



Norwegian People's Aid
Vietnam

Annual Report 2022



Friends and supporters,

In 2022, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) Vietnam is proud to have continued supporting the government of Vietnam, in reducing the impact of explosive ordnance (EO) to levels where people can live safely and development is not constrained. The success of the NPA programme was enabled by the stable funding provided from the governments of the United States and Norway, the contributions of which totalled more than NOK 68 million, more than USD 6.7 million.

Activities implemented by 370 NPA staff members, and the 90 personnel within national and provincial mine action units that are supported with funding from our donors, are the most diverse, efficient and productive they have ever been. Through the year, NPA teams found and safely destroyed more than 13,700 explosive items, representing 28% of all items found globally by NPA. These activities directly supported 27,000 people, including 7,400 women, 5,800 girls, 7,900 men and 5,900 boys.

Our teams identified more than 130km²

of contaminated land through the cluster munitions remnants survey (CMRS) methodology and cleared more than 8,700,000 m² of confirmed hazardous area (CHA). The cost per m² of CHA identified was USD 0.05c, the cost per m² cleared was USD 0.32c and the cost per item found and destroyed was USD \$380.

Some of our greatest achievements in 2022 include the completion of non-technical survey (NTS) of all accessible villages in Quang Tri province, allowing for technical survey (TS) of the same areas to be concluded by April 2023. The completion of CMRS in Quang Tri province will enable authorities to develop an efficient clearance plan and finally define an end state for proactive mine action in the province.

NPA began activities in Kon Tum province on 1 November 2022. This province is a new area of operation for international mine action organisations and likely the most highly contaminated province in Vietnam. We look forward to further developing this project and

working closely with Kon Tum provincial authorities and military command in 2023 to jointly establish new activities to help reduce the impact of EO in the province.

Operational improvements continued with advanced explosive ordnance disposal training (IMAS EOD Level III), and with further methodology trials to improve the efficiency of technical survey. The operational field evaluations of the mobile bomb cutting system, Bearcat vegetation cutting machine and Scorpion deep search detection equipment continued, showing huge potential in further development of new mine action tools.

NPA's capacity development activities were able to expand with a additional funding from the United States Government for our three national partners. This has further enabled increased capacity within and better coordination between all partners. The full establishment of the national information management by the Vietnam National Mine Action Centre

(VNMAC), with close cooperation from US-funded technical advisors, was a key milestone resulting from many years of hard work from all sector stakeholders.

As well as improvements to the regulatory environment for mine action through the approval of revised national regulations for mine action, NPA has witnessed increased coordination and improved team work between authorities and partners at national and provincial level, which has contributed to more efficient and effective management and coordination of mine action activities.

NPA was able to further promote the important role of women in mine action during internal recruitment processes, interaction with government institutions and in several important visits from international donor representatives. We made significant improvements in the integration of environmental protection and climate change resilience in our mine action work.

On the 27 October, NPA celebrated 15

years of operations in country and this milestone was celebrated alongside Vietnamese authorities, donors, and partners and friends in country.

Our staff's dedication to making Vietnam safe from the threat of explosive ordnance is what made NPA Vietnam's achievements in 2022 possible, and I'm very proud to present this years' results in this Annual Report.

