During the Vietnam War Era, more than 270 million cluster bomblets were dropped on Laos, as part of the U.S. Secret War.

About 2,000 pounds of bombs were dropped per person in Laos.

About 30% of these bombs did not explode on impact.

More than one-third of the land in Laos today is littered with unexploded ordnance or UXO.

Many UXO victims are children, who do not have the ability to flee or escape.

50,000 civilians have been killed or injured by UXO in Laos.

20,000 of those civilians were harmed after the war ended in 1973.

More than 40% of UXO victims are children.

This drawing is one of several collected from 1970 to 1971 by Fred Branfman and Boungeun Luangpraseuth at a camp in Vientiane of displaced bombing survivors. Drawn by the Xieng Khouang villagers who bore witness to the devastation, these visual testimonies were used to expose the secret U.S. bombing of Laos in a Congressional hearing in 1971. In 2003, the recovery of these drawings helped to inspire the founding of Legacies of War.
With your help, Legacies has achieved a ten-fold increase in U.S. funding to Laos.

Our work has resulted in an increase in U.S. government annual funding from $2.5 million in 1996 to $30 million in 2017. The majority of these funds go toward organizations working on the ground in Laos.

In 2016, President Barack Obama became the first U.S. President to visit Laos. While there, he made a historic $90 million commitment to the Lao UXO sector citing Legacies’ work.

More lives saved, more land cleared and more services for UXO victims

The funding increase supports programs in Laos to clear bombs, help victims, and educate about the dangers of UXO. More families can now grow food safely and provide places for their children to play out of harm’s way. Our work, with your help, has reduced the number of people harmed by UXO from more than 500 every year to about 50.

But our work is not done. **Thousands** of contaminated areas are still being identified for clearance. **12,000 survivors** and their families need help.

"We’re connected by Channapha Khamvongsa, who came to America when she was seven years old and who is back here today. And for years, she urged the United States to do more to help remove unexploded bombs here in Laos. “There are many, many problems in this world that might not be able to be solved in a lifetime,” she’s said, but this is one we can fix. So, Channapha, we thank you for working to fix this problem.”

U.S. President Barack Obama acknowledging Legacies of War’s Executive Director Channapha Khamvongsa

Vientiane, Laos (2016)

**a clear Laos**

**a safe Laos**

From our advocacy in the U.S., to work on the ground in Laos. The government funds we advocate for entirely support these organizations working on the ground:

- The HALO Trust
- Health Leadership International
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA)
- Spirit of Soccer
- Sterling-Janus Global Operations
- World Education Inc.
- and others

"Your support of Legacies will be one of the best investments you can make to ensure sustained U.S. attention and priority is given to resolving the UXO problem in Laos."

Ambassador Douglas Hartwick

U.S. Embassy, Laos 2001-2004

**let’s finish the job**

- Making sure we have a voice by calling on lawmakers to ensure long-term, sustained increases in U.S. funding for UXO activities in Laos
- Generating ongoing dialogue between stakeholders to foster collaboration and mutual support to solve this problem
- Providing an incredible return on your investment

For every $1 you donate to Legacies, we’ve been able to increase funding for the UXO sector in Laos by $70

Join us: Our work is only possible thanks to our volunteers, interns, the participants of workshops, and school and community events

Find out more: Attend an event, follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter, subscribe to our mailing list, and check out our website at legaciesofwar.org