

Annual Report

Humanitarian UXO Clearance in Xiengkhouang Province, Lao PDR

01 March 2009 - 28 February 2010









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Lao PDR : Lao People's Democratic Republic
UNDP : United Nations for Development Programme

WOFA : Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MLSW : Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare

NRA : National Regulatory Authority
UXO Lao : Lao Unexploded Ordnance Programme

JMAS : Japan Mine Action Service FSD : Swiss Foundation for Mine Action

MAG : Mine Advisory Group

MILSEARCH: Milsearch-BPKP EOD Joint-Venture Limited

PCL: Phoenix Clearance Limited (Lanxang Bomb Disposal
BACTEC: Battle Area Clearance and Training Equipment Consultants

JICA : Japan International Cooperation Agency

TA : Technical Advisor

SEOD : Senior for Explosive Ordnance Disposal
EOD : Explosive Ordnance Disposal

Bombies : Terminology used by Lao PDR to describe sub-munitions/bomblets

Acronyms and Abbreviation	Page 1
Contents	Page 2
Foreword by Resident Representative of JMAS	Page 3-4
Foreword by Programme Manager of JMAS	Page 5-6
Forward by Senior Technical Advisor of JMAS	Page 7-8
1. General Information on Lao PDR	Page 9
II. Introduction	Page 10
1. UXO Problem and impact in Lao PDR	Page 11
- Table 1. Summary Report of UXO Accidents in Lao PDR	Page 12
2. Issued for UXO Problem	Page 13
3. Overview of Xiengkhouang Province	Page 14
- Table 2. UXO Accidents data in Xiengkhouang Province	from
1999-2009	
	Page 15
III. About JMAS	
1 and 2. JMAS Background and JMAS in Lao PDR	
	Page 16-17
3. Operation	Page 18-25
IV. Achievement	Page 26
- Table 3 (Community Awareness Activity)	Page 27
- Table 4 (Survey Activity)	Page 28
- Table 5 (Roving Activity)	Page 29
- Table 6 (Clearance Activity)	Page 30



The UXO (Unexploded Ordnance) clearance project commenced in 2006, which makes the year 2009 the fourth year of the project.

JMAS has been carrying out the project smoothly and efficiently in cooperation with the UXO Lao, JMAS has steadily transferred the technical skill to the UXO Lao technicians between each of their team leaders who are in charge of disposing the UXOs. As a result of this effort, I am convinced that

most of the UXO Lao technicians are now able to dispose the UXOs safely on their own, as they have received the proper training and education at the team leader's level. Furthermore, in order to raise the overall technical level of the technicians working for the UXO Lao - XKH (Xieng Khuang) Project, JMAS has assessed each of their current level of skill-set except for those in the CA (Community Awareness) team. Based on this assessment, we were able to set a goal for the further technical trainings in the future.

This fiscal year's goals with the disposals of the UXOs showed great accomplishments: 11,189 hombies were disposed, 547 hectares of land were made safe, and 11,557 residents in 94 villages received educational trainings through the CA activities. The project's development in XKH was remarkable and it contributed in securing the lives of the people in the region. The JMAS TA (Technical Advisor)'s appropriate advises was a large contributing factor in

The high technical skills and the deep knowledge possessed by the JMAS TA were appreciated highly by the UXO Lao, the NRA (National regulatory Authority), and the UNDP through its four years of the UXO clearance activities. We were able to exchange necessary information and conduct disposal activities of the cannons and bombs, as well as the large bombs and chemical bombs, which the UXO Lao previously had difficulties with. These activities carried by JMAS were evaluated highly and solidly relied upon. Such results show the efficiency of the JMAS's activities in the clearance of the UXOs in Laos, and also prove the idea of "visible assistance" that the Japanese

Government advocate

There are also high expectations for JMAS to conduct UXO clearance activities outside of the XKH Province, and we feel the strong need to continue our activities in Laos. Doing so will contribute in realizing the Japanese Government's motto of the "visible assistance."

We also believe that by cooperating with the media, we were able to provide the information on the current situation of the UXOs in Laos domestically and internationally.

In the fiscal year 2010, we will continue to carry out the UXO clearance project. We also aim to complete the transfer of techniques to the UXO Lao staff through the on-the-job trainings in XKH. We will also be conducting a project in Attapue with the UXO clearance by JAH (Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund) and rerate a basis for JMAS' activities in the southern region of the country.

