THE MURPH FOUNDATION

LAOS · UNEXPLODED BOMB CLEARANCE

HELP CLEAR LIVE BOMBS FROM LAO VILLAGES

Millions of bombs dropped on Laos during the Vietnam War never exploded, and today they still lie in schoolyards and farm fields. This project will clear them from rural villages alongside our longtime partner, a licensed Lao clearance team, to teach kids, farmers and families how to spot and report bombs, destroy the ones they find, and hand back land certified safe to play and farm.

2M TONS
of bombs dropped on Laos between 1964 and 1973

UP TO 30%
never exploded and are still in the ground

15 OF 18
provinces show significant contamination

$13,550
clears one rural school's grounds, start to finish

The Murph Foundation · Washington State 501(c)(3) · Tax ID 33-2853738 · themurphfoundation.org



A clearance technician from our longtime partner, UXO Clearance Solutions, at work in Laos.

THE CHALLENGE

THE WAR ENDED. THE BOMBS DIDN'T.

Between 1964 and 1973, about 2 million tons of bombs were dropped on Laos, and up to 30% never exploded. Today they are still buried in 15 of the country's 18 provinces: under playgrounds, along paths, and in the fields families depend on for food.

Children find them while playing and foraging. Farmers hit them while planting. Many villages simply stop using land they know is contaminated, which keeps them poor. And with major international funding recently cut, many trained Lao clearance technicians have lost their jobs right when they're needed most.

OUR APPROACH

We don't lead this work, and we don't hire it out. We work hand in hand with our longtime partner, UXO Clearance Solutions, a Lao team that already knows the land. Our crew embeds with theirs in the field, documents every step, and brings the funding, the stories and the people.

THE SOLUTION

TEACH. RESPOND. CLEAR.

TEACH

Safety lessons for schoolchildren, teachers and families on how to recognize a bomb and who to call.

RESPOND

A rapid response team destroys bombs villagers report, usually within 24 to 48 hours.

CLEAR

Professional teams sweep school grounds and village farmland, then hand the land back certified safe.

Our partner also hires and trains villagers to help with the clearance, under close supervision. Families earn wages and a certified skill while their own land is made safe, and the people who cleared the land know its boundaries for years to come.

OUR LONGTIME PARTNER

UXO Clearance Solutions (UCS), Lao PDR

- Our partner since our first Laos project, where we cleared a village of unexploded bombs together
- Licensed and accredited UXO clearance company in Laos, working under the national regulator
- Follows International Mine Action Standards on every site
- Key staff have completed 35+ clearance contracts over 17 years
- Zero accident record, with every cleared site certified at handover

FUNDING GOAL

ONE SCHOOL, THEN FOUR

GIVINGTUESDAY GOAL

$13,550

Clears one rural school's grounds, including safety lessons for its students and village.

FULL PROJECT GOAL

$41,000

Clears four schools in one month at our partner's lower per-school rate.

BUDGET

ITEM	COST
Clearance of school grounds and play areas (four schools)	
Bomb safety lessons for students, teachers and villagers at each school	**$41,000**
Rapid response to bombs reported nearby during the work	
Total	**$41,000**

Clearance, safety lessons and bomb response are priced together by our partner as an all-inclusive rate per school.

WHAT YOUR GIFT DOES

$25	teaches a class of children what to do if they find a bomb
$50	pays a local villager to help clear their own village's land
$200	brings a bomb safety lesson to an entire school
$400	finds and destroys a live bomb a villager reported
$600	funds a full day of safety lessons for 2 schools and a village
$1,450	sends the bomb response team out for a full day
$3,000	clears a hectare of village farmland so families can safely farm it again
$13,550	clears an entire school's grounds

LONG-TERM IMPACT

SAFE GROUND FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Every cleared school is a place where kids can learn and play without fear. Every cleared field is land a family can farm again, growing food and income for years.

- School grounds certified safe for students and teachers
- Farmland handed back to families, certified clear
- Students, teachers and villagers trained to spot and report bombs
- Live bombs found and destroyed before they hurt anyone
- Villagers earning wages and a certified clearance skill
- Cleared ground ready for new wells, classrooms and toilets

HOW WE REPORT BACK

Every cleared site is handed over with an official clearance certificate, maps and records filed with Laos's national UXO regulator. We'll share photos, film and updates from the field on our GlobalGiving page, so every donor can see exactly where their gift went.

ABOUT THE MURPH FOUNDATION

The Murph Foundation (TMF) is a Washington State 501(c)(3) nonprofit that partners with local organizations around the world on projects their communities choose. TMF stands for what we do: **Trips** that let supporters see the impact firsthand, **Media** that tells our partners' stories, and **Funding** that makes the work happen. We've supported projects in ten countries, including clearing a village of unexploded bombs in Laos with UXO Clearance Solutions, the same partner we're working with again here.

QUESTIONS? LET'S TALK.

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