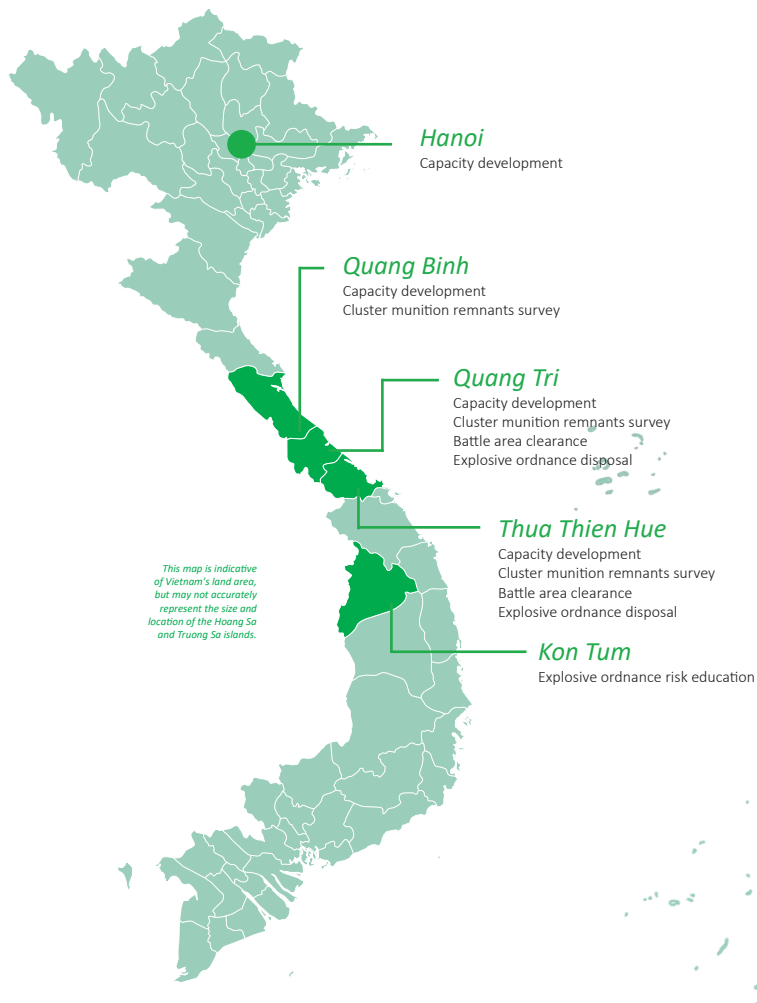
These achievements have only been possible with support from the United States Department of State, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the United States Department of Defense. I thank them for their continued, excellent support for NPA Vietnam.



Jan Erik Støa

Country Director, NPA Vietnam





Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) has worked in Vietnam since 2007, implementing five key activities:

Cluster munition remnants survey (CMRS)

CMRS is the use of non-technical (NTS) and technical survey (TS) to identify a confirmed hazardous area (CHA) from cluster munition remnants.

Battle area clearance (BAC)

BAC is the systematic and controlled clearance of confirmed hazardous areas defined through CMRS.

Explosive ordnance disposal (EOD)

EOD is the identification and demolition of explosive ordnance outside of a CHA, usually in response to an item reported by the community.

Explosive ordnance risk education (EORE)

EORE seeks to reduce the injury of explosive ordnance by raising awareness of women, girls, boys and men in accordance with their different vulnerabilities, roles and needs, and promoting behavioural change.

Capacity development (CD)

CD is a long-term cooperative partnership to strengthen the ability of national and provincial partners to monitor, manage, regulate and coordinate the mine action sector.

NPA's vision in Vietnam is to reduce contamination from cluster munitions and other explosive ordnance to a level where people can live safely and where development is not constrained.

In 2022, NPA's work benefitted 27,000 people including 7,400 women, 5,800 girls, 7,900 men and 5,900 boys. 90 people, including 11 women, within VNMAC and three provincial mine action units benefitted from capacity development support.



"I can't remember how many times I had encountered dangerous wartime munitions while tending rubber trees in this area. Thanks to NPA clearance teams, rubber workers in the village will feel safer." - Le Van Cuong



"We now feel assured because of NPA teams in our village. They have cleared the land of unexploded ordnance, so I am now confident to tend to my garden without fear." - Can Nhi



"There used to be a lot of unexploded ordnance in my village, in the field, in the plantation. So I feel very happy when seeing NPA teams around." Le Thi Hoi thanked surveyor Nguyen Thi Nhung and other women working in mine action "You're very brave to do this job".



"It is such a pleasure to come back to this hill after it is cleared by NPA teams. Now I am confident to plant my melaleuca." - Nghieng Thi Din



To achieve its vision of reducing contamination from cluster munitions to a level where people can live safely and where development is not constrained, NPA contributes to provincial cluster munition remnants survey and to the clearance of high-priority confirmed hazardous areas. In 2022, the programme achieved the following results:



120

villages covered
by NTS



8.7

square kilometres of
CHA cleared



750

EOD spot tasks
responded to



220

CHAs created
totalling 130
square kilometres



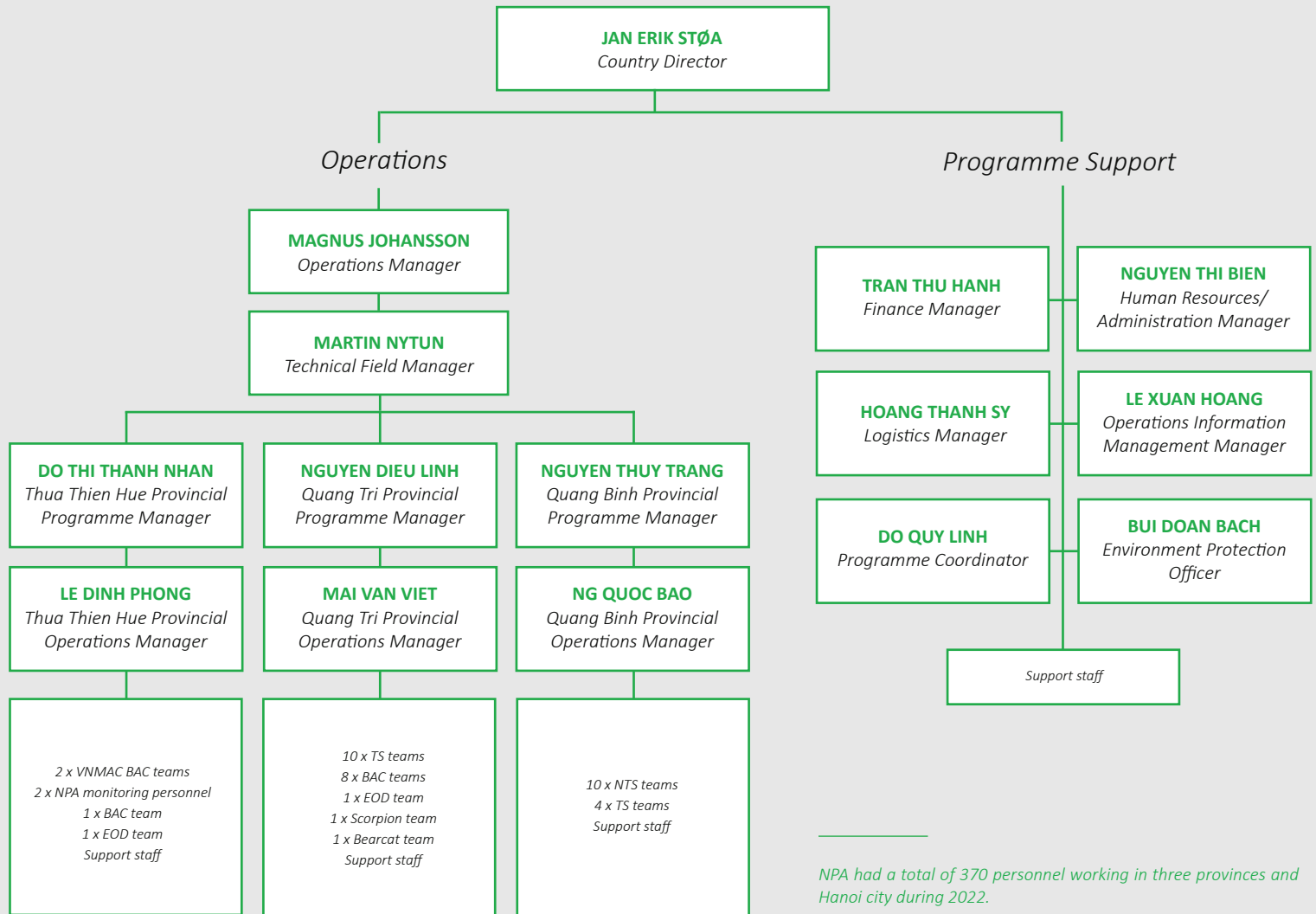
13,700+

items of explosive
ordnance destroyed



30%

of NPA personnel are
female (111 of 370)



NPA had a total of 370 personnel working in three provinces and Hanoi city during 2022.

Completion of non-technical survey in Quang Tri province



On 8 April 2022, NPA's NTS team visited the last accessible village in Quang Tri, located in the mountainous border district of Huong Hoa. Mr Ho Tien and his wife, an ethnic Bru Van Kieu couple who grow cassava in Long An village, confirmed with the team members that they had encountered wartime munitions while farming. "It is such a relief to know that our land will be surveyed and cleared so that local farmers will have safe land to farm," said 20-year-old Ho Tien.

