



Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)



ANNUAL REPORT 2016



Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)

Annual Report 2016

Foreword

National Programme Director,

I am proud to introduce this summary report of the progress made by UXO Lao in 2016, the twenty-one year of the organisation's existence. We have continued to contribute to the Government of Lao PDR's efforts to remove the UXO obstacle to development in Lao PDR.

During 2016, we have managed to increase the amount of land cleared year-on-year while maintaining high performance in terms of the number of cluster munitions found per hectare. The report details the figures which I believe demonstrate UXO Lao moving into the final stage of a successful transition to evidence-based survey and clearance. With this system in place, UXO Lao is now well-placed to be the most significant contributor to survey and clearance work across the country for several years to come. With new commitments from UNDP, the United States, Japan and other partners, we look forward to working together to make major progress in the coming years. Now that data is being generated more comprehensively and to a higher standard, we hope to take the opportunity to target our efforts towards relieving poverty as much as possible, while improving human security and boosting livelihoods in some of Lao PDR's poorest areas.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector (NRA), the National Committee for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication and all donors and development partners for their coordinating support to the sector as a whole.

Thiphasone Soukhathammavong

Foreword

UNDP Deputy Resident Representative,

2016 has been another successful year for UXO Lao. The work undertaken by UXO Lao has shown that with the final transition to evidence-based operational procedures, UXO Lao can be more responsive to the needs of people living in contaminated villages, more effective in the use of resources through concentrating its clearance efforts exclusively on contaminated land, and more progressive in developing the systems necessary to allow the Government of Lao PDR to better forecast its long-term needs to mitigate the impact of cluster munitions on sustainable development and human security. UXO Lao, as an organization, has transformed itself, and has proven that it has the technical expertise necessary to support the Government of Lao PDR at this important phase of mitigating the impact of UXO. UNDP, along with our many development partners, are proud to have had the opportunity to work with UXO Lao in addressing these critical steps.

2017 and the years to come bring challenges—both old and new. The focus on the national cluster munitions survey may overshadow the need to finance the clearance of hazardous areas, mine risk education delivery may need to be adapted to align with the work being done by organisations undertaking survey, and victims' assistance mechanisms need to be strengthened to allow victims to lead safe, happy and productive lives. UXO Lao and the National Regulatory Authority (NRA), with support from UNDP, are working on ensuring that policies are in place for the entire sector



to implement evidence-based operational procedures and the successful results can be felt throughout the sector.

Together with the Government of Lao PDR, UNDP has developed its new support framework to the UXO sector, formalized in the new 2017-2021 UXO sector programme. This framework will provide an overview of the requirements of the NRA and UXO Lao operating under the leadership of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, to continue the Government of Lao PDR's efforts to achieve the targets set in the national Sustainable Development Goal 18 on Removing the UXO obstacle to development, the 8th National Social and Economic Development Plan and the internal five-year UXO sector plan.

We from the UNDP look forward to closely working together with UXO Lao in the coming years, to ensure that the organizational transformation yields the best possible outcome for the sustainable development of Lao PDR, and help the people safe from UXO.

Balasubramaniam Murali

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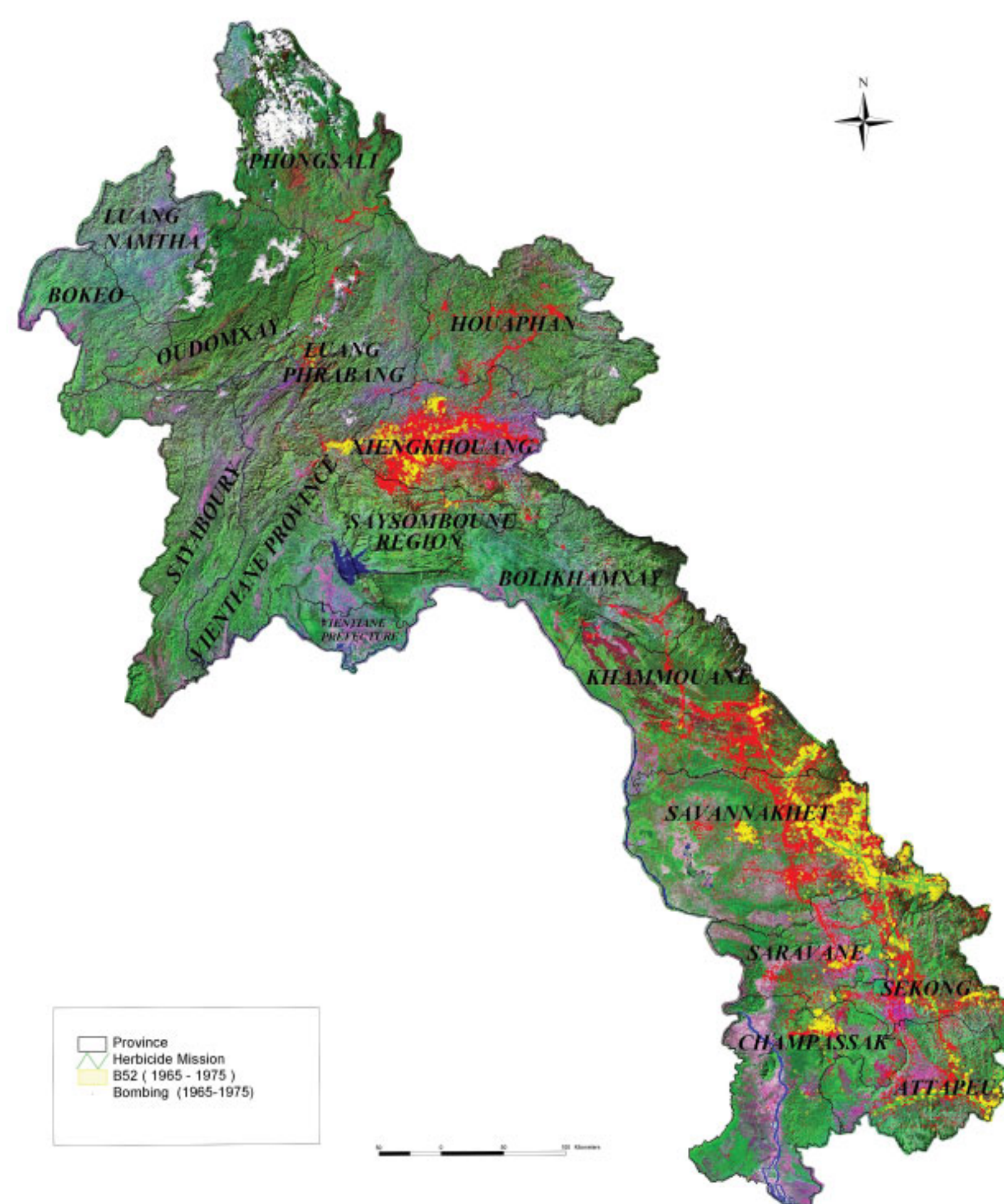
1 The UXO Problem in Lao PDR

During the Second Indochina War (1964-1975), more than two million tons of explosive ordnance were dropped on Laos, making it, per capita, one of the most heavily-bombed countries in the world. It is estimated that up to 30 percent of the cluster munitions dropped failed to explode, and even today, these continue to threaten the lives and livelihoods of the people of Lao PDR. Cluster sub-munitions, or 'bombies', are the most common form of unexploded ordnance (UXO). There have been over 20,000 UXO-related casualties since hostilities ceased, resulting in debilitating injuries, loss of livelihood and, all too frequently, death.

