

**CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF  
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION  
Annual Report in Accordance with the Article 7, Paragraph 2 of the Convention**

STATE PARTY:

**Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**

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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 heavily with landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW), including Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)). 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 Anti-Personal Mines (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 mostly of AP mines and AT mines and LTTE hasn't provided any record of their-laid minefield to the NMAC. The LTTE 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.

During the peacekeeping period commencing from 2002, some of the mine/ERW-contaminated areas were cleared in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. 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 and 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 their place of origin 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.

Despite over 1.3 million items of Explosive Remnants of War getting cleared, Sri Lanka still contains some of the densest contamination in the world, very close to population centers. Mine action has supported wider peace and reconciliation efforts by making fertile agricultural land safe and allowing the development of national infrastructure. The remaining contamination lies remarkable challenge for resettlement, agriculture, irrigation, and access to infrastructure, hindering socio-economic development of those areas. 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. Sri Lanka is committed to fulfilling Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and recognizes the importance of promoting linkages between the programmes on implementing SDGs and the national mine action programme. Survey and clearance of contaminated areas and the subsequent release of safe land will be intimately linked with the achievement of number of SDGs as Sri Lanka's minefields are close to rural communities with significant socio-economic, humanitarian, commercial and environmental impacts. Sri Lanka's mine action programme has an opportunity to highlight impacts and opportunities mine clearance will bring in terms of facilitating development through establishment of safe living environment, access to education and health facilities as well as sustainable livelihood and contributing to the broader sustainable development.

## **2 . National Implementation Measures**

The Government of Sri Lanka 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.

Upon the receipt of the advice of the Hon. Attorney General, fresh Cabinet approval was obtained in September 2020 to proceed with the draft of the prohibition of Anti-Personal Mines Bill. The observation of the Hon. Attorney General was incorporated thereafter by the Department of Legal Draftsman. Subsequently, several drafts were circulated in between the department of Legal Draftsman, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's Department. Observations were sent both by the Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General's Department, to the Legal Draftsman's Department. The latest set of observations from the Attorney General's Department was received on 27 April 2021 and sent the same to the Department of Legal Draftsman on 28 April 2021 in order to incorporate the latest observations and the department of Legal Draftsman is currently incorporating the same. Hon, Attorney General is expected issue the Certificate of Constitutionality subsequent to examining the final draft which will be placed before the Cabinet of Ministers for further consideration, in due course.

As per the previous National Mine Action Strategy, the Government of Sri Lanka planned to finish all the registered mine fields in the IMSMA to become a mine threat free Sri Lanka by the end of 2020 and this target was based on the additional donor funding to increase capacity. However, as the receipt of donor funding was declined and the increase of anticipated capacity wasn't possible. On the other hand, some of the new conformed hazardous areas were identified. The COVID- 19 pandemic also raised additional obstacles in reaching the previously set target. Due to these reasons; vision of the strategy has not been achieved and is being furthered beyond 2020.

### **3 . Stockpile Destruction**

Condemnation and Destruction Board of the Sri Lanka Army has established a Committee comprised of senior officials representing of the Ministry. 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.

**Table 1: Information on Stockpile Destruction**

Type	Quantity Destroyed	Lot Numbers	Date of Destroyed	Place of Destroyed
Sri Lanka Army				
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
P4MK 1	438	Unknown	01 Jan 2019 - End of April 2021	For Training Purpose
P4MK 11	3060	Unknown	01 Jan 2019 - End of April 2021	For Training Purpose
Type 72	256	Unknown	01 Jan 2019 - End of April 2021	For Training Purpose
VS 5 0	210	Unknown	01 Jan 2019 - End of April 2021	For Training Purpose
Type 1969	52	Unknown	01 Jan 2019 - End of April 2021	For Training Purpose
PRB 409	4	Unknown	01 Jan 2019 - End of April 2021	For Training Purpose
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 II	1,350	Unknown	1/07/2018	SL Air Force Station Palavi
P4 MARK II	29	Unknown	1/02/2018	SL Air Force Station Palavi
P4 MARK II	968	Unknown	01 Dec 18 -31Dec 18	SLAF Range - Kalpitiya
P4 MARK II	27	Unknown	21 Aug 2021 - 07 May 2021	SL Air Force Training Purpose
Sri Lanka Police (STF)				
P4 MARK II	272	Unknown	1/10/2018	STF - Shastraweli Camp
P4 MARK II	321	Unknown	19/08/2019 - 10/08/2020	STF Training School Katukurunda
Total	106,113			