In terms of the technical transfer, JMAS will work on improving the UXO technicians' skill-level by cooperating with the SEOD (Senior Explosive Ordnance Disposal) based on each technician's current skill-level; this will not be applied to the CA (Community Awareness) team members.

Lastly I would like to express our sincere gratitude for the Nippon Foundation and all their personnel, who have continuously supported our projects from the very begging. Without your kind support, our projects could not have been





With a deep consideration for what I can do for the people of Laos and a big excitement for the opportunity to work in the field of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) clearance, I began working as a JMAS staff on August 3, 2008.

Hissyo MORIKAWA.

Programme Manager have always had a great concern in the warfare that was going on in the world, especially among the Asian countries.

I was trenstudeady concerned about the Vietnum Wir; I was into reading all the messpaper coverage, movies, and TV programs that described the terrible mineries it was causing to the people. I was praying that It ended quickly so that no more vulnerable civilians would be harmed. The Iso Chi Minh Route, whose mane still remains in my heart strongly, was such a symbolic term for the killings of many unknown villagers by numberless bombs. The casualties were mon only soldiers, but also delects, children, and bables.

Now I am here in Laos, the country that experienced the enormous hardships from the war, and I have been working for JMAS, the organization that has been assisting the disposal of the UXO for more than 4 years. To me, it is a strange coincidence of life.

Upon my arrival, I first tried to gather all the relevant information from the MMS representative and also from the UXO Las staffs when I had the opportunity to join in the field activities at the Xieng Kuang project site. I felt the again reach to learn and gain the necessary knowledge on the subject matter because I did not even know the differences between bombs and bombies at first. Day by day, I was able to expand wy knowledge on the UXOs. I am very pleased for an opportunity to give a small briefing to Japanese university students.

Whenever I have this kind of opportunities, I feel the importance of letting young people join and learn about the UXO clearance activities in Laos. This is

because they are the ones to make the future of the world. If they know how horrible and dreadful the UXOs are, and how a huge number of people have been affected tremendously by the bombs and landmines to this day, it will help the young students move towards creating more peaceful future.

Through my work at JMAS, I have finally found my own goal, which is to take a role in the publicity work for JMAS' activities, to convey the messages to the younger generations.





Two years have passed by since I started working with UXO Lao-XKH staff members on the disposal of the Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) in Xieno Kuang (XKH), in March, 2008, I would like to describe two things that I was strongly impressed by the staff members. First, it was their ability to flexibly come up with the best solution in the given set of circumstance and to swiftly execute the needed operations. Here is one episode

from the occasion of collecting the UXOs. When we were collecting large UXOs in the mountains, where there were only narrow roads for people to walk on, someone like myself would immediately start thinking: "Is there any way we can obtain heavy-machinery to lift hefty UXOs and carry them? But how would we even bring such machinery into the mountains?" Of course, where we were was nowhere close to having such machineries, and I should not have even thought of such irrational possibilities in the first place. Instantly, I noticed that the UXO Lao staff members were cutting a tree down.

chopping off branches and twigs, and transforming it into a log. Then, using the metal wires and rongs that we had, they hanged the bomb to the log and carried it away. If there were no metal wires or ropes, they would instead utilize stems from the plants to hang the bomb. In instances like this, I feel that even though I have certain knowledge on the disposal of the UXOs as a technical advisor, such flexible ability to adjust to the given environment is something I do not

Secondly, it was their strong perseverance. The Roving Teams search and dispose UXOs in private rice paddy and farms, and other public properties that are allocated to each team. They conduct thorough searches for the UXOs in vast fields, using a metal detector. If the metal detector reacts, they dig the ground manually by hand using shovels, and dig out buried UXOs and any

These remarkable works are done no matter what the condition is; rain or shine. cold or hot, even on days when the temperature go up above 35 degrees Celsius, they work from the morning until evening. During the rainy season, they get covered in mud, but one step by step they make the land safer. In some ways,

this is the type of work, which once upon a time in Japan, was classified as "physically demanding, dirty, and dangerous," that many young people wanted to avoid.

Because there are not many job opportunities in Laos for young people could earn genuine compensations, perhaps it is true that some night be undertaking this job for that reason for the time being. However, this alone does not make one to undertake this day so of diguently. This is a job that cannot be pursued without the perseverance and the will power - the hope to create the local living environments after for the people in the community.