High contamination with UXO poses a significant threat to human security and has a long-term negative impact on the development potential of affected communities. Nine provinces in Lao PDR are considered highly-contaminated with unexploded cluster munitions. The number of UXO casualties was as high as 300 per year in 2008, though this has reduced substantially to 58 in 2016. The worst-impacted areas are poor, rural and remote. UXO needs to be cleared in order for socio-economic development to take place.

UXO contamination has a significant effect on the development of Lao PDR, especially for poor and vulnerable farming communities, for

MAP OF BOMMING DATA IN LAO P.D.R



whom contamination of land reduces the possibilities of becoming self-sufficient. The development of major infrastructure and business projects are also hindered by the costs and challenge of UXO clearance.

With the need for both trauma and long-term care, the treatment of UXO victims places a burden on the country's existing limited medical facilities. Even those who recover from their wounds cannot always carry out the work needed in a subsistence-farming village.

2 Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)

2.1 Background and Mandates

For this reason, Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao) was established in 1996 by the Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) with the support of UNDP, UNICEF, and other stakeholders. UXO Lao works in the nine most-contaminated provinces in Lao PDR: Attapeu, Champasack, Huaphan, Khammuane, Luangpabang, Salavan, Savannakhet, Sekong, and Xiengkhuang.

Today, UXO Lao is the largest national humanitarian UXO clearance operator in Lao PDR.

UXO Lao's mandates are:

1. To **reduce the number of UXO casualties and accidents;**
2. To **increase the amount of the land available for food production and for other socio-economic development.**

2.2 UXO Lao's Activities

UXO Lao achieves those objectives through the following activities:

A. Community Awareness and Mine Risk Education – this activity aims to increase the awareness of people living in UXO-affected areas. MRE teams communicate the danger of mines through various education activities; for instance, these activities might include songs, dances, plays and puppet shows.

B. Roving Clearance – roving or spot tasks involve the on-demand removal and destruction of UXOs when they are reported by villagers or survey teams.

C. Non-technical Survey – non-technical survey entails reviewing all data on a

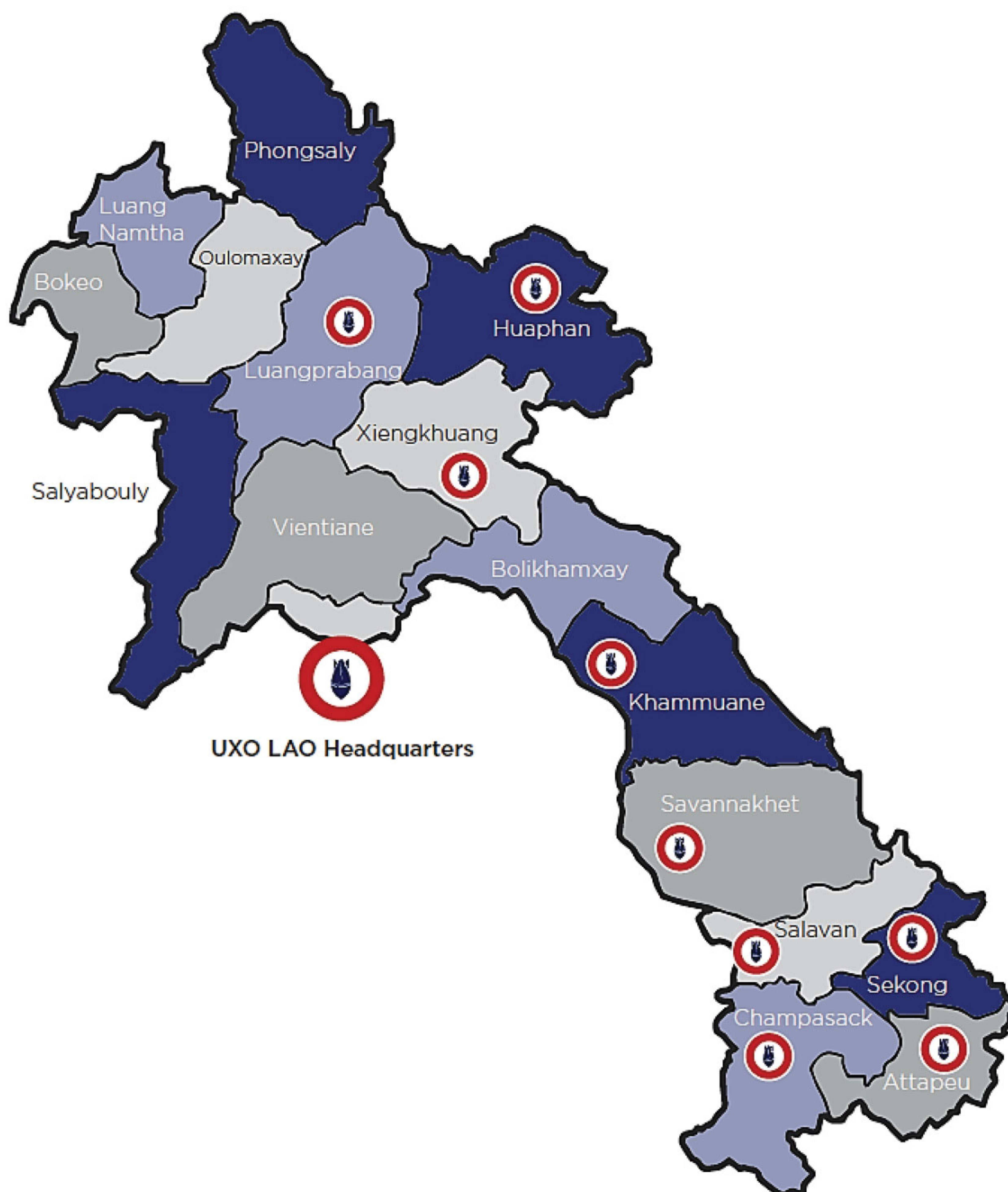
village-by-village basis, and consulting with as many households as possible to locate all known contamination in a specific village. This activity generates sketch maps of villages with UXO contamination marked on them, as well as GPS coordinates of all “evidence points”, which are then provided to the National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector (NRA) to enter into the national UXO database.

D. Technical Survey – technical survey involves operators investigating each evidence point entered into the national database using detector equipment. By surveying the land around the evidence point, the TS teams find the full extent of cluster munitions contamination in that area, using 50m x 50m boxes, one box contains 2,500m². Boxes with contamination are marked as red; those with fragments are marked as yellow; and if no cluster munitions or CM fragments are found the box is coloured green. When an area is surrounded by red boxes, it is marked as a Confirmed Hazardous Area (CHA) and entered into the national database to be fully cleared later.

E. Area Clearance – Once CHA have been entered into the system, they are prioritised by UXO Lao for clearance. Clearance involves dedicated teams returning to the sites and ensuring that all UXO are found and destroyed to a depth, usually, of 25 centimetres. UXO Lao's current Work Plans aim to clear only land that is within CHAs. However, there are some occasions where UXO Lao clears land in order for development projects to take place, on request of the development organisation in question.



UXO Lao works in the nine most-contaminated provinces



3 UXO Lao: 21 years of Achievements (1996-2016)



- More than **380 square kilometers of land cleared for safe use.**
- Land cleared for hundreds of schools, water facilities, roads and other important projects.
- More than **1,480,000 items of unexploded ordnance destroyed.**
- More than **11,900 risk education village visits** conducted.
- Thousands of **Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHA)** established.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PARTNERS

4 Achievements in 2016

The following table shows UXO Lao's operational achievements during 2016.

