

I. Background.

Lao PDR is, per capita, the most heavily bombed nation in the world. Throughout the 1964 to 1973 Indochina War, it suffered intensive aerial bombardment and extensive ground battles. In excess of two million tons of bombs were dropped on Lao PDR, including 4 million items of big bombs and more than 270 million cluster munitions, commonly referred to as “bombies”, and that up to 30% of them failed to explode.

Because of their wide-area effect and high failure rate, the impact of bombies on the civilian population and on the nation as a whole, has been devastating. In addition to many thousands of civilian casualties during the war there are approximately 20,000 casualties since the war ended.

Unexploded Ordnance (UXO), particularly cluster munitions remain a serious humanitarian threat and a significant obstacle to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Lao PDR. Among other things, the prevalence of UXO inhibits poverty reduction and rural development, and could prevent Lao PDR from realizing its aspiration to graduate from the list of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) by 2020.

National efforts to address the problem of UXO contamination began as soon as the war ended in 1975. International assistance was first offered in the 1990s, initially through specialized Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and then by other states and United Nations agencies. In 1996, the Government of Lao PDR, with the support of UNDP and UNICEF, established UXO Lao, a national implementing ‘operator’, to clear contaminated areas and to provide risk education.

In 2003, a strategic plan entitled “The Safe Path Forward, 2003 to 2013” was adopted and the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) was created to oversee, regulate and coordinate UXO activities throughout the country. Over the years, numerous commercial and other non-commercial, national and international operators have become active in the sector.

Deeply concerned that the population of Lao PDR was bearing the UXO issue after the war to end the suffering and casualties caused by cluster munitions in Lao PDR and throughout the world, the Government of Lao worked diligently in supporting the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). This work culminated in December 2008 when Lao PDR became the second country to sign the CCM. Lao PDR ratified the CCM in March 2009 and the first meeting of States Parties of the CCM was held in Vientiane in November 2010.

The CCM is the main international instrument guiding the work of the UXO Sector, it provides timelines for the clearance and destruction of cluster munitions remnants, requirements for the assistance to victims, and the basis for international cooperation and assistance to implement the obligation detailed in the CCM. The Government of Lao and the UXO Sector remains an international champion in the universalization of the CCM.

In January 2008 Lao PDR signed the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD). The CRPD was ratified in September 2009. The CRPD provides a comprehensive framework to support the needs and rights of people with disabilities, including UXO survivors and supports the national obligations under Article 5 of the CCM.

In June 2012, the Government approved a revised UXO Sector Strategy entitled “The Safe Path Forward II (SPF II)” that will guide work in the UXO sector through to 2020. SPF II was aligned with the 7th 5-year National Socio-economic Development Plan (NSEDV VII) and was

designed to bring together humanitarian and national development priorities for the UXO Sector to a far greater extent than in the past.

II. Evaluation on the Achievements of the UXO National Strategic Plan Implementation for the period 2011-2015.

1. Strategic Objectives of the UXO National Strategic Plan, 2011-2020.

- 1.1. Reduce the number of UXO casualties from 300 to less than 75 per year.
- 1.2. Ensure that the medical and rehabilitation needs of all UXO Survivors are met in line with treaty obligations.
- 1.3. Release priority land and clear UXO in accordance with National Standards and treaty obligations.
- 1.4. Ensure effective leadership, coordination and implementation of the National Programme.
- 1.5. Establish sustainable national capacity fully integrated into the regular set-up of the Government.
- 1.6. Meet international treaty obligations.

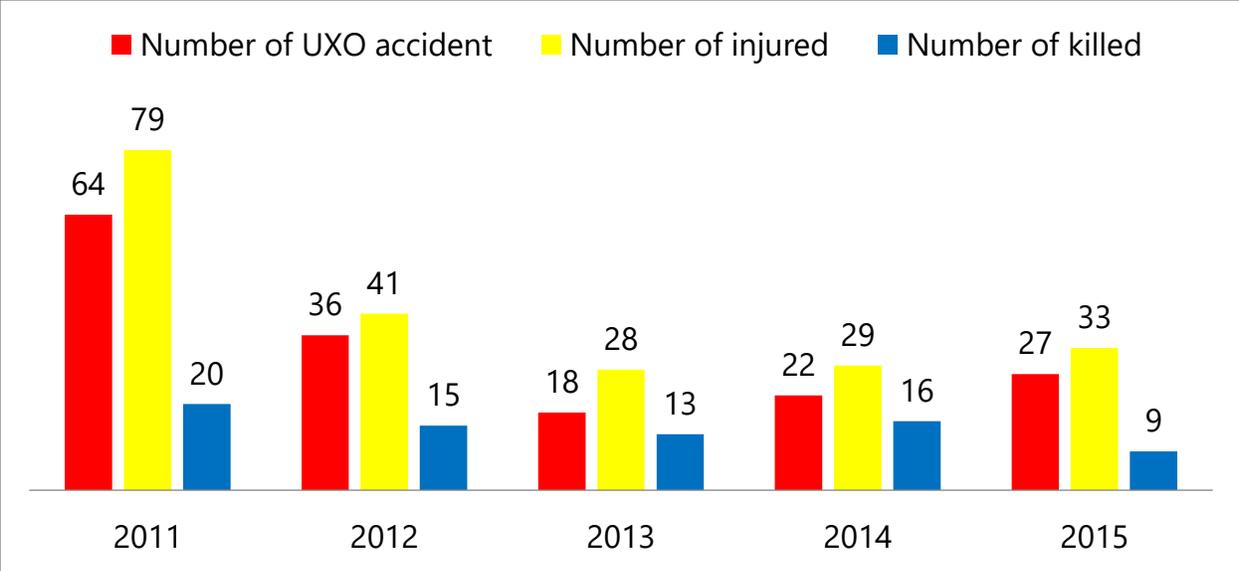
2. Achievements of the UXO Sector.

