

CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND THEIR DESTRUCTION

STATE : DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

POINT OF CONTACT : Mr V. Premachanthiran

Deputy Director - National Mine Action Centre

Director (Development), State Ministry of Rural Housing and Construction

& Building Materials Industries Promotion +94112446873, +94714438000

kiruvuru@yahoo.com



**INITIAL REPORT
DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA**

**INFORMATION PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 7, PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE,
STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

1. Introduction

The three decade-long internal conflict between Sri Lanka's security forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam (LTTE) left many areas in the Northern and Eastern parts of the country contaminated with antipersonnel mines (APM) and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). Both Sri Lanka's security forces and the LTTE-laid mines. The Indian Peacekeeping Forces also used landmines in the conflict-affected areas of Sri Lanka during their presence from July 1987 to January 1990.

Sri Lanka's security forces used APMs and anti-tank mines (ATM) and their deployments had all been recorded. After ratification of CCW's Amended Protocol II in September 2004, all mines laid by the security forces were reportedly in accordance with the provisions of this protocol. The security forces handed over the records of all their minefield to the national mine action programme at the end of Year 2002. All information in this connection had been included in the International Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database of the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC).

The LTTE laid minefields for protection of their defensive positions, which were mostly of AP mines and some AT mines. There hasn't been any record of LTTE-laid minefield available. The LTTE also used nuisance mines, to deny the access of security forces to facilities that included buildings, water and other sources. There had been some mines scattered on ground during the LTTE's rapid retreat in the final stages of the conflict in 2009. The LTTE also extensively used improvised explosive devices (IEDs) made of mortars and other explosive ordnance (EO) to produce fragmentation blast effect. Almost all mines used by the LTTE had been manufactured by themselves; some incorporated with anti-lift and anti-tilt mechanisms to prevent removal.

Commencing from 2002, some of the mine/ERW-contaminated areas of the Northern and Eastern Provinces were cleared. The escalation of the conflict in 2006, however, resulted in areas being re-contaminated with mines, in the aforementioned Provinces.

Sri Lanka's ERW contamination mainly consists of unexploded air-delivered bombs, artillery shells, mortar bombs, projectiles, hand grenades. There had also been sizeable caches of abandoned explosive ordnance, found particularly in the North. When hundreds of IDPs and refugees started returning to conflict-affected areas after 2009, particularly in the period from late-2010 to early-2011, it was mainly the Sri Lanka Army (SLA) that provided Mine Risk Education (MRE) coupled with effective Demining and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) responses, to facilitate their return.

The remaining contamination lies in the most impoverished parts of the country, posing a remarkable challenge for resettlement, agriculture, irrigation, and access to infrastructure, hindering socio-economic development of those areas. The impact of mines is felt acutely by displaced families, including female-headed households that are awaiting return and recommence livelihood

activities.

It is essential that the areas of livelihood are cleared of mines and UXO in keeping with the resettlement plan. Despite the fact that the contaminated land is being clearly demarcated and sustainable MRE efforts are in effect, there still exists a great risk of returnees' entry into contaminated areas connected livelihood needs. It is therefore imperative in that connection that livelihood needs are taken into consideration in the prioritization processes related to resettlement plans, as is currently the case.

2. National Implementation Measures

The GoSL deposited the instrument of accession to the Convention on 14 December 2017, furthering Sri Lanka's commitment to achieve a mine-threat-free country as early as possible. The Cabinet of Ministers instructed the Ministry of Justice to liaise with the Legal Draftsman's Department to draft enabling legislation, considering the dualist nature of the Sri Lankan legal system. Accordingly, a preliminary draft has been made available to which the Attorney General's Department has also provided their comments. Considering the importance of following an inclusive process, the draft will be taken up for discussion among all key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Defence, pursuant to being submitted for the final approval of the Cabinet of Ministers.

Further, according to the current mine action strategy of Sri Lanka, the country should be mine-free by 2020. The vision of the end-state of this strategy i.e. 'mine-free Sri Lanka by 2020', was based on additional donor funding to increase capacity. However, as the receipt of donor funding was below that was expected, the increase of anticipated capacity wasn't possible. On the other hand, there had been new hazardous areas identified with the increase of livelihood activities of those resettled. It was due to these two reasons; deficiency of capacity and addition of hazardous area, that left achieving of the strategy being furthered beyond 2020. The details of the newly identified hazardous areas since 2015 are as given below.

