



# Lao PDR

## CCM 2<sup>nd</sup> Extension request

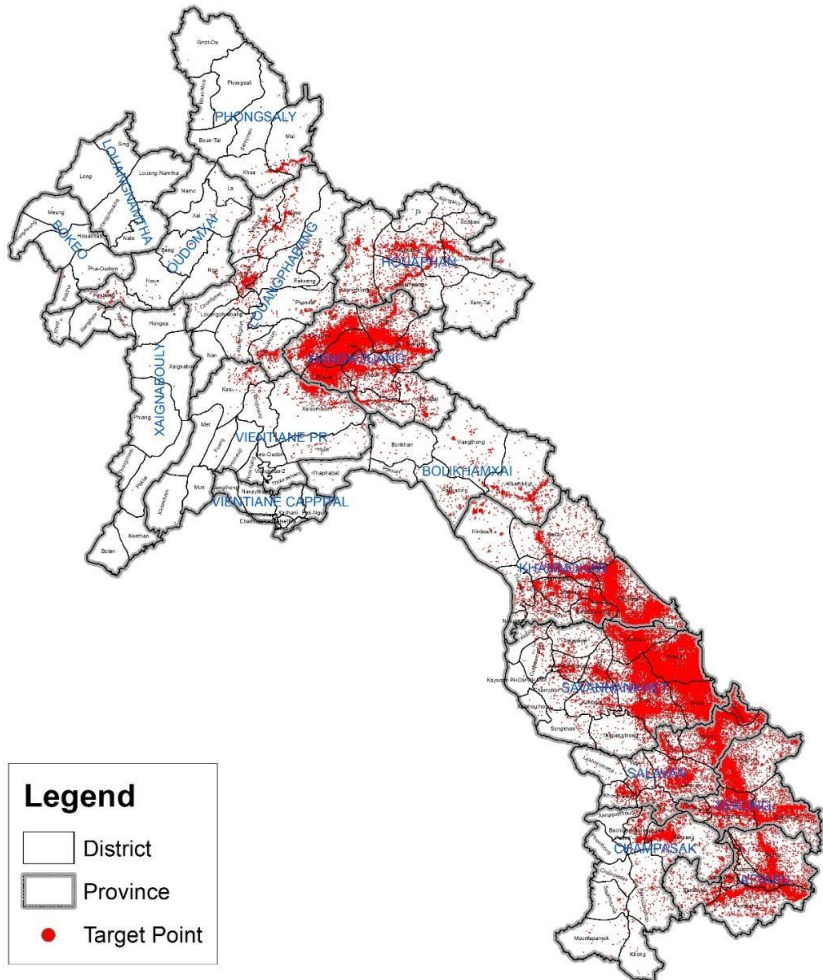
Presented by: Department of International Organization, Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR

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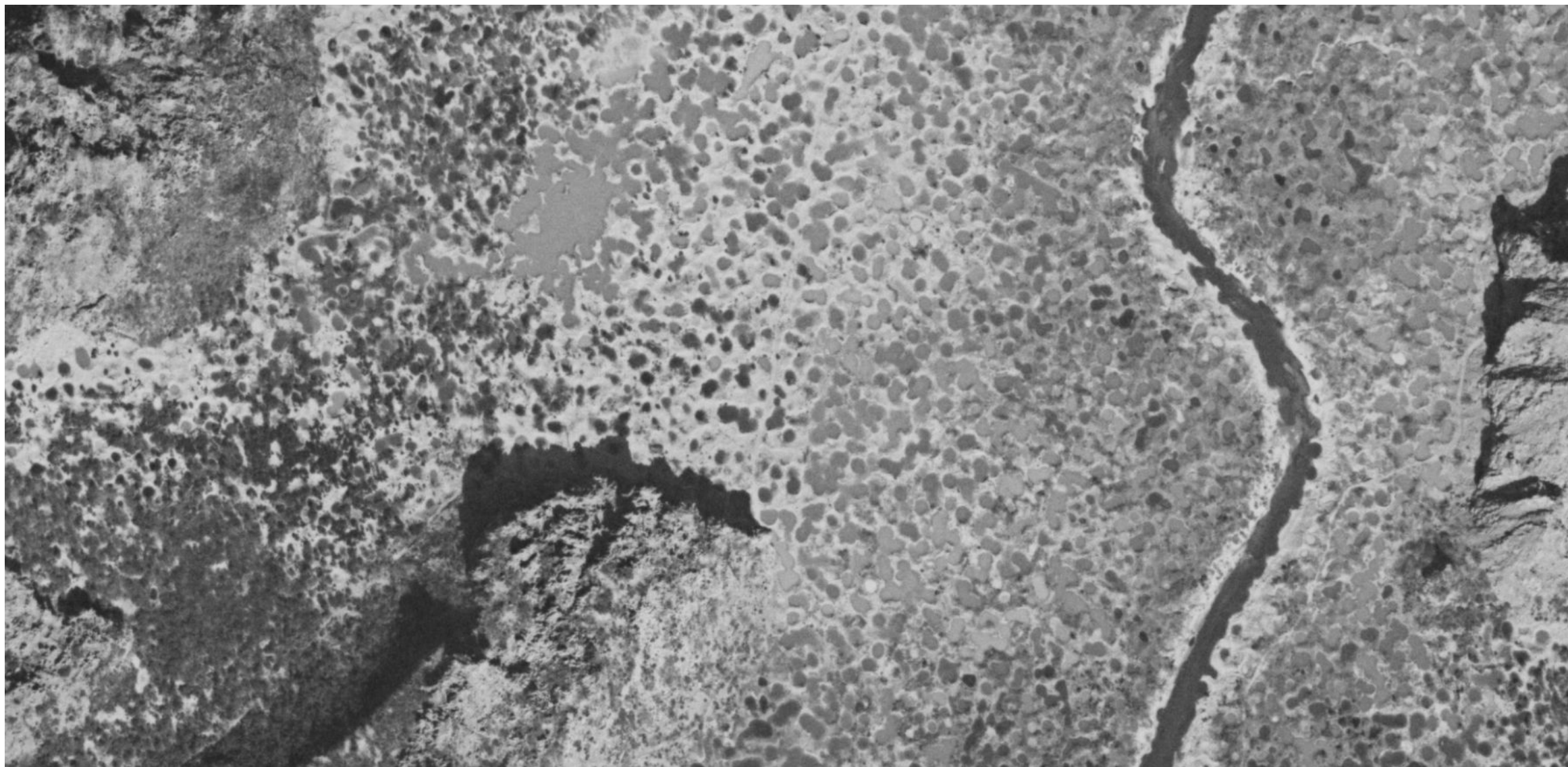
## US Airforce Bombing Data Map Lao PDR



