

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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| CBR | Community-Based Rehabilitation |
| CBT | Cognitive Behavioral Therapy |
| CCM | Convention on Cluster Munitions |
| COPE | Cooperative Orthotic & Prosthetic Enterprise |
| CRPD | Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities |
| DFP | District Focal Point |
| DPO | Disabled People's Organization |
| GOL | Government of Lao PDR |
| HEF | Health Equity Fund |
| IMSMA | Information Management System for Mine Action |
| INGO | International Non Government Organization |
| LDPA | Lao Disabled People's Association |
| MLSW | Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare |
| MoE | Ministry of Education |
| MoFA | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| MoH | Ministry of Health |
| MPW&T | Ministry of Public Works & Transport |
| NCDP | National Commission for Disabled People |
| NPA | Not for Profit Association |
| NRA | National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR |
| PFP | Provincial Focal Point |
| PHO | Provincial Health Office |
| PWD | People with Disabilities |
| SWG | Sector Working Group |
| TWG | Technical Working Group |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UXO | Unexploded Ordnance |
| VA | Victim Assistance |
| WHO | World Health Organisation |
| WVMF | War Victims Medical Fund |



Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity and Prosperity

**Prime Minister Office
National Regulatory Authority
For UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR**

**No...../NRA
Vientiane, Date.....**

UXO/Mines Victim Assistance Strategy 2014-2020

Part I: Introduction

Lao PDR is the most heavily bombed country, per capita, in history. Over 50,000 people have been injured or killed since 1964 in unexploded ordnance (UXO), including cluster munitions, incidents. Roughly 30,000 of these casualties occurred during the time of the Second Indochina War/Vietnam War (up until 1973). The other 20,000 casualties occurred in the post-conflict era (from 1973 to 2012), with 99 new casualties being recorded in 2012. In the last decade 40 per cent of all casualties were children¹.

In December 2008 Lao PDR signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), and ratified it in March 2009. This Convention includes an obligation to assist the victims of cluster munitions but is also relevant to the victims other UXO. Article 5 outlines obligations to assist the victims in accordance with human rights law, based on a gender perspective, non-discrimination, integration into broader frameworks and inclusion of the victims. The principle of non-discrimination is embedded in the text of the CCM, which states that each State Party shall "not discriminate against or among cluster munition victims, or between cluster munition victims and those who have suffered injuries or disabilities from other causes; differences in treatment should only be based on medical, rehabilitative, psychological or socio-economic needs."² In the context of the CCM, victim assistance is understood to include actions relating to data collection, laws and policies, and the provision of medical care, rehabilitation, psychological support and social and economic inclusion.

In January 2008 Lao PDR also 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 disability, including UXO survivors.

The National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR (NRA) is the secretariat for the NRA board members, chaired by the Minister of the Prime Minister's office. It is a Government of Laos Institution that is supported primarily by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

The NRA is mandated to coordinate efforts to assist UXO victims in the country. In order to create a framework for the coordination and planning of programs for UXO victims in line with obligations in the framework of the CCM, a Victim Assistance Strategic Plan was drafted by the NRA in 2011. This plan was drafted after extensive consultation with both Government Ministries and Civil Society, and with the support of the Victim Assistance Technical Working Group (TWG). The 2011 document remained a draft until 2012, at which stage the Victim Assistance Strategy was reviewed and updated. The Victim Assistance Strategy was approved by the NRA Board of Management in 29th May 013.

¹NRA UXO Sector Annual Report 2011.

²Paragraph 2 (e), Article 5, Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Article 2.1 of the CCM defines a cluster munition victim as “all persons who have been killed or suffered physical or psychological injury, economic loss, social marginalisation or substantial impairment of their rights caused by the use of cluster munitions. They include those persons directly impacted by cluster munitions as well as their affected families and communities.” However, this first Strategic Plan focuses on addressing the rights and needs of those individuals directly impacted, and to a lesser extent their family and community. As such the strategic actions will use the term survivor in most instances to reflect the support provided to the individuals impacted upon UXO, and victims in some instances to reflect the support provided to individuals, their families and communities in other instances.

