Claiming the Future

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UXO Lao

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The Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao) has established a regional office and field offices in nine heavily impacted provinces in Laos. In 2003, the government announced a national strategic plan to deal with the UXO problem, introducing major reforms in the sector and defining clear objectives for clearance operations. UXO Lao productivity has greatly increased since then and is on track to more than double its annual output by the end of 2008.

The achievements have been impressive since the promulgation of the Strategic Plan. Through the streamlining of support functions (administration, logistics, procurement and finance), overall productivity of the area clearance capacity has increased from 886 hectares per year in 2002 to over 1,250 hectares per year in 2004—an increase of nearly 42 percent. Similar increases in productivity are noted in the number of bombs destroyed through opening tasks and in community awareness activities.

The next three years will be crucial as UXO Lao embarks on a more in-depth review of its operational procedures, analysing and improving the way it actually clears and renders land safe and the way it deals with unexploded bombs. This review may introduce the recommendation of new methodologies and new techniques/technologies best suited to the Lao context. The
Endnotes and References

Mine Free: Not Anytime Soon, Kidd [from page 4]

Endnotes

   http://www.mine-java.net/journal/5/Focus/Ruth_Bottomley.html

   http://www.earthrights.org/doc_download/39498.html

   http://www.icbl.org/lm/2005/findings.html


9. The Millennium Development Goals are eight goals adopted by the government to eradicate poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality,
   improve health and living standards, combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic, promote environmental sustainability and ensure access to affordable and basic services.

10. Fleisher, Michael L. (2005) In the Untied States, this conflict is referred to as the Vietnam War.


12. The War Goes On, Yosburgh [from page 27]

Endnotes

2. Destruction of the Mother of All Arsenals, Zahaczewsky [from page 18]

References
1. An Operator’s Perspective on Ottawa’s Article 5, Nergaard [from page 35]

Endnotes


4. “An Operator’s Perspective on Ottawa’s Article 5, Nergaard [from page 35]

5. 104

6. Endnotes

2. Ministry of Defence’s Mine/UXO Situation, Simmonds, et al. [from page 40]

Endnotes
1. The War Goes On, Yosburgh [from page 27]

References

104 | references and endnotes | journal of mine action | 2006 | 9.2 | references and endnotes | 105

9.2 | February 2006 | Journal of mine action | references and endnotes |