# 1. Background & Introduction

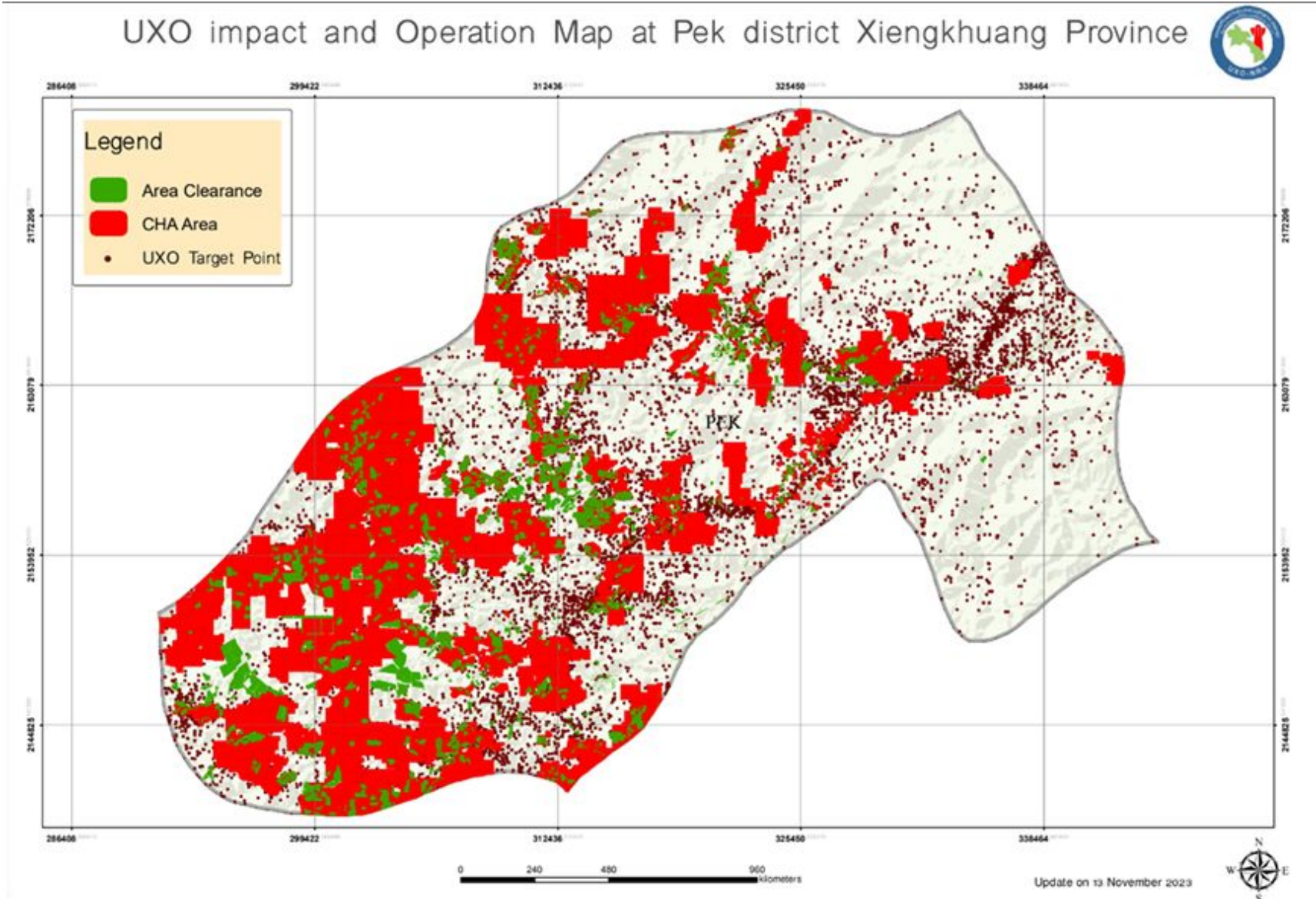
- Approximately over 80 million unexploded cluster munitions remain from the IndoChina war (1964-1973)
- Lao PDR the most contaminated country with ‘massive’ levels of contamination.
- Initial estimation a total area of over 87,000 km<sup>2</sup>, covered approximately one third of the Lao PDR territory of 236,800 km<sup>2</sup>. Initial estimation of cluster munition contamination area amounted to approximately 8,470 km<sup>2</sup>
- Lao administration: Province, District, Village. (11 high contamination out of 18 provinces)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> country to sign the CCM in December 2008
- Ordnance range from 85 grams of explosive in a BLU 26 to 3000 pound air dropped bombs
- 605 victims of UXOs in the last 13 years 2011 to 2023 of which there were 141 deaths. Around half were children.

Ariel photograph of craters from bombing of Ho Chi Minh trail, Savannakhet Province, Lao PDR, c.1972





Xieng Khuang is a province which has an extraordinary high level of contamination, It is so densely contaminated that it is estimated that survey will be completed in around 5 years.



## 2. Strategy, Method and Standards

- Cluster Munition Remnant Survey (CMRS) adopted in 2015.
- Since 2015 until December 2023 (Date on Extension Request), over 1,840 Square kilometer of Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHAs) identified in 11 of the highest contaminated provinces.
- Of which, over 340 Square kilometer cleared (19%).
- Survey is ongoing as extent of contamination massive. So the CHA numbers to continue to steadily rise as proactive technical survey continues.
- ‘Proactive’ (village to village) CMRS completed in 5 provinces. 10 provinces remain.
- ‘Reactive’ will continue as communities continue to find ordnance outside of village boundaries.