This marks the completion of NTS in all accessible villages in Quang Tri province. Non-technical survey is the first step in the cluster munition remnants survey (CMRS) process, which is used to identify the boundaries of confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) with contamination from cluster munition remnants. Through NTS, all reasonable effort is used to identify, collect, analyse and report information in order to find

direct evidence of cluster munitions. Information is gathered during a combination of desk assessment, village meetings, household interviews and individual interviews, with community members sharing their local knowledge of the contamination situation.

The NTS process is one of the most important parts of the land release system in Vietnam as it allows our teams to gather information directly from the people who live with explosive ordnance contamination every day.

Since 2015, NPA has utilized funding from the United States government to complete NTS in 728 villages, or 91% of all villages in the province. The remaining 73 villages in Quang Tri province remain inaccessible to international operators. In these villages, information was gathered from more than 70,000 people, of which 35% are women and girls.

Development of technical survey

Since its first trial by NPA in Vietnam in 2015, CMRS has been continually improved through five different versions, each of which sought to improve the accuracy and effectiveness of NTS and TS. NPA strives for continual improvement of this methodology, and so conducted a field trial of a new version of technical survey. The results of this trial demonstrated that significant operational efficiencies can be gained by deploying a team with a different personnel configuration and improved method of searching boxes. NPA has implemented this methodology in Quang Tri province.

Left (top): Non-technical survey team member Le Van Bay talks with a group of Van Kieu ethnic minority people in Huong Hoa district, Quang Tri province. *Left (bottom):* Members of NPA/RENEW non-technical survey team in Nai Cuu village of Huong Hoa district -the last village to be surveyed in Quang Tri province. *Right:* The field trial of technical survey conducted in Quang Tri province.



Continued clearance and EOD

NPA continued conducting EOD and clearance activities in Thua Thien Hue and Quang Tri provinces. With support from local authorities, focus was placed on supporting the most at-risk communities in A Luoi and Phong Dien districts, where there has previously been only a limited amount of mine action activities. These activities verified the results of NPA's previous CMRS activities.

NPA's work in Thua Thien Hue included the management of a provincial explosive ordnance reporting hotline, to enable reporting of dangerous items by community members. These items were then safely destroyed by NPA's team.



Top: Operator Nguyen Thi Thu Van uses a large loop detector during clearance in Quang Tri province.
Bottom: Team leader Tran Thanh Hai preparing an MK81 bomb for demolition in A Luoi district, Thua Thien Hue province.

Integration of climate and environment considerations into mine action

NPA continued to develop new ways of integrating climate change considerations and environmental protection into mine action.

An internal emissions monitoring dashboard was developed, so the carbon outputs of NPA mine action activities can be monitored and reduced.

A tool for routinely identifying and reducing the environmental impacts of mine action was developed and tested alongside NPA's global environment team in Oslo. NPA is working with local partners in Thua Thien Hue province to develop a project that will conduct

field tests of sand bags made from co bang, a local grass, to replace the plastic sandbags currently used by NPA teams as a protective measure during explosive ordnance disposal activities.

NPA continued to develop its Total Mine Action Survey methodology, which seeks to integrate climate resilience and environment survey into NTS, along with mapping of EORE and victim assistance needs. TMAS be trialled and further developed in Thua Thien Hue province in 2023, with funding from the United States government.

Top: Senior Advisor on Climate and Environment, Kristin Holme Obrestad, and Linsey Cottrell from the Conflict and Environment Observatory receive a briefing from the Thua Thien Hue non-technical survey team to learn how the methodology will be improved to integrate climate and environment activities. *Middle:* Local craftspeople weaving with co bang, the local grass that will be tested for use during sandbag manufacture. This grass provides an eco-friendly alternative to the plastic sandbags currently used by NPA teams during explosive ordnance disposal. *Bottom:* An example of the products currently made from co bang grass, the making of which will be used to inform the development of plastic-free sandbags.



Promotion of gender and diversity mainstreaming



To further improve on the integration of gender and diversity into all mine action activities, NPA has established a five-person internal Gender Working Group. These personnel, who have thematic experience in operations, human resources, capacity development and environment, are undertaking gender focal point training provided by GICHD and will be responsible for implementing more comprehensive gender and diversity mainstreaming activities from 2023.

NPA's provincial programme manager in Quang Tri province, Nguyen Thi Dieu Linh, was honoured to meet Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh during a national mine action event hosted by the Ministry of Defence. Linh shared with him the important role that women play in mine action in Vietnam, and the Prime Minister expressed his appreciation for NPA's all-female clearance team, for Linh's leadership and to her female colleagues for their important work.

