



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

Interim Report: 1 April 2025 – 30 September 2025

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Project summary

For one year (1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026) Restoration Laos is generously supporting the deployment of one MAG roving Explosive Ordnance Disposal team to improve community safety across Khammouane province, with a focus on Boualapha and Gnommalath districts.

This eight-member team provides a rapid response to reports of unexploded bombs and explosive items received directly from the community via MAG's hotline or through MAG's Community Liaison teams. Once verified, the team travels to the area of the reported item to assess and safely destroy the items, most often in situ, immediately removing the threat and reducing the risk of death or injury for local people.

This project plays a vital role in safeguarding lives in communities where land clearance may take years due to the scale of contamination. By destroying unexploded bombs as they are reported, the team provides immediate relief and reassurance to affected villagers, many of whom live in daily proximity to dangerous remnants of war. The 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 support from Restoration Laos, MAG's Explosive Ordnance Disposal team has continued to respond to urgent callouts to remove and destroy explosive remnants of war throughout Khammouane. Between April and September 2025, the team responded to **379 community reports**, removing dangerous items from residential areas, agricultural land, and around water sources.

Through these operations, the team safely located and destroyed **598 explosive items**, including three M16 bounding landmines, three large aircraft bombs, 311 cluster munitions and 281 other types of unexploded ordnance. These efforts directly benefited **3,605 people** (885 men, 945 women, 898 boys, and 877 girls), and reached an additional **18,779 indirect beneficiaries** (4,876 men, 4,653 women, 4,602 girls, and 4,648 boys).

One of the large aircraft bombs was found in Boualapha district, where a local resident, Mrs. Bounmy, spotted it while fishing in the Ngo River: *"I was looking for fish, but instead I found the big bomb lying underneath the water! I was frightened by how big it was, and I knew I must rush to report to the village head,"* she said.

The 750-pound bomb was located just 500 meters from the nearest community, posing a serious threat to local safety.



*The team responding to the 750lb bomb in the river
– see left hand corner*

With a potential blast radius of up to **one mile**, the presence of the item caused significant concern among residents. MAG's EOD team, funded by Restoration Laos, responded swiftly, safely removing the item and restoring peace of mind to the residents.

MAG's EOD team also received reports from Mr. Thien in Pakphanang Village in Khammouane province of a huge bomb he found in the woods near his potato garden. The 500-pound bomb had been lying in wait to indiscriminately maim or kill anyone who came across it. The team were dispatched to the area and successfully destroyed the item, removing the threat to the lives of Mr. Thien and the local community.

Program updates

Training, quality management, and government liaison

MAG ensured consistent operational oversight throughout the reporting period by conducting regular quality assurance visits. These were carried out by dedicated personnel working closely with field teams, including Technical Field Managers, Provincial Operations Managers, and Supervisors. This collaborative approach helped maintain high standards of safety and efficiency across all clearance activities.

MAG also sustained strong engagement with government counterparts at both national and local levels. Coordination continued through active participation in Implementation Monitoring Committee meetings and regular interactions with provincial and district authorities. These exchanges—both in the field and at official forums—reinforced MAG's commitment to transparency and contributed to the ongoing trust and cooperation with key stakeholders overseeing UXO operations in Lao PDR.

Environmental Considerations

MAG remains committed to ensuring that mine action contributes positively to environmental sustainability and aligns with national and global climate goals. In the last six months, MAG's environmental efforts have included the following activities:

- A push to combat plastic pollution and improve waste systems. MAG has expanded efforts to segregate waste for recycling and increased the number of recycling cages to encourage further efforts.
- Submitted 2024 carbon accounting data to MAG HQ to support the establishment of baseline emissions.
- Following the approval of MAG's Climate and Environment Policy to integrate sustainability into operational planning and daily activities to support our global environmental objectives and broader mission, MAG Laos is developing an Environmental Aspects Register and Management Plan.
- Incorporated environmental awareness into staff communications including a dedicated session at the recent communications workshop to increase staff understanding about the relationship between mine action and the environment, and how to reflect these themes in case studies and social media content.

Financial Information

Please see attached financial report.

Next Steps: October 2025 – March 2026

Between October 2025 and March 2026, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team will continue to respond to any reports of suspicious items across Khammouane province. We are expecting to see an increase in community reports as Laos reaches the end of the harvesting season in October and we know that some people may have delayed reporting due to reliance on their fields for and income and food security.

With the onset of the dry season, MAG expects improved accessibility to task sites, which will support the efficiency of the team as we can reach more areas where reports may have been made. Conversely the team will have to prepare for increased dust levels, which may affect working conditions and equipment maintenance.

During this period, the team will also participate in MAG's annual HR and safeguarding refresher training. The 2025 training will include a dedicated session on gender awareness, reinforcing MAG's commitment to inclusive and respectful workplace practices. Relevant safety refresher training will also be conducted to ensure continued compliance with operational standards and to maintain a high level of preparedness across all field activities.

We look forward to reporting back on the full impact of your support in 2026 but would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued commitment in helping to remove and destroy the deadly legacy of war across Khammouane province so that women, girls, boys, and men can live, work, play and simply walk in safety.