Including the period when the US Army provided temporary technical support and the British NOO, MAG undertook the project, it has been 14 years since the UXO clearance activities in Laos have began. However, statistical speaking, only US+9 of the entire UXOs undermined in Laos have been disposed. It almost seems nearly impossible to dispose every UXO in Laos, let alone disposating enough number of UXOs to ensure everyday life of the local people, which could take another unknown amount of years. However, it is also true that the pensistent effort, even linle by little, could contribute in making the lines of people in Laos saler, And we are looking florward to the day when the land will be safely used by the local people, and that is the driving force for our everyday effort.

The current skill set that the UXO I ao staff members possess may be not sufficient yet, and the process is long if we want to train thom to fully transfer the techniques. Also, the basic sure important, but we cannot attain their trust only by explaining the basic rules without satially understanding the reality. We need to provide technical trainings that meet the specific needs of each working site. Furthermore, no matter how great of interpreters we have, we cannot always convey our messages fully; what is important in order to build true communication is not only the verbal exchanges but also our willingness to work together in the field and undertake some risk-taking operations, including removal of fase from the bombs.

What I just explained are the basis of my intention in participating the project. I would be more than grateful if I could make any contribution to the UXO clearance activities through my trainings at the project site.



Laos or Lao People's Democratic Republic is the only land-locked country in mainland South-East Asia and is bordered by China to the North, Vietnam to the East, Cambodia to the South, Thailand and Myanmar to the West. The country is divided into 17 provinces and the capital city is Vientiane.

Its total land area is approximately 226,800 square kilometers, much of which is mountainous and densely forested covering about 47% of the country. The Mekong River, almost half the length of which flows through Laos, forms most of the border with Thailand. Large population centers (including Vientiane, Lumpgrabang, Pakse and Savannakhet) lie on the Mekong.

The population of Laos is approximately 6.8 million people (2009 est), which density is 23 people per square kilometers, one of the lowest in East Asia.

The population is diverse, consisting more than 60 ethnicities of four main ethnic groups such as Lao Louro covered by 68%, Lao Theung covered by 22%, Lao Sung covered by 9% and another ethnic group covered by 17% in swerage. The coronio of Laos is mainly dominated by subsistence agriculture (on which 80% of the population relies). The agriculture sector contributes more than 50 percents of CDP¹¹.

^{1.} http://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/lace/lace_brief.htm



1. UXO Problem and Impact in Lao PDR

Lao PDR is considered as a least developed country, much of land is measurances and densely forested covering, which poer infrastructure and macapitodes ordinance and landanises as well (Densig the Indochina Was macapitodes ordinance and Indonesias as well (Densig the Indochina Was and Compared to the Indochina Was and the Indochina Was and Indochina Was Indochina

Significant land battles, including the war for independence during the French colonial era and between the Pathet Lao and the Royal Lao forces, also contributed vast quantities of unexploded heavy bombs, rockets, grenades, artillery munitions, mortars, anti-personnel landmines, and improvised explosive devices.

It is estimated that up to 30% of all ordnance did not explode. Such unexploded ordnance (UXO) continues to remain in the ground, maining and killing people, and hindering socio-economic development and food security².



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Fre	From 1996 - 2009												
		Number of	Missel	Mumber of Medicales	Jan.		In	Injury			De	Death	
oN.	Province	accident		I A LO	(e)	Child	pi	Ad	Adult	Child			Adult
			Injury	Death	Total	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
-	Luangprabang	52	84	37	121	38			10	21	3	10	3
2	Huaphanh	51	74	19	88	23	10	35	9	9	2		
3	Xiengkhouang	273	323	123	446	141	43	118	21	48		53	6
4	Khammuane	63	9/	51	127	38		24	9	16		33	
5	Savannakhet	146	170	7.1	241	89	15	88	4	34	6	30	60
8	Saravan	20	61	28	88	23	2	23	10	13	2	12	
7	Sekong	19	23	18	41	9	00	00		7	2		
8	Champasack	54	87	40	127	41		27	12	12	2	24	2
6	Attapen	63	89	53	111	14	9	58	00	18		31	4
	Total	177	996	440	1,396	388	118	386	79	172	26	215	25

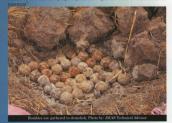
Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) is still a major for Laos, with the government is

classifying it as a priority area for poverty reduction and socio-economic

To solve the problem the Lao Government made a pact in 1995 with the United Nations Development Programme to set up the trust fund encouraging funding from different international organizations to provide assistance.

In 1996 various organizations worked to address the UXO problem, but could only clear about 0.002 percent of 87,900 square kilometers of land with a bill of more than USS 70 million.