2.1. UXO/Mine Risk Education.

- Approved the Prime Minister Order to increase the awareness on the legacy and the dangers of Unexploded Ordnances in Lao PDR.
- Completed the assessment of the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) among at-risk groups.
- Cooperated with the Ministry of Education and Sport to revise and print UXO Education textbooks for primary school with a total of 4,515 sets funded by UNICEF (1,000 sets), MAG (400 sets), HI (1,000 sets), KOICA (2,115 sets); those are provided to primary school in 9 provinces, 42 districts, 710 primary schools reaching 217,862 students as beneficiaries; 8,184 teachers were trained in 8 Teacher Training Colleges.
- Collaborated with the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism to conduct the broadcasting of UXO information and risk education messages in Khammouane, Salavan, Sekong and Champasack provinces enabling people in these 4 provinces to be reached by the signal with a coverage of 100% and nearby provinces as well. In addition, when the UXO accidents happened the message radio spot was delivered to people to aware the causes.
- Conducted the needs assessment of UXO Lao village volunteers in Huaphan, Xiengkhouang, Khammouane and Savannaket Provinces.
- Coordinated with UXO Lao, SoS, MAG, HI, WE, DCA, CRS, CARE International and UXO commercial companies to conduct UXO awareness raising at schools and UXO impact communities in more than 12,000 locations, reaching more than 1,6 million people who benefited from the information given; of which more than 1,2 million were children and more than 400,000 were adults.

The implementation of UXO Risk Education by both government and NGOs contributed to further reduce the annual number of UXO casualties* from 300 people in the past to 50 people on average.

*Chart shows the number of UXO accidents and casualties from 2011-2015



2.2. Victim Assistance.

- Approved and implemented the Victim Assistance strategy for the period 2014-2020.
- Monitored and collected information on the new UXO survivors across the country from 2009 to date with 319 accidents leading to the existence of 522 UXO survivors (391 injured and killed 131). Currently, there are more than 20,000 UXO survivors.
- Analyzed the needs of UXO survivors in 10 provinces (more than 9,000 UXO survivors). Over time, this information was also provided to all stakeholders concerned.
- Completed the workshop for provincial coordinators to facilitate the collection of UXO accident and detailed information on survivors in 10 provinces: Huaphan, Xiengkhoung, Luangprabang, Borlikhamxay, Khammoune, Savannaket, Champasack, Salavan, Sekong and Attapeu.
- Coordinated with the Ministry of Health to receive the equipment for UXO victim assistance from the government of the Republic of China which included 10 ambulance vehicles, 35 patient beds, 4 sets of operation table and some medical equipment. Those equipment are distributed to provinces: 1 ambulance provided to Kuan district hospital-Huaphan province, 1 ambulance for Bualapha district hospital-Khammouane province, 1 for Nong district hospital-Savannaket province, 1 for Phonxay district hospital - Luangprabang province, 1 for Samoy district hospital-Salavan province, 1 for Xaisomboun district hospital, 3 for the humanitarian teams of the Lao army - Ministry of National Defense, and 1 for UXO Lao. In addition, the UXO Sector also distributed patient beds for Khammouane and Savannakhet provincial hospitals. With regards to medical equipment, it was also distributed to those local hospitals above.
- Coordinated with the Ministry of Health to provide medical care to 410 UXO survivors with the support by the World Education, Quality of Life Association and Handicap International; physical rehabilitation for 3,143 people (included general persons with disabilities) with support by Medical and Rehabilitation Center and COPE; provided vocational training for 1,257 people with support by World Education, Quality of Life Association, Handicap International, Lao Red Cross and International Red Cross; provided education for 166 people with the support by World

Education and Quality of Life Association and provided first aid training in 107 villages with support by World Education and Catholic Relief Services.

2.3. UXO Survey and Clearance.

- Adopted and implemented the UXO survey procedures in Lao PDR.
- Coordinated with UXO Lao, MAG, NPA, Halo Trust and HI to conduct non-technical survey and technical survey in Huaphan, Xiengkhouang, Luangprabang, Khammouane, Savannakhet, Salavan, Champasack, Sekong and Attapeu. Currently there are 3,783 CHAs identified with a total of 15,219 ha (As of 1 March 2016) to be cleared.
- NRA collaborated with the Komatsu Company of Japan to conduct the trial of Mechanical Cluster Submunitions Clearance machine, UXO Lao tried the brush cutting machines, bomb cutting with saw; collaborated with MMG for UXO detectors trial; with NPA trialed the explosive detection dogs.
- Coordinated with National Rural Development and Poverty Eradication to draft UXO survey and clearance plan to contribute for 64 focal development areas at central and local levels and 167 resettlement projects.
- Coordinated with UXO operators to conduct UXO clearance for 29,701 ha. These included 18,541 ha of agricultural land and 11,160 ha of development land. In addition, 552,968 items of UXO were destroyed, of which 1,489 items were big bombs, 259,421 items were cluster munitions, 837 were landmines and 291,221 items were other UXO. For more details please see here below:

*UXO achievements from 2011-2015

No	Organization	Agricultural land (Ha)	Development land (Ha)	Total	Bomb	Bombie	Mine	Other UXO	Total
1	UXO Lao	12,186	2,320	14,506	976	149,171	714	243,317	394,178
2	NPA	317	124	441	55	35,586	0	5,860	41,501
3	MAG	2,752	267	3,019	80	41,752	88	14,699	56,619
4	HI	127	65	192	134	6,371	10	7,654	14,169
5	Halo Trust	227	29	256	95	12,626	0	5,677	18,398
6	SODI	396	98	494	34	3,902	0	1,961	5,897
7	APOPO	12	0	12	0	1,117	1	47	1,165
8	ASA	0	169	169	0	78	0	128	206
9	PSD	574	29	603	0	669	0	272	941
10	SBH	1,115	484	1599	4	1,298	18	51	1,371
11	Lao BSL	21	1,388	1409	7	715	0	372	1,094
12	LAUNC	0	975	975	0	0	0	1	1
13	AusLao	0	661	661	0	2	0	2	4
14	Oumma	627	0	627	2	593	0	25	620
15	SP	0	1,458	1,458	2	320	0	501	823
16	XTD	15	242	257	0	0	0	0	0