NRA is the focal point responsible for the implementation of the CCM Article 5: Victim Assistance. As such the VA unit develops policies, liaises with donors and facilitates the coordination and integration of efforts to best respond to the rights and needs of UXO victims in the context of disability and development.

Victim Assistance is defined by the Convention of Cluster Munitions to be inclusive of medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychological support and social and economic inclusion. The VA unit does not provide direct service delivery, but instead co-ordinates and liaises with those that do. Some of the key implementing partners for this service delivery, at the time of writing, include:

1. World Education
2. QLA
3. Handicap International
4. AAR
5. COPE
6. CMR
7. Ministry of Health
8. Ministry of Education
9. Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare
10. LDPA
11. LDWDC

The current document aligns with the CCM, CRPD, MDG9, the CCM’s Vientiane Action Plan, Incheon Strategy, the WHO World Report on Disability 2011, and Laos National Strategic Plans including;

1. National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy
2. Safe Path Forward I and Safe Path Forward II
3. 7th National Health Sector Development Plan 2011-2015
4. Health Personnel Development Strategy
5. The National Health Financing Strategy 2011-2015
6. MLSW Strategy on Social Welfare Development 2011-2020
7. MLSW Strategy on Labor Development 2011-2020
8. Ministry of Education Master Plan-Development of TVET 2008-2015
9. Strategic plan for the Development of Technical and Vocational Education and Training 2006-2020
10. The Education Strategic Vision up to the year 2020
11. National Strategy and Plan of Action on Inclusive Education 2011-2015

Part II. Scope of Project

1. Scope of VA Strategy

1.1 Vision

The vision guiding this strategy is a Lao PDR free from the threat of UXO, where individuals and communities live in a safe environment contributing to development and where UXO victims are fully integrated into their societies and their needs are met.

1.2 Victim Assistance Unit, NRA Mission

To facilitate the coordination and integration of efforts to best respond to the rights and needs of UXO victims in the context of disability and development.³

1.3 Overall Objective

Ensure that the rights and needs of UXO victims are addressed within broader frame works in line with treaty obligations.

1.4 Scope of Project

This Strategic Plan is designed as a tool to guide the NRA Victim Assistance Unit's work to assist UXO victims within the broader disability and development frameworks in Lao PDR. It is seen as the first step towards developing a broader Strategic Plan that is inter-ministerial and inter-sectorial, and represents all relevant stakeholders in Lao PDR.

1.5 Budget

A comprehensive budget that covers all costs and requirements of the 7 pillars will not be possible to develop until inter-Ministerial support and commitment is reached and reflected in the relevant ministries budgets.

Until such time the NRA can only budget for those areas in which they are directly responsible; Pillar 1: Data Collection and Pillar 7: Coordination

2. Basic Concepts underpinning the Victim Assistance Strategy

- 2.1 The majority of the actions commonly referred to as "victim assistance" within the framework of the Convention of Cluster Munitions (CCM) are primarily concerned with efforts to facilitate the social inclusion and enjoyment of human rights of *survivors*.
- 2.2 The term "victim" includes those persons killed or injured by UXO, including cluster munitions, their families and affected communities. Therefore, in addition to survivors, families and communities should also benefit from programs to reduce the threat posed by UXO. Assisting families and communities is seen as part of a process for ensuring that families support survivors in the best ways possible, and that communities are accessible to, and inclusive of survivors.⁴

³Victim Assistance is defined by the Convention of Cluster Munitions to be inclusive of medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychological support and social and economic inclusion.

