

JAPAN MINE ACTION SERVICE



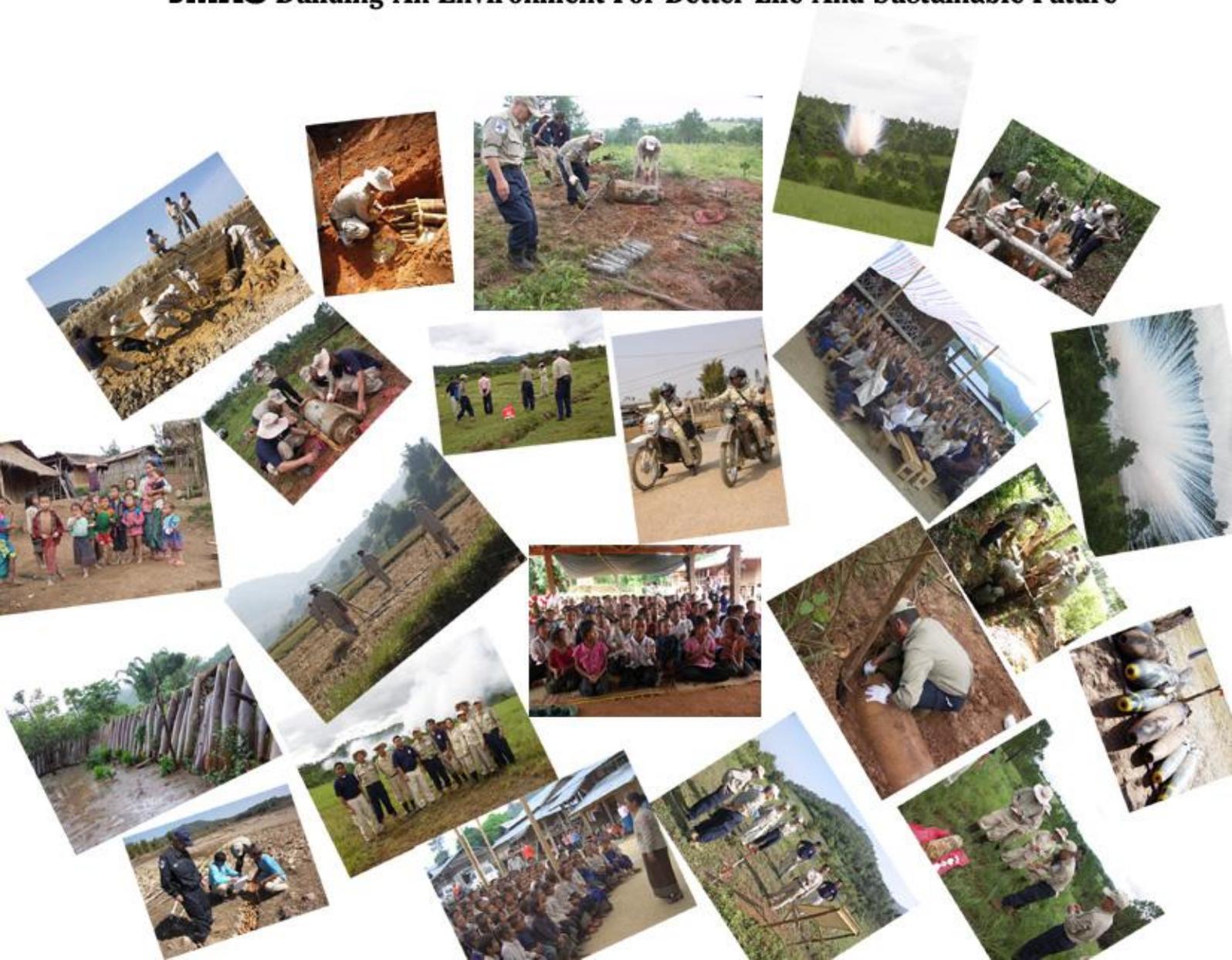
特定非営利活動法人 日本地雷処理を支援する会

Annual Report

28 February 2006 - 27 February 2007

Humanitarian UXO Clearance in Xiengkhouang Province, Lao PDR

JMAS Building An Environment For Better Life And Sustainable Future



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Annual Report

28 February 2006 – 27 February 2007

Humanitarian UXO Clearance in Xiengkhouang Province, Lao PDR

Foreword Representative



I am pleased to present the Annual Report 2006-2007 as our first year's achievement in Laos. This report describes our thorough achievement implemented together with UXO Lao personnel in the first year actually from June 2006 to February 2007, however, I ought to say that the real action was initiated prior to this movement. Under the thoughtful support of Japan Foundation the

establishment of Vientiane office and other necessary preparation had been settled from June 2005. Therefore I would like to recognize this 2005 as the actual first year for this project.

Before describing the ground record of UXO disposal I would like to mention on our attitude to this project. Firstly the most important issue was how to know more about the country of Lao P.D.R itself. It means to understand the culture and the people of this country will be more significant than thinking about the project itself.

Then, the next step how to get the procedure of the project will be discussed from the various points of view through the coordination and cooperation of the government of Laos, the government of Japan, each UXO sectors, and the donors.

JMAS's challenge for future has just begun. It will take a long time to transfer the technique to UXO Lao, however, safety and quality assurance in working place are the indispensable issue we ought to think about all the time. Even stopping the work some times will be necessary for us to discuss about the problems with partners then go ahead to the next steps.

So as to get a greater achievement, '*harmony*' is most important among all relative organizations especially for UXO Lao to make a effective progress on its future program.

Since JMAS's technical advisors were dispatched to Xieng Khouang Province, we have been able to have face-to-face contact with UXO Lao staffs in the field. Beyond our linguistic weakness and cultural difference, I believe we had done our best so that we could make a contribution to raise the quality of UXO Lao's technique and the life of the people in Laos.

I am very grateful for the efforts by the government of Laos, the government of Japan, the Nippon Foundation, and many individuals who had contributed to this project. Particularly I would like to thank for UXO Lao and their heart-warming cooperation at any time. Finally I wish to express my sincere appreciation and hope that this report will encourage all people concerned.

