



Norwegian People's Aid
Vietnam

Annual Report 2024



Friends and supporters,

As the previous year comes to an end, we all take a moment to reflect on 2024. It has been a year of change, and growth. We have learned from our collective experiences, and strengthened our program and our team dedicated to reducing the impact of explosive ordnance in the local communities where we work in Vietnam.

We hope that in the future we will be able to foster even greater collaboration among our different stakeholders. We realize that now more than ever it is important to continue to work together and support each other. Together, we aspire to achieve our objectives in the field of humanitarian mine action, creating a positive impact for the future here in Vietnam.

In 2024, 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 by the governments of the United States and Norway, the contributions of which totalled more than NOK 91 million, or more than USD 8.25 million.

Activities implemented by NPA staff members, and the personnel within the 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 7,082 explosive items.

In 2024, NPA's work benefitted 24,231 people including 6,982 women, 4,656 girls, 7,585 men and 5,008 boys. Our teams identified 46.81 km² of contaminated land through the cluster munitions remnants survey (CMRS) methodology and cleared more than 12,240,000 m² of confirmed hazardous area (CHA).

In 2024, NPA continued to conduct cluster munitions remnants survey (CMRS), clearance activities, explosive ordnance destruction (EOD) and explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) in the provinces where we work. This includes work conducted in Quang Tri, Quang Binh, Thua Thien Hue and Kon Tum Provinces.

NPA's capacity development activities were able to continue, further enabling increased capacity within and better coordination between all partners.

Coordination and teamwork continue to improve between authorities and partners at the national and provincial level. This has contributed to more

efficient and effective management and coordination of mine action activities.

This year NPA was the proud recipient of several prizes that highlight NPA's commitment and contribution to the society here in Vietnam.

As an organization we also made continued improvements in the integration of environmental protection and climate change resilience in our mine action work.

Our staff's dedication to making Vietnam safe from the threat of explosive ordnance is what made NPA Vietnam's achievements possible in 2024. It is their commitment and the

effort that they put in every day in the provinces where we work that makes our activities and success possible as a team.

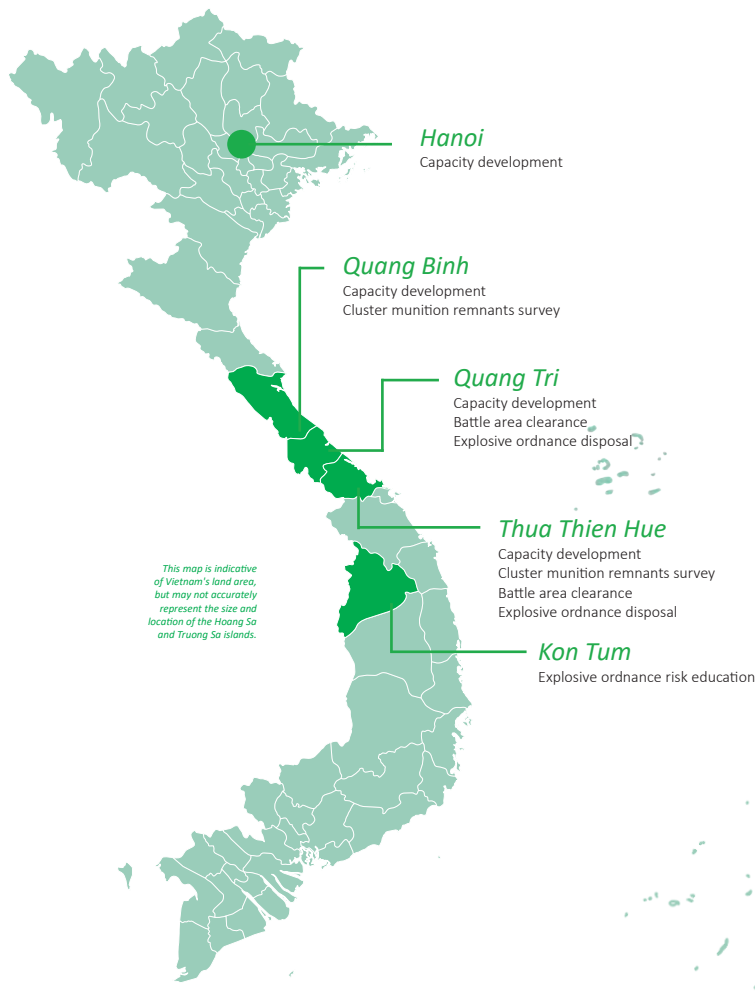
NPA is grateful for the continued support from our donors including the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), the United States Department of State, the United States Department of Defense, and the Embassy of Germany in Hanoi. It has been a pleasure to continue to work together with them and our other partners in Vietnam to ensure our collective success.