⁴*Recommendations for National Assistance Plans on VA 2011-2012, HI, 2011*

- 2.3 Efforts to assist UXO victims should be based on the principle of non-discrimination as outlined by the CCM.
- 2.4 *Most Survivors are part of a larger group of persons with disabilities.* While this document refers primarily to survivors, it is based on the understanding that all legislation, strategies, policies, plans, programs and projects related to victim assistance should not discriminate, directly or indirectly, against other persons with disabilities. Victim assistance efforts should be based on the principles and concepts underpinning the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.⁵
- 2.5 Not all UXO survivors are left with a permanent disability. Survivors may recover from a serious injury, with no physical disability, however their socio-economic ability and psycho social health can be compromised during the healing process, and limited as a result of the accident. As such all UXO survivors should have access to services, post recovery, as needed.
- 2.6 Survivors are the people best placed to inform policy-making on efforts to address their rights and needs. This strategy is based on the central premise of empowerment. Victims should have access to, and benefit from, all development plans, policies and programs in both urban and rural areas.
- 2.7 Effective, efficient and sustainable Victim Assistance plans and programs should be incorporated into, or at least linked with national disability, development and human rights strategies, frameworks and mechanisms. (*CCM Article 5 paragraph 2c*)
- 2.8 A comprehensive and coordinated inter-ministerial and inter-sectorial approach involving all relevant stakeholders and systems is required to ensure the sustainable participation and inclusion of UXO survivors in society.

⁵ *Recommendations for National Assistance Plans on VA 2011-2012, HI, 2011*

Part III: Strategic Plan

1: DATA COLLECTION- Collect reliable relevant data with respect to UXO accidents and victims*(CCM Article 5 paragraph 1, 2a; Article 7 paragraph 1k; VAP action # 22 and 25)*

1.1 Collect accurate information about casualties and accidents

Activities

1.1.1 Work with the Government of Laos to continue the collection and update of UXO casualty data from the District Focal Point (DFP) level through to the Provincial level and the NRA.

1.1.2 Continue workshops to build the capacity of the Provincial and District Focal Points on UXO accidents and victim data collection.

1.1.3 Monitor and evaluate DFP collectors to ensure accuracy of data collection

1.1.4 Work with the Provincial Focal Points (PFP) and DFP to increase the awareness and capacity of village authorities to report UXO accidents

1.1.5 Create transparent procedures for the transfer of data to the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA)

1.1.6 Ensure disaggregated data is collected on UXO casualties and survivors

Responsibility: NRA and Provincial and District Focal Points

Timeframe: 2014-2020

1.2 Encourage the establishment of national disability and injury surveillance data collection processes

Activities

1.2.1 Coordinate linkages between the NRA VA data collection and data collected by the LDPA, NCDP, MOE and MOH and civil society organizations.

1.2.2 Lobby the Lao Bureau of Statistics for the inclusion of disability and victim specific data in the next Laos Population survey.

1.2.3 Work with the NCDP on a national disability data collection process, which includes information on UXO survivors

Responsibility: NRA and NCDP MLSW

Timeframe: 2014-2020

1.3 Analyse data including quantitative and qualitative information

Activities

1.3.1 Implement clear policies and procedures on analyzing UXO casualty data in a timely manner

1.3.2 Develop the capacity of NRA staff to interpret the IMSMA data base.

Responsibility: NRA

Timeframe: 2014 -2020

1.4 Ensure information to TWG, NGO's, GOL, donors and other relevant stakeholders is readily accessible

Activities

1.4.1 Create a process for the VA data to be uploaded on to the website for easy access of information by stakeholders, while ensuring confidentiality and respect for privacy.

1.4.2 Provide monthly reports to the Government of Laos

1.4.3 Contribute to NRA annual report and CCM reporting requirements

1.4.4 Provide reports to the Technical Working Group (TWG), Sector Working Group (SWG) and Roundtable Meeting

1.4.5 Implement clear policies and procedures for responding to individual requests in a timely manner

Responsibility: NRA

Timeframe: 2014 -2020

1.5 Track UXO survivors through the rehabilitation process

Activities

1.5.1 Complete the Survivor tracking system of Phase 1 and Phase 2 identified survivors – by 2013

1.5.2 Disseminate the results of this tracking to stakeholders concerned

1.5.3 Implement ongoing survivor tracking procedures for all new survivors beginning 2013

1.5.4 Train the District and Provincial Focal points on the continued tracking of survivors

1.5.5 Identify (on a continuing basis) what services are being received by survivors and what services are needed

1.5.6 Discuss information identified at the TWG to ensure ongoing coordination and monitoring of program planning and evaluation

