

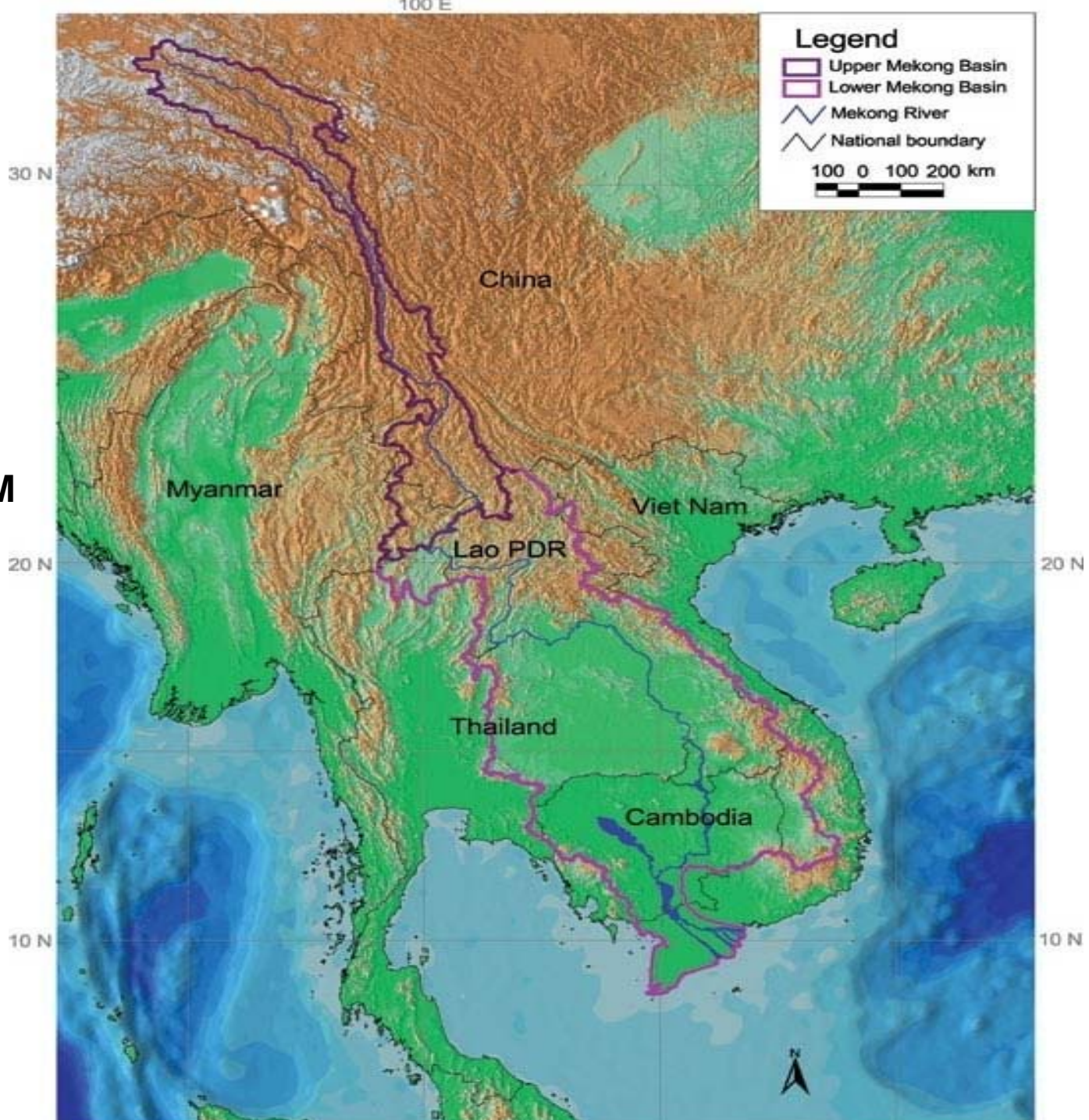
The UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR.

Phnom-Penh Conference.

