

News Brief

The EU and the U.S. Provide Grant to Lao PDR

MAG (Mines Advisory Group) has recently been tasked with a new project to collaborate with the UXO sector in Lao PDR to clear UXO from Boualapha, Mahaxay and Xatbuathong of Khammouane province. Valued at 700,000 euro (US\$975,026),¹ the European Union and the United States cosponsor the project, with the EU contributing 600,000 euro (US\$835,613)¹ and the U.S. Government granting US\$142,721¹ (102,442 euro)³. In addition, the EU plans to launch another UXO program in 2012.² The EU promised the Lao Government a grant for this clearance project if it fulfilled its UXO obligations under the *Convention on Cluster Munitions*.²

On 8 July 2011, the EU issued its first funding disbursement for the new MAG clearance project; this is the fourth partnership between the EU and MAG, and it builds on previous funding by the European Commission.³ From 2000 to 2010, the EC and various EU member states provided roughly 29 million euros (US\$39,438,046)² in assistance to Lao PDR.⁴ During that same time period, the U.S. dedicated more than \$36 million (25,844,700 euros) to UXO action in Lao PDR. In 2010, the United States contributed \$5,102,000 (3,662,687 euros) for mine-action support to the country, of which \$1,400,000 was used to fund MAG operations.⁵



A villager shows community liaison staff unexploded bomblets in Nong Boua village, Lao PDR.
Photo courtesy of Sean Sutton/MAG.

According to MAG Country Programme Manager David Hayter, the opportunity for MAG to work with local authorities will ensure optimal use of resources; moreover, MAG will complete a UXO survey for the National Regulatory Authority—Lao PDR's UXO and landmine organization—and provide land clearance for contaminated areas within Khammouane province.^{1, 3} [↗](#)

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