



Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO LAO)



Annual Report
2012



2012 AT A GLANCE

OPERATIONS

Community Awareness activities:	614 village on UXO risk education activities. 101% of the work plan target completed.
General Survey tasks:	2,200 survey tasks in 1,422 villages. 121% of the work plan target completed.
Roving tasks:	1,672 roving tasks in 1,151 villages. 113% of the work plan target completed.
Area clearance operations:	2,608.9 hectares of land cleared. 103% of the work plan target completed.
Technical Survey tasks:	re-classified 589.5 hectares of land cleared. 106% of the work plan target completed.
Support to development agencies:	167 hectares of land for more than twenty different development agencies

FINANCIAL

Budget:	US\$ 7,384,522
Expenditure:	US\$ 7,883,264.99

RESOURCES

National personnel:	1,112 personnel, including 1,062 (96%) in provincial operations and offices
Number of female personnel:	197 (18%) female personnel, including 164 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: Female Deminers Team , UXO Lao Xiengkhuang province)

2011 Annual Report

CONTENTS	Page Number
UXO Lao Operations Component.....	1
Forward of UXO Lao Director and CTA.....	2
Accomplishments in 2011.....	3
Field Operations Achievements	4
Field Operational Result	5
	6
Support to Development Agencies.....	7
Update on Partnerships and Technical Assistance.....	8
UXO Lao operation support to Poverty Reduction.....	9
Major Procurement and Accidents Records in 2012	10
UXO Lao Expenditure Details and Budget Sources for 2012	11
	12
Summary of Progress Achieving the Country Programme Outcome	13
Better Programme Management	14
	15
The People of UXO Lao	16
The Impact of UXO in Lao PDR	17
UXO Impact in the Provinces	18
	19
	20
Photos of UXO Lao's Activities	21
	22
Donors and Implementing Partners	23



UXO Lao Operations are composed of:

Community Awareness

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 25cm.



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.



From the National Programme Director



2012 – the 16th year of UXO Lao operations – was yet again a productive and very active year within UXO Lao. Following the surge of activities related to the 1st meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, activities in the field have continued and strengthened and activities have cleared more than 2,600 Ha of land, allowing the population of Laos to move forward in their daily lives.

In 2012, UXO Lao remained focused on the clearance of agricultural land, infrastructure and other development projects. The Poverty Reduction programme and development of special economic development zones in some poor districts were the focus of UXO clearance in some districts and a number of these were supported by UXO Lao clearance teams in 2012.

I believe that this output – almost 10% more cleared land than in the previous year – has not been achieved at the expense of quality, and the quality management teams introduced to UXO Lao in 2011 have continued to operate throughout the organisation with a high degree of effectiveness. We do not however believe that there are still no improvements to be made and we will strive to do so as the programme continues.

During 2012, we have also been very successful with our funding requests and are now in an enviable position of having sufficient support – some of it long term support – to ensure operations throughout 2013. There is, however, still much work to be done and we are ready to rise to that challenge.

2012 saw a significant number of staff leave UXO Lao for other opportunities. The fact that staff turnover is increasing is a concern and the real salary value has steadily decreased as Laos becomes more prosperous and the currency stronger. The significant number of staff leaving the project during the year has a direct impact in UXO Lao's ability to achieve the workplan targets and further add to the financial requirements to train replacement staff. We hope to rectify this issue in 2013. UXO Lao has, however, increased its proportion of female staff to 18% - a 5% increase on 2012 numbers.

In 2013, we hope to build on our success in 2012 – not just in terms of numbers of hectares cleared, people given risk education, but also focusing on the effectiveness and targeting of those activities. We are doing well, but we do not stop trying to do better. I would like to thank the donors, the government of Lao PDR, the United Nations and, just as importantly, the staff of UXO Lao for their efforts and support to UXO Lao through 2012.

Bounpone Sayasenh

From the Chief Technical Advisor



Having recently had the honour to join UXO Lao as the Chief Technical Advisor, it is a pleasure to look back over 2012 and the work of UXO Lao. Having first visited UXO Lao in 1997, and continuing to return regularly, I have seen the slow and steady development of the organisation into the strong national capacity it is today.

I have been fortunate to join UXO Lao at a time of great international focus – the success of the first meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions brought Laos into the world's focus – and since then, UXO Lao has maintained this momentum, not least in the area of funding, where we find ourselves strong for the following year. Although this is a good position to be in, it is certainly not one to rest on.

Although clearance statistics for 2012 were up more than 10% on 2011's, this does not tell the full story. Cleared land is but one output and not always a useful measure on its own. During 2011, UXO Lao focused on its technical survey operations to try to focus clearance assets on more appropriate land. This development is still ongoing and will continue to develop through 2012, but the processes will eventually result in more effective utilisation of assets, more effective clearance, better value for money for donors and ultimately a more secure and comfortable life for the population of Laos.

All of this does not happen overnight and I commend the UXO Lao staff at all levels for their thinking and desire to improve the quality of UXO Lao's work. I will do my personal best to support the staff of the programme to move forwards towards a more effective future.

Tim Lardner



ACCOMPLISHMENTS in 2012

COMMUNITY AWARENESS (CA) ACTIVITIES: conducted 614 villages on UXO risk education activities, reaching 156,362 people, including 69,081 children.

Exceeded by 101% of the 2012 work plan target of 610 villages.

GENERAL SURVEY TASKS: conducted 2,200 survey tasks in 1,422 villages, recording the location of 9,781 different UXO items, including 98 big bombs and 5,003 cluster munitions.

Exceeded by 121% of the 2012 work plan target of 1,814 survey tasks.

ROVING TASKS: conducted 1,672 roving tasks in 1,151 villages, removing or destroying 20,342 different UXO items reported by villagers or CA/survey team members, including 179 big bombs and 8,754 cluster munitions.

Exceeded by 113% of the 2012 work plan target of 1,483 roving tasks.

AREA CLEARANCE OPERATIONS: using UXO detectors, cleared 28,626 different UXO items from 2,608.9 hectares of land, including 54 big bombs and 14,484 cluster munitions. Reached 379,144 beneficiaries. Agricultural land was cleared to the national standard depth of 25 centimetres.