**“Mine Action and Implications for Peace
and Development”**

(12-14 march,2007)

Lao PDR.
TP=5.6 M
336.800 SKM



Outline Presentation:

- About **Peace**, as ultimate objective?
- **Legacy of war;**
- **Institutional building** with incorporated Policies of the Government.
- **UXO/Mine Action Nation Strategy plan (NSP)**
- **Tract record.**
- **Conclusive issues.**

- View of **Peace** as the absence of dissension, violence , or war.
- **Peace** is viewed as concord, or harmony and tranquility. It's defined as *a State of law or civil government, a State of justice or goodness, a balance or an equilibrium of Power.*
- **Peace** as a Social Contract or **Structure of expectations**, as the State affairs.

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CLAIMING THE FUTURE

LAO PDR

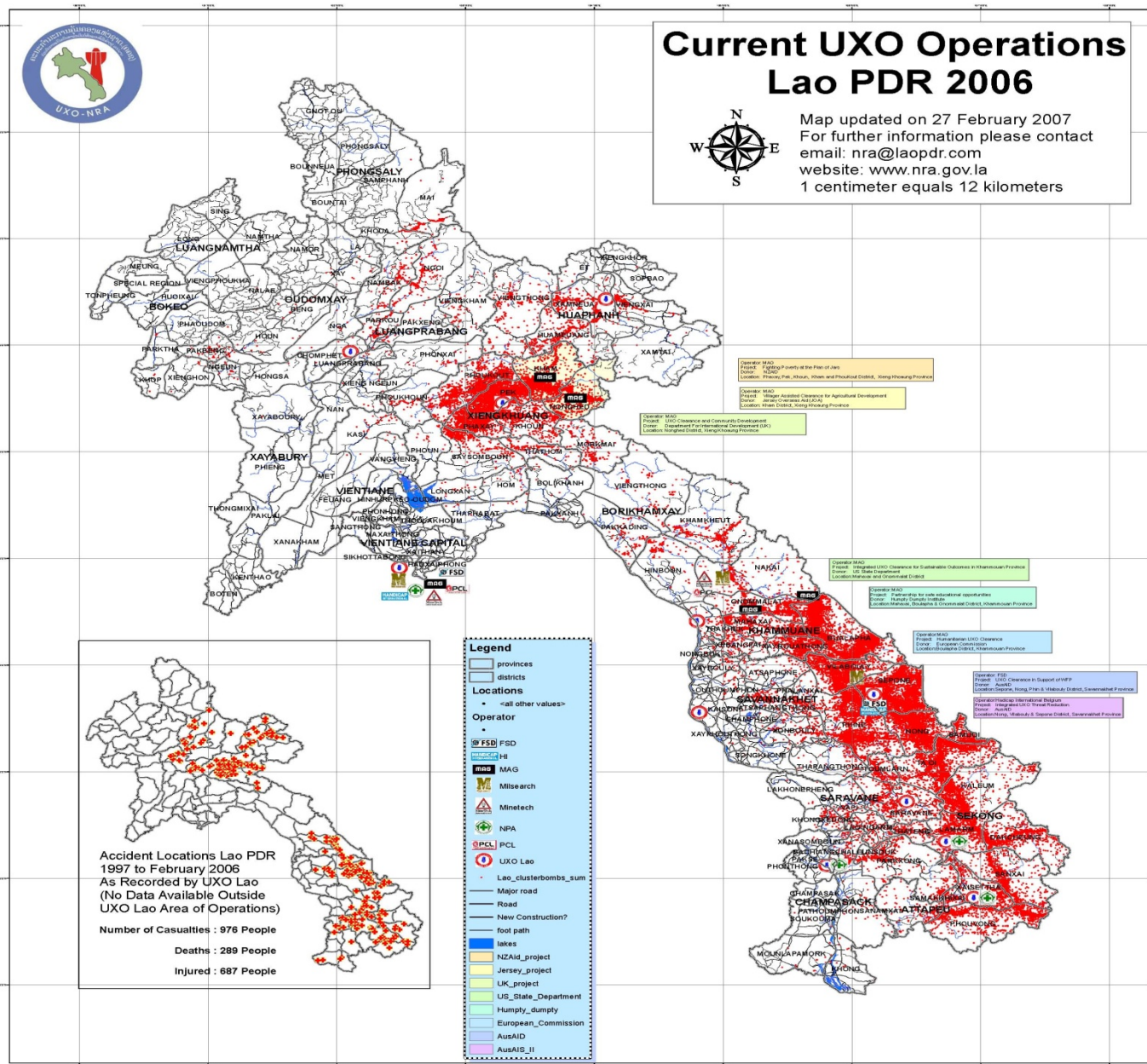
Legacy of war in Lao. PDR.