Aubrey Miles Sutherland
Country Director, NPA Vietnam

Cover photos clockwise from left: Break time when team members share work experience and daily stories; TS Operator Ngo Thi Mai, together with her team members, is surveying at a cassava plantation; Team leader Le Thi Thu Ha records the inventory of munitions found; One of hundreds of cluster munitions that still contaminate Vietnam. Captions Left Top: Team members discussing with each other during a pause in the working day; Left Bottom: Team medic providing support to the disposal of explosive ordnance found on the clearance site; Captions page four, clockwise from top left: Team leader Le Thi Thu Ha investigates the UXO storage site; Mr. Chua is provided with a hotline number card and instructed on how to call for reporting when encountering an EO in the future; Team members secure the Mk82 at the bottom of the demo pit; Team members working with the scorpion tool in the field; Team leader Tran Thanh Hai briefs the team of the task after assessing the situation; Captions for page six top: The explosion is captured from the control point; Bottom: Preparation for further EOD work.

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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.



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 2024, the programme achieved the following results



161
villages covered
by NTS



12.2
square kilometres of
CHA cleared



716
EOD spot tasks
responded to



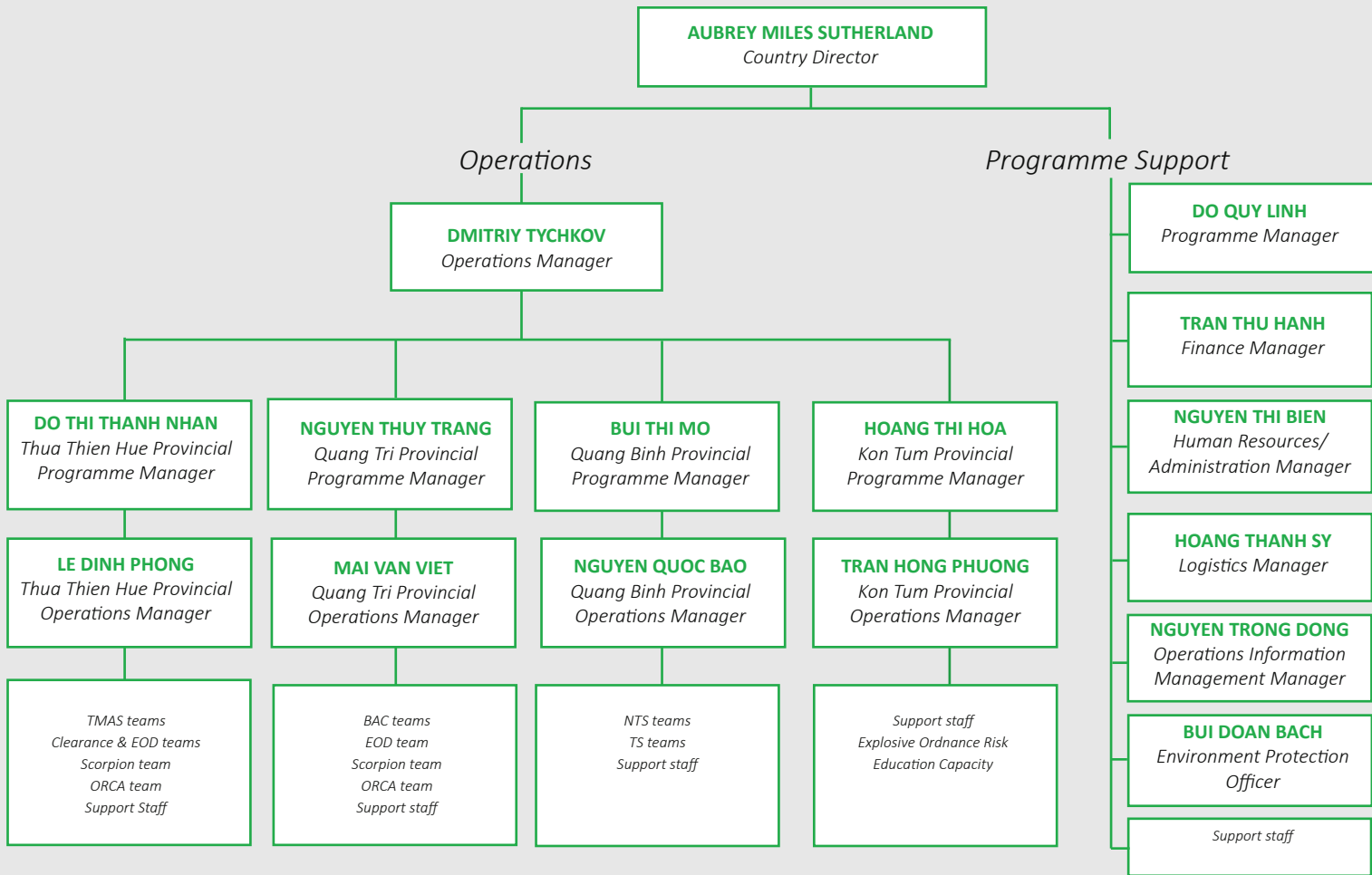
62
CHAs created
totalling 46.8
square kilometres