Provinces	Operations					
	Mine Risk Education (Number of Visits)	Roving Tasks (Number of Visits)	General Survey (Number of Visits)	Overall Clearance (hectares)	Confirmed Hazardous Areas Clearance (percentage)	UXO Found and Destroyed
Luangpabang (LPB)	50	123	63	149.29	94%	6,071
Huaphan (HP)	50	120	109	231.6	88%	9,765
Xiengkhuang (XKH)	51	146	4	616.78	71%	18,179
Khammuane (KHM)	56	77	39	197.43	98%	14,076
Savannakhet (SVK)	52	73	109	429.08	98%	17,058
Salavan (SLV)	60	84	162	389.15	97%	13,975
Sekong (SEK)	72	54	116	202.84	96%	8,108
Champasack (CHP)	50	89	301	183.98	96%	7,620
Attapeu (ATP)	50	98	56	192.99	100%	5,582
GRAND TOTAL	491	864	959	2,593.17	90%	100,434

4.1 Casualties

The number of UXO casualties was reduced drastically from 300 in 2008 to only 59 in 2016, far lower than the national target of <75 set in the Safe Path Forward II national strategy. The following table summarises casualty figures from 2008 to 2016, with details of the gender breakdown.

Year	Accidents	Injuries				Deaths				Total Casualties
		Males	Females	Boys	Girls	Males	Females	Boys	Girls	
2008	186	99	22	67	15	66	8	20	5	302
2009	77	50	8	25	3	25	1	6	2	120
2010	75	33	8	47	7	9	1	9	5	119
2011	64	32	9	34	4	6	0	14	0	99
2012	36	17	11	11	2	6	1	6	2	56
2013	18	9	2	12	5	5	0	7	1	41
2014 ¹	22	8	5	9	7	4	0	12	0	45
2015 ²	27	15	1	16	1	6	1	2	0	42
2016 ³	35	17	3	24	5	2	0	8	0	59

¹Figures for 2008 to 2014 taken from UXO Sector Annual Reports available on NRA website.

²Figures for 2015 taken from NRA Completion Report dated 13 January 2016

³This figure is taken from the NRA's completion report for 2013-2016.

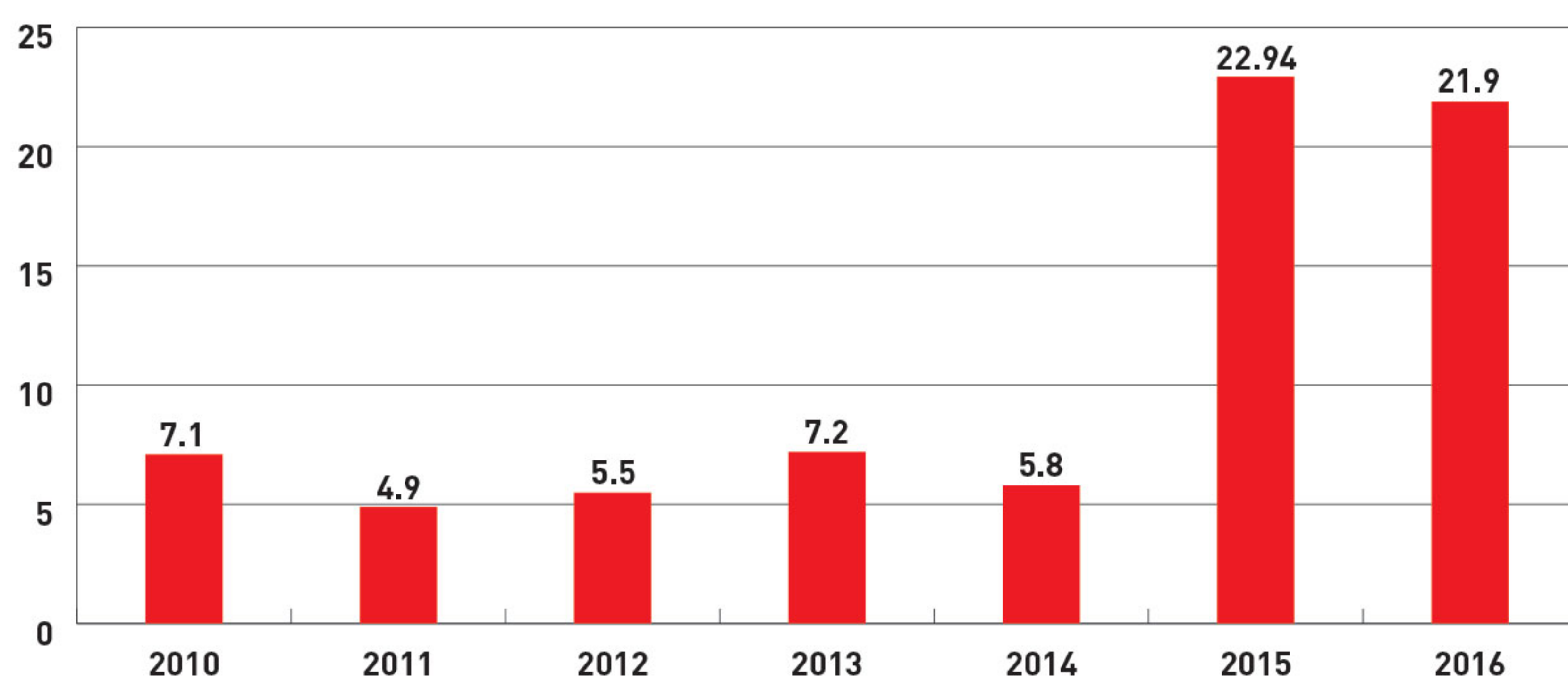
4.2 UXO Destruction

The number of UXO destroyed by UXO Lao area clearance operations in 2016 was 67,165 items. This is a substantial performance improvement and is the result of the 2014 adoption by UXO Lao of the new Concept of Operations, which has seen UXO Lao switch to an evidence-based approach to clearance. The implementation of this approach has meant that, across the country, the number of cluster munitions found per hectare cleared

[CM/ha] increased from 5 items in 2014 to 22 items in 2016. This largely accounts for the large increase in the number of UXO found and destroyed. The following table shows the number of cluster munitions found per hectare cleared in each province. This demonstrates that the transition to the new methodology during 2016 maintained real efficiency improvements.