Year	Area in km ²				
	B/f from Previous Year	Newly Identified Area	Cancelled Area	Cleared area	Balance
2015	78,074,684	932,562	20,892,590	8,733,454	49,381,202
2016	49,381,202	4,742,803	19,078,487	5,844,840	29,200,678
2017	29,200,678	6,718,840	3,448,390	5,337,595	27,133,533
2018	27,133,532	6,154,112	2,378,146	5,151,697	25,757,801
2019	25,757,801	2,885,802	4,431,678	6,310,394	17,901,531
2020	17,901,531	3,036,292	2,518,083	2,716,310	15,703,430
Grand Total		24,470,411	52,747,373	34,094,290	15,703,430

Data Source - Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Database

Accordingly, the remaining suspected and confirmed hazardous area existed on 30th September 2020 has been 15.70 km² and it has been distributed among the demining operators, in consideration of their capacity, as shown in table below. To review the national mine action strategy accordingly, the action plan is been prepared at present. When the strategy has been reviewed, the GoSL will reach

out to the donor community for funding assistance for timely achieving the goal.

The Present Capacity of Each Operator's

Organization	Manual Clearance		Mechanical Clearance		Mine Detection Dog Handler		Survey/ EOD/ QA/ Para Medics		Admin Duty		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
SLA HDU	280	0	30	0	18	0	107	0	15	0	450	0
HALO Trust	337	275	134	70	0	0	64	67	104	15	639	427
MAG	414	102	32	0	0	0	186	49	16	14	648	165
DASH	272	95	0	0	0	0	79	5	8	0	359	100
SHARP	85	12	0	0	0	0	17	1	2	1	104	14
Total	1108	484	166	70	18	0	453	122	130	30	1750	706

3. The details of Antipersonnel Mines (APM) held in stock

As End of July 2020 Sri Lanka possessed 32,831 stockpiled antipersonnel mines, as explained below.

Type	Quantity Possessed	Lot Numbers
SLA Army		
P4MK 1	1,828	OPS/OLLB/801/95/39
P4MK 11	24,829	301-1,017-1,007-1,030-1,081-1,019-2
Type 72	1,334	47-95-652A
VS 5 0	1,208	Unknown
Type 1969	254	Unknown
PRB 409	47	1-0101-74
SLA Sub Total	29,500	
SLA Navy		
NEL (POF)	10	Unknown
NEL (CH)	6	

SLA Navy Sub Total	16	
Sri Lanka Air Force		
AP Mines P4MK II	2,943	042,039,030,060,001,034,064,019,058,057,074,034,21,002,022,006,018,019,020,022,024,025,030,038,043,044,048,050,57,058,059,060,067,60,018
Air Force Sub Total	2,943	
Sri Lanka Police - STF		
P4MK 2	372	Unknown
Police - STF Sub Total	372	
Grand Total		
	32,831	

Data Source - Ministry of Defence

Sri Lanka has established a Committee comprised of senior officials representing consisting of the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Armed Forces to monitor the progress of the stockpile destruction programme of antipersonnel mines, to ensure their timely stockpile destruction in adherence to relevant legislative measures and international obligations. The relevant details are provided in the table given below.

Type	Quantity Destroyed	Lot Numbers	Date of Destroyed	Place of Destroyed
P4 MARK II	5,222	Unknown	01-Jul-2018 - 30 Sep 2018	Colombo
P4 MARK II	14,387	Unknown	01 Oct 2018 -31 Mar 2019	Bogoda Range
P4 MARK II	23,680	Unknown	01 Apr 2019 - 31 Mar 2020	Sinhapura Range
P4 MARK II	5,098	Unknown	01 Apr 2020 - 30 Jun 2020	Araly Range
P4 MARK II	579	Unknown	01 Jul 2020 - 31 Jul 2020	Muthiyankaddu Range
Sri Lanka Navy				
Mines anti-Personnel (POF)	48,792	12-97, 08-97, 94, 56, 15,16,92,95	04 July 2016 - 05 January 2017	Trincomalee Base

Mines anti- Personnel (CH)	1,368			
Sri Lanka Air Force				
P4 MARK 11	1,350	Unknown	1/07/2018	SL Air Force Station Palavi
P4 MARK 11	29	Unknown	1/02/2018	SL Air Force Station Palavi
P4 MARK 11	968	Unknown	01 Dec 18 -31Dec 18	SLAF Range - Kalpitiya
Sri Lanka Poloce (STF)				
P4 MARK 11	272	Unknown	1/10/2018	STF - Shastraweli Camp
P4 MARK 11	321	Unknown		
Total	102,066			

Data Source - Ministry of Defense

The future Destruction Plan is as follows;

Type of Mine	Quantity	Time Plan		Method of Destruction	Demolition Site
		From	To		
SL Army					
P4 Mark II	12,000	1/8/2020	31-12-2020	By Burning	SL Navy - Kalpitiya (Puttalam District)
Total	12,000				

Data Source - Ministry of Defense

4. Antipersonnel mines retained or transferred for permitted purposes

As end of July 2020, the GoSL had retained **20,831** antipersonnel mines for purposes permitted under Article 3 of the Convention. The details are given in the following table.