During a visit from Ms Bonnie Jenkins, Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security at the United States Department of State, six NPA personnel participated in a round table discussion on the role that women play in mine action. NPA personnel discussed the challenges they face as women and how they overcome these, and were offered advice from Ms Jenkins on how they can continue their professional and personal development.

Successful partnerships in Quang Binh

In Quang Binh province, NPA maintained good cooperation with project partners and a close relationship with local authorities at all levels. This includes the Provincial Military Command, who facilitate much of the day-to-day work of NPA's NTS and TS teams. These relationships enabled the expansion of operations into 11 new communes in Quang Binh province. NPA is now able to conduct CMRS in 38 communes.

The importance of the CMRS process in enabling more efficient clearance and planning was recognised with the extension of funding from the United States government until 2024.

Top: NTS surveyor Bui Thi Thong with local farmer Nguyen Huu Lan. Bottom: TS operator Le Ngoc Dung surveying within a cassava field.



Continued research and development of new operational tools

In an effort to continue finding ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of mine action, NPA continued the operational field evaluation of the Scorpion deep search detection tool and Bearcat vegetation cutting system, with funding from the United States Department of Defense (DOD). The Scorpion system has been tested in various soil and ground conditions where it has proved itself potent at especially detecting EO at a deeper depths. The Bearcat has been tested and deployed assisting NPA's clearance assets with its efficient vegetation removal, enable the teams to concentrate on clearance and not

manual vegetation removal.

NPA established a mobile bomb cutting system in Thua Thien Hue province, with equipment and training jointly provided by NMFA and DOD. This system is used on larger airdropped bombs that can't be destroyed in situ. NPA personnel will conduct a risk assessment to confirm that these items are safe to move, then relocate them to the demolition site in Phong Dien district. An x-ray system is used to confirm what the item contains, then a band saw is used to cut the item open. The explosive are then burned out and the remaining metal is further disposed of separately.



Left (top): The Scorpion deep search detector being used at a task site in Quang Tri province. *Left (middle):* The Bearcat system being utilised to prepare a task for clearance. *Caption. Left (bottom):* Team leader Tran Thanh Hai instructs his team on the use of the mobile bomb cutting system. *Right:* NPA supported long-term partner HueFO to have staff attended a GICHD course on explosive ordnance risk education.

Increasing capacity for EORE

In anticipation of increasing risk education activities in the coming years, NPA spent considerable effort working with national partners to increase our organisational capacity for EORE. NPA conducted several meetings with organisations implementing EORE in Vietnam, including Catholic Relief Services, Project RENEW, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Mines Advisory Group to collect information on their best practice and establish networks for potential future cooperation.

NPA supported our partner in Thua Thien Hue province to increase their knowledge and skills on EORE. Long-term partner HueFO was supported to send one participant to a GICHD course, *Developing Effective Explosive Ordnance Risk Education*. This course provided an in-depth review of



effective behaviour change strategies and evidence-based approaches to EORE, as well as an array of

tools, methods and best practices for program design, delivery and monitoring.





In 2022, NPA was able to bring personnel together for larger meetings for the first time since 2020, due to the restrictions in place to limit the spread of COVID 19.

NPA supported the development of these personnel by investing in internal capacity development. This is important to ensure that Vietnamese

people have the knowledge and skills required to continue addressing the impacts of EO for many years to come.

Capacity development in 2022 included training on medical procedures, financial and logistics management, information management, gender and diversity, safeguarding, monitoring and

evaluation, and environmental protection.

In 2022, NPA had a total of 370 personnel, of which 111 are women. More than 50% of the senior management team are women, as are 37% of operational personnel.

Clockwise from left: NPA personnel in Quang Binh, Quang Tri and Thua Thien Hue provinces.



Clockwise from top left: QTMAC conducting quality management of an NPA clearance task. The Thua Thien Hue Database Unit working in-field with QTMAC. US-funded technical advisors and VNMAC representatives attending a GICHD regional workshop on residual risk management. US-funded technical advisors supporting the Quang Binh DBCU.