7,082
items of explosive
ordnance destroyed



32%
of NPA personnel are
female (127 of 395)



NPA had a total of 395 personnel working in four provinces and Hanoi city during 2024.

Land Release Activities

In 2024, NPA continued to conduct cluster munitions remnants survey (CMRS), clearance, EOD and explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) activities in the provinces where we work. This includes work conducted in Quang Tri, Quang Binh, Thua Thien Hue and Kon Tum Provinces.

In Quang Tri Province, NPA continues to work with the Quang Tri Mine Action Center (QTMAC) and the provincial Mine Action Steering Committee to support Quang Tri province in achieving its goal of becoming the first province to be free from the impacts of explosive ordnance by 2025. This year QTMAC introduced the safe district criteria moving the sector one step closer towards this goal.

In 2024 NPA deployed 15 clearance teams that conducted battle area clearance in line with the priorities of the province and in cooperation with other mine action actors.

In Quang Binh province, NPA continued to conduct CMRS activities as an integral component of the joint project implemented by the consortium between Norwegian People's Aid Vietnam, MAG Vietnam and PeaceTrees Vietnam. These activities are conducted with the support of the local authorities in the affected communities.

In Quang Binh province, NPA completed Non-Technical Surveys (NTS) in 90 villages, surveying a total of 18,000,000 m² of land, generating 62 confirmed hazardous areas (46,809,786 m²), and identified 1,088 explosive items handed over for destruction.

NPA also continues to support the Database and Coordination Unit (DBCUC) in its role as coordinator of mine action in Quang Binh province. This ensures that mine action data is collected, stored and shared in line with national requirements.

In Thua Thien Hue, NPA continued to conduct survey, clearance and EOD activities with the support from the local authorities. Focus was placed on supporting the most at-risk communities in Phong Dien and Huong Thuy districts due to high contamination levels in these areas.

In 2024 NPA continued the implementation of the more comprehensive approach to survey called the Total Mine Action Survey (TMAS) in Thua Thien Hue.

In close cooperation with the provincial Department of Foreign Affairs, NPA continues to support the Thua Thien Hue Database Unit (DBU), including the provincial explosive ordnance reporting hotline, to enable reporting of dangerous items by community members. This unit enables the collection of mine action data for analysis and prioritisation of activities.

Photos clockwise from top left: Team members handling a large loop detector; Team member using a handheld detector to check a cache of explosive munitions; Successful removal of a MK82-500LB bomb from a future melaleuca forest plantation; Marking of a found item for future demolition at the end of the working day.



Continuation of Total Mine Action Survey (TMAS)



In 2023, NPA Vietnam introduced a new survey approach called Total Mine Action Survey (TMAS). This approach is based on the traditional non-technical survey (NTS) methodology but takes a more holistic approach. Additional information connected to the need for further explosive ordnance risk education and victim assistance activities is also collected, along with information on climate change and environmental protection issues. This expanded and integrated approach shifts the survey work to be more community oriented, encompassing a broader range of factors related to the impacts of conflict.

The TMAS methodology acknowledges the interconnectedness of various factors influencing the lives of individuals living in conflict-affected areas. It recognizes that addressing the consequences of conflicts requires a comprehensive approach that goes beyond solely identifying hazardous areas. By incorporating victim assistance,

explosive ordnance risk education, and environmental and climate change considerations, the TMAS has improved NPA's ability to develop targeted strategies to mitigate the effects of conflicts on communities based on the information collected.

