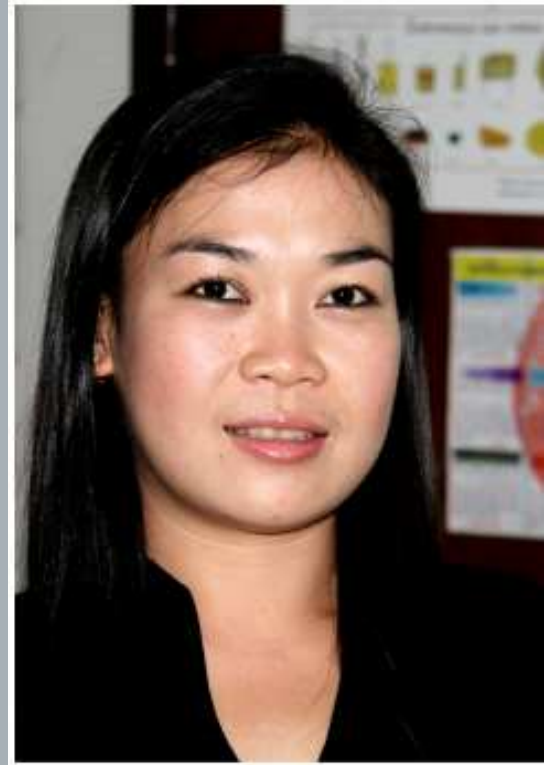
An opportunity arose with the Programme Unit to which I successfully applied. I began preparing the numerous reports for our parent Ministry – this was a lot! As time passed on and with the help of my technical advisor, I began to understand more about the complexities of managing the program from a resource mobilization point of view. Imagine, different donors with different requirements, some were easy, some were quite challenging. Information, information, information to the point that I could even now explain the difference between a minimum metal detector and a UXO detector. I gradually began to have more self-confidence in explaining things to donor representatives who visited our operations.

I was promoted at the end of 2009 to become the Unit Chief of the Programme and Public Information Units which meant even more challenges. Not only do I have to be proficient and effective in my work but I now have to manage a unit of different people, each with different ideas.

I am enjoying the work and challenge that UXO Lao entrusted me. It is developing my managerial and leadership skills which I can translate into making the Programme and Public Information Units more effective, better to support the whole program.

I was in Oslo with the Lao Delegation when the Convention on Cluster Munitions was signed. I remember thinking that this is where the challenge and opportunity gets bigger.

Heuangphachanh, or Toun, is the senior female management staff member of UXO Lao. She is twenty-seven years old and taking up her master's degree in business administration at the National University of Laos.



In 1996, recognising the need to clear UXO in order for socio-economic development to take place, 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 Decree Number 49, dated 13 February 1996.

UXO LAO is a Nationally Implemented Program (NIM) under the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, with the National Program Director directly reporting to the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare. UNDP provides program oversight and assurance and works with different donors to ensure continuing funding for UXO Lao.

UXO LAO is mandated to:

- a. Reduce the number of casualties caused by UXO through risk education; and
- b. Increase the amount of land available for food production and other socio-economic development activities through UXO clearance activities.

The organisation operates in nine of the most heavily impacted provinces in the country. It maintains provincial offices, equipment, and personnel in these areas.

UXO LAO operations reflect the generic principles of humanitarian mine action. Two components make up clearance operations in the country:

- a. Mobile roving teams remove or destroy UXO on the surface reported by villagers or survey team members
- b. Area clearance teams that detect and destroy UXO under the ground using metal detectors

Community awareness teams (UXO risk education or CA) raise the awareness of people living in UXO affected villages. CA teams support survey operations by noting locations of UXO pinpointed by villagers during CA activities. CA Volunteers

UXO LAO: THROUGH THE YEARS

(CAV) are trained villagers who pass on UXO safety messages among their own communities. The program provides cost-effective, year-round, village-based access to UXO awareness information, especially in remote areas.

General survey teams provide detailed maps and information for the database on locations of UXO reported.

Technical survey (TS) uses available UXO records (bombing data, UXO reports, and accident reports) to evaluate a clearance request. Combined with a 25% sampling of the land area, this results in the request being either cleared with metal detectors or released and designated low priority. If the request is released, landowners are advised that there is little reason to believe that UXO is present and that they may start using the land. The TS makes more land available faster than area clearance and utilises less resources.

