



Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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Date of Printing: 01 Dec 2021



Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)



WORK PLAN

2021

2020 Operations

Tasks	Achievement	Units	% Work Plan Completed
Mine Risk Education	327	Village Visits	101%
Non-Technical Survey	108	Village Survey	100%
Technical Survey	4,704	Hectares	126%
Area Clearance	2,719	Hectares	98%
Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHAs) Clearance	2,687	Hectares	N/A
UXO Found and Destroyed	45,741	UXO Items	N/A

2020 Resources

- 1,477 personnel, including 1,277 staff members in provincial operations;
- 345 female personnel, including 274 in operations;
- 1,006 metal detectors;
- 168 four-wheel vehicles and 72 motorcycles;
- 160 hand-held brush cutters;
- 7 brush cutter machines;
- 2 trailer trucks;
- 3 crane trucks;
- 3 heavy trucks with tail lift;
- 2 boats;
- 3 mobile workshop;
- 1 ambulance;
- 1 national office and training center in Vientiane;
- 9 provincial offices in Luang Prabang, Huaphan, Xiengkhuang, Khammuane, Savannakhet, Salavan, Sekong, Champasak and Attapeu.



Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)



Foreword

National Programme Director, UXO Lao

I am very pleased to present the 2020 Annual Report of the Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao). As in the past 25 years, our mission remains unchanged: we work to eliminate the threat of UXO in Lao PDR and contribute to the government's efforts to improve national development across the country.

This report details the key achievements of UXO Lao in 2020. In the past year, UXO Lao managed to implement the activities set out in our 2020 annual work plan. We succeeded in releasing safe land for agriculture and development purposes through UXO clearance and raised awareness of people living in UXO-affected areas to the dangers of UXOs. We did this in close cooperation with our partners, in both donor countries and international organisations.

Our implementing partners collaborated with us to develop new technologies and methodologies to improve our implementation methods. In addition, UXO Lao received support from international technical advisors on the ground, which has strengthened our staff's capacity.

Despite these achievements, 2020 was very challenging for UXO Lao. The COVID-19 pandemic brought the world to a standstill, and Lao PDR was not spared. During April to May 2020, UXO Lao's activities were heavily affected by the spread of COVID-19 in several provinces in the country, including those that we operate in. This situation was particularly difficult for activities that require us to gather large groups of villagers, such as mine risk education and non-technical survey. Therefore, in line with emergency regulations, UXO Lao had to suspend some high-risk field activities for a few months, which meant that we were unable to achieve some of our targets. Despite this, we used these delays as opportunities to improve the capacity of our staff, by conducting refresher training courses and improving their operational efficiency and effectiveness.



Looking ahead to 2021, UXO Lao will focus on clearing more land within confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) as set out in our 2021 annual work plan. Where time and resources allow, we will also clear non-CHAs in response to requests from local authorities, which contributes to poverty reduction and socio-economic development, ultimately improving people's livelihoods in rural areas.

On behalf of the UXO Lao management, I am committed to continue leading our organization to tackle the UXO problem in Lao PDR, reduce the number of casualties caused by UXO accidents, and release more safe land for agriculture and other development purposes. This will contribute to the Lao government's 8th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan, which aims to eventually uplift Laos from Least Developed Country (LDC) status and achieve a secure livelihood for its citizens, free from the explosive remnants of war.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to all of our donors and development partners for their generous support to UXO Lao and standing by the organization in a challenging year. I look forward to many more successful years of cooperation and achievement in the future.

Bounphamith Somvichith

Foreword

Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Lao PDR

On behalf of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Lao PDR, I am proud to support and commend the Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao) for their progress and achievements in 2020 and the planned 2021 Work Plan.

For nearly 25 years, UXO Lao, UNDP, and other key stakeholders have worked to address the UXO issue in nine of the most contaminated provinces. For the inhabitants of these provinces, UXO Lao's operations save both lives and livelihoods, ensuring that they can work on their lands safely. But COVID-19 has threatened to slow down – and even set back – much of this important work. With operations paused for over two months due to the pandemic, UXO Lao and UNDP had to adapt to new circumstances and find ways to reach the people who rely on our work.

As you will read in the following pages, our partners in UXO Lao have found ways to emerge stronger from the crisis. They redesigned their work plan to adapt to the new restrictions and ensured that operations were safely resumed as soon as possible. With the help of donor countries and partners, they have even used the opportunity to address long-standing issues, such as the dense vegetation that inhibits survey and clearance operations.



Importantly, COVID-19 has also come at a crucial turning point for the UXO sector. With the help of UNDP and the National Regulatory Authority (NRA), UXO Lao is now working with partners on the next 10-year strategic plan for the sector – Safe Path Forward III (SPF III). This is an opportunity for UXO Lao to contribute to a whole-of-government response to the UXO challenge, that will ensure the sustainability of the sector and achieve the SDGs, particularly Lao PDR's own SDG 18 (Lives Safe from UXO).

UNDP remains committed to our partnership with UXO Lao, the NRA and the Government of Laos, to ensure that UXO activities advance the socio-economic development of Lao PDR.

Catherine Phuong

INTRODUCTION

Lao PDR still has a very significant UXO problem. UXO contamination remains a threat for rural populations in poor and remote areas and impedes the safe use of land for socio-economic development activities. Every year Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao) plays an important role in addressing the UXO problem in the Lao PDR. The UXO Lao's productivities have significantly contributed to 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan 2016-2020 (8th NSEDP) and the National Sustainable Development Goal 18 (SDG 18). The beneficiary stories demonstrated substantial achievement, and the number of UXO-related accidents decreased throughout the nine most heavily UXO-contaminated provinces.

In 2020, UXO Lao set the operational targets for its activities by clearing the UXO contaminated land of 2,744 hectares, establishing the CHAs of 3,729 hectares, and visiting 108 villages to gather and analyze all UXO-related data increasing the awareness of UXO dangers for people in 325 villages.

Nevertheless, in early 2020, UXO Lao operations were affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. All UXO Lao operations in nine provinces temporarily stood down from the end of March to early May 2020. This action was to ensure the well-being and safety of all UXO Lao staff. Therefore, UXO Lao revised the AWP to compensate in July 2020. With this regard, UXO Lao was able to achieve its revised annual targets mostly 100% with Mine Risk Education (100%), Non-Technical Survey (100%), Technical Survey (126%), and Area Clearance (98%).

In addition, UXO Lao has initiated the field operation monitoring by developing an application for recording all data from the field in a system called "Team Based Operations Management (TBOMS)." This application is beneficial for UXO to manage the field operation as a team-based approach. UXO Lao recorded all data collected from the field in this application. TBOM is helpful for the management of both provincial and headquarter level to monitor the progress of the field operation, whereby UXO Lao UXO Lao the quality of field operations, data management, and reporting system will be improved.

In 2021, UXO Lao will continue contributing to Lao PDR's Sustainable Development Goal 18 (SDG 18). UXO Lao achieving its annual targets to reduce the number of injuries and deaths from UXO accidents will increase safe land for agricultural production and other development, contributing to the rural development and eradicating poverty plan of the government. Moreover, UXO Lao plans to strengthen the capacity for UXO Lao staff to increase productivity and effectiveness. Goals supporting SDG 18 include training for Mine Action Reporting system, Project Cycle Management, Graphic design, Photography, Communication, Logistics Policy, and Procurement, Asset Management System, Accounting Manual, and Grant Management.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UXO Lao's Annual Report 2020 portrays the organization's progress in 2020. It details the outcomes of all UXO Lao activities with support from our donors and implementing partners in nine of the most contaminated provinces in the Lao PDR and includes UXO Lao's 25 years of achievement (1996-2020).

The report mentioned some key highlights and achievements in the sector, including a notable 92% decline in the number of UXO-related casualties from 2008 to 2020, from 302 to 33, proving the work completed by all UXO operators in Lao PDR has had a considerable impact in saving lives. This substantial decrease in the number of victims links to the effective transmission of Mine Risk Education and the clearance of Confirmed Hazardous Areas throughout these heavily contaminated provinces.

The impact stories in this report captured from both UXO victims and UXO Lao beneficiaries emphasize the importance of resource mobilization to the sector. They also demonstrate how efficient UXO operations are and how they better the lives of people through employment, safe agricultural production, improved well-being, and safety. With continued support from donors in 2021 and the coming years, UXO Lao will be able to achieve significant outputs and progress towards removing all UXO contamination from Lao PDR.

This report covers all our partners' collaborations with and contributions to UXO Lao in 2020. UXO Lao would not have been able to achieve its planned targets without their support. The Financial section in this report details the breakdown of funds received by UXO Lao and actual expenditure during the year 2020 by funding sources.

In terms of challenges, UXO Lao encountered funding shortfalls, leading to some Headquarters and Training Center activities not being fully implemented during 2020. The COVID-19 outbreak caused temporary suspension UXO Lao field operations, affecting the achievement of the annual targets.

This report also identifies and highlights lessons learned and challenges. The main challenges for UXO Lao in 2020 included a lack of community support to cut dense vegetation before survey and clearance operations, and technical survey activity was not fully compliant with the National Survey Process due to the availability of a limited number of teams. The National Survey Procedure that focuses on village-based surveys was also still proving difficult for UXO Lao.

Regarding key visits, UXO Lao had the pleasure of welcoming many high-ranking officials and diplomats to Lao PDR in 2020, providing guests with insight into the organization's essential work and operations, which in turn, created worldwide public awareness of the UXO issue in the Lao PDR. Furthermore, UXO Lao organized technical and annual meetings to review the project implementation, improve the working methodologies, and received training to strengthen staff capacity.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AC	Area Clearance
ATP	Attapeu Province
AWP	Annual Work Plan
BC	Brush Cutter
BLU	Bomb Live Unit
CA	Community Awareness
CHA	Confirmed Hazardous Area
CM	Cluster Munition
CMAC	Cambodian Mine Action Centre
CO	Country Office
CPS	Champasak Province
CTA	Chief Technical Advisor
DoFA	Department of Foreign Affairs
DoLSW	Department of Labor and Social Welfare
DOS	Department of State
DPC	Deputy Provincial Coordinator
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
EU	European Union
FFE	Free From Explosive
FTS	Finance Technical Specialist
GPS	Global Positioning Systems
GMS	General Management Support
GOL	Government of Lao PDR
HP	Huaphan Province
HQ	Headquarter
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IM	Information Management
ISC	Ito Supporting Comity
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JICS	Japan International Cooperation System
JMAS	Japan Mine Action Service
KM	Khammuane Province
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency
Lao PDR	Lao People Democratic Republic
LPB	Luang Prabang Province
MoLSW	Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding

MRE	Mine Risk Education
M2	Meters Squared
N/A	Not Applicable
NPA	Norwegian People's Aid
NPD	National Programme Director
NRA	National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector
NSED	National Socio-Economic Development Plan
NTS	Non-Technical Survey
NZ	New Zealand
OPS	Operation Unit
PC	Provincial Coordinator
PO-PI	Programme Office and Public Information
PRS	Programme and Reporting Specialist
QLA	Quality of Life Association
Q&A	Questions and Answers
RV	Roving Task
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SK	Sekong Province
SLV	Salavan Province
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SOS	Spirit of Soccer
SSC	South-South Cooperation
SVK	Savannakhet Province
TACDO	Training and Consulting for Development
TBOM	Team Based Operation Management
TC	Training Center
TS	Technical Survey
TT	Tetra Tech
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
USA	United States of America
USD	United States Dollar
VTF	Voluntary Trust Funds
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
UXO Lao	Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme
WWM	World Without Mines Foundation
XKH	Xiengkhuang Province

01

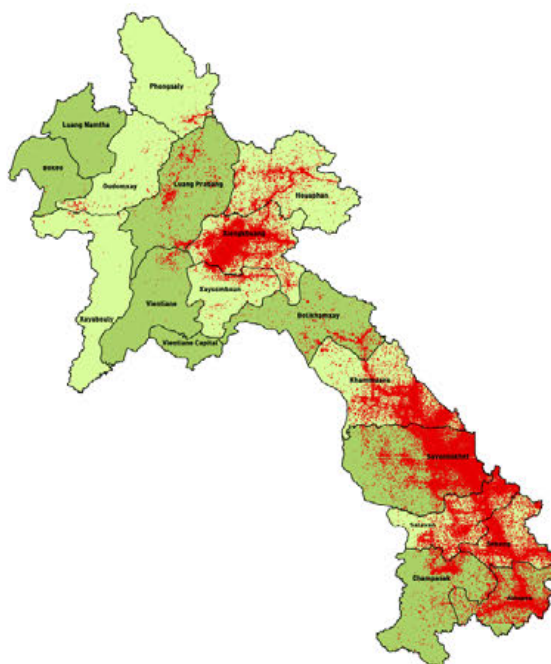
THE UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE (UXO) PROBLEM IN LAO PDR

During the Second Indochina War (1964-1973), 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. Cluster sub-munitions, or 'bombies', are the most common form of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO). An estimated 30 percent of the cluster munitions dropped failed to explode, and even today, these continue to threaten the lives and livelihoods of the people in Lao PDR. 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 of UXO poses a significant threat to human security and has a long-term negative impact on the development potential of affected communities. Lao PDR considers nine provinces as highly contaminated with unexploded cluster munitions. The worst-impacted areas are poor, rural, and remote, and UXO clearance is required for safe socio-economic development to occur.

UXO contamination significantly affects the development of Lao PDR, especially for the poor and vulnerable farming communities, for whom land contamination reduces the possibility of becoming self-sufficient. UXO contamination hinders the development of major infrastructure and development projects such as schools, hospitals, and water facilities by the costs and challenges of UXO clearance.

MAP OF BOMBING DATA IN LAO P.D.R



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





LAO NATIONAL UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE PROGRAMME (UXO LAO)

2.1. Background and Mandate

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

UXO Lao is the largest humanitarian UXO clearance operator in Lao PDR, and its mandate is:

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

2.2. UXO Lao's Activities

UXO Lao achieves its mandate by conducting the following activities:

A. Community Awareness or Mine/UXO Risk Education (MRE)

These activities aim to increase the awareness of people living in UXO-affected areas to the dangers of UXOs through various educational activities, for instance, songs, dances, plays, Q&As, and puppet shows.

B. Non-Technical Survey (NTS)

NTS involves reviewing all UXO-related data on a village-by-village basis and consulting with as many households as possible to locate all known UXO contamination in the village. NTS identifies UXO for roving tasks and cluster munition evidence for follow-up technical survey (TS). NTS also generates sketch maps of villages showing UXO-related information such as previous clearance, confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs), and evidence points.

C. Technical Survey (TS)

TS typically follows NTS by using the cluster munition (CM) evidence points as the starting points from which detectors search systematically outwards in all directions to find the limits of the CM contamination. UXO Lao uses 50 by 50-meter boxes to manage and monitor TS tasks, with boxes searched until either a CM is found or 50% of the area is covered. If a box contains CM evidence, then the search continues in the adjacent boxes. Once the boundaries of the CM contamination are identified, the contaminated area is reported to the NRA as a CHA.