17	THB	0	150	150	0	0	0	0	0
18	BACTEC	0	119	119	20	1,044	6	1,029	2,099
19	Milsearch	0	842	842	38	1,762	0	4,019	5,819
20	PCL	32	111	143	4	179	0	66	249
21	MMG	140	1,630	1,770	38	2,236	0	5,540	7,814
Total		18,541	11,160	29,701	1,489	259,421	837	291,221	552,968

2.4. Management.

2.4.1. Information Management:

- Developed the data collection and analysis system to enable the provision of UXO information to national and international partners.
- Installed remote access monitoring system to input UXO information and also to help operators about IMSMA UXO database.
- Trained on the use of IMSMA database for UXO operators and commercial companies with a total of 22 operators across the country.
- Monitored and helped UXO operators to input UXO information to IMSMA (23 times). Currently there are 17 out of 22 operators regularly contributing UXO information to IMSMA.
- Collaborated with Geneva International Centre Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) to upgrade the IMSMA system (version 6).

2.4.2. Quality Management and Training:

- Improved National Standards chapter II on accreditation to issue procedures for UXO operators in order to be in line with the current situation.
- Improved National Training curriculum on UXO clearance.
- 7 Accreditations have been issued and 14 were extended.
- Conducted QA/QC of UXO operators 59 times.
- Provided EOD training for 243 people which included 107 people on EOD level 1, level 2 for 16 people, level 3 for 27 people and level 4 for 27 people.
- Established 3 humanitarian clearance teams within Lao People's Army and sent them to Republic of China and Thailand for UXO course with a total of 37 people.

2.4.3. Programme and Public Relations:

- Conducted UXO field visits for media (5 times) in UXO contaminated provinces.
- Conducted UXO field visit and showcase of the UXO sector activities for delegations of annual Round Table Meetings.
- Improved UXO materials such as: website, factsheets, flipchart, UXO Sector annual reports and displayed the UXO sector during national and international meetings.
- Commemorated the International UN Day for Mine/UXO Action on 4th April and celebrated the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) on 1 August.
- Managed the drafting of the NRA work plans, the follow up and preparation of regular reports to the Lao Government and donor countries.
- Prepared and administered meetings such as: the UXO Project Board Meeting, UXO Trust Fund, UXO Sector Forum and UXO Sector Working Group. In addition, the Programme

Unit prepared the background documents and statements for Lao delegations to participate in UXO director meetings in Geneva, annual CCM meetings and CCW meetings with a total of 11 times.

2.4.4. International Cooperation and Funding Mobilization:

- Prepared the annual Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) report for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to send to the UN Secretary General.
- Collaborated with UNDP to draft project proposals for Australia, Ireland, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Canada, Belgium, EU, Norway, South Korea and others to request funding from the donor countries.
- Collaborated with Sterling International Group to draft project proposals to US Government for funding support.
- Reviewed and signed Memoranda of Understanding with operators (33 MOUs).
- Received financial support for the UXO sector with a total of 175 million USD which included:
 - + Through UNDP UXO Trust Fund 30 million USD.
 - + Through bilateral 14,5 million USD.
 - + Through UXO humanitarian operators 64 million USD.
 - + Through UXO commercial clearance companies (road construction, dams, electricity expansion, forest plantations, coffee plantations, etc...) with a total of 60 million USD.
 - + Lao Government funding approximately 6,5 million USD which included: the NRA and UXO Lao office rental, the tax exemption for project equipment of UXO operators, UXO Lao new provincial office construction in Attapeu province, training of the humanitarian teams of the Lao army and operating costs for survey and clearance.

2.4.5. NRA Institution and Coordination:

- The NRA decree No. 406/PM, dated 8 November 2012 was amended and issued as a new decree, No. 043/PM, dated 3 February 2015. The amendment of this decree increased the number of NRA Deputy Chairmen by 2 and the number of representatives on the NRA Board from line ministries concerned and equivalent agencies.
- Improved UXO Provincial and District Committees in 13 provinces namely: Phongsaly, Huaphan, Xiengkhouang, Luangprabang, Vientiane, Xaisomboun, Borlikhamxay, Khammouane, Savannakhet, Champasack, Salavan, Sekong and Attapeu. In addition, the UXO Sector also improved the secretarial offices in these provinces above.
- There are 19 operators in the UXO sector of which, 7 are humanitarian organizations (1 operator stopped operations and 6 operators currently operational) and 15 are commercial companies (3 companies stopped operations, 1 new company, and 13 companies currently operational).
- Number of teams of UXO humanitarian Survey & Clearance operators (As of 1 March 2016), please see the details here below:

No.	Organization	No. of Non-technical survey teams	No. of technical survey teams	No. of clearance teams	Total
1	UXO Lao	9	9	55	73

2	Humanitarian teams of the Lao Army	0	0	3	3
3	MAG	15	5	28	48
4	NPA	9	18	0	27
5	HI	1	1	3	5
6	Halo Trust	12	12	10	34
Total:		<u>46</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>190</u>

- There are 3,226 staff in the whole sector of which 3,161 were national staff and 65 were international (as of March 2016).