Tomoyasu TAGAWA
Representative
Japan Mine Action Service

Foreword

Senior Technical Advisor / EOD Expert



I would like to highlight the achievements we made from 28 of February 2006 to 27 of February 2007. In cooperation with UXO Lao, JMAS has supported to destroy 17,776 UXOs and to clear more than 410.7ha of land.

It is hard to imagine that there are many UXOs covering the attractive ground in Xieng Khouang. Once we get into the way from the road, there are heavily impacted and highly contaminated lands disturbing the socio-economic development in Laos.

The most significant purpose we aimed at in this province was to provide the technical support to UXO Lao. UXO Lao in Xieng Khouang has 10years co-working experience with another foreign NGO. When we began working with them, we were not sure how to transfer our technical knowledge. However, when once we successfully demolished PWP (a smoke bomb), we could show them our technique and it became a memorial opportunity.



Mr. Toshio GOTO, JMAS Technical Advisor and UXO Lao EOD official photograph with America' big bomb

I am very glad to know that our cooperation is efficient and has been supporting the humanitarian activity of UXO clearance through good relationship with other parties.

In addition, Community Awareness activity is also another part. Participating with CA teams, JMAS could help the villagers' life by delivering the stationeries and other CA materials. It created the opportunity to produce friendly relationship with the local peoples.

While UXO demolition is a direct activity which avoids risks from UXO contamination for the villagers, Community Awareness gave the local people the knowledge about how to protect them from dangers through indirect activities. Both demolition and Community Awareness activity are linked tightly to make effect each other so as to succeed in the UXO programme.

I feel happy to know that we could contribute to develop the society of Lao P.D.R. through UXO disposal actions.

Suzuki Shoji
Senior Technical Advisor/ EOD Expert

While UXO demolition is a direct activity which



Mr. Koji HOSHINO, JMAS' Project Liaison Trainee, providing educational materials and toys to Ban Dindum, Nonghat District, Xiengkhouang Province

Foreword

Chief of Finance / Programme Manager



To summarize our first year's achievement of 'Humanitarian UXO project in Xieng Khouang Province' project, we believe that we have recorded the expected results. This project had been operated from 28th of February 2006 to 27th of February 2007 and maintained successfully and smoothly with no accident throughout the period.

During a first year's activity, JMAS had contributed to develop a social life and a safety access to the land for the people in Xieng Khouang.

I believe that we also had done much for the expanding the friendly relations between Japan and Laos through UXO disposals and Community Awareness activities. The technique and know-how we have from our ample experiences have been highly appreciated by UXO Lao and produced the trustful relations between JMAS and UXO Lao. I realize that their strong expectation in the future to the JMAS would be the real proof how this project has been proceeding effectively and successfully so far.

UXO clearance project in Xieng Khouang province has just started. We have to maintain the project to meet the circumstance, the first priority should be the transfer of the techniques to UXO Lao. JMAS's cooperation gradually has been being taken into UXO Lao's working units. My expectation is UXO Lao will acquire their own technique how to demolish every type of UXOs in the near future.

This annual report summarizes our 1st year's achievement. This is not merely a report how much we had made a ground record but it contains the lesson stemmed from JMAS and UXO Lao's valuable experiences. I am happy if this report will be useful to implement the project, and I would like to promise to follow up this project as much as possible.

Yukino Narumi

Chief of Finance / Programme Manager

The background of the project started in Laos



UXO Lao Xiengkhouang & JMAS Programme Opening Ceremony, 20/04/2006, UXO Lao Provincial Office , Xiengkhouang Province

between Japan and Laos through the activities of this year.

In talking about JMAS's great result, we have gotten the support of the Nippon Foundation, both financially and mentally. It is not exaggeration that JMAS couldn't have done the



Mr. Shuichi OHNO, Executive Director, The Nippon Foundation, speaking at UXO Lao Xiengkhouang & JMAS Programme Opening Ceremony, UXO Lao Provincial Office , Xiengkhouang Province

One year has passed since JMAS started the UXO clearance project in Xieng Khouang province, Laos. In cooperation with UXOLao, we think JMAS has successfully executed many UXOs so that we could endeavor to build foundation for development of the area and safe life of the residents. In cooperation with UXO Lao, JMAS has successfully built and developed the foundation of the socio-economic residence for the local people. Moreover, we contributed to the promotion of friendship

project without its support. It took almost two years for the project preparation; such as doing field investigation, establishing the Vientiane representative office, coordination with the Laos government and the United Nations' Laos office. At that time, JMAS had the serious financial problem which made us difficult to continue our project by our own. In that JMAS's situation, the Nippon Foundation rendered financial support and encouraged warmheartedly our humanitarian assistance as international contributions. Since then, we have been supported continuously until today. With the support of the Nippon Foundation, we could

have started the project in Laos. In Laos, needless to say, it will be difficult to undertake the long-term project by JMAS alone. The expenses related to the maintenance and management of the Vientiane office is covered by the assistance of the Nippon Foundation, therefore we cannot talk about the activity of JMAS without that support.

In this world, there are thousands of people who have suffered from conflict's aftermath and are forced to live a life in danger. We want to help them live in comfortable and safer



At the official ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the opening of UXO Lao Xiengkhouang & JMAS Programme in Xiengkhouang Province are (l to r): Tomoyasu Tagawa, Representative (Vientiane Capital); Shuichi Ohno, Executive Director, The Nippon Foundation; Tetsuya Nishimoto, Chairman of JMAS (HQ, Japan); Viengthanom Phommachanh, Governor of Xiengkhouang Province, and Wanthong Khamdala, Deputy Director of UXO Lao.

environment. That's why we established JMAS led by retirees of former Self-Defense officials. Many of the members among those have specialties on demining and UXO clearance while they have trained in active. In addition, to the project in Laos, we have demining projects in Cambodia, Afghanistan, and the activities are expanding year by year.

The members of JMAS want the children who suffer from land mines and UXOs to live in safe and in comfort in future. We will endeavor to help building a good environment for them as much as we can. We believe that JMAS activity will contribute to the peace of the world. As we are

always facing financial problem in carrying out the project, we deeply appreciate the Nippon Foundation for their large amount of financial support, from the bottom of our hearts.