- During 10 years(1964-73) **Indochina war** the districts along side Lao-Vietnam border are most affected of UXOs
- More than 6,300,000 tons of bombs rained down on Indochina, more than all explosives dropped on Europe and Pacific theater **in WW II.**
- Over **580,000 bombing missions** with more than 2M.t. Mostly concentrated around the areas directly above 17th.parallel a staggering with more than 2 Mt with 10-30% of bombs failed to explode on impact and remained **UXOs.**

- Of course, drastic effects for the victims
- UXO prevents access to agriculture land
- Development programs exposed to risks from UXO.
- **Lao PDR** is not a party to either the antipersonnel Mine Ban Treaty (**MBT**) or the Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (**CCW**); it is however, a party to the original Protocol II. **However, we are involving to processes of its development.**

- **In principle, Lao Government are willing to become a signatory party of MBT, but need some period of time to create favorable environment. Recently, in late 2006, this issue has been risen during the Government meeting session. Consensus was for the continuing preparatory to become MBT state party.**

UXO-NRA MAP OF LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC



Creation of UXO's program.

- 1995: Lao Government requested UNDP's assistance to develop strategy for creation a National Capacity for long-term humanitarian and development issue caused by UXO's. UNDP has established the UXO's trust fund.
- 1996: Lao National UXO's programme (as NEX).
- 17/03/2004: Decree no.33/PM issued to create NRA as a public civilian institution of Lao Gvt, with line ministries concerned affected by UXO's. Boards body constituent. Vice PM's sits on Board Chairmanship.

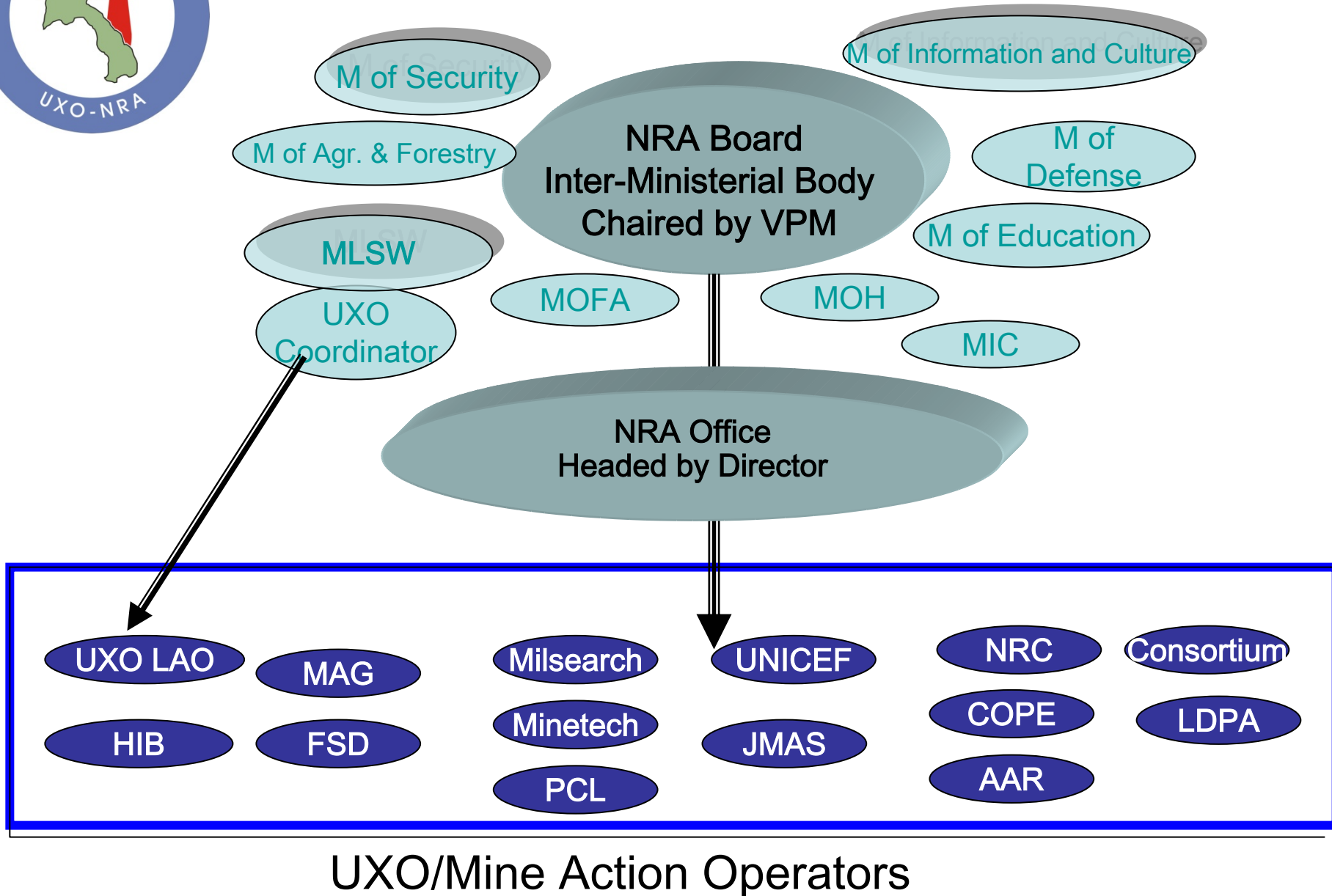
Creation of UXO's program (cont').