Organization	Office Support				Operations				Total
	National		International		National		International		
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	
NRA	21	15	2	0	5	2	2	0	47
UXO Lao	136	53	4	1	814	193	0	0	1201
NPA	30	15	4	1	205	62	3	1	321
MAG	57	25	2	1	246	77	3	1	412
HI	15	11	2	1	90	40	1	2	162
Halo Trust	23	10	1	1	122	46	2	0	205
JMAS	1	2	0	1	4	0	3	0	11
ASA	2	1	0	0	19	0	0	0	22
PSD	5	4	0	0	48	14	0	0	71
SBH	2	1	0	0	24	4	0	0	31
Lao BSL	3	0	0	0	30	2	0	0	35
LAUNC	4	1	0	0	55	0	2	0	62
BACTEC	1	2	1	1	71	0	1	0	77
Milsearch	3	6	2	1	128	73	3	0	216
MMG	6	10	2	0	177	96	2	0	293
WE	3	5	0	1	3	3	1	1	17
CRS	4	3	1	1	2	0	1	0	12
QLA	3	2	0	0	4	2	0	2	13
COPE	6	5	1	2	0	0	0	0	14
SOS	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	4
Total	<u>326</u>	<u>171</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>2,050</u>	<u>614</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3,226</u>

- Support staff attended workshops to better gain knowledge on UXO quality management, UXO contracting and liability, gender mainstreaming, the use of IMSMA and other trainings.

- Throughout 5 years of implementation, the UXO sector has undertaken and grown in line with Government's policy and directions. The role of the NRA is clear from central down to

local level enabling to act as secretariat for coordination, monitoring and reporting. Lao staff received political education, peaceful society, stability, confident on the party-government's oversight and commitments to address the UXO issue in line with the mandate. Funds received for the UXO Sector 30 million USD per year on average, it is four times more compared with 2005-2010. Especially, the UXO clearance has targeted more on the focal development areas at central and local levels.

The achievements mentioned here above received close oversight from the Lao Party Central Politburo and government, good collaboration with all levels of local authorities, both Lao and international UXO operators as well as the national staff and technical advisors working with commitment, and the support from various international donors.

3. Constraints and causes.

3.1. Constraints:

Despite the achievements described here above, we clearly consider that the efforts to address the UXO issue did not reach fully the targets contained in the UXO National Strategic Plan and MDG such as:

- Despite that the number of UXO casualties reduced and is on track with the target, there are still 50 casualties per year on average. This is still a concern.
- UXO victim assistance on medical care, physical rehabilitation do not cover all the needs; the economic inclusion for UXO survivors is not enough compared with the number of UXO survivors.
- UXO clearance for focal development areas and projects reached only 30% of the plan, not reached 1% compared with all the needs for clearance, the number of UXO destroyed represents less than 2% compared with the total number of UXO still contaminating the country.

3.2. Causes:

3.2.1. Internal causes:

- We cannot provide clear enough information in terms of number and area of residual UXO contamination; to make this UXO information available to all stakeholders at both national and international levels is not optimal.
- The translation of the UXO National Strategic Plan into detailed plans and concrete projects in line with National Socio-Economic Plan could be improved.
- Quality management of UXO clearance does not cover all cleared areas. Regarding the quality control of UXO clearance, some operators have handover certificates and some operators do not have.
- International financial management is weak due to the lack of the involvement of the Lao side in the decision making on fund allocation (funds received and expenditure); actual fund disbursement is used more on administration and the cost of salaries for international technical advisors is high; financial reporting on expenditure funded by international donor countries has been delayed and are not detailed enough and it causes dissatisfaction and the lack of confidence of some donor countries, leading some donors to stop supporting the sector.
- The NRA did not delegate clear responsibilities to the NRA board members, there is no focal point assigned at the line ministries and equivalent organizations, there is a lack of working procedures to address the daily work. UXO provincial committees are not standardized on the structure, and there is a lack of experienced staff and budget.

- We have not yet improved the internal NRA structure: especially after the establishment of the NRA, UXO Lao is not yet under the NRA Office. The government is scared that the change of NRA structure would not be supported by the donors, it could cause problem for the payment of salaries to the staff and risk the collapse of the UXO structure later on.

3.2.2. External causes:

- We did not care enough on the organization of the NRA Board structure. In the past, we organized the UXO Sector under many line ministries; the NRA Chairman and deputy chairman are in charge of several positions at the same time in the line ministries, it is uncomfortable for the daily work; in the past the NRA Chairman position was at deputy Prime Minister level and now it is a lower ministerial level. As a result the internal coordination is not strong enough and then the fund mobilization is not optimal.

- Some central and local authorities think that the UXO work belongs to INGO's responsibility, and central and local authorities do not take the ownership in integrating the UXO National Strategic Plan into their action plans.

- The funding contribution from the Lao government to the UXO sector is very low, and not in line with Lao government cost sharing regulations.

- International financial support is provided mostly in the short term and low; some UXO operators do not have detailed plans; the UNDP UXO Trust Fund is not well functioning compared with the actual needs of the UXO sector.

- Equipment, techniques and methodology of survey, clearance and UXO destruction currently in use are not up-to-date and are insufficient compared to the actual needs.

4. Lesson Learnt.

4.1. The organization of the NRA Board structure at central and local levels should have the power to coordinate internally and externally, and should have clear working standards.

4.2. UXO programme should have work plans, detailed projects provided by the line ministries, equivalent organizations and local authorities concerned. At the same time, we should have a good vertical and horizontal coordination between central and local levels.

4.3. UXO data need to be clear and should be accessed easily for both national and international stakeholders.

4.4. Pay attention on coordination in order to convince donor countries, INGOs, UXO operators to understand government's policy and directions to address the UXO issue.

4.5. Strict management of the UXO Trust Fund and UXO operators across the sector to ensure the transparency of the funds disbursement in order to implement effectively and with efficiency the UXO programme.

4.6. Government of Lao has to contribute funding to a certain level to address the UXO issue.

5. Challenges.

5.1. UXO contaminated areas are very huge, the number of UXO still contaminating the country is high and the problems caused by UXO are serious.