Cleared 2,318.6 hectares of Agriculture land and 290.3 hectares for different development agencies in support of their various socio-economic development projects.

Exceeded by 103% of the 2012 work plan target of 2,542 hectares of land.

TECHNICAL SURVEY TASKS: re-classified 589.5 hectares of land as low priority for clearance through technical survey. Reached 137,266 beneficiaries. Removed or destroyed 221 different UXO items, including 28 cluster munitions.

Exceeded by 106% of the 2012 work plan target of 557 hectares of land reclassified.

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	74	7,892	26,889	112	182	82	101
Huaphanh	65	6,914	15,308	86	168	77	125
Xiengkhuang	65	5,907	13,647	195	443	190	301
Khammuane	72	11,961	27,962	146	170	98	144
Savannakhet	69	6,778	13,405	261	302	242	260
Saravane	67	5,913	14,224	222	245	199	247
Sekong	66	6,898	14,381	105	140	43	150
Champasack	65	8,235	14,415	188	401	118	209
Attapeu	71	8,583	15,131	107	149	102	135
TOTAL	614	69,081	155,362	1,422	2,200	1,151	1,672

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	198.9	20.4	219.3	9,269	34.5	28.6	63.2	16,627	
Huaphanh	224.2	5.3	229.5	13,120	67.9	0.4	68.3	5,454	
Xiengkhuang	346.7	105.9	452.3	284,464	58.7	5.2	64.0	3,234	
Khammuane	230.3	14.0	244.3	7,763	80.7	0.1	80.8	397	
Savannakhet	425.8	8.3	434.2	5,090	62.1	0.0	62.1	197	
Saravane	304.5	29.3	333.8	24,649	49.7	14.7	64.5	61,818	
Sekong	193.0	30.9	224.0	9,238	56.4	1.1	57.5	1,772	
Champasack	233.1	11.7	244.8	13,875	45.4	20.8	66.3	27,129	
Attapeu	161.8	64.5	226.4	11,680	51.6	10.8	62.4	20,575	
TOTAL	2,318.6	290.3	2,608.9	379,144	507.5	82.0	589.5	137,266	

FIELD OPERATIONS ACHIEVEMENT

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	6	58	5	232	301	5	81	61	577	724
Huaphanh	0	435	19	461	915	0	650	43	707	1,400
Xiengkhuang	1	734	4	1,484	2,223	6	1,132	9	1,770	2,917
Khammuane	23	1,008	0	545	1,576	24	1,281	0	2,065	3,370
Savannakhet	11	1,984	19	910	2,954	22	1,781	18	961	2,782
Saravane	29	234	3	112	378	59	1,923	1	2,600	4,583
Sekong	10	68	0	55	133	47	689	0	1,473	2,209
Champasack	7	282	3	590	882	11	833	8	960	1,812
Attapeu	11	200	2	236	449	5	384	6	150	545
TOTAL	98	5,003	55	4,625	9,781	179	8,754	146	11,263	20,342

* 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	1	1,201	1	700	1,903	0	0	0	19	19
Huaphanh	7	1,218	1	1,135	2,361	0	0	0	0	0
Xiengkhuang	23	5,870	4	4,218	10,115	0	5	0	94	99
Khammuane	2	490	0	2,117	2,609	0	0	0	0	0
Savannakhet	6	1,430	5	610	2,051	0	1	0	9	10
Saravane	1	885	0	1,869	2,775	0	12	0	23	35
Sekong	3	1,485	0	1,875	3,363	0	10	0	0	10
Champasack	10	1,239	1	1,195	2,445	0	0	1	22	23
Attapeu	1	666	6	351	1,024	0	0	0	25	25
TOTAL	54	14,484	18	14,070	28,626	1	28	1	192	221

PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

UXO Lao is the national UXO clearance operator in Lao PDR. The organization works in the nine most heavily UXO impacted provinces and clears land for agriculture, community purposes (e.g. schools, hospitals, temples, and water supply) and other development activities. It also conducts risk-reduction education activities (Community Awareness or CA) in affected communities. Established in 1996 by the Lao Government with the support of UNDP, UNICEF, and other donors, UXO Lao currently has around 1,100 employees. The organization operates under the generic principles of mine action: (1) conducting land release through area clearance and technical survey; (2) undertaking reactive and proactive roving tasks (emergency explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) tasks); (3) general survey activities; and (4) UXO risk education activities.

The overall outcome of the project is: **By 2015, national and local governments and communities have reduced the impact of unexploded ordnance on people in the Lao PDR.**

To realize the above outcome, UXO Lao in 2012 set the main objective of the programme to increase programme output through new technology and to improve operational capacity.

Activity Results: Better operations in 9 provinces for safe access to contaminated land for socio-economic and humanitarian purpose and reduce risk of UXO related accident

Operations reflect the generic principles of humanitarian mine action. Several components make up clearance operations in Lao PDR: mobile roving teams remove or destroy UXO reported by villagers on the surface and area clearance teams detect and destroy UXO on and under the ground. Survey teams support detailed planning activities by analysing land to see if it is appropriate for clearance to take place and then subsequently provide detailed maps and information for the database to help prioritise work and monitor provincial progress against the baseline survey conducted in 1996.

As can be seen in the statistics below, UXO clearance, survey and roving activities are above the targets set in the 2012 Annual Work Plan. The methodology used for prioritising land for clearance is in accordance with the national *Safe Path Forward II* strategy endorsed by the Government of Lao PDR in July 2012. Requests for clearance of land for development projects linked to the national authorities were met. The project has ensured a response time of not more than two weeks from request to task completion for urgent requests. A decrease in the recorded number of annual casualties from 302 to 52 has been recorded within the five years period from 2008 – 2012.