With the support of the US Department of State, NPA Vietnam continued the deployment of its first Total Mine Action Survey (TMAS) team in the NPA Thua Thien Hue province. The team is composed of one male team leader and twelve survey staff (six males and six females, working in pairs).

The TMAS team spends more time with the local villagers, thus creating more trust and building higher confidence from the population, which in turn increases the quality of the information collected. This extended type of non-technical survey has increased the amount of information NPA collects on the remaining cluster munition contaminated areas and other ordnance.

During 2024, the TMAS team has completed the survey in 71 villages of Phong Dien and Huong Thuy districts, interviewing a total of 10,800 individuals including 5,173 men, 4,371 women, 668 boys, and 588 girls.

The team generated 13 technical survey tasks and 45 EOD tasks. In addition, the teams have collected details of 111 explosive ordnance accidents in these two districts, and mapped victim assistance needs of a total of 189 victims, of which 141 cases were due to accidents from different explosive ordnance (EO) and another 48 victims from the use of agent orange (AO).

All data are reported by NPA to Thua Thien Hue provincial database unit managed by TT-Hue Department of Foreign Affairs for follow-up analysis, and coordination of further tasking.

The NPA Vietnam program aims to deploy this updated survey methodology in other provinces in Vietnam in the future.

Photos top left: The TMAS Team; middle: NPA MTT Medic, bottom: Surveyor Vo Thi Lanh recording EO info from local villagers; Photos top right: 81 mm mortar found and later destroyed through EOD spot task; bottom right: Team leader Tran Xuan Hung makes an inventory of unexploded cluster munitions



Strengthening National and Provincial Partnerships

NPA Vietnam and VNMAC are jointly committed to addressing the legacy of the wars in Vietnam, and increasing development opportunities in the areas where we work.

Based on the MOU signed between the Vietnamese National Mine Action Center (VNMAC) and NPA, the two parties continued to strengthen this partnership and mutual cooperation in 2024.

The NPA Senior Technical Advisor works with VNMAC to give advice on the strategic level and to assist in strengthening VNMAC's capacity at a managerial level. This includes formulating the next national mine action strategy and assisting VNMAC in the formulation of a national ordinance on mine action.

NPA continued to support VNMAC's capacity in the area of information

management. This includes assisting VNMAC to transition to the new Information Management System in Mine Action database, IMSMA Core, and conducting information management trainings for Vietnamese personnel including VNMAC staff, provincial information management staff and other survey/clearance operators in Vietnam.

NPA also provides capacity development support to local provincial authorities to prioritize areas for further survey and clearance work, based both on national interests and local community needs. This includes the newly developed criteria for establishing safe districts.

VNMAC and NPA also conduct joint trainings, including explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) courses in line with International Mine Action Standards.



Photos top and bottom left: VNMAC EOD training course. Photo top right: Data base unit meeting in A Loui district; Photo bottom right: NPA's capacity development team meeting with VNMAC national authorities.



ATLE KARLSEN

Senior Technical Advisor

LASSE MARINUS JOERGENSEN

Senior Training Coordinator

IKRAM SHEHU

*Information Management
Technical Advisor*

PHAN VAN HUNG

*National Information
Management Advisor*

*1 Project Coordinator, 2 Project Officers
1 Translator*



National Mine Action Authority

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

Provincial Mine Action Units

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

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

**THỪA THIÊN HUẾ DATABASE UNIT
(DBU)**

Joint Initiatives and Partnerships

NPA continues to work with the support of the US Department of Defence on research and development activities linked to the trial of new detection and bomb cutting tools. The Scorpion deep search detection tool continues to prove itself as a reliable tool to increase the efficiency of clearance activities in the field. The mobile bomb cutting system has also proven itself to be a beneficial tool for NPA's continued operations. It increases efficiency and reduces the impact of NPA's explosive ordnance disposal activities on the environment.

NPA also works in partnership with VNMAC and the United States Army Pacific Command (USARPAC) to conduct explosive ordnance disposal training courses for selected staff working in mine action in Vietnam.

An IMAS EOD level 1 course for VNMAC staff was conducted in March / April of 2024, followed by an EOD level 2 course, that included an additional practical

training in the field for all participants facilitated by NPA in May / June 2024. An EOD level 3 course was also conducted in September / October of 2024.