Data Source - Ministry of Defense

**Table 2: Future Destruction Plan;**

Type of Mine	Quantity	Time Plan		Method of Destruction	Demolition Site
		From	To		
SL Army					
P4 Mark II	11,840	June 2021	End July 2021	By Burning	Condemnation and destruction Board are appointed
Total	11,840				

Data Source - Ministry of Defense

#### **4 . Anti-personnel mines retained or transferred for permitted purposes**

Under the Article 3 of the Convention, The Government of Sri Lanka has authorized relevant institutions to retain anti-personal mines for permitted purposes. Sri Lanka Army, Navy, Air force, and the Department of Police have authorized to use anti-personal mines only to undertake their training programmes in their own training establishments. For the training purposes, the quantity of antipersonnel mines retained has been distributed among the forces of SL Army, Navy, Air Force and Police. 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 large number of personnel being deployed in the peace keeping operation in several countries, and part of retained mines are used in training which are conducted by the Institute of Peacekeeping Support Operations in Sri Lanka (IPSOT-SL), for the benefit of the SLA troops in peacekeeping missions.

The balance of Sri Lanka's retained antipersonnel mines are used for training of mine detection dogs, training and testing on mechanical assets and equipment used in de-mining activities and testing de-miners PPE in consideration of blast effects produced by different types of antipersonnel mines. The distribution of the currently held 16,718 antipersonnel mines for these purposes is as explained below as at 31 March 2021.

Number of mines retained for permitted purposes in year 2020 was 20, 831. The quantity has decreased to 16,718 as a result of being used for training of mine detection dogs, training and testing on mechanical assets and equipment used in de-mining activities. As of March 2021, the following institutions retained anti-personnel mines for purposes permitted under Article 3 of the Convention

**Table 3: Details on mines retained for purposes permitted under Article 3 of the Convention**

Type	Quantity Retained	Lot numbers
Sri Lanka Army		
P4MK 1	1,390	OPS/OLLB/801/95/39
P4MK 11	9,769	301-1,017-1,007-1,030-1,081-1,019-2
Type 72	1,078	Unknown
VS 50	998	Unknown
Type 1969	202	Unknown
PRB 409	43	Unknown
SLA Sub Total	13,480	
SLA Navy		
P4MK I	16	Unknown
SLA Navy Sub Total	16	
Sri Lanka Air Force		
AP Mines P4MK II	2,850	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	2850	
Sri Lanka Police - STF		
P4MK 1	372	Unknown
Police - STF Sub Total	372	
Grand Total	16,718	

Data Source - Ministry of Defense

**Table 4: Anti-personal mines retained for permitted purposes by the Sri Lanka Army**

Type	Quantity Used	Authorized Institution	Lot numbers	Actual use
<b>Sri Lanka Army</b>				
P4MK I	1,390	Headquarter, Engineer Brigade	OPS/OLLB/801/95/39	For Seasoned Mind Field Preparation/Test Pits
P4MK II	9,769	Headquarter, Engineer Brigade	OPS/OLLB/801/95/39	Test Preparation at Sites
Type 72	1,078	Sri Lanka School of Military Engineering	OPS/OLLB/801/95/39	Use 3 Mines Per Student for a Training Year
VS 50	998	Sri Lanka School of Military Engineering	OPS/OLLB/801/95/39	A Mine for Each Students for a Training Year
Type 1969	202	Sri Lanka School of Military Engineering	OPS/OLLB/801/95/39	Introduction to Mine Warfare
PRB 409	43	Sri Lanka School of Military Engineering	OPS/OLLB/801/95/39	1 Mine for Each Student (Students of Sister Services on Demining and EOD)
<b>SLA Sub Total</b>	<b>13,480</b>			