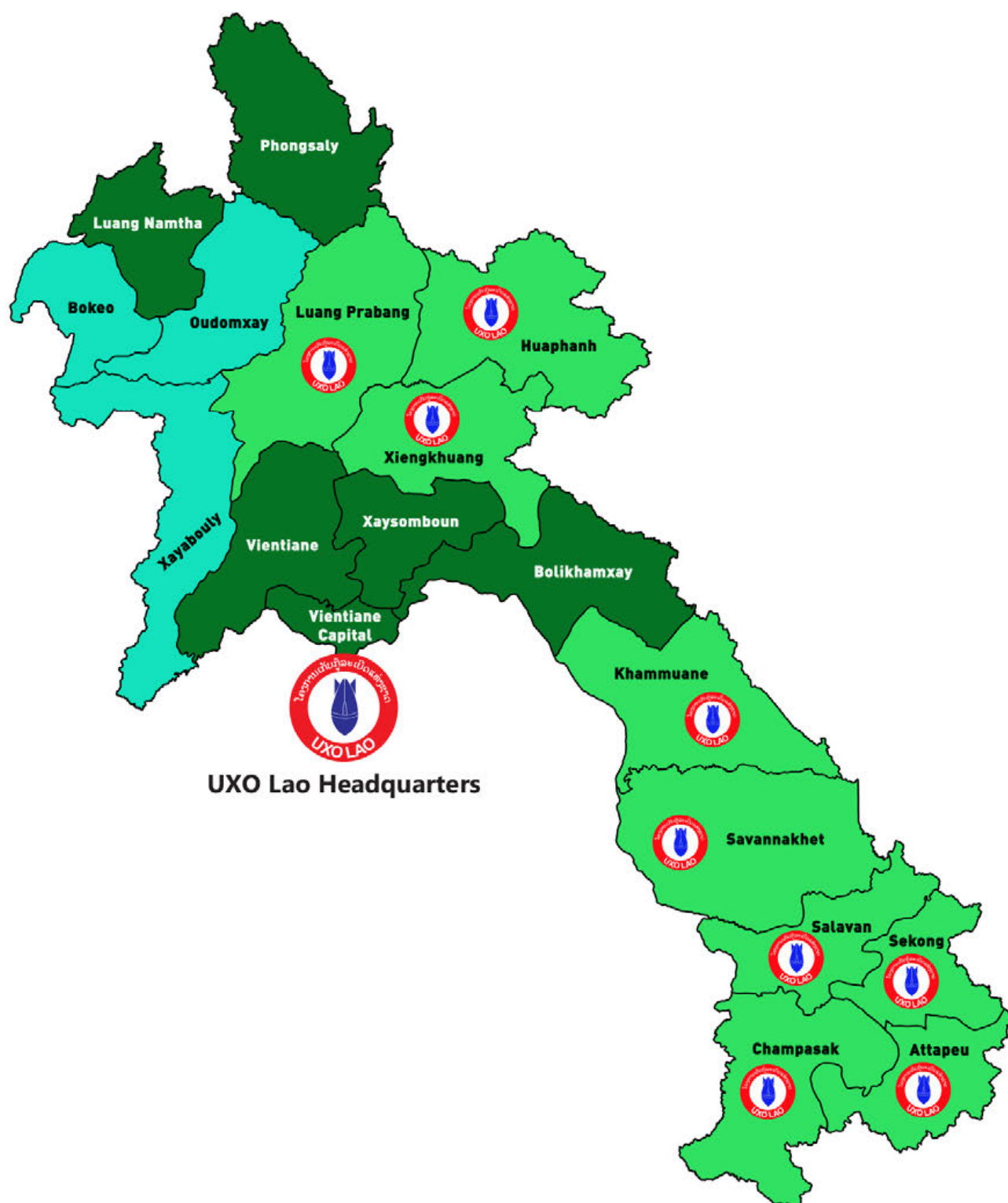
D. Area Clearance (AC)

UXO Lao's primary focus for AC is the clearance of CHAs; however, as a GOL organization, UXO Lao sometimes carries out donor-approved AC for development projects. AC involves dedicated teams detecting and clearing land to a depth based on the intended land use. For agriculture, this depth is usually 25 centimeters, and all UXOs are removed from the cleared area to the required clearance depth.

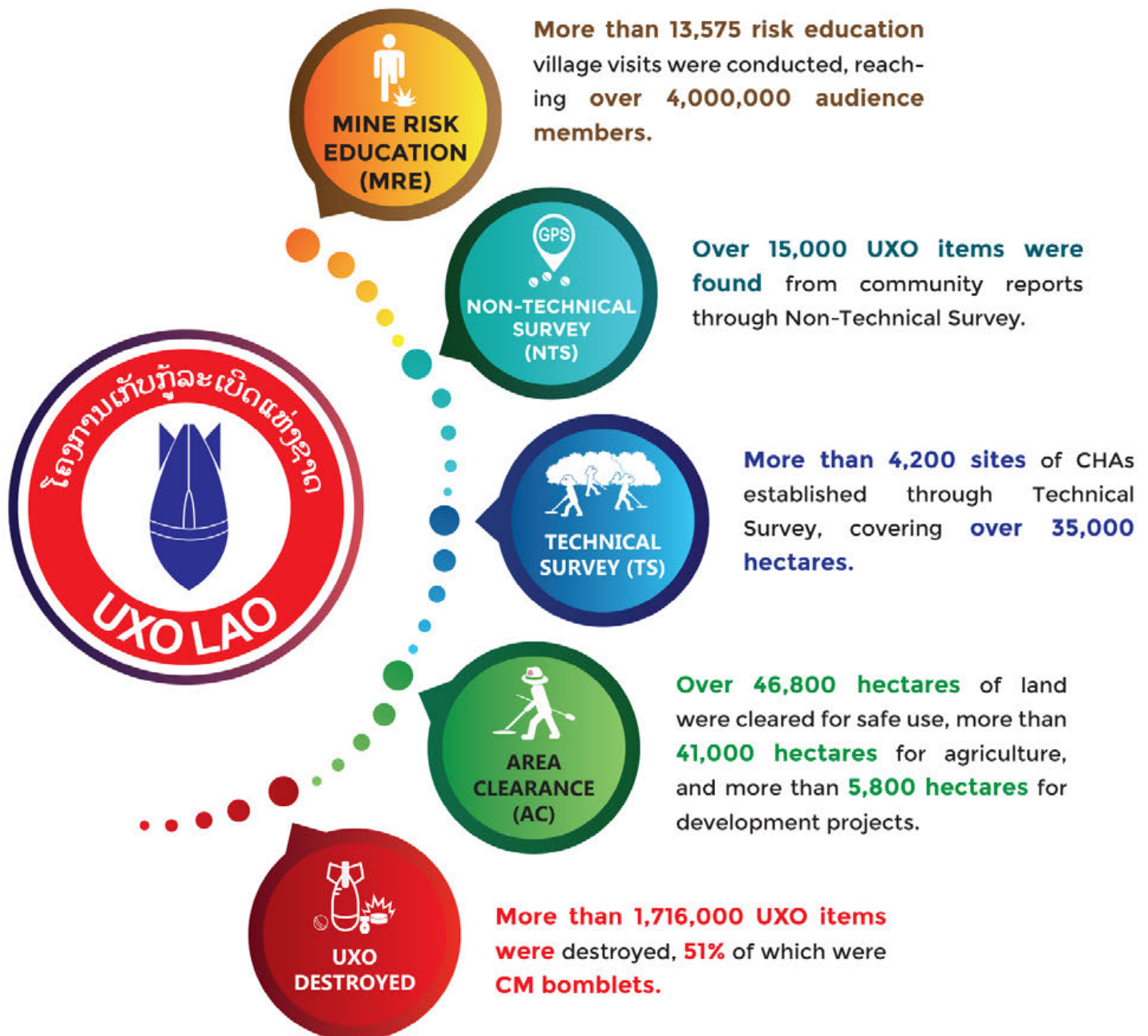
E. Roving Tasks

UXO reported by villagers or survey teams involves roving or spot tasks and the on-demand removal and destruction of UXO found.

UXO Lao works in the nine most-contaminated provinces



UXO LAO 25 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENTS (1996 – 2020)



04 ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020¹

The following table shows UXO Lao's operational achievements during 2020.

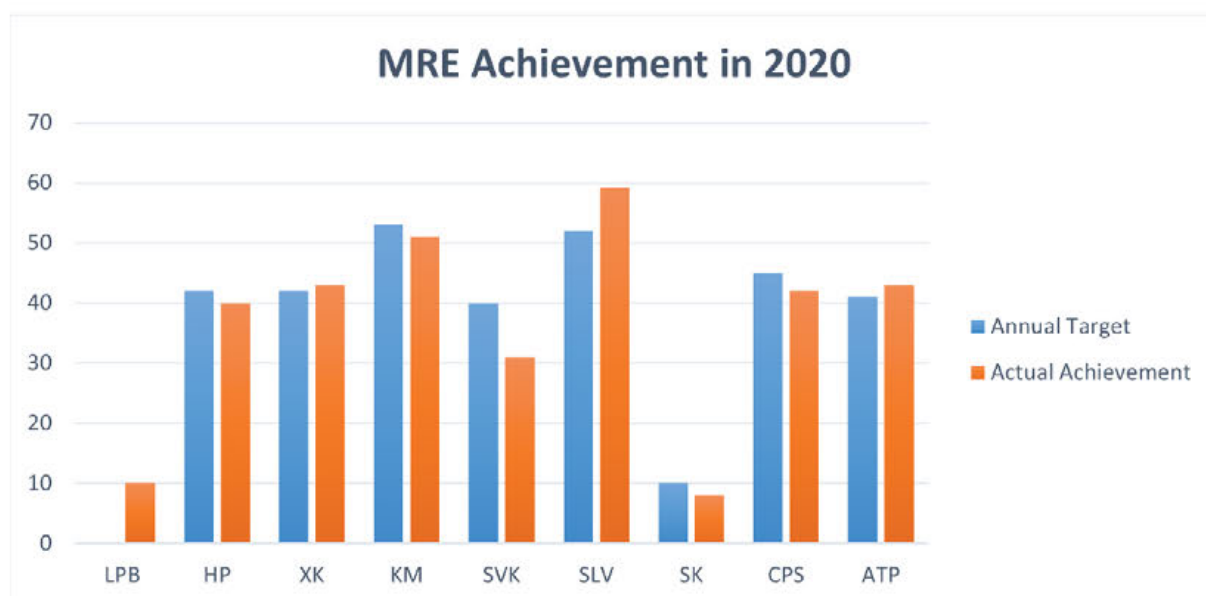
Provinces	Operational Achievements					
	Mine/UXO Risk Education (villages)	Non-Technical Survey (villages)	Technical Survey (hectares)	Area Clearance (hectares)	Roving Tasks (visits)	UXO Destroyed
Luang Prabang	10	20	329	91	90	2,287
Huaphan	40	10	356	89	93	1,618
Xiengkhuang	43	14	1,560	695	303	18,651
Khammuane	51	12	574	299	131	5,043
Savannakhet	31	12	555	488	130	4,894
Salavan	59	10	495	346	153	4,264
Sekong	8	8	188	165	92	2,927
Champasak	42	12	319	186	82	3,233
Attapeu	43	10	328	360	111	2,824
Total	327	108	4,704	2,719	1,185	45,741



¹ The UXO Lao achievement figures are taken from UXO Lao database as of 26th February 2021.

4.1 Mine/UXO Risk Education

UXO Lao has eight MRE teams, each operating in one of the nine most heavily contaminated provinces in Laos: Sekong integrates the MRE team with the roving team. These teams undertake village visits to disseminate information and materials to increase the awareness of UXO risks among communities. The continued MRE efforts ensure the awareness of risks and have contributed to the major decline in UXO accidents and casualties over the past decade. The mine/UXO risk education teams' activities include puppet shows and games targeting children to inform new generations of the dangers of UXO items. The MRE teams also conducted refresher activities for older villagers to ensure they are not taking undue risks in their daily lives. In 2020, UXO Lao undertook 327 such visits, reaching 193,361 audience members, including: 50,404 men, 50,848 women, 46,219 boys and 45,890 girls.

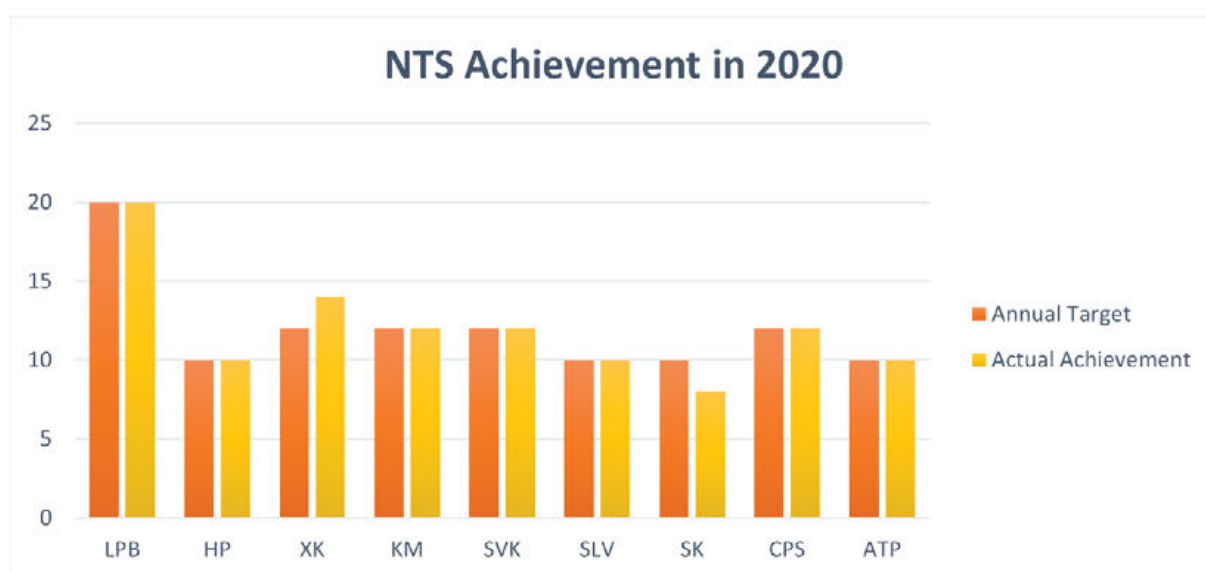


Note: The MRE team in LBP lacked funding support in Quarter 1 of 2020. To maintain the MRE activity essential for educating people about the dangers of UXO, the MRE team was re-assigned to support the work of the NTS team by conducting MRE activity as part of the NTS working process. Thus, there was no specific target set for MRE. The reported MRE achievement corresponds to the number of villages where NTS occurred.

In 2020, Sekong (SK) piloted the implementation of a new concept - a multi-skilled team approach - by merging MRE and NTS into a single team. The roles of this team are similar to Luang Prabang's MRE-NTS team, but with the addition of roving tasks to the team's role. This multi-skilled team helps UXO Lao accelerate the process of UXO demolition during NTS, and wherever communities report UXO found. All the team members received EOD Level 1 training. This method enabled the communities to be satisfied and enhanced their collaboration in reporting of UXO found.

4.2. Non-Technical Survey

Similar to the UXO Lao MRE teams, ten Non-Technical Survey teams operate across nine provinces. NTS involves analyzing all historical clearance data to determine which tasks can for use as evidence for TS and village visits to check and verify the data analysis results and find new CM evidence points. NTS generates sketch maps of villages with UXO contamination marked on them and reported with GPS coordinates of all CM "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. The Technical Survey teams will later follow these evidence points up. UXO Lao conducted NTS in 108 villages in 9 provinces in 2020, finding more than 2,506 UXO items, including 1,719 cluster sub-munition bomblets representing 69% of the total UXO found. During this activity, UXO Lao found over 743 other types of UXO items, three mines, and 24 aircraft bombs.

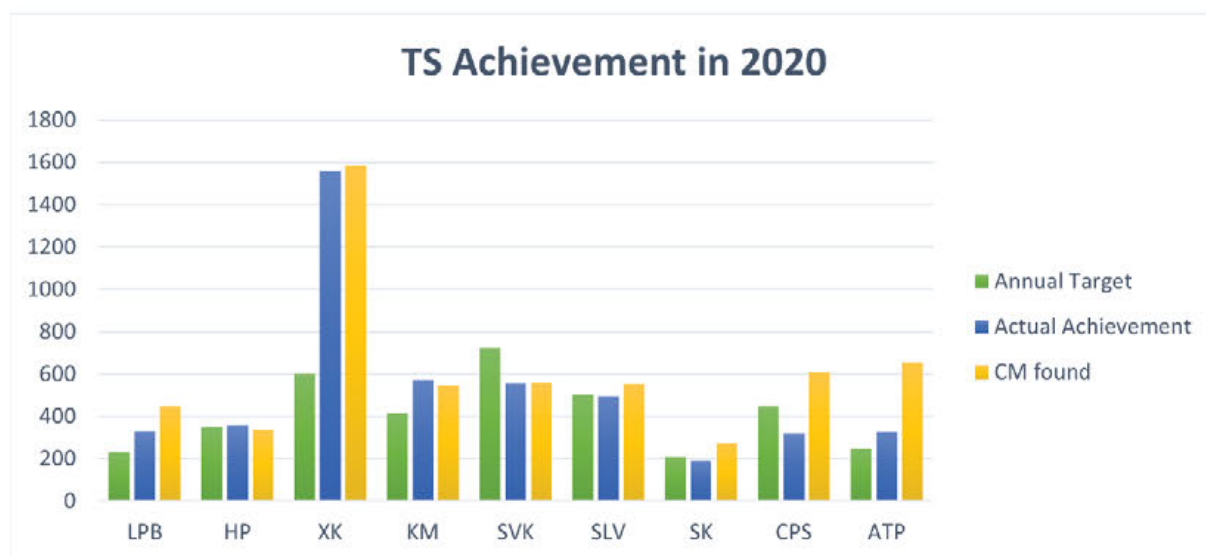


Note: The targets set for NTS activity in LPB is highest because there are 2 NTS teams operating in LPB. The teams were combined with the NTS and MRE teams to conduct the MRE activities alongside with NTS tasks.

SK could not achieve the targets because the operations in SK were suspended to a delay of funding disbursement. In addition, lacking of skills, experiences and resources in implementation of the new concept of multi-skilled team was also challenging.

4.3. Technical Survey

In 2020, UXO Lao implemented technical surveys to establish CHA's based on physical CM contamination evidence points, establishing a total of 440 sites of CHA's, covering 4,704 hectares of contaminated land. Through TS activity, 6,751 UXO items were found and disposed of, including 5,554 cluster sub-munition bomblets representing 82% of the total UXO destroyed included in the roving task outputs. UXO Lao fields 16 TS teams working to establish the full extent of cluster sub-munition strikes in contaminated areas. This approach contributes to the national effort to establish an overall baseline of the total extent of UXOs in Lao PDR. Once complete, such 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.



