The Killer Toy

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Lao National UXO Project

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The Killer Toy
by Roongpheng Sisawath (Lao National UXO Project)

In June 2006, in the village of Nongmany of the Pakse district in Champassak province, Laos, Pheng, a 10-year-old boy, lost his right arm after touching a bomb.

Pheng, who lived in a wooden house with neither water nor electricity, was injured while collecting wood. The bomb exploded and the 10-year-old lost his right arm.

Since it was founded in 1996, over 7,200 hectares (28 square miles) of land have been cleared, benefiting more than 50,000 hectares (approximately 82,000 square kilometers). The clearances have accounted for the work of such teams that is not enough to remind and educate people of the dangers of UXO.

The Lao National UXO Project (UXO-LAT) is the national humanitarian unexploded ordnance clearance organization. It operates in nine of the most impacted provinces, clearing land for agriculture and other development activities as well as assisting agro-industry and other development activities in the area.

The villages of the area are not easy to visit due to the terrain. The work of UXO will continue to be a challenge for future generations.

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