Type	Quantity Retained	Lot numbers
Sri Lanka Army		
P4MK 1	1,828	OPS/OLLB/801/95/39
P4MK 11	12,829	301-1,017-1,007-1,030-1,081-1,019-2
Type 72	1,334	Unknown
VS 5 0	1,208	Unknown
Type 1969	254	Unknown
PRB 409	47	Unknown
SLA Sub Total	17,500	Unknown
SLA Navy		
P4MK 1	16	Unknown
SLA Navy Sub Total	16	
Sri Lanka Air Force		
AP Mines P4MK II	2,943	042,039,030,060,001,034,064,019,058,057,074,034,21,002,022,006,018,019,020,022,024,025,030,038,043,044,048,050,57,058,059,060,067,60,018
Air Force Sub Total	2,943	

Sri Lanka Police - STF		
P4MK 1	372	Unknown
Police - STF Sub Total	372	
Grand Total	20,831	

Data Source - Ministry of Defense

The GoSL has authorized relevant institutions to retain antipersonnel mines for permitted purposes under the Article 3 of the Convention. Accordingly, Armed Forces of Sri Lanka; namely Army, Navy and Air force, and Department of Police have authorized their own training establishments to undertake the training programmes. For the training purposes, the quantity of antipersonnel mines retained has been distributed among 12 institutions of these organizations. This is further explained and justified under the table provided below.

It is also noted that the GoSL is the 32nd largest troop-contributor to the UN Peacekeeping operations, with 673 personnel being deployed as of 30th June 2020, and accordingly, a part of retained mines are used in training conducted by the Institute of Peacekeeping Support Operations in Sri Lanka (IPSOT-SL), for the benefit of her troops deployed in peacekeeping missions.

The balance of Sri Lanka's retained antipersonnel mines goes to training of mine detection dogs, training and testing conducted on mechanical assets and equipment used in demining, in consideration of blast effects produced by different types of antipersonnel mines. The distribution of the held **20,831** antipersonnel mines for these purposes is as explained below.

Type	Quantity Used	Authorized Institution	Lot numbers	Actual use
Sri Lanka Army				
P4MK 1	1,000	Headquarter, Engineer Brigade	OPS/OLLB/801/95/39	For Seasoned Mind Field Preparation/Test Pits
P4MK 1	800	Headquarter, Engineer Brigade	OPS/OLLB/801/95/39	Test Preparation at Sites
P4MK 1	3,000	Sri Lanka School of Military Engineering	OPS/OLLB/801/95/39	Use 3 Mines Per Student for a Training Year
P4MK 1	2,000	Sri Lanka School of Military Engineering	OPS/OLLB/801/95/39	A Mine for Each Students for a Training Year
P4MK 1	700	Sri Lanka School of Military Engineering	OPS/OLLB/801/95/39	Introduction to Mine Warfare
P4MK 1	10,000	Sri Lanka School of Military Engineering	OPS/OLLB/801/95/39	1 Mine for Each Student (Students of Sister Services on Demining and EOD)
SLA Sub Total	17,500			

SL Navy				
P4MK 1	8	Sri Lanka Navy School Thambapanni, Puttalam	Unknown	Used for Training BDE School Mahawa
P4MK 1	2	Headquarter Special Boart Squadron Dockyard, Trincomalee	Unknown	Used for Training (Model Room Display)
Type 72	1	Sri Lanka Navy School Mahanaga, Panama	Unknown	Used for Training (Model Room Display)
Type 72	2	Sri Lanka Navy School Vidura, Panama	Unknown	Used for Training (Model Room Display)
Type 72	2	Headquarter Special Boart Squadron Dockyard, Trincomalee	60-95-652	Used for Training (Model Room Display)
Type 72				
Type 72	1	Sri Lanka Navy School Shilpa Thalathu Oya, Kandy	Unknown	Used for Training (Model Room Display)
SL Navy Sub Total	16			
Sri Lanka Air Force				
P4MK II	1,491	Sri Lanka Air Force Academy Chinabav	042,039,030,060,001,03 4,064,019,058,057,074, 034,21,002,022	Train Officers, Officer Cadets, Recruits and Airmen on arming, laying, recovering, disarming, detection, effect of mines, demining and mine disposal.
P4MK II	1,450	Sri Lanka Air Force Station Palavi	006,018,019,020,022,02 4,025,030,038,043,044, 048,050, 057,058,059,060,067	
P4MK II	2	Sri Lanka Air Force Station	60,018	
Air Force Sub Total	2,943			
Sri Lanka Police - STF				
P4MK 1	364	Special Task Force - Gonahena	Unknown	Basic and Refresher Training course
P4MK 1	08	Special Task Force - Katukurunda	Unknown	
Police - STF Sub Total	372			
Grand Total	20,831			