5.2. To encourage line ministries, equivalent organizations and other concerned authorities to translate the UXO National Strategic Plan into their action plans.

5.3. The coordination in order to convince donor countries, INGOs as well as UXO operators to understand government's policy and directions to address the UXO issue, and to get more funding and technical assistance.

5.4. Currently, the techniques, technology for survey and clearance are not in line with the situation of UXO contamination in Lao PDR.

III. UXO Sector Multi-Year Plan 2016-2020.

1. References.

1.1. The 8th five Years National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2016-2020): in the next 5 years, the UXO Sector will focus UXO clearance to serve for the 8th five Years National Socio-Economic Development Plan as details below:

- Outcome 1: Sustained, inclusive economic growth with economic vulnerability (EVI) reduced to levels required for LDC graduation and consolidated financial, legal and human resources to support growth.
- Outcome 2: Human resources development achieved to LDC graduation criteria level and achievement of off-track MDGs through the provision and use of services which are balanced geographically and distributed equitably between social groups, and^[1]_[SEP]
- Outcome 3: Reduced effects of natural shocks as required for LDC graduation and sustainable management of natural resources exploitation.

1.2. National Strategic Plan “Safe Path Forward 2” 2011-2020: This is the strategic guidance for the development of this 2016-2020 UXO Sector Multi-Year Plan, in the future, with the approach and key targets for the UXO sector as outlined in this document on page 2.

2. Strategic Directions.

- Survey and identify CHAs across the country.
- To conduct CHAs clearance to serve for the 8th Five Years Socio-Economic Development Plan.
- Continue to conduct UXO/Mine risk education across the country.
- Continue to provide medical care, rehabilitation and economic integration to UXO survivors.
- Improve the NRA institution and human resources, planning system, funding mobilization and management, UXO clearance quality management and better evaluation of UXO work.

3. Key Targets.

- Conduct Non-Technical Survey and data collection on the UXO contamination in 3,860 villages to identify UXO evidence points;
- Conduct Technical Survey to identify Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHAs);
- Conduct CHAs clearance in the Focal Development Areas and development projects, according to the annual priorities of the government plans, and also for agricultural land.
- Continue to conduct UXO risk education in order to reduce the number of casualties to less than 40 per year;
- Continue to provide medical care, physical rehabilitation to UXO survivors as allowed by the existing capacity, but also the vocational training and economic support to 1,500 UXO victims.

4. Plans for 2016-2020.

During the period 2016 – 2020, the NRA intends to:

4.1. UXO/Mine Risk Education.

- Issue the Prime Minister Order on UXO/Mine Risk Education.
- Integrate UXO/Mine Risk Education plan into line ministries, equivalent organizations and local action plans.
 - Collaborate with the Ministry of Education and Sports to establish UXO curriculum for secondary schools, to provide MRE teaching materials, training of trainers in Teacher Colleges in order to be able to teach students in schools across the country.
 - Encourage the Ministry of Education and Sports to use UXO curriculum in both primary and secondary schools.
 - Build capacity for existing and new village volunteers to cover all UXO impacted villages.
 - Collaborate with the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism to conduct UXO Mine Risk Education through radio spots, community's loudspeakers and other channels.
 - Coordinate with MRE operators to conduct UXO MRE in line with work plan; and then reporting and evaluation.

4.2. UXO Victim Assistance.

- Establish and improve clear systems on UXO accidents recording, UXO survivors and the need of the survivors in UXO contaminated provinces in order to be able for real implementation and timely reporting to IMSMA.
 - Analyse UXO survivor's needs information for work planning and prioritization of the assistance on medical care, physical rehabilitation, vocational training and economic inclusion.
 - Integrate UXO victim assistance plan into the strategic plans of line ministries, equivalent organizations and other stakeholders concerned.
 - Coordinate and encourage line ministries, equivalent organizations, from both national and international to provide medical care, physical rehabilitation, vocational training and economic inclusion for UXO victims.

*Data on the number of known UXO survivors with needs, in the provinces.

No.	Province	Number		Total
		Men	Women	
1	Vientiane Capital	9	2	11
2	Luangprabang	597	53	650
3	Huaphan	1,638	193	1,831
4	Xiengkhouang	1,058	238	1,296
5	Vientiane	3	0	3
6	Borlikhamxay	267	32	299

7	Khammouane	898	137	1,035
8	Savannaket	1,567	163	1,730
9	Salavane	843	134	977
10	Sekong	91	26	117
11	Champasack	413	54	467
12	Attapeu	172	39	211
13	Xaysomboune	106	17	123
Total		<u>7,662</u>	<u>1,088</u>	<u>8,750</u>

4.3. UXO Survey and Clearance:

- Issue the Prime Ministerial Order on UXO clearance.
- Continue to improve UXO Survey National Standards in line with the actual situation.
- Establish the IMSMA system and build the capacity in UXO contaminated provinces to record and report on UXO survey and clearance
 - Integrate UXO survey and clearance plan into the work plans of line ministries, equivalent organizations and local authorities.
 - Coordinate with UXO operators to conduct NTS, TS to establish the Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHAs) and recording/reporting into IMSMA database.
 - Coordinate with UXO operators to undertake UXO clearance in focal development areas, in line with annual priorities of the Government's development projects and for agricultural land for Lao people.
 - Coordinate with the international community to develop techniques, technology and methodology for survey and clearance and UXO destruction.
 - Conduct the Post Clearance Assessment.

*Data on the villages with UXO evidence points disaggregated by province, district and village (As of 1 March 2016).