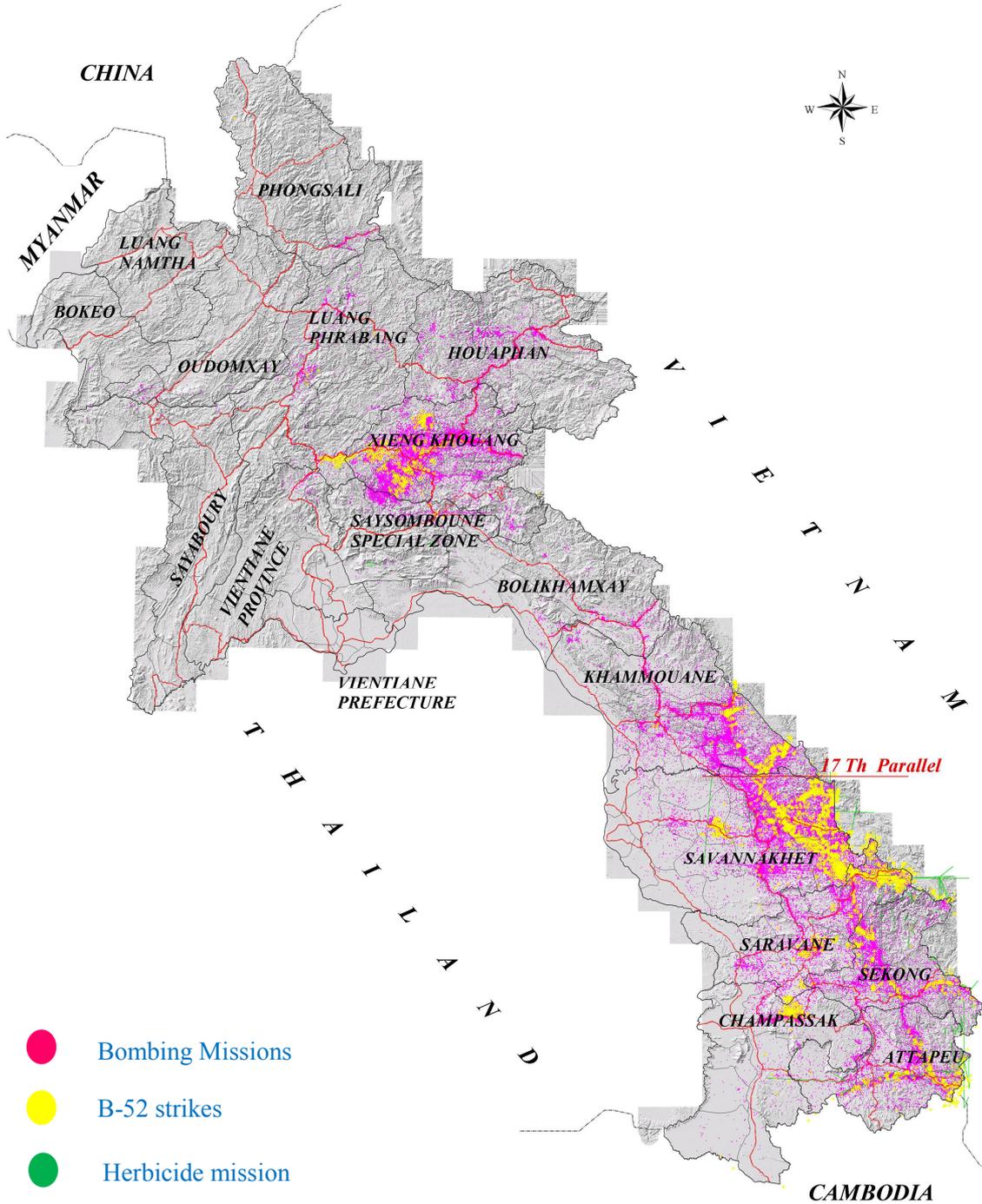
April 20, 2006, Xiengkhouang Province: Ceremony of Soukhouane or Baci in honor of JMAS delegations on the Occasion of opening of UXO Lao Xiengkhouang & JMAS Programme in Xiengkhouang Province. The traditional well-wishing ceremony was hosted by UXO Lao Xiengkhouang Provincial Office

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I. Introduction

Figure 1: UXO impact map of Lao PDR based on US Government data



Laos or Lao People's Democratic Republic is landlocked and mountainous country which is situated in South East Asia. Laos shares borders with China on the north, with Vietnam on the east, with Cambodia on the south, and with Thailand and Myanmar on the west. The country is divided into 17 provinces. The capital city is Vientiane.

The country has a total area approximately 236,800 square kilometers which is much mountainous with ranges from 2000 to 2820 meters high and densely forested covering about 47% of the country.¹ The population of Laos is approximately 6 million people which density is 23 people per square kilometre.² The population is diverse, consisting more than 60 ethnicities of four main groups: Lao Loum (lowland) 68%, Lao Theung (upland) 22%, Lao Soung (highland) including the Hmong and the Yao 9% and another 1% is ethnic Vietnamese/Chinese.³ The Laos economy is mainly dominated by subsistence agriculture (on which 80 percent of the population relies). The agriculture sector contributes more than 50 per cent of GDP.⁴

Lao PDR is considered as a least developed country. Much of land is mountainous, forest, poor infrastructure and unexploded ordnance, and landmines (During Indochina War, between the United States and North Vietnam). Lao PDR experienced the unrest and sorrowful history with suffering intense land battle and extensive bombing during Indochina War (1964-1973). This was one of history's heaviest bombing campaigns. Over this period more than 500,000 bombing missions were delivered, dropping about three million tons of ordnance. The bombing was concentrated in the north and southeastern provinces of the country. That was the most intensive bombardment that Lao people suffered. The war left unexploded ordnance and landmines that were so effective at causing fear and death.