5. Details of Suspected or Hazardous Areas Containing Antipersonnel Mines Areas known or Suspected to contain anti-personnel mines

As end of July 2020, there were 285 areas in Sri Lanka identified as antipersonnel mine-contaminated, totaling up to 20,803,721 square meters, and 9 areas that are suspected to be contaminated with antipersonnel mines, totaling up to 1,396,643 square meters. These known or suspected areas belong to 8 Districts in 3 Provinces of Sri Lanka as as explained below:

Summary of areas known or suspected to contain antipersonnel mines as end of July 2020

Province	District	Number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines	Number of areas	Total number of areas known or suspected to contain antipersonnel mines	Amount of area known to contain anti-personnel mines (square meters)	Amount of area	Total amount of area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines (square meters)
			suspected to contain anti-personnel mines			suspected to contain anti-personnel mines (square meters)	
Northern	Jaffna	17	-	17	1,149,662	-	1,149,662
	Kilinochchi	61	-	61	9,933,874	-	9,933,874
	Mannar	79	3	82	1,707,164	80,366	1,787,530
	Mullaitivu	95	5	100	6,288,534	649,220	6,937,754
	Vavuniya	23	1	24	1,235,633	667,057	1,902,690
Northern Province Total		275	9	284	20,314,867	1,396,643	21,711,510
Eastern	Batticaloa	2	-	2	25,059	-	25,059
	Trincomalee	5	-	5	294,016	-	294,016
Eastern Province Total		7	-	7	319,075	-	319,075
North Central	Anuradhapura	3	-	3	169,779	-	169,779
North Central Province Total		3	-	3	169,779	-	169,779
Grand Total		285	9	294	20,803,721	1,396,643	22,200,364

With reference to the initial report submitted on 28th September 2017, the total amount of area known or suspected to contain antipersonnel mines have been increased subsequently due to the expansion of livelihood activities of those who had been resettled. It should be noted that the newly identified mined areas become confirmed hazardous areas depending on the findings of technical surveys.

The humanitarian demining operations in Sri Lanka commenced in 2002, and since then GoSL has been able to declare 4,775 areas totaling 1,290,837,316 square meters (1,290 Mn Sqm) of land as free of antipersonnel mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) and suitable for resumption of livelihood and other human activities in the mine-affected Districts of the 3 Provinces; Northern, Eastern, and North Central, and on completion of clearance they had been released for the benefits of residents. In this endeavour there had been 786,184 antipersonnel mines and 1,420,728 other ERW that include anti-vehicle mines, removed and destroyed through clearance operations conducted up to end of July 2020.

Summary of area released, devices recovered and destroyed from 2002 to 31st July 2020

Province	District	Cancelled area (square meters)	Reduced area (square meters)	Cleared area (square meters)	Total area released (square meters)	Number of anti-personnel mines destroyed	Number of other explosive items destroyed	Number of areas released
Northern	Jaffna	4,119,570	57,233,422	22,007,040	83,360,032	190,205	241,443	1,295
	Kilinochchi	1,498,023	40,075,887	19,505,070	61,078,980	131,018	432,668	781
	Mannar	18,611,005	184,323,063	30,959,407	233,893,475	119,502	127,323	570
	Mullaitivu	9,769,876	168,219,322	30,591,261	208,580,459	171,872	533,566	1,023
	Vavuniya	3,078,030	79,169,403	9,666,186	91,913,619	142,134	56,949	629
Northern Province Total		37,076,504	529,021,097	112,728,963	678,826,564	754,731	1,391,949	4,298
Eastern	Batticaloa	15,258,912	357,348,043	8,286,554	380,893,509	12,804	19,215	270
	Ampara	37,845	104,017,318	7,246,551	111,301,714	593	3,480	22
	Trincomalee	6,533,976	100,861,263	11,774,718	119,169,957	11,945	6,064	156
Eastern Province Total		21,830,733	562,226,624	27,307,823	611,365,180	25,342	28,759	448
North Central	Anuradhapura	31,244	219,166	263,558	513,968	4,895	19	24
	Polonnaruwa	12,150	19,856	81,366	113,372	401	1	4
North Central Province Total		43,394	239,022	344,924	627,340	5,296	20	28
North West Puttalam			472	17,761	18,233	815		1
North West Province Total		0	472	17,761	18,233	815	0	1
Grand Total		58,950,631	1,091,487,215	140,399,471	1,290,837,316	786,184	1,420,728	4,775