No.	Province	District	Villages
1	Phongsaly	6	69
2	Luangnamtha	3	5
3	Borkeo	3	15
4	Oudomxay	8	101
5	Luangprabang	11	361
6	Huaphan	8	378
7	Xiengkhouang	7	463

8	Xaysomboune	5	62
9	Xayabouly	11	30
10	Vientiane	8	55
11	Vientiane Capital	4	5
12	Borlikhamxay	7	172
13	Khammouane	9	390
14	Savannaket	15	668
15	Salavane	8	477
16	Champasack	11	239
17	Sekong	4	229
18	Attapeu	5	141
Total:	18	133	3,860

4.4. Management.

4.4.1. Information Management:

- Maintain a national database of all information relevant to the UXO sector, analyze and make relevant information timely available to all stakeholders.
- Develop UXO database management standards and guidelines.
- Continue to build capacity for the UXO Provincial Management Committees on the UXO data collection, analysis, recording and reporting to the national database and make information timely available to the UXO Provincial Management Committee as required.
- Continue to build capacity for UXO humanitarian and commercial operators on UXO data collection, analysis, recording and reporting of UXO work to the national IMSMA database.
- Encourage UXO operators to report their UXO achievements to UXO Provincial Management Committee.

4.4.2. Quality Management and Training:

- Review and improve national Standards for UXO in Lao PDR in line with the real situation.
- Build capacity of the UXO quality management staff.
- Conduct QA/QC on the area clearance in line with national standards in order to recommend UXO operators for improvement of their operations.
- Improve EOD curriculum level 1-4, medic, survey and MRE.
- Establish 25 humanitarian teams of the Lao army.

4.4.3. Programme and Public Relations:

- Conduct UXO field visits for media in UXO contaminated provinces (5 times).
- Conduct UXO field visit and showcase of the UXO sector for delegations of annual Round Table Meeting.
- Improve UXO materials such as: website, factsheets, flipcharts, annual reports and showcase of the UXO Sector during national and international meetings.

- Commemorate the International UN Day for Mine/UXO Action on 4th April and celebrate the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) on 1st August.
- Coordinate with line ministries, equivalent organizations and local authorities to formulate an UXO sector work plan and follow up its implementation, and preparation of regular reporting for Lao Government and Donor Countries.
- Prepare and administer meetings such as: NRA Board Meeting, UXO Project Board Meeting, UXO Trust Fund Meeting, UXO Sector Forum and UXO Sector Working Group.

4.4.4. International Cooperation and Funding Mobilization:

- Prepare the annual Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) report.
- Develop and enforce legislation to support implementation of all treaty obligations, including the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM).
- Develop project proposals to government of Lao PDR and donor countries to request funding support.
- Improve TOR of the UXO Trust Fund in order to get more involvement of the Lao side for decision making on funds received and expenditure ; to continue to encourage UXO operators to formulate their work plan, to pay attention to reporting, activities implementation and provide regular financial reporting to the NRA; to improve coordination mechanisms with donor countries to help us for multi-year commitments and more effective joint management of the funds.
- Participate at the UXO director meetings in Geneva, annual CCM meetings, CCW meetings and related meetings.
- Continue to mobilize fund for the UXO sector through Trust Fund, bilateral, UXO operators and other channels. Funding expectations for the next five years are as below:

+ Funding for UXO survey and clearance:

- For Non-Technical Survey in 3,860 villages to complete in 4 years (2016-2019)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Teams	34	34 to 46	46	46	46
Villages	698	950	1,106	1,106	<u>3,860</u>
Cost (USD)	1,2 M	1,7 M	1,8 M	2,1 M	<u>6,8 M</u>

- For technical survey in 2,367 villages to complete in 5 years (2016-2020)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Teams	64	64 to 129	129	129	129	129

Villages	256	338	591	591	591	<u>2,367</u>
Cost (USD)	6,1 M	13,8 M	13,0 M	13,7 M	14,3 M	<u>60,9 M</u>

➤ For UXO clearance (2016-2020)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Teams	108	108	108	108	108	108
CHA (ha)	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	<u>22,500</u>
Cost (USD)	10,3 M	10,3 M	10,9 M	11,4 M	11,9 M	<u>54,8 M</u>

+ Provide vocational training and economic inclusion for 1,500 UXO survivors with a total of 1,5 million USD.

+ UXO/Mine risk education across the country with a total of 5 million USD.

+ Capacity building for the UXO humanitarian teams of the Lao army with a total of 7 million USD.

+ Establish the UXO National Training Centre with a total of 10 million USD.

+ NRA office administration costs with a total of 12,5 million USD.

The total funding requirements for the UXO sector with a total of 159,3 million USD. It does not include the cost of clearance for the CHAs that we will find more in the future after the Technical Survey.

4.4.5. NRA Institutional and Coordination:

- Identify clear role and responsibilities for NRA Board members from line ministries and equivalent organizations.

- Improve NRA work standards especially to convene regular meetings of the NRA board. At the same time, we will nominate 1 acting deputy chairman of the NRA and will establish UXO focal point at line ministries and equivalent organizations in line with Decree 043/GOL, dated 3 February 2015.

- Improve the NRA office to act as secretarial body, to be able to coordinate and to improve the provision of services for UXO clearance; improve the communication between NRA and UXO Lao to ensure that the organizations work in line with their roles and responsibilities.

- Improve UXO Provincial Management Committees and NRA Provincial Coordination Offices in a clear manner, and they should unanimously agree on the structure, location, staff, working system and budget.

- Pay attention to educating and training on political awareness for Lao staff across the UXO sector to ensure trust on the Party and State oversight, following the laws and work plan of the State. Management of the international technical advisors to encourage them to understand

government policies and directions, work plan and to maintain the support to address the UXO issue in Lao PDR.

5. Plan for 2016.

5.1. Operations:

5.1.1. UXO/Mine Risk Education.

❖ **Target:** Reduce the number of UXO casualties from 300 to less than 40 per year.

❖ **Actions:**

- Propose to the Government of Lao PDR to issue the Prime Minister Order on UXO/Mine Risk Education.