Data Source - Ministry of Defense



**Table 5: Retain anti-personal mines for permitted purposes by Sri Lanka Navy, Air Force and Department of Police**

Table of Human and Personal Assets for permitted purposes 2, Sri Lanka Navy, Air Force and Department of Police				
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	1,477	Sri Lanka Air Force Academy Chinabay	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	1,368	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	1	Sri Lanka Air Force Station Ampara	60,018	
P4MK II	4	Sri Lanka Air Force Station WLA	1987,1996	
Air Force Sub Total	2850			
Sri Lanka Police - STF				
P4MK 1	372	Special Task Force – Katukurunda	Unknown	Basic and Refresher Training course
Police - STF Sub Total	372			
Grand Total	16,718			

Data Source - Ministry of Defense

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

In 2017 Sri Lanka completed re- survey in 9 districts in Northern, Eastern and North Central Provinces of the country. This ensured that the national database has been fully reconciled and previous data backlog was cleared improving the quality of information in IMSMA. To date, a total 295 areas in Sri Lanka has identified as antipersonnel mine-contaminated, totaling up to 11,444,129 square meters, and 09 areas that are suspected to be contaminated with antipersonnel mines which are estimated at 1,353,764 square meters. These known or suspected areas belong to 9 Districts in 2 Provinces of Sri Lanka as explained below:

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IMSMA was established in Sri Lanka's mine action programme in 2002 to more effectively and efficiently collect, analyses and store mine action information. Mine/ERW information is key to the effective management of the mine action programme in Sri Lanka. Information management involves, but is not limited to, the collection, processing, and dissemination of information. Regional Mine Action Office (RMAO) will make regular information updates available to all interested stakeholders. Currently, NMAC uses IMAMA ng new version and is in the process of discussing with Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) to upgrade it to IMAMA Core<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> As per Action # 9 of the Oslo Action Plan

**Table 6: Summary of areas known or suspected to contain antipersonnel mines as end of March 2021 <sup>2</sup>.**

Province	District	Number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines	Number of areas	Total number of areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines	Amount of area known to contain anti-personnel mines (square meters)	Amount of area	Total amount of area known or suspected to contain antipersonnel mines(square meters)
			suspected to contain anti-personnel mines			suspected to contain anti-personnel mines(square meters)	
Northern	Jaffna	21		21	1,021,472		1021472
	Kilinochchi	51		51	3,172,248		3,172,248
	Mannar	85	2	87	1,250,712	74,165	1,324,877
	Mullaitivu	97	5	102	4,960,349	566,128	5,526,477
	Vavuniya	25	2	27	629,786	713,471	1,343,257
Northern Province Total		279	9	288	11,034,567	1,353,764	12,388,331
Eastern	Batticaloa	1		1	683		683
	Trincomalee	12		12	306,351		306,351
Eastern Province Total		13		13	307,034		307,034
North Central	Anuradhapura	2		2	89,828		89,828
	Polonnaruwa	1		1	12,700		12,700
North Central Province Total		3		3	102,528		102,528
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>295</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>11,444,129</b>	<b>1,353,764</b>	<b>12,850,623</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> Action #22

### **5.1. Summary of area released, devices recovered and destroyed from 2002 to 31 March 2021.**

With reference to the initial report submitted on 28th September 2017, the total area of known or suspected to contain antipersonnel mines have been increased subsequently due to the expansion of development activities.

