CCM Intersessional Meeting
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Lao PDR: UXO Contamination Assessment Process (UXO CAP)

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Background

- Lao PDR was heavily bombed and experienced intense ground-fighting during the Indo-China war from 1964 to 1973 (more than 2 million tons).
- Up to 87,000 sq.km. of Laos is potentially UXO contaminated with various types of UXO, according to U.S. bombing data and HI Survey;
- There are multiple types of UXO: (cluster munitions, big bombs, mortars, artillery shells, grenades, landmines, etc.) Most contamination is sub-surface.
- Of almost 500 casualties since 2008, the vast majority were from sub-surface explosions caused by setting fires or digging.
Objectives of Survey

1. Identify Confirmed Hazardous Areas;

2. Ensure effective and efficient use of resources;

3. Help fulfill Lao PDR obligations under CCM, CCW, etc.
Evidence Based Approach

• Lao PDR will take an ‘evidence-based’ approach;

• ‘Evidence’ includes: U.S. Bombing Data, accident reports, reports of previous survey/clearance, testimony of villagers, UXO fragmentation, etc. (*Evidence will be verified during pilot project)
Pilot Project

• A pilot project will be conducted in Lao PDR, involving UXO Lao and international operators to test CAP methodology and refine as appropriate before adopting as national standard.

• Pilot will focus initially on cluster munitions remnants;

• Survey priorities will be Focus Development Areas that are potentially contaminated;

• Focus Development Areas are also priorities for clearance, if found to be contaminated;
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Thank you for your kind attention