Output 1: Operational Results

Number of hectares released under Clearance Activities			
Province	2012 Target	2012 Achieved	% of Target Achieved
Luang Prabang	220	219.3	100%
Houaphan	220	229.5	104%
Xiengkhuang	450	452.3	101%
Khammouane	220	244.3	111%
Savannakhet	431	424.3	101%
Saravane	330	333.3	101%
Sekong	220	224.0	102%
Champasack	231	244.8	106%
Attapeu	220	226.4	103%



Number of hectares Cleared through Technical Survey			
Province	2012 Target	2012 Achieved	% of Target Achieved
Luang Prabang	62	63.2	102%
Houaphan	65	68.3	105%
Xiengkhuang	65	64.0	99%
Khammouane	71	80.8	114%
Savannakhet	61	62.1	102%
Saravane	62	64.5	104%
Sekong	50	57.5	115%
Champasack	60	66.3	111%
Attapeu	61	62.4	102%



Number of Roving Tasks Conducted			
Province	2012 Target	2012 Achieved	% of Target Achieved
Luang Prabang	120	101	84%
Houaphan	101	125	124%
Xiengkhuang	335	301	90%
Khammouane	100	144	144%
Savannakhet	250	260	104%
Saravane	182	247	136%
Sekong	130	150	115%
Champasack	150	209	139%
Attapeu	115	135	117%



Number of General Survey Tasks Conducted:			
Province	2011 Target	2011 Achieved	% of Target Achieved
Luang Prabang	143	182	127%
Houaphan	150	168	112%
Xiengkhuang	389	443	114%
Khammouane	150	170	113%
Savannakhet	300	302	101%
Saravane	233	245	105%
Sekong	130	140	108%
Champasack	204	401	197%
Attapeu	115	149	130%



Number of Community Awareness Activities Conducted			
Province	2011 Target	2011 Achieved	% of Target Achieved
Luang Prabang	69	65	94%
Houaphan	65	65	100%
Xiengkhuang	70	66	94%
Khammouane	69	69	100%
Savannakhet	60	62	103%
Saravane	64	64	100%
Sekong	73	67	92%
Champasack	65	65	100%
Attapeu	63	64	102%



Training Centre:			
	Target	Actual	% of Target Achieved
Training Courses Conducted	13	10	76%
Personnel Trained	266	189	71%



Update on gender mainstreaming

UXO Lao follows the Lao Government's policy on gender. During this period, UXO Lao had a total staff number of 1,114 staff; 917 males and 197 females (18%). 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 two all-female UXO clearance teams, and also employs women as medics, deminers, and CA personnel.

UXO Lao has 197 female staff, of which 83% are working in the field. In 2012, UXO Lao pursued an active policy of recruiting women in key position. While one female was promoted as the chief of unit in 2010, in late 2012 one female was also promoted to the chief of Quality Management unit. More than 50% of recipients of CA sessions are female, 45% are children and 78% of village volunteers are female.

UXO Clearance for 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.

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.

Province	Development Agencies support	Project type	Area cleared (ha)	No.of Beneficiaries
LPB	Poverty Reduc.fund, Norway	School construction	2.1991	718
LPB	World Vision, EFA-FTI, UNICEF, Japan	School construction	6.5314	2,548
LPB	Children	School construction	2.3564	856
LPB	Vietnam Govr.	Borehole	0.4000	457
LPB	ADB, Plice	Rice field, Sanitation	2.9223	621
HP	Poverty reduction fund	School construction	3.9507	2,442
XKH	Phoubeer Mining	Garden	0.5319	6
XKH	ADRA, Chao Project, Theap Phanimith	Water Supply	1.5684	2,083
XKH	JICA, USA, MCC	School construction, Rice field	5.8125	2,101
KHM	IRD	Water supply, School construction	0.6247	1,234
KHM	Project Shoot	Borehole, Toilet	0.1604	382
SVK	NGO	School construction	2.9064	901
SRV	EFA, JICA, Provincial Project	School, Road, Sanitation	30.7049	75,062
SK	CARE, EDB2, Sou Ford	Garden, School, village, Rice field	89.9358	4,599
CHS	EFA-FTI, JICA	School, Sanitation, Platation	14.4313	18,357
ATP	IFAD, Poverty Reduction Fund	Rice field, Borehole	2.2128	14,652
TOTAL:			167.4613	127,607

TRAINING and TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

All clearance personnel trained up to National standards

A high standard of training is essential for the development and maintenance of the capacity to carry out safe, effective and efficient operational activities in Lao PDR. To ensure a high standard of training, the NRA has set training standards for key sector appointments and to specify requirements for the management and conduct of training.

UXO Lao maintains a training centre at Ban Y Lai in Vientiane where different training courses are conducted by UXO Lao instructors. Courses follow fixed curricula that are aligned with the NRA published National Standards. Internal validation of formal training courses is carried both during and upon completion of the course.

Internal validation includes:

- The regular assessment of instructors on their general instructor skills and methods of instruction. Assessments are done against an objective checklist and cover both theory and practical lessons.
- Trainee feedback sessions at the end of each formal training course to discuss the completed course and provide feedback on relevant topics. The feedback session are overseen by a staff member not involved with the management or conduct of the course.
- Visits to UXO/mine clearance operations by training staff.

TRAINING:

In the year 2012 UXO Lao conducted 10 courses for 189 trainees at the UXO Lao Training Centre in Ban Ilay, Vientiane. The organization has a core team of national staff as instructors. Courses graduation as below:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Deminer 3 courses - 90 graduates. | 2. Team Leader 1 courses - 23 graduates |
| 3. Medic 2 courses - 16 graduates. | 4. Survey 1 course - 25 graduates |
| 5. Medic Refresher 1 course - 10 graduates. | 6. Community Awareness 2 course - 25 graduates |

Training Courses	Target	ActualJan-Dec	% of Target Achieved
Training Courses Conducted	13	10	76%
Personnel Trained	-	189	-

UPDATE ON PARTNERSHIPS

The project has promoted exchanges of experience and lessons learnt through the organisation of a workshop between UXO Lao and CMAC in July 2012. This was the first workshop in a series of six workshops between UXO Lao and CMAC planned within the next three years and funded by the Government of Japan through a bilateral agreement with UXO Lao. The objective of the 1st workshop was to share experiences and learn how each organisation works on “Demining tools, Methodology and Technology” and “Survey”. CMAC prepared a variety of lectures about “Demining tools, Methodology and Technology” and “Survey” which could lead to a comprehensive understanding of CMAC’s works on these topics. UXO Lao also gave presentations including an organisational outline of UXO Lao as well as an overview of methodology and technology used for clearance of UXO in the Lao PDR.