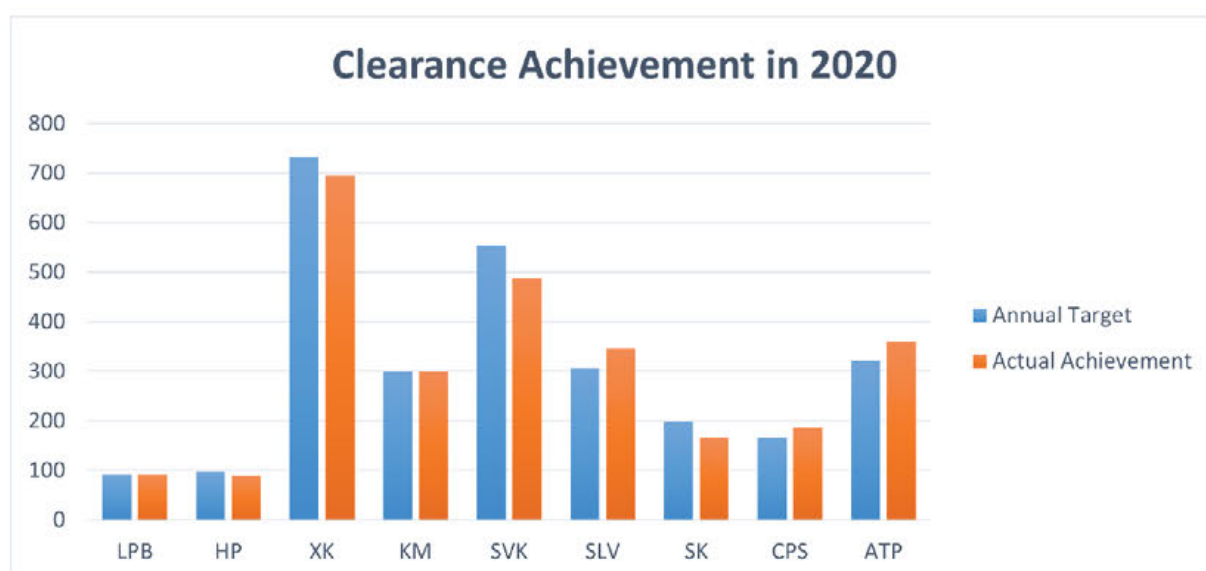
Note: XKH significantly exceeded its target due to a higher density of CM found, hence the higher number of red-marked boxes. In addition, the favorable environment factors in XKH were also beneficial in progressing this activity. SVK, CPS and SK could not achieve their targets due to weather and area conditions, and in the case of SK and CPS, delays in the disbursement of funds.

4.4. Area Clearance

UXO Lao is the largest humanitarian clearance operator in Lao PDR. With the current level of funding support, UXO Lao contributes to over 60% of the clearance outputs in the UXO sector as a whole.

During 2020, 81 UXO Lao clearance teams across nine provinces were deployed and cleared 2,719 hectares of UXO contaminated land. This covered 2,690 hectares for agriculture and 29 hectares for development projects, including educational facilities, community roads, water supply schemes, and other rural infrastructure. Throughout the clearance operations, a total of 33,689 UXO items were found and destroyed, of which 26,227 items were cluster sub-munition bomblets, reaching 42,090 beneficiaries.

The criteria for prioritization of land clearance that UXO Lao considers existing villages, districts, provincial and national development plans, and priorities: clearance occurs to a depth corresponding with its intended use. However, if no land use is specified, the default clearance depth of 25 centimetres is applied, and clearance of most agricultural land is to this default depth. Village authorities witness the formal handover of cleared land to the landowner/user, and UXO Lao provides a certificate of completion.



Note: SVK could not reach the target due to weather and area conditions. Clearance activities in SK were halted due to a delayed disbursement of funds in November, resulting in SK not achieving the target.

4.5. Roving

Roving or Spot Tasks involve the on-demand removal and destruction of UXOs reported by villagers or the NTS teams who destroy them on a call-out basis.

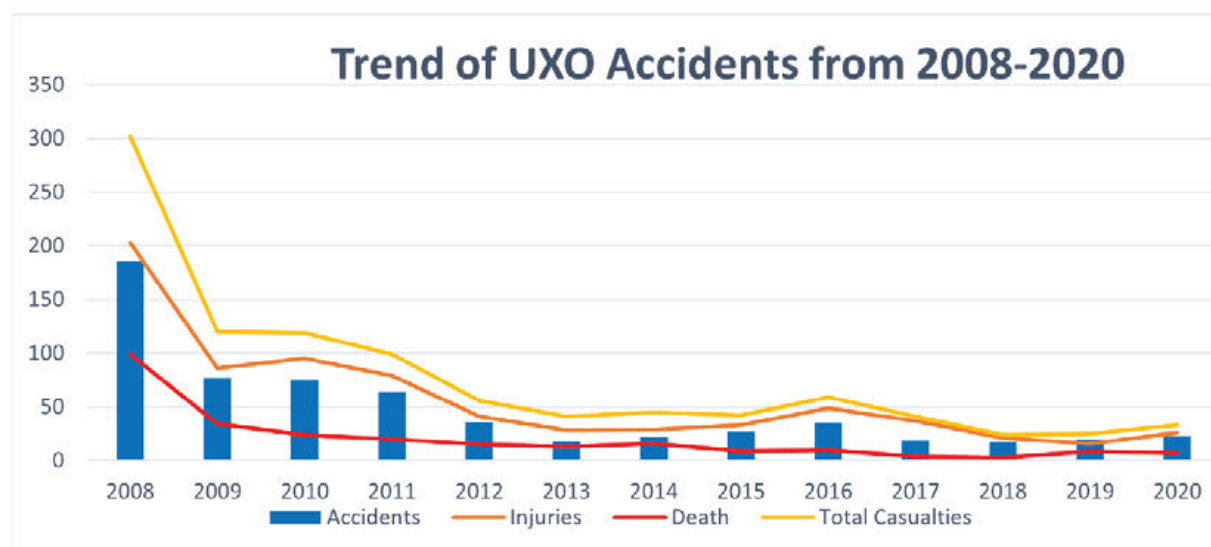
In 2020, UXO Lao conducted 1,185 roving visits in 503 villages across nine provinces, destroying 12,052 UXO items, including 8,845 cluster munitions bomblets, 42 large aerial bombs, seven mines, and 3,158 other UXO items.



In 2020, there were 33 UXO accidents in Lao PDR, causing seven deaths and 26 injuries. From 2008 to 2020, casualties decreased by 89%, from 302 casualties in 2008 to 33 in 2020. The major decline of UXO accidents and casualties in Lao PDR is attributed to providing quality mine risk education by operators in the nine provinces, including UXO Lao. The following table summarises the casualty figures from 2008 to 2020, with details of the demographic breakdown.

Year	Accidents	Injuries				Deaths				Total Casualties
		Man	Woman	Boy	Girl	Man	Woman	Boy	Girl	
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	22	8	5	9	7	4	0	12	0	45
2015	27	15	1	16	1	6	1	2	0	42
2016	35	17	3	24	5	2	0	8	0	59
2017	19	12	11	8	6	3	0	0	1	41
2018	17	4	4	8	5	2	0	1	0	24
2019	20	5	2	4	5	8	0	1	0	25
2020	23	12	2	10	2	5	0	2	0	33
Total	619	313	88	275	67	147	12	88	16	1,006

Note: In Lao PDR, a child is classed as a person of 18 years or younger.



The number of UXO items destroyed through area clearance and roving operations in 2020 was 45,741 items. Cluster munition bomblets or 'bombies' are the most common type found in Lao PDR. UXO Lao switched from a request-based approach to an evidence-based survey and clearance in 2015, with a corresponding increase of CM bomblets found per hectare. In 2020, the total number of bombies destroyed was 35,072 items.

On average, UXO Lao found 10 cluster munition bomblets per hectare across nine provinces. The following table summarizes the number of cluster munition bomblets found per hectare cleared in each province.

Number of cluster munition bomblet found per hectare per province in 2020										
Monthly	LPB	HPN	XKH	KM	SVK	SLV	SK ²	CPS	ATP	ສະເລ່ຍ
January	14	6	13	6	4	10	7	16	5	9
February	16	6	15	6	5	8	8	17	6	9
March	12	9	12	11	7	9	10	22	5	11
April	14	0	27	6	0	7	0	7	6	11
May	0	0	10	0	0	0	11	11	0	11
June	10	9	11	7	4	5	8	7	4	7
July	9	11	13	12	9	5	15	12	5	9
August	10	8	27	5	5	8	14	11	6	13
September	14	14	14	5	4	7	7	12	6	9
October	15	10	16	4	5	6	7	10	6	9
November	12	7	23	4	5	5	0	12	5	10
December	12	6	15	4	4	16	29	11	5	11
Average	12	8	16	7	5	8	13	12	5	10 ³

²Operations in Sekong were temporarily suspended due to a delay in the disbursement of funds during November 2020.

³An average for the overall number of CM bomblets found and destroyed per hectare is calculated based on the information provided by UXO Lao database unit as of 28th Jan 2021. In total 26,221 CM bomblets were found and destroyed during the clearance activity of 2,719 hectares in the 9 provinces in 2020.

7.1. Clearance to support development projects

7.1.1. UXO Clearance supported to the Clean Water Supply Project in Savannakhet province

The inhabitants of Houayton, Houaychaeng, Alang, Aho villages, Xepon district, Savannakhet province lacked clean water for many years because bacteria contaminate many streams and wells in these villages. Consuming unsafe water caused a variety of health issues for villagers.

To ensure the villagers can access safe water and sanitation facilities, World Vision Laos planned to construct boreholes in these four villages; however, the borehole sites required clearance before the project could begin. World Vision Laos requested UXO Lao to support clearance for this project through the relevant departments. From 5th - 6th February 2020, the UXO Lao Savannakhet clearance team (supported by the US government) cleared 225 square meters of land. After completion of clearance, the borehole constructions began on 6th June 2020, completing on 28th September 2020. The project has benefitted over 1,804 people, including 987 females. The inhabitants of these four villages are thrilled they can now easily access clean water in sufficient quantities.



7.1.2. Bridge construction in Huaphan province

In 2020, through the support of the US Government, UXO Lao Huaphan responded to the request of the Department of Public Works and Transportation to clear 1,298 square meters of land supporting bridge construction in Phonxay village, XamNeua district, Huaphan province. This area was in the provincial development plan, and UXO Lao treated it as an emergency task. The clearance took place on 9th June 2020. There was one UXO found and destroyed during the clearance.

Bridge construction began 11th June 2020, completing on 25th September 2020. Support for the project was via Grant Assistance from the Government and People of Japan. This bridge is eight meters long and six meters wide, facilitating the commute between the four villages of Phonxay, Huaysath, Thappherng, and Poundinginh. The bridge has benefited more than 750 people, including 401 females.



7.1.3. Clearance for a Resettlement area

Naphontan village is one of the poorest villages in Vapi district, Salavanh Province. Every year, this village is badly affected by flooding. The villagers have faced difficulties with their farms, and the decreased productivity makes it difficult to feed their families. As a result, the authorities of Naphontan village decided to resettle the village in the higher areas by immigrating the villagers affected by floods. To ensure the safety of the villagers, the authority UXO Lao Salavan received a request to clear UXOs in the resettlement area. With the support of the Government of Japan, UXO Lao Salavan teams cleared 196,596 square meters of land for resettlement: 20 UXOs were found and destroyed. The clearance operation was carried out from 20th November to 23rd December 2020. The clearance benefited approximately 50 households, including 502 people, of which 311 were females.



While resettlement began in early 2021, completion might take some time due to limited funds for moving and building new houses.

7.2. Clearance to support agricultural production

7.2.1. Growing rice without worry and fear from UXOs

Ms. Bounchan, 55 years old woman who lives and owns a paddy field in Nakouan village, Pek district, XKH province. In her own words:

I grow rice and garlic for selling. I have six people in my family so my husband and I have to grow more rice and garlic to make more income. Since my paddy field (9,000 m²) was cleared in 2015, my family are delighted that we earned \$2,000-3,000 last year excluded sell garlic and livestock. I sell garlic around 470-480 kilogram, the price per 1 kilogram is about ten thousand kip, and I have 12 cows and 3 buffalos. Prior to clearing, we are scared about UXOs on the ground, it can explode anytime, and I know my paddy field is risky even without seeing, because my neighbor saw unexploded bombs on his field. Therefore, we use shovels for digging the land instead of hoes.

In early 2019, I did not expect to see a bombie in my house's area, I was shocked for a while and later informed the village chief. The roving team visited and destroyed a bombie in the same day," said Bounchan. In March 2019, UXO Lao XKH TS team surveyed the area, and found 15 cluster bomblets (BLU 26) of 4.9. On 11th to 20th February 2020, the clearance team found 88 cluster munitions of which, 81 are BLU26 and 7 ammunitions.

We know we are living in the risky areas, but we have to work on our farm land and feed animals to improve our living condition. Now I feel safe without worry and fear about UXOs, and in future I'd like to grow rice and grass for raising animals. I and my family are now very happy and thanks to UXO Lao XKH for visiting and clearing our land, and make our lives safe from UXO.



7.2.2. Agriculture growth in the highest UXO contamination area

Phik Yai village, Luangprabang district is one of the highest UXO contamination areas situated in Luangprabang Province. Living with dangerous land due to UXO contamination makes 50-year-old Mr. Bounchanh Silikoun and his family worry during everyday life and farming. As a farmer, he has no choice but to live in these areas to make livestock and grow vegetables to feed his family. While farming on his land in 2019, he found UXO which made him afraid. He then reported to UXO Lao Luangprabang directly to clear UXO on his land. In his own words:

Before, I didn't see UXO in my land and UXO Lao Luangprabang is the first organization that villagers and I thought about and reported to when we found UXO, because we know that UXO Lao Luangprabang teams can come to solve the problem and destroy UXO.

After that, the roving team came to Bounchanh's land and destroyed the UXO. As Bounchanh's land is highly contaminated, a technical survey designated his land as a CHA in 2020. The clearance team cleared his land at the beginning of 2020, destroying 41 UXO items, of which 34 were cluster munitions. Luckily, no accident ever occurred with his family and villagers. Now, Bounchanh feels safe from UXO and happy with using the land without fear.



7.2.3. A farmer always needs to be careful when growing crops

Mr Khouanta, 37, is a farmer and lives in Pakuaytai village, Boualapha district, Khammouan Province. He is a subsistence farmer and grows corn to feed his cows. Khouanta's wife is also a farmer, and they have five sons and two daughters, so they work hard to try earn as much income as possible to meet the needs of their family. Khouanta spoke with the UXO Lao PO-PI team in early 2021, sharing that although he had never seen any bombies in this field. Thankful that no UXO accidents have occurred in his village, he is aware of these dangerous items from the Mine Risk Education team, which visited Pakhaytai village a few years ago. In his own words:

From what I learn during the MRE activity, I always have to be careful when growing crops on my land and I worry a lot about the safety of my children". Although Khouanta did not find any bombies on his land, his neighbors found them, so they notified the village chief to send an official letter to UXO Lao KM to consider the land for clearance. The Technical Survey team visited Khouanta's land from June to July 2016 and identified hazardous areas to include in the annual work plan for clearance.

My agricultural production is sufficient for self-consumption, I can produce 120 bags for rice (one bags equals 36 kilograms) and have four cows. However, I also want to grow grass for feeding cows and to sell at the local market. If this plan goes ahead, I can earn between 4-5 million kip next year.

I really appreciate UXO Lao KM for clearing my land and thank you so much for visiting my poor family. Hopefully, UXO Lao will continue working in our districts as there are many other areas which still need to be cleared.

From 10th to 20th February 2020, a UXO Lao clearance team cleared Khouanta's land. This team found and destroyed 21 UXOs, of which 21 were CMs, on 31,236 m². Once this task was complete, and the land officially handed over, Khouanta continues growing rice and corn for raising cows.



7.2.4. The beneficiary from the Cluster Sub-munitions Mechanical Clearance Promotion Project in Xiengkhouang province

Mr. Phonesy, a 59 years old man, makes a living from agriculture in Mai-korkay village, Kham district, XKH province. He uses his land for growing corns, rice, and grass for raising cows. In 2015, he found cluster munitions on his land, and immediately reported this to the village chief, who asked UXO Lao Xiengkhouang to destroy the explosive remnants. Although Phonesy and his family were scared to continue working on their land, he had no alternatives for growing crops. However, Phonesy and his family worked on the land carefully to avoid accidents by strictly following the instructions of the MRE team.

In late December 2019, the Cluster Sub-munitions Mechanical Clearance team under the support from Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS) cleared 8,000 m² of Phonesy's land. 52 UXOs were found and destroyed by the Cluster Sub-munitions Clearance machine of which 16 were cluster munitions (BLU26). The clearance took place from 30th December 2019 to 3rd February 2020. Phonesy and his family can work safely without fear of accidents with his land now cleared of UXO. The family earned 55 million Kip from selling two tons of rice, one ton of corn, and six cows last year. Soon, Phonesy is planning to grow more rice and raise cows. In his own words:

I am so happy that my land is cleared. I can dig and cut anything on my land without any fears and worries about UXOs. Currently, my family has more income than before. Furthermore, I would like to ask for technical advice from the agricultural promotion projects to enhance my agricultural production skills.