Clearance Team are removing American's big bomb that was dropped during Indochina War, Xiengkhouang Province

According to survey of The Lao National UXO program (UXO Lao), More than eighty seven thousand two hundred square kilometers of Laos's total land area of 236,800 square kilometers are considered as being at risk from unexploded ordnance (UXO): 12,427 square kilometres at high risk and 74,786 square kilometres at moderate risk.⁵ The large-scale UXO contamination has resulted vast amount of land rendered unusable and unsafe. Data from "Improving Livelihoods in the Uplands of the Lao PDR" showed that 80% percent of the population lives in rural areas, and UXO seriously constrains

¹ Claiming the Future "the Impact of UXO and Landmines in Lao PDR", June 2003, P. 13, Australian Network of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines.

² http://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/laos/laos_brief.html

³ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/print/la.html>

⁴ http://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/laos/laos_brief.html

⁵ Sisawath, Bounpheng. "UXO Lao's Fight against Unexploded Ordnance." *Journal of Mine Action*. Issue 9.2. February 2006. pp. 28–29. <http://maic.jmu.edu/JOURNAL/9.2/focus/sisavath/sisavath.htm>. Accessed November 30, 2006.

the livelihood and food security of large sections of the population.⁶ This is one of obstacle for sustainable livelihoods, environmental security, land cultivation and developmental project sites (school construction, road construction, hospital, clean water, etc) eventually increases the high level of poverty.

II. Mine/UXO issues in the Lao PDR



Thirty years after the end of Indochina War, the country is left thousand and thousand of mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) which consisted unexploded heavy bombs, rockets, grenades, artillery munitions, mortars, and anti-personnel landmines and explosive devices.⁷ Fifteen of the country's seventeen provinces are significantly affected by UXO; the most heavily contaminated provinces are Savannakhet, Xieng Khouang, Khammouan and Saravane.⁸ Unexploded Ordnances became fragments which scattered everywhere and

remained untouched and hidden, waiting for the right moment to explode which can causes death and injury. Since 1975, it is estimated that there has been at least 11,000 UXO related casualties increasing an estimated rate of at least 200 to 400 per year.⁹ Nearly half of the casualties involve children (See table 1, p. 4). The accidents often occur while people are farming, engaging in slash or undertaking construction work in contaminated area and intentionally touch, move or tamper with unexploded ordnance. Mines/UXO continues to limit the physical safety, livelihoods and food security in Lao PDR. Landmines and UXO pose a threat to environmental safety which directly impacts on agriculture, national health system, families and other development in the provinces. Landmines and UXO consequently block access to environment



⁶ Upland Poor in the Lao PDR: A Profile
http://www.nafri.org.la/documents/sourcebook/Sourcebook_eng/Volume1/06_uplandpoor.pdf

⁷ UXO Lao Strategic Plan, Lao National UXO Programme, 12 May 2006

⁸ Handicap International Belgium, Living with UXO: Final Report National Survey on the Socio-Economic Impact of UXO in Lao PDR, 1997.

⁹ http://www.nra.gov.la/Data_LVIS.php

security and developmental project sites (school construction, road construction, hospital construction, clean water, etc). It is not surprising that the poorest rural communities are often those with high levels of UXO contamination.

Table 1:

UXO accident data from 1999 to 2006 (Data is only fro areas where UXO Lao operates)						
		Victims			Injuries	Fatalities
Province	Accident	Injury	Death	Total	Child	Child
Luang Phabang	34	58	29	87	44	20
Houaphan	36	53	10	63	23	4
Xieng Khouang	173	217	76	293	125	34
Khammouan	31	42	28	70	23	8
Savvanakhet	94	123	40	163	59	20
Saravane	25	33	14	47	15	6
Sekong	11	13	5	18	11	3
Champasak	41	73	34	107	38	12
Attapu	49	47	43	90	14	13
Total	494	659	279	938	352	120

Source: Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme, Annual Report 2006



**A boy survived his injury
though he lost his right eye**

people due to land access restriction or resettlement, natural disasters, the intervention of the war and post-war population increases.¹² Mines/UXO is one of serious issues that constrain livelihood and food security of large sections of the population.¹³ Villagers and children who have been living in such impoverished conditions often find that they confronted with high-risk injury and death by working on UXO contamination land.¹⁴

Mines and unexploded ordnance from the Indochina War has been continuously resulting in injury, death, and extensive damages economy and infrastructure. Villagers and children still live under the fear of UXO contamination in many decades. Even though the war had ended over 30 years, the scattering

The UNDP Human Poverty Index (HPI) indicated in Human Development Report 2006, Lao PDR is currently ranked 63rd among 102 developing countries.¹⁰ The report of National Human Development for Lao PDR (2001) stated that 80% (approximately 4.2 million) of the population lives in rural areas, about 40 percent (approximately two million) of the population still lives in poverty, some 300,000 households are largely upland farmers who depend on insecure livelihoods and live in remote and diverse environments.¹¹ In the central uplands subsistence agriculture is practiced slashes and burned shifting cultivation to produce upland rice and other crops as food and income. But agricultural conditions are often unfavorable and productivity is low. There are several poor



**A villager lost his fingers in accident with UXO in
Xieng Khouang**

¹⁰ Human Development Report 2006, Human poverty in Lao PDR, from website:
http://hdr.undp.org/hdr2006/statistics/countries/country_fact_sheets/cty_fs_LAO.html

¹¹ Upland Poor in the Lao PDR: A Profile

http://www.nafri.org.la/documents/sourcebook/Sourcebook_eng/Volume1/06_uplandpoor.pdf

¹² http://www.regional.org.au/au/apen/2006/refereed/5/3133_millarje.htm

¹³ Upland Poor in the Lao PDR: A Profile

http://www.nafri.org.la/documents/sourcebook/Sourcebook_eng/Volume1/06_uplandpoor.pdf

¹⁴ UXO Lao Strategic Plan, Lao National UXO Programme, 12 May 2006

of mines/UXO throughout the country is still a big issue that has been threatening and affecting on human lives and developments in Lao PDR.

III. JMAS in the Lao PDR

1. History

Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS) is a Japanese non-profit organization engaged in international humanitarian activities by removing landmines and UXO to create an environment in which people could have better living condition: physical safety, livelihood and food security, poverty reduction and sustainable environment.