In May 2012 the Government of Japan, represented by the Japanese Ambassador to Laos Ms. Junko YOKOTA, signed the exchange note with Dr. Thongloun SISOULITH, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR, for the 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. The grant aid was signed between JICA and the Ministry of Planning and Investment. The purpose of the project is to improve UXO Lao UXO clearance equipment to enable UXO Lao to conduct UXO clearance operations in a safe, effective and efficient manner.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

UXO Lao personnel benefit from the support provided by international technical advisors. In 2012, focus on technical assistance shifted from field operations (EOD) to the field of quality management. During 2012, there were 4 Technical Advisors supporting UXO Lao at Headquarters Office:

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

Chief Technical Advisor:

Management and technical advice is provided to UXO Lao Senior Management through the provision of a Chief Technical Advisor (CTA). As part of the sustainability/exit strategy, the programme will continue to reduce the reliance on international technical advisors. The CTA bears responsibility for oversight of technical activities as well as supporting UXO Lao toward achieving AWP indicators, resource mobilisation as well as the investigation and implementation of new technologies.

The CTA is the key point of focus for all UNDP supported activities and in many cases also for bilateral donor support. The role of the CTA is to be the catalyst to development within UXO Lao and to assist UXO Lao to move to more efficient and effective processes to make better use of donor resources. Bringing experience from outside Laos, the CTA is able to triangulate processes and activities and take a broader view than simply the Lao PDR approach. UXO Lao senior management are supported directly and indirectly by the CTA through discussions, workshops and exchange opportunities to learn lessons from other programmes.

Financial Management Advisor:

The UXO Lao Finance unit is supported by a TA who has been overseeing the implementation of a new financial management system and coaches and mentors the finance unit in strategic financial management, budget preparation and monitoring, fund management, internal monitoring, and audit compliance. In early 2012, a new financial management was put in place in order to improve the financial management capacity of UXO Lao. The Financial Management Advisor focused on the implementation of the new financial management system, *AccPac* until her retirement at the end of July 2012. A new TA for Programme and Finance was recruited and started work mid-October 2012. The TA provides technical assistance to UXO Lao to build its management and administrative capacity and helps monitor its programme, finance, training and logistics operations.

UXO Lao Operation support to the Poverty Reduction.

UXO Lao operation is focus on supporting the Lao Government Poverty Reduction Plan. In 2012 UXO Lao is worked in 36 poor districts which were affected by UXO to clear the land for poor families, to give them safe land to make agricultural productions improve their lives. The two tables 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
Luang Prabang	12	12	5	5	119	59	9,265	16,627
Houaphan	9	9	7	7	94	10	13,120	5,454
Xiengkhuang	8	4	5	2	239	30	284,464	3,234
Khammouane	9	7	5	4	193	70	7,763	397
Savannakhet	15	8	6	6	208	24	5,090	197
Saravane	8	7	3	3	165	45	24,649	61,818
Sekong	4	4	2	2	219	41	9,238	1,772
Champasack	10	10	4	4	162	58	13,875	27,192
Attapeu	5	5	3	3	173	73	11,680	20,575
TOTAL	80	66	40	36	1,572	410	379,144	137,069

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	108	19	1,194	578
Houaphan	9	9	7	7	88	9	10,037	4,918
Xiengkhuang	8	4	5	2	172	21	6,788	1,160
Khammouane	9	7	5	4	159	69	966	394
Savannakhet	15	8	6	6	194	24	3,264	197
Saravane	8	7	3	3	133	19	2,711	1,375
Sekong	4	4	2	2	199	38	4,324	433
Champasack	10	10	4	4	155	21	949	1,771
Attapeu	5	5	3	3	121	45	3,366	1,273
TOTAL	80	66	40	36	1,329	265	33,599	12,099

MAJOR PROCUREMENT IN 2012

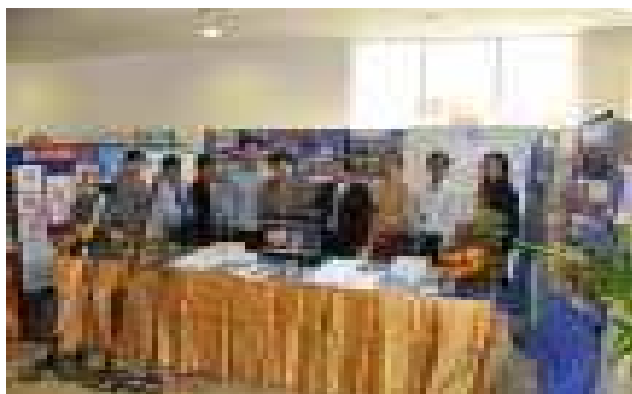
UXO Lao procured the following major equipment and vehicles in 2011. Items procured with funds managed by UNDP are procured for UXO Lao by UNDP following UNDP's rules and regulations. Items procured with funds provided direct to UXO Lao follow UXO Lao's procurement system which are approved by both UNDP and the Lao Government.

Major Item/Description	Number
Toyota L/C Hard Top	02
Ebinger UPEX740M Large loop	16
Vallon VMXC1 detector	15
Desktop computer	10
Laptop computer	05
Scanner	10
Printer	07

UXO ACCIDENTS RECORDED BY UXO LAO IN 2012

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 2011. 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	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Houaphan	2	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Xiengkhuang	3	5	1	6	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Khammouane	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Savannakhet	7	8	4	12	1	0	1	6	3	1	0	0
Saravane	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Sekong	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Champasack	2	2	2	4	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Attapeu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	18	19	10	29	8	1	3	7	5	1	4	0



UXO LAO EXPENDITURE IN 2012 (all amounts are in US\$)