1.5.7 Coordinate the collection of this information with data collected from other organizations to prevent duplication of information gathered and support provided

Responsibility: NRA

Timeframe: 2014-2020

2 : MEDICAL CARE - Increase UXO victims access to medical care and reduce their health inequities*(CCM Article 5 paragraph 1 & 2h; Article 6 paragraph 7; Article 7 paragraph 1k;VAP action # 25 and 28)*

2.1 Strengthen working relationships with the Ministry of Health so that the needs of UXO casualties and other people with disabilities are considered at the highest possible level of national policies, strategies and plans

Activities

2.1.1 Participate in the Health Sector Working Group (co-chaired by the Ministry of Health, WHO and the Japanese Government)

2.1.2 Encourage the Ministry of Health's continued attendance in the Victim Assistance TWG

2.1.3 Hold a seminar with the Ministry of Health, from national to local level, to highlight/discuss/table medical care issues for UXO casualties and other people with disabilities including accessibility of services in rural areas

2.1.4 Facilitate donor support to the Ministry of Health and service providers in the Health Sector

Responsibility: NRA

Timeframe: 2015 - 2020

2.2 Increase access to medical care for UXO casualties in district and provincial areas

Activities

2.2.1 Advocate for the increase in human and financial resources allocated to district and provincial areas.

Responsibility: NRA with MOH and civil society

Timeframe: 2014 - 2020

2.3 Increase the availability of high quality trauma response services to address the specific needs of UXO casualties and others with traumatic injuries

Activities

2.3.1 Analyse current practices of the health sector (health centres, district and provincial hospitals) in responding to the emergency response needs of UXO casualties and others with traumatic injuries

2.3.2 Advocate for standardized best practice trauma response services across Laos PDR

Responsibility: NRA with MOH and civil society

Timeframe: 2014-2020

2.4 Promote the need for increased resources and capacity of health care staff (*first aid responders, trauma specialists and surgeons, doctors and nurses*)

Activities

2.4.1 Support the National Health Personnel Development Strategy and its targets

2.4.2 Highlight the need for increased availability and training of trauma specialists

2.4.3 Promote the work that NPA's and INGO's are doing to increase the capacity of health care staff

Responsibility: NRA with MOH and civil society

Timeframe: 2014-2020

2.5 Advocate for and coordinate increased community level medical response to victims of UXO accidents

Activities

2.5.1 Facilitate the standardization of First Aid responder training across the sector

Responsibility: NRA with MOH and civil society

Timeframe: 2014-2020

2.6 Advocate for a comprehensive and accessible transport system for UXO victims in need of medical treatment

Activities

2.6.1 Advocate to the Ministry of Health to identify who is responsible for transport in each district and village

2.6.2 Advocate for increased resource provision for transport systems

Responsibility: NRA with MOH and civil society

Timeframe: 2014 - 2020

2.7 Ensure that there is a strong mechanism to cover the medical costs incurred by UXO casualties such as the War Victim Medical Fund (WVMF) until such time as there is a universal social health protection scheme

Activities

2.7.1 Encourage expansion of the WVMF in more districts and ensure the WVMF has enough funding to operate

2.7.2 Link with the National Health Insurance Agency as they develop their committee, highlighting medical cost for UXO casualties

2.7.3 Discuss potential linkages between the Health Equity Fund and the WVMF to ensure medical costs incurred by UXO casualties are met

Responsibility: NRA with MOH, civil society

Timeframe: 2014-2020

3: PHYSICAL REHABILITATION - Increase UXO survivor's initial and ongoing access to good quality physical rehabilitation services*(CCM Article 5 paragraph 1 & 2h; Article 6 paragraph 7; Article 7 paragraph 1k; VAP action # 25 and 28)*

3.1 Increased inclusion of physical rehabilitation in the Ministry of Health's policies and strategies

Activities

3.1.1 Participation in the Health TWG and SWG

3.1.2 Encourage the continued attendance by the Ministry of Health in the VA TWG

Responsibility: NRA with MOH

Timeframe: 2014-2020

3.2 Improved coordination of ministries, INGO's and NGO's in regards to physical rehabilitation

Activities

3.2.1 Support and promote increased coordination of physical rehabilitation services through the VA TWG and other relevant coordination mechanisms.

