

# MAG LAO PDR

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**MAG's main aim is to save lives and build futures through implementing innovative, cost effective solutions for conflict affected communities and by working with partners to enable people to escape poverty and build community resilience. To this end, wherever possible MAG Lao forms partnerships with other agencies who share our impact driven approach. In Lao PDR, MAG's partners include the World Food Programme, World Vision, Lao Red Cross and Danish Red Cross, Triangle, UNESCO, the Humpty Dumpty Institute and International Relief and Development.**

MAG has been operational in the Lao PDR since 1994. In 2000 MAG responded to the Government of Lao's strategy for nationalisation and handed over all its operations to UXO LAO, the national clearance agency. Since 2004, however, due to a restructuring of the sector,

MAG has conducted independent operations in the provinces of Xieng Khouang and Khammouane – but still maintains strong and productive links with UXO LAO.

Key to MAG's approach is Community Liaison. Community Liaison ensures that MAG remains true to its values and goal by working with and through communities, guaranteeing their right to have information about and participate in the UXO clearance processes. Community Liaison is also one of the main mechanisms through which MAG develops partnerships and linkages to ensure post clearance development and integration with broader government and donor development goals.

MAG is also committed to national capacity building with a clearly defined training and professional development policy, and provides technical support and advice to national UXO bodies when requested.



Actively recruiting women and local community members is MAG policy. Photo: Sean Sutton/MAG

MAG strives for female representation in all its teams and its staff includes female team leaders. MAG also tries to recruit locally wherever possible. This has several benefits; it provides an income and work experience for people who would otherwise have few such opportunities; it keeps salaries within the community, thereby stimulating local economies; and it enables people to buy essential household items and pay for healthcare and education.



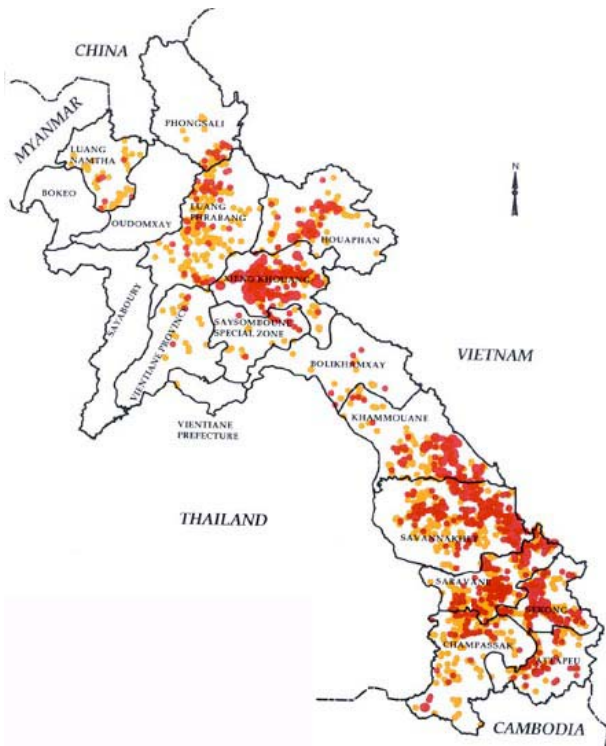
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Employing local people also enables them to work close to home and within the familiarity and support of the family unit. Enabling people to access income generating opportunities, while remaining within the discipline and routine of normal family life, can also help to avoid the risks associated with working away from home (for example exposure to HIV/AIDS).

Working with local communities is also a means to empower local people, allowing them to become part of the solution to their problems. Engaging local people in a positive way also helps to reduce risk from UXO in an appropriate manner and builds on the strengths of communities.



It's all about teamwork - moving a bomb prior to detonation.  
Photo: Tom Greenwood / MAG



UXO contamination in Lao PDR. MAP: UXO Lao

### MAG's Vision

A world where people can build peaceful and prosperous futures free from the impact of the remnants of conflict.

### MAG's Mission

To build the futures of people affected by the remnants of conflict through responsive, quality-driven and progressive action. We remove the physical threat of injury and death and alleviate economic devastation. We provide clearance and education enabling an escape from the poverty and suffering caused by conflict.

### MAG's Values

We believe that everyone affected by conflict has the right to have a peaceful and prosperous future.

### MAG's Key Aims

- To deliver on our promise to save lives and build futures globally by implementing our innovative solutions for conflict-affected communities.
- To enable governments and institutions to address the needs of conflict-affected communities through funding our activities.
- To work with partners and others who share our impact-driven approach and further enable people to escape from the poverty and suffering caused by conflict.
- To create awareness and secure public support so we can provide an effective response to the wider problems caused by the presence of remnants of conflict.