COST CENTER	NO	UNDP	TC	AT	SK	CH	SL	SVK	HP	XK	KH	LP	TOTAL
PERSONNEL													
International Advisors	0	478,029	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	478,029
National Staff	259,514	6,127	31,987	303,268	316,159	320,223	445,925	581,325	335,269	565,085	329,798	336,071	3,830,751
Travel Expenses	23,407	8,943	1,255	12,051	4,602	657	5,639	7,335	7,282	8,687	12,055	5,335	97,248
Total Personnel	282,921	493,099	33,242	315,319	320,761	320,880	451,564	588,660	342,551	573,772	341,853	341,406	4,406,028
OPERATING COSTS													
Fuel	34,685	0	9,514	61,213	84,212	43,785	79,853	98,067	54,037	77,648	77,360	108,849	729,223
Office Operating Costs	19,094	3,458	10,641	7,648	10,158	7,780	17,322	16,514	8,833	13,681	12,554	9,462	137,145
Capital Works and Building Maintenance	75	0	1,827	1,444	3,797	36,714	8,886	104,999	8,170	20,375	16,956	14,242	217,485
Communication Costs	6,761	146	711	1,066	1,293	1,160	1,902	2,800	1,742	1,068	871	2,091	21,611
Vehicles Operating Costs	26,755	49,993	5,099	21,771	109,529	77,777	73,977	100,464	42,224	75,173	90,332	58,189	731,283
Other Equipment Operating Costs	7,536	0	2,309	1,538	3,371	1,055	6,666	6,328	3,207	5,078	3,700	20,413	61,201
Printing Costs	9,242	2,193	26	8,638	3,681	71	357	2,117	465	990	0	866	28,646
Freight, Transport, Customs, Postal Handling	2,340	6,715	0	1,105	1,654	2,327	1,221	2,965	617	1,614	1,163	1,093	22,787
Other Operating Costs	3,684	445	172	1,002	8,113	844	2,737	1,580	1,937	1,967	991	1,923	25,395
Total Operating Costs	110,172	62,950	30,299	105,425	225,808	171,513	192,921	335,834	121,232	197,594	203,900	217,128	1,974,776
SPECIAL OPERATING COSTS													
Equipment Trials and Pilot Projects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Training	1,468	0	89,632	5,357	5,015	4,507	4,900	2,643	5,179	7,393	6,344	8,203	140,641
Public Information (Radio, Video, etc.)	258	1,114	0	38	64	53	20	438	622	5	50	163	2,820
International Travel and Conferences	10,835	30,601	200	200	300	300	300	300	200	300	200	200	43,936
UNDP Admin. Costs = GMS/BC/ISS	0	221,973	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	221,973
Audit and External Evaluation	0	0	0	0	1,970	0	1,970	0	0	0	0	0	3,940
Other Special Operating Costs	6,788	14,626	13	2,428	293	2,236	1,670	5,994	2,075	1,462	2,250	1,075	40,910
Total Special Operating Costs	19,349	268,314	89,845	8,023	7,642	7,096	8,860	9,375	8,076	9,155	8,844	9,641	454,220
NON EXPENDABLE EQUIPMENT													
Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	33,800	32,800	33,800	33,800	0	0	32,800	167,000
Office Equipment and Furniture	3,337	12,796	4,602	866	3,726	2,850	1,159	5,885	4,526	6,844	3,689	14,606	64,886
Operations Equipment	0	392,806	169	10,685	267	6,468	488	35,746	605	485	970	2,386	451,075
Total Non Expendable Equipment	3,337	405,602	4,771	11,551	3,993	43,118	34,447	75,431	38,931	7,329	4,659	49,792	682,961
EXPENDABLE EQUIPMENT													
Office Supplies	10,276	0	852	1,454	2,903	1,582	5,712	5,661	6,416	8,897	2,056	11,861	57,670
Personnel and Medical Supplies	4,168	86,773	4,334	16,248	19,101	12,297	6,447	25,723	7,027	10,178	10,323	22,131	206,750
Other Consumables	0	93,878	0	3,662	28,636	10,473	21,093	23,144	6,263	11,358	8,622	25,382	232,511
Total Expendable Equipment	14,444	162,651	5,186	21,364	50,640	24,352	33,252	54,528	19,706	30,433	21,001	59,374	496,931
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	430,223	1,392,616	163,343	461,682	608,844	566,959	721,044	1,063,828	530,496	818,283	580,257	677,341	8,014,916

UXO Lao Budget and Funding Sources Expenditure in 2012:

Total Budget	Original Budget(US\$)	Latest Signed Revision(US\$)
	7,384,522	7,384,522

2012 Estimated Expenditure	Donor	Amount
	UNDP Managed Fund:	
Trust Fund:	Australia	1,874,587
	Canada	575,394
	Ireland	489,548
	Luxembourg	151,051
	New Zealand	452,642
	Switzerland	844,807
Cost Sharing Funds:	Germany	341,168
	DFID	37,234
	South Korea	15,000
	Luxembourg	617
	Switzerland	4,041
	EC	82,826
	Norway	3,799
Regular Resources:	UNDP TRAC	350,000
	Old Trust Fund	5
Sub Total UNDP Managed Funds:		<u>US\$ 5,222,719</u>
	Bilateral Funds:	
	Japan GGP	925,590
	JMAS	108,343
	World Without Mines	150,000
	United States (Armor/Sterling)	1,500,245
	Poland	11,719
Sub Total Bilateral Funds:		<u>US\$ 2,695,897</u>
TOTAL ESTIMATED 2012 EXPENDITURE:		<u>US\$ 7,918,616</u>

Summary of Progress towards achieving the Country Programme Outcome

From January to December 2012, UXO Lao released 3,199 hectares of land through area clearance and technical survey activities reaching 516,410 beneficiaries. Within the reporting period, UXO Lao destroyed 49,189 items of UXO of which 23,266 were sub-munitions (or bombies) through clearance, technical survey and roving tasks. The removal or destruction of UXO increases the security of people living in UXO impacted communities and increases the amount of safe land available for food production and other socio-economic development activities and the work undertaken is fully in accordance with national standards and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM).