Responsibility: NRA with MOH, MLSW and civil society

Timeframe: 2014-2020

3.3 Increased rehabilitation service provision to the districts and provinces

Activities

3.3.1 Advocate for the expansion of provincial health centre's rehabilitation services

3.3.2 Advocate for increased outreach service provision

Responsibility: NRA with MOH, MLSW and civil society

Timeframe: 2014-2020

3.4 Promote the need for increased resources (numbers) and capacity of physical rehabilitation staff

Activities

3.4.1 Promote the National Health Personnel Development Strategy and its targets

3.4.2 Advocate for the ongoing development of physical rehabilitation curriculums to reach international standards

3.4.3 Advocate for further support to organisations currently working in the up-skilling of physical rehabilitation professionals

Responsibility: NRA with MOH, MLSW and civil society

Timeframe: 2014-2020

3.5 An established fee exemption policy for access to physical rehabilitation services for UXO survivors

Activities

3.5.1 Link with the National Health Insurance Agency as they develop their committee, highlighting rehabilitation costs for UXO survivors

3.5.2 Discuss potential linkages between the Health Equity Fund and the WVMF to ensure rehabilitation costs incurred by UXO survivors are met

Responsibility: NRA

Timeframe: 2017-2020

3.6 Increased uptake of physical rehabilitation services by UXO survivors and other people with disabilities

Activities

3.6.1 Advocate for a community awareness campaign to highlight the benefits of physical rehabilitation

3.6.2 Conduct research to determine why some survivors and other people with disabilities are not accessing physical rehabilitation services

Responsibility: NRA with MOH, MLSW and civil society

Timeframe: 2014-2020

3.7 A comprehensive and accessible transport system for UXO victims in need of physical rehabilitation to be developed across Laos

Activities

3.7.1 Advocate to the Ministry of Health to identify who is responsible for transport in each district and village

3.7.2 Advocate for increased resource provision for transport systems

Responsibility: NRA with MOH, MLSW, MPW & T and civil society

Timeframe: 2014-2020

4: PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION: Increase the knowledge and support for UXO victims' psychological and social inclusion needs*(CCM Article 5 paragraph 1 & 2h; Article 6 paragraph 7; and Article 7 paragraph 1 k; VAP action # 25 and 28.)*

4.1 Develop NRA's working relationship with relevant mental health bodies in government, INGO and UN agencies to ensure that the needs of victims are considered at the highest possible level of national policies, strategies and plans

Activities

4.1.1 Develop linkages with the working group for the Mental Health plan and strategy

4.1.2 Develop linkages with the Ministry of Health Department of Substance Abuse and Mental health

4.1.3 Align future VA policies with the Ministry of Health's Mental Health 2012 plan and strategy *(release date yet to be confirmed)*

Responsibility: NRA with MOH and civil society

Timeframe: 2014-2020

4.2 Increase the level of ongoing psychological support to UXO victims

Activities

4.2.1 Advocate for consistent/standardized psychosocial assessments for UXO survivors upon discharge from hospital

4.2.2 Advocate for training of staff to deliver the tool

4.2.3 Advocate for peer support models by GOL, INGO's and NPA's, that offer assistance after discharge from hospital

4.2.4 Advocate for psychosocial support for families of those killed or injured in UXO accidents, if required.

Responsibility: NRA with MOH and civil society

Timeframe: 2014-2020

4.3 Increase the number of Mental Health professionals

Activities

4.3.1 Develop linkages with the working group for the Mental Health plan and strategy to promote inclusion of UXO victims in their work.