Data Source - Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Database

Note:

- Cancelled land is defined area concluded not to contain evidence of explosive ordnance contamination following the non-technical survey of a Confirmed Hazardous Area (CHA) or suspected hazardous Area (SHA).
- Reduced land is defined area concluded not to contain evidence of explosive ordnance contamination following the technical survey of a Confirmed Hazardous Area (CHA) or suspected hazardous Area (SHA).

The District-wise breakdown of mine-contaminated area of Sri Lanka as of 30th September 2020 is as given below.

District	Organization	Num of Task	Area To be Cleared in Sqm
Anuradhapura	Sri Lanka Army	3	113,658
Batticaloa	Sri Lanka Army	1	7,596
Colombo	Sri Lanka Army	1	52,730
Jaffna	HALO Trust	12	128,108
	Sri Lanka Army	10	972,652
Kilinochchi	DASH	14	2,151,534
	HALO Trust	31	2,400,940
	SHARP	13	443,044
	Sri Lanka Army	3	400,748
Mannar	DASH	1	6,031
	MAG	90	1,498,293
	Sri Lanka Army	1	21,243
Mullaitivu	DASH	33	1,113,533
	HALO Trust	19	2,691,879
	MAG	22	624,352
	SHARP	02	406,142
	Sri Lanka Army	21	1,088,540
Trincomalee	MAG	7	266,294
Vavuniya	DASH	2	52,111
	MAG	27	1,530,523
Grand Total		313	15,969,951

Data Source - Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Database

Sri Lanka has estimated that the annual funding requirement of its national mine action programme is approx. US\$ 20 million to sustain its operations at the existing level, that includes the work involved in priority setting, mine action information management, quality assurance and quality control, coordination with demining organization and cooperation with partners, and establishing policy and standards. Sri Lanka intends furnishing a detailed project proposal for its donor community, outlining its funding needs and predicted results in request of assistance, for implementation of Article 5. A pilot survey is already in progress in order to cater to design an action plan for demobilization of the demining cadre involved in the national programme. On completion of clearance operations, Sri Lanka Army will be assigned with the responsibility of dealing with the residual contamination

The areas known or suspected to contain antipersonnel mines have all been properly and prominently marked with signs and signboards displayed in Sinhala, Tamil and English languages, which are maintained and replaced on a regular basis. Age-appropriate risk-reduction education has been incorporated into the school curriculum in the Northern and Eastern provinces. In addition, community liaison teams consisting of both women and men regularly visit risk-associated areas in order to educate the residents on risks and their avoidance, and efforts are made to cater for different community components.

Numbers killed or injured due to Antipersonnel mines in the Year 2019

	Women	Girls	Boys	Men	Total
Killed	01	0	0	0	01
Injured	0	0	0	07	07
Total	01	0	0	07	08

Data Source - Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Database

6. Technical characteristics of anti-personnel mines

Rangan 99 anti-personnel mine (LTTE Developed)



Improved mine with anti-rake device has a pendulum to explode when moved

Weight of Explosive - 130g
Type of Explosive - TNT

Directional Fragmentation Anti-personnel mine (Claymore)



360' directional improvised Claymore mine Manufactured by the LTTE

Weight of Explosive - 3-4kg
Type of Explosive - TNT

Directional Fragmentation anti-personnel mine (Claymore)



Mile Post Claymore developed by LTTE

Weight of Explosive - 4-6 kg
Type of Explosive - TNT

JONY 95 anti-personnel mine (LTTE Developed)



A small wooden box mine
Manufactured by the LTTE
Total Weight - 250g

Weight of Explosive - 90 g
Type of Explosive - TNT

Directional Fragmentation anti-personnel mine
(Claymore)



Improved Claymore mine
developed by LTTE

Total Weight - 2 kg
Weight of Explosive - 250 g
Type of Explosive - C4

P4 Mk1 and Mk2 Anti-personnel blast mine



Height: 40mm Diameter:
70mm Main

Weight of Explosive: 30g
Type of Explosive: TNT

7. Conversion or decommissioning of anti-personnel mine production facilities

Not applicable.