New in 2024, NPA in partnership with VNMAC and USARPAC also conducted a First Aid Training (Basic Care Provider) course that resulted in 28 VNMAC students being trained by NPA's Medical Coordinator overseen by a medic from USARPAC. This training prepares students for the unlikely event of an explosive incident during the work.

The EOD courses included a train the trainer module for six VNMAC instructors to further develop the instructors pedagogical skills as part of the mentorship component.

These courses are part of an agreement between VNMAC and the Office of Defence Cooperation, U.S. Embassy in Hanoi for the 2024 humanitarian mine action trainings.

Photos top and bottom left: Item identification exercises at VNMAC EOD training; Photos right clockwise from top left: Scorpion deep search detection tool, item identification exercises, and VNMAC instructor giving theoretical lessons





Climate and Environment in Mine Action

Recognizing the importance of environment and climate change and integrating these considerations into mine action is essential for developing comprehensive and sustainable solutions. By understanding the environmental implications of conflicts and taking proactive measures to minimize environmental damage, the NPA Vietnam mine action program can contribute to long-term environmental conservation and promote sustainable development.

NPA intends to both reduce our negative and increase our positive impact on the climate and environment in Vietnam. This means that we must reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and our contribution to local pollution of the soil, water and air, to prevent potential negative impacts from the degradation of nature and natural resources. We must also analyse and understand how climate change and

environmental degradation affects the people we work with and for, and work based on this analysis.

In 2024, NPA increased our commitments regarding climate and the environment. We have followed up on measures to ensure our clearance operations reduce waste and energy consumption. We continued to work on targeted capacity building activities related to climate and the environment and ensured that we continue to integrate climate change into our work – especially when it comes to long-term priorities of which areas are to be surveyed and cleared of cluster munitions. In this way, we can hand over land to the population that is not only free of cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war, but is also ready for sustainable long term use.

The NPA Vietnam program is working to implement and further develop

an environmental management system for our programme activities. This includes the roll-out of the NPA green-field tool to methodically minimize the environmental impact of NPA field operations. This tool is an integral component of the NPA global environment monitoring system, supporting programmes aimed at comprehending the environmental context of our operations and implementing mitigation measures in the field.

On a national scale, the NPA Vietnam programme has taken a leadership role in the sector of environment and climate change, overseeing the Environment Task Force of the Vietnam Mine Action Working Group.

This work will continue in 2025. The aim is to reduce Norwegian People's Aid's environmental and climate footprint, and to map and manage possible environmental risks.

Photos left top: NPA Staff in Quang Binh participating in one of NPA's monthly green day activities at the botanical gardens; Photos bottom left: and right NPA team in Hue conducting clean up activities on a river in Hue; bottom right: NPA team in Hue conducting clean-up activities on a beach near one of the tasks where we were working.



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Norwegian People's Aid is an organisation built on the basic values of the trade union movement: unity, solidarity and human dignity. Our value base is founded on equal rights for all, regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, functional ability and social status. We work actively to promote an inclusive, safe working environment where all employees, regardless of background, can feel seen, acknowledged, and valued.

Diversity, equity and inclusion remain a priority when working with national partners, and NPA Vietnam makes every effort to share best practices on positive gender and diversity mainstreaming whenever possible.

This year, NPA implemented a specific project focused on women working in peace and security. The aim of the project was two-fold. First the project team developed and delivered a training curriculum focused on

ensuring that gender and diversity is better understood and integrated into all of NPA's program activities.

The second portion of the project specifically targeted female staff working in the middle management of NPA's organizational structure. These staff were given the opportunity to participate in a women's empowerment and leadership training to strengthen the potential of both current and future leaders in Vietnam.

The specific objective of this project was to provide female leaders with the leadership skills and tools necessary for them to be successful in what is traditionally considered to be a male dominated sector.

The NPA Vietnam program would like to express gratitude to the German Embassy in Hanoi for their generous support of these specific project activities.

Photos left: Participants in the gender and diversity training in Hue, Quang Binh and Quang Tri Provinces respectively; Photos clockwise from top right: Group photo of participants in gender and diversity training in Hue; Women's Leadership Training Group Work presentations in Quang Tri; and presentation of additional groupwork.





The work of Norwegian People's Aid in Vietnam is made possible by our donors:



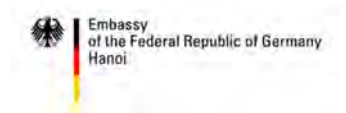
United States Department of State

United States Department of Defense



Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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