To achieve our vision of reducing contamination from cluster munitions to a level where people can live safely and where development is not constrained, NPA supports the national authority to increase their ability to regulate, coordinate and monitor the mine action sector. NPA supports impacted provinces to develop a sustainable, effective and efficient provincial capacity. In 2022, the following results were achieved:



90

people supported,
including 11 women



20+

workshops and
trainings



2

new national
regulations developed



2

expert lectures on
International Mine
Action Standards



3

international events
engaged with by
partners

Seven personnel implemented capacity development projects in partnership with four national organisations in 2022. New relationships were formed with the Provincial People's Committee and Provincial Military Command in Kon Tum province.

TIMOTHY HORNER

Senior Technical Advisor

KIMBERLEY MCCOSKER

Project Manager

IKRAM SHEHU

*Information Management
Technical Advisor*

PHAN VAN HUNG

*National Information
Management Advisor*

1 Project Coordinator + 2 Project Officers



National Mine Action Authority

**VIETNAM NATIONAL MINE ACTION
CENTRE (VNMAC)**

Provincial Mine Action Units

**QUANG BINH DATABASE AND
COORDINATION UNIT (DBCUC)**

**QUANG TRI MINE ACTION CENTRE
(QTMAC)**

**THUA THIEN HUE DATABASE UNIT
(DBU)**

Full establishment of the national information management system



One of the most significant outcomes of NPA's capacity development activities in Vietnam is supporting VNMAC to fully establish a national information management system. This includes further development of the IMSMA database and standardised national reporting forms, which enable VNMAC to consolidate existing mine action data and routinely collect new mine action information into a centrally-owned standardised database- the first time this has been possible in Vietnam. With the approval of national information management regulations in July 2022, the national information management system is fully established.

To support the implementation of the national information management system, two trainings were conducted for a total of 78 personnel from Provincial and Regional Military

Commands in central and southern Vietnam. These two trainings follow on from the first training session conducted in December 2021 for military personnel in northern Vietnam. Following the successful conclusion of these three trainings, Information Management officers in each of the 64 provinces in Vietnam have the skills and equipment required to routinely fulfill their obligation to report mine action data into the national database. The capacity of the VNMAC IMU increased during the delivery of these courses, with personnel now capable of conducting this training without the assistance of US-funded advisors – a significant indicator of VNMAC's desire to have ownership over the national IMS and related trainings, and of their continually increasing capacity for information management.

Support to VNMAC training centre

The VNMAC Training Centre has ambitions to become fully capable of training Vietnamese military capacities in IMAS-compliant mine action as a step towards long-term sustainability of mine action interventions. Support to the training centre through 2022 has included the development of training curriculums on information management, explosive ordnance disposal and quality management, and facilitating the delivery of advanced trainings by external stakeholders.

Left (top): Training on the national information management system conducted for central and southern military commands. *Left (middle):* US-funded advisors supporting the daily work of the VNMAC IMU. *Left (bottom):* Information management training for provincial database units jointly conducted by NPA and VNMAC with support from Thua Thien Hue DOFA. *Right (top):* Mr Khanh, Head of the VNMAC Training Centre with Senior Technical Advisor Tim Horner. *Right (bottom):* NPA sharing training curriculum and other materials with VNMAC.



Improved regulatory environment for mine action

2022 saw significant improvements to the regulatory environment for mine action in Vietnam. In August, the revision of QCVN *National Technical Regulation on Mine Action* was approved, and effectively establishes new national standards for mine action in Vietnam. In the same month, the national Information Management System regulations were approved. US government-funded technical advisors and NPA programme personnel were instrumental in the development of both regulations. The approval of these documents strengthens the regulatory environment for mine action in Vietnam, and subsequently enable VNMAC to more clearly coordinate and monitor mine action activities in Vietnam.

Through expert lectures, participation in international workshops and meetings, and cooperation with national mine action authorities in the south-east Asian region, VNMAC has increased their understanding of International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), international legal frameworks, concepts of liability and residual risk management, and the practical application of environmental management in mine action. VNMAC was supported to take their first seat on the IMAS Review Board. These activities, conducted on an ongoing basis throughout the capacity development project, contribute to VNMAC's increased ability to coordinate the large and complex mine action sector in Vietnam.



Top: VNMAC Deputy Director Mr Hop, NPA Global Capacity Development Advisor Rob White and Senior Technical Advisor Tim Horner participating in an expert lecture on Environment in Mine Action. *Bottom:* The Vietnam delegation to the 2022 National Director's Meeting hosted by the United Nations Mine Action Service in Geneva, Switzerland. The delegation includes Deputy Director General Mr Phuc (front) and Senior Technical Advisor Tim Horner.