With the generous support of the government of Japan, the Cluster Sub-munitions Mechanical Clearance project contributes to safe livelihoods and promotes rural development in Xiengkhouang province by using the world's first machine specializing in destroying cluster sub-munitions. UXO destruction with the cluster sub-munition clearance machine is safe, silent, and reduces the amount of explosives used. Nevertheless, it still has constraints in accessing and operating in the high hills and silty clay areas.



7.2.5. Beneficiary from Brush Cutting Operation supports UXO Clearance in Champasak province

Dense vegetation is the main obstacle for clearance operation and the agricultural work of the people living in Champasak province. Mr. Ngaem is a gardener living in Huaysath village, Paksong District, Champasak Province. He had a limited area for coffee plantations. He wanted to expand his land to grow more crops and raising livestock to generate more income because the primary income from selling coffee beans was insufficient for his family. Unfortunately, UXO contaminated his land along with dense vegetation, all obstacles to his expansion plans.

Mr. Ngaem requested UXO Lao Champasak to clear his land. As Huaysath is one of the highest-contaminated areas in Paksong District, UXO Lao Champasak put this village into the work plan in 2020, including Ngaem's land. As his land had dense vegetation, from 13th – 14th August 2020 the brush cutting team used the Brush Cutter Machine on his land, covering 58,154 square meters. They then proceeded to UXO clearance, which took place from 20th July to 28th August 2020. During clearance, the team found and destroyed 64 items of UXOs, of which 55 items were cluster munitions. The Government of Japan supported the brush cutting and clearance operation.

After Ngaem's land was cleared, his land was free from UXO and all rubbish and vegetation were removed from his land. Ngaem and his family could now expand his land as they wished. Luckily, he did not pay any money for hiring a tractor to remove the vegetation. Ngaem expressed his gratitude to UXO Lao:

Thank you for making my land free from UXOs. Now, my family can work on this land without fear. After my land was cleared, I would like to expand my land for growing vegetables and raising cows and goats. If possible, I want to learn how to produce soap from goat's milk, an initial idea of mine at this time. In the future, I believe that I will earn more money from selling vegetation and soap products.

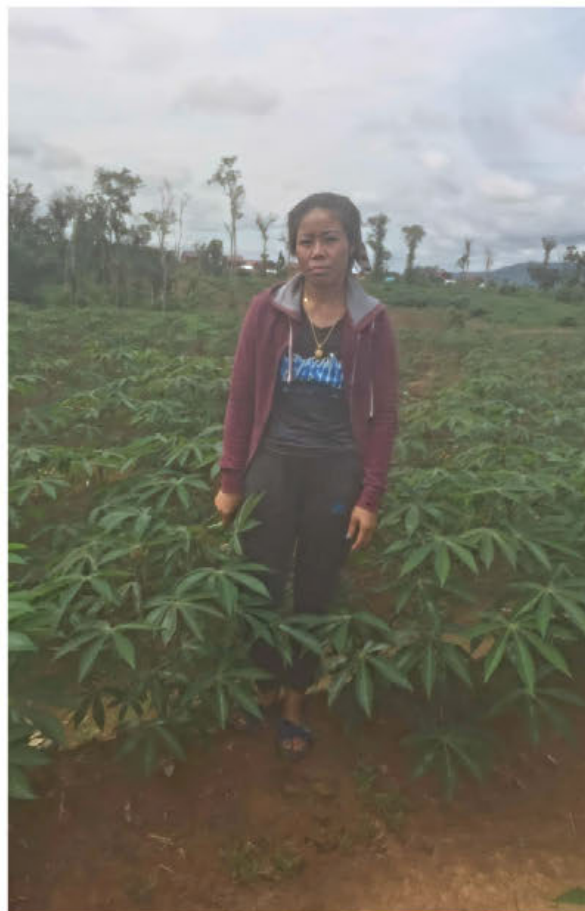


7.2.6. Beneficiary from Brush Cutting Operation in Sekong province

Ms. Phone, 41, is one of many beneficiaries of UXO clearance and brush-cutting operations in Sekong province. There are five people in her family, of which two are women. Phone and her husband are vendors. They have a small grocery at their house in Taneum village, Lamam district, Sekong province. As their living costs were high and income from selling groceries was low, it could not cover all expenses in the family. Phone and her husband decided to find an extra job to generate more income by being gardeners. Phone's family owns 15,699 square meters of land in Taneum village. However, the land was unused because of dense vegetation, and they found UXO on their land in 2015. The UXO was a BLU 26, which UXO Lao destroyed. Their land was surveyed and confirmed as a CHA by a UXO Lao technical survey team in the following years.

UXO Lao cleared the land 17th to 22nd January, after support earlier in the month from the Sekong Brush Cutting team, with the vegetation cutting and clearance operations supported by the Government of Japan. During clearance, the team found 18 cluster munitions, all of which were BLU-26. Phone immediately planted the cassava on their land with savings due to not hiring a tractor to remove the vegetation on their land. In 2020, they earned 25,000,000 Kip from selling 15 tons of cassava. In the future, Ms. Phone is plans to raise cattle and goats on her land to generate more income. She believes that this will improve her family's livelihood. Phone also expressed her gratitude and sincere thanks to UXO Lao and donors:

I am really thankful to UXO Lao, especially the donors, for providing support to my family as well as other people in Sekong province in releasing the safe land for living and food production.



7.3. UXO victims

7.3.1. A UXO victim from Attapeu province

Mrs. Phet Minphet is a 40-years old farmer, injured by UXO in 2017, who lives with her husband in Konghang village, Samakkhixay District, Attapeu Province. In April 2017, Phet's roof was leaking due to heavy rain, and as she tried to move her charcoal stove to a different area away from the water, a bombie under the soil exploded. The heat from the fire had detonated the unexploded bombie and shocked both her and her neighbors. Phet ran to ask for help from people nearby, and thankfully a worker from a road construction site took her immediately to Champasak hospital. This accident blinded her left eye, and she cannot see clearly in her right eye. After three months of hospital care, she finally returned home with financial support from the NRA for her hospital bills. Phet doesn't travel far from home now because of her blindness. However, undeterred, she opened a small shop in front of her house to earn a little income selling traditional Lao desserts to her neighbors. Evens still, her house roof continues to leak, and she has no money to fix it. The rainy season, she explained, is the worst, and her house always floods. She hopes soon another donor can help provide better shelter for her family by supplying galvanized roofing sheets.



7.3.2. A man devastated by a UXO accident in 2020

Xiengdad village, Phoukoud district, XKH province is a new village that was resettled by people who lived in lower flat areas which is affected by flooding. Mr Bounta, 57 years old, lives with his family in Xiengdad village. Bounta has experienced accidents with UXO in the past. Bounta told the team:

Since I have family, I have to take care of my daughters and sons. In 1983, I cleaned around my farm, and then I lit a fire to burn scattered debris, when the explosion happened. My right arm was injured, but fortunately it was only slightly debilitated. Since then, I have been scared of UXOs and do not want to plant any things on risky land. However, I have no choice because this is my farm. At the time, UXO Lao XKH was not yet established.

He continues growing rice, sweet corn and raising cows by hands softly. He is always careful because he knows these areas are unsafe. But on 06th February 2020, he experienced another unexpected accident while he and his son were cleaning up the area by using blades to cut brush around the planting area. This was more serious than the previous accident, as he was bleeding profusely from his wounds. Fortunately, Bounta's son was safe, and together with his family, took him to XKH hospital. Bounta was hit by fragmentation from the explosion, losing his index finger, damaging his intestine and lung, and causing paralysis of his right leg. Bounta's for two weeks of treatment in the hospital and travel expenses were covered by World Education through the National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao (NRA) and the Quality-of-Life Association (QLA).



I feel down because I cannot help my family do livestock and agriculture. I have to stay at home for housework instead, which greatly impacted the family's income. I cannot grow rice, sweet corn and raise cattle as I had previously planned. However, the painful and bad dreams cannot damage me, I have big hopes, and my sunshine is coming. I think handicraft is my best choice to help stabilize our lives.

Bounta also requested UXO Lao XKH consider clearing more areas around the village for agriculture in the future.

7.4. Chatting with our UXO Lao colleagues

7.4.1. Mine Risk Education (MRE) member:

Ms. Neng Chang, Deputy Team Leader of the MRE team in XKH, is 45 years old, and worked with UXO Lao XKH since 1996. She is of the Hmong tribe and was born in Khoun district, XKH province. She moved to live in Pek district when she passed UXO Lao's MRE training course at the Training Center, Vientiane Capital for two weeks. She has 10 years' experience as a MRE staff, and after an evaluation was conducted for her previous performance, including experience and knowledge, she was promoted to the position of Deputy Team Leader. The Mine Risk Education (MRE) XKH team has six members, of which two are women including Neng Chang, are supported by the Government of NZ. Neng Chang remarks on her life and work with UXO Lao over the years:

After more than 20 years of mine risk education experiences, while working with UXO Lao XKH, I have educated more than 600,000 people about contamination in XKH province, including children and adults. I work hard and love my career; I am happy when I meet and make people smile when I connect and communicate with audiences, especially children. I am a single mother. My husband passed away two years ago, and I have to take care of my son, who is 14 years old. I try to work hard for him, and I try to push myself for him.

We visit people living in UXO-affected areas through educational activities such as songs, dances, puppet shows, role-plays, and games adapted to the target group. These are our routine work within the community awareness activities.

We have a tough time during the rice-growing period, as the farmers have to work on paddy fields till the evening, so we need to visit them after they finish work by showing them cinemas with white screens. I think children remain a key at-risk group and remain a key focus for the CA programme. I am aware that there were many cases of accidents with children, mainly playing with UXOs without being aware of the danger. Therefore, we have to expand community awareness to people in risky areas as much as possible. In addition, we conducted the monthly meeting for reviewing MRE activities. This is because we want to discuss and share the lessons learned from each other. Because of their funding shortfall, we did not have any training in MRE courses for a long time from the Training Center in Vientiane.

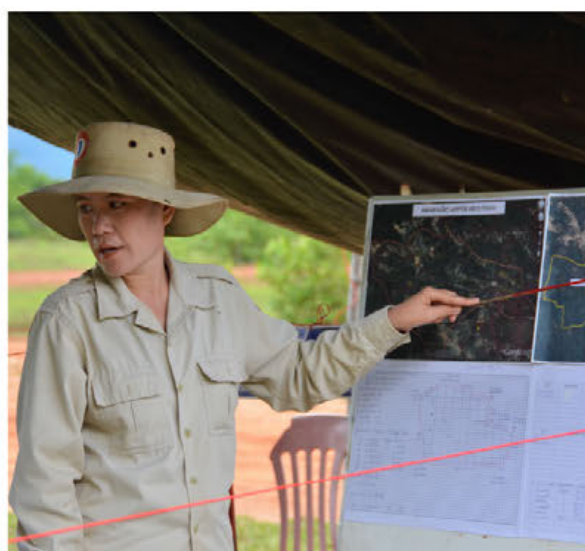
This year we paused work for almost two months due to the COVID-19 outbreak, at any rate we worked together for planning and discussed how to carry on after pandemic through social media at home. As a result, our annual target plan was revised. We would like to have more MRE t-shirts for adults and children, notebooks, pens, and other MRE equipment as currently, we have inadequate supplies when we visit villages or schools. Furthermore, I would be happy to adapt to our current situation if we have a new concept of MRE tasks.



7.4.2. A female team leader in UXO Lao Khammuane province

Mrs. Aon Khamsoukthavong is 37 years old and lives in Xaibouathong district, Khammuane province with her husband and 3-years old daughter. Aon loves her daughter very much and does everything to secure her education. Aon has been working with UXO Lao Khammuane for the past 12 years in various capacities. She graduated in 2007 with a teaching qualification, majoring in Lao at the college in Bolikhamxay Province. After graduating, she tried to find a job but instead decided to help her husband working in the rice paddy field. During this time, she never saw any UXO but was aware of their dangers because many areas in Xaibouathong district are affected by UXO contamination.

Aon discussed with her husband that "I desire to work with UXO Lao, I want to help our family and people stay safe from bombies and work in agriculture without fear." In 2008, she successfully applied to become a deminer and was sent to the training center in Vientiane Capital to complete the Explosive Ordnance Disposal level 1 (EOD1) course for eight weeks. After this initial training, she worked as a deminer on a clearance team from 2008 to 2014. Due to her extensive experience with UXO during clearance, Aon was promoted deputy team leader from 2015-2017. She was sent to the Training Center to study the EOD3+ course for four weeks following this role and advanced to Team Leader for clearance.



Aon is the only female clearance team leader in Khammuane province under the support of WWM. Currently, she supervises a team of seven deminers (four females and three males), a medic, and a driver and is responsible for all team equipment and vehicles. She manages the clearance sites safely and securely, ensuring that people living in the area know an active UXO clearance operation is in progress. When a deminer finds a UXO item, it is part of her role to investigate it and decide on the next step. In addition to these tasks, Aon must maintain the situation records and conduct quality management on the work completed.

Regarding operational challenges the team faces, Aon shared with the PO-PI team that aging equipment, particularly the detectors, needs to be addressed, resulting in lower-quality outcomes. Each team received a pair of jungle boots per year, which is insufficient for them during the rainy season and muddy conditions. She is very proud to help save people from UXO accidents and increase the availability of agricultural land in the province. "I am delighted to act as Team Leader for UXO Lao operations and promote gender equality in this field of work. In the future, I hope to become a SEOD and continue working with UXO Lao until retirement. I want to express my sincere gratitude to the WWM foundation for contributing to UXO Lao Khammuane operations and that WWM will continue to support UXO Lao Khammuane until Laos is free from UXO."



PARTNERSHIPS

In 2020, UXO Lao collaborated with and received support from 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 European Union (EU)
- The Government of Australia
- The Government of Canada
- The Government of Ireland
- The Government of Japan
- The Government of Lao PDR
- The Government of New Zealand
- The Government of Norway
- The Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
- The Government of the United States of America
- The Government of the Republic of Korea
- Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC)
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- Ito Supporting Comity (ISC)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS)
- Japan International Cooperation System (JICS)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- Spirit of Soccer (SOS)
- Tetra Tech (TT)
- World Without Mines Foundation (WWM)

8.1. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

During the reporting period, UNDP provided technical advisory support to UXO Lao through the provision of an advisory team consisting of a Chief Technical Advisor (CTA), a Finance Technical Specialist (FTS), and a Programme and Reporting Specialist (PRS). In 2020, the CTA prepared Concept Papers for resource mobilization to address identified funding gaps. The FTS worked with the UXO Lao Finance team to prepare regular financial and budget monitoring reports for management and required by various donors from different fund sources (e.g., UNDP-managed and bilateral). Also, the FTS assisted in preparing the UXO Lao-UNDP Procurement Plan for the year 2020 and monitoring the implementation of the planned procurement to ensure budget delivery. The PRS assisted with the drafting and reviewing quarterly progress reports, 2019 Annual Report, donor reports, and proposals. In addition, the PRS supported UXO Lao with their social media engagement, particularly with the development of a future website to increase public awareness and promote the humanitarian operator internationally.

The UNDP Country Office (CO) supported UXO Lao in procuring necessary equipment to manage and undertake UXO-related activities, which are under UNDP-managed fund sources. Goods and services procured



under the NZ project included the following: field equipment and materials (e.g., detectors, uniforms, etc.), MRE materials, and UXO promotional materials, including UXO Lao website development and souvenir items. Supporting equipment and materials were procured with funding by the Voluntary Trust Funds (VTF) under the Safe Ground Project and handed over to schools in XKH province. In addition, the UNDP CO also assisted UXO Lao in procuring various field equipment and materials supported under the US-TT funds.

In terms of funding, UNDP assists the GoL in engaging new and previous donors in financing the UXO sector. Moreover, UNDP CO secured further funding from the New Zealand governments to continue supporting UXO Lao Xiengkhouang from 2021 to 2023.

8.2. Tetra Tech (TT) support to UXO Lao

Tetra Tech (TT) is a new development partner of UXO Lao, managing bilateral support from the U.S. Department of State (DOS). In 2020, TT continued to provide financial support to the NRA and UXO Lao and technical assistance to UXO Lao. TT's support enabled the implementation of evidence-based surveys and subsequent clearance of Confirmed Hazardous Areas. TT also supported field inspections for three Quality Management mobile teams.

In addition, TT's Technical Advisors continued to monitor and support UXO Lao's operations regarding operations management at both HQ and field levels, quality management, information management, and logistics management. Significant support also focused on improving the quality of current and past technical surveys, improving the quality of data for UXO Lao's data management systems, and improving the speed and quality of reporting completed fieldwork. Moreover, TT has taken over the five formerly Australian-funded teams in Champasak, Salavan, and Savannakhet



provinces since March 2020 and fully supported UXO Lao Huaphan province since June 2020.