# Strategy, Method and Standards (count' )

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) took over the management of the sector Q4, 2023 from Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MoLSW)
- National Regulatory Authority (NRA) responsible for the management of the sector. MoFA have undertaken an organizational review of the NRA in Q3 of 2024 in order to drive efficiency and effectiveness in the coordination and management of the sector.
- Operators: 2 National Clearance organizations (UXO Lao, Unit 58 of the Lao People's Army), 4 INGOs (Halo Trust, Humanity & Inclusion, MAG and Norwegian People's Aid) and around 25 registered commercial operators.





- Photo credit: UXO Lao
- Image: A man reported cluster sub-munitions found in his land to UXO Lao staff
- Location: Khammuane province
- Year taken: 2021
- Donor: U.S. Government
- Caption: UXO Lao field staff recorded GPS coordinates where UXO locates in the village.



- Photo credit: UXO Lao
- Image: A technical survey team surveying land to find full extend of cluster sub-munitions strikes.
- Location: Huaphan province
- Year taken: 2022
- Donor: U.S. Government
- Caption: UXO Lao implemented technical surveys to establish confirmed hazardous areas (CHA's) based on physical cluster sub-munition evidence points.

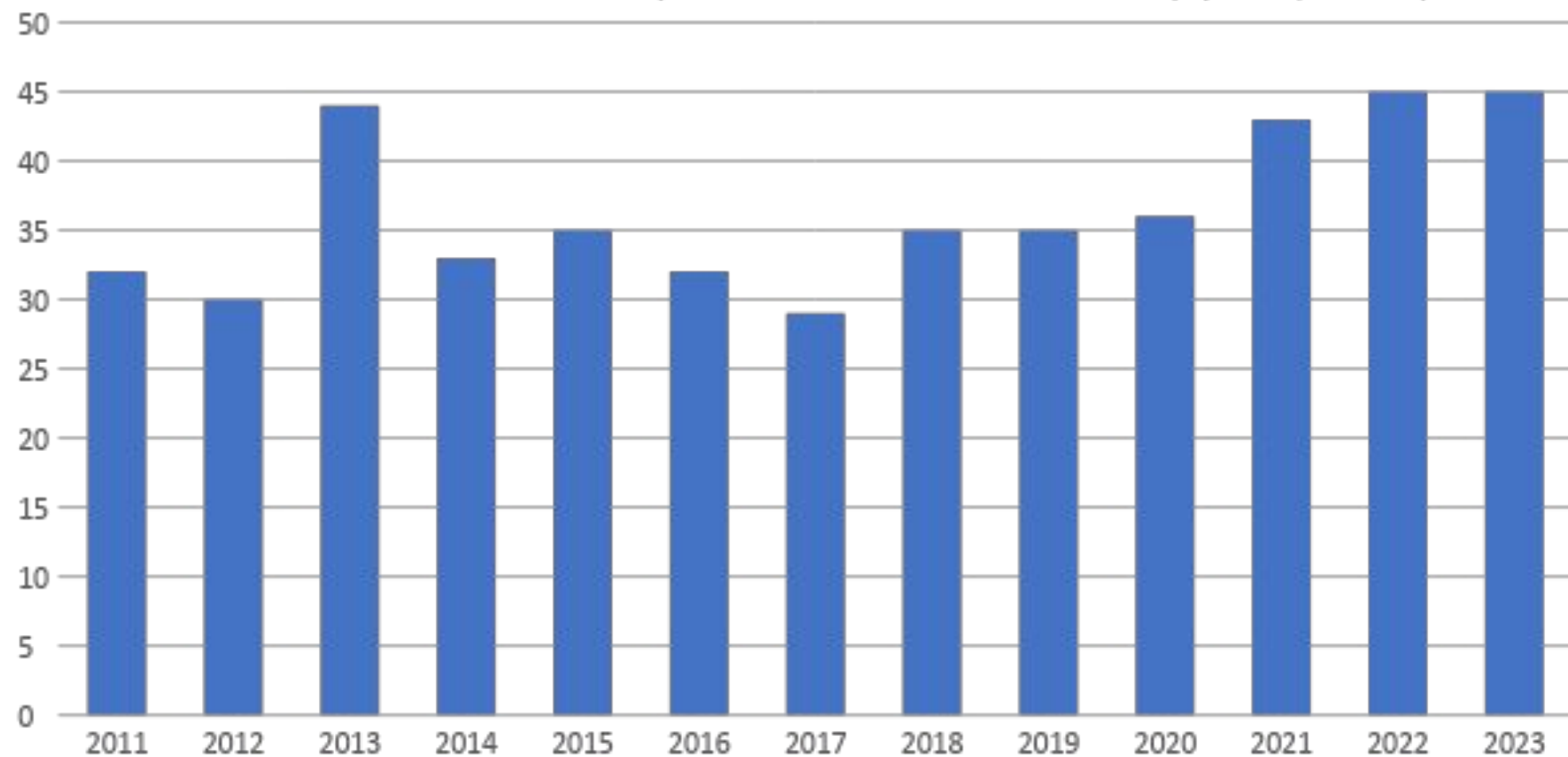




### 3. Resources

- Sector funded with the generous support of the governments of Canada, Ireland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, United Kingdom, United States of America as well as smaller charitable organizations and donors.
- Lao PDR government funding through provision of Unit 58, humanitarian clearance of the Lao People's Army and in kind contribution (staffing, buildings, coordination etc.).
- Government of Lao PDR to explore strategies to diversify funding to achieve the national SDG 18: “Lives Safe from UXO” (2016-2030)

Total UXO Sector Expenditure, Humanitarian, by year (US\$M)