Operational support to VNMAC



In Thua Thien Hue province, NPA established a partnership with VNMAC to train and mentor two BAC teams, with the purpose of increasing VNMAC's clearance capacity with particular focus on compliance with international mine action standards. Two weeks of training was followed by joint deployment on confirmed hazardous areas in A Luoi district. Together, NPA and VNMAC teams cleared 1.5 km² and safely destroyed more than 800 EO.

The QCVN *National Technical Regulation on Mine Action*, approved in August 2022, demonstrates the success of a previous operational support project undertaken with VNMAC. The section of the QCVN that establishes the national standard for survey is based on the SOP used by NPA and VNMAC teams during this project. This indicates VNMAC's commitment to effective and efficient technical survey prior to clearance of cluster munition remnants.

NPA supported VNMAC to establish a skilled, fully-equipped mobile bomb cutting team. With support from the United States Department of Defense, an NPA technical advisor conducted training in Hanoi followed by hands-on experience in Quang Tri province. Eight VNMAC personnel, including one woman, were certified in the use of the bomb cutting tools and methodology, and all equipment - including trailer, saw and x-ray - were handed over to VNMAC.



Improved coordination in Quang Binh

The Quang Binh Database and Coordination Unit (DBCUC) continues to increase its capacity, with support from US-funded technical advisors. The DBCUC has fully integrated its IM systems and processes with the national database, with particular focus on consolidation of all historic data. This ensures non-technical survey is implemented in the most effective way possible, and enables the transparent sharing of information to all mine action stakeholders. The coordination capacity of the DBCUC has improved with practical application of prioritisation processes, routine sector coordination meetings and frequent communication with other provincial mine action centres in Vietnam to share best practice and discuss lessons learned across the sector.



Steps towards Quang Tri province becoming impact-free

NPA's long-term partner QTMAC (Quang Tri Mine Action Centre) aim to make Quang Tri province free from the impact of explosive ordnance by 2025. As a step towards this goal, QTMAC and its international advisory team developed initial drafts of 'safe province' criteria. Following the conclusion of survey and clearance activities, these criteria will eventually be used to determine if areas within the province can be considered as free from the impact of explosive ordnance, and if residual risk management approaches can be adopted in place of proactive clearance. These criteria will continue to be developed through 2023, with support from all sector stakeholders. Additionally, QTMAC began implementing quality management of technical survey, explosive ordnance disposal and clearance tasks in August

2022. External quality management is a fundamental part of mine action as it provides confidence to beneficiaries, donors and VNMAC that standard operating procedures have been followed and that cleared land is fit for its intended purpose.

Left: The Quang Binh DBCU developing their criteria for assessment of confirmed hazardous areas and attending a training course on data analysis and mapping. Right: QTMAC conducting quality management of an NPA technical survey task, prioritising a CHA prior to clearance, and successfully receiving certification in advanced data analysis.





Efficiency of Hue DBU increased

Following its establishment in late 2021, the Thua Thien Hue Database Unit (DBU) is now able to manage provincial mine action data efficiently and in line with the national information management regulations. NPA technical advisors and the VNMAC Information Management Unit supported the DBU with IMSMA Level 1 Training. The DBU has since completed the collection and standardisation of historic data from civilian and military operators, and has fully integrated its systems and processes with VNMAC's national database. The website of the DBU is published, meaning all information on mine action activities in Thua Thien Hue province is publicly accessible for the first time.



Left: The Thua Thien Hue DBU on an exchange visit to the Quang Binh DBCU and QTMAC, to share experience on information management processes.

Establishing operations in Kon Tum province



NPA has established a project office in Kon Tum province and formally began activities on 1 November, in close cooperation with Kon Tum provincial authorities. NPA is supporting the PMC to expand its explosive ordnance risk education activities and conduct these in line with international standards and best practice. The potential for additional mine action activities including survey, clearance and victim assistance is being assessed with the support of provincial

partners. NPA personnel and the PMC have jointly conducted a field visit to select the locations for EORE activities in 2023. The survey results indicated a high need for EORE to be conducted in Kon Tum, especially in rural communes and districts which were former battle fields. A high percentage of minority ethnic groups still have a particularly low awareness of the risks associated with explosive ordnance. A workshop to share experience on EORE implementation with other

national partners from Quang Tri province was also conducted. NPA looks forward to continuing and growing these partnerships to help people live safely and further develop their communities. Through 2022, NPA continued its evaluation of Quang Nam and Quang Ngai provinces to identify where NPA may be able to support mine action in these provinces. These provinces are among the most heavily affected provinces in Vietnam.