- Conduct training for 56 Village volunteers in Luangprabang, Xiengkhouang, Savannakhet and Champasack provinces.

- Print 1,400 UXO education curriculum sets (12 textbooks = 1 set) and 650 Village volunteer t-shirts.

- Cooperate with the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism to conduct the broadcasting of UXO information and risk education messages in Khammouane, Salavane, Sekong and Champasack provinces.

- Coordinate and encourage state organizations and private sectors to conduct UXO/Mine risk education activities in line with work plan.

- Monitor, encourage, evaluate and reporting of UXO/Mine risk education activities.

5.1.2. Victim Assistance.

❖ **Target: Provide vocational training and economic inclusion for 300 UXO survivors.**

❖ **Actions:**

- Coordinate with provincial authorities of Savannakhet, Xiengkhouang and Huaphan to select the target UXO survivors for the vocational training and economic inclusion.

- Provide the vocational training and economic inclusion for 60 UXO survivors in Savannakhet, Xiengkhouang and Huaphan provinces.

- Coordinate and encourage state organizations and private sectors to provide comprehensive assistance for UXO survivors in terms of medical care and rehabilitations.

- Monitor, encourage, evaluate and reporting of UXO victim assistance activities.

- Monitor and record on new UXO accidents in provinces across the country.

5.1.3. UXO survey and clearance.

❖ **Target: Conduct NTS in 698 villages and CHAs clearance of 4,500 ha.**

❖ **Actions:**

- Propose to the Government of Lao PDR to issue the Prime Ministerial Order on UXO clearance.

- Develop UXO Survey Standards in terms of size of team, responsibilities, time frame, quality management of survey and reporting forms.

- Establish the IMSMA system in UXO contaminated provinces to record and report on UXO survey and clearance.

- Collaborate with line ministries, equivalent organizations and local authorities to create UXO clearance plans in line with their development plans (in each period).
- Coordinate and encourage UXO operators to conduct NTS and TS in line with plans.
- Coordinate with UXO operators to undertake UXO clearance in focal development areas, in line with annual priorities of the Government's development projects and agricultural land for Lao people.
- Coordinate with other countries and international organizations to develop techniques, technology and methodology for survey and clearance and UXO destruction.
- Conduct the Post Clearance Assessment.

5.2. Support Sections:

5.2.1. Information Management:

- Organize the training on UXO recording and reporting to IMSMA for UXO Provincial Management Committees in 11 provinces.
- Equip computer, scanner, printer, internet and UXO information database for UXO Provincial Management Committees in 11 provinces.
- Continue to build capacity for the UXO humanitarian operators and commercial companies on the UXO data collection, analysis, recording and reporting to IMSMA.
- Monitor, coordinate, encourage and provide assistance for UXO humanitarian operators and commercial companies on the use of IMSMA.

5.2.2. Programme and Public Relations:

- Conduct UXO field visits for media in UXO contaminated provinces (1 time).
- Conduct UXO field visit and showcase of the UXO sector for delegations of annual Round Table Meeting.
- Improve UXO materials such as: website, factsheets, flipcharts, annual reports and showcase of the UXO sector during national and international meetings.
- Commemorate the International UN Day for Mine/UXO Action on 4th April and celebrate the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) on 1st August.
- Formulate an UXO sector work plan and follow up its implementation, and preparation of regular reporting for Lao Government and Donor Countries.
- Prepare and administer meetings such as: NRA Board Meeting, UXO Project Board Meeting, UXO Trust Fund Meeting, UXO Sector Forum and UXO Sector Working Group.

5.2.3. International cooperation:

- Continue to consider the new MoU of UXO humanitarian operators.
- Prepare the annual Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) report.
- Develop and enforce legislation to support the implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM).
- Develop project proposals to government of Lao and donor countries to request funding support.
- Prepare documents for the NRA to attend the UXO director meeting in Geneva, annual CCM meetings, CCW meeting and related meetings.
- Continue to mobilize funds for the UXO Sector with a total of 22,3 million USD. Funding expectations for the year is as below:

- + Conduct Non-Technical Survey in 698 villages to identify UXO evidence points with 34 existing teams with a total of 1,2 million USD.
- + Conduct Technical Survey in 256 villages to identify CHAs with 64 existing teams with a total of 6,1 million USD.
- + Conduct CHAs clearance of 4,500 ha with a total of 10,3 million USD.
- + Provide vocational training and economic inclusion for 300 UXO survivors with a total of 450,000 million USD.
- + Conduct UXO/Mine risk education in UXO contaminated provinces across the country with a total of 1 million USD.
- + Capacity building for 5 humanitarian teams of the Lao army with a total of 750,000 USD.
- + Design the UXO National Training Centre with a total of 25,000 USD.
- + NRA office administration costs with a total of 2,5 million USD.

5.2.4. Quality Management and Training:

- Review and improve the National Standards for UXO Sector in Lao PDR with regards to the article No. 2 on the issue of operation accreditation for UXO humanitarian operators.
- Conduct QA/QC on the surveyed and cleared areas by the UXO humanitarian operators (18 times).
- Consider to issue and extend the operation accreditation for UXO humanitarian operators.
- Improve EOD curriculum level 1-4, medic, survey and MRE.
- Train 5 humanitarian teams of the Lao army.
- Manage the training course on UXO survey and clearance of UXO humanitarian operators.
- Design the UXO National Training Centre.