- NRA's responsible for **Coordination, regulation and overseeing** all **UXO's/MA activities** in Lao PDR.
- Lao Gvt set up a National Strategic plan for UXO sector:” **The safe path forward**” (2003-1013).
- Nomination of NRA's Director (16/12/05). **UXO's implications** in **NGPES action plan** of Laos, particularly in rural Poverty Eradication Strategic approach. **NGPES** related to **MDG's**.

- **Laos** took 2nd.place with more than 2M.tons of bombs were dropped, mostly alongside Ho Chi Minh Trail. **yields approximately 600,000 tons to deal with more than 87,000 square kilometers contaminated.**
- **That would amounted to 17 tons/ sqmile spread evenly across the country, or equal to six-tenth of a ton of bombs for every man, woman and child.**
- **Lao PDR is the world's most heavily UXO-contaminated nation.**
- **New victims estimated from 200 – 400 per year**



Players in the UXO Sector in Lao PDR.





The Roles of the **NRA**.

- 1. Periodic review and implementation of the National Strategic Plan: "The safe way forward", 2003-2013 .
- 2. Definition and Provision of Policy Direction.
- 3. Accreditation, licensing, and oversight of all UXO Action Operators (in clearance, in Victim Assistance, and in Community Awareness)
- 4. Coordination of all UXO Action activities in Lao PDR
- 5. The Management of Database, and as such, the prioritization and related tasking of all UXO operators
- 6. External Quality Assurance of UXO activities
- 7. Post Clearance Impact Assessment.

Goal , Vision & Mission Statement.

- **1.Goal**:To make people living within the UXO/Mines areas impacted safe to be able to take part to the Socio-economic development in Lao PDR.
- **2. Vision**: NRA will become the leading institution in the Mine actions sector to make Lao PDR an **impact safe Country from UXO/Mines**.
- **3. Mission statement**:
 - 1). **Reduce the number of casualties from UXO / Mines accidents;**
 - 2).**Increase the agricultural lands for foods production and for the development of other sectors.**
 - 3). **Ensure the rehabilitation and support for the survivors from UXO / Mines accident to be able to take part to the Socio-economic development of the Lao nation.**



UXO National Strategic Plan: “The Safe Path Forward” 2003 – 2013.

Community Awareness:

UXO/mine accidents will be reduced to a national accident rate not exceeding 100 persons/year;

Survey and Clearance: All agricultural areas considered to be “**high priority**” will be cleared -- no less than 18,000 hectares (180 km²) of land cleared by UXO Lao alone.