UXO Lao conducted risk education activities designed to increase the awareness of people living in unexploded ordnance (UXO) affected areas about the dangers of UXO and to change the behaviour of 'high risk' target groups. During the reporting period, 614 risk education activities were conducted by UXO Lao staff and Village Volunteers and reached 155,362 people, including 69,081 children. This is above the targets set for 2012. Risk education activities are closely linked with survey activities by allowing villagers to assist survey teams in identifying the location of UXO. Further, 1,672 roving tasks were conducted in 1,151 villages removing 20,342 items of UXO including 8,754 sub-munitions or bombies, with a response time of not more than two weeks from request to task completion. These efforts have contributed to a decrease in the recorded number of annual casualties from 302 to only 52 within the five year period from 2008 – 2012. In 2012, the numbers of UXO casualties were reduced by 47% compared to 2011.

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. Besides areas cleared for agricultural land, UXO Lao also contributes to the Lao Government's development projects, as well as those of other international organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGO) to allow infrastructure development to happen - including the establishment of irrigation systems, school constructions, hospitals, health centres, 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 seventh National Social-Economic Development Plan of Lao PDR.

During this reporting period, UXO Lao cleared more than 200 hectares of land directly supporting development agencies' projects (such as JICA, CARE, the Poverty Reduction Fund among others) with 127,607 beneficiaries from the clearance during 2012. UXO Lao cleared land at no cost to these development agencies and thus also contributed to further socio-economic development in the country. UXO Lao does not clear land for commercial investors or for investment purposes.

A comprehensive review of UXO Lao's Standing Operating Procedures permitted the resubmission of UXO Lao's application for accreditation for UXO clearance. This application was reviewed by the NRA and accreditation was issued to UXO Lao in February 2012.

In early 2012, a new financial management system was put in place in order to improve the financial management capacity of UXO Lao. Following a procurement process managed by UNDP, the financial software "AccPac" was acquired at UXO Lao which allows UXO Lao to be in complete control of its resources; to be able to accurately track all funds and expenditures including those funds held by UNDP and direct expenditures made by UNDP.

Further to the previous concerns with regards to staff turnover, UXO Lao, with UNDP and GoL support, implemented a 20% salary increase across the whole staff of the organisation. Although it is too early to say, it is likely that 2011's problem of staff retention will, at least to some degree, be alleviated.

Better Programme Management and Sufficient Resources mobilize by UXO Lao National Office.

The UXO Lao National Office manages critical functions of operations in the nine provinces in which UXO Lao is deployed including planning, coordinating, and providing quality management in all nine provinces. Other functions centralised at the National Office include data collection and compilation of results from operations in the nine provinces in the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), reporting functions to the NRA, partnership management and resource mobilisation, financial management and operational logistical support including procurement.

The achievement of this activity is supported by the chief Technical Advisor (CTA) and the Technical Advisor (TA) for Programme & Finance who, through working closely with the UXO Lao senior management (and where necessary), provide technical advice to UXO Lao and organise training for key staff in the various units. This was done throughout the period.

Units Office achievements in 2012 can report the following:

Programme Management:

The Programme Unit coordinates and produces all UXO Lao external documents such as contract papers, agreements with donors, donor reports and funding proposals to donors, international organisations such as UNDP and other stakeholders such as the National Regulatory Authority (NRA), Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW).

During the reporting period, the unit completed their regular reports to MLSW and NRA as well as to donors. The programme unit also acted as the focal point for the Laos-Cambodia South-South Cooperation on the UXO/Mine Action Sector, was involved in the selection process of participants and further assisted with organising the attendance of the participants to the first workshop on Demining tools, Methodology and Technology and Survey which was held in July 2012 in Cambodia. The second training workshop was held, again in Cambodia, in December 2012.

The lectures provided a comprehensive picture of CMAC and UXO Lao's demining tools, methodology and technology, but further discussions and analysis are still needed in order to fill the gaps in both programmes. This can be one of the points to be improved for the next workshop. The differences in the two organisations' approaches should be clearly identified in the process of preparation for the next workshop. According to post-workshop reviews, all participants from both organisations considered the workshop to be highly useful.

Public Information:

The Public Information Unit is responsible for UXO Lao's external relations. It works closely with various Lao Government and donor agencies, with other international organisations, with the Press Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as with domestic and international media, providing information on the operations of UXO Lao as well as circulating as broadly as possible data and information on the impact of UXO in Lao PDR. The unit also manages and updates the content of the UXO Lao website, coordinating with media to create awareness to the general public of UXO Lao's activities. The Public Information unit further supports the organisation of field operation visits for donors. The unit has designed and organized the printing of the 2012 work plan as well as the 2011 annual report and distributed them to donors and Government offices. The unit further organised a grant signing ceremony for the Government of Germany and the European Union, accompanied an Australian parliamentary delegation to visit field operations in LuangPrabang province and organized a meeting with the US Ambassador for the hand-over of the UXO Lao office in Sepone (Savannakhet). The unit produced several articles for newspaper publishing on the work of UXO Lao during 2012.

Operations Management:

The Operations unit is a key unit of UXO Lao. The unit is the operational arm of the UXO Lao National Programme Director and acts as the secretariat for field operations through UXO Lao Provincial coordinators and team leaders in the field. The unit has a range of responsibilities including monitoring and managing operations against the annual work plan, developing field operations manuals and training for field staff, monitoring the operations of the Training Centre, and providing technical advice to senior EOD Technicians working in the field. Additionally the unit also carries out regular reviews of the organisation's Standing Operating Procedures (SOP). All provincial targets for Operations were met in 2012. UXO Lao attends and actively participates in every Clearance Technical Working Group (TWG).

Database Management:

The database unit is responsible to collect and manage data from provincial operations, to collate and consolidate them as the overall output of the organisation. It also monitors the implementation of the work plan and collects the data from progress reports prepared by the provinces. The dataflow processes are being continually reviewed and guided towards a general improvement.

The unit continued to enter data of progress reports from nine provincial offices and provided a bombing map to the Australian donor as requested.