Number of Cluster Munitions found per hectare per province 2016										
2014 National Average for comparison										5.8
2015 National Average for comparison										22.9
2016 Monthly	LPB	HP	XKH	KHM	SVK	SLV	SEK	CHP	ATP	Average
January	22.8	27.7	51.7	22.2	18	20	30.9	52.7	15.2	29.0
February	19.4	31.7	17.9	25	22.4	24.3	24.6	36	16.7	24.2
March	16.7	21.5	8.8	16.2	16.6	31.5	13.7	16.5	16.3	17.5
April	13.9	16.4	10.8	21.1	19.1	21.2	51	23.6	12.5	21.1
May	18.4	23.5	16.8	17.8	21.7	41.6	58.6	35.6	18.3	28.0
June	9.7	18.2	19.7	18.9	17.3	19	28.4	16.6	16.4	18.3
July	14.1	27.2	111.5	20.8	16.9	17.9	-	59.5	13.5	35.2
August	18.6	13.7	7.9	20.7	15.4	13.2	-	36.4	20.4	18.3
September	19.7	15.7	16.2	16.2	19.6	20	22.3	11.3	19.8	17.9
October	18.1	22.2	10.1	16.1	16.1	28.2	25.6	10.3	21.4	18.7
November	19	24.3	11.3	14.1	26.9	21.9	18.8	31.7	21.1	21
December	20.8	18.9	22.3	17.2	18.2	19.5	18.9	20.6	22.8	19.9
Average	17.6	21.7	25.4	18.9	19.0	23.2	29.3	29.2	17.9	22.5

Average number of Cluster Munitions found per hectare 2014-2016



4.3 Area Clearance

During 2016, UXO Lao cleared 2,593.1 hectares of UXO contaminated land. This included 2,398.3 hectares for agriculture, and 194.8 hectares for development projects, which included educational facilities, roads, water services, and other infrastructure. The criteria that UXO Lao uses to prioritise its clearance takes into account existing village, district, provincial and national development plans and priorities. All land is cleared to a depth commensurate with its intended land use; however if no land use is specified the default clearance depth of 25cm is applied. Most agricultural land is cleared to this default depth. On completion of clearance the land is formally handed over to the land owner/user and a certificate provided. Cleared land hand overs are required to be witnessed by village authorities.

Of the 2,593.1 hectares cleared, 2,358.3 hectares were cleared within established Confirmed Hazardous Areas. In total, this amounts to a reduction in the number of hectares cleared by UXO Lao compared to previous years, but an increase from 2015. The reason for the reduction in area cleared compared to the years before 2015 is that UXO Lao has transitioned to a new evidence based survey and clearance methodology. With this methodology, more cluster munitions are found per hectare, slowing down the already-arduous process of bomb disposal. Finding more cluster bombs also means setting up more controlled explosions to dispose of them, which requires both more time and more explosives.



The increase in 2016 from the figures from 2015 can be attributed to more teams being deployed but also better application of the new methodology. In fact, the UXO sector as a whole, under the coordination of the NRA, has reflected the change to the new methodology by creating new targets for the sector, no longer based on maximising the number of hectares cleared in absolute terms. The indicator of UXOs per hectare is now used as a measure of efficiency. UXO Lao fully supports this overall trend. UXO Lao will continue its efforts to improve efficiency and effectiveness and to increase the overall number of hectares cleared.

4.4 Community Awareness and Mine Risk Education

UXO Lao has mine risk education teams in all nine of the most heavily-contaminated provinces. These teams undertake village visits to disseminate information and materials to increase the awareness of UXO risks among communities. During 2016, UXO Lao undertook 491 such visits, reaching 86,538 beneficiaries. The continued efforts to ensure awareness of risks contributes to the major decline in the number of UXO accidents and casualties over the past decade. The activities of the MRE teams include puppet shows and games targeting children, as new generations need to be informed of the danger of UXO, but also refresher activities for older villagers to ensure that they are not taking undue risks in their daily lives.



4.5 Technical Survey

During 2016, UXO Lao implemented technical survey to establish Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHA) based on evidence points of UXO contamination. By doing so, UXO Lao was able to establish a total of 6,906.9 hectares of CHAs.

This approach contributes to the national effort to establish an overall baseline understanding of the total contamination in Lao PDR. Once complete, such an effort will enable the Government of Lao PDR to make projections about the costs and timeline of the overall task of clearing the country of its remaining UXO.



4.6 Non-Technical Survey

During 2016 UXO Lao's Non-Technical Survey (NTS) transitioned from what was previously called General Survey (GS) to NTS that followed and supported the new survey methodology.

GS was used to follow up on UXO reports from villagers for roving tasks and to survey areas of land for clearance. GS ceased in August 2016 when NTS training on the new methodology commenced. This training started with centralised theory training for all provinces and then follow-on practical training on a province by province basis.

NTS now involves data analysis of all historical clearance data to determine which tasks can be evidence for TS and then village visits to check and verify the results of the data analysis and to find new CM evidence. NTS generates sketch maps of villages with UXO contamination marked on them, as well as GPS coordinates of all "evidence points",



which are then provided to the National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/ Mine Action Sector to enter into the national UXO database.

Throughout 2016, these activities involved 485 villages, with more than 4,000 UXO items found, including 3,138 cluster munitions and 46 aircraft bombs.

4.7 Roving

Roving or Spot Tasks involve the on-demand removal and destruction of UXOs when they are reported by villagers or non-technical survey teams by undertaking roving tasks to destroy them on a day-to-day basis.

With 864 visits made in 451 villages across the country in 2016, 14,472 UXO items were destroyed through this activity, of which, 12,096 were cluster munitions, 71 big bombs, 33 mines and 2,272 were other UXOs.



4.8 Brush Cutter Machine

UXO Lao has received several “brush cutters” under Japan’s Grant Aid for Conflict Prevention and Peace Building. This activity aims to make overgrown areas easier to clear of UXOs. However, the machines have to be well-tested for efficiency and effectiveness. Therefore, a trial period of testing efficiency and effectiveness was started on 1 October 2016, in which the focal areas for testing cover Sekong, Salsavan and Champasack. The use of these machines on vegetation clearance will reduce the reliance on manual vegetation clearance and is expected to increase clear-

ance speed and reduce the overall costs of clearing UXO contaminated areas. UXO Lao is expected to be able to conclude the efficiency and effectiveness trials by the end of 2017.

After identifying monthly clearance priorities, the brush cutter teams would conduct the vegetation cutting to prepare the areas for clearance teams. Between 1 October and 30 December 2016, brush cutter teams in three provinces were able to clear 28.9 hectares of vegetation areas.



4.9 Clearance for Development Projects

During 2016, UXO Lao cleared 194.84 hectares for development projects including schools, health facilities, water services, roads, temples, irrigation, bridges, plantations, meeting halls, and new villages. These projects were supported by a broad range of actors in the development sector. A few selected examples are given below:

4.9.1 Lao Australia Rural Livelihoods Programme (LARLP)

In 2016, through the support of the Australian Government, five UXO Lao clearance teams in Savannakhet, Salavan and Champasack were able to continue to support LARLP projects and work on UXO Lao's work plan. The teams cleared 170.9 hectares of land and destroyed more than 5,900 UXO items. Their work benefitted more than 19,340 inhabitants (9,982 females). These achievements contributed to UXO Lao's overall 2016 outputs.

4.9.2 Clean Water Project, Pek District, Xiengkhuang province

During the reporting period, UXO Lao Xiengkhuang cleared an area for a community clean water project in Keo village, Pek District. This work was in response to a request made by Keo village authority under the support of UNICEF on 22 October 2016.

The clearance took place from 22 to 25 November 2016. It covered an area of 0.97 hectares and three cluster munitions were found and destroyed. After the completion of clearance the clean water project supported by UNICEF started on 7 December 2016 and was completed on 30 December 2016. This has benefitted over 260 persons including more than 140 females.



4.9.3 Kindergarten School, Xone District, Huaphan province

Through the support of the World Bank, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Australian Aid Programme, Houary Mery Kindergarten School was built between 12 January 2016 and 12 May 2016. The school comprises four classrooms and accommodated 77 students from June to December 2016. Before building this school the local authorities sent a request to UXO Lao to clear an area of 0.78 hectares. UXO Lao Huaphan responded to this request on 25 May 2016, in which ten bullets were found and demolished.