8. Victim Assistance

The first mine/ERW related incidents were recorded in 1982 when two incidents occurred with a casualty in each. The figures escalated to 162 incidents and 211 casualties in 2001 and 185 civilians were injured and 26 were killed. The numbers dramatically reduced over the years but were slowly raised with the return of the IDP population from 2009 to 2012. The figures for the 01st January 2019 to year 2020, until end of July only three Mine/ ERW civilian incidents were recorded despite higher numbers of explosive devices were reported by the community members in their resettlement villages. This situation is clear evidence for the improved Mine Safe behavior among the affected communities.

UNICEF supported Victim Assistance, albeit at a much lower scale than MRE, Ministries dealing with VA as part of their disability focus or in support of victims of the conflict including the Ministry of Social Services, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Defence (Directorate of Rehabilitation). UNICEF advocated with Ministry of Social Services to form National level coordination mechanism to move forward on children with disabilities work. This Coordination mechanism was established during 2010 and continued till 2019. This Coordination mechanism includes government ministries, UNICEF, INGOs and NGOs and they met once in a quarter or need basis.

In Sri Lanka, data on people with disabilities is scarce; data on mine/ERW victims exist. During 2017, Non-Communicable Disease Unit in the Ministry of Health established and rolled out the injury surveillance system at 14 hospitals. In 2018, injury surveillance system was further expanded to 90 hospitals and in 2019 it was reached to 126 hospitals This reported information were analyzed and will feed into ongoing policy development and programme design and implementation. In Sri Lanka, free and quality health services are provided to the public. Physical rehabilitative services have improved over recent years and to be strengthened further.

In Sri Lanka, the Ministry of Social services is the lead Ministry for matters pertaining to people with disabilities. Other Ministries, particularly the Ministry of Health the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Defence, also address important issues relevant to people with injuries and disabilities. Other main stake holders are INGOs (Handicap International, Motivation, and Caritas Vazhvodayam) and MRE NGOs.

National Disability Policy developed in 2003 and it provides the most comprehensive and progressive and holistic framework in Sri Lanka to date, for equality and opportunity for people with disabilities work .Sri Lanka was among the first countries to sign the Convention on the Rights of People with Disability (CRPD) in March 2007. However, the GoSL has not ratified this important convention since 2015. In 2016, Sri Lanka acceded to the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRDP) and is bound by its obligations to persons with disabilities including persons who are victims of APMs and the relevant legislation will be in place early.

In addition to above, based on the findings of the need assessments which will provided by the particular District Secretaries of conflict affected districts focusing especially on mine victims would be assisted by the NMAC with the funding assistance of GoSL. The NMAC has allocated Rs 26 Mn to assist such victims in year 2020.

A. Data on direct and indirect victims

Assessment:

On the basis of survey efforts undertaken by various operators, Sri Lanka Mine Action Authority has records of 182 individuals injured by anti-personnel mines and other Explosive Remnants of War since the end of the conflict (reported since 2010) in Sri Lanka, with data gender- and age-disaggregated as follows:

Civilian Mine/ERW casualties

Year	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Totals
2010	8	17	5	17	47
2011	4	15	0	5	24
2012	6	19	1	21	47
2013	3	7	1	10	21
2014	5	8	1	2	16
2015	0	8	0	0	8
2016	0	8	0	0	8
2017	0	2	0	0	2
2018	0	0	0	0	0
2019	3	5	0	0	8
Totals	29	89	8	55	181

Data Source - Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) Database

Sri Lanka has no data of indirect victims of anti-personnel mines. However, by relating 2013 census data to the geographic location of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, it is possible to estimate that approximately 55,000 people live within 500 meters of an area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines.

With regard to the Initial Report submitted by Sri Lanka, the civilian mine/ERW casualties were reported as 09 which consist of the Demining Casualties. However, it was noted that according to the reporting requirements, the No of civilian casualties are only recorded in the IMSMA.

As such, the above figure pertaining to the civilian mine/ERW casualties in year 2019 is five and 3 de miners casualties. The above figures indicate the number of civilian casualties of anti-personnel mines/ERW. No single civilian casualties were reported in 2020 to date (till 30th Of June 2020)

B. Medical care

Assessment:

As the major component of the victim assistance programme, the medical care has made significant improvement in its services.

As a result, persons who suffer traumatic lower limb injuries from causes such as anti-personnel mines / other remnants of war, gun violence, motor vehicle accidents, etc. receive adequate services.

The Department of Health has even announced a special screening and treatment for all those who has not been attended with very little response. With these improvements, almost all those victims have been treated and those who are not treated fall into two categories as follows;

1. Those who have residual injuries where there is no need of surgical intervention.
2. Those who refused surgical intervention

The service is available at all District General Hospitals across the Northern Province. Further, there is a state-run mobile service in the Northern Province for patients confined to bed.

