The UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR.

Phnom-Penh Conference.

“Mine Action and Implications for Peace and Development”

(12-14 March, 2007)
Lao PDR.
TP=5.6 M
336,800 SKM
Outline Presentation:

- About Peace, as ultimate objective?
- Legacy of war;
- UXO/Mine Action Nation Strategy plan (NSP)
- Tract record.
- Conclusive issues.
• **View of Peace** as the absence of dissension, violence, or war.

• **Peace** is viewed as concord, or harmony and tranquility. It’s defined as *a State of law or civil government, a State of justice or goodness, a balance or an equilibrium of Power.*

• **Peace** as a **Social Contract** or **Structure of expectations**, as *the State affairs.*
Legacy of war in Lao. PDR.

• During 10 years (1964-73) Indochina war the districts along side Lao-Vietnam border are most affected of UXOs.

• More than 6,300,000 tons of bombs rained down on Indochina, more than all explosives dropped on Europe and Pacific theater in WW II.

• Over 580,000 bombing missions with more than 2M.t. Mostly concentrated around the areas directly above 17th.parallel a staggering with more than 2 Mt with 10-30% of bombs failed to explode on impact and remained UXOs.
- Of course, drastic effects for the victims
- UXO prevents access to agriculture land
- Development programs exposed to risks from UXO.
- Lao PDR is not a party to either the antipersonnel Mine Ban Treaty (MBT) or the Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW); it is however, a party to the original Protocol II. However, we are involving to processes of its development.
In principle, Lao Government are willing to become a signatory party of MBT, but need some period of time to create favorable environment. Recently, in late 2006, this issue has been risen during the Government meeting session. Consensus was for the continuing preparatory to become MBT state party.
Creation of UXO’s program.

- 1995: Lao Government requested UNDP’s assistance to develop strategy for creation a National Capacity for long-term humanitarian and development issue caused by UXO’s. UNDP has established the UXO’s trust fund.

- 1996: Lao National UXO’s programme (as NEX).

- 17/03/2004: Decree no.33/PM issued to create NRA as a public civilian institution of Lao Gvt, with line ministries concerned affected by UXO’s. Boards body constituent. Vice PM’s sits on Board Chairmanship.
Creation of UXO’s program (cont’).

- NRA’s responsible for **Coordination, regulation and overseeing** all UXO’s/MA activities in Lao PDR.

- Lao Gvt set up a National Strategic plan for UXO sector:”**The safe path forward**” (2003-1013).

- Nomination of NRA’s Director (16/12/05). UXO’s implications in NGPES action plan of Laos, particularly in rural Poverty Eradication Strategic approach. **NGPES** related to **MDG’s**.
- **Laos** took 2nd. place with more than 2M. tons of bombs were dropped, mostly alongside Ho Chi Minh Trail. *yields approximately 600,000 tons to deal with more than 87,000 square kilometers contaminated.*

- **That would amounted to 17 tons/ sqmile spread evenly across the country, or equal to six-tenth of a ton of bombs for every man, woman and child.**

- **Lao PDR is the world’s most heavily UXO-contaminated nation.**

- **New victims estimated from 200 – 400 per year**
Players in the UXO Sector in Lao PDR.

NRA Board
Inter-Ministerial Body
Chaired by VPM

NRA Office
Headed by Director

UXO LAO
MAG
HIB
FSD
MILSearch
UNICEF
NRC
COPE
AAR
LDPA

UXO/Mine Action Operators
The Roles of the NRA.

1. Periodic review and implementation of the National Strategic Plan: "The safe way forward", 2003-2013.
2. Definition and Provision of Policy Direction.
3. Accreditation, licensing, and oversight of all UXO Action Operators (in clearance, in Victim Assistance, and in Community Awareness)
4. Coordination of all UXO Action activities in Lao PDR
5. The Management of Database, and as such, the prioritization and related tasking of all UXO operators
6. External Quality Assurance of UXO activities
**Goal, Vision & Mission Statement.**

- **1. Goal:** To make people living within the UXO/Mines areas impacted safe to be able to take part to the Socio-economic development in Lao PDR.

- **2. Vision:** NRA will become the leading institution in the Mine actions sector to make Lao PDR an impact safe Country from UXO/Mines.

- **3. Mission statement:**
  1). Reduce the number of casualties from UXO / Mines accidents;
  2). Increase the agricultural lands for foods production and for the development of other sectors.
  3). Ensure the rehabilitation and support for the survivors from UXO / Mines accident to be able to take part to the Socio-economic development of the Lao nation.