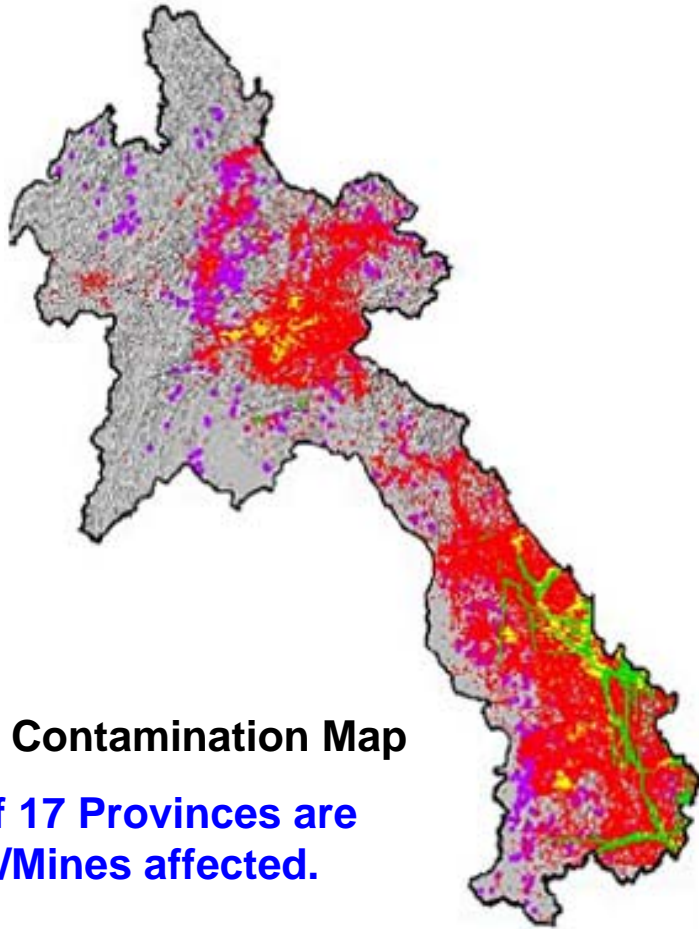
Victim Assistance, a national database on Mine/UXO accidents (covering all 18 provinces) will be developed, to feed into the prioritisation of clearance and MRE tasks. Needs of survivors will be factored in all national/local public health initiatives

Priorities	Types of Tasks
Priority I (High)	1. Agricultural tasks
	2. Roving tasks
	3. Public service utilities (medical/public health, water points, etc.)
	4. Educational facilities
Priority II (Medium)	1. Grazing land and forested areas
	2. Communal facilities (religious/cultural sites, markets, recreational areas, etc.)
	3. Government facilities and offices
Priority III (Low)	1. Public infrastructure work
	2. Communal “profit-making” areas
	3. Tourism sites
	4. Commercial/private business sites

Legal Framework under ways

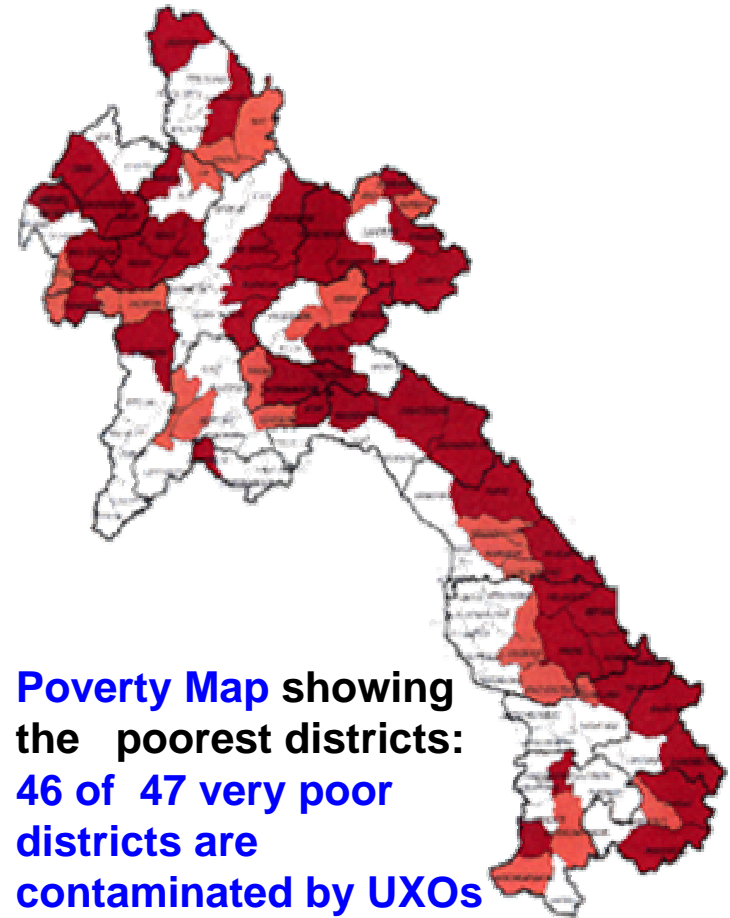
- Legislation on UXO/Mine Action
- National Standard based on IMAS, and suchlike