JMAS and UXO Lao are working together to remove buried explosives near the rice field after they were reported by a local man in Phoukout District, Xiengkouang Province

JMAS's programme in Laos began in September 2005 which has been received budget from Japanese Government for Mine/UXO clearance programme in Laos. It aims to work for UXO clearance operation in Xieng Khouang Province in collaboration with UXO Lao by providing financial, technical and administrative support to UXO Lao's on an annual basis, subject to funding availability from the Japanese Government and/or other donors.

2. JMAS Mission, Goal and Objective

JMAS' mission in Lao PDR is to provide financial and technical management, and administrative support (community awareness activities, survey activities, UXO clearance operations, training and capacity building) to Mine/UXO clearance programme for sustainable development. All of these are to save lives and reduce the number of civilian victims, develop agriculture and infrastructure (schools, telecoms, growing rice, crops, rebuilding houses, schools, roads, and clinics, etc) for better economy, and build prosperous future for Lao PDR.

JMAS' goal and objective is to help achieve Mine/UXO impact reduction in Lao PDR. Through supporting UXO clearance operations, JMAS believes that the project will help execution of landmines and UXO removal and destruction, which has been affecting local people over thirty years. Furthermore, the target community will have safe access to lands and resources to facilitate their daily lives and the familial economy. JMAS hopes this project will contribute local people to the safe and peaceful life, and increase project development (school construction, road construction, hospital, clean water, etc) as well as supporting

socio-economic development in the longer term. The other major objective is working partnership between JMAS and UXO Lao, key stakeholders and other relevant partners for UXO impact reduction. This cooperation does not only exchange experience and knowledge of organizations, JMAS and UXO Lao but it also will strengthen relationship and good communication between two nations, Lao PDR and Japan.

3. Project background and overview

In Xieng Khouang Province where JMAS's mission takes place is the second province that is highly contaminated by mine/UXO in Lao PDR. But it is the province that encounters the most UXO accidents (See table 1, p. 4). Xieng Khouang has seven districts and one new district (Thathom), which all of them are contaminated by UXO/mines (See figure 2, p. 11).



Unknown child was injured in UXO accident

Xieng Khouang is estimated 25% of its land affected, or approximately 1,100km².¹⁵ This covers 645km² of lowland which could be used for rice cropping, 250km² of upland which could grow rice fields and 220km² for grazing pastures. The thousands presence of UXO has been preventing the development and environmental security in Xieng Khouang Province. It is estimated at ninety-three percent of the population living in rural areas, many of which inaccessible by road. It has a poverty incidence rate of around 42.9%.¹⁶

Xieng Khouang seemly did not experience the sorrowful history with suffering from the war but it was left thousands of mines/UXO which have been continuously causing death and fear. Since 1973, many hundreds people are estimated to have died and injured which caused by UXO/mines (See table 2, p. 8). Most of accidents occurred in the center of villages with other significant accident locations being upland

and lowland rice fields and grazing land. A high proportion of UXO accidents occur when people are handling and touching UXO during their daily economic activities and playing with UXO (children). In the Lao newspaper *Pasason* (6/16/1995) was the story of a family living out in one of the villages. In November 1993, the father who named Tamu, was killed by an unexploded bomb while working in the field. Then in June 1994, his wife (Cita) and their four children (ages 2 through 8) were all blown up by another bomb while clearing grass in the field.¹⁷ UXO accidents involve trauma of deaths and injuries which create a climate of

¹⁵ <http://www.uxolao.org/provinces/xiengkhouang.htm>

¹⁶ Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme, Annual Report 2006, Xieng Khouang Province, page 25.

¹⁷ http://www.mekongexpress.com/laos/articles/dc_0398_tragiclegacy.htm

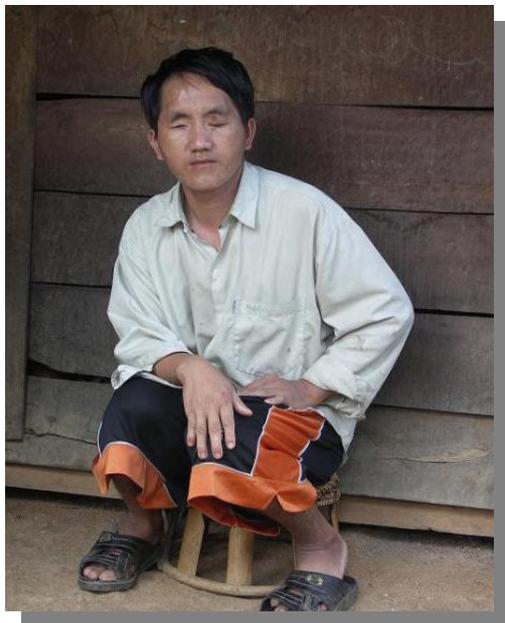
fear. The presence of landmines/UXO contamination finally prevents people safely using land for productive activities such as doing agriculture (rice and other agriculture products) accessing to energy and basic services (education, health, water, telecoms, etc.)

Table 2:

UXO Accidents data in Xieng Khouang from 1973 to 2005				
YEAR	Injuries	Death	Total	Child
1973 – 1993	592	657	1249	501
1994	26	31	57	33
1995	51	15	66	36
1996	33	13	46	33
1997	32	9	41	19
1998	56	25	81	50
1999	41	8	49	29
2000	36	15	51	21
2001	17	7	24	11
2002	31	12	43	19
2003	39	11	50	19
2004	50	16	66	38
2005	46	8	54	31
Total	1050	827	1877	840

Source: UXO Lao, Provincial Office, Xieng Khoang Province

JMAS's mission in Xieng Khouang Province is to assist building an environment for better life and sustainable future of affected communities by UXO/mines through appropriate preventive actions. JMAS believes that the victims are not only those who have lost their



A young man was blinded by an explosion from buried explosive while he was digging herb, Xieng Khouang Province.

lives and limbs, or suffered injury but also those who are denied economic growth and the reasonable quality of life by the threat of UXO and landmines. The presence of mines/UXO poses a significant threat to people's safety, agriculture and local constructions, including housing, water and irrigation systems, paths between villages, schools, clinics and markets. These commonly need UXO clearance to allow their use or construction to move toward sustainable developments.

