

## Action for Mission!

### Quarterly news roundup:

• In April a new Technical Field Manager, Michel Dolk from Sweden, was employed for the programme in Khammouane Province

• In April Mr Chan Sambath from the Cambodian Mine Action Centre visited the MAG Laos project in Khammouane to share his experience with the CL team on his Safer Community Approach and also PRA tools that he has used to great effect in Cambodia

• On June 24, MAG Laos signed an MoU with DfID and the NRA for a 2.5 year project worth \$3,625,000. This has meant that 3 new clearance teams and CL staff have been added to the programme in Xieng Khouang

• On 8 July, an MoU was signed with the EU for a new two year project worth 600,000 Euros

• In June, a new Programme Officer, Simon Rea, joined the MAG Laos team, taking over from Gregory Cathcart who is now working as a Community Liaison Manager, with particular focus on the EC project

• 23 MAG Laos staff from Khammouane and Xiengkhuang Provinces and 2 Government District staff from Boualapha District, successfully completed the District Focus Approach to the Management of UXO Threat in Laos (DFA) training and refresher course in Nong District, Savannaket Province.

### New Stance toward UXO clearance



MAG's project officer for the EU-funded project, Mr Xaya (right), training provincial government staff how to map land that will be cleared of UXO. Photo: John Rodsted

#### The local authority contributes to MAG's UXO clearance draft plan for 2011 in Khammouane Province.

In March 2011 the MAG Laos team in Khammouane completed a 2-year training programme for four staff members from the Department of Labour and Social Welfare (DLSW). The training, funded as part of a wider EC project, was provided in order to strengthen the capacity of the DLSW staff to better manage UXO clearance. Topics included task prioritisation, community liaison, collecting data, use of specialised equipment and adherence to MAG Laos' SOPs and Lao National Standards.

Following completion of the training, the newly qualified DLSW staff were able to lead on the drafting of the UXO clearance plan for Khammouane Province for 2011.

The clearance plans were made with priority given to development activities that would benefit the poorest communities within the Province. Over the course of making the plan, the four Officers surveyed 276 tasks in 21 villages, and mapped 359 hectares in total.

"I had never previously worked on a task site with an NGO before so the training has really helped me understand a lot more about the work that these types of organisation undertake. I have learnt a lot from and about MAG and can now easily brief people in my district about their work" said, Mr. Kikham PHOMMASENG, an Officer of the Labor and Social Welfare in Boualapha.

More news and photos online at:  
[www.maginternational.org](http://www.maginternational.org)

MAG Lao PDR's work is made possible through the generous support of the following current and recent donors:



# Project highlights:

## All Women UXO clearance team in Xieng Khouang

### Xieng Khouang



Since the start of 2011 the All Women Team in Xieng Khouang completed UXO clearance on 445,996m<sup>2</sup> of land, destroying 200 items of UXO. UXO clearance has focused on clearing land for market gardens, agricultural land, wells and latrines.

## Development led Humanitarian Mine Action in Lao PDR

### Khammouane and Xieng Khouang



In February 2011 MAG Laos started a new DFID project. The 30 month project will deploy 5 UCT clearance teams, 2 Roving teams and 7 Community Liaison Teams to 200 target villages in Xieng Khouang and Khammouane. The project will also include activities aimed at building the capacity of The National Regulatory Authority and UXO Lao at national and sub-national levels in support of Lao Government development objectives.

## Integrated UXO & Development Action

### Khammouane and Xieng Khouang



The new project under the US DoS funding commenced in May. An update on progress on this grant will be provided within the next MAGazine.

The previous grant was a great success and across 12 months of activity achieved notable results. 3,861,220m<sup>2</sup> of land was cleared from UXO and handed over for community use. 4,663 items of UXO were destroyed, action directly benefiting 17,979 people. 600 post clearance assessments were performed by the CL teams who also staged 341 community meetings at which there were 5,258 people in attendance. These community meetings are part of MAG's participatory approach to engage community members before, during and after UXO clearance.

## Integrated UXO Action partner World Vision (Lao Australia Non Government Organisation Cooperation Agreement) Khammouane



MAG continues to support World Vision development activities in 24 villages of Khammouane. A no-cost extension has in fact been signed for the project which means that MAG Laos' clearance work will continue until the end of October 11. So far the teams have completed clearance on a total of 2,797,289m<sup>2</sup> of land, destroying 1,482 items of UXO for the benefit of 14,220 people.

## UXO clearance for Sustainable Outcomes in Vulnerable Communities and Capacity Building of Local Authorities

### Khammouane



The new EU project commenced in April. The new agreement is over a two year period and, as with the previous grant, will focus on capacity building for Lao PDR Government agencies and NGOs, as well funding MAG's vital clearance and CL work. A full update on this will be provided in the next edition of MAGazine.

The previous EU project ran for 24 months, from May 09 - Apr 11. We have already highlighted in the earlier article the capacity building element of the grant, used to fund training for the team from the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. As regards clearance and CL work, across the length of the grant 2,888,863m<sup>2</sup> of land was cleared by the clearance teams with 2,767 items of UXO destroyed. This benefited 44,657 people enabling them to make full productive use of previously contaminated land. The CL teams were also very active and performed thousands of the different surveys that are necessary so that the clearance and roving teams can perform their duties. The CL teams also performed 53 Mine Risk Education sessions, at which 10,189 people attended. They also staged 169 community meetings which 11,263 community members came and contributed to.

# Interview with Lamphane Vannachack (Frank)

Operation Coordinator



**“The main reason that I applied for The Operation Officer post is because I would like to extend my working experience. I believe my 10 years experience working on UXO projects with different NGOs will enable me to contribute my knowledge and experience and help ensure that MAG Laos reaches its objectives”**

A robust man with a friendly personal manner, Lamphane Vannachack has been working for MAG Laos since 2006. He was previously the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, responsible for ensuring programme activities were running smoothly and according to MAG policies and procedures.

In June 2011 he commenced in the new role of Operations Coordinator (OPC). This is one of the key positions in the effective planning and coordination of MAG Laos' operations within the Provinces. It is Lamphane who is the main contact between the office in Vientiane and the field staff in the Provinces.

Lamphanes says: “Most of the MAG Laos staff are employed from the local communities that MAG works in and they have their own language, customs and culture of work. It is great to be part of such a diverse and interesting team.”

## Facts and figures

Programme stats,  
April 2011 – June 2011

Square meters cleared	1,960,835
Villages where clearance took place	28
UXO destroyed	2,975
Beneficiaries ( clearance)	5,523

**saves lives builds futures**

MAG Lao PDR, PO Box 4660  
Nongbouathong Road, Ban Hongkha Neua  
Chanthabouly District, Vientiane Capital, Laos  
T +856 21 252 004, T +856 21 251 849,  
F +856 21 217 505

[reception@maglaos.org](mailto:reception@maglaos.org)  
[www.maginternational.org](http://www.maginternational.org)

All photos copyright  
MAG Laos  
unless otherwise stated