



ຄະນະກຳມະການຄຸ້ມຄອງແຫ່ງຊາດເພື່ອແກ້  
ໄຂບັນຫາລະເບີດບໍ່ທັນແຕກທີ່ຕົກຄ້າງຢູ່  
ສປປລາວ

National Regulatory  
Authority for UXO/Mine  
Action in the Lao PDR



## The Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Problem and Operational Progress in the Lao PDR

### Official Figures

- Laos is the most heavily bombed country, per capita, in history
- Approximately **25%** of villages in Laos are contaminated with Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)
- More than **580,000** bombing missions were conducted over Laos
- Over **2 million tons** of ordnance were dropped on Laos between 1964 and 1973
- Cluster sub-munitions or 'Bombies' (as they are known locally) are the most common form of UXO remaining
- More than **270 million** bombies were dropped onto Laos
- Up to **30%** failed to detonate
- Approximately **80 million** unexploded bombies remained in Laos after the war
- All **17** provinces of Laos suffer from UXO contamination
- **41** out of the **46\*** poorest districts in Laos have UXO contamination\* \*
- **Over 50,000** people have been killed or injured as a result of UXO accidents in the period 1964 -2008
- **Over 20,000** people have been killed or injured as a result of UXO accidents post-war period, 1974-2008

Of this 50,000 total casualties figure:

- **60%** were killed
- **40%** were injured
- **23%** were children
- **13%** were female
- **15%** were caused by cluster bombs
- **20,000** plus survived the accident

Of this 20,000

- Some **13,500** lost a limb
- **25%** of total casualties were in **Savannakhet** Province
- **12%** of total casualties were in **Xiengkhuang** Province
- Over the last decade there have been approximately **300** new casualties annually
- Over the last decade accidents caused by cluster bombs rose to **30%** of total casualties
- Over the last decade **40%** of total casualties were children

UXO/Mine action operations, over the period 1996 to 2009, have produced:

- **1,090,228** items of UXO destroyed, including:
  - **5,242** big bombs destroyed
  - **480,297** cluster sub-munitions/bombies destroyed
  - **6,095** mines destroyed
  - **597,405** other UXO items destroyed
- **23,070** hectares of land **cleared**. Of this figure;
  - **15,931** hectares were used for **agricultural** purposes
  - **7,139** hectares were used for **development** purposes
- **914** hectares of land released land via **ETS** (Enhanced Technical Survey). Of this figure;
  - **746** hectares were used for **agricultural** purposes
  - **168** hectares were used for **development** purposes
- **12,039** Risk Education village visits (including re-visits) were conducted.

\* Previously a figure of 47 poorest districts has been referred to in many documents. In late 2009 Borikhan District in Bolikhamxay Province, included in this figure of 47, was formally elevated off this list having met multiple development objectives.

\*\* Poorest as defined by the Government of Laos in the National Socio-economic Development Plan

**Authorised by the Director of the NRA**



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### References Documents

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- US Congressional Records - available at the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action in the Lao PDR
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- National Study on the socio-economic Impact of Unexploded Ordnance, HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL, [1997](#)
- The National UXO Accidents and Victim Survey Phase 1 Report prepared by the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action, NRA, Vientiane, December [2009](#)
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- Lao UXO Sector Evaluation Report, Robert Griffin, Robert Keeley and Phetdavanh Sayyasouk, Vientiane, July [2008](#)
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