The 5-year period of funding support from the U.S. DOS runs from 2019 to 2023 and encompasses technical advisory support at HQ and field levels to monitor work progress and set out team-based management at the field level. In addition, TT will also support the replacement of vehicles and essential field equipment to UXO Lao where the U.S DOS currently supports.

8.3. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

UXO Lao and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) began a new phase of cooperation with a 5-year project titled "Strengthening Operational Capacity of UXO Lao Contributing to Poverty Alleviation" from 2019 until 2023. The new project covers three main outputs, including (1) Capacity to formulate and monitor a transparent annual work plan, considering whether poverty alleviation and development are strengthened; (2) IT utilization is promoted to enhance the effect of output 1 and; (3) Basic capacity for the clearance activity is improved, including instruction methods, administration, information management, and other capacities, directly and indirectly, related to clearance activity.

In 2020, UXO Lao and JICA continued to collaborate to strengthen planning/monitoring and information management capacity. JICA also continued to support the South-South Cooperation between UXO Lao and CMAC, which entered the third stage of cooperation. JICA also provided valuable support for administration management by using new technology



to record the working time and information of UXO Lao staff and provide admin and IT training to support effective operation using new technology.

In addition, JICA has also supported UXO Lao by conducting management training under the topic "How to be a good leader and manager" for UXO Lao mid-level staff from HQ and Provincial Levels. JICA conducted this training with cooperation from TACDO Consulting Center, and 25 UXO Lao members participated, including three females.

8.4. Japan International Cooperation System (JICS)

JICS has collaborated with UXO Lao in implementing the Project for Acceleration of UXO Clearance for rural development and poverty eradication in Lao PDR FY2018 under Japan's Grant Aid for Conflict Prevention and Peace Building. The project aims to improve the safety of people and promote the efficiency of UXO clearance activities by providing financial support for the procurement of project equipment. The equipment facilitates the UXO clearance operations, enables Laos to accelerate UXO Lao's activities, and assists residents to live and conduct livelihood free of UXO. Through these actions, it intends to strengthen the overall UXO countermeasure implementation capacity of UXO Lao.

With Japan's Government's support under Japan's Grant Aid for Conflict Prevention and Peace Building, UXO Lao utilized many brush cutter machines in contaminated areas to help clearance teams prepare the clearance sites. The machines supported by JICS are deployed in three southern provinces: Sekong, Salavan, and Champasak.

The function of the machines is to cut excess vegetation in overgrown areas and adjust the soil surface where conditions are suitable for growing rice paddy fields to help families grow rice as soon as the planting season begins. From January to Decem-



ber 2020, four brush cutter teams cut 170 hectares of vegetation in the UXO-contaminated high areas in three provinces: 877 UXO items were found and destroyed by clearance teams, of which 782 items were cluster munition, reaching 1,787 beneficiaries.

In addition, in 2020 UXO Lao received some field equipment, vehicles, BC spare parts, and a new additional attachment for Brush Cutter Machine "Press Device" from Nikken Corporation supported by the government of Japan. The purpose of utilizing the new attachment is to further widen the BC usage, which is vegetation cutting and UXO clearance itself by pressing and crushing UXO. The trial and test of Press Device for Standard of Operation (SOP) will be conducted in the coming year.

8.5. Japan Mine Action Service

UXO Lao collaborated with Japan Mine Action Service in implementing the Cluster Sub-Munitions Mechanical Clearance Promotion Project in Xiengkhuang Province. The project contributes to securing a safe living environment and also promoting rural development in Xiengkhuang province. The world's first machine specializing in the destruction of cluster sub-munitions accelerates UXO clearance in Lao PDR. The establishment of standard operating procedures for the machine is in progress. In 2020, UXO Lao and JMAS operated in 3 districts: Pek, Kham, and Phoukoud. During the reporting period, UXO Lao cleared 101 hectares with support from the machines, which destroyed 1,590 UXO items.



8.6. Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC)

Since 2012, UXO Lao and CMAC have maintained cooperation under the South-South Cooperation (SSC) program supported by JICA to strengthen institutional capacity and human resources for both organizations. The COVID-19 pandemic caused the partners to suspend the SSC exchange training program in 2020, but plans exist to resume the exchange once the situation is normal. During the reporting period, UXO Lao and JICA conducted the post-training performance assessment of SSC program trainees in the UXO Lao headquarters, Xiengkhuang, Khammuane, Salavan, and Champasak provinces.



8.7. Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)

UXO Lao has jointly collaborated with NPA in many aspects and has played key roles in solving various challenges. NPA functions as the fund manager and as a key development partner working closely with UXO Lao Luangprabang on monitoring field operation: this has encouraged and promoted transparency. Moreover, UXO Lao and NPA often consult each other for solutions when there are obstacles and this encourages capacity building for both UXO Lao and NPA staff. Both organizations agree to build staff capacity by exchanging lessons learned from the overall operation and increasing the capacity of information management. Although, the partnership agreement between UXO Lao and NPA ended in 2020, UXO Lao is pleased to continue further collaboration with NPA in addressing the UXO problems in Lao PDR.



8.8. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The ICRC has generously supported UXO Lao periodically since 2010, supporting the training of UXO Lao's medical staff and the provision of medical equipment. In 2020, the ICRC provided essential medical equipment to UXO Lao, which improved the quality of existing medical equipment for UXO Lao's field operation teams across the nine contaminated provinces. The support and assistance from ICRC to the UXO Lao sector has helped the government of Laos in addressing the UXO issues in Lao PDR through the provision of high-quality medical equipment and training to staff.



ICRC

8.9. Spirit of Soccer (SOS)

In 2020, UXO Lao continued its collaboration with the Spirit of Soccer (SOS) to provide mine risk education through football in Salavan province. The project's objective is to reduce fatalities and injuries caused by UXO by learning about the dangers of UXOs through playing football games for those attending primary and secondary schools in Salavan. In addition, the activities helped children understand how to report the UXO items if found in their communities. The project also supports a training course for football trainers to ensure ongoing sustainability after the project cycle finishes. Moreover, SOS provides footballs, UXO posters, risk education learning materials, and books to the target schools. In 2020, UXO Lao and SOS continued implementing the MRE activity by using the remaining budget from 2019. The MRE team visited 15 schools and reaching 3,875 students.



The following Financial Reports indicate actual funds received by UXO Lao during 2020 from UNDP-managed fund sources, bilateral and other fund sources. The information provided below includes expenditure incurred per costs classification, by donor, activity, and location, and compared with that projected based on UXO Lao's Annual Work Plan.

Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)

Summary of Funds Received (in USD)

For the Year 1st January - 31st December 2020

Fund Sources	Earmarked	Unearmarked	Total	% of Total
UNDP-Managed Funds				
New Zealand	2,553,004.00		2,553,004.00	23%
Ireland		296,912.00	296,912.00	3%
Luxembourg		89,074.00	89,074.00	1%
Canada Fund	38,200.00		38,200.00	0%
	2,591,204.00	385,986.00	2,977,190.00	26%
Bilateral Funds				
US Tetra Tech	5,887,448.83		5,887,448.83	52%
Japan Int'l Cooperation System (JICS)	1,630,953.12		1,630,953.12	14%
Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)	444,247.37		444,247.37	4%
World Without Mines (WWM)	235,413.00		235,413.00	2%
Counterpart Funds	63,155.37		63,155.37	1%
JMAS	4,100.00		4,100.00	
	8,265,317.69	-	8,265,317.69	73%
Government Contribution and Others				
Government of Lao PDR	20,129.57	-	20,129.57	0%
Various - LP Sales Proceeds, Training Fees		1,741.14	1,741.14	0%
	20,129.57	1,741.14	21,870.71	0%
Total	10,876,651.26	387,727.14	11,264,378.40	100%
% to Total	97%	3%	100%	

Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)

Summary of Actual Expenditures by Cost Classification and per Fund Source (in USD)

For the Year 1st January - 31st December 2020

Expenditures	Fund Sources				
	UNDP- Managed Funds	Bilateral Funds	Gov't Contribution & Others	Total	% of Total
Personnel Costs	916,354.66	4,831,831.35	-	5,748,186.01	61%
	916,354.66	4,831,831.35	-	5,748,186.01	61%
Operating Expenses					
Rental, Repairs and Maintenance	154,234.92	500,606.28	151.89	654,993.09	7%
Fuel	-	445,211.63	255.00	445,466.63	5%
Utilities	17,850.81	95,921.18	215.42	113,987.41	1%
Stationeries and Other Office Supplies	18,491.51	78,286.40	-	96,777.91	1%
Insurance	2,373.40	43,157.95	-	45,531.35	0%
Security/Explosive Storage	8,719.19	46,061.29	-	54,780.48	1%
Travel/Transport	47,360.01	14,883.74	-	62,243.75	1%
Printing, Publications and Promo Materials	34,328.04	12,773.93	884.34	47,986.31	1%
Telephone/Internet/Fax Charges	5,737.68	27,122.12	-	32,859.80	0%
Freight and Postal Handling	550.38	29,225.25	-	29,775.63	0%
Sundries	8,552.79	35,818.94	56.32	44,428.05	0%
	298,198.73	1,329,068.71	1,562.97	1,628,830.41	17%
Special Operating Expenses					
Trainings, Workshops and Conferences	12,946.29	186,814.19	-	199,760.48	2%
GMS and Implementation Support Service	116,437.91	5,982.33	-	122,420.24	1%
Licenses	4,020.40	28,059.35	-	32,079.75	0%
Foreign Currency (Gain) Loss	11,814.67	(243.68)	-	11,570.99	0%
Audit Fees	5,701.00	-	-	5,701.00	0%
Bank Charges	196.57	4,843.65	38.61	5,078.83	0%
	151,116.84	225,455.84	38.61	376,611.29	4%
Non-Expendable Equipment					
Transportation Equipment	-	543,100.11	-	543,100.11	6%
Safety and EOD Equipment	77,396.70	354,522.92	-	431,919.62	5%
Office and Computer Equipment	207.99	138,548.89	-	138,756.88	1%
Furniture	-	18,541.27	-	18,541.27	0%
Communication Equipment	7,930.34	14,363.91	-	22,294.25	0%
	85,535.03	1,069,077.10	-	1,154,612.13	12%
Expendable Materials					
Explosives	27,162.09	149,092.16	-	176,254.25	2%
EOD Supplies	80,840.48	100,960.06	-	181,800.54	2%
Personnel/Medical Supplies	19,260.95	178,228.68	-	197,489.63	2%
CA Supplies	-	5,778.53	-	5,778.53	0%
	127,263.52	434,059.43	-	561,322.95	6%
Total	1,578,468.78	7,889,492.43	1,601.58	9,469,562.79	100%
% to Total	17%	83%	0%	100%	

Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)

Projected Expenditure (per AWP) vs. Actual Expenditure – Overall (in USD)

For the Year 1st January – 31st December 2020

	Fund Sources				
	UNDP- Managed Funds	Bilateral Funds	Gov't Contribution & Others	Unfunded	Total
Revised Projected Expenditures (per AWP)	1,689,896.00	9,008,534.00	-	578,824.00	11,277,254.00
Actual Expenditures	1,578,468.78	7,889,492.43	1,601.58	-	9,469,562.79
Projected vs. Actual Expenditures	111,427.22	1,119,041.57	(1,601.58)	578,824.00	1,807,691.21
Actual Exp./Revised Projected Exp. Inc. Unfunded (%)	93%	88%		0%	84%
Actual Exp./Revised Projected Exp. Exc. Unfunded (%)					89%

Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)

Projected Expenditure (per AWP) vs. Actual Expenditure by Donor (in USD)

For the Year 1st January - 31st December 2020

	Projected Expenditures (per AWP) - Original	Projected Expenditures (per AWP) - Revised	Actual Expenditures	Actual Exp./ Projected Exp. (%)
UNDP-Managed Funds				
New Zealand (NZ)	1,275,995	1,376,070	1,352,426.54	98%
Ireland	182,865	182,865	134,138.98	10%
Canada (CFLI)	38,081	38,081	36,000.02	3%
Australia	-	30,428	30,839.36	2%
Luxembourg	28,924	62,452	40,803.44	3%
UNDP -TRAC2	-		(15,739.56)	-1%
	1,525,864	1,689,896	1,578,468.78	93%
Bilateral Funds				
US - Tetra Tech	4,429,056	6,114,915	5,465,150.93	89%
Japan Int'l Cooperation System (JICS)	2,284,590	2,194,336	1,731,630.37	79%
Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)	313,453	459,832	440,696.57	96%
World Without Mines (WWM)	185,965	235,413	220,178.52	94%
Counterpart Fund	-		27,798.04	
ITO Supporting Comity		4,038	4,038.00	100%
	7,213,064	9,008,534	7,889,492.43	88%
Government Contribution and Others				
Others	-		1,601.58	
	-		1,601.58	
Unfunded	4,390,106	578,824		0%
Total	13,129,034	11,277,254	9,469,562.79	84%

Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)

Projected Expenditure (per AWP) vs. Actual Expenditure by Activity (in USD)

For the Year 1st January – 31st December 2020

	Projected Expenditures (per AWP) - Original	Projected Expenditures (per AWP) - Revised	Actual Expenditures - UNDP - Managed Funds	Actual Expenditures - Bilateral	Actual Expenditures - Others	Total Actual Expenditures	Actual Exp./Projected Exp. (%)
Clearance	7,499,480	5,376,071	739,712.18	3,826,360.42	-	4,566,072.60	85%
Technical Survey	1,032,000	960,094	98,095.28	719,377.58	-	817,472.86	85%
Non-Technical Survey	342,700	258,740	38,696.20	211,312.34	-	250,008.54	97%
Mine Risk Education	341,244	196,789	48,655.18	200,518.47	-	249,173.65	127%
Quality Management	144,754	144,000		117,219.91	-	117,219.91	81%
Management/Administration*	3,768,856	4,341,560	653,309.94	2,814,703.71	1,601.58	3,469,615.23	80%
Total	13,129,034	11,277,254	1,578,468.78	7,889,492.43	1,601.58	9,469,562.79	84%

* includes UNDP costs

Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao)

Projected Expenditure (per AWP) vs. Actual Expenditure by Location (in USD)

For the Year 1st January – 31st December 2020

	Projected Expenditures (per AWP) - Original	Projected Expenditures (per AWP) - Revised	Actual Expenditures - UNDP - Managed Funds	Actual Expenditures - Bilateral	Actual Expenditures - Others	Total Actual Expenditures	Actual Exp./Projected Exp. (%)
UXO Lao Provincial Offices							
Savannakhet (SVK)	2,228,112.00	1,636,923.00		1,252,075.72	-	1,252,075.72	76%
Xiengkhuang (XKH)	1,188,711.12	1,153,088.00	1,091,207.80	12,086.00	0.78	1,103,294.58	96%
Salavan (SLV)	1,427,454.00	1,278,039.00		945,265.25	4.89	945,270.14	74%
Khammuane (KM)	1,323,924.00	1,065,403.00		915,614.00	5.28	915,619.28	86%
Attapue (ATP)	1,245,323.00	945,701.00	31,109.51	727,995.04	0.78	759,105.33	80%
Sekong (SK)	1,247,916.00	874,009.00	(38,714.29)	770,726.66	3.77	732,016.14	84%
Champasak (CPS)	1,099,881.00	653,570.00	(1,503.19)	591,293.05	1.92	589,791.78	90%
Luang Prabang (LPB)	523,583.00	466,741.00		423,509.39	1,260.31	424,769.70	91%
Huaphan (HP)	693,708.16	413,866.00	12,033.87	383,922.35	-	395,956.22	96%
UXO Lao National Office (NO)*	1,623,945.12	2,540,143.00	477,952.10	1,800,582.21	317.32	2,278,851.63	90%
UXO Lao Training Center (TC)	526,476.52	249,773.00	6,382.98	66,422.76	6.53	72,812.27	29%
Total	13,129,033.92	11,277,256.00	1,578,468.78	7,889,492.43	1,601.58	9,469,562.79	84%

* includes UNDP costs



CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

In 2020, UXO Lao faced several challenges during the year, and lessons learned and are summarized below:

10.1. Funding shortfall

Planned activities at the Headquarters (HQ) and Training Center (TC) could not be implemented fully due to funding shortfalls for UXO Lao. These include improving the network and internet systems for HQ and TC, a Mine Action Reporting System trial, and training courses for EOD Levels 1, 2 and 3. In addition, UXO Lao lacked funding support for training in 2020, including refresher training and other technical training courses to build the capacity of UXO Lao staff members. Moreover, UXO Lao Training Center is considering a transfer to the NRA to upgrade its facilities to a National UXO Clearance Training Center in the future. However, UXO Lao will continue pursuing negotiations with donors to provide funds for these activities in the future.

10.2. Field Operations

In 2020, dense vegetation remained an issue and slowed down both TS and AC field operations. Vegetation cutting was the main obstacle for teams because they had to cut dense vegetation by themselves. Due to the limited numbers of powered brush cutters provided, manual brush cutting increased the number of days spent cutting vegetation and affected survey and clearance outputs and impacted the achievement of annual targets.