Recently the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) for UXO and Mine Action and senior officials from the several government organizations are meeting in Vientine to discuss an action plan for the future (5-6 November, 2009). This needing the LaG Government has proposed its long term plan and strategy that From 2010 to 2020, UXO organizations will try to reduce the number of vietims to less than 500 people a varia, and to provide better access to medical



Vientiane Times Newspapers dated 06 November 2009, Page 3

Nenghboung Province is ranks 2" among the ten provinces severely impact by UAO. Xingshoung Province was always considered as strategically important geographic area. Fighting occurred in the area since the Japanese occupation during the Second World War, continuing after the French returns an to the period when the US replaced the French in supporting the Royalist Government, and the beginning of the Second Indo-China conflict. Unlike other UAO affected provinces, it appears that the war in Xiengshoung Province universe many the whole terminey of the province. Intense it and ground battless secured regularly between Printer Las and their Vietnamese affiles with the Royal Las Government. The plain of Jafe is a control placeau for all the world in the Royal Las Government. The plain of Jafe is a control placeau.



mountains and hills. Control of this was essential for the control of the province and the northern military theatre. Many of the wartine military activities concentrated around this area, as the opposing forces battled for control of the plain

Nemakhousus Province has a total land area approximately 16, 530 square kinoreters. Nemakhousung has 8 ejidi districts, it has approximately 567 Villages, and 36,577 household. The population was estimated at 266,930 people. Of the 49% villages surveyed in 1996 to 1997, two third of villages reported the presence of UXO. Of these, 129 villages are severely contaminated, with only 76 villages reported ever having had a problem with UXO."

UXO Lao Office, Xiengkhouang Province

Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme, annual report 2008, page 19

^{1.} Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme, annual report 2008, page 19

		Number of	N	Number of victims	,		2	Injury			D	Death	
° N	District	accidents		1	-	°	Child	V	Adult	ů	Child	*	Adult
			Injury	Death	Total	Mak	Female	Mak	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
10	Pek		53	18	7.1	19	7	23	0	13	-	2	60
8	Kham	28	25	en	58	12	2	6	-	2		-	•
g	Phaxay	16	11	w	16	4	•	φ	2	0	0	4	•
8	Khoun	-	-	0	-	0	•	-	0	0	0	0	•
8	Phoukout	7	7	0	7	٠	•	9	0	0	0	0	•
8	Nonghet	o	o	0	o	0	-	2	0	•	0	0	•
10	Thathom	e	e	0	е	2	•	F	0	0	0	0	0
	Fotal	135	109	38	135	2	10	49	6	15	1	10	3

OAO Lato need Outce, vicinistic capital

1. JMAS Background

Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS) is a Japanese non-profit organization cugaged in the international humaniturian activities by removing landmines and UXO in order to improve environment where people could have a better living condition; physical safety, livelihood, and food security, poverty reduction and sustainable environment.



2. JMAS in Lao PDR

MAS's programme in Lao PDR began in September 2005 which has been received budget from Japanese Government for UXOMine cleanure, programme in Laos. Its projects has usen in Kreighbourag Province with a Representative Office of JMAS in Vientiane Capital. JMAS's mission is to provide a financial, technical and administrative support the clearance operation of UXO Lao in Xiengshourag Province, on an annual basis that is also subjected to finding availability from the Japanese Government and other

ince the first period of establishment in Lao PDR, JMAS has played to tion and function for UXO clearance activity through the collaboration with UXO Lao in Xiengikhusang Province such a support aforementioned made UXO Lao tenus schieve 355-39 becares cleared of high priority agriculture and development land during the period from March 2009 = Pebruary 2010 more than 10x80 people benefitted from clearance operations.

^{*} Source: UXO Lao. Xiengkhouang



For 4 years, JMAS has offered the assistance to UXO Lao in Xiengkhouang Province, especially two Japanese technical advisors has worked closely with UXO Lao staff to ensure the achievement of UXO clearance against the annual plan. JMAS is always aware that the presence of UXO is still a main obstacle to the development in Xienghouang Province. Especially the unexploded cluster munitions on. The area of province is province in the control of the development in Xienghouang Province. Especially the unexploded cluster munitions on. The area of province is some the action of the control of

are contaminating in a large part of residential area. The area of province is estimated 30% of affection according to UXO Lao recorded.



