

WE HELP WAR VICTIMS



WE'LL BE IN NEW VILLAGES IN 2011, BUT WE'LL KEEP THE SAME PROMISE: WHEN VILLAGERS REPORT ORDNANCE, WE'LL DESTROY IT WITHIN 48 HOURS.

January 2011: Back to Phongsali Province!

In January we'll again take a nine-person team into Phongsali Province, and will offer villagers "Response Team" services to rid villages and surrounding countryside of old ordnance.

Last year, our team focused our efforts on Ban Sop Houn: a village of 500 people, 96 houses, and 58 bomb craters. During our

stay in that village, we removed 105 pieces of deadly ordnance ranging in size from a hand grenade to a 750-pound bomb.

During our project, we will again partner with the Lao National Library to provide Book Box Libraries to village schools; also, with our good friends at COPE (the Cooperative Orthotics and Prosthetics Enterprise), we'll help provide amputees

and other disabled villagers with medical appliances and rehabilitation services.

This year, we plan to make a series of telephone conference calls directly from villages contaminated with UXO. We're betting that recent improvements in rural Lao phone service will enable U.S. students to conduct live interviews with villagers and with clearance workers on our team.

We Help War Victims is a registered 501(c)(3) public charity under the US Tax Code.

WHWV is sustained by a broad network of friends and supporters. Financial support comes from individual donors and organizations such as school groups and religious congregations.

Contributions to WHWV are tax deductible.



WHWV Gives Voice To Victims of UXO

LATEST INTERVIEWS ARE POSTED ON YOUTUBE. REQUEST VIDEOS FOR WEHELPWARVICTIMS.

Year after year, in village after village, we meet people whose lives have been impacted by living with ordnance left from the Indochina War. Every victim has an interesting story to tell, either about the events on the day of their accident or about the physical, financial, and psychological burdens that follow.

When we return to the United States and talk with Americans about our work, we often encounter disbelief that problems with old ordnance continue so many years after the fighting in Southeast Asia ended.

As the Vietnam War era generation ages and new international conflicts capture the attention of the public, Americans often have a difficult time even

conjuring an image of where Laos and Vietnam are located on the world map.

During Project Phongsali, we interviewed numerous victims of American ordnance: men, women, children, widows, orphans, amputees, and others. Now, as we complete the translation and editing of those interviews, we are placing them on our website and on YouTube, giving victims an opportunity to share their stories.

We're confident that listeners will be impressed by the speakers. No one rails at injustice. No one piles blame or seeks an apology. The villagers we interviewed speak with great dignity about their lives and never plead for help. They simply tell their stories so that Americans will know what they have experienced.

These victims deserve to be heard. We hope our readers will listen to their compelling stories and help share them with others.



**Cluster Munitions Ban:
108 Nations Have
Indicated Support;
Forty-six Have Ratified
The New Treaty!**

WHWV: Recipient of Recent Awards!



**Wisconsin Education
Association Great
Schools Hero Award**



**Wisconsin Council for
Social Studies Global
Citizen Award**

INTERVIEWS



TWICE WOUNDED



PROTECTED OTHERS



FATHER WAS KILLED



NEEDS REHABILITATION

New Lao National Survey Gives Best-Ever Overview:

After months of data collection, the Lao National Regulatory Agency has completed a nation-wide survey of UXO victims and accidents. This effort required interviews in over 9,500 villages, and documented events that occurred over a 45-year time span.

The tables below provide information about kinds of ordnance that villagers encounter, the activity of victims at the time of the detonation, and the severity of injuries that resulted from the explosion.



Kind Of Ordnance Involved In The Event

Bombie	28.8
Mine	14.9
Other	14.6
Artillery Shell	9.4
Grenade	8.7
Mortar	6.7
Rocket	5.0
Big Bomb	2.8
Small Bomb	2.1
Fuse	1.6
White Phosphorous	0.4

Activity At Time Of Accident

Activity	% of Victims
Traveling	17.9
Collecting Food or Wood	5.9
Bystander	5.3
Doing Nothing: It Just Exploded	5.0
Making Fire	4.9
Digging	4.9
Collecting Scrap Metal	4.0
Tampering	4.0
Disturbed By Animal	3.7
Cutting Brush	2.9
Playing	2.3
Gardening	1.9
Unknown or Other	37.2

Number of Amputees and Limbs Lost

Limbs Lost	Number	%
1 limb	10,224	73.9
2 limbs	2,998	21.7
3 limbs	472	3.4
4 limbs	141	1.0
Total # Amputees	13,835	100

Upper vs Lower Limb Amputations

Amputation	%
Upper Limb	40.8
Lower Limb	59.2

While nearly 60% of all Lao accident victims die of their injuries ...

... some pieces of ordnance are far more deadly than others and result in higher rates of fatality.

The table below indicates the percentage of victims who survive accidents with various kinds of ordnance.

The photographs on this page show items that our team found and destroyed in and around the village of Sop Houn during our 2010 project in Phongsali Province, Laos.



750-pound bomb



2.75 inch Rockets



Cluster Bomb (the "Bombie")



Mortar



Fuses

2.75 inch rockets



White Phosphorous Rock



Cluster Bomblets



Grenade

	% Killed	% Injured
Fuse	31.8	68.2
White Phos Bomb	45.4	54.6
Grenade	47.8	52.2
Mortar	50.7	49.3
Artillery Shell	56.2	43.8
Bombie	56.3	43.7
Mine	56.8	43.2
Rocket	57.4	42.6
Sm Bomb	63.6	36.4
Big Bomb	70.1	29.9

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE



Members of the WHWV
Board of Directors are:

Jim Harris , President
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Anne Kieffer, Director

Monetary donations can be sent to:

We Help War Victims
1833 Creek Road
Mosinee, Wisconsin, 54455

We provide “Risk Education” in Schools

When we meet with children in village schools, we strictly observe these basic principles:

- * Make presentations multi-sensory so students both see and hear messages.
- * Use local examples and local resource people so students associate messages with circumstances in their own families and villages.
- * Return to schools again and again and again because, on any given day, many enrolled students are absent.
- * Don't count on school messages to reach all youth. Some children never go to school; many attend for only a few years.

* Be well planned. Deliver the entire message. Don't count on students to raise important points during question and answer sessions. Unlike American students, Lao students are hesitant to question a teacher.

* Be perfectly clear about the behaviors students should adopt. Vague directions such as “act responsibly” or “move carefully” don't truly inform students about what behaviors will help keep them safe.

* Never (ever!) let students observe a clearance worker handling ordnance. Disclaimers (“We are trained professionals; don't attempt this at home;”) do not keep students from modeling bad choices.