The Provincial Regulatory Authority (PRA) should ensure locals fully understand the current survey and clearance methodology to enhance community involvement in cutting vegetation at the provincial level. Furthermore, the PRA should better explain the operational processes of survey and clearance to locals. There were many cases where villagers misunderstood the survey and clearance processes and thought their land was cleared when it had only been surveyed.

UXO Lao, together with TT, have developed an application for recording all data from the field called "Team Based Operations Management" (TBOM). The TBOM is very useful and crucial for UXO Lao to record the per team data and regularly monitor AC and TS operations. However, there is still a lack of equipment to support such systems, such as PCs, tablets, etc. This issue will be solved in 2021 as UXO Lao and TT worked together to procure the necessary equipment to support this approach in real-time.

10.3. Technical Survey

Implementing Technical Survey (TS) to identify Confirmed Hazardous Area (CHA) remains difficult for UXO Lao in some provinces, particularly high contamination areas where the CHA often keeps expanding, sometimes over 100 hectares. In many cases, Technical Survey could not be fully completed and closed following the technical survey standards. Some TS sites are highly contaminated, large, and cover undeveloped land such as dense forests, rivers, rocky and mountainous areas, making it difficult for TS teams to complete the survey. Therefore, revising the National Survey Standards need to be reviewed to reflect the necessities encountered during actual implementation.

10.4. Roving Tasks

Currently, UXO Lao deploys the clearance team and TS conducting the roving tasks when an emergency report of UXO is found from the villagers or NTS team, which is dangerous for the communities. However, roving tasks reduce the operational efficiency and productivity of the TS and AC teams that perform them, and UXO Lao needs roving teams in each province. Due to a lack of funding, UXO Lao was unable to employ roving teams for each province; however, the organization successfully negotiated and mobilized funding sources from donors to support this activity for some provinces in the future.

10.5. The COVID-19 outbreak affecting UXO Lao field operations

Lao PDR has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic since early 2020. To prevent the Covid-19 outbreak in Laos and implement measures to contain its spread, on March 29th, 2020, the Prime Minister of Laos issued Order No. 06/PM on the Reinforcement of Measures for the containment, prevention, and full response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This order is by far the most serious announcement in the country since the crisis began and followed the first official report of COVID-19 cases by the Lao authorities outside the capital of Vientiane. In a bid to limit transmission across the country as much as possible, the Prime Minister's order imposed strong lockdown measures on businesses and the general public events. Thus, following this issued order, UXO Lao teams in 9 provinces paused operations in the office and the field. This action was to ensure the well-being and safety of UXO Lao staff. However, UXO Lao's vehicles and equipment were kept in the store at the provincial offices, and arrangements were made for on-duty staff to ensure smooth and effective coordination for any important matters and provide security at the office premises. During the crisis period of almost two months (the end of March to early May) that UXO Lao 9 provinces had to pause operations, operational outputs for UXO Lao did not meet the targets set in the Annual Work Plan (AWP) 2020. Therefore, UXO Lao revised the AWP in July 2020.



KEY MEETINGS, EVENTS, VISITS AND TRAINING IN 2020

11.1. Meetings

The 23rd International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and UN Advisors (NDM-UN23)

Mr. Bounphamith Somvichith, National Programme Director of the National Unexploded Ordnance Programme and a number of technical staff, attended the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Head of the International Demining Organization, the Head of the UN Special Expert and Other related roundtable meetings at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland from 11th – 14th February 2020.

Participants from countries are parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Mine Action, and relevant international organizations. There were about 630 participants in total.



Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting

The meeting was organized in two separate groups, the first group for Southern provinces took place at Department of Planning and Investment of CPS province on 26th February. There were 29 participants (including 7 females) from UXO Lao HQ, JICA HQ, JICA Lao, ATP, CPS, SK, and SLV provinces. The second group for Northern provinces was organized on 28th February at the Department of Agriculture and Forestry in LPB province. There were 24 participants (including 4 females) from UXO Lao HQ, JICA HQ, JICA Lao, HP, LPB, and XKH provinces.

In this meeting participants reviewed the achievements of project implementation to date. In addition, the group discussed the formulation of future work plans and drew lessons learned from the previous year to ensure effectiveness and efficiency moving forward.



Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) Meeting

On 3rd March 2020, UXO Lao and JICA organized the Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) Meeting at UXO Lao HQ, with 22 key staff participating: 14 participants from UXO Lao (including 5 females) and eight from JICA (including 5 females). The NPD of UXO Lao and Ms. Akiko Sanada, Senior Representative of JICA Lao office co-chaired the meeting. The meeting objectives were to report the outcomes of activities implemented in 2019 and the work plan for 2020. Activities for 2020 were outlined, such as disseminating the work plan formulation process to the remaining KM and SVK provinces and disseminating the work plan monitoring process to ATP, CPS, HP, LPB, SLV, SK, and XKH provinces. The partners also outlined IT and management training and the implementation of the South-South Cooperation Exchange Program with Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) on Information Knowledge Management and Training Center Management.



UXO Lao's Semi-Annual Operational Work Plan Review Meeting and Planning for Second-Half of 2020

UXO Lao organized the Semi-Annual Operational Work Plan Review Meeting and Planning for the second half of 2020 from 21st – 24th July 2020 at Dokchampa Hotel, Paksan District, Bolikhamxay Province. UXO Lao discussed and evaluated the implementation, key issues, lessons learned, and challenges from the first six months and consider the targets for the last six months of 2020. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Bounphamith Somvichith, NPD, and Mr. Wanthong Khamdala, DNP of UXO Lao Programme.



UXO Lao and JMAS successfully organized the Meeting on Reporting of Cluster Sub-Munitions Mechanical Clearance Promotion Project for nine months of the year 2020, at Xieng Khuang View Hotel, Xiengkhuang province.

UXO Lao and JMAS organized a meeting to report on the progress of mechanical clearance on 11th September 2020 at Xiengkhuang View Hotel. Mr. Bounchanh Sivongphanh, Vice Governor of Xiengkhuang province, chaired the meeting, attended by MoLSW, MoFA, NRA, UXO Lao HQ Office, DoLSW, DoFA of XKH province, UXO Lao XKH, and JMAS in Lao PDR. The meeting discussed key issues, challenges, and achievement of the mechanical clearance project operated during 9 months, planned for the last three months of 2020. The meeting also discussed the 2021 operation plan for the project.



UXO Lao's Technical Workshop, at Sounantha Hotel, Paksan District, Bolikhamsay Province

UXO Lao's Technical Workshop on Human Resources-Administration, Finance, Logistics and Procurement organized at Sounantha Hotel, Paksan District, Bolikhamsay Province on 9th November 2020. Mr. Bounphamith Somvichith, the National Programme Director, and Mr. Wanthong Khamdala, Deputy National Programme Director of Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme chaired the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the practices and lessons learned: 88 participants (31 females) from Human Resources-Administration, Finance, Logistics and Procurement of UXO Lao HQ, nine UXO Lao provincial offices, and Tetra Tech.



2020 UXO Lao Annual Review Meeting and Work Plan for 2021, 14th – 18th November 2020, at Sounantha Hotel, Paksan District, Bolikhamsay Province.

During 14th – 18th November 2020, Lao National Unexploded Ordnance organized 2020 UXO Lao annual review meeting and 2021 operational work plan at Sounantha Hotel, Paksan District, Bolikhamsay Province. There were 73 people in the meeting, of which 14 attendees were females, from all UXO Lao provincial offices, HQ, and representatives from NRA, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, UNDP, Tetra Tech, QSI, and JICA. The UXO Lao National Programme Director and the Deputy National Programme Director were co-chairs of the meeting. The meeting participants discussed and approved the initial work plan target for 2021 as 421 Villages of Mine Risk Education, 114 Villages for Non-Technical Survey, Technical Survey 4,950 Hectares and 3,213 Hectares of Area Clearance.



11.2. Events

The MoU Signing Ceremony between NRA and representative from USA Tetra Tech

On the 21st of January, the Government of Lao PDR officially signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for USD 4,960,790 with the Government of the United States of America to be managed through Tetra Tech Company. The project runs until 30th September 2024, wherein the US will continue its support for UXO survey and clearance operations in Lao PDR through both the Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao) and National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR (NRA).

Mr. Chomyaeng Phengthongsawat, Director General of the NRA office, together with Mr. Michael Raine, the Tetra Tech Project Manager/Task Order Leader, signed the MOU. Also, in attendance was Ms. Rena Bitter, U.S. Ambassador to Lao PDR, Dr. Khampheng Saysompheng, the Minister of Labor and Social Welfare, Chairman of the National Regulatory Authority, Mr. Bounphamith Somvichith, the National Programme Director of UXO Lao, as well as other ministry representatives.



UXO Lao and JMAS signed an MOU for the continuation of the Cluster Sub-Munitions Mechanical Clearance Promotion Project in Xiengkhuang Province.

UXO Lao and JMAS signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to continue the implementation of the Cluster Sub-Munitions Mechanical Clearance Promotion Project in Xiengkhuang Province, the new phase of cooperation starting from 2020 and running until 2022 with the budget totalling USD 1.25 million funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (JMOFA) and Komatsu LTD. In the ceremony, Mr. Bounphamith Somvichith, National Programme Director represented the Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme and Mr. Eishige Fuku, Chief of Administration and Finance represented Japan Mine Action Service for signing the MOU, together with the staff of both sides also attended the ceremony. The activities under the new phase of cooperation are focusing on the technical transfer of the machine operations and management to UXO Lao staff members and deployment of the machine to UXO clearance. This project will be implemented in 3 target districts: Pek, Kham and Phoukoud of Xiengkhuang province.



11.3. Visits

UXO Lao visited the JICS and JICA HQ, Japan

From 12th – 18th January 2020, Mr. Bounphamith Somvichith, NPD of UXO Lao and Mr. Saomany Manivong, Chief of PO-PI visited JICS and JICA HQ in Japan. The visit was successful with attendance to a Tender opening for vehicle procurement at JICS HQ, updated brush cutter demonstration and other activities related to the UXO sector program.



The Delegation from the Embassy of Canada to Vientiane, Laos and Bangkok, Thailand visited HP Province

The visit took place on the 13th March 2020 with Mr. Timothy Edwards, the Canadian Charge d'affaires to Lao PDR and Mr. Stuart Shaw, First Secretary at the Canadian Embassy, Thailand. The delegation was welcomed at the UXO Lao HP provincial office by UXO Lao NPD, Ms. Lisa Byrne (UXO Programme and Reporting Specialist from UNDP), HP PC, DPC. After a briefing session at the office, delegates were led to the MRE/NTS operation in Nasala village, Xamneua district to oversee and monitor the activities supported by the Government of Canada through UNDP. Mr. Justin Shone, UNDP Team Leader and Ms. Minyoung Kim, UNDP Programme Analyst joined the monitoring visit which provided insight to the essential educational activities conducted.



U.S. Ambassador to Lao PDR, Mr. Peter M. Haymond visited UXO Lao in Attapeu Province

UXO Lao Attapeu was privileged to host a visit from the new U.S. Ambassador, Mr. Peter Haymond, his first visit to a UXO clearance site since he had taken up office.

The visit took place on 17th June 2020, with the Ambassador receiving a site briefing from the UXO Lao Team Leader before observing clearance operations. UXO Lao invited Ambassador Haymond to fire a demolition to dispose of a BLU-26 cluster munition found earlier that day on the site.



Japan Ambassador to Lao PDR, Mr. Keizo TAKEWAKA visited UXO Lao in Xiengkhuang province

The visit took place on the 2nd July 2020 with Mr. Keizo TAKEWAKA, the Ambassador of Japan to Laos, and Mr. Tomohiro TASHIRO, and his entourage. UXO Lao Xiengkhuang welcomed the delegation at the provincial office by the UXO Lao NPD, the XKH PC, and the JMAS team.

After a briefing session at the office, delegates adjourned to the UXO Lao Garden (FFE). They had a photo session with a clearance machine (KOMATSU) at UXO Lao XKH provincial office.



United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and KOICA, visited the technical survey in Xiengkhuang Province.

On 15th October 2020, National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR, Mr. Chomyaeng Phengthongsawat, Director-General of the NRA, Ms. Catherine Phuong, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP and Mrs. Jeonghee IM, Resident Representative of KOICA, and the delegation visited the technical survey site in Khangkhai village, Pek district.

The delegation also visited UXO victims' families in Nadi village, Pek district.



UXO Lao Project Board Members visited Khammuan province

On 17th – 21st August, there was a visit of delegations from MOFA, MoLSW and NRA to KM province, the mission led by DDG of DIO, MOFA, and Representative from MoLSW and NRA. At the UXO KM provincial office, the mission was welcomed and briefed by the Provincial Coordinator and Chief of PO-PI Unit.

The purpose of the visit was to monitor and oversee field operations, listen to the field operation briefing on issues, problems, and key challenges of field operations. In addition, the mission also visited field operation sites in Boualapha and Mahaxay districts to oversee field operation and detonation.



11.4. Trainings and Workshops

Communication Training

The training took place from 13th – 14th January 2020 at the UN house. The objective of this training was to enhance communication skills, photography, videography, and social media posts. The deputy chief of the PO-PI unit attended. Participants improved their communication skillset significantly and became more comfortable using digital equipment and programs. Following this training, the UNDP Regional Communications Specialist visited XKH to provide 'hands-on' training to capture story-telling and photography. These new skills also benefited the work of the PO-PI unit.



UXO Lao management staff completed training: "How to be a Good Leader and Manager" with support from JICA in conjunction with the TACDO Center, for PCs and UXO Lao Unit Chiefs

The training course took place from 27th – 31st January 2020 in Vientiane Capital. The purpose of the training was to enhance knowledge and capacity for middle management to improve their leadership and management skills. There were 9 participants, including 1 female. From this training, all participants improved their level of knowledge and leadership skills.



Training course for DPC and Deputy Chief of Units from UXO Lao HQ

The training took place from 17th – 21st February 2020. The training focused on good leadership and management skills for Provincial Office DPCs and Deputy Chief of Unit at UXO Lao HQ; 16 participants (2 females) attended the training course, which better-equipped participants to lead and manage.



The workshop on monitoring on the Prioritization Planning Process on UXO Lao Clearance Operation in KM and SVK

The workshop on monitoring took place from 17th – 28th August 2020 with support from JICA. The purpose of the workshop was to monitor the Prioritization Planning Process for UXO Clearance in these two provinces to ensure all provinces are using the same UXO Lao standardized operation. The participants of the workshop were from offices and field staff who were concerned with the planning process. As a result, the two provinces have begun gathering data and other information needed to prepare for the 2021 Annual Work plan.



Explosive Disposal Deminer Level 2 (EOD2) Training Course

The training took place from 3rd - 28th Aug 2020 at the UXO Lao Training Center. The training aimed to provide 27 UXO Lao deminers (1 female) from HP, KM, SK, SLV, and SVK provinces. Most trainees who attended this course were Section Commander for field operation. The EOD2 course is provided to staff who are a potential deputy team leaders.



Explosive Disposal Deminer Level 1 (EOD1) Training Course

The training took place from 7th - 25th Dec 2020 at the UXO Lao Training Center. The purpose of the training was to provide the 24 participants (including 4 women) Explosive Disposal Deminer Level 1 training to fulfill the role of new deminers for CPS, SK, and SLV provinces.



Explosive Disposal Deminer Level 3 (EOD3) Training Course

The training took place from 26th Oct – 27th Nov 2020 at the UXO Lao Training Center. The purpose of the training was to provide the 14 UXO Lao deminers from XKH provinces with the Explosive Disposal Deminer Level 3 training.



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INTRODUCTION

UXO Lao is pleased to share the Annual Work Plan for 2021 with all interested parties in the UXO sector. The results listed in the 2020 UXO Lao Annual Report highlight the achievements made by UXO Lao last year and the work plan details what activities are to be undertaken by the largest national humanitarian UXO clearance operator in Lao PDR.

As a result of the Second Indochina War (1964-1973), Lao PDR became known as the most heavily bombed country in the world per capita as over two million tons of bombs were dropped on the country during this period. In response to level of UXO contamination, UXO Lao was established in 1996 by the Government of Lao PDR, UNDP, UNICEF and other stakeholders. The purpose of UXO Lao is to ensure as many people live free from the dangers associated with UXO and this is done through the effective implementation of evidence-based survey coupled with efficient clearance of land, be it for agricultural or development purposes and through the provision of essential mine risk education.

In 2021, UXO Lao will continue to implement the five key activities across nine provinces including Mine/UXO Risk Education, Non-Technical Survey, Technical Survey, Roving or Spot Task and Area Clearance. Roving tasks, however, are only conducted on a call-out or request basis by villagers and survey teams and therefore are not subject to annual targets.