C. Physical rehabilitation

Assessment:

As recent development in access to physical rehabilitation, there are currently five rehabilitation hospitals operating in the country that caters to all patients that need physical rehabilitation including land mine victims which are,

1. Ragama Rheumatology & Rehabilitation Hospital
2. Digana Rehabilitation Hospital
3. Maliban Rehabilitation Hospital
4. Jayanthipura Rehabilitation Hospital
5. Kandagolla Rehabilitation Hospital

Also currently a state of the art Rehabilitation Unit is being constructed at Teaching Hospital Jaffna and due to be opened in July 2019.

Very few INGOs/NGOs are mainly involved in physical rehabilitation services in Northern and Eastern parts of the country.

D. Psychological support

Assessment:

Another important aspect of victim assistance is provision of physiological support. In Sri Lanka this aspect has progressed with programmes and enhanced with new technologies. A Consultant Psychiatrist (Permanent or Acting), Mental Health Medical Officer and Community Supporting Officers are serving in all Districts in the Northern Province.

There are standard screening tools which are used to detect possible symptoms and to suggest the need for a formal diagnostic assessment.

The Mental Health Network is considerably organized and functioning. Basic Counselling Services are available and being further developed. Many NGOs are working towards mental health well-being in the province.

Objectives:

- The Mental Health Unit of the Ministry of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine has initiated counselling services at each district level by training all field level health staff beginning from the Medical Officer of Health downwards. Their role is to provide counselling services to those who seek support from their respective areas.
- The Northern Province on the other hand has extensive mental health services. There is a Mental Health Task Force comprising of high level officers who oversee the psychosocial needs of the Province.
- Currently there are a few non-governmental organizations working exclusively in the counselling sector. At the government level, two new cadre positions have been added. These are the Psychiatric Social Workers who are based in the hospitals and have the task of following of patients who are released from the hospital. The other group are the Community Supporting Officers who are based in the District Secretariat office. Their work involves providing counselling services to all who are in need.

Enhancements made / to be made to pertinent legislation, policies and plans:

The Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine has proposed a National Mental Health Strategy and it is being finalized. This will draw experiences of the landmine survivors and others in rural areas who have been exposed to a stressful event or situation of exceptionally threatening or catastrophic nature.

E. Economic inclusion

Assessment:

From the household survey carried out in the Northern Province in 2012, it is known that the unemployment rate for persons with disabilities, including landmines survivors, is 50 per cent. (Note: The overall average unemployment rate in the Northern Province is 38 per cent.) Poverty is widespread in rural areas, which the Government of Sri Lanka is targeting

through its Rural Poverty Reduction Strategy.

F. Social inclusion

Assessment;

- There is an absence of efforts to guarantee the right of persons with disabilities, including landmine survivors, to live independently and to be included in the community, in particular in rural areas.

G. Coordination

Assessment:

The Sri Lankan Mine Action Center has represented Sri Lanka in all Convention-related discussions. However, to date, interaction between the Sri Lankan Mine Action Authority and other relevant State entities, particularly the National Disability Council and the Ministry of Health, has been unsatisfactory. Moreover, non-governmental organizations have directly engaged Sri Lanka's cooperation partners on initiatives that may be inconsistent with the priorities established in Sri Lanka's National Action Plan on the Equalization of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and National Health Care Plan.

Objectives;

- Beginning in 2015, the National Disability Council convened inclusive quarterly stakeholders' meetings to ensure sound coordination in the pursuit of aims related to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the promise was made to mine victims through the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Enhancements made / to be made to pertinent legislation, policies and plans:

- The consultations had been carried out at the provincial level on ways to update the National Action Plan on the Equalization of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to bring it in line with Sri Lanka's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- The National Action Plan on the Equalization of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was amended, bringing it in line with Sri Lanka's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Results of efforts taken relative to objectives and anticipated enhancements to pertinent legislation, policies and plans:

- The National Disability Council, with the support of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention's Implementation Support Unit and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, conducted an inclusive, Multi-stakeholders workshop at the national level on updating the National Action Plan on the Equalization of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, this workshop has provided a template for subsequent inclusive consultations at the Provincial level.

H. Participation

Assessment:

The United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has observed that more should be done to include persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in planning, executing and monitoring of public decision-making processes at all levels and, in particular, in the matters affecting them.

Objectives:

- Persons with disabilities, including landmine survivors where relevant, and their representative organizations were involved in consultations carried out at the provincial level on ways to update the National Action Plan on the Equalization of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to bring it in line with Sri Lanka's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Enhancements made / to be made to pertinent legislation, policies and plans:

- The National Action Plan on the Equalization of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has been amended to legally require the National Disability Council to consult with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in planning, executing and monitoring of public decision-making processes.