Mine action in Sri Lanka is a team effort. Humanitarian Demining Unit of the Sri Lanka Army performs clearance on behalf of the Government and there are also two national clearance agencies Delvon Assistance for Social Harmony (DASH) and Skavita Humanitarian Assistance and Relief Project (SHARP) and two international organizations, the HALO Trust and Mine Advisory Group (MAG) are actively engaged in mine clearance related work. National mine action standards are regularly updated in accordance with the latest International Mine Action Standards (IMAS)

The National Mine Action Programme was initiated in 2002 focusing initially to facilitate the safe resettlement of IDPs. In more recent times, mine action has supported wider peace and reconciliation efforts by making fertile agricultural land safe and allowing the development of national infrastructure. Significant progress has been made in Sri Lanka to date. Since 2002, GoSL has been able to declare 4,775 areas totaling 142,377,320 square meters of land as free of antipersonnel mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) and handed over the community to start their day to day activities. 818,399 antipersonnel mines and 1,438,453 ERW including anti-vehicle mines, have been removed and destroyed through clearance operations conducted up to end of March 2021. The associated metrics are detailed above.

**Table 7: Summary of area released, devices recovered and destroyed from 2002 to 31 March 2021<sup>3</sup>**

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 anti-tank mines destroyed	Number of other explosive items destroyed	Number of areas released
Northern	Jaffna	4,139,570	57,235,893	22,061,799	83,437,262	197,498	585	241,722	1,295
	Kilinochchi	1,661,368	41,447,876	20,129,125	63,238,369	138,823	735	449,684	781
	Mannar	18,620,581	184,450,461	31,485,752	234,556,794	126,412	37	127,184	570
	Mullaitivu	9,833,226	168,641,877	31,039,977	209,515,080	180,319	260	533,586	1,023
	Vavuniya	3,078,164	79,202,786	9,933,410	92,214,360	143,109	376	56,584	629
Northern Province Total		37,332,909	530,978,893	114,650,063	682,961,865	786,161	1,993	1,408,760	4,298
Eastern	Batticaloa	15,267,012	357,348,043	8,286,554	380,901,609	13,032	8	19,209	270
	Ampara	37,845	104,017,318	7,246,551	111,301,714	593		3,480	22
	Trincomalee	6,554,045	100,862,875	11,801,809	119,218,729	12,326	14	6,984	156
Eastern Province Total		21,858,902	562,228,236	27,334,914	611,422,052	25,951	22	29,673	448
North Central	Anuradhapura	31,244	226,010	299,269	556,523	5,071		19	24
	Polonnaruwa	12,150	19,856	75,313	107,319	401		1	4
North Central Province Total		43,394	245,866	374,582	663,842	5,472	0	20	28
North West Puttalam			472	17,761	18,233	815			1
North West Province Total		0	472	17,761	18,233	815	0	0	1
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>59,235,205</b>	<b>1,093,453,467</b>	<b>142,377,320</b>	<b>1,295,065,992</b>	<b>818,399</b>	<b>2,015</b>	<b>1,438,453</b>	<b>4,775</b>

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

<sup>3</sup> Action #18

**Table 08: Summary of area released, devices recovered and destroyed in the year 2020**

District	Mine Field Clearance in Sqm			Devices Recovered			
	BAC	MF Clearance	Total Clearance	AP	AT	UXO	SAA
Anuradhapura	-	36,579	36,579	209		4	
Batticaloa	-	12,854	12,854	506		-	
Jaffna	-	161,508	161,508	9,377	1	160	7,340
Kilinochchi	1,181,773	2,073,379	3,255,152	15,440	34	3,401	27,430
Mannar	-	666,121	666,121	5,685	2	150	
Mullaitivu	917,413	893,384	1,810,797	8,697	8	725	1,896
Polonnaruwa	-	8,325	8,325	93		-	
Trincomalee	-	71,287	71,287	226		926	
Vavuniya	-	668,052	668,052	2,924		64	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,099,186</b>	<b>4,591,489</b>	<b>6,690,675</b>	<b>43,157</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>5,430</b>	<b>36,666</b>