The work plan for 2021 aims to build on the work of recent years and by doing so, UXO Lao will contribute to improving Lao citizens' livelihoods by reducing the impact of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in nine of the most UXO contaminated provinces. The measurement of this is evident when considering the 89% decrease of UXO casualties recorded per year which has drastically reduced from over 300 in 2008 to 33 in 2020. This substantial decrease is linked to the effective transmission of essential MRE and clearance of high-risk areas throughout Lao PDR. This result, although positive with the continuous decline in the number of casualties, still indicates that there is still one victim too many.

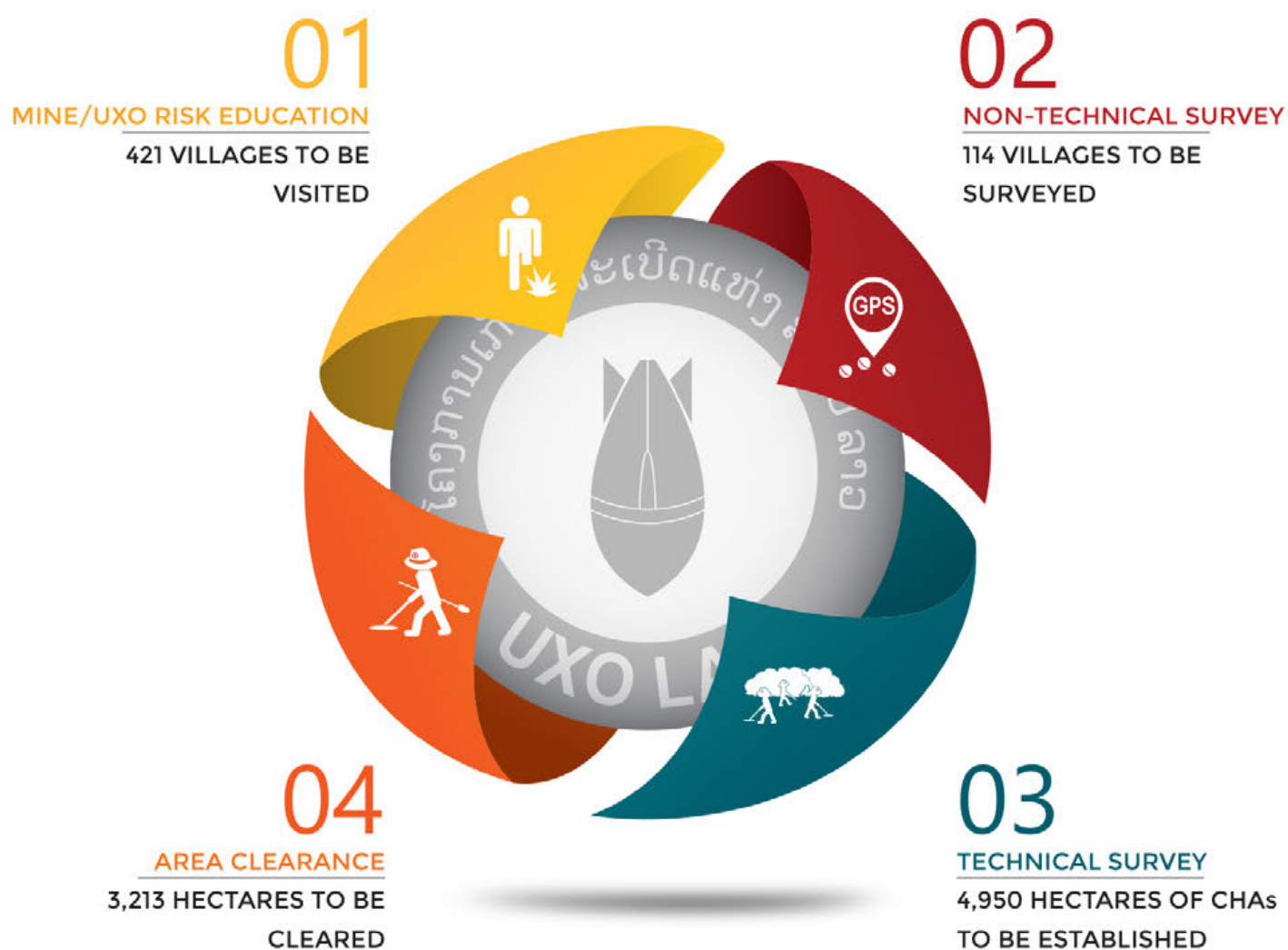
Funding remains a challenge for UXO Lao in 2021 as the total projected funding requirement for the targeted outputs exceeds the total funding available resulting in a funding gap of over USD 1.2 million. Moreover, UXO Lao Luang Prabang will face the funding shortfalls and all teams in Luang Prabang will temporarily stand down until the new commitment by development partners was confirmed before the operations can be resumed. This will affect staff performance and planned activities of UXO Lao Luang Prabang and UXO Lao annual outputs as a whole. Furthermore, many vehicles and field equipment in particular handheld detectors are aging and need to be replaced.

In addition, in case the second wave of COVID-19 outbreak occurs in the country, UXO Lao may have to temporarily suspend field operations which will affect the overall outputs in 2021.

UXO Lao will put its best effort to implement the planned activities in order to reduce the number of UXO-related casualties and clear land for safe use by local people and support development needs of authorities significantly contributing to the socio-economic development plan and SDG-18.

SUMMARY OF UXO LAO'S OPERATIONAL TARGETS FOR 2021

UXO Lao operational targets in 2021 for each activity are detailed as follows:



UXO LAO'S HEADQUARTERS TARGETS FOR 2021

Expected outputs and indicators including baseline and annual targets	Planned activities including M&E to be undertaken in 2021 as per the project document	Timeframe			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Programme Office and Public Information Unit (PO-PI)					
Target: 500 annual reports, 4,000 brochures, 10 posters, 800 calendars and 2,000 folders Indicator: Number of items printed per category	Print the 2020 annual report, brochures, posters, 2022 calendar and folders.		X	X	X
Target: 1,500 books, 1,500 pens, 1,000 cups, 1,000 t-shirts, 1,000 caps and 1,000 badges Indicator: Number of items produced	Produce souvenirs for exhibition inclusive of the UXO Lao logo and donors/implementing partners emblems.		X		
Target: 15 participants Indicator: 1 time	Attend training for project proposal writing, report, Strategic Planning and other relevant courses.		X	X	
Target: 10 participants Indicator: 1 time	Attend training for graphic design, photography/videography, communication and writing news on social media.			X	X
Target: 9 participants Indicator: 1 time	Attend training for developing a UXO Lao website			X	
Target: 3 visits (3 people/visit) Indicator: Number of reports and proposals created	Conduct Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), collecting data and impact stories for donor reports and proposal writing and another field trip.	X	X	X	X
Target: 3 people/visit Indicator: 5 visits	Accompany high level delegation and other important visits.	X	X	X	X
Target: 65+ participants Indicator: 1 time	Organize Semi-Annual Work Plan Review Meeting for UXO Lao HQ and 9 provinces.		X		
Target: 70+ participants Indicator: 1 time	Organize 2021 UXO Lao Annual Work Plan Review Meeting and 2022 operational work plan.				X
Operations Unit (OPS)					
Target: N/A Indicator: 3 parts: north, center and south visits	Conduct monitoring for UXO Lao field operations in 9 provinces particularly regarding AC, TS/CHA and NTS.	X	X	X	
Target: 3 people/visit Indicator: 1 visit	Conduct field operational monitoring for BC and UXO clearance in 3 southern provinces (SLV, SK, CPS).			X	
Targets: 3 people/visit Indicator: 3 parts: north, center and south visits.	Conduct monitoring on Team Base Operation Management System (TBOM) and training, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (TMEU) around 9 provinces.		X	X	X
Target: 50 participants Indicator: 1 time	Conduct UXO Lao Technical Workshop for survey and clearance operation.			X	
Target: 3 people/visit Indicator: 2 visits	Conduct field operational monitoring of mechanical sub-munitions clearance (KOMATSU).		X		X
Target: 12 posters and 18 field signs Indicator: 1 time	Print the bombing data on contamination mapping and a sign marking the administrative location of the clearance site for HQ, TC and 9 provinces; Also print the operation flow chart and provinces operation organizations.			X	
Target: Online monitoring Indicator: 1 time	Desktop computer and LCD monitor for operation online monitoring at HQ.	X	X		

Information Management Unit (IM)					
Target: 3 IM staff members Indicator: 3 times	Follow-up and monitor IM and collect data which were not entered in IMSMA of UXO Lao 9 provinces; Follow up and monitor IT system of UXO Lao 9 provinces.		X	X	X
Target: HQ and 9 provinces Indicator: 1 time	Improve Network and Internet system for HQ and 5 provincial offices.		X		
Target: HQ and 9 provinces Indicator: 5 times	Installation and Configuration Cisco and VPN point to point from HQ to 9 provinces + Cisco software Management (10 of Cisco ASA5506-K9 + Cisco AnyConnect software license)		X	X	X
Target: HQ and 5 provinces Indicator: 5 times	Conduct training on Mine Action Reporting System (MARS) in 5 provinces (HP, KM, SVK, SLV and ATP).		X	X	
Mine Risk Education Unit (MRE)					
Target: 1 visit Indicator: 5 participants	Follow up and monitor the implementation of MRE team in XK, SVK and SLV provinces.	X			X
Target: 35 participants Indicator: 1 time	Conduct meeting on review mine risk education task (puppet show) for SVK, SLV, CPS and ATP in Vientiane province.		X		
Target: 45 participants Indicator: 1 time	Conduct technical meeting on new concept of Mine Risk Education in Vientiane.			X	
Target: 8,500 posters, 8,500 children white T-Shirts, 8,500 adult white T-shirts, 42,200 Writing Notebooks Indicator: Number of items produced per category	Production of MRE materials to distribute to 9 provinces.	X	X	X	X
Quality Management Unit (QM)					
Target: Monitoring visits to all 3 QM teams Indicator: Number of visits conducted	Assessment of QM teams (by 2 HQ staff + OPS staff).		X	X	
Target: Spot check in 9 provinces Indicator: Number of spot check reports	Conduct spot checks for UXO Lao in 9 provinces.	X			
Target: 9 provinces Indicator: Number of IA Reports	Conduct Internal Audit Rotate Inspection at UXO Lao 9 provinces by provincial internal audit teams + HQ Internal Audit (The practical will be conducted by IA/HQ only, based on condition).		X	X	X
Target: 4 Inspection per province Indicator: Number of QM Reports	Mobile QM Teams Operations.	X	X	X	X
Target: 1 visit for QM/UXO Lao combine with QM/NRA Indicator: Number of Field Inspection Report	Conduct field inspection visit for QM/UXO Lao combine with QM/NRA.				X

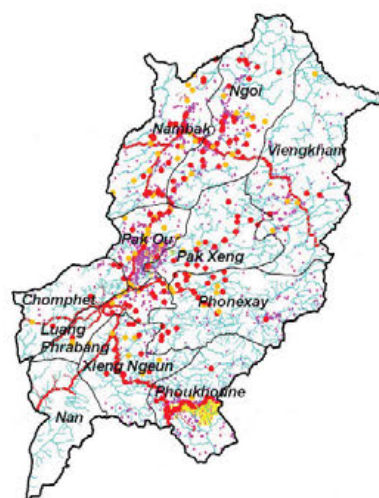
Logistic and Procurement Unit (LOG)					
Target: 5 participants Indicator: 9 times	Conduct monitoring on fuel usage, vehicle maintenance, physical check of assets, repairing Vallon and VHF Radio in 9 provinces.	x	x	x	x
Target: 15 participants Indicator: 2 times	Training new provincial staff on the Asset Management System.	x		x	
Target: 30 participants Indicator: 1 time	Training on updated logistics policy and procurement processes.			x	
Target: 8 times Indicator: Quantity of equipment delivered	Deliver field and office equipment to 9 provinces.	x	x	x	x
Finance Unit (FIN)					
Target: 12 participants Indicator: 3 times	Supervise and monitor financial documents in 9 provinces		x	x	x
Target: 9 beneficiaries Indicator: 1 time	Maintenance of finance system (ACCPAC)			x	x
Target: 45 participants Indicator: 1 time	Conduct UXO Lao Accounting Manual and Grant Management training, Review NIM, budget 2021 and prepare budget plan 2022				x
Administration & Human Resource Unit (ADMIN-HR)					
Target: 4 people Indicator: 3 visits	Follow-up and supervise the implementation of NIM and auditor recommendations with finance and logistic procurement in 9 provinces		x		x
Target: 3 people Indicator: 1 visit	Conduct monitoring of the implementation of HRMS in 9 provinces			x	
Target: 9 provinces Indicator: The number of staff who are recruited	Participate in recruitment interviews in 9 provinces	x	x	x	x
Target: 30 participants Indicator: 1 time	Conduct administration review meeting for 9 provinces				x

The image is a composite of two photographs. The top photograph shows a man in a light-colored uniform and a wide-brimmed hat, holding a walkie-talkie to his mouth. The bottom photograph shows a man in a similar uniform, kneeling and working with a yellow electronic device. An American flag patch is visible on his sleeve. A semi-transparent white banner with text is overlaid across the middle of the image. A circular logo for 'UXO LAO' is also visible on the right side of the banner.

Summary of the UXO Lao Operational Work Plan Breakdown by Province

LUANG PRABANG PROVINCE

- Luang Prabang Province covers an area of 16,875 square kilometers. The province comprises of 12 districts and the main city is Luang Prabang town.
- UXO Lao Luang Prabang was established in April 1998.
- The achievements since its establishment to December 2020 are as follows:
 - 3,592 hectares of land cleared, this covered 2,986 hectares for agriculture and 606 hectares for development projects.
 - 397 sites of confirmed hazardous areas identified, covering 2,771 hectares of contaminated land.
 - 1,314 Mine/UXO Risk Education village visits conducted, 546,647 people made aware of the risks associated with UXOs through MRE, 36% of whom were children.
 - The total number of UXO found and disposed of: 190,501 items, of which 36,934 items or 19% were cluster munitions bomblets.



ANNUAL TARGETS FOR 2021



ANNUAL TARGETS BREAKDOWN BY DISTRICTS

Districts	Targets (Villages)
Luang Prabang	2
Pak Ou	7
Nambak	8
Ngoi	10
Pakxeng	4
Phonxay	4
Phoukhoun	5
Total	40
Mine Risk Education	

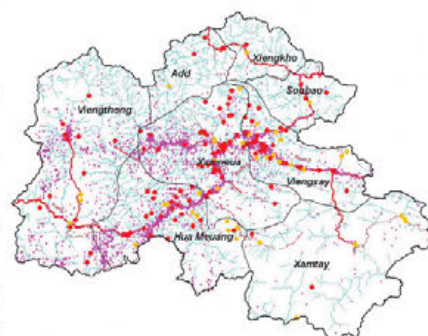
Districts	Targets (Villages)
Luang Prabang	1
Pak Ou	3
Nambak	3
Ngoi	2
Pakxeng	1
Phonxay	1
Phoukhoun	1
Total	12
Non-Technical Survey	

Districts	Targets (Villages)
Luang Prabang	2
Pak Ou	2
Nambak	3
Ngoi	1
Pakxeng	1
Phonxay	1
Phoukhoun	1
Total	11
Technical Survey	

Districts	Targets (m ²)
Luang Prabang	150,186
Pak Ou	167,411
Nambak	357,057
Ngoi	318,411
Phoukhoun	65,164
Total	1,058,229
Area Clearance	

HUAPHAN PROVINCE

- Huaphan Province covers an area of 16,500 square kilometers. The province comprises of 10 districts and the capital city is Xam Neua.
- UXO Lao Huaphan was established in December 1996.
- The achievements since its establishment to December 2020 are as follows:
 - 3,931 hectares of land cleared, this covered 3,601 hectares for agriculture and 330 hectares for development projects.
 - 397 sites of confirmed hazardous areas identified, covering 4,246 hectares of contaminated land.
 - 1,355 Mine/UXO Risk Education village visits conducted, 471,783 people made aware of the risks associated with UXOs through MRE, 40% of whom were children.
 - The total number of UXO found and disposed of: 111,909 items, of which 59,295 items or 53% were cluster munitions bomblets.



ANNUAL TARGETS FOR 2021

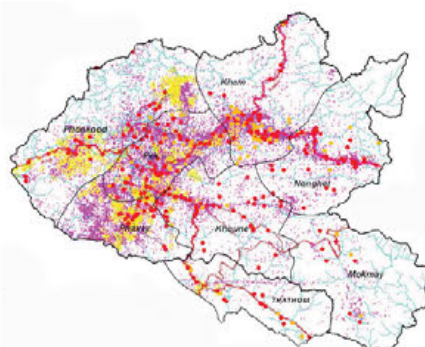


ANNUAL TARGETS BREAKDOWN BY DISTRICTS

Districts	Targets (Villages)	Districts	Targets (Villages)	Districts	Targets (Villages)	Districts	Targets (m ²)
Xamneua	24	Xamneua	6	Xamneua	19	Xamneua	176,650
Hiem	3	Viengxay	4	Viengxay	13	Hiem	217,490
Viengxay	18	Xone	2	Xone	3	Viengxay	164,653
Xone	5					Xone	844,296
Total	50	Total	12	Total	35	Total	1,403,089
Mine Risk Education		Non-Technical Survey		Technical Survey		Area Clearance	

XIENGKHUANG PROVINCE

- Xiengkhuang Province covers an area of 15,880 square kilometers. The province comprises of 7 districts and the capital city is Pek.
- UXO Lao Xiengkhuang was established in November 1996.
- The achievements since its establishment to December 2020 are as follows:
 - 10,099 hectares of land cleared, this covered 8,914 hectares for agriculture and 1,185 hectares for development projects.
 - 697 sites of confirmed hazardous areas identified, covering 7,355 hectares of contaminated land.
 - 2,049 Mine/UXO Risk Education village visits conducted, 551,207 people made aware of the risks associated with UXOs through MRE, 43% of whom were children.
 - The total number of UXO found and disposed of: 453,187 items, of which 279,173 items or 62% were cluster munitions bomblets.