4.9.4 Community Committee and Police Office, Xamnua District, Huaphanh province

This clearance task supported the Government of Lao PDR's focal development areas in constructing a community committee and police office at Nongkhang village, Xamnua District. UXO clearance began on 22 August 2016 and ended on 6 September 2016. The total area cleared was 1.84 hectares, in which 16 cluster munitions were found and destroyed. After clearance was completed on 5 December 2016, the construction of the office started and it is expected to be completed in July 2017 and expected to facilitate over 800 persons including more than 400 females.



4.9.5 Community Road, Xone District, Huaphanh province

Another Lao Government development project that UXO Lao supported was a community road in Xoneneua Village, Xone District, Xamneua Province. The clearance task took two days from 10 to 11 June 2016, and covered an area of 0.78 hectares. Eleven UXOs were found and destroyed. The road construction started immediately after the completion of UXO clearance and was completed in early January 2017.



4.9.6 Community Clean Water System, Salavan District, Salavan Province

UXO Lao Salavan cleared land for a community clean water system at Nakhoke village on 28 June 2016. The area cleared was 100 square meters and three UXOs were found and destroyed. The development project started on 1 July 2016 and was completed on 30 October 2016. The water tanks and their stands were installed with the support of the Friends Organization from Japan. This facility has benefitted over 2,800 people (including over 1,400 females).



4.9.7 Community hospital, Boualapha District, Khammuan Province

As reported in the 2015 UXO Lao Annual Report, the Lao Government received funds from the people of the United States to construct a new community hospital in Sop Peng village, Boualapha District, Khammuan Province. This hospital covered an area of 0.49 hectares and UXO clearance by UXO Lao was completed from 19 to 24 January 2015. UXO Lao found and destroyed 19 UXOs during the clearance.

Construction of the hospital took place from 30 June 2015 to 24 April 2016. After completion the hospital was officially opened and immediately commenced providing basic health care services. The hospital provides “basic health care services to the residents of ten villages located within an eight kilometre radius of Sop Peng village”⁴. By the end of 2016, the hospital could provide services to more than 10 in-patients and 80 out-patients.

⁴World Without Mines Foundation’s annual assessment report 2016 (conducted by Ms.Kathryn Sweet)



4.10 Clearance for Agriculture Land

In 2016, UXO Lao cleared more than 2,398.3 hectares for agriculture. This work has brought confidence to local people to live and work on farming land without putting their lives at risk from UXO. This meant that poor families were able to expand areas for farming and cultivate more products to sell. The result is that people now have a greater income and this has made a significant change to their lives.

4.10.1 Cash Cropping, Pek District, Xiengkhuang province

Ms. Nuanchan is living in Vieng village, Pek district, Xiengkhuang Province where UXO contamination remains high. Nuanchan is 30 years old and lives with her mother, son and daughter. After the death of her husband Nuanchan started to grow rice and cash crops for sale at the village market. This poor family started this work on highly cluster munitions contaminated land. In 2013, when Nuanchan first started to prepare the land for crops she found two cluster munitions. These items were reported to UXO Lao Xiengkhuang who immediately dealt with them.

After finding the UXOs Nuanchan was scared and did not want to plough her land; however being a poor single mother, and having to provide for her two children she had no choice but to work the contaminated land. Nuanchan was too afraid to use machinery to work the land so did all the hard work slowly and by hand.

In late 2015, UXO Lao Xiengkhuang started technical survey to identify hazardous areas on Nuanchan's 4.2 hectares of land. During the technical survey thirteen cluster munitions were found and destroyed. UXO Lao included Nuanchan's land into its work plan and started to conduct clearance of the hazardous area in January 2016. The clearance took nearly one month to complete and 70 cluster munitions were found and destroyed. Since then Nuanchan's family have worked on the land without fear of UXO accidents. Nuanchan has started to use machinery for farming. She reports that by doing so her family has increased its income from selling crops from 6-7 million kip (approximately 800-900 USD) to 9-10 million kip (approximately 1,000-1,200 USD) per year.



4.10.2 Ricefield, Khammouane Province

Phanh is 62 years old and lives in Thapha Village, Nommalath District, Khammouane Province. She makes her living raising livestock and growing rice to support her and a son who was three months old when his father passed away last 27 years.

Phanh had moved from her old village in 2000 and had been using her land in Thapha Village since then even though she had found many UXOs on it. As this was the only land that Phanh had, she had no choice to work with the UXO contamination; she needed to support her family. What she used to do when she found UXOs was to move them by hand and place them at the edge of her rice field. She continued doing this while working her land year after year.

UXO Lao's Mine Risk Education (MRE) team made visits to Thapha Village several times but Phanh never joined the MRE sessions as she was always busy with her farm work. Then on one occasion in October 2015, Phanh had the time to attend one of the MRE activities. Once she learned about the dangers of UXO she told the MRE team about the many UXOs on her land and asked for UXO Lao's help in removing them. One week later a UXO Lao survey team was sent to visit Phanh and survey the UXOs she had found. Later a roving team came and destroyed them all.

On 15 October 2015 a technical survey team was sent to Phanh's village to survey for hazardous areas. During this visit they identified the UXO-affected areas on Phanh's land. Then on 12 March 2016 a UXO Lao clearance team was sent to work on the hazardous area. The team took about a week to clear Phanh's land finding and destroying 113 UXOs, of which 64 were cluster munitions. The clearance was completed on 19 March 2016.

"Today, I and my son are so happy that our land is now safe. I can do my farm work without fear of UXO anymore. I would like to thank UXO Lao for this help, making my family safe from UXO."
– Said Phanh.

Phanh's land is now free from UXO; she is able to work without worry in her rice fields. UXO Lao continues to clear land for farmers and families like Phanh's.



5 Partnerships

During 2016, UXO Lao worked with and was supported by a large number of local and international partners, including:

- The National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR (NRA);
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- The Government of Japan
- The Government of the United States of America
- The European Union (EU)
- The Government of Australia
- The Government of New Zealand
- The Government of Ireland
- The Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
- The Government of Norway
- The Government of Switzerland
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS)
- Japan International Cooperation System (JICS)
- Sterling International Group (SIG)
- World Without Mines (WWM)
- The Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC)
- The Intrepid Foundation
- James Madison University/CISR
- ITO Supporting Comity (ISC)

5.1 United Nations Development Programme support to UXO Lao

UNDP is the co-chair (along with the United States Ambassador to Lao PDR) of the UXO Sector Working Group. In this role, UNDP has advocated for a number of changes that have either been initiated or remain outstanding. UNDP as co-chair of the Sector Working Group was a vocal advocate of implementing the evidence-based clearance methodology and of formulating a Victim Assistance Strategy, both of which have been achieved in the last two years. At the Sector Working Group in 2016, UNDP voiced support for strengthening the prioritisation mechanism for UXO clearance and for creating a broader disability policy covering UXO victims. These priorities have been echoed by a number of the UXO sector's strongest and most committed international partners. UNDP's advocacy and technical support also contributed to the articulation of new targets for the sector in the 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan. UNDP has also provided substantial support to preparations for the representation of Lao PDR at international events, in particular the First Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (1RC CCM).

UNDP has supported the management and technical capacity-building of UXO Lao (as well as the NRA). A Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) has been deployed to support both UXO Lao and the NRA since July 2015. The CTA has provided technical advice to both the NRA and UXO Lao during the transition from largely

request-based clearance to the new evidence-based approach. The CTA has also advised on programme management, resource mobilization, procurement of technical equipment, and multi-year sectorial planning. In addition to the services of the CTA, UNDP also deployed a new Finance Technical Advisor since October 2015 and a United Nations Volunteer since December 2015 to support the work of the NRA and UXO Lao.