Financial Management

The UXO Lao Finance unit is supported by a TA who oversaw the implementation of a new financial management system and coached and mentored the finance unit in strategic financial management, budget preparation and monitoring, fund management, internal monitoring, and audit compliance. UXO Lao has successfully integrated its new financial software *AccPac*, and has completed the integration of the data from the previous financial system. It regularly updates and records income and expenditures of UXO Lao. The TA for Finance retired at the end of July 2012 and a new TA for Finance & Programme started work in October 2012. The Finance unit started putting together a capacity plan for improving financial management and reporting in the nine provinces that is expected to take place in Q1/Q2 of 2013. The Finance unit plans to improve provincial reporting through organising training to provincial staff on how to enter expenditure information into excel sheets which can then be reviewed by the National office and can then be directly uploaded into the UXO Financial management software *AccPac*. At the moment, the provinces collect receipts and enter the information on excel sheets which are then sent to the National Office by mail. Currently, there is no system in place where the information on the excel sheets can directly be uploaded into *AccPac*. A consultant will be hired to set-up this function and train of both the national finance unit staff as well as the provincial finance staff.

Logistical Support

The Logistic and procurement unit is responsible for the management of all UXO Lao assets, for the provision of all material and equipment necessary for UXO Lao operations, and for their maintenance and repair.

The unit continues to cooperate with the Operations and Finance Unit of UNDP on procurement practice and plans for nine provincial offices as well as the National Office and Training Centre. The procurement plan for 2012 was submitted to UNDP and remains in place subject to regular reviews.

Quality Management

The purpose of Quality Management (QM) in UXO/Mine Action is to confirm that operational procedures for UXOMineAction are appropriate, are being applied and will achieve the stated requirement in a safe, effective and efficient manner. Quality Control (QC) is the part of QM focused on checking the quality of finished products.

The QM unit at UXO Lao maintains the Quality System of UXO Lao and monitors the compliance with standard operating procedures (SOPs) through conducting field and office inspections at national and provincial HQs. The Unit is further responsible for the follow up on External Audits. During 2012, the QM unit can report the following achievements:

Office Inspection (Internal Audit): The unit completed a workshop on Office Inspection on 20-21 August 2012.

External Audit

- The unit followed up on the external audit conducted by Ernst & Young (of the UNDP Fund). Out of five audit recommendations, four have already been implemented; the only one currently still in progress relates to processes for internal promotion of staff. A draft document on procedural changes has been produced and is currently under review. (Please see the attached file of Audit Action Plan in Annex VIII)

UXO LAO Procedures: Revisions of the Operations SOPs have been approved and disseminated

Field Inspections:

The QM unit is supported by mobile QM Teams, who undertake inspections of operations related processes, products equipment & infrastructure and review staff knowledge & skills.

During 2012, the three inspection teams have completed four rounds of field inspections in all nine provinces.

The People of UXO Lao

Staff distribution and composition (as of 31 December, 2012)

Area	Office	Office (F)	SEOD	Deminer	Deminer (F)	TS	Survey	CA	CA (F)	Medic	Medic (F)	Driver	Cleaner	Guard	Total (F)	Total Pers.
NO	42	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	1	13	42
TC	8	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	8
HP	9	3	3	47	4	5	6	6	2	6	4	10	2	2	14	96
LP	10	4	3	57	5	4	4	5	2	6	1	8	1	3	14	101
XK	10	2	1	94	9	3	8	6	2	16	5	21	3	4	18	166
KHM	9	3	2	58	7	4	3	5	2	8	0	7	1	6	11	103
SVK	9	2	3	105	29	4	8	5	0	15	13	17	4	7	45	177
CH	10	3	2/1w	45	11	4	3	5	1	8	3	9	1	4	19	91
SL	10	1	3	78	11	3	5	6	2	9	3	10	3	4	18	131
SK	8	2	2	51	9	4	5	6	0	7	1	12	4	2	16	101
AT	10	1	2	49	16	4	5	5	2	7	6	8	2	4	27	96
TOTAL	126	33	22/1w	584	100	35	47	49	13	82	36	106	24	37	197	1,112

STAFFING:

There has been high turnover of staff across all nine provinces and at the National level. UXO Lao lost 121 welltrained staff, trained within the programme at the UXO Lao Training Centre during 2011. It was observed that most of the staff left UXO Lao to work with other organisations or commercial companies who have offered improved benefits and/or better salary. UXO Lao management addressed this issue during 2012 and after a careful review a 20% increase in staff salary was put in place in 2012. It is hoped that this will significantly reduce loss of staff from the organisation.



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.

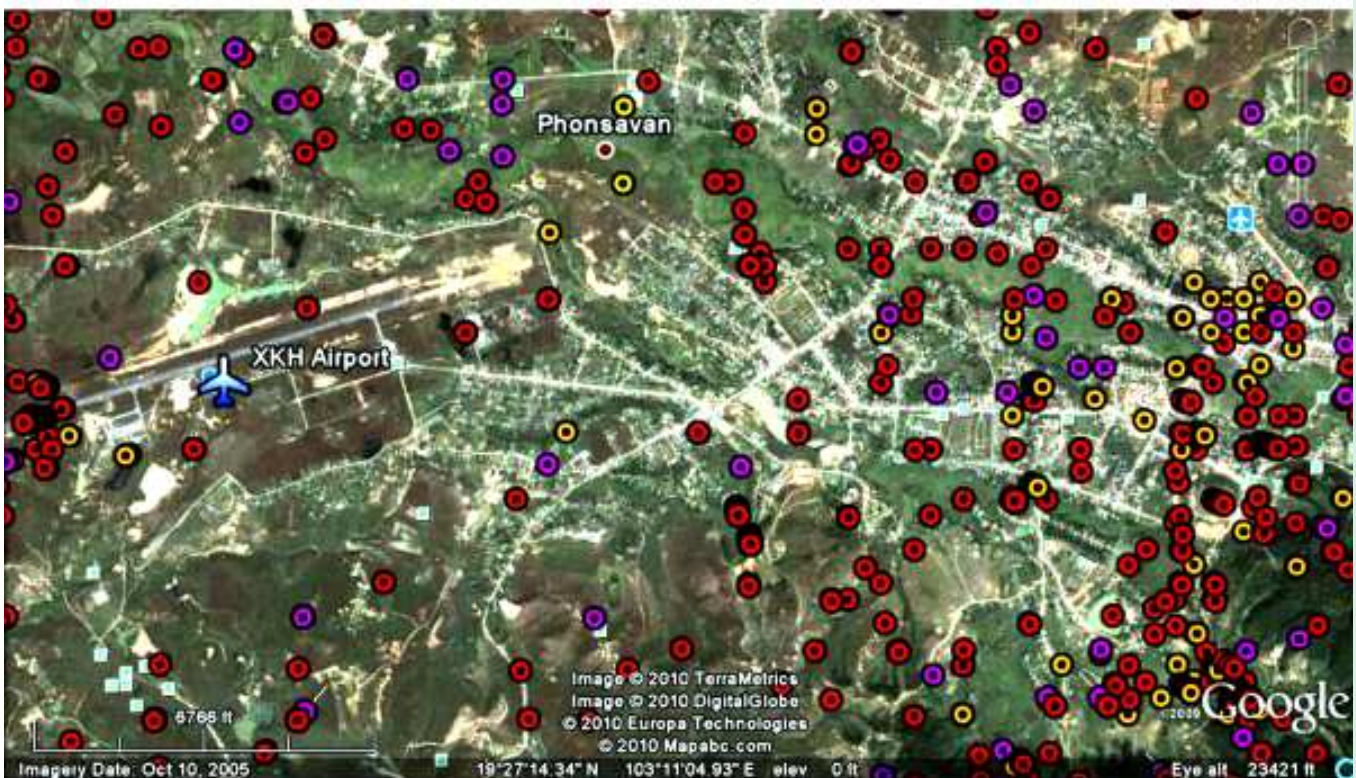
The National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDPP) of the Government of Lao PDR (GoL) identifies the correlation between the presence of UXO and the

