



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**