

# A LIFE-SAVING DAY WITH MAG'S ROVING TEAM



Mr. Somchai, EOD-05 Team Leader, and his team after responding to the tasks in Pakphanang village, demolishing 16 items of pineapple-shape bombs.

## KHAMMOUANE PROVINCE LAO PDR

Across Laos, millions of unexploded bombs remain buried beneath rice fields, forests, and even village paths. They are a dangerous legacy of past conflict. While large-scale clearance operations work systematically across the country, many people must wait their turn. In the meantime, they continue living and farming on contaminated land.

This is why MAG deploys Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams. These teams are small, mobile units that respond immediately when communities report unexploded ordnance (UXO). Each response removes a potential threat, often preventing tragedy. The EOD-05 team in Khammouane province, funded by Restoration Laos, is one of these life-saving units.



Since April 2025, EOD-05 has **destroyed 598 items of explosive ordnance**, directly benefitting **3,605 people** across Khammouane province.







## RESPONDING TO A DANGEROUS DISCOVERY

One recent call came from Pakphanang village, where a farmer discovered a total of sixteen suspicious items near a road regularly used by villagers to reach their fields and markets.

“The bombs were found close to the road, but the area had been heavily flooded,” explained Mr. Somchai, Team Leader of EOD-05. “We had to wait until the water receded before we could respond.”

Once conditions were safe, the team travelled to the site. Mr. Somchai first met with the village head, completed safety documentation, and ensured all equipment — from metal detectors to demolition tools — was ready for use.

By mid-morning, the team confirmed the items were cluster munitions and carried out a controlled demolition. The response not only removed a deadly threat but restored peace of mind to local residents.



Mr. Somchai, EOD-05 Team Leader

**“TODAY’S TASK MAY  
LOOK SMALL FROM THE  
OUTSIDE, BUT FOR THE  
PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE,  
IT MEANS THEY CAN  
WALK, FARM, AND  
TRAVEL WITHOUT FEAR.”**





## EVERY SAFE DEMOLITION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

For technician Mr. Donkeo, who has been with MAG for six years, every safe demolition is deeply personal.

"I was sad and scared to hear news of my fellow villagers injured from UXO near the Laos-Vietnam border," he recalled. "That's why I joined MAG — to remove all the bombs in Laos. **For me, MAG is not just a job; it's a mission to secure lives and futures.**"

Over the years, Donkeo has destroyed everything from small submunitions to a 500-pound bomb in Nabon village. Each task requires careful planning, strict safety checks, and coordination with the local community.

"When I see people farming safely after clearance, I feel proud," he said.



Mr. Donkeo, EOD-05 Technician



## LIVING WITH THE LEGACY OF WAR

The UXO found in Pakphanang was reported by Mr. Phone, a 72-year-old farmer who lived through the war.

**I STILL REMEMBER THE SOUND OF  
THE PLANES AND THE GROUND  
SHAKING FROM EXPLOSIONS, MY  
PARENTS AND I HID IN CAVES  
AND FORESTS. AT NIGHT, WE  
COULD NOT EVEN LIGHT A FIRE.**

When he discovered the rusted bomb near his cassava field, decades of experience told him immediately what it was.

"I knew it was a bomb the moment I saw it, I called MAG right away because I trusted they could help. I'm very grateful for their response."

Later that day, the bomb was safely destroyed — a single echo in the valley marking the end of a long-standing danger.



Mr. Phone, the reporter & owner of the farms





## A SAFER COMMUNITY

For MAG's EOD-05 team, funded by Restoration Laos, each response might involve only a single bomb but for villagers like Mr. Phone and Mr. Wa, it changes everything.

Mr. Wa, deputy village head of Pakphanang, expressed his appreciation for the work supported by Restoration Laos.

"Before MAG came, we didn't know how to report safely or who to contact," he said.

**NOW, CHILDREN TELL  
ADULTS WHEN THEY FIND  
SOMETHING, AND WE  
REPORT IT TO MAG OR  
LOCAL AUTHORITIES  
RIGHT AWAY.**



"UXO remains a major barrier to safe farming, but thanks to MAG and the donors, our community can now farm, travel, and live safely."

Thanks to the ongoing support of Restoration Laos, MAG continues to remove the remnants of war, one safe response at a time — protecting lives today and securing land for generations to come.



Mr. Wa , Deputy Village Head of Pakphanang