

ອົງການເກັບກຳລະເບີດ ແຫ່ງປະເທດຍີ່ປຸ່ນ ປະຈຳ ສປປ ລາວ

JAPAN MINE ACTION SERVICE



I. Japan Mine Action Service

Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS) is a Japanese non-profit organization engaged in international humanitarian activities by removing landmines and unexploded ordinance (UXO). We are helping create an environment in which people can have better living conditions including: physical safety, livelihood and food security, poverty reduction, and a sustainable environment.

Since the establishment of JMAS in 2001, it has implemented several UXO/Mine clearance projects in number of countries, such as Cambodia, Lao PDR, Afghanistan, and Angola.

II. Japan Mine Action Service in Lao PDR

Begun in September 2005, JMAS's program in Laos has received funding from Japanese government for UXO/Mine clearance.

The main mission of JMAS is to provide financial and technical management, and administrative support to the UXO/Mine clearance Project in Xieng Khuang Province, which is one of the most serious contaminated areas from Unexploded Ordnance dropped in Lao PDR.

1. Humanitarian UXO Clearance in Xieng Khuang Province

The project includes the following significant activities:

- *Community Awareness*: to educate people about the risks from UXO in affected areas;
- *Clearance*: to use detectors to search for below-the-surface UXO and remove them, thereby increasing lands areas that are safe for agricultural and other development;
- *Roving Teams*: to remove and destroy surface UXO;
- *Capacity Building*: to bring JMAS's Japanese technical advisors to conduct training in the Lao PDR.

Recently, the Humanitarian UXO Clearance Project in Xieng Khuang has expanded its area of activity to include eight districts: Phookood, Pek, Kham, Phaxay, Khoun, Nonghet, Thathom, and Morkmay.

2. Achievement

(1). From 28 February 2006 to 28 February 2007

- *Community Awareness Team* educated 17,237 people in 108 villages about the risk from UXO contamination.

- *Survey Team* conducted surveys, collected information, and mapped UXO in 278 villages. The team found UXO in 7,552 items (12 big bombs, 5,854 bombies,, 3 landmines, and 1,683 other items).

- *Roving Team* serviced 276 villages and removed and destroyed 13,249 UXOs (39 big bombs, 7,102 bombies, 3 landmines, and 6,105 other items).

- *Clearance Team* cleared 472.2378 hectare (ha) including 416.7038 ha for agricultural land and 55.5340 ha for other development.

(2). From 1 March 2008 to 31 March 2009

- *Community Awareness Team* educated 13,675 people in 92 villages about the risk from UXO contamination.

- *Survey Team* conducted survey, collected information collection, and mapped UXO in 274 villages, finding UXO in 3,313 items (36 big bombs, 2,831 bombies, 3 mines, and 1,683 other items).

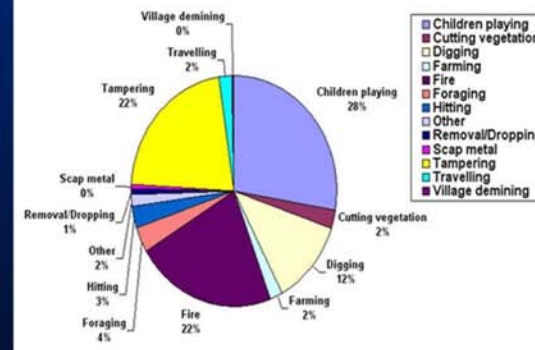
- *Roving Team* removed and destroyed 13,280 UXOs.

Summary Report of UXO Accident in Xiengkhuang Province (1973 - 28 February 2009)

Year	District	Pek	Kham	Khoun	Phaxay	Nonghet	Phoukout	Mokmay	Thathom	Total
73-93										1249
1994		28	1	17	6	3	2	0	0	57
1995		30	19	8	0	4	5	0	0	66
1996		14	7	5	5	6	14	1	0	52
1997		19	6	0	3	3	14	1	0	46
1998		25	21	4	5	23	5	0	0	83
1999		21	7	4	8	6	4	0	0	50
2000		32	2	2	3	7	6	1	0	53
2001		11	0	2	3	0	11	0	0	27
2002		13	1	13	1	5	11	1	0	45
2003		18	13	5	4	3	10	0	0	53
2004		31	9	7	0	11	10	0	0	68
2005		28	7	2	8	7	2	0	0	54
Jan.2006 - Feb.2007		15	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	19
March.2007 - Feb.2008		11	10	1	7	0	0	0	0	29
March.2008 - Feb.2009		10	5	1	4	3	0	7	30	
Total		306	108	71	54	84	97	4	8	1381

Source: UXO Lao, Xieng Khuang Office. (2008)

Causes of Accidents by General Category
UXO Lao Data (1999 to Feb 2006)





- **Clearance Team** cleared areas in 487.8596 ha (412.9554 ha for agricultural land and 74.9043_ha for other development).

II. Background of UXO Problem in Lao PDR

Lao PDR is one of countries that heavily suffered from the YEAR-YEAR U.S. bombing campaign that left Laos contaminated with 80 million UXOs. UXOs are found everywhere: in villages and on mountains, near houses, schools, hospitals, and farms, although 36years have passed since the bombing ended. 15 out of Laos's 17 provinces are still littered with UXO.

In 2005, about 80% of Laos's 5 million people lived in rural areas and generated their incomes through agriculture. At its 6th Congress, the Lao People's Revolution Party declared the goal of raising the country out of the Least Development Countries category by 2020. Among the numerous challenges it faces is the widespread proliferation of UXO which impedes rural development.

Recently, there are still UXO contaminated area of two third, which can use for agricultural activity. UXO contamination not only prevents people from using their local natural resources, but also has a negative impact on the mega-development projects.

To solve the UXO problem, the Government of Laos established the National Unexploded Ordnance Program in 1995, which is administered by Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare. After 13 years the project has cleared and destroyed only 0.47% of bombs, leaving 99.53% of the land still contaminated. Therefore, UXO remains a serious challenge to the next generation of Lao.

In 2003, the government of Laos adopted a 10-Year National UXO/Mine Clearance Strategy called "*The Safe Path Forward.*" It integrates the UXO/Mine Action Sector into the 5-Year National Socio-economic Development Plan.

The strategy emphasizes that all agricultural areas are considered "high priority" and will be cleared along with a sizable portion of other areas identified as "medium priority." UXO Lao alone will clear no less than 18,000 hectares (180 square kilometer). The clearance of UXO contamination is an key national program related to poverty eradication, and had begun in 2004 prior to the adoption of National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy (NGPES).

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