25 - 27 October

Senior Technical Advisor Tim Horner presents NPA Vietnam's monitoring and evaluation process for national partners at NPA's global Capacity Development Workshop, held in Hanoi. Facilitated by Rob White, Global Capacity Development Advisor, this workshop brought technical advisors from all programmes where NPA supports national mine action authorities, to share experience and lessons learned during capacity development.



16 November

Mr Marc E Knapper, Ambassador of the United States to Vietnam, visited the Vietnam National Mine Action Centre (VNMAC) for the first time since 2016. The Ambassador visited the Information Management Unit and received an update on the status of the national IMSMA database, and shared his appreciation of the strong and effective cooperation between the US Embassy and VNMAC.

5 October

Global Special Advisor Eva Veble, with support from Finance Controller Jannecke Røed, delivered training on NPA's internal systems for ensuring grants from the United States government are well-managed in line with donor and NPA rules and regulations. This training was attended by key support personnel in NPA's finance, logistics, administration and programme management departments.



28 October - 4 November

Senior Advisor on Climate and Environment, Kristin Holme Obrestad, and Linsey Cottrell from the Conflict and Environment Observatory visited Thua Thien Hue and Quang Tri province, where they provided advice on the implementation of climate and environment initiatives and met with local partners supporting NPA's environment and climate initiatives.





26 September - 7 October

Advisor Giti Carli Mohn visited the Vietnam programme for the first time, where she learned about the operational methodologies used by NPA Vietnam, met key national partners and shared advice and feedback on the programme's implementation based on her many years working in the international sector. Here, she is shown how to use the DOD-funded Bearcat tool.



16 - 25 May

PM/WRA Program Manager Mr Ethan Rinks and PM/WRA Program Advisor Dr Geary Cox were accompanied by senior officials from the United States Embassy in Vietnam on their visit to NPA task sites and field offices in Quang Tri, Quang Binh and Thua Thien Hue provinces. NPA's key national personnel in each province welcomed the opportunity to meet with the donors, to demonstrate the methodologies used by US-funded teams, and discuss successes and challenges with the delegation.

21 August - 2 September

A Head Office Monitoring Team, including Mr. Aksel Steen-Nilsen, Country Director of NPA Thailand and Palau, Mr. Nermin Mujcinovic, Senior Technical Advisor Afghanistan, and Mr. Robert White, NPA Global Capacity Development Advisor, conducted internal monitoring of the Vietnam programme to ensure greater uniformity and higher quality in the implementation of NPA programmes globally. The team visited all NPA projects and met with key national partners.



9 September

Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins, Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security at the United States Department of State, visited Quang Tri province where she was shown a demonstration of the CMRS methodology by NTS and TS teams.





16 September

Ms. Donna Welton, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Programs and Operations in the United States Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, where she witnessed a field demonstration of CMRS. She was given a copy of CMRS Best Practice to further detail NPA's flagship survey methodology.



20 January

Colonel Eric Larsen, Director of the USARPAC Counter IED Fusion Centre, visited US Department of Defence operational field evaluation sites in Quang Tri province. He was briefed by Tran Chi Thieu, NPA Chief Operations Field Evaluation Expert, and operator Ho Tat Toan, on the improvements made to the Scorpion and Bearcat tools during the trial.

25 - 26 October

Norwegian Ambassador to Vietnam and Lao PDR, Ms. Hilde Solbakken, Mr. Per Håkon, NPA's Director of Mine Action and Disarmament, and Ms. Camilla Dannevig, Senior Advisor from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA) visited Quang Tri and Thua Thien Hue provinces.

This was the first time a representative from NMFA has visited NPA in Vietnam. In Quang Tri, they were shown the Scorpion deep detection system by US Department of Defence advisor Phil Straw.



27 October

NPA celebrated the 15th anniversary of its operations in Vietnam at a reception in Hanoi, and was very honoured to receive representatives of Vietnam's national authorities, provincial authorities and the embassies of the United States and Norway, as well as friends and partners from across the mine action sector both in Vietnam and internationally. On this occasion, NPA received a Certification of Appreciation from the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations.



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