



MAG's EOD team funded by Restoration Laos with Mr. Michael Ambler, February 2026.

**Restoration Laos and MAG:
Saving lives and rebuilding futures in Khammouane
province**

Annual Report: 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

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Project summary

From 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026, Restoration Laos generously supporting the deployment of one MAG roving Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team to improve community safety across Khammouane province, with a focus on Boualapha and Gnommalath districts. This eight-member team responds rapidly to reports of unexploded bombs received via MAG’s hotline directly from community members or through MAG’s Community Liaison teams. Once verified, the team deploys to assess and safely destroy the items, most often in situ, immediately removing the threat and reducing the risk of death or injury.

Over the past year, this project has played a vital role in safeguarding lives in communities where land clearance may take years due to the scale of contamination. By eliminating individual, deadly items as they are reported, the EOD team provides immediate relief and reassurance to affected villagers, many of whom live in daily proximity to dangerous remnants of war. The sheer presence of the team helps reduce fear and anxiety, contributing to improved psychological well-being and a greater sense of safety in the community.

Project Activities and Outputs

With funding from Restoration Laos, MAG’s EOD team continued to deliver a rapid response to emergency callouts, reducing the threat posed by unexploded bombs UXO in high-risk locations across Khammouane Province. Between April 2025 and March 2026, the team responded to **722 community reports**.

During the reporting period, the team safely located and destroyed **1,051 items of explosive ordnance**. These included three M16 bounding mines, five large aircraft bombs, 673 cluster munitions, and 370 items of other UXO types.

One of these items was a 500-pound aircraft bomb – pictured right - discovered in a forest near Pakphanang village, Khammouane Province. The bomb was reported by a local resident, Mr. Tien, who found the item close to his cassava field.



A remnant of the Indochina War, the bomb had remained in situ for decades. MAG deployed the Restoration Laos funded roving EOD team to respond promptly to the report, and the item was safely removed, eliminating the immediate risk and enabling the community to use the land safely once again.

As a result of 12-months of lifesaving activities, the Restoration Laos team have supported **6,951 people who have benefited directly from improved safety** (1,700 men, 1,848 women, 1,737 boys, and 1,888



girls), while a further 35,643 people benefited indirectly (9,104 men, 9,007 women, 8,691 girls, and 8,841 boys).

Training, Quality Management, and Government Liaison

MAG maintained robust operational oversight throughout the reporting period through regular quality assurance visits. These were carried out by dedicated personnel working in close collaboration with field teams, including Technical Field Managers, Provincial Operations Managers, and Supervisors. This coordinated approach ensured consistently high standards of safety, efficiency, and compliance across all clearance activities.

MAG also sustained strong and constructive engagement with government counterparts at both national and sub-national levels. Coordination continued through active participation in Implementation Monitoring Committee meetings, as well as regular liaison with provincial and district authorities. These interactions reinforced MAG's commitment to transparency and accountability and supported continued trust and cooperation with institutions responsible for operations in Lao PDR.

In addition, all staff received MAG's annual human resources and safeguarding refresher training in October 2025. The training program included a dedicated session on gender awareness, further reinforcing MAG's commitment to inclusive, respectful, and safe workplace practices. Relevant safety refresher training has also been delivered to ensure ongoing compliance with operational standards and to maintain a high level of preparedness across all field activities.

Environmental Considerations

In the past year, MAG has continued to uphold its environmental commitments. Following the approval of its first Climate and Environmental Policy, and with guidance from headquarters, MAG established an Environmental Aspects Register.

This process assessed all organizational activities and operations for their potential environmental impacts, identifying significant risks that were subsequently documented in an Environmental Management Plan. The positive results of the electric cooking pilot in Khammouane have reinforced efforts to reduce the program's carbon emissions linked to charcoal, which was identified as a significant source of MAG Laos's emissions in MAG's carbon baseline and is a high-impact fuel long used in Laos.

As a result, MAG's Senior Management Team approved the rollout of electric cooking appliances to operational teams across the program. MAG also continues to take further steps to manage the waste it generates more responsibly, including promoting recycling wherever it is feasible.

Documenting Lao Women's Roles in the clearance of unexploded bombs

During the reporting period, MAG also published *Stories of Brave Lao Women in a Forgotten War*, a Lao-language book documenting the real-life experiences of eight Lao women working in UXO clearance in Khammouane and Xieng Khouang provinces of Lao PDR. Written by Lao author Kabkeo Thammavong, the publication highlights the vital role women play in making land safe, while raising awareness of the ongoing impact of unexploded ordnance on communities and supporting fundraising for clearance activities in Laos. MAG is grateful to Restoration Laos for committing to support the printing of the English-language edition of the book, which is scheduled for publication in mid-2026.



Financial Information

Please see financial report as Annex A.

Next Steps: April 2026 – March 2027

We are incredibly grateful to Restoration Laos for committing to continue the support of the EOD team for a further 12 months from April 2026 to March 2027. Over the next year, the Restoration Laos-supported team will continue to respond to community reports of suspected unexploded ordnance, across Khammouane province, ensuring timely and effective risk reduction in high-priority areas. Reporting levels are expected to remain strong, given that many areas in Boualapha and Gnommalath districts rely on safe access to land for their livelihoods and food security.

MAG will maintain a focus on efficient task planning and operational readiness, with continued attention to safety standards, equipment maintenance, and personnel preparedness to support the consistent delivery of operations throughout the year.

In addition to extending its support for EOD operations for a further year, Restoration Laos has also confirmed its commitment to supporting the printing of the English-language edition of *Stories of Brave Lao Women in a Forgotten War*, scheduled for publication in mid-2026.

At a time of global uncertainty and increasing constraints on humanitarian funding, this continued and expanded support is particularly valued. It also comes at an important moment for Lao PDR, as the country prepares to host the Convention on Cluster Munitions Review Conference in Vientiane in the fall of 2026 — an opportunity to highlight ongoing national leadership, the progress made to address contamination, and the continued need for international solidarity.

MAG is deeply grateful for Restoration Laos' partnership and friendship, which enables both life-saving activities and efforts to amplify Lao perspectives and experiences on the global stage.