## 4. Progress of 1<sup>st</sup> Extension request (2021-2023)

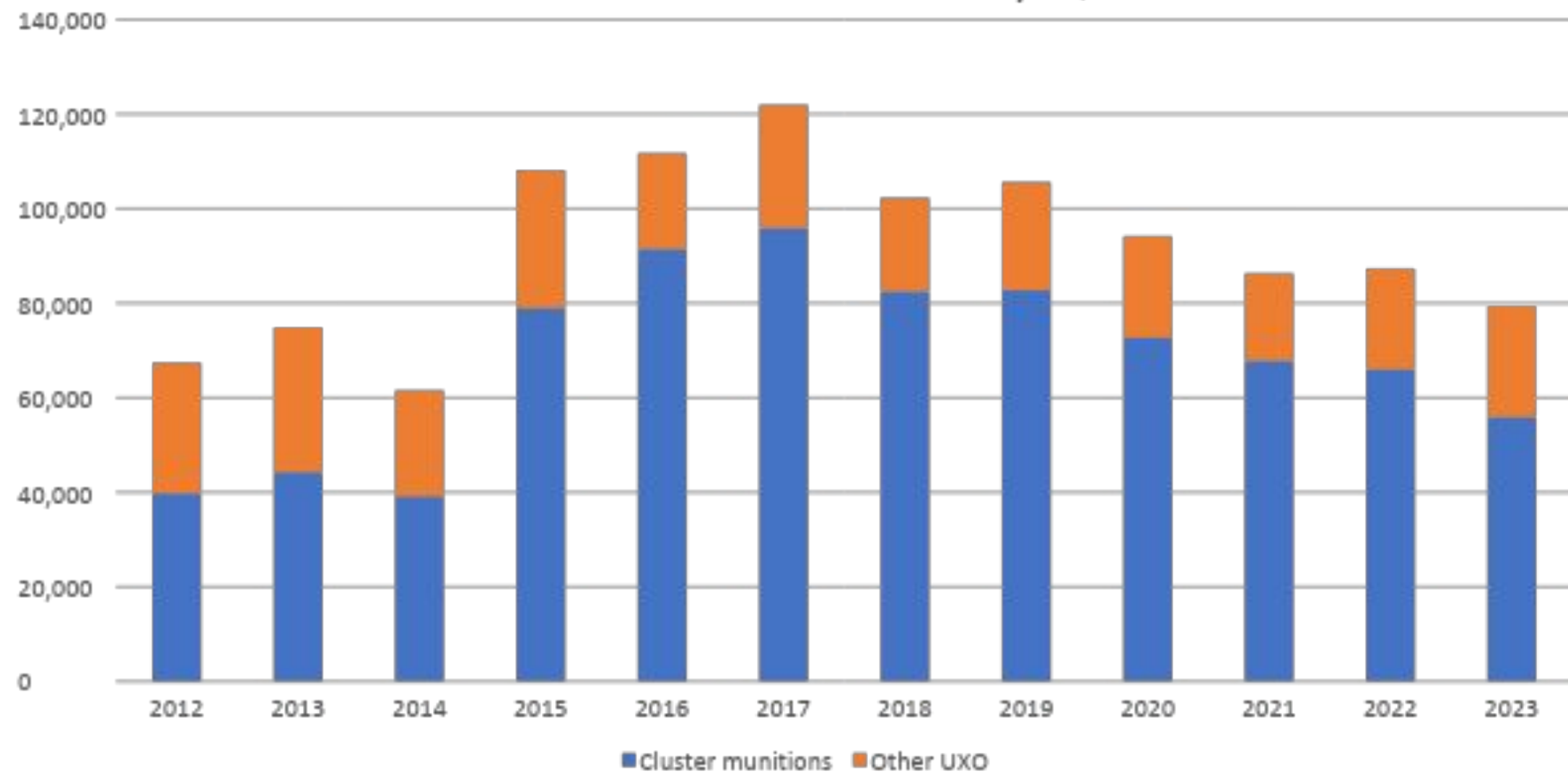
- 651 Km2 (65,134 ha) identified through CMRS as CHAs
- Clearance of 169 Km2 (16,943 ha) of the above
- CMRS village to village survey completed in 5 of the 6 most contaminated provinces
- Survey of different provinces reliant on capacity, funding and prioritization of more contaminated provinces.
- Over 788,000 beneficiaries of risk education
- 533 UXO survivors received assistance (medical, rehabilitation etc.)



Humanitarian clearance, 2011 - 2022 (ha)



Cluster munitions and other UXO destroyed, 2011 - 2022





- Photo credit: UXO Lao
- Image: Female deminers working at UXO field
- Location: Khammuen province
- Year taken: 2022
- Caption: Field staff utilizing two different kind of metal detectors at UXO field including shallow search detector (left) and Deep search detector (right).



# 5. Challenges and Opportunities

- Immense nature of the problem. Lao PDR has currently cleared 19% of identified CHAs.
- large amount of mountainous and unpopulated areas contaminated.
- Short term visibility on funding.
- Funding challenges for Lao PDR budget allocation.
- Baseline ongoing but incomplete (Continue survey = Increase CHAs)
- Opportunity to model better practice through innovation
- Seeking opportunities to drive efficiency and effectiveness

## 6. Workplan for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Extension request

- Target to maintain rate of 6,500 ha. per annum
- Clearing 100,000 ordnance per year, of which 75% anticipated to be cluster munitions
- Strive to maintain current funding levels
- Expand role of Unit 58, particularly with Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)
- Strengthen victim assistance through greater integration and expansion of social protection and social welfare programming
- Strengthen the UXO Sector Working Group AKA “Country Coalition” model, supporting the fulfillment of the 2nd Extension Request .
- Foster innovation in the sector



## Work Plan for 2nd Extension request

	Total land cleared – humanitarian (ha)	Total ordnance destroyed	Total CMs destroyed	Actual/Projected cost (USD m)
2025	6,500	100,000	75,000	45
2026	6,500	100,000	75,000	45
2027	6,500	100,000	75,000	45
2028	6,500	100,000	75,000	45
2029	6,500	100,000	75,000	45
2030 (to 31/7/30)	3,792	58,333	43,750	26



Thank you

Q&A