Correlation between **UXO** Contamination and **Poverty**



UXO Contamination Map

**15 of 17 Provinces are
UXO/Mines affected.**



**Poverty Map showing
the poorest districts:
46 of 47 very poor
districts are
contaminated by UXOs**

UXO/Mines impact.

- Lao PDR rely on agricultural lands, but more than **25% of total land** is subject to **UXO/Mines contamination**. That prevents People from dealing with **food production and other sectors development**.
- There are the **139 total Districts**,with**72** are deemed as poor, of which **47 are very poor and UXO/Mines impacted**.
- 14 of 17 provinces** are of **UXO/Mines impact**.

Accomplishments

UXO Lao Accomplishments only.

(01 January 1996 to 31 December 2006)

Provinces	Community Awareness		Survey Operations		Roving Operations		Clearance Operations	
	Village Visits	Beneficiaries	Number of Village	Number of Visits	Number of Village	Number of Visits	Land Cleared	Beneficiaries
Luang Prabang	597	280,751	132	253	228	897	1,040	227,227
Huaphanh	583	165,933	106	408	164	1,300	1,062	358,476
Xieng Khuang	1,126	220,037	290	526	421	3,745	2,248	516,929
Khammuane	537	128,990	73	168	190	587	551	85,871
Savannakhet	828	186,111	250	480	516	2,069	1,439	253,356
Saravane	608	134,859	152	217	435	1,856	953	432,207
Sekong	524	81,459	125	239	143	561	624	108,732
Champassak	839	170,518	191	801	440	3,104	726	400,092
Attapeu	443	187,795	130	293	184	637	677	162,792
Total:	6,085	1,556,453	1,449	3,385	2,721	14,756	9,320	2,545,682

Accomplishments.

TOTAL UXO DESTROYED
Clearance and Roving Operations
(01 January 1996 to 31 December 2006)

PROVINCE	Bombs	Bombies	Mines	Other UXO	Total
Luang Prabang	243	8,527	502	17,904	27,176
Xieng Khouang	283	21,844	243	25,882	48,252
Houaphan	110	133,016	145	95,061	228,332
Khammouane	784	30,844	107	23,763	55,498
Savannakhet	727	57,022	2,039	88,706	148,494
Saravane	487	38,879	1,040	62,815	103,221
Sekong	213	11,344	357	14,236	26,150
Champassak	580	10,613	1,008	51,712	63,913
Attapeu	209	23,942	204	12,180	36,535
TOTAL	3,636	336,031	5,645	392,259	737,571

Mostly UXO affected problems are concerned in LAOS

Peace as Social Contract!!

- **Development of Peace** should be the matter of evolving the **social contract** which is partly **the State affairs**.
- Sixth five year-**NSEDP** break thru **Plan** for creation the **strong fundamentals** to boost the **nation status** in the regional and international areas.
- **UXO/Mines Action sector** as part of National Working Group to evolving the **NSP**, “ **the Safe Path Forward**” 2003-2013 ,and implementing.



Thank You so much !!