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## The Impact of ERW on Children

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## News Brief

### The EU and the U.S. Provide Grant to Lao PDR

**M**AG (Mines Advisory Group) has recently been tasked with a new project to collaborate with the UXO sector in Lao PDR to clear UXO from Boualapha, Mahaxay and Xatbuathong of Khammouane province. Valued at 700,000 euro (US\$975,026),<sup>1</sup> the European Union and the United States cosponsor the project, with the EU contributing 600,000 euro (US\$835,613)<sup>1</sup> and the U.S. Government granting US\$142,721<sup>1</sup> (102,442 euro)<sup>3</sup>. In addition, the EU plans to launch another UXO program in 2012.<sup>2</sup> The EU promised the Lao Government a grant for this clearance project if it fulfilled its UXO obligations under the *Convention on Cluster Munitions*.<sup>2</sup>

On 8 July 2011, the EU issued its first funding disbursement for the new MAG clearance project; this is the fourth partnership between the EU and MAG, and it builds on previous funding by the European Commission.<sup>3</sup> From 2000 to 2010, the EC and various EU member states provided roughly 29 million euros (US\$39,438,046)<sup>2</sup> in assistance to Lao PDR.<sup>4</sup> During that same time period, the U.S. dedicated more than \$36 million (25,844,700 euros) to UXO action in Lao PDR. In 2010, the United States contributed \$5,102,000 (3,662,687 euros) for mine-action support to the country, of which \$1,400,000 was used to fund MAG operations.<sup>5</sup>



A villager shows community liaison staff unexploded bomblets in Nong Boua village, Lao PDR.  
Photo courtesy of Sean Sutton/MAG.

According to MAG Country Programme Manager David Hayter, the opportunity for MAG to work with local authorities will ensure optimal use of resources; moreover, MAG will complete a UXO survey for the National Regulatory Authority—Lao PDR's UXO and landmine organization—and provide land clearance for contaminated areas within Khammouane province.<sup>1, 3</sup> [↗](#)

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~Blake Williamson, CISR Staff