3. Operation.

The project consist four activities and one major support to address

1). Community Awareness (CA) activities to educate community about the dangers of the UXO as well as on a ways to prevent the accidents;





While CA Team of UXO Lao is demonstrating the danger of UXO





3). Roving activities remove and destroy the UXO in any given area either on found or underground. The roving teams respond to reports of UXO found by villagers. The reports have been found various ordnances that need









4). Clearance Activities are much slower than the other activities because its need to more effort task to clear the contaminated area;





JMAS TAs inspect the metal scrapes



23

The American Control of the Control



Mr. Kohki Kariaya, JMAS TA observe a clearance team

5). Technical Transfer On the job training. Besides the main 4 activities above JMAS TA always aware that the capacity building is the most important matter to keep forward on UXO Clearance activities, within 2009 many maining coarses are arganized for UXO Load saff. It is provided for recovering a fase from the bonds, so that the found bond scale the provided for recovering a fase from the bonds, and that found bond scale the provided for recovering a fase from the bonds, and that found bond scale training course is to avoid any accidents and risky during operation.









V Auktonomo

- ☐ Community Awareness Activity achieves for 94 Villages with 11,557
 people of participants
 - Children = 6,903 Participants - Adult = 4,654 Participants
- Survey Activity achieves for data collection and information of UXO in 245 Villages with 2,172 items of found UXO
 - Big bomb = 22 Pcs,
 - Bombies = 1,421 Pcs,
 Landmine = 4 Pcs.
 - Ammunitions = 725 Pes
- Ammunitions 720 PCs
- Roving Activity achieves for demolition and removing the UXO in 234 Villages, with 6,744 items of found UXO.
 - Big bomb = 38 Pcs,
 - Bombies = 2,885 Pcs - Landmine = 6 Pcs
 - Ammunitions = 3,815 Pcs
- Clearance Activity achieves for area of 535.29 Ha, Beneficiary about 10,605 People, Found UXO 7,557 items:
 - Big bomb = 2 Pcs,
 Bombie (Sub-munitions bomb) = 6.062 Pcs.
 - Landmine = 0 Pc, - Ammunitions = 1.493 Pcs.

k 3.

27

Mildren 723 723 723 45 45 45 2227 7227 7227 7227 7227 7227	Adults	659	559	\$ 818	1,289	1238	112	25	4,654
	Children	723	1,325	\$ 2967	1227	1,074	262	280	6,903

	No		10	20	8	3	98	98	20	80	Total
	Districts		Pek	Kham	Nogaphet	Khoune	Phoukout	Phaxay	Mormay	Thathom	
Survey A	Villages	Visits	8	20		8	82	91		#	245
ctivities from A		Bombs	60	1	0	-			0	0	n
Survey Activities from March 2009 - February 2010		Bombies	397	358	-	8	405	220	0	-	1,421
ruary 2010	UXO found	Mines	0	0	0	-	2	0	-	0	,
		Orther UXO	278	155	0	110	135	94	-		725

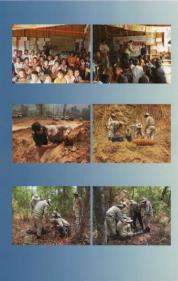
e: UXO Lao, Asengkhouang.

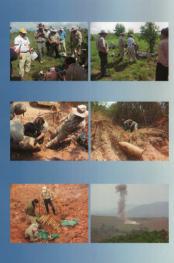
No.	Districts	Villages reach		UXO rem	UXO removed & destroyed	
		Visits	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Orther UXO
-	Pek	02	50	236	es	2320
2	Kham	25	7	813		1,008
9	Negaphet	9	0	9	0	47
4	Khoune	31	w	730	-	152
9	Phonkout	8	15	888	0	157
9	Phaxay	z	io.	204	0	131
1	Mormay	0	0	0	0	0
00	Thathom	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	234	R	2,885	9	3,815

arance Activities from March 2009 - February 201

		Clear	Clearance Activities from March 2009 - February 2010	from March	2009 - Feb	nary 2010			
2		Actual	leu			UXO Ren	UXO Removed & destroyed	stroyed	
	Districts	Agric land	Other land	Beneficiaries	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	
-	Pek	1,586,445	102,516	3,931	2	2,733	0	424	
21	Kham	784,393	79,493	2,028	0	1,563	0	345	
60	Nognphet	0	0	•	0	0	0	0	
4	Khoune	180,440	3,584	234	0	190	0	69	
w	Phoukout	1,281,825	255,314	2,664	•	219	•	436	
9	Phaxay	1,070,087	8,900	1,748	0	866	0	219	
7	Могшау	0	0		•			01	
80	Thathom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Total	4,903,190	449,807	10,605	2	6,062	0	1,493	
									ı

se: UXO Lao, Xiengkhouan





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