5.2.5. Institution and Coordination:

- Identify clear role and responsibilities for the NRA Board members from line ministries and equivalent organizations.
- Improve NRA work procedures especially to convene regular meetings of the NRA board. At the same time, we will nominate 1 acting deputy chairman of the NRA and will establish UXO focal point at line ministries and equivalent organizations in line with Decree 043/GOL, dated 3 February 2015.
- Improve the NRA office to act as secretarial body, to be able to coordinate and to improve the provision of services for UXO clearance; improve the role of the NRA and UXO Lao to ensure that UXO Lao works under the management of the NRA.
- Improve the UXO Provincial Management Committees and the NRA Provincial Coordination Offices in a clear manner, allocate staff, working systems and available budget.
- Pay attention to educating and training on political awareness for Lao staff across the UXO sector to ensure trust on the Party and State oversight, following the laws and work plan of the State. Management of the international technical advisors to encourage them to understand government policies and directions, work plan and to maintain the support to address the UXO issue in Lao PDR.

IV. Vision to 2030.

In September 2016, during the 28th-29th ASEAN Summits Meeting hosted in Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR. The Prime Minister of Lao PDR and the UN Secretary-General launched “Lives Safe from UXO” as the Sustainable Development Goal 18. This SDG became the vision of UXO Sector in Lao PDR to 2030 annual casualties from UXO accidents are eliminated to the extent possible; residual UXO activities undertaken and all known UXO contamination in high priority areas and all villages defined as ‘poor’ cleared and all identified UXO survivors and victims have their needs met in health, and support provided for livelihoods/employment to most poverty at-risk survivors.

To achieve these targets above, NRA has set strategic directions based on the 4 key pillars as follows:

1. Promote the government of Lao PDR organizations and private sector both national international to conduct UXO/Mine risk education, firstly we have to teach UXO curriculum in primary schools and conduct UXO/Mine risk education to cover the whole country.
2. Promote the government of Lao PDR organizations and private sector both national international to provide assistance for UXO survivors which will focus on medical care, physical rehabilitation, psycho-social rehabilitation support, vocational training and economic inclusion.
3. Conduct Non-Technical Survey to identify UXO evidence points and then following by Technical Survey to identify Confirmed Hazardous Areas across the country. At the same time, conduct CHAs clearance in the Focal Development Areas at central and local levels, group big villages into small towns in rural areas projects and also for agricultural land.
4. Improve UXO management organization, capacity building for staff, improve coordination and fund mobilization systems for both national and international and effective funds management.

V. Implementation Measures, Implementation Mechanisms and Monitoring and Evaluation.

1. Implementation Measures.

1.1. By 2020, the strategy (2011-2020) will be subject to a final evaluation which will be based on the results, we will translate the vision into detailed strategic plans for 2021-2030.

1.2. Ministries, ministerial level organizations, provinces, districts, development partners and operators focus on the translation of this five-year plan into annual work plans, detailed projects in their own organizations and to allocate staff and funds to assure the success of the implementation.

1.3. Mobilize the funds from development partners, INGOs and operators to stay focus on the goals to address the UXO issue.

1.4. The NRA acts as the lead agency to identify projects for the UXO programme in order to mobilize funds to address the UXO issue with the aim to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); to take the ownership for continuous monitoring and evaluation to ensure that the efforts to address the UXO issue are in line with plans, to ensure the efficiency and sustainability of the efforts to address the UXO issue.

1.5. Increase Lao government contribution and sufficient fund mobilization from both national and international sources to address the UXO issue and to be able to respond to the actual needs.

1.6. Take ownership to manage the funds received and to use the funds with focus to address the UXO issue, to have work plans and concrete projects with clear priorities.

2. Implementation Mechanisms.

2.1. The NRA translates the five-year plan into detailed plans and projects, to allocate the responsibilities to line ministries, equivalent agencies at central and local levels. Pay attention on oversight, allocate staff and financial resources to assure the success of the implementation.

2.2. Improve coordination between NRA and line ministries, equivalent agencies, local authorities, donor countries, UNDP and operators to be more effective in order to identify clear policies, strategic plan, plans, projects and regulations to be well integrated, to continue the implementation of UXO activities we should research, issue the coordination procedures, practices between the NRA and concerned sectors according to the decentralization; the delegation of the rights and responsibilities to local authorities; the central level is responsible for macro level tasks.

2.3. Improve the UXO management structure to enable stronger coordination with each sector from the central to the local level. At the same time, to improve the roles, responsibilities and working standards which need to be improved according to the political and technical task assigned by the government in each period, in order to support and be the focal point for the coordination of UXO activities with harmony, to move forward in one direction and to ensure success.

2.4. Improve UXO information systems, statistics, and the reporting systems from the central to the local level in order to ensure the quick reporting of the work and the collaboration between the NRA and line ministries, equivalent agencies, local authorities, donor countries, UNDP and operators in a timely manner.

2.5. Strengthen the elaboration of development plans, the identification of policies, plans, detailed projects, location, budget framework, and identify the agencies in charge to implement activities in each period.

2.6. Create the supporting conditions for the private sector from both national and international level to get them involved and focus on the implementation of the UXO programme to ensure that the Lao multi-ethnic population lives in safety in UXO contaminated areas and use quickly the productive land.

2.7. This Five-Year Plan will serve as reference and direction for the concerned sectors at all levels as well as for the donor countries, UNDP, INGOs and operators to identify the policies, to elaborate the detailed plans and projects for all sectors linked to the UXO programme.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation.

3.1. Increase monitoring and evaluation of the efforts to address the UXO issue, with regular oversight by the Party Committee and authorities at all levels.

3.2. The NRA is a focal point for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of this five-year plan, annual work plans, plans, projects of the INGOs at local level across the country. At the same time, to prepare regular progress reports to Lao government and development partners.

3.3. This Five-Year Plan will be subject to an evaluation in 2020. This evaluation aims to evaluate the achievements of the UXO sector against each target and indicator contained in this plan.

3.4. Ministries, ministerial level organizations, provinces, municipalities are the key organizations to successfully implement the National Strategic Plan for the UXO Programme in the Lao PDR.

Xaisompheng (PhD)

Signed by H.E. Khampheng

**Minister of Labour and Social Welfare,
Chairman of the NRA Board**



PhD. Khampheng Xaisompheng