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350 kg bomb from Indochina War found in northern school

Viet An



Officers and soldiers remove a bomb found at a school in Dien Bien Province, northern Vietnam, February 25, 2023. Photo by VnExpress/Kien Thao

The army safely removed an unexploded bomb left from the Battle of Dien Bien Phu in the 1950s from a boarding school in the northern Dien Bien Province.

It was found at the Ethnic Boarding High School in Dien Bien Phu Town last Saturday by workers building an anti-erosion embankment for the school.

The rusted 350 kg bomb lay two meters under the ground.

The province Military Command said it had been dropped by the French during the Battle of Dien Bien Phu, part of the First Indochina War that Vietnam fought between 1946 and 1954.

The bomb was taken to a designated site for detonation.

Since 1975, when the war against the U.S. ended, there have been more than 40,000 deaths and 60,000 injuries due to unexploded ordnance (UXO).

According to the Vietnam National Mine Action Center, all 63 provinces and cities have UXO spread over some 5.6 million hectares of land, or 17.71% of the country's area.

It is estimated that 600,000 – 800,000 tons of UXO still lie below ground.

Top 10 Provinces, Cities with Highest, Lowest Poverty Rates in Vietnam

The General Statistics Office (GSO) has announced the top ten provinces and cities with the highest and lowest poverty rates in Vietnam.

According to the GSO's Population Living Standards Survey in 2021 (KSMS 2021), the top ten provinces and cities with the lowest poverty rates are Binh Duong and Ho Chi Minh City with the poverty rate of 0% each, followed by Ba Ria-Vung Tau with 0.2%, Dong Nai 0.3%, Hanoi 0.4%, Danang 0.4%, Bac Ninh 0.6%, Haiphong 0.8%, Tay Ninh 0.8%, and Binh Thuan 1.3%.

Meanwhile, the top ten provinces and cities with the **highest poverty rates** consist of Dien Bien with 34.5%, Son La 28.6%, Lai Chau 27.9%, Ha Giang 25%, Cao Bang 24.5%, Bac Kan 20.65%, Kon Tum 20.65%, Gia Lai 16.9%, Lao Cai 14.8%, and Yen Bai 14%.

The survey was conducted in 63 provinces and cities directly under the central government, including 47,000 households representing the whole country, urban and rural areas, six geographical regions, provinces/cities directly under the central government.

According to the results of the KSMS 2021, the rate of poor households with multidimensional access in 2021 is 4.4%, a decrease of 0.4 percentage points compared to 2020, **the Northern Midlands and Mountains is the region with the highest poverty rate.** the whole country (13.4%). The poverty rate has decreased continuously in the period 2016–2021, with an average annual decrease of about 1 percentage point.