Responsibility: NRA with MOH

Timeframe: 2014-2020

4.4 Mental Health care services to be integrated with general care services

Activities

4.4.1 Advocate for mental health training to be standardized across all primary health care (staff of MOH) curriculum

4.4.2 Advocate for mental health training to be standardized across all first aid responder (village volunteers) training

4.4.3 Advocate for all public health workplaces to consider mental health practice in their day-to-day work

Responsibility: NRA with MOH, MOE

Timeframe: 2015-2020

4.5 Advocate for increased community awareness about mental health issues and treatments

Activities

4.5.1 Advocate for a Mental Health education program for all of Laos

4.5.2 Advocate for the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education to collaborate on the incorporation of mental health promotion and disability awareness in the core curriculum of primary and secondary school students

4.5.3 Advocate for health professionals and traditional healers to be resourced to provide mental health promotion and support training to communities

Responsibility: NRA with MOH and civil society

Timeframe: 2014-2020

4.6 Increase the number of opportunities for UXO survivors and other PWDs to participate in family and community life, social, sport and leisure activities as well as political processes

Activities

4.6.1 Lobby the MLSW to run awareness-raising programs on the rights and capacities of PWD

4.6.2 Advocate for increased sporting programs for PWD

4.6.3 Lobby the relevant ministries to improve accessibility to their buildings and public spaces

4.6.4 Advocate for an increase in Social Work Professionals

Responsibility: NRA with MLSW, MPW&T, MOE

Timeframe: 2014-2020

5: ECONOMIC REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION - Increase UXO victims access to education and employment*(CCM Article 5 paragraph 1 & 2h; Article 6 paragraph 7; Article 7 paragraph 1k; VAP action # 23, 25 and 28)*

5.1 Support the NCDP to develop, in collaboration with the appropriate ministries, directions, policy and rules of law concerning the CRPD, particularly Article 24 –inclusive education for PWDs and Article 27 –equal rights to work for PWDs, including UXO survivors

Activities

5.1.1 Advocate for the draft disability decree to be ratified

5.1.2 Facilitate capacity building opportunities for the NCDP

5.1.3 Share results of the Survivor Tracking System to assist the NCDP in identifying the needs of UXO survivors in regards to employment

Responsibility: NRA with MLSW

Timeframe: 2014-2020

5.2 Strengthen working relationships with the Ministry of Education so that the needs of UXO survivors are considered at the highest possible level of national policies, strategies and plans

Activities

5.2.1 Request participation in the Ministry of Education Focal Groups and Technical Working groups relevant to Inclusive Education and TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training)

5.2.2 Encourage the Ministry of Education's continued attendance in the Victim Assistance TWG

5.2.3 Share results of the Survivor Tracking System to assist the Ministry of Education in identifying the needs of UXO survivors in regards to education

5.2.4 Advocate for the Ministry of Education's National Strategy and Plan of Action on Inclusive Education 2011-2015 to be inclusive of UXO survivors

Responsibility: NRA with MOE

Timeframe: 2014-2020

5.3 Support income generating skills training as identified in the Ministry of Education's Master Plan Development of TVET 2008 – 2015

Activities

5.3.1 Advocate for the MLSW/NCDP, MoE and MoH to consider disability inclusive vocational training curriculums that are more responsive to the market and create income generating activities and economic independence

5.3.2 Advocate for improved pathways from UXO Survivor and disability inclusive vocational training to income generating activities

5.3.3 Represent UXO survivors in the discussions and development of education systems, curriculums and other services for people with disabilities

5.3.4 Promote community based training and skill development

Responsibility: NRA with MLSW, MoE, MoH and civil society

Timeframe: 2014-2020

5.4 Promote the increased uptake of vocational training services by UXO survivors

Activities

5.4.1 Use the information from the NRA Survivor Tracking Survey to determine the needs of UXO survivors in regards to vocational training, and their geographical location

5.4.2 Distribute this information to the Ministries of Education, Labor and Social Welfare and Health

5.4.3 Advocate for actions to increase the uptake of vocational training services by UXO survivors

Responsibility: NRA with MLSW. MoE, MoH and civil society

Timeframe: 2014-2020

5.5 Promote increased access to wage employment and self employment by UXO survivors

Activities

5.5.1 Support the coordination of Government and Civil Society activities on wage employment and self employment

Responsibility: NRA with MLSW and civil society

Timeframe: 2014-2020

5.6 Micro finance services and institutions are accessible to UXO survivors and other people with disabilities

Activities

5.6.1 Collaborate with the NCDP to develop a mapping of suitable micro-finance organizations for UXO survivors and other people with disabilities