Results of efforts taken relative to objectives and anticipated enhancements to pertinent legislation, policies and plans:

- The National Disability Council, with the support of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention's Implementation Support Unit and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, sought to address the concerns raised by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities regarding participation by staging an inclusive, multi-stakeholder workshop at the national level on updating the National Action Plan on the Equalization of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Results of this activity include that persons with disabilities and their representative organizations perceived that they are central participants in planning, executing and monitoring of public decision-making processes. In addition, this workshop has provided a template for subsequent inclusive consultations at the provincial level.

9. Cooperation and assistance

Si Lanka is one of the States Party of the convention and will seek possibilities in necessary cooperation and assistance.

10. Mine Risk Education

The 26-year-old internal conflict has resulted in significant land contamination by mines/explosive remnants of war (ERW) throughout the North and East of Sri Lanka threatening people's survival and safety and restricting reconstruction and recovery activities in the area. The total known and estimated extent of contamination to-date in the Northern and Eastern Provinces is 15.11 square km. The (GoSL) has prioritized mine clearance tasks for the purpose of resettlement and agriculture, and other related activities while surrounding jungle and highly contaminated areas that require prolonged period of time of mine clearance work, will be marked off and cleared subsequently. Mine/ERW residual contamination is a long term problem and Mine Risk Education (MRE) is a pre-requisite for safe return as land released via survey, battle area clearance and demining cannot guarantee land without a residual threat.

Mine Risk Education was conducted through UNICEF until 2011 with the funds provided to local NGOs and Ministry of Education (MOE) for school based MRE and through local NGOs for community based MRE. Since January 2009 to-date, around 562,500 community members have been reached by MRE messages in multiple times. The mass media campaign launched in November 2009, had more than doubled the number of MRE facilitators among NGO partners and training has been provided to the Sri Lanka Army Humanitarian Demining Unit (HDU), police officers and Ministry of Education (MoE) staff. Significant efforts were made by UNICEF to incorporate MRE into the school curriculum under 'Life Skills and Civic Education', with approval of the curriculum in the year 2011. UNICEF supported the MoE and the National Institute of Education in the preparation of MRE-lessons for grades 6-9 and provision of additional teaching materials, and in the training of teachers in high and medium risk areas in the North and East.

As a result of continuous MRE in the Northern and Eastern Province, general level of understanding the mine/ERW threat and knowing what to do in case of encountering mines, UXO or abandoned ordnance is found to be in Higher degree. Many people demonstrate mine-smart behavior by reporting suspected dangerous devices and areas and by educating their family or community members and newcomers on the existing threat and main risk-taking behaviors. All areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines have been marked and warning signs in Sinhala, Tamil and English are prominently displayed. Warning signs are replaced and maintained on a regular basis. In addition, community liaison teams made up of both women and men regularly visit towns and villages that are most at risk to advise women and men on risk avoidance.

As per IMSMA reports, 3 incidents involving civilians were reported in 2019, and 5 civilians were injured and this number is very low compared to level of contamination in this areas. No single civilian casualties were reported in 2020 (till 30th Of June 2020).

As a result of continues MRE, Mine and ERW devices reporting from community drastically increased and around 4200 devices were reported by the community members since 2019 to date and it was clearly evident the improvement in Mine safe behaviours. Village level reporting mechanism were strengthened through Village child development committees

However, as many communities live close to infested or not yet fully surveyed areas the threat in some divisions remains high. Continuous MRE is needed. In addition, people from the South of the Island have started visiting the North and East and need to learn how to behave mine-smart. Special attention needs to be paid to specific livelihoods such as scrap metal collectors (war scrap), fire wood collectors and farmers who face the highest risks. In addition, special efforts are made to tailor messages according to community circumstances and target groups (e.g., according to the main economic, cultural and recreational activities carried in any particular locality). Therefore, despite the continuing de-mining, it remains a necessity to continue addressing such risks through increased, specific and targeted MRE.

The NMAC has allocated Rs 4 Million with the view to conduct MRE activities in the mine affected areas with the support of Local and International Mine Action Operators who are active in Sri Lanka. However, due to the depletion of funds to the UNICEF for MRE activities, the frequency of the MRE activities have been drastically reduced yet the need for such activities is a prime requirement in order to prevent mine related incidents in those areas. If the required level of funds be provided to mine action operators through NMAC, the resumption of MRE which is a timely requirement would be possible and would be of great assistance to the community.