ANNUAL TARGETS FOR 2021

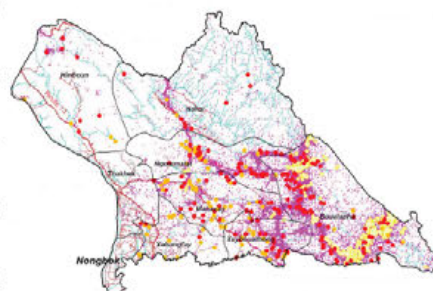


ANNUAL TARGETS BREAKDOWN BY DISTRICTS

Districts	Targets (Villages)	Districts	Targets (Villages)	Districts	Targets (Villages)	Districts	Targets (m ²)
Pek	16	Pek	5	Pek	12	Pek	3,936,000
Kham	17	Kham	4	Kham	2	Kham	1,252,170
Morkmay	4	Morkmay	2	Phoukoud	10	Phoukoud	2,126,413
Phoukoud	13	Phoukoud	4				
Total	50	Total	15	Total	24	Total	7,314,583
Mine Risk Education		Non-Technical Survey		Technical Survey		Area Clearance	

KHAMMUANE PROVINCE

- Khammuane Province covers an area of 16,315 square kilometers. The province comprises of 10 districts and the capital city is Thakhek.
- UXO Lao Khammuane was established in May 1999.
- The achievements since its establishment to December 2020 are as follows:
 - 3,841 hectares of land cleared, this covered 3,382 hectares for agriculture and 459 hectares for development projects.
 - 404 sites of confirmed hazardous areas identified, covering 5,343 hectares of contaminated land.
 - 1,437 Mine/UXO Risk Education village visits conducted, 494,992 people made aware of the risks associated with UXOs through MRE, 47% of whom were children.
 - The total number of UXO found and disposed of: 159,322 items, of which 84,161 items or 53% were cluster munitions bomblets.



ANNUAL TARGETS FOR 2021

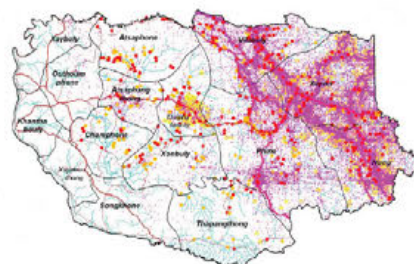


ANNUAL TARGETS BREAKDOWN BY DISTRICTS

Districts	Targets (Villages)	Districts	Targets (Villages)	Districts	Targets (Villages)	Districts	Targets (m ²)
Mahaxay	15	Mahaxay	3	Mahaxay	9	Mahaxay	697,547
Bualapha	15	Bualapha	3	Ngommalath	10	Ngommalath	702,504
Xebangfay	14	Xebangfay	3	Bualapha	6	Bualapha	1,052,376
Xaybouathong	15	Xaybouathong	3	Xaybouathong	4	Xaybouathong	1,053,652
Total	59	Total	12	Total	29	Total	3,506,079
Mine Risk Education		Non-Technical Survey		Technical Survey		Area Clearance	

SAVANNAKHET PROVINCE

- Savannakhet Province covers an area of 21,774 square kilometers. The province comprises of 15 districts and the capital city is Kaysone Phomvihane.
- UXO Lao Savannakhet was established in October 1996.
- The achievements since its establishment to December 2020 are as follows:
 - 7,750 hectares of land cleared, this covered 7,377 hectares for agriculture and 373 hectares for development projects.
 - 790 sites of confirmed hazardous areas identified, covering 6,488 hectares of contaminated land.
 - 1,636 Mine/UXO Risk Education village visits conducted, 433,317 people made aware of the risks associated with UXOs through MRE, 38% of whom were children.
 - The total number of UXO found and disposed of: 254,739 items, of which 127,863 items or 50% were cluster munitions bomblets.



ANNUAL TARGETS FOR 2021

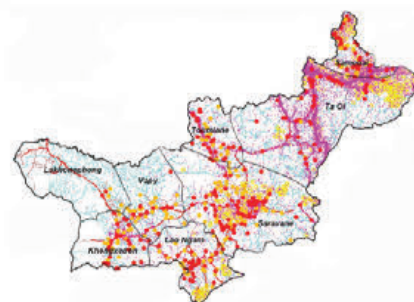


ANNUAL TARGETS BREAKDOWN BY DISTRICTS

Districts	Targets (Villages)	Districts	Targets (Villages)	Districts	Targets (Villages)	Districts	Targets (m ²)
Phin	8	Phin	3	Sepon	6	Atsaphangthong	301,497
Sepon	10	Sepon	2	Nong	15	Phin	1,420,772
Nong	16	Nong	3	Thapangthong	1	Sepon	865,377
Vilabouly	8	Vilabouly	2	Vilabouly	4	Nong	1,409,369
Atsaphone	3	Thaphalanxay	2	Atsaphone	5	Vilabouly	1,005,090
Thaphalanxay	5					Atsaphone	219,557
Total	50	Total	12	Total	31	Thaphalanxay	1,431,596
Mine Risk Education		Non-Technical Survey		Technical Survey		Total	6,653,258
						Area Clearance	

SALAVAN PROVINCE

- Salavan Province covers an area of 16,389 square kilometers. The province comprises of 8 districts and the capital city is Salavan.
- UXO Lao Salavan was established in July 1997.
- The achievements since its establishment to December 2020 are as follows:
 - 5,770 hectares of land cleared, this covered 4,958 hectares for agriculture and 812 hectares for development projects.
 - 495 sites of confirmed hazardous areas, covering 3,553 hectares of contaminated land.
 - 1,472 Mine/UXO Risk Education village visits conducted, 360,310 people made aware of the risks associated with UXOs through MRE, 38% of whom were children.
 - The total number of UXO found and disposed of: 226,344 items, of which 115,929 items or 51% were cluster munitions bomblets.



ANNUAL TARGETS FOR 2021



ANNUAL TARGETS BREAKDOWN BY DISTRICTS

Districts	Targets (Villages)
Salavan	10
Ta Oi	10
Toumlan	8
Vapi	7
Khongxedon	7
Lao Ngam	8
Samuay	10
Total	60
Mine Risk Education	

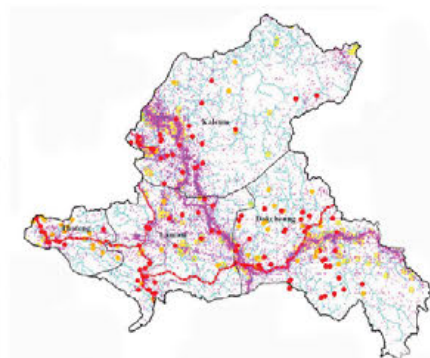
Districts	Targets (Villages)
Salavan	2
Ta Oi	2
Toumlan	2
Vapi	1
Khongxedon	1
Lao Ngam	2
Samuay	2
Total	12
Non-Technical Survey	

Districts	Targets (Villages)
Salavan	6
Ta Oi	7
Toumlan	5
Vapi	3
Khongxedon	5
Lao Ngam	7
Samuay	10
Total	43
Technical Survey	

Districts	Targets (m ²)
Salavan	882,860
Ta Oi	782,142
Toumlan	704,363
Vapi	357,024
Khongxedon	384,639
Lao Ngam	360,121
Samuay	334,212
Total	3,805,361
Area Clearance	

SEKONG PROVINCE

- Sekong Province covers an area of 7,665 square kilometers. The province comprises of 4 districts and the capital city is Lamam.
- UXO Lao Sekong was established in January 1998.
- The achievements since its establishment to December 2020 are as follows:
 - 3,070 hectares of land cleared, this covered 2,556 hectares for agriculture and 514 hectares for development projects.
 - 245 sites of confirmed hazardous areas identified, covering 1,788 hectares of contaminated land.
 - 1,333 Mine/UXO Risk Education village visits conducted, 248,449 people made aware of the risks associated with UXOs through MRE, 44% of whom were children.
 - The total number of UXO found and disposed of: 91,750 items, of which 53,129 items or 58% were cluster munitions bomblets.



ANNUAL TARGETS FOR 2021

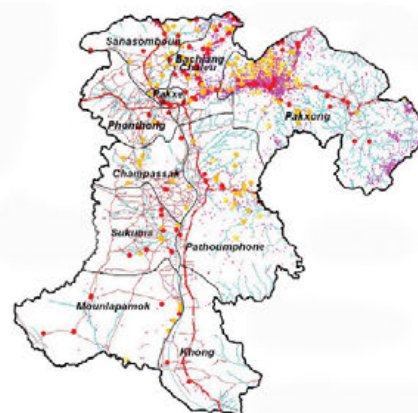


ANNUAL TARGETS BREAKDOWN BY DISTRICTS

Districts	Targets (Villages)	Districts	Targets (Villages)	Districts	Targets (Villages)	Districts	Targets (m ²)
Lamam	4	Lamam	4	Lamam	1	Lamam	2,093,446
Kaleum	2	Kaleum	2	Kaleum	4	Kaleum	31,041
Dakcheung	3	Dakcheung	3	Dakcheung	8	Dakcheung	184,543
Thateng	3	Thateng	3	Thateng	2	Thateng	110,009
Total	12	Total	12	Total	15	Total	2,419,039
Mine Risk Education		Non-Technical Survey		Technical Survey		Area Clearance	

CHAMPASAK PROVINCE

- Champasak Province covers an area of 15,415 square kilometers. The province comprises of 10 districts and the capital city is Pakse.
- UXO Lao Champasak was established in July 1997.
- The achievements since its establishment to December 2020 are as follows:
 - 3,995 hectares of land cleared, this covered 3,487 hectares for agriculture and 508 hectares for development projects.
 - 389 sites of confirmed hazardous areas identified, covering 1,802 hectares of contaminated land.
 - 1,660 Mine/UXO Risk Education village visits conducted, 465,564 people made aware of the risks associated with UXOs through MRE, 56% of whom were children.
 - The total number of UXO found and disposed of: 134,091 items, of which 50,503 items or 38% were cluster munitions.



ANNUAL TARGETS FOR 2021

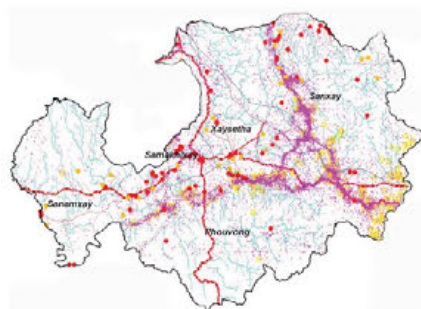


ANNUAL TARGETS BREAKDOWN BY DISTRICTS

Districts	Targets (Villages)	Districts	Targets (Villages)	Districts	Targets (Villages)	Districts	Targets (m ²)
Sanasomboun	4	Pakse	1	Pakse	1	Sanasomboun	154,702
Bachiang Chaleunsouk	11	Sanasomboun	4	Sanasomboun	5	Bachiang Chaleunsouk	202,038
Paksong	18	Bachiang Chaleunsouk	2	Bachiang Chaleunsouk	6	Paksong	1,574,487
Pathoumphone	4	Paksong	1	Paksong	23	Pathoumphone	25,421
Champasak	2	Pathoumphone	2	Pathoumphone	2	Sukuma	51,266
Sukuma	3	Sukuma	2	Sukuma	2	Mounlapamok	89,324
Mounlapamok	4	Mounlapamok	2	Mounlapamok	3		
Khong	4	Khong	1	Khong	3		
Total	50	Total	15	Total	45	Total	2,097,238
Mine Risk Education		Non-Technical Survey		Technical Survey		Area Clearance	

ATTAPEU PROVINCE

- Attapeu Province covers an area of 1,032 square kilometers. The province comprises of 5 districts and the capital city is Samakkeixay
- UXO Lao Attapeu was established in January 1998.
- The achievements since its establishment to December 2020 are as follows:
 - 4,846 hectares of land cleared, this covered 3,783 hectares for agriculture and 1,063 hectares for development projects.
 - 402 sites of confirmed hazardous areas identified, covering 2,378 hectares of contaminated land.
 - 1,319 Mine/UXO Risk Education village visits conducted, 439,854 people made aware of the risks associated with UXOs through MRE, 45% of whom were children.
 - The total number of UXO found and disposed of: 94,934 items, of which 71,145 items or 75% were cluster munitions.



ANNUAL TARGETS FOR 2021



ANNUAL TARGETS BREAKDOWN BY DISTRICTS

Districts	Targets (Villages)	Districts	Targets (Villages)	Districts	Targets (Villages)	Districts	Targets (m ²)
Saysettha	8	Samakkeixay	2	Saysettha	4	Saysettha	729,548
Samakkeixay	10	Sanamxay	4	Samakkeixay	6	Samakkeixay	768,460
Sanamxay	14	Sanxay	4	Sanamxay	4	Sanamxay	227,723
Sanxay	12	Phouvong	2	Sanxay	5	Sanxay	1,035,632
Phouvong	6			Phouvong	7	Phouvong	1,113,934
Total	50	Total	12	Total	26	Total	3,875,297
Mine Risk Education		Non-Technical Survey		Technical Survey		Area Clearance	

OVERALL FUNDING SITUATION

UXO Lao receives funds channeled directly through UNDP as well as through bilateral agreements. The table below shows the projected funding sources for the year 2021 (as of January 2021).

Funds channeled through UNDP (USD)	
Ireland	70,000
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg	37,500
New Zealand	1,596,203
Funds through bilateral agreement (USD)	
United States of America (Tetra Tech)	5,582,912
Japan International Cooperation System (JICS)	2,093,983
World Without Mines Foundation (WWM)	191,835
Total Projected Funds Available	10,152,963
Total Projected Funding Requirements	11,917,174
Total Funding Gap	1,763,971

SUMMARY OF BUDGET BY LOCATION FOR 2021

Location/Office	Budget in USD
UXO Lao Provincial Offices:	
Luang Prabang (LPB)	694,407
Huaphan (HP)	602,764
Xiengkhuang (XKH)	1,388,879
Khammuane (KM)	1,203,955
Savannakhet (SVK)	1,754,843
Salavan (SLV)	1,129,544
Sekong (SK)	927,724
Champasak (CPS)	757,030
Attapeu (ATP)	992,799
UXO Lao Headquarters (HQ), including UNDP General Management Support (GMS) and Technical Support	1,367,424
TOTAL	10,810,370

SUMMARY OF BUDGET BY ACTIVITY FOR 2021

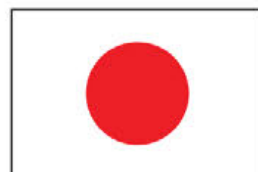
Activities	Budget in USD
Mine/UXO Risk Education	288,000
Non-Technical Survey	222,417
Technical Survey	963,500
Area Clearance	5,075,500
Brush Cutting Operations	477,622
Procurement*	1,097,743
Provincial Offices Operating Costs	1,249,186
UXO Lao Headquarters Activities and Operating Costs	1,100,971
UNDP General Management Support (GMS) and Technical Support	335,430
Total	10,810,370

* The major procurement for 2021 includes: machinery and field equipment, other materials and goods, explosives and detonating devices, transport equipment and tires and office equipment.

UXO LAO PERSONNEL (AS OF 31ST OF JANUARY 2021)

Number of Staff	Locations											
	ATP	CPS	HP	KM	LPB	SLV	SVK	SK	XK	TC	HQ	Total
Office Staff	18	18	13	16	13	18	17	22	15	7	62	219
Advisors	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	7	11
SEOD	3	1	1	4	3	4	9	2	4	1	-	32
Mine Risk Education	6	6	5	6	5	5	7	5	6	-	-	51
Non-Technical Survey	3	4	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	-	-	37
Technical Survey	11	22	22	22	12	22	31	11	22	-	-	175
Area Clearance	108	50	40	100	30	100	180	62	109	-	-	779
Roving	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	4
Brush Cutting Operation	-	13	-	-	-	15	-	22	-	-	-	50
Cluster Sub-Munitions Mechanical Clearance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	-	-	26
Cleaners	2	2	3	10	1	7	7	4	5	2	2	45
Guards	4	2	3	9	3	12	6	5	2	2	-	48
Total	156	118	91	172	72	187	262	138	198	12	71	1,477

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