UNDP has also supported UXO Lao in their procurement of equipment necessary to manage and undertake UXO-related activities. In 2016, this has included procurement of protective equipment, vehicles, detectors, and explosives. All procurement activities are undertaken in line with UNDP's global Rules and Regulations and are subject to standard competitive procedure. UNDP also supports UXO Lao with quarterly financial monitoring, contracting for yearly external audits, and provision of a coordination mechanism for contributing Development Partners.



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5.2 Sterling International Group support to UXO Lao

Throughout 2016, Sterling International Group has provided Technical Advisory support, with funding from the U.S. Department of State, to enable the implementation of evidence-based survey and subsequent clearance of Confirmed Hazardous Areas. The focus was on training through workshops on Technical Survey Refresher and on Non-technical survey (theoretical and practical training courses) for UXO Lao staff from all nine provinces, joint monitoring missions with UXO Lao and the NRA; and the development of a Google Earth tool for use at field level. This tool makes data contained in IMSMA more accessible and useable. Sterling International

Group has also supported four rounds of inspections by three mobile Quality Management teams.

UXO Lao and Sterling International Group have worked together on project proposals and, in September 2016, additional U.S. Department of State funding to UXO Lao was announced to cover the deployment of 15 additional clearance teams (including the procurement of equipment).



5.3 Japan Organizations support to UXO Lao under Japan's Official Development Assistance

In 2016, UXO Lao and JICA have continued to collaborate to strengthen the capacity of planning/monitoring and information management. JICA has also continued to support the South-South Cooperation between UXO Lao and Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC), which entered the second stage of cooperation. In addition, UXO Lao has provided the IT training for all IT staff of UXO Lao

and received a JICA volunteer who works in UXO Lao Head Quarter to improve basic IT skill of UXO Lao staff.



UXO Lao and JICS have carried out cooperation since 2014, which JICS has contributed in operational cost, procuring equipment, dormitory construction and providing training on brush cutting operation to support UXO Lao clearance. In 2016, the project has its phase II with the continuation of providing

funds for UXO clearance and 3 brand new brush cutters to be operated in 2017.



UXO Lao and Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS) have continued the cooperation to carry out three years project (since 2014). The project provided the funds to support for rebuilding facilities at UXO Lao Training Center such as class room, dormitory and office, and also provide the technical support for a Bomb-Cutting Method to UXO Lao staff at UXO Lao Training Center and UXO clearance sites. In 2016, 53 Team Leaders have been trained on EOD techniques, especially the bomb cutting method and 59 deminers have been trained on basic EOD techniques at the Training center. On-the-Job training was held 8 times and a cumulative total of 136 staff had joined. 14 of 28 SEODs completed to cut 3 bombs with fuse through On-the-Job training. During the reporting period, new dormitory building was completed and UXO Lao and JMAS have signed an internal agreement on using the dormitory at UXO Lao training center; meanwhile, office building including exhibition rooms, dining hall and kitchen, and other relating facilities are currently being constructed.

5.4 Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)

UXO Lao has developed a significant partnership with Norwegian People's Aid during 2016 and earlier. In 2016, NPA supported UXO Lao's operations in Xiengkhuang for several months, covering the costs of survey, clearance, and mine risk education with funding from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Also in Xiengkhuang, NPA and UXO Lao have partnered to increase UXO Lao's capacity for non-technical survey by drawing on NPA's experience in the southern provinc-

In August 2016, UXO Lao and JMAS commenced a project in Xiengkhuang using a machine to crush and destroy cluster submunitions. The first three months of the project involved the drafting of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the machine. After the SOPs were completed in November 2016, trial operations were started to test the efficiency and effectiveness of the machine's operations. UXO Lao and JMAS are closely monitoring these operations and will incorporate the outputs of the trial into the further development of the SOPs. By the middle of August 2017, the first draft of the SOPs is expected to be approved and applied.



es using funding provided by the UK Department for International Development. UXO Lao and NPA continue to work together to develop future partnerships in other provinces, particularly in light of the planned increase in survey activities.



5.5 Collaboration with the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC)

The Cambodian Mine Action Centre is the National Humanitarian Demining Agency tasked to conduct 1) Mine & ERW Clearance, 2) Landmine & ERW Survey and Information, 3) Mine Risk Education, and 4) Training in Mine Action. CMAC has worked and collaborated with UXO Lao since 2012 under the South-South Cooperation programme supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The collaboration between the two organizations under South-South Cooperation programme aims to develop human resources and strengthen institutional capacity of Laos and Cambodian governmental organizations working in the UXO/Mine Action sector through sharing knowledge and experiences with each other. After the First Phase had been conducted successfully, UXO Lao, CMAC, and JICA agreed to continue the programme into the Second Phase in order to have more opportunities to actively engage in the exchange of ideas, experiences and lessons learnt during On-the-Job Training.

In 2016, two topics had been covered: Operations Management and Information Management. Those topics had divided into two periods which covered four weeks periods for each topic. The participants stayed in Lao PDR for two weeks and in Cambodia for two weeks in each topic. The total number of UXO Lao participants attending both topics were 10 (four females) (five persons/topic/country). Through the programme on the Operations Management, the participants have gained

understanding that there are some similarities and differences in some operational practices in both countries. They have found that while different operational technical terms are used in the field, the practical part are more likely to be similar for both organizations. Another finding has been that UXO Lao's SOP does not have a standard for some activities such as information management. In contrast, CMAC SOPs covers many aspects of their operation at the field and office level. An additional learning from the first topic is that Lao PDR encounters cluster bombs more than other munitions across the country while Cambodia encounters more bombies in the east part and more landmines in the west part of the country, resulting in finding them in equal proportion.

Moreover, the participants who participated the second topic have learnt a better way to manage the organizational information. They have raised that UXO Lao should extend and strengthen the cooperation with CMAC in order to grapple with specific skills that can be applied to improve UXO Lao's information system.





6 Challenges and Lessons Learned

A number of challenges and lessons learned were faced during the implementation of 2016. A selection of these are summarised below:

The new Survey Procedures and Concept of Operations require adjustments in resource allocations.

The successful transition to evidence-based survey and clearance has yielded a major increase in efficiency as measured in terms of cluster munitions found per hectare, and has enabled a systematic approach to complete the first national survey of known cluster munitions contamination. However, the transition has revealed difficulties in terms of the operational and management aspects of the procedure. There are three main issues which need to be addressed following the transition. Firstly, the speed of clearance is now slower in terms of hectares. As such, targets need to be adjusted to account for the new pace of working. Secondly, the number of cluster munitions found is now much higher, meaning that more explosives are needed for their destruction. As explosives in Lao PDR are

among the most expensive in the region, it is necessary that donors are aware of the increased financing needs to cover this part of operational costs. Thirdly, now that survey is used to establish the full extent of cluster munitions strikes and establish Confirmed Hazardous Areas, it has become more common for clearance teams to be required to enter more difficult-to-access territory, such as steep hillsides and dense jungle terrain. This requires an increase in the availability of necessary equipment to deal with vegetation, as well as necessary training. It also requires strong monitoring mechanisms to ensure that the physical obstacles are not reducing the actual quality of the survey and clearance work. In future, planning will better account for these changed factors.

Communicating the practical effect of the new survey and clearance approach is essential.

