



Chapter 11

UXO/Mine Risk Education

SILAVAN UXO SURVEY CLEARANCE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL AND CONSTRUCTION SOLE CO., LTD

1. Introduction

1.1 Community UXO/Mine Risk Education or Mine Warning is an important component for two reasons.

- a. The awareness-raising component can be implemented quickly, does not require heavy equipment and techniques, and does not require complex and difficult staff training.
- b. Train staff on how to communicate with people in areas affected by UXO and mines, and awareness-raising activities become a key source of information about the impacts of UXO or mines.

1.2 The Community Education Propaganda is an important part of the UXO clearance work in the Lao PDR.

It is linked to the project's survey and clearance work. In addition, community UXO/Mine Risk Education provides important baseline information to assist in the implementation of UXO clearance work.

2. Community Education Propaganda Promotes UXO Clearance Work

2.1 Recommendations

- a. The main function of the Community Education Unit is to educate the local people about UXO/Mines warning. The Community Propaganda Unit has been in contact with villagers to obtain as much information as possible to encourage future clearance work.
- b. However, there are some limitations to the information that the Community Education Unit can collect. The Community Propaganda Unit has only been trained in warning work, not in investigation, evidence work, and UXO mapping. The Community Education Propaganda and Promotion Unit is not authorized to conduct UXO investigations.

2.2 Community Education Promotion Unit Encourages Data Collection Activities

- a. The Community Education Promotion Unit supported the implementation of the SLV UXO clearance work by collecting survey data.

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Phase 1. The implementation of the SLV UXO clearance work included the collection of general village information and the level of impact of the villages affected by UXO. This work was added to the regular awareness raising work of the Community Education Propaganda Unit and supplemented the data available from the 1996 Socio-Economic Impact Survey of Unexploded Ordnance in the Lao PDR.

b. The first level of data that the Community Education Promotion Unit needed to collect was included in the Community Promotion Unit's village visit report. (See Chapter 9, "Reports," for a draft of the Community Propaganda Unit's village visit report.) This report is primarily a detailed report of the community Propaganda activities, but sub-sections were included in the first survey.

2.3 Survey Method

a. The Community Propaganda Unit did not specify a data collection procedure.

Step 1. Normally, upon arrival at a village, the first thing the community propaganda unit should do is to contact the village head, introduce themselves, inform the village head that the unit is working on an UXO clearance project, and explain the reason for the visit.

b. Data collection may begin at the time of the meeting or be left for later, this is the final decision but the community propaganda unit leader will decide how and when to start. It may be necessary to hold meetings with different groups of people or with a large number of people.

c. While carrying out community propaganda and survey activities, Level 1. The community propaganda and education unit should:

(1) Make the people aware of the mechanism for reporting explosive ordnance discovery and the mechanism for reporting explosive accidents. Also copy the draft accident report to the village head. (See Section 9 "Reports", for the draft report on explosive deaths).

(2). Please do not set a date for the next collection activity.

(3). Write a complete house visit report when working at home and ensure that the relevant information on the draft form is completely filled in.

(4). If possible, liaise with other units working in the same area to coordinate work or collect information.

3. Ensuring Safety and Security

3.1 Guidelines

a. Community education organizations are committed to ensuring the safety of their personnel, equipment and vehicles.

b. General safety and security measures.

The following are to be followed by community education organizations:

(1) Communication. Community propaganda units should check radio communications before leaving the office to begin work each day.

- (2) Medical assistance and patient evacuation. Medical assistance for community outreach units must be included as part of the work planning system for all community outreach activities and include procedures for transferring patients to the office. All staff must be trained in advance on what to do in the event of an accident, and patient evacuation training should be conducted with the unit periodically, at least every 2 months.
- (3) While working and in the village, the unit leader should discuss daily activities with the village authorities so that villagers can assist the unit when needed.
- (4) Community Propaganda Units should maintain a high level of Mines awareness when moving in unfamiliar areas.
- (5) Community Propaganda Unit members must not carry explosives.
- (6) Keep unused equipment secure at all times.
- (9) Do not travel at night. Always stay overnight in a safe place.