To fully realize the presence of UXO contamination which remains a significant barrier to the potential humanitarian improving and environmental security, and socio-economic development, JMAS's the first programme under the title, Humanitarian Unexploded Ordnance Clearance in Xieng Khouang Province, Lao PDR, began from 28 February 2006 to 27 February 2007. This is funded by Japanese Government. In collaboration with governments and partners, JMAS supports

the project for UXO clearance operations in Xieng Khouang Province. It is to assist and enable people from mostly impacted communities to live free from the impacts of landmines and UXO. With the supporting on humanitarian UXO action in accordance to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), JMAS believes that villagers and children who have been living under bombs threatening will have better living condition in a better environment such having access safely to nontoxic food, housing, education, healthcare facilities, land for cultivation and paths between villages, markets, etc. All of these will help eliminate poverty-stricken.

4. Organizational Staffing

Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS) established two project offices in Lao PDR. One based in Vientiane Capital and the other based in Xieng Khouang Province. The two offices have the following functions:

- 4.1** Vientiane Capital Office is a head office of JMAS in Lao PDR. It is managed by a Representative who supervises and monitors all aspects of the project implementation. The Programme Manager/Chief of Finance who oversees the project logistics, finance and administrative support, manages programme, grants and staffs of the project.

4.2 Xieng Khouang province office: At the province the project is managed by a JMAS Senior Technical Advisor who advises and trains national EOD staffs and promotes national coordination of all UXO Lao EOD operation works, such the capacity building and sharing of knowledge and experience, which remains a high priority in work, and monitors activities to confirm that all works are done according to UXO Lao set standard. The project directly employs six staffs including: two Interpreters, driver, and others.

5. The parties concerned in the Lao PDR

In order to assist country in strengthening national capacity for long-term humanity and poverty reduction caused by unexploded ordnance (UXO) contamination, in 1995, the Government of Lao PDR (GOL) with the assistance from UNDP and UNICEF established the UXO Trust Fund for Lao PDR. The national implementing agency, The Lao National UXO program (UXO Lao) was established in 1996. UXO Lao operates as a Department of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. UXO Lao is nationally executed with operational activities covering UXO and roving clearance, training de-miners, community awareness and surveying. It has benefited from the technical assistance of International Implementing Partners, and is funded primarily through a Trust Fund managed by UNDP on behalf of the Government.

On 17 March 2004, National Regulatory Authority (NRA) was set up by a Prime Minister's Decree.¹⁸ NRA is a public civilian institution of the government of Lao PDR with representatives of all line ministries concerned or affected by UXO. NRA is in charge of coordination, regulation, and monitoring all unexploded ordnance and mine action operations in the Lao PDR.

6. Partnership

JMAS is Japanese NGO working in close partnership with UXO Lao, under the grant aid of Japan for UXO impact reduction in Xieng Khouang Province, Lao PDR. UXO Lao has been



JMAS technical advisors and UXO Lao Clearance Team are working on a bomb

JMAS's main local cooperating partner since 2006. JMAS' objective as it aims to carry out the UXO/mine action programme to prevent mine/UXO-related accidents, to clear the country of mine/UXO and to establish sustainable skills and competencies. JMAS ensures that developing and adopting technical support will improve overall efficiency of mine/UXO action for creating an environment in which people can live safely; where people can use land safely for agriculture and vital infrastructures, for example collecting wood, growing cash crops and rebuilding houses, water and

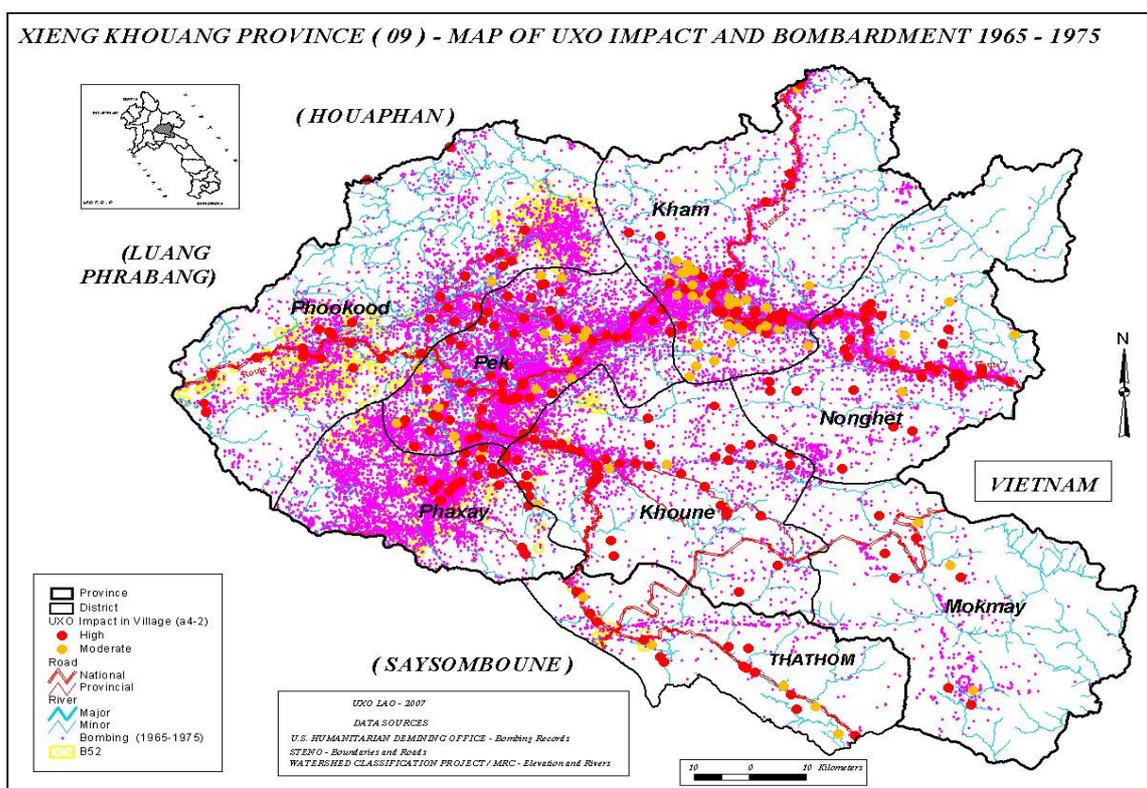
¹⁸ UXO Sector Annual Report 2006: <http://www.nra.gov.la/#>

irrigation systems, schools, roads, markets, and clinics, etc. Improving the environment, promoting humanitarian value and reducing the poverty, JMAS will continue support the provision of fund and technical assistance to UXO Lao for UXO/mine action programme in Xieng Khouang Province, Lao PDR.