Responsibility: NRA with MLSW

Timeframe: 2014-2020

5.7 Promote access to school for child survivors who have disengaged from their education as a result of a UXO accident

Activities

5.7.1 Advocate for improved, resourced processes from the Ministry of Education, civil society and the community for children who have been in a UXO accident to re-engage with their educational institution

5.7.2 Represent UXO survivors in the discussion and development of inclusive education systems, curriculums and other services for children with disabilities

5.7.3 Advocate to the Ministry of Health for improved resources and processes to provide psycho-social support to children who have been involved in an UXO accident

5.7.4 Advocate to the Ministry of Education to provide specific training to teachers on working with children with disabilities, including UXO survivors

Responsibility: NRA with MOE, MOH, MLSW and civil society

Timeframe: 2014-2020

6: LEGISLATION AND POLICY - Lao PDR legislation and policy reflects the rights of UXO survivors, and the broader disability community *(CCM Article 5 paragraph 1, 2b; VAP action # 26)*

6.1 The Decree on the Rights of People with Disabilities is passed into law at the earliest possible opportunity

Activities

6.1.1 Advocate for the Government of Laos to pass the draft Decree on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Responsibility: NRA with MLSW

Timeframe: 2014-2017

6.2 Increase the level of support to the NCDP so they have the capacity to:

- Ensure implementation of CRPD obligations
- Coordinate all stakeholders in the disability sector
- Support and regularly consult with service providers and organizations working with and for people with disabilities, including UXO survivors
- Advocate on behalf of service providers and organizations working with and for people with disabilities, including UXO survivors

Activities

6.2.1 Encourage and support the NCDP to adopt an inter-ministerial, inter-sectorial Technical Working Group

6.2.2 Encourage and support the NCDP to establish national disability data collection processes that provide disaggregated data including on the cause and type of disability

6.2.3 Encourage and support the NCDP to establish monitoring processes of service providers working with and for PWDs, including UXO survivors

Responsibility: NRA with MLSW and civil society

Timeframe: 2014-2020

6.3 Increase the inclusion of the rights and needs of UXO victims from local to central levels, in the strategic plans and programs of the Ministries of Laos

Activities

6.3.1 Attend the technical and sector working groups of relevant ministries

6.3.2 Raise awareness about District and Provincial needs at relevant ministerial meetings and technical working groups

Responsibility: NRA

Timeframe: 2014-2020

6.4 Encourage UXO survivors and Disabled People's Organizations' to be active participants in the development of governmental strategic plans and programs

Activities

6.4.1 Collaborate with existing representative groups of UXO survivors such as HI Ban Advocates and Disabled People's Organizations' to attend national and international working groups and meetings

Responsibility: NRA and civil society

Timeframe: 2014-2020

6.5 Encourage disability inclusive models of practice such as Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) (previously known as Community Based Rehabilitation)

Activities

6.5.1 Highlight the successes of CBID models in Laos and internationally to promote lessons learned

6.5.2 Advocate for good practice models to be considered for implementation at an inter-ministerial level

Responsibility: NRA with MLSW and civil society

Timeframe: 2014-2020

7: COORDINATION- Improve the coordination of Victim Assistance and the broader Disability sector *(CCM Article 5 paragraph 2g; VAP action # 21, 23 & 56)*

7.1 Ministries of Health, Education and Labor and Social Welfare to meet their obligations under the CCM and CRPD

Activities

7.1.1 Advocate for an inter-ministerial commitment to implementation of the CCM, CRPD and VA strategy through the TWG

Responsibility: NRA with MOH, MOE, MLSW

Timeframe: 2014-2020

7.2 Civil society organisations work with the Government to facilitate progress in implementing the CCM and CRPD to assist UXO survivors and other persons with disabilities

Activities

7.2.1 Work with the members of the TWG to raise the awareness of civil society organization on the CCM, CRPD and VA strategic plan

