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The majority of the victims are between 14 and 49 years old, and most of them were holding when the accident happened. Out of 582 contaminated communities, 41 percent have primary schools in the vicinity of contaminated areas, indicating that children are still at risk of landmines and UXO. The project was implemented by the General Directorate of Mine Action, which is the regional mine-action center for South Asian governments of Lao PDR. UNICEF has been working closely with Minas Advisory Group since June 2006 to conduct a UXO risk-assessment study. A stakeholders meeting was organized as the end of September to discuss the findings and recommendations.

In total, 1,312 adults completed a Knowledge, Attitude, Practice questionnaire, of which 54 percent were men and 46 percent were women. UNICEF and MAG selected a research team to have focus-group discussions with 14 groups of men and 12 groups of women. A total of 720 children over eight years of age completed the KAP questionnaire (495 boys and 225 girls), and the research team held 38 focus-group discussions with children, using UNICEF ethical guidelines.

The study distinguished between intentional (i.e., voluntary) exposure to live ordnance, in which actors are attracted to scrap-metal activities when the accident happened. Out of eight years of age completed the KAP questionnaire (495 boys and 225 girls), and the research team held 38 focus-group discussions with children, using UNICEF ethical guidelines.

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Upcoming activities include a four-day UXO Risk Education Planning Workshop to be conducted by staff from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, UNICEF and the Laos Youth Union. In addition, finalization of the UXO Risk Assessment as well as translation of the IMAS Best Practice Guidelines will continue. UNICEF will also give support to the Community Awareness Technical Working Group of the NFA for the first technical working group meeting. The UNICEF office is seeking new funding to expand support in its collaboration with the UXO NFA and the development of new risk-reduction strategies.

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The recently released Portfolio of Mine Action Projects 2007 published starting figures concerning funding shortfalls for groups and organizations tackling the international threat of landmines and unexploded ordnance. More than 100 nongovernmental organizations, national authorities and United Nations agencies reported a total shortfall of U.S.$317.5 million for projects in 29 countries or territories.

The 2007 edition of the report reviews more than 300 proposals with a combined budget of $429 million. Only $212.7 million in funding for these proposals has been secured, leaving nearly 75 percent of these projects unfunded.


The findings from the study will be used in close collaboration with the recently established UXO National Regulatory Authority to inform MRE strategy development as well as the development of new messages for at-risk populations—especially children—who are attracted to scrap-metal collection. The UXO Needs Assessment data provides a unique opportunity to assist the government in taking the next strategic steps to develop appropriate messages and responses that more effectively target areas and people.

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