7. Deployment and Achievement in Xieng Khouang Province (28 February 2006 to 27 February 2007)

7.1 Programme areas

Figure 2



Xieng Khouang Province has a total land area approximately 16,850 square kilometers, including one new district (Thathom) 970 square kilometers (Newly created at the beginning of year of 2006). Xieng Khouang has 8 districts. It approximately has 567 villages, and 36,577 household. The population was estimated at 266,930 people.¹⁹ According to annual report 2006 of UXO Lao, of the 498 villages, two-third of the villages reported of the presence UXO. Of these, 129 villages are severely contaminated, with only 76 villages reporting never having had a problem with UXO.²⁰ Although the War ended over 30 years ago, many people of this province continue to be killed and crippled every year from unexploded bombs and ordnances.

¹⁹ UXO Lao Provincial Office, Xieng Khouang Province

²⁰ Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme, Annual Report 2006, Xieng Khouang Province, page 25.

JMAS is currently working in six of eight districts for UXO clearance programme, consisting Pék district, Phaxay District, Phoulkout District, Khoune District, Nonghet District and Kham District, with the specific aims, consisting communities awareness activities, UXO clearance operations, training and capacity building. Those prioritized districts may recommend adding or changing upon consultation with the provincial government and with approval of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.



Above: It is a process of UXO transporting, Xiengkhaoung Province

Xieng Khouang Province. All of these processes of UXO clearance operation, JMAS are responsible for training, monitoring and enhancement demining/UXO skills, raising of mine/UXO awareness, administrative support and the resettlement of people for government's infrastructures, including international and national agency developments as build new roads, schools, hospitals, irrigation system, agriculture land, etc. To meet the work plan, JMAS will use the same key working methods with a focus on capacity building of human resources, program quality and organizational development.

7.2 Activities and Achievements



UXO Lao CA are educating villagers and children about the danger of mines/UXO

The project works closely with local communities and has been conducted on prioritized land by UXO Lao with the support of finance and technical assistance from JMAS. JMAS and UXO Lao have a very good cooperation on deployment 12 EDO teams for operational activities in 6 districts of Xieng Khouang Province to detect and remove, demolish the presence of mines and UXO during the war. The operation was mainly carried out by technical advisors at the outset, in collaborating with UXO Lao as the specific partnership approach develops in the areas where are contaminated by mines/UXO in

JMAS provides financial support and technical assistance to UXO Lao for the programme, Humanitarian Unexploded Ordnance Clearance in Xieng Khouang Province. The Project comprised four activities and one major support to address specific objectives, all of which emphasized:

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



Survey Team



JMAS EOD experts and UXO Lao RT are hard working to tow a big bomb from the hold

Training, capacity building, administrative and management support play another important role of JMAS on supporting UXO Lao's operations in Xieng Khouang. The training and support help promote cooperation and relationship, help enhance technical skills, help exchange knowledge and experience, which remains a high quality in work.



JMAS technical advisors are providing on-the-job training to UXO Lao personnel in Xieng Khouang

Survey activities visit contaminated areas, record information about the location and type of UXO/mines, and define the boundaries of sites known to be contaminated. This activity provides pertinent information to accelerate roving and area clearance tasks. The surveys activities help ensure deployment organization's assets in the most effective manner on UXO contaminated area.

Roving activities remove and destroy the UXO in any given area either on the ground or underground. The roving teams respond to reports of UXO found by villagers. The report various ordnances that have been found need to be destroyed. Clearance activities can conduct either roving or area clearance tasks.

Area clearance activities are much slower than roving tasks but it is full 'risk-removal' activity. These include the systematic clearance of surface and sub-surface UXO to provide safe land for productive use: land for agriculture and development projects such as schools, clinics, markets and other public places.

The period of deployment from 28 February 2006 to 27 February 2007 had demonstrated an outstanding achievement in the implemented project as follows:

- Communities Awareness teams (CA): A total of 17,237 people were provided UXO awareness information, from a total of 108 villages visited. This achieved 100% of the target. In Xieng Khouang, UXO Lao currently has 2 community awareness teams operating with 13 staffs.

Table 3:

Communities Awareness, Feb 2006 – Feb 2007

Districts	Visits	Children	Adults	Total Participations
Pek	21	2434	1751	4185
Kham	26	2136	2040	4176
Nonghet	15	1793	1146	2939
Khoune	19	1142	1155	2297
Phoukout	14	1122	933	2055
Phaxay	13	874	711	1585
Total	108	9501	7736	17237

Source: UXO Lao Provincial Office, Xieng Khouang Province

- Survey Teams conducted survey activities in 278 villages. Over 10000 different items of UXO were found including bombs, bombies, mines and other UXO. The survey team has 8 staffs.

Table 4:

Survey Tasks, Feb 2006 – Feb 2007

Districts	Villages reach	UXO found			
	Visits	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO
Pek	82		1328		323
Kham	93	6	1225		341
Nonghet	12		445		19
Khoune	37	6	121	1	481
Phoukout	35		2520	1	418
Phaxay	19		215	1	101
Total	278	12	5854	3	1683

Source: UXO Lao Provincial Office, Xieng Khouang Province

- Roving Teams carried out 276 village visits, destroying 13249 UXO, among them 7,102 bombies. Roving teams and clearance teams have totally 125 staffs.