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 NSEDPP 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 software.

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. 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 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 forces allied 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 2nd 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 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 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 4th 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 5th 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 Pakxsong, 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 6th 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 7th of the nine provinces severely impacted by the presence of UXO.

ATTAPU 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 8th 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 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 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 in the low numbers 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) RLA 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 9th of the nine provinces severely impacted by the presence of UXO.



Photo of UXO Lao's Activities

Training



First Aid Training (Field Madics)



Training to use new UXO Detectors (Deminers)

Survey



Community Awareness (CA)



Area Clearance and Roving Task



Technical Survey (TS)



DONORS AND IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



ARMORGROUP
ARMORGROUP NORTH AMERICA, INC



**WELT OHNE MINEN
WORLD WITHOUT MINES
MONDE SANS MINES**

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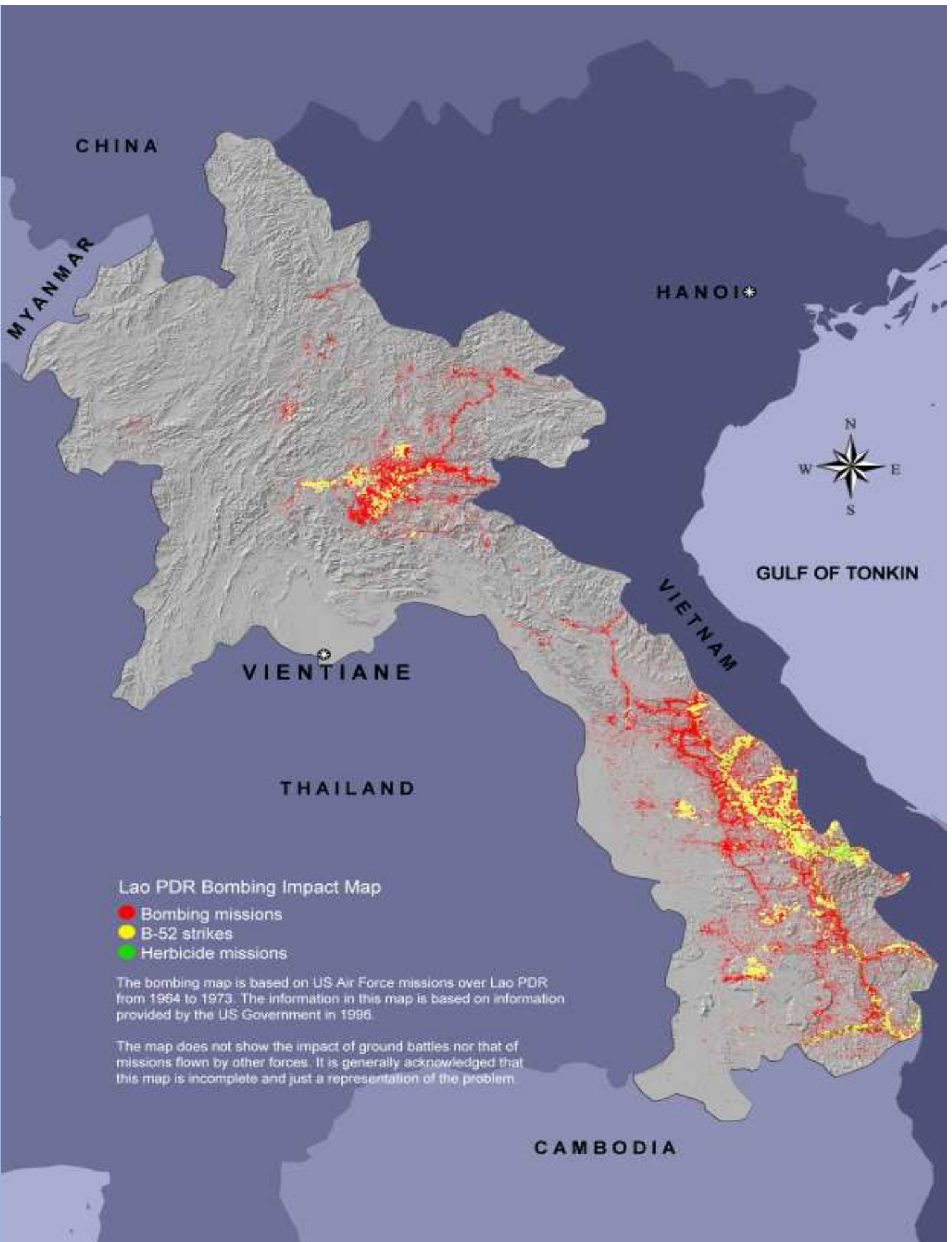
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