

Land Release Activities in Lao PDR

In 2006/2007 the GICHD was contracted to provide a Risk Management Model for the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) in Lao PDR. The aim was to develop a nationally endorsed risk management model in order to facilitate more effective land release during BAC operations in Laos.

The model was to accept inputs from field survey data and recorded US bombing data in order to prioritise tasks according to the 'risk' they presented to the local population. The model outputs could then be used to plan field clearance operations allowing the 'riskiest' tasks to be planned for clearance first, thus releasing land in a more effective way.

The model was developed and underwent initial field trials in Lao PDR in 2007. The outcome of the trial was that the model was not ready to be accepted in its current format and revision of the model was planned. A solid revision of the model was then undertaken with support from Cranfield University in early 2008.

In Mid 2008 another mission to Lao PDR was undertaken to brief the NRA and all stakeholders on the revised model and to conduct field trials (using baseline and post clearance data) in order to determine if the revised model was at a stage where it could be implemented, or if not, to determine what steps needed to be taken to get the model ready for implementation.

The outcomes of the briefings and the field trial were very positive with no erroneous results attributed to the functioning of the model itself.

A number of minor issues with the model were noted during the trial and identified for revision.

After a final revision of the model it was presented to the Lao National Regulatory Authority and the model is currently being implemented into the field operations of UXO Lao.

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