CCW Meetings of Experts
Lao PDR’s experience with Protocol V: impact on preventing and alleviating the suffering caused by ERW

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Background of UXO in Lao PDR

- 1964 – 1975: Indo-China war
- 1964 – 1973: Air war & ground battles in Laos
- Over 2 million tones of explosive ordnance were dropped on Laos
- Laos: most heavily bombed per capita
- More than 580,000 bombing missions
- Over 270 million cluster sub-munitions or ‘bombies’ dropped. (Up to 30% failed to explode)
- An estimated 80 million unexploded bombies remained after the war.
- Two thirds of the Lao territory is contaminated with UXO.
Background of UXO in Lao PDR (cont’s)

Main types of UXO contamination

- Aircraft Bombs/Large Bombs
- Cluster munitions & Sub-munitions
- Other UXO
- Mines
Back ground of UXO in Lao PDR (cont’s)

UXO contamination
Background of UXO in Laos (cont’s)

UXO Impact

Poorest Districts

14 of 17 provinces suffer from UXO

36 of 47 poorest district suffer from UXO

UXO accidents: dozen of people were killed and injured a year

Survivors of UXO: more than 20,000 victim remained after war end

Impact to livelihood: unsafe, cannot access to the land

Impact to the national social-economic development
Government's Efforts to deal with the ERW

- 2010, Lao PDR introduced a localized Millennium Development Goal, MDG9, to reduce the impact of UXO in the country. MDG9 has been set to achieve the goals:
  1. clearance land for agriculture and for development project,
  2. reduce number of UXO victims,
  3. victim assistance.


- 2011, Prime Minister’s Degree 406/PM, on the establishment of the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) for UXOs sector in Lao PDR was issued. The Degree has mandated 13 lines ministries and authorities be involved with UXO sector as the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) for UXO/Mine Action in Lao PDR to oversee, coordinate and manage the sector.

- 2014, Humanitarian Lao Army established and functioned to address UXO problem in Lao PDR.

- 2016, the Government also renews a localized MDG 9 into new SDG’s number 18 and integrated into National Socio-Economic Development Plan for 2016-2020.

- In recent years, the Government has increased financial support to the sector.
Government's Efforts to deal with the ERW

- 7 humanitarian operators: UXO Lao, HI, JMAS, NPA, MAG, Halo Trust and Humanitarian Army
- 13 commercial operators
- approximately 3,000 men and women
- One training centre in Vientiane

Activities:
1. Survey
2. Clearance
3. Risk Education
4. Victim assistance
5. Training
UXO Clearance, 2011-2015

- 29,701 hectares of land were cleared, including 3,814 for 2015:
  - Agriculture: 18,541 hectares (2,918 for 2015)
  - Development: 11,160 hectares (896 for 2015)
UXO destruction, 2011-2015

- 552,968 UXOs destroyed, including 114,729 in 2015.
  - Bombs 1,489 (2015 was 194)
  - Cluster munitions & Sub-munitions 259,421 (2015 was 87,123)
  - Mines 837 (2015 was 51)
  - Other UXOs 291,221 (2015 was 27,361)
Reduce UXO victims, 2011-2015

- UXO/Mine Risk Education:
  - Conducted MRE activities in classroom-based education for school children in contaminated areas
  - Conducted MRE activity by sport (football)
  - Conducted MRE activity by Puppetry show
  - Conducted MRE activity by Radio programme
  - Community Awareness activities (women, men, girls, boys)
  - Village volunteers conducted MRE activity to risk groups
  - Increase knowledge, changed attitude and safer practices of at risk groups measure through knowledge.

- 2011-2015, more than 25,000 UXO curriculum books were distributed in primary schools in 9 provinces affected and beneficiaries of more than 200,000 children. 12,000 visits to various villages were conducted for community awareness which beneficiaries of 1.6 millions people, including 1.4 millions boys and girls and 0.4 millions men and women.

- Significant reduction of victims: 99 in 2011, 56 in 2012, 41 in 2013, 45 in 2014 and 42 in 2015 – 33 injured, 9 killed and 65% were children.
Victim assistance, 2011-2015

- Victim Assistance strategy Plan Approved
- 8,581 UXO survivors' profiles were on IMSMA and widely used by stakeholders.
- 3,892 persons received the prosthetics and orthotic devices
- 968 persons received the wheelchairs and tricycles
- 113 persons received the crutches
- 1068 persons received physiotherapy and occupational therapy
- 100 children received pediatric positioning devices
- 64 persons received the hearing devices
- 96 persons graduated from Sikert Vocational Training Center
- 748 persons receive the animals raising training
Victim assistance, 2011-2015 (cont’s)

- 340 persons received the handicraft and waving training
- 58 UXO survivors received education supports
- 256 persons received the CBR
- 190 UXO survivors received medical treatment funding
- 4,047 villagers received the first aid training
- 849 villages volunteers received the first aid training
- 182 districts and provincial hospitals attended the TOT for the first aid training
- 118 persons were assessed for the psychology supports
Cooperation and assistance, 2011-2015

- Lao PDR has received both financial and technical support from several countries for addressing ERW, namely Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, EU, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States of America.

- Over 5 years, Lao PDR has received more than 170 million US$, approximately 30 millions per year.
Challenges

- Identification of a real size of UXO contamination
  - Huge – 87,000 km² out of 236,800 km²

- Not enough resources to address UXO problem
  - Financial (clearance and MRE tasks were unable to achieve planned, AV required were not enough)

- Technology

- National capacity

- Alignment (donors and beneficiaries)
Lesson learn from Lao PDR

- Protocol V has an importance role on addressing the suffering from ERW:
  - It prevents people from getting killed and/or injured from ERW and contributes to social economic development
  - It provides international cooperation and assistance on addressing ERW.
  - It provides more awareness on ERW and gains more support from concerned parties.

- Without cooperation and assistance, Lao PDR would not be able to achieve progress mentioned above and address the ERW problem.
Thank you for your kind attention

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