Responsibility: NRA and civil society

Timeframe: 2014-2020

7.3 Align the VA strategy with broader national frameworks related to disability and development

Activities

7.3.1 Link the VA Strategic plan to the strategic plans of the Ministry of Education, Health, Labor and Social Welfare, Transport, Public Infrastructure and Works

Responsibility: NRA

Timeframe: 2014-2020

7.4 Coordinate resource mobilization with all relevant organizations

Activities

7.4.1 Build knowledge and capacity of service providers on donor opportunities and requirements

7.4.2 Encourage organizations who work with UXO victims and other people with disabilities to report their activities and needs via the VA TWG

7.4.3 Advocate for increased human and financial resources to address the rights and needs of UXO survivors and other persons with disabilities

Responsibility: NRA

Timeframe: 2014-2020

7.5 Develop a multi-sectorial Victim Assistance Strategy

Activities

7.5.1 Collaborate with Lao PDR Ministries and Civil Society Organizations to develop a Victim Assistance Strategy that has cross ministerial and sectorial input, responsibilities and commitment

Responsibility: NRA with GOL Ministries and Civil Society Organizations

Timeframe: 2014-2020

Part IV: Resource Requirements

The Victim Assistance Strategic Plan is designed as a tool to guide the NRA Victim Assistance Unit's work to assist UXO victims within the broader disability and development frameworks in Lao PDR. It is seen as the first step towards developing a broader Strategic Plan that is inter-ministerial and inter-sectorial, and represents all relevant stakeholders in Lao PDR. Further it is a tool for creating stronger linkages between Victim Assistance and the Disability Sector so that an inter-Ministerial National Disability Strategy that is inclusive of Victim Assistance can be developed for sustainability.

Until such time as this is achieved, the Victim Assistance Strategic Plan for 2014-2020 is not able to provide a comprehensive budget that is reflected in the relevant ministries strategies, work-plans and budgets.

However, the NRA can budget for those areas in which they are directly responsible; Pillar 1: Data Collection and Pillar 7: Coordination. As such, these actions are already built into the NRA budget and work-plan. Further the NRA VA unit can identify activities within the plan that require financial support, and potential inter-ministerial actions to pursue resource mobilization.

In 2012, funding to the entire UXO sector in the Lao PDR was approximately US\$30.5 million, of which more than US\$8.5 million was financed through private sector investment projects, and about US\$22 million financed from Overseas Development Assistance (ODA). US\$1.5 million of this money was directed towards Victim Assistance. The full implementation of this strategy will require a significant increase in financial assistance over its six year period from both international assistance and inter-ministerial commitment. At the same time, the NRA Victim Assistance Unit will devote its efforts and commitment to the agreed strategic goals.

A list of general actions to prioritise potential future financial assistance is provided below. Specific actions relevant to each pillar can be found in the content of the Victim Assistance Strategy.

Part V: General Actions recommended

1. Workshop facilitated by Victim Assistance and Disability expert , to bring key stakeholders from the Government of Laos and UN agencies together to promote understanding and collaboration on Victim Assistance and disability. This workshop would provide an opportunity to promote understanding of the Victim Assistance Strategy to high level decision makers, who would then be in a position to make decisions, including resource mobilization from their own budgets and from other donor
2. A joint mapping project with the National Committee of Disabled People (NCDP) to clarify the existing medical care services, physical rehab services, psychological support and social inclusion services, economic rehabilitation and education services for disability and UXO victims in Lao PDR
3. Consideration of a resourced Technical Advisor funded to support resource mobilization and capacity building across the Victim Assistance and Disability sectors.
4. Relevant Ministries consider what areas of need identified through the workshop mentioned above and the Victim Assistance Strategic Plan, can be built in to their existing work-plans and budgets
5. The strategy will be subject to a mid-term evaluation in 2017 and final evaluation in 2020. The evaluation will aim to assess the achievements of the implementation against the objectives and indicators of strategy.
6. Consideration of potential donors to approach includes: UNDP, World Bank, ILO, UNICEF, AusAID, Trust funds, WHO and Others.

Minister to Prime Minister Office

Chair of NRA