The new approach to survey and clearance has caused changes in operations and planning as noted above. It has also meant that the “end user” experience has changed, from the perspectives of both village beneficiaries and development partners. Previously, beneficiaries would request to have their land cleared, would be visited by UXO Lao to assess the site, and then would have the land

cleared within their own boundaries. With the new system, requests for clearance will typically not be fulfilled unless the land is part of a Confirmed Hazardous Area (CHA). The benefits of this approach, which have been detailed elsewhere in this report, are not immediately evident to such a beneficiary. For this reason, it is important for UXO Lao including NRA and other UXO operators to

ensure that villagers are well informed. Furthermore, in the context of SDG 18, which targets increased local knowledge of confirmed hazardous areas, it is now of greater importance that locals understand the concept of the new process and adapt their behaviour to a changed risk landscape.

Donors and development partners also need to be kept informed of the practical meaning of the changes. The coordinated approach being taken requires resources to be channelled not only to field-level operations but also to the management levels (in UXO Lao for this project).

The new evidence-based approach to survey and clearance has made progress on clear task prioritisation an essential next step.

By the end of 2016, NRA hectares of Confirmed Hazardous Areas had been established through technical survey. This amounts to several years of clearance work at the current (2016) sector capacity. Planned survey activities in the coming period (from 2017) are likely to produce further CHAs four

times faster than they can be cleared. This means that tasks will need to be ordered by priority. While a variety of systems (of sorts) exist for this within different organisations and regions, there is no clear sector level policy established in the Lao PDR UXO National Standards.

Increased donor coordination is essential due to risk that remaining needs are misunderstood.

During the course of this project, more than ten Development Partners made contributions to financing activities. This demonstrates a successful broad engagement of partners in addressing a long-term challenge facing Lao PDR. It also bodes well for future engagement in the sector by a necessarily-expansive group of partners. However, in the final period of the project, the announcement of a large increase in support to the sector from the United States, while welcomed generally, caused some uncertainty about the remaining needs and the roles of other partners going forward. It appears likely at the time of writing that the majority of the

additional funding from the United States will be used to support the completion of the first national survey of known cluster munitions contamination. As such, the financing provided to clearance work will be similar to the amounts in previous years. This means that the role of other Development Partners remains essential for clearing UXO. Sector-level meeting such as the Sector Working Group and the Sector Forum offer an opportunity for donors to clarify their intentions and ensure successful alignment of support. UNDP can take a leading role in this going forward.

7 Plans for 2017, including Challenges and Opportunities

In 2017, UXO Lao plans:

- to clear 3,246 hectares of confirmed hazardous areas,
- undertake non-technical survey in 429 villages,
- complete technical survey 8,300 hectares, and
- deliver mine risk education through 488 village visits.

The continuation of the successful and efficient work of recent years would help UXO Lao to also plans to develop a clearer, more transparent, and more systematic task prioritisation system in line with the priorities of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and in parallel to the ongoing work of the NRA to set sector priorities. In doing so, UXO Lao will better measure and contribute to improvements in rural livelihoods, human security, and income. UXO Lao will continue to work

closely with UNDP, Sterling International Group, Japanese Government (through JICA, JICS and JMAS), NPA, CMAC, the NRA, James Madison University, and other relevant partners to share and develop its experience and expertise. 2017 will see the start of the new Government of Lao PDR-UNDP project in support of the UXO sector, which will provide a framework for UXO Lao's planning and capacity building.

Provinces	Plan for 2017 by province			
	Mine Risk Education (villages)	Non-technical survey (villages)	Clearance (hectares)	Technical Survey (villages)
Huaphan	68	20	161	100
Luangpabang	50	20	130	21
Xiengkhuang	50	20	600	50
Khammuane	59	20	413	25
Savannakhet	51	20	710	50
Salavan	60	20	402	60
Sekong	50	24	220	24
Champasack	50	20	170	49
Attapeu	50	20	440	50
Total	488	184	3,246	429

8 Contributions and Expenditures in 2016

Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)

Summary of Funds Received (in USD)

For the Year Ended 31 December 2016

Summary of Funds Received (in USD)				
Fund Sources	Earmarked	Unearmarked	Total	% of Total
UNDP-Managed Funds				
Government of New Zealand	650,078.92		650,078.92	8%
Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC)		500,000.00	500,000.00	6%
UNDP	400,000.00		400,000.00	5%
Government of Ireland		242,477.88	242,477.88	3%
Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg		172,489.00	172,489.00	2%
European Union	125,324.36		125,324.36	2%
	1,175,403.28	914,966.88	2,090,370.16	27%
Bilateral Funds				
US Sterling	3,035,145.00		3,035,145.00	39%
Japan International Cooperation System (JICS)	1,995,890.00		1,995,890.00	25%
Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)	516,000.00		516,000.00	7%
World Without Mines	146,196.00		146,196.00	2%
Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS)	26,432.00		26,432.00	0%
Ito Supporting Community	21,840.00		21,840.00	0%
Intrepid Foundation	1,734.22		1,734.22	0%
	5,743,237.22		5,743,237.22	73%
Other Contributions				
Others	2,099.00		2,099.00	0%
	2,099.00		2,099.00	0%
Total	6,920,739.50	914,966.88	7,835,706.38	100%
% of Total	88%	12%	100%	

Summary of In-Kind Contributions

For the Year Ended 31 December 2016

Sources	Total	% of Total
Japan International Cooperation System (JICS)	1,206,527.78	63%
Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS)	498,897.94	26%
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	196,092.23	10%
Total	1,901,517.95	100%

Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)

Summary of Fund Balances (in USD)

As of 31 December 2016

Summary of Fund Balances (in USD)					
	Fund Balance, 1 Jan. 2016	Funds Received	Funds Used	Fund Balance, 31 Dec. 2016	% of Total
UNDP-Managed Funds					
Government of Australia	1,178,196.09		[591,405.53]	586,790.56	
Government of New Zealand CS		450,000.00	[343,972.28]	106,027.72	
Republic of Korea (CPR TTF*)	3,382.39			3,382.39	
Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC)	329,618.33	500,000.00	[826,989.47]	2,628.86	
Government of Ireland	268,578.83	242,477.88	[509,698.51]	1,358.20	
Government of New Zealand TF	25,944.56	167,897.92	[193,742.50]	99.98	
RBAP		400,000.00	[400,000.00]		
European Union	4.83	125,324.36	[125,329.19]		
Others	146.45		[146.45]		
Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg	224,351.54	172,489.00	[397,124.71]		
	2,030,223.02	2,058,189.16	[3,388,408.64]	700,003.54	45%
Bilateral Funds					
Japan International Cooperation System (JICS)	222,276.30	1,995,890.00	[1,729,292.00]	488,874.30	
US Sterling	10,243.96	3,035,145.00	[2,688,403.21]	356,985.75	
Intrepid Foundation	6,253.78	1,734.22	[2.00]	7,986.00	
Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)	7,000.00	516,000.00	[515,999.50]	7,000.50	
Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS)	674.41	26,432.00	[26,182.40]	924.01	
Grant Assistance for Grassroots (GGP) - Japan Embassy	769.67			769.67	
Japan ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF)	711.00			711.00	
Poland	62.08			62.08	
World Without Mines	[0.01]	146,196.00	[146,195.99]	2,099.00	
Ito Supporting Community		21,840.00	[21,840.00]	2,099.00	
	247,991.19	5,743,237.22	[5,127,915.10]	863,313.31	55%
Government Contribution and Others					
Lao PDR Government Contribution	43,313.96		[45,581.18]	[2,267.22]	
Others - LP Sales Proceeds, Training Fees	6,088.92	2,099.00	[846.97]	7,340.95	
	49,402.88	2,099.00	[46,428.15]	5,073.73	0%
Total	2,327,617.09	7,803,525.38	[8,562,751.89]	1,568,390.58	100%
*Crisis Prevention and Recovery Thematic Trust Fund (CPR TTF)					

Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)

Budget vs. Actual Expenditures - Over-all (in USD)

As of 31 December 2016

Budget vs. Actual Expenditures - Over-all (in USD)					
	Fund Sources				
	UNDP- Managed Funds	Bilateral Funds	Gov't Contribution & Others	Unfunded	Total
Budget-Year 2016 (Original)	1,996,853.00	10,166,940.00	141,600.00	1,768,291.00	14,073,684.00
Actual Expenditures	3,388,408.64	5,127,915.10	46,428.15		8,562,751.89
Budget Balance	(1,391,555.64)	5,039,024.90	95,171.85	1,768,291.00	5,510,932.11
Actual Expenditures/Budget (%)	170%	50%	33%	0%	61%

Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)

Budget vs. Actual Expenditures by Donor (in USD)

As of 31 December 2016

Budget vs. Actual Expenditures by Donor (in USD)				
	Budget Year 2016 (Original)	Actual Expenditures	Budget Balance (Budget-Actual Expenditures)	Actual Exp./Budget (%)
UNDP-Managed Funds				
Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC)	829,679.00	826,989.47	2,689.53	100%
Government of Australia	334,669.00	591,405.53	(256,736.53)	177%
Government of Ireland	262,855.00	509,698.51	(246,843.51)	194%
RBAP		400,000.00	(400,000.00)	
Gov't of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg	387,041.00	397,124.71	(10,083.71)	103%
Government of New Zealand CS		343,972.28	(343,972.28)	
Government of New Zealand TF	182,609.00	193,742.50	(11,133.50)	106%
European Union (EU)		125,329.19	(125,329.19)	
Others		146.45	(146.45)	
	1,996,853.00	3,388,408.64	(1,391,555.64)	170%
Bilateral Funds				
US Sterling	3,100,808.00	2,688,403.21	412,404.79	87%
Japan Int'l Cooperation System (JICS)	5,618,261.00	1,729,292.00	3,888,969.00	31%
Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)	536,000.00	515,999.50	20,000.50	96%
World Without Mines	143,393.00	146,195.99	(2,802.99)	102%
Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS)	542,478.00	26,182.40	516,295.60	5%
Ito Supporting Community		21,840.00	(21,840.00)	
Japan Int'l Cooperation Agency (JICA)	226,000.00		226,000.00	0%
Intrepid Foundation		2.00	(2.00)	
	10,166,940.00	5,127,915.10	5,039,024.90	50%
Government Contribution and Others				
Lao PDR Government Contribution	101,600.00	45,581.18	56,018.82	45%
SOS	40,000.00		40,000.00	0%
Others		846.97	(846.97)	
	141,600.00	46,428.15	95,171.85	33%
Unfunded	1,768,291.00		1,768,291.00	0%
Total	14,073,684.00	8,562,751.89	5,510,932.11	61%

Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)
Budget vs. Actual Expenditures by Location (in USD)

As of 31 December 2016

Budget vs. Actual Expenditures by Location (in USD)				
	Budget Year 2016 (Original)	Actual Expenditures	Budget Balance (Budget-Actual Expenditures)	Actual Exp./Budget (%)
UXO Lao Provincial Offices				
Salavane (SL)	1,665,683.00	968,608.67	697,074.33	58%
Sekong (SK)	1,582,433.00	674,971.16	907,461.84	43%
Savannakhet (SV)	1,334,692.00	1,324,575.72	10,116.28	99%
Xiengkhouang (XK)	1,327,909.00	1,363,224.68	(35,315.68)	103%
Champasack (CH)	687,541.00	627,838.68	59,702.32	91%
Houaphanh (HP)	607,926.00	599,750.48	8,175.52	99%
Khammouane (KH)	619,136.00	637,520.73	(18,384.73)	103%
Luang Prabang (LP)	480,583.00	524,501.27	(43,918.27)	109%
Attapue (AT)	836,870.00	508,780.67	328,089.33	61%
UXO Lao National Office (NO)*	4,139,750.00	1,159,624.92	2,980,125.08	28%
UXO Lao Training Center (TC)	791,161.00	173,354.91	617,806.09	22%
Total	14,073,684.00	8,562,751.89	5,510,932.11	61%
*includes UNDP costs				

Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)
Summary of Actual Expenditures by Funding Source (in USD)

For the Year Ended 31 December 2016

Summary of Actual Expenditures by Funding Source (in USD)					
	Fund Sources				
Expenditures	UNDP- Managed Funds	Bilateral Funds	Gov't Contribution & Others	Total	% of Total
Personnel Costs	1,864,913.34	3,514,696.19		5,379,609.53	
	1,864,913.34	3,514,696.19		5,379,609.53	63%
Operating Expenses					
Repairs and Maintenance	188,913.19	311,146.63	123.62	500,183.44	
Fuel	131,125.08	320,313.69		451,438.77	
Travel	138,732.39	110,932.69		249,665.08	
Utilities	35,552.46	72,468.59	816.76	108,837.81	
Stationeries	34,840.97	29,427.88		64,268.85	
Telephone/Fax Charges	36,329.48	16,757.43		53,086.91	
Security/Explosive Storage	19,757.58	30,858.89		50,616.47	
Rent	6,393.95	3,664.81	30,240.00	40,298.76	
Printing, Publications and Promo Materials	15,896.10	8,479.06		24,375.16	
Insurance	4,847.57	9,081.05	3,974.61	17,903.23	
Freight and Postal Handling	13,891.53	3,691.32		17,582.85	
Sundries	42,337.95	13,790.99		56,128.94	
	668,618.25	930,613.03	35,154.99	1,634,386.27	19%
Special Operating Expenses					
GMS and Implementation Support Service	207,229.67			207,229.67	
Trainings, Workshops and Conferences	9,009.26	106,669.83	7,772.03	123,450.92	
Bank Charges	3,071.98	4,746.81	41.13	7,859.92	
Licenses	965.16	1,552.38	3,360.00	5,877.54	
Audit Fees		3,500.00		3,500.00	
Foreign Currency (Gain) Loss	1,730.80			1,730.80	
	222,006.67	116,469.02	11,173.16	349,648.85	4%
Non-Expendable Equipment					
Vehicles	174,669.60			174,669.60	
Safety and EOD Equipment	119,940.74	51,709.12		171,649.86	
Communication Equipment	51,451.70			51,451.70	
Office and Computer Equipment	24,134.15	24,387.63		48,521.78	
CA Presentation and Field Equipment	13,901.51	4,535.06		18,436.57	
Office Furniture	2,532.73	11,529.21		14,061.94	
	386,630.43	92,161.02		478,791.45	6%
Expendable Materials					
Explosives	132,846.81	155,197.00		288,043.81	
Personnel/Medical Supplies	46,246.24	189,720.74		235,966.98	
EOD Supplies	63,914.02	72,344.01		136,258.03	
IT and Other Supplies	3,232.88	47,236.82		50,469.70	
CA Supplies		9,477.27	100.00	9,577.27	
	246,239.95	473,975.84	100.00	720,315.79	8%
Total	3,388,408.64	5,127,915.10	46,428.15	8,562,751.89	100%





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