**Community Awareness:** UXO/mine accidents will be reduced to a national accident rate not exceeding **100 persons/year**;

**Survey and Clearance:** All agricultural areas considered to be **“high priority”** will be cleared -- no less than **18,000 hectares (180 km2)** of land cleared by UXO Lao alone.

**Victim Assistance,** a **national database on Mine/UXO accidents** (covering all 18 provinces) will be developed, to feed into the prioritisation of clearance and MRE tasks. Needs of survivors will be factored in all **national/local public health initiatives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priorities</th>
<th>Types of Tasks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Priority I</strong></td>
<td>1. Agricultural tasks</td>
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<tr>
<td>(High)</td>
<td>2. Roving tasks</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Public service utilities (medical/public health, water points, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Educational facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Priority II</strong></td>
<td>1. Grazing land and forested areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Medium)</td>
<td>2. Communal facilities (religious/cultural sites, markets, recreational areas, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Government facilities and offices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Priority III</strong></td>
<td>1. Public infrastructure work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Low)</td>
<td>2. Communal “profit-making” areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Tourism sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Commercial/private business sites</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Legal Framework under ways

• Legislation on UXO/Mine Action
• National Standard based on IMAS, and suchlike
Correlation between UXO Contamination and Poverty

UXO Contamination Map
15 of 17 Provinces are UXO/Mines affected.

Poverty Map showing the poorest districts: 46 of 47 very poor districts are contaminated by UXOs.
UXO/Mines impact.

• Lao PDR rely on agricultural lands, but more than 25% of total land is subject to UXO/Mines contamination. That prevents People from dealing with food production and other sectors development.

• There are the 139 total Districts, with 72 are deemed as poor, of which 47 are very poor and UXO/Mines impacted.

• 14 of 17 provinces are of UXO/Mines impact.
Accomplishments
UXO Lao Accomplishments only.
(01 January 1996 to 31 December 2006)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provinces</th>
<th>Community Awareness</th>
<th>Survey Operations</th>
<th>Roving Operations</th>
<th>Clearance Operations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Village Visits</td>
<td>Beneficiaries</td>
<td>Number of Village</td>
<td>Number of Visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luang Prabang</td>
<td>597</td>
<td>280,751</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huaphanh</td>
<td>583</td>
<td>165,933</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xieng Khuang</td>
<td>1,126</td>
<td>220,037</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khammuane</td>
<td>537</td>
<td>128,990</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savannakhet</td>
<td>828</td>
<td>186,111</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saravane</td>
<td>608</td>
<td>134,859</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sekong</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>81,459</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Champassak</td>
<td>839</td>
<td>170,518</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attapeu</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>187,795</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>6,085</td>
<td>1,556,453</td>
<td>1,449</td>
<td>3,385</td>
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</table>
Accomplishments.

TOTAL UXO DESTROYED
Clearance and Roving Operations
(01 January 1996 to 31 December 2006)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROVINCE</th>
<th>Bombs</th>
<th>Bombies</th>
<th>Mines</th>
<th>Other UXO</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Luang Prabang</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>8,527</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>17,904</td>
<td>27,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xieng Khouang</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>21,844</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>25,882</td>
<td>48,252</td>
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<tr>
<td>Houaphan</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>133,016</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>95,061</td>
<td>228,332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khammouane</td>
<td>784</td>
<td>30,844</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>23,763</td>
<td>55,498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savannakhet</td>
<td>727</td>
<td>57,022</td>
<td>2,039</td>
<td>88,706</td>
<td>148,494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saravane</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>38,879</td>
<td>1,040</td>
<td>62,815</td>
<td>103,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sekong</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>11,344</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>14,236</td>
<td>26,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Champassak</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>10,613</td>
<td>1,008</td>
<td>51,712</td>
<td>63,913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attapeu</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>23,942</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>12,180</td>
<td>36,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>3,636</td>
<td>336,031</td>
<td>5,645</td>
<td>392,259</td>
<td>737,571</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mostly UXO affected problems are concerned in LAOS
Peace as Social Contract!!

• Development of Peace should be the matter of evolving the social contract which is partly the State affairs.
• Sixth five year-NSEDP break thru Plan for creation the strong fundamentals to boost the nation status in the regional and international areas.
• UXO/Mines Action sector as part of National Working Group to evolving the NSP, “the Safe Path Forward” 2003-2013, and implementing.
Thank You so much!!