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

**Table 09: Summary of area released, devices recovered and destroyed from 2021 to 31 March 2021**

District	Mine Field Clearance in Sqm			Devices Recovered			
	BAC	MF Clearance	Total Clearance	AP	AT	UXO	SAA
Anuradhapura	-	1,292	1,292			-	
Jaffna	-	32,548	32,548	62	1	19	2,628
Kilinochchi	6,724	288,166	294,890	1,726	5	707	17,551
Mannar	1,640	118,601	120,241	216		22	
Mullaitivu	-	203,019	203,019	700		47	
Trincomalee	-	3,418	3,418	38		-	
Vavuniya	-	13,308	13,308	55		3	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8,364</b>	<b>660,352</b>	<b>668,716</b>	<b>2,797</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>20,179</b>

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

**Table 10: The District-wise breakdown of CHAs of Sri Lanka as at March 2021 and task allocation of each Confirmed Hazardous Area (CHA) to operators<sup>4</sup>**

District	Organization	Number Of Task	Actual Remaining
Anuradhapura	Sri Lanka Army	2	89,828
Batticaloa	Sri Lanka Army	1	683
Colombo	Sri Lanka Army	1	52,730
Jaffna	HALO Trust	12	75,309
	Sri Lanka Army	10	946,163
Kilinochchi	DASH	20	999,559
	HALO Trust	29	1,519,638
	National Mine Action Center	1	93,707
	SHARP	11	233,513
	Sri Lanka Army	2	325,831
Mannar	Mine Advisory Group	77	1,290,482
	Sri Lanka Army	1	34,395
Mullaitivu	DASH	21	684,678
	HALO Trust	41	3,360,205
	Mine Advisory Group	27	855,579
	SHARP	6	406,142
	Sri Lanka Army	9	219,873
Polonnaruwa	Sri Lanka Army	1	12,700
Trincomalee	Mine Advisory Group	12	306,351
Vavuniya	DASH	3	102,238
	Mine Advisory Group	21	1,241,019
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>308</b>	<b>12,850,623</b>

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

<sup>4</sup> Action # 19, #22



## **5.2 Funding gap for completion of mine clearance in Sri Lanka**

GoSL has committed USD 2 million for year 2021 towards coordination and monitoring the National Mine Action Programm and Sri Lanka Army Humanitarian De-Mining Unit (SLAHDU) mine clearance operations. To date secured and anticipated funding to the sector through international donors is estimated at \$66 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.

### 5.3 Monitoring and reviewing national mine action strategy

Sri Lanka National Mine Action Strategy will be increasingly central to facilitate timely survey and clearance completion and fulfilment of convention obligations. Continuous monitoring is conducted using systematic data collection on specified indicators to provide main stakeholders with information about the extent of progress and the achievement of objectives, measured against the established baselines. NMAC will continuously monitor progress against the targets which will further enable NMAC and partners to address problems, improve performance, build on success and adapt to changing circumstance. NMAC has commenced a resurvey in the Northern, Eastern and North Central provinces to identify the exact remaining CHAs in the country to make a timeline to complete the de-mining in Sri Lanka. Further, review of the National Mine Action Strategy in order to finalize the completion time frame has been started and completion date will be calculated based on the results of the resurvey that is currently ongoing<sup>5</sup>. 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.

Sri Lanka Strategic Planning Time line 2021								
Month	May-June 2021	July 2021	August 2021	August-October 2021	October 2021	October 2021	December 2021 (TBC)	TBC
Activity	1. Conduct assessment of achievements and challenges in implementing Sri Lanka National Mine Action Strategy 2016-2020	2. Organise a preparatory online strategy workshop 'Setting the Scene and Sharing Good Practice'	3. Conduct strategy stakeholder workshop	4. Develop national strategy	5. Conduct strategy validation workshop	6. Produce final strategy draft	7. Ensure government approval	8. Organise strategy launch
Output	Assessment report drafted and shared	Greater awareness of Sri Lanka's convention obligations and international good practice	Strategy draft Theory of Change developed	Strategy document drafted	Strategy validated	Strategy finalized	Government approved strategy	Strategy formally launched

