

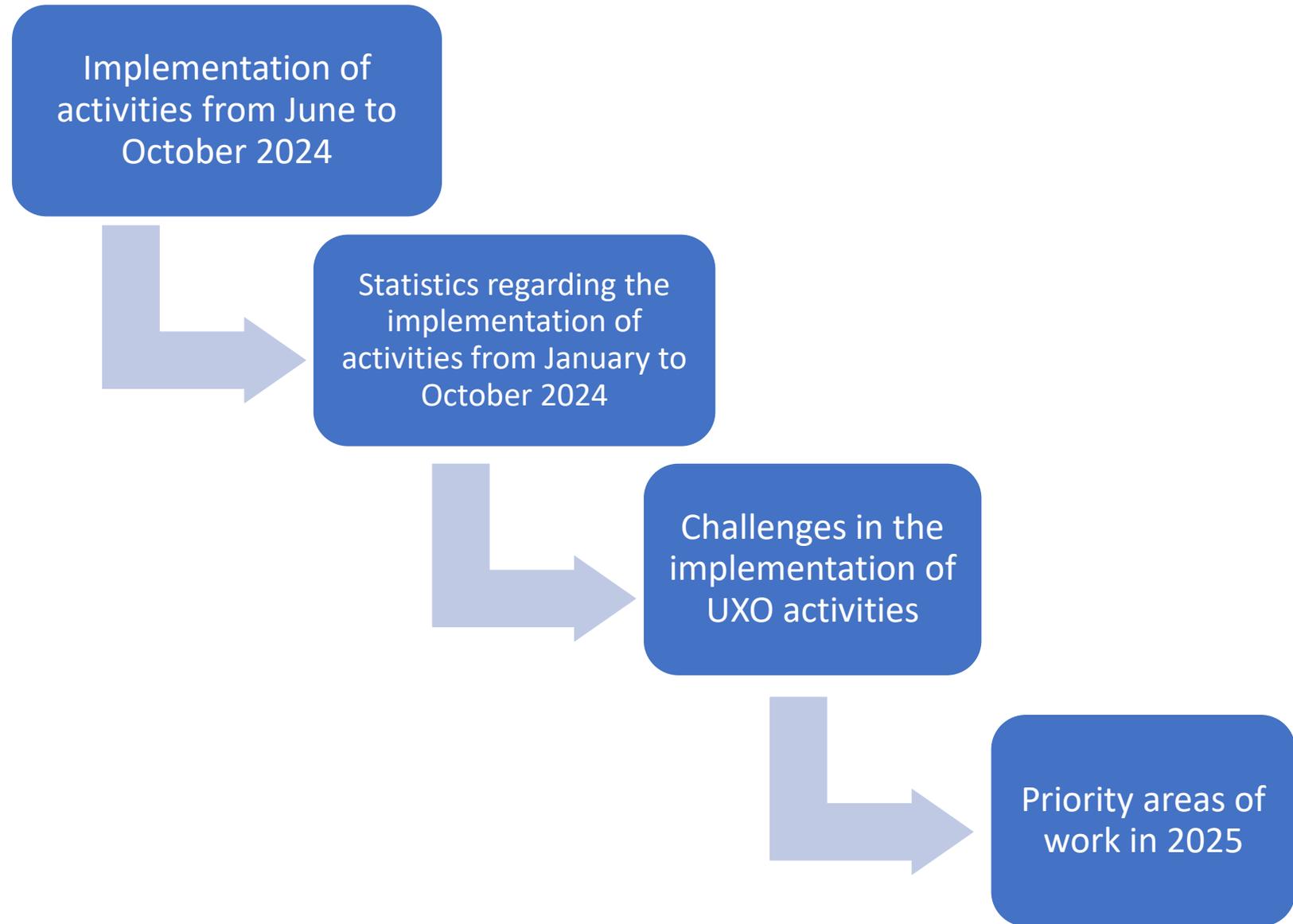


Sector Working Group special session

27th June 2024

At Souphattra Hotel, Vientiane Capital

Presentation Topics:



1. Implementation of activities from June to October 2024

- Completion of consultations regarding the Revision of the National Standards, expected to finalize by the end of 2024.
- Work ongoing regarding a Clearance Prioritization policy for the UXO Sector. Work to be soon submitted to Ministry of Foreign Affairs for approval.
- Completion of a National Standards Development Workshop, in cooperation with GICHD.
- Completion of a consultation meeting regarding Decree 210/PM on UXO Action in Lao PDR.
- Completion of consultations regarding the Gender Action Plan for 2025-2026.
- Completion of Information Management (IM) training for district and provincial authorities staff in Xaysomboun and Bolikhamxay provinces.
- Drafting, submission and approval of Lao PDR's 5 year extension request to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.



- Celebrated the 14th Anniversary of Entry into Force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.
- Organized an Exhibition on UXO at the National Training Centre during the ASEAN Summit.
- Ongoing SEOD 4 Training in the National Training Centre.
- The recruitment of the new Director of the NRA Office has been completed.
- Completion of sector coordination through the Technical Working Groups (Survey-Clearance, Explosive Ordnance Risk Education, Information Management and Victim Assistance).
- Completion of the Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) study for Risk Education
- Ongoing work on Gender mainstreaming

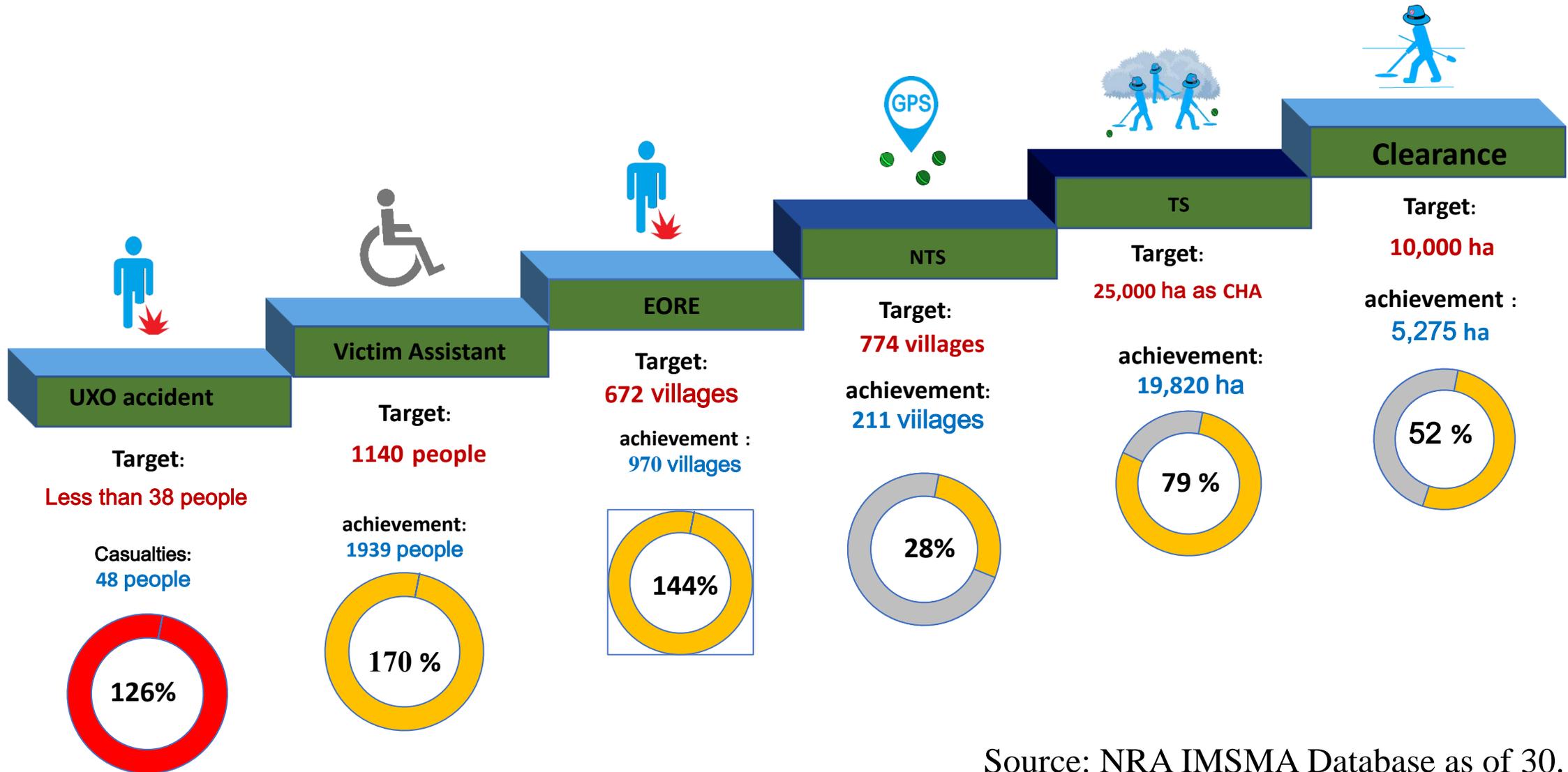


Statistics of UXO activities - January to October 2024



Target from SPF III and NSEDP 9 - 10	Target SPF III for 10 years	Target NSEDP 9 For 5 years	Target NSEDP 10 for 5 years	2024
Reduce the number of UXO casualties	Less than 38/year	Less than 40/year	Less than 38/year	48
Undertake survey to identify CHAs	250,000 Ha of CHAs	125,000 Ha of CHAs	125,000 Ha of CHAs	19,820 Ha of CHAs
Conduct clearance of UXO	100,000 ha	50,000 ha	37,500 ha 7500/year	5,275 ha
Support UXO Victims	11,400 people/10 year	5,700 people/5 year	5,700 people/5 year	1,938 people

January to October 2024 results against the 9th NSEDP and SPF III targets



Source: NRA IMSMA Database as of 30.10.2024

1. Explosive Ordnance Risk Education

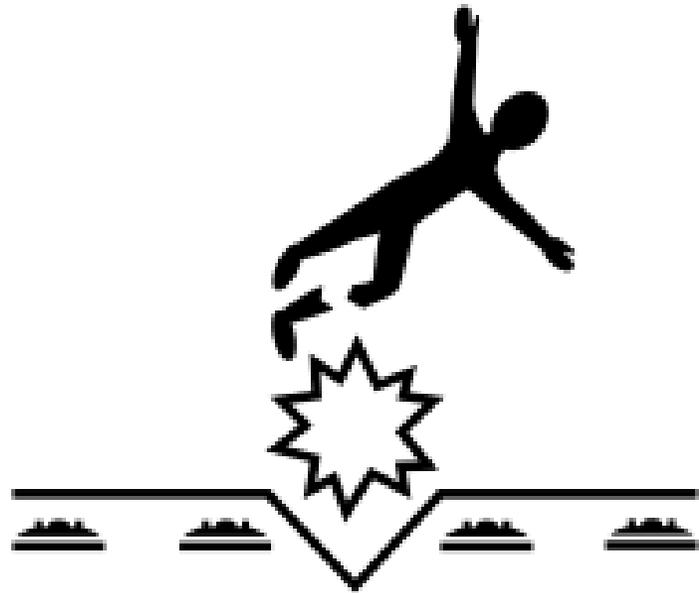


January to October 2024

- 3,292 EORE sessions 970 villages
- A total number of 334,635 beneficiaries of which 170,111 were women and girls (51%).

Explosive Ordnance Risk
Education

2. UXO Accidents from January to October 2024



UXO Accidents

- 25 UXO accidents,
- 48 victims, including 39 injured and 9 deaths
- Children made up 62.5% of all victims.
- Boys: 25 victims including 5 deaths.
- Girls 5 girls, including 1 death.

Causes of UXO accidents:

1. Lighting a fire: 4 accidents/9 people = 19% of victims
2. Playing with UXOs 8 accidents/23 people = 48%
3. Digging the soil 7 accidents times/9 people = 19%
4. Other causes 6 times/7 people = 14%

3. Victim Assistance



Victim Assistance

Assistance provided to 1,939 UXO victims including 353 women and girls (18%).

World Education provided 26 people with trauma care support and 61 people with psychological support funded by US government .

COPE and Quality of Life Association funded by KOICA and US organized:

- Vocational training for 61 people,
- Economic assistance for 625 people,
- Physical rehabilitation for 320 people and
- Promoted the rights of persons with disabilities to 907 people.

4. Non-Technical Survey



Non-Technical Survey took place 211 times in 211 villages. There have been 28,507 beneficiaries.

Non-Technical Survey

5. Technical Survey



Technical Survey

- Undertaken in 314 villages.
- Surveyed 24,948 ha
- Identified 19,820 ha as Confirmed Hazardous Areas.
- Destroyed 9,062 UXO during Technical Survey consisting of 3 large air-dropped bombs, 8,032 cluster munitions, 1 landmine and 1,151 items of other types of UXO.

6. UXO Clearance



UXO Clearance

- Clearance of 5,276 ha of land.
- 71,875 UXO items have been destroyed including 67 air-dropped bombs, 53,026 cluster munitions, 45 landmines and 18,737 items of other types of UXO.

Humanitarian clearance

- UXO Lao: Cleared 1,708 ha, destroyed 28,208 items of UXO
- HALO: Cleared 1,213 ha, destroyed 18,564 items of UXO
- MAG: Cleared 1,079 ha, destroyed 11,096 items of UXO
- NPA: Cleared 854 ha, destroyed 11,880 items of UXO
- Unit 58: Cleared 91 ha, destroyed 1,073 items of UXO
- HI: Cleared 13 ha, destroyed 405 items of UXO

Commerical clearance

- LXML: Cleared 245 ha, destroyed 609 items of UXO
- Milsearch: Cleared 68 ha, destroyed 40 items of UXO

3. Budget

**The total budget for the UXO Sector based on MOUs and
bilateral cooperation in 2024 :
US\$ 53,531,832**

4. Challenges

- Coordination mechanisms between provincial authorities and UXO operators still requires harmonization. The NRA Office believes that this is a priority for attention in 2025.
- Ongoing challenges in gathering clearance, EORE and VA workplans for the UXO sector.
- Policy must be developed to ensure rural development and infrastructure work is prioritized and can benefit from land release in order not to hamper economic development objectives of the government.
- EORE activities cannot yet meet the requirements in terms of outreach - some at-risk groups that attended EORE sessions have not changed their behaviour and some people also move from areas that are free from UXO to UXO-contaminated areas.
- VA activities cannot yet meet the demands in terms of physical rehabilitation, vocational training and economic support.
- Budgets for VA, EORE and survey-clearance activities cannot yet meet the required needs.

5. Priority Areas of Work for 2025

- Disseminate the revised version of the Decree 210/GOV on UXO Action, the updated National Standards and the Clearance Prioritization System for the UXO Sector.
- Improve EORE content to be more relevant to target groups such as children, adults and ethnic groups.
- Continue to undertake EORE focusing on at-risk groups with improved content
- Expand VA networks in Savannakhet, Khammuane, Salavan, Xiengkhuang and Huaphanh provinces.
- Improve the national database, coordination mechanism, and capacity development in VA, EORE, Survey-Clearance and Quality Management (QM).
- Undertake an Ageing Study of Ordnance to greater understand the explosive threat.
- Complete a UXO Victim Causality Analysis in conjunction with World Education, to better inform risk education and determine gaps in victim assistance.

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- Continue coordination through Technical Working Groups, including the new Management TWG.
 - Preparation for the chair of the CCM in 2005/6 including the 3rd Review Conference of States Parties, scheduled for September 2026.
 - Continue to improve and streamline the MOU process.
 - Support innovative methodologies for survey & clearance activities including trials of the use of drones, Explosive Detection Dogs (EDD) and better use of mapping (e.g. the LEAP initiative - Layered Evidential Assessment and Prioritization).
 - Organize the SEOD 4 training and refresher training.
 - Continue to respond to the needs of the population in terms of roving task and explore compensation to villagers in case of damage to the village property.
 - Continue to improve Information Management with the adoption of IMSMA Core, strengthening documentation management as well as online communication of the NRA Office.



Thank you