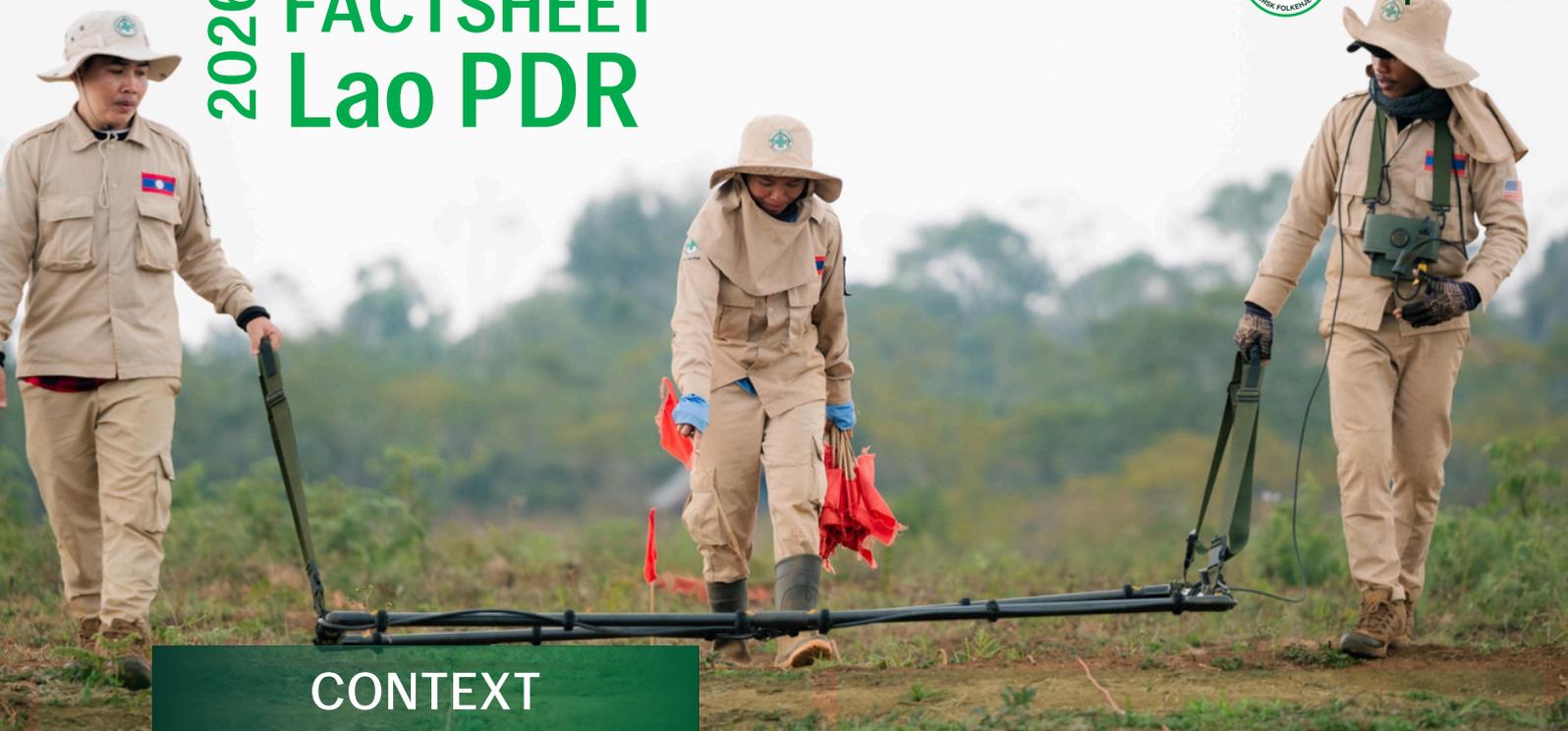




# 2026 FACTSHEET Lao PDR



## CONTEXT

Lao PDR holds the unfortunate distinction of being the most heavily bombed country per capita in history. Between 1964 to 1973, over **two million tonnes of ordnance were dropped during 580,000 bombing missions – equivalent to one planeload of bombs every eight minutes, 24 hours a day, for nine years.**

While a reliable estimate of cluster munition and other explosive ordnance (EO) contamination in Lao PDR is not available yet, the level of contamination is classed as 'massive'. Cluster munition contamination is among the highest in the world when measured against the population, posing significant risks to livelihoods, socio-economic development, and quality of life in affected communities.