Table 5:**Roving Tasks, Feb 2006 – Feb 2007**

Districts	Villages reach	UXO removed & destroyed			
	Visits	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO
Pek	78	16	1194		1017
Kham	93	4	2418		3454
Nonghet	17	3	520		634
Khoune	34	6	221	1	481
Phoukout	35	10	2523	1	418
Phaxay	19	0	226	1	101
Total	276	39	7102	3	6105

Source: UXO Lao Provincial Office, Xieng Khouang Province

- Clearance Teams achieved 472.2378 hectares cleared of high priority agricultural and development land. More than 37,499 people benefited from clearance operations. A total of 10,965 mines and UXO were destroyed.

Table 6:

Clearance Tasks, Feb 2006 – Feb 2007

Districts	Actual		Beneficiaries	UXO removed & destroyed			
	Agric. land	Other land		Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO
Pek	209.2568	31.5155	17293	4	3008	0	1640
Kham	122.7536	5.3453	13670	0	1338	1	905
Nonghet	4.1706	0	39	0	56	0	36
Khoun	41.3429	13.9377	3209	0	952	1	1109
Phoukout	12.1250	0.3570	1747	0	755	0	243
Phaxay	27.0549	4.3785	1595	1	713	0	203
Total	416.7038	55.5340	37,499	5	6822	2	4136

Source: UXO Lao Provincial Office, Xieng Khouang Province

7.3 Evaluation

The programme, Humanitarian Unexploded Ordnance Clearance in Xieng Khouang Province, under the grant of Japanese Government enables people who are living under the threat of UXO contamination to have a well-being and sustainable environment, and development. In the meantime, the implementation UXO clearance plays a significant role in extending and enhancing the bilateral relationship between the Lao P.D.R. and Japan.

In collaboration with government and partners, JMAS took all-out effort in humanitarian de-mining activities. This cooperation did not only exchange experience and knowledge of organizations, JMAS and UXO Lao but it has been building up the excellent relationship and close liaison between Lao and Japanese, JMAS and provincial and local authorities, and all key stakeholders. Receiving well-cooperated and well-supported from partners and community members represented the well-understanding on UXO clearance operations. This excellent communication helps the UXO clearance operator increased their work performances.

Furthermore, by supporting of two Senior Technical Advisor helps build up the capacity of the UXO clearance units which consequents the high quality in work and met the UXO Lao set standard. The project eventually contributes to safe environment and chances of development to villagers and children in Xieng Khouang Province.

Through the outstanding work, UXO Lao and JMAS have significantly contributed to Humanitarian Unexploded Ordnance Clearance especially removing and destroying mines/UXO from contaminated land for agriculture and development projects as well as the number of victims has decreased as compared to 2004 - 2005.

Table 7:

Xieng Khouang accident victims' comparison



Source: UXO Lao Provincial Office, Xieng Khouang Province, UXO Accident in 1973-2007

Note: In 2007, there was only from January to February

Table 8:

Project Achievements, Feb 2006 – Feb 2007				
Districts	Type of Project	Villages benefiting	Project partners	Land (Ha)
Pek	School construction	13	JICA	1.2
	Plantation	2	Provincial Government	1.0
Kham	Mulberry farm	1	French aid	2.8
	Clean water	2	Poverty Fund	0.5
	Road construction	6	Poverty Fund	2.6
Nonghet	Mulberry farm	1	French aid	0.4
Khoune	School construction	30	JICA	2.8
	Mulberry farm	3	French aid	3.7
Total		58		15

Source: UXO Lao Provincial Office, Xieng Khouang Province

One of the constraints of the project has been significantly spending too much time the UXO clearance operations. Especially the ways to remote areas were very rough during dry season and muddy during rainy season. Sometime roads were not accessible to the target areas which required a long walk. These often annoyed UXO clearance operations. It does not bring obstacles to the operation but it also delayed the project.

One of the lessons learned from UXO clearance operations, JMAS also has experienced that some remote areas lack of UXO clearance services or information. Therefore, the communities did not understand and were unsure with the process of clearance operations. It was quite difficult for UXO clearance teams to get the certain data of UXO.

8. JMAS Action in pictures



Figure 1: Mines/ UXO risk education are providing to children in a village, Xieng Khouang Province. The smiling faces of children represented their understanding and their enjoyment to the activities.



Figure 2: Children are participating and showing their talents during Mine awareness activities



Figure 3: Children's Entertainment - An entertaining and educational puppet show of the danger of UXO/mines is one effective technique to get attention from children and villagers.



Figure 4: Roving team is operating in a rice field after they were reported of UXO found by villagers. The unexploded ordnances that have been found need to remove and destroy.



Figure 5: JMAS leaders from headquarter, Japan are visiting the UXO contaminated areas in Xieng Khouang province.



Figure 6: UXO Lao officer is explaining to JMAS leaders from headquarter, Japan about UXO contaminated areas in Xieng Khouang Province



Figure 7: Mr. Suzuki, JMAS Senior Technical Advisor is working on a big bomb in the hold and preparing to remove, Xieng Khouang Province



Figure 8: JMAS EOD experts and UXO Lao officers are digging a big bomb after it was found, Xieng Khouang Province



Figure 9: JMAS Technical Advisors and UXO Lao officers are preparing to destroy a big bomb, Xieng Khouang Province



Figure 10: In the process of removing a big bomb in Xieng Khouang Province



Figure 11: In another process of transporting a big bomb across a stream in Xieng Khouang Province



Figure 12: Villages used bombs as fence



Figure13: JMAS and UXO Lao staffs



Figure 14: At the filed, JMAS Technical Advisors are providing job training to UXO Lao officers



Figure 15: Another exploded ordnance destruction training course is conducting by JMAS EOD experts at UXO Lao Provincial office, Xieng Khouang Province



Figure 16: Mr. Suzuki and Mr. Goto, JMAS Technical Advisors are working on a bomb near the village



Figure 17: UXOs are firmly put with powder device in the safe condition as in the demolition hold before destruction.



Figure 18: UXO disposal in Xieng Khouang Province

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Japan Mine Action Service ANNUAL REPORT

28 FEBRUARY 2006 - 27 FEBRUARY 2007

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