UXO Lao's performance from 2005

Year	Land Cleared	National Staff Number	No. of TAs	Resources mobilized	Expenditure	Audit Observations	Audit Rating
2005	1,566	1,065	9	2,593,157	3,822,096	41	Partially Satisfactory
2006	2,097	1,033	10	5,968,706	5,629,245	25	Satisfactory
2007	2,549	1,013	8	7,176,151	5,984,829	11	Satisfactory
2008	3,037	994	11	5,766,470	6,795,781	6	Satisfactory
2009	2,939	1,036	9	5,489,819	6,709,518	In progress	In progress

Land available in 2008 and 2009 includes technical survey

Operations

Province	COMMUNITY AWARENESS ACTIVITIES			GENERAL SURVEY TASKS		ROVING TASKS	
	CA (villages)*	Beneficiaries (Children)	Total CA Beneficiaries	Survey (no. tasks)	No. of Villages	Roving (no. of tasks)	No. of Villages
Luangprabang	784	128,802	348,685	618	204	1,156	249
Huaphanh	760	64,697	222,223	1,007	198	1,664	210
Xiengkhuang	1,428	129,703	263,371	1,289	424	4,431	464
Khammuane	716	80,231	185,734	553	206	909	276
Savannakhet	1,030	75,023	228,607	1,222	408	2,486	580
Saravane	784	57,906	184,889	724	368	2,525	518
Sekong	704	40,814	108,283	569	197	763	171
Champasack	1,063	117,183	225,805	2,356	393	4,030	483
Attapeu	608	84,432	237,122	678	179	833	208
TOTAL	7,877	778,791	2,004,719	9,016	2,577	18,797	3,159

Province	AREA CLEARANCE OPERATIONS				TECHNICAL SURVEY TASKS			
	Agri land	Other land	Total Area (Ha)	Beneficiaries	Farm land	Other land	Total Land (Ha)	Beneficiaries
Luangprabang	1,425.8776	280.3547	1,706.2323	252,146	87.6352	15.2022	102.8374	22,692
Huaphanh	1,577.5845	149.9872	1,727.5717	392,352	74.6227	10.8267	85.4494	6,884
Xiengkhuang	3,272.2469	378.3580	3,650.6049	587,839	112.5904	10.4521	123.0425	7,753
Khammuane	906.3359	294.0814	1,200.4173	136,393	85.1052	8.7240	93.8292	4,323
Savannakhet	2,356.2591	238.9582	2,595.2173	267,902	84.3314	0.6966	85.0280	1,091
Saravane	1,498.3613	409.0070	1,907.3683	490,034	44.0812	26.3361	70.4173	19,918
Sekong	950.0586	345.6655	1,295.7241	145,507	61.9478	8.9159	70.9637	5,437
Champasack	1,260.0586	282.1243	1,543.1015	643,848	59.5328	39.7229	99.2557	200,044
Attapeu	921.5497	492.0805	1,413.6302	275,912	50.4960	21.4179	71.9139	28,266
TOTAL	14,169.2508	2,870.6168	17,039.8676	3,191,933	660.3427	142.2944	802.7371	296,408

CUMULATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS (1996 to 2009)

Unexploded Ordnance Items Removed, or Destroyed

Province	Roving Tasks					Area Clearance Operations				
	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	TOTAL	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	TOTAL
Luangprabang	266	4,482	336	14,849	19,933	12	10,161	216	10,335	20,724
Huaphanh	332	12,134	217	25,728	38,411	100	15,467	51	12,233	27,851
Xiengkhuang	211	118,945	131	76,423	195,710	81	43,311	41	28,850	72,283
Khammuane	938	33,056	69	20,059	54,122	80	10,898	43	15,188	26,209
Savannakhet	820	47,862	437	76,544	125,663	16	17,360	1,690	22,015	41,081
Saravane	593	42,866	691	57,446	101,596	18	10,263	378	17,962	28,621
Sekong	232	11,174	323	12,650	24,379	31	10,388	39	10,828	21,286
Champasack	602	10,716	495	49,586	61,399	10	3,013	579	12,903	16,505
Attapeu	263	18,391	151	10,897	29,702	33	12,387	86	5,154	17,660
TOTAL	4,257	299,626	2,850	344,182	650,915	381	133,248	3,123	135,468	272,220

Province	Technical Survey Tasks				
	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	TOTAL
Luangprabang	0	5	0	6	11
Huaphanh	0	5	0	1	6
Xiengkhuang	0	190	0	26	216
Khammuane	0	4	0	56	60
Savannakhet	5	0	0	0	5
Saravane	0	4	0	96	100
Sekong	0	13	0	888	901
Champasack	0	0	0	56	56
Attapeu	0	11	0	17	28
TOTAL	5	232	0	1,146	1,383

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 were carried out over Lao between the years 1964 to 1973, delivering more than two million tons of explosive ordnance on the country. This includes more than 260 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, 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.

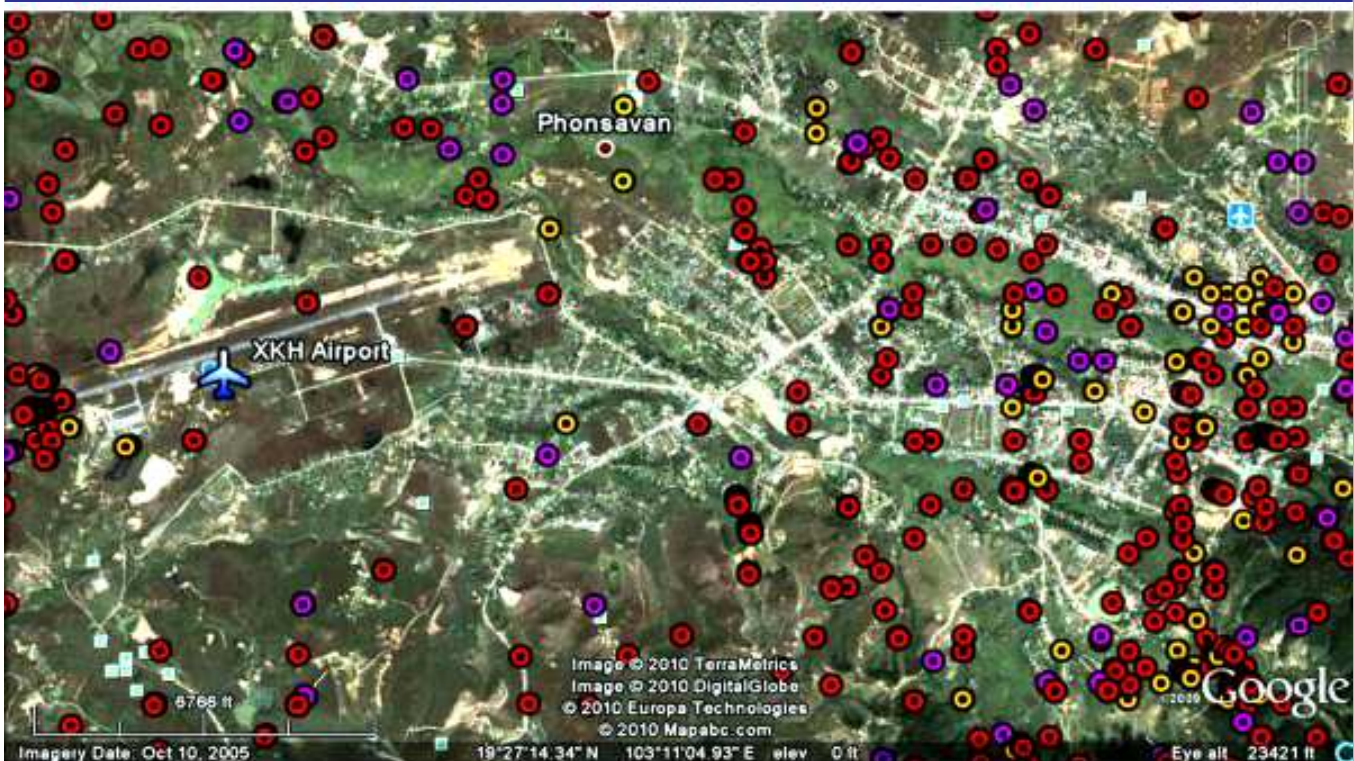
The National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) of the Government of Lao PDR (GoL) states the correlation between the presence of UXO and the prevalence of poverty.

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 in 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 NSEDP framework.

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

IMPACT OF UXO IN LAO PDR



Bombing data superimposed on Google Earth’s imagery of Xiengkhuang Province from 7.1km above. Each red circle indicates a bombing mission. The airport is clearly marked. The current town is on the upper right hand corner of the photo.

Bombing data may be downloaded from the National Regulatory Authority website, www.nra.gov.la and opened using Google Earth’s free version.

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 decided to cut off the Ho Chi Minh trail and launched major offensives after retaking Sepone and deporting 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 met with defeat. 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. The civilian victims of this war have been reportedly more numerous since 1973 than the casualties that occurred during the war period. The province follows the national trend with most accidents located in the centre of the village and upland and lowland rice fields. It also follows closely the trend regarding the victim's activity when they had the accident, with agriculture and handling UXO being the most frequent activities. The province does have a larger than average number of accidents occurring with AP bomblets, the remainder of accidents following the national trend.

Savannakhet ranks 1st out of the ten provinces severely impacted by UXO.

XIENGKHUANG PROVINCE

Xiengkhuang was always considered a strategically important geographic area. Fighting 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 conflict.

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 forces allied with the Royal Lao Government.

The Plain of Jars (PDJ) 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 the 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 2nd among the ten provinces severely impacted by UXO.

SARAVANE PROVINCE

Saravane province was within 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 effects 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 3rd out of the ten provinces severely impacted by the presence of 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 nationwide 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 the villages 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 4th out of the ten 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 5th out of the ten 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 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 an equally high numbers of big bombs, mortars, and bomblets. UXO is mainly found in forested areas, centres of villages, and rice fields.

Champasack ranks 6th out of the ten 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 along with 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 USAF.

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 8th of the ten 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 of the eastern mountainous 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. 57.4% 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 9th out of the ten 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 were also moving west through Xiengkhuang province along National Route 7 to the intersection of Route 7 and National Route 13 at Sala Phoukhoun.

Sala Phoukhoun, with the intersection of National Route 7 running west from Xiengkhuang and National Route 13 running north from Vientiane to Luangprabang town, was strategically important since it linked the two main roads leading to the major Royalist Government strongholds of Luangprabang and Vientiane. Intense fighting occurred on occasions when the PL and PAVN forces were able to push far enough west from Xiengkhuang to threaten the Royalist control of Route 13. Most of the time, the Royalist forces were able to maintain control of the area, although there were times when Sala Phoukhoun was under control of the PL and PAVN.

The Royal Lao Army (RLA) was not really interested with the presence of the low number of PL forces in the districts of Nambak, Ngoi, and Pak Ou. However, the RLA attacked these forces when they believed that the PL troops were planning to move south towards the capital. After a brief victory, the RLA was forced out of the area and the PL forces were able to push south until they were close enough to shell the airport in Luangprabang town itself. The PL held this territory until the end of the war, but was subjected to airstrikes from (Royal Lao Air Force) RLAF and Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) planes.

The contamination map strongly reflects the history of the war, with contamination limited to those districts near present day Nambak and along the Nam Ou River, as well as in the districts of Luangprabang and Phoukhoun. Nearly one quarter of the villages surveyed in Luangprabang province reported the presence of UXO. 457 villages reported moderate to severe intensity of wartime activities, with UXO contamination being reported as high to severe in 58 of the villages surveyed. Villagers reported that the most significant types of UXO were the large bombs, followed by AP bomblets, and mortars. Village centres, upland rice fields, and forest areas are areas where UXO is commonly reported. However, UXO never affected the vast majority of villages in the provinces.

Luangprabang has had 925 people killed or injured due to UXO since the war, ranking it 4th 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 Phoukhoun districts.

Luangprabang ranks 10th of the 10 provinces severely impacted by the presence of UXO.



Remains of a tank

A road contractor in the southern part of Lao PDR unearthed a tank with its artillery shells while rehabilitating a road. In addition, at a different site, ten 500-pound bombs were uncovered.

Many of the roads in Lao PDR were a direct target of the bombing raids during the war. Many of these roads are contaminated with UXO under the surface as no UXO clearance was conducted during their rehabilitation. These rural roads are used daily and many are currently being upgraded by local authorities. Private individuals and development partners encourage such upgrading as they are seen as vital in improving the rural population's access to markets and basic development needs. However, there is a danger as movement from vehicles may set such UXO off, causing casualties.

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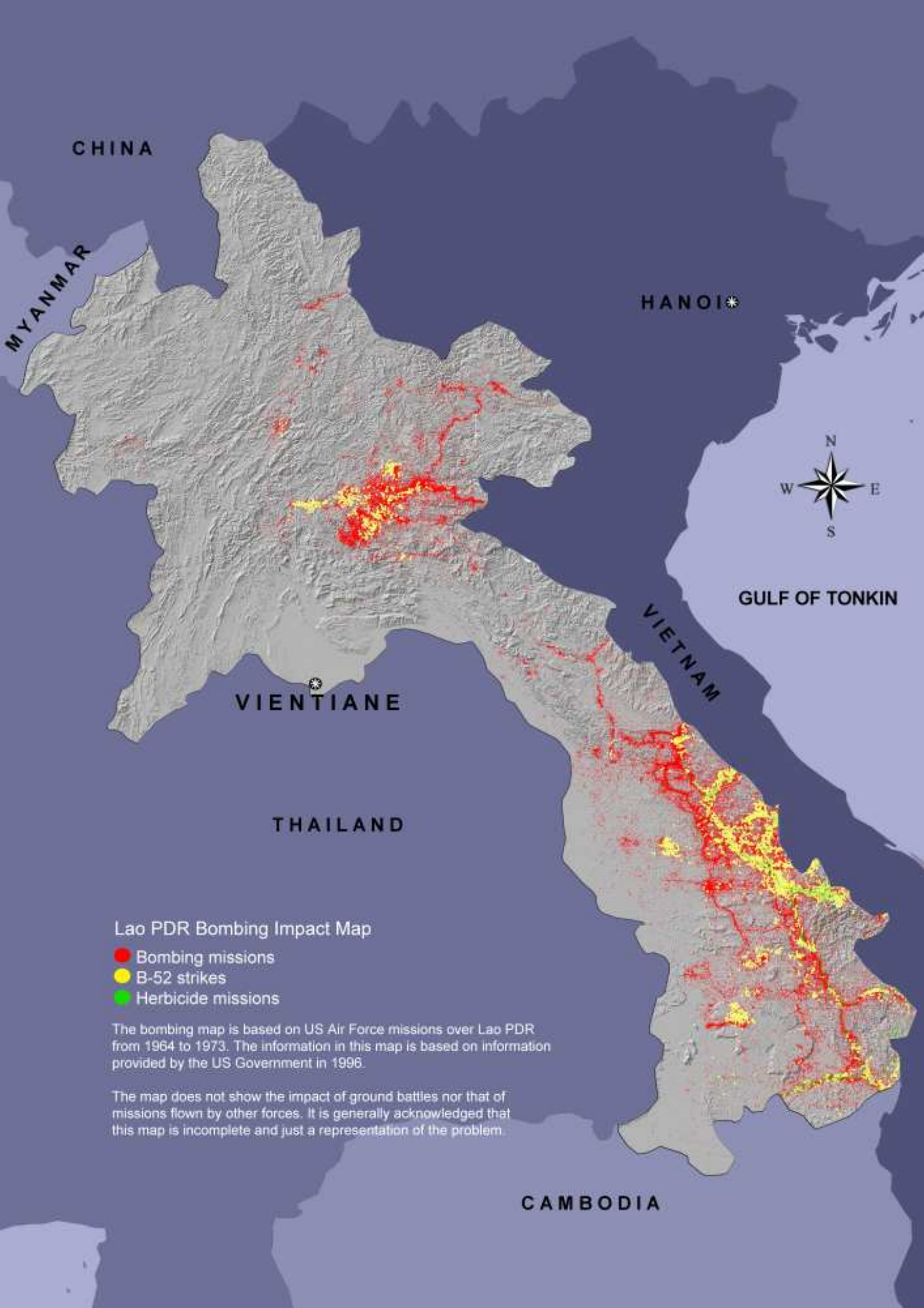
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CHINA

MYANMAR

HANOI*



GULF OF TONKIN

VIETNAM

VIENTIANE*

THAILAND

CAMBODIA

Lao PDR Bombing Impact Map

- Bombing missions
- B-52 strikes
- Herbicide missions

The bombing map is based on US Air Force missions over Lao PDR from 1964 to 1973. The information in this map is based on information provided by the US Government in 1996.

The map does not show the impact of ground battles nor that of missions flown by other forces. It is generally acknowledged that this map is incomplete and just a representation of the problem.



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