According to the current national mine action strategy, "Safe Path Forward III" (2021–2030), there have been at least 50,000 confirmed casualties caused by explosive ordnance since the 1964 to 1973 Indochina war ended. Of these, 30,000 were fatal.

Lao PDR is a state party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), being not only one of the convention's first signatories but also an early champion of it. Under CCM's Article 4, which requires clearance of all areas known to be contaminated by cluster munitions, the country has a completion deadline set to 2030.

According to the Mine Action Review, in 2024, Lao PDR cleared 71.7 km<sup>2</sup> of cluster munition-contaminated land and destroyed 71,106 submunitions, representing the highest annual clearance and destruction output recorded by any State Party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Notably, in August 2023, NPA commenced its first explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) activities, collaborating closely with local communities, particularly but not only, focusing on children, to raise awareness about the EO contamination in Lao PDR. This involves educating people about the various types of EO, the associated risks, and safe behaviour when encountering EO, and the process of reporting any discovery of such.

By the end of 2023, NPA had successfully doubled its operational capacity, supported by increased funding from the Government of the United States, with continued support from the Government of Norway.

Currently, NPA is one of the largest mine action operators in Lao PDR, deploying eight survey teams, 40 clearance teams, four EORE teams, and one mechanical vegetation cutting team across Champasak, Sekong, Attapeu, and Saravane provinces.

NPA continues to work with the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) on an Information Management (IM) capacity development project. The initiative aims to enhance the NRA's IM capacity at all levels by training staff, developing key documents, improving the IM system, and addressing the quality of historical UXO data in Lao PDR.

Additionally, with funding from the Government of Canada, NPA is providing partial support to the Lao Presidency in planning and delivering the Third Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, scheduled to take place in Vientiane in September 2026, including through the engagement of consultants to support planning and arrangements.

## PROGRAMME

The programme in Lao PDR is **one of the biggest in the NPA's Mine Action and Disarmament portfolio**, with an expenditure of USD \$13,716,113 for 2025 and employing over 1,000 national staff as of January 2026.

NPA has been operating in Lao PDR since 1997. For the first 10 years, NPA supported the national clearance operator, UXO Lao, with technical assistance and quality assurance, before starting its own operations in Saravane province in 2009.



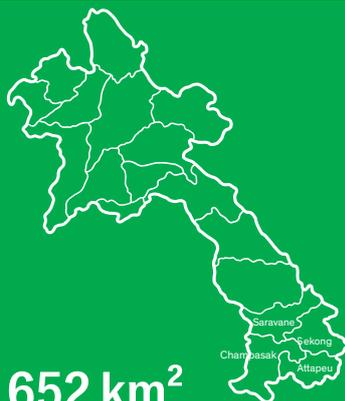


# OVERALL RESULTS

Since the start of the programme from 09 September 2009 until 31 December 2025, NPA's Lao PDR programme has:

**62 km<sup>2</sup>**

of contaminated land cleared in 990 tasks



**2,313**

EORE sessions conducted in 153 villages, reaching 245,689 beneficiaries



**170,617**

UXO items destroyed through survey and clearance operations



**652 km<sup>2</sup>**

of land surveyed, identifying more than 4,696 contaminated tasks covering a total size of over 321 km<sup>2</sup>

**590,585**

persons both direct and indirect benefitting from safe access land



## 2025 RESULTS

**8.7 km<sup>2</sup>**

surveyed and 34 CHAs identified, covering more than 2.2 km<sup>2</sup>



**8,117**

items of explosive ordnance (EO) found and safely destroyed



**1,062**

EORE Sessions conducted in 59 target villages



**9.1 km<sup>2</sup>**

of land previously contaminated with UXO and CMR cleared over 140 tasks



**11,252**

persons directly benefiting from safe access to land



**138,335**

persons attended the EORE sessions



## DONORS AND FUNDING

**2026 FUNDING**  
**USD \$11,600,000**

NPA would like to sincerely thank its donors—the Governments of the United States and Canada—and the generous contributions of private citizens in the Kingdom of Norway for supporting our efforts to protect civilians from explosive weapons in Lao PDR and to help the country fulfill its obligations under Article 4 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

## MORE INFORMATION



NPA Lao PDR Webpage  
<https://shorturl.at/QhOtX>



NPA Lao PDR on Facebook  
<https://shorturl.at/ZZ4WD>



Lao PDR Profile in the Mine Action Review  
<https://shorturl.at/F3H34>



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