<sup>1</sup> Action # 20

## 5.4 Gender and Diversity

Sri Lanka recognizes that women, girls, boys and men may be affected differently by mine/ERW contamination due to their roles and responsibilities and might therefore have specific and varying needs and priorities. Ensuring gender and diversity considerations are taken into consideration in the planning, implementation and monitoring phases of all mine action projects. Sri Lanka further acknowledges the gender and age-sensitive actions in the Maputo Action Plan and its sex and age disaggregated data (SADD) reporting obligations. In Sri Lanka's mine action programme, all operators provide special consideration on gender equality. DASH considers gender equality and empowerment of women as an important aspect of its programme, 35% of its staff are female and seeks to further increase its female staff. SHARP has progressively increased its ratio of female employees in its programme as a continuous and on-going process. Regarding The HALO Trust, 40% of its programme staff are female. It is important to note that 64% of The HALO Trust's female staff members are heads of households. MAG Sri Lanka promotes gender and diversity inclusion at all levels of the programme. 30% of programme staff members are women; MAG is continuously working to further improve this ratio. It has been observed that 80% of female staff members are widows, single parents and breadwinners for their families.

## 5.5 Management of Residual Contamination<sup>6</sup>

With the approach of completion, the importance of further developing sustainable national structures and related processes to manage residual contamination is becoming increasingly more central. The Humanitarian Demining Unit of the Sri Lanka Army (SLA HDU) in particular, has been at the forefront, with significant resources dedicated through the national budget. Officers of the SLA HDU have already been trained on EOD, quality assurance and IMSMA and has been attached to the Regional Mine Action Office established at District Secretariat Office in Kilinochchi for monitoring and evaluation of the de-mining activities in Sri Lanka. The Regional Mine Action Office in Kilinochchi consists 90% of staff from the Sri Lanka Army. Sri Lanka, therefore is in a good position to effectively and efficiently manage the long-term residual issues with national capacities following completion. Recognizing that Sri Lanka is likely to complete its Article 5 obligations of the APMBC in the near future, greater focus will be placed on planning the transition phase from a mainly proactive mine clearance programme to the reactive management of residual ERW. The NMAC recognizes the importance of explaining the post-completion roles and responsibilities and they have been effectively communicated and known to all relevant stakeholders. A fully-fledged demining unit with necessary infrastructure, vehicles, ambulances etc has been established at the Engineering Brigade Headquarter of Sri Lanka Army at Boo-Oya, Vauniya, an area in the northern part of the country where identified as central location for the all Mine and ERW affected districts. The Army Corps of Engineers of the SLA HDU unit at the Boo Oya Camp will continue to function and already trained officials of the Sri Lanka Army will continue to be deployed beyond the termination of National Mine Action Programme. The current operation system including continuation of mine risk education as well as update of the IMSMA database will be continued by the SLA HDU.

<sup>1</sup> Action # 26

## **5.6 Demobilization**

NMAC has initiated to conduct a survey with the support of the MAG to identify the capacity of de-miners currently employed with a view to develop a demobilization plan. Based on the findings of the needs assessment survey, NMAC expects to facilitate demining staff to provide relevant livelihood training after completion of demining programme. It has been identified the possibility provide necessary livelihood training in the field of construction, agriculture, livestock and entrepreneurship. NMAC expects donor support in this regard to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the demining staff after completion.

## 6. Technical characteristics of anti-personnel mines

These APs which were manufactured by the LTTE, are often founded in Sri Lanka.

Rangan 99



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

Weight of Explosive - 130g  
Type of Explosive - TNT

Direction Fragmentation AP (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

As a state affected by antipersonnel mines of an improvised nature, NMAC ensures all provisions and obligations under the Convention are applied to such contamination as they do for all other types of anti-personnel mines, including during survey and clearance in fulfilment of Sri Lanka's obligations under the Convention. Detected IEDs are destroyed on site to ensure safety of the mine clearance staff.

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

GoSL is never a producer of any type of mines therefore does not possess any production facilities.

## 8 . Victim Assistance

Please see below Sri Lanka's progress and related statistical information with regard to assistance provided to victims of APMs/ERW as per specific action points of the Oslo Action Plan

**Table 11:**

Oslo Action Point	Progress
<p><b>Action #33</b></p> <p>Ensure that a relevant government entity is assigned to oversee the integration of victim assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks. The assigned entity will develop an action plan and monitor and report on implementation based on specific, measurable, realistic and time-bound objectives to support mine victims. This involves the removal of physical, social, cultural, political, attitudinal and communication barriers to access such services; and the use of an approach that is inclusive of gender, age and disability and takes diverse needs into account in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all programmes.</p>	<p>Sri Lanka adopts a holistic approach on the integration of victim assistance into broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks. 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. The National Disability Policy which was developed in 2003 provides the most comprehensive and progressive and holistic framework in Sri Lanka to date, for equality and opportunity for people with disabilities at work .Sri Lanka was among the first countries to sign the Convention on the Rights of People with Disability (CRPD) in March 2007.</p> <p>A Victim Assistance officer has been designated at the NMAC and coordination with partners has started. NMAC has commenced raising awareness on victim assistance as an obligation among partners. NMAC has developed a database in line with IMSMA and the Ministry of Health has agreed to appoint designated VA focal points.</p> <p>NMAC has commenced a needs assessment survey to identify the mine and ERW victims in Northern, Eastern and North-Central provinces. Survey of Jaffna and Killinochchi Districts is on progress. Please see Table L on disaggregated data on requirements of victims by district.</p> <p>The Ministry of Health 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. 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.</p> <p>Sri Lanka is making every effort to ensure that mine victims are not subject any discrimination and that their concerns are taken into account in developing broader national policies, plans and legal frameworks</p>

<p><b>Action #34</b></p> <p>Carry out multi-sectoral efforts to ensure that the needs and rights of mine victims are effectively addressed through national policy and legal frameworks relating to disability, health, education, employment, development and poverty reduction, in line with the relevant provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.</p>	<p>Work is currently in progress to finalize the draft Bill on Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to replace the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act No 28 of 1996 effective at present. An eleven members subcommittee has been appointed for this purpose, consisting representatives from the National Council for the Persons with Disabilities, legal and medical sectors, subject matter experts and civil society organizations working in this sphere. The preliminary draft Bill, in line with Sri Lanka's commitments under the CRPD and the government policy statement, has been prepared. A stakeholders' meeting is expected to be convened for observations, prior to submission of the final draft to the Department of Legal Draftsman. Further, work has also been undertaken to prepare guidelines to support the implementation of the new legislation.</p>
<p><b>Action #35</b></p> <p>Establish or strengthen a centralized database that includes information on persons killed by mines as well as on persons injured by mines and their needs and challenges, disaggregated by gender, age and disability, and make this information available to relevant stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive response to addressing the needs of mine victims.</p>	<p>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. As per the IMSMA, 1690 victims have been reported in Northern, Eastern and North Central provinces since 1995. The numbers dramatically reduced over the years but were slowly raised with the return of the IDP population from 2009 to 2012.</p> <p>From January 2020 to end of March 2021, two Mine/ ERW civilian incidents were recorded. This is clear evidence of the improved mine Safe behavior among the affected communities.</p> <p>The NMAC maintains a database on mine/ ERW victims. The NMAC has also initiated a survey to identify mine and ERW victims in Northern, Eastern and North-Central provinces. So far, the need assessment survey in five districts has been completed and 403 mine and ERW victims were identified up to date. In this resurvey, we are collecting not only disaggregate data of victims by gender, age and disability; it also includes a need assessment component. So far, in five districts need assessment resurvey has been completed. 403 mine and ERW victims were identified up to date from January 2020 to end of March 2021 and two Mine/ ERW civilian casualty incidents were recorded. This is clear evidence of the improved mine safe behavior among the affected communities.</p> <p>During the past 10 years, around 184 civilian casualties were reported due to Mine/ERW incidents. As per the statistics of casualties, it was evident that adult men and boys were more prone/at risk to incidents compared to women and girls. One of the reasons is the free movement of men for livelihood activities compared to women whose movements are restricted within their village boundaries.</p>



	<p><b>Data on direct and indirect victims</b></p> <p>Total number of individuals recorded as having been injured by APMs or other ERWs is 1716, since 1985 to 2021. Please see table M on disaggregated data by district on total numbers of persons injured from APMs/ERWs from 1995 to 2001</p> <p>Please see table N on disaggregated data by district on total numbers of persons injured from APMs/ERWs from 1995 to 2021</p> <p>Please see table O on disaggregated data by gender on persons killed or injured due to antipersonnel mines since 2010 up to April 2021</p>
<p><b>Action #36</b> Provide effective and efficient first aid to casualties in mine-affected communities, as well as other medical emergency services, and ongoing medical care.</p> <p><b>Action #38</b> Take steps to ensure that, taking into account local, national and regional circumstances, all mine victims, including in rural and remote areas, have access to comprehensive rehabilitation services and psychological and psychosocial support services, including through the provision of outreach rehabilitation service, where necessary, while paying particular attention to the most vulnerable. This includes the provision of assistive devices, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and peer-to-peer support programs.</p>	<p><b>Physical rehabilitation</b></p> <p>Following five rehabilitation hospitals provide services to all patients that need physical rehabilitation including land mine victims,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ragama Rheumatology &amp; Rehabilitation Hospital</li> <li>2. Digana Rehabilitation Hospital</li> <li>3. Maliban Rehabilitation Hospital</li> <li>4. Jayanthipura Rehabilitation Hospital</li> <li>5. Kandagolla Rehabilitation Hospital</li> </ol> <p>Out of these five hospitals Ragama Rheumatology &amp; Rehabilitation Hospital, functions as a national hospital and other four rehabilitation hospitals function at the provincial level. The Teaching Hospital Jaffna has a well-functioning rehabilitation unit for persons with disabilities.</p> <p>A number of initiatives have been taken to upgrade the rehabilitation services in the country including in the Northern &amp; Eastern provinces. Adoption of the Essential Service Package of Sri Lanka, adoption of the National Guideline of Rehabilitation Services, adaptation of World Health Organization global assistive devices list to Sri Lanka are some of the important contributions in this regard. Rehabilitation services are based on right based holistic approach and involvement of multidisciplinary sectors in the process is a key factor for coordination of provision of services. Improving Community Based Rehabilitation is in progress. INGOs/NGOs are also involved in providing physical rehabilitation services in Northern and Eastern parts of the country.</p>

	<p><b>Psychological support</b></p> <p>Another important aspect of victim assistance is provision of physiological support. A Consultant Psychiatrist (Permanent or Acting), a Mental Health Medical Officer and a Community Supporting Officers are serving in all Districts in the Northern Province.</p> <p>Standard screening tools are used to detect possible symptoms and to suggest the need for a formal diagnostic assessment. The Mental Health Network is organized across all national hospitals and fully functioning. Basic counselling services are also available in all national hospitals. The Mental Health Unit of the Ministry of Health, has initiated counselling services at each district level by training all field level health staff from the commencing 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 are well functioning mental health community centers at ground level for looking after mental wellbeing of the persons in need. 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.</p>
<p><b>Action #37</b></p> <p>Ensure, where appropriate and possible, a national referral mechanism to facilitate access to services for mine victims, including by creating and disseminating a comprehensive directory of services.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Social services is the lead Ministry for matters pertaining to people with disabilities. Other Ministries, particularly the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Defence, also address important issues relevant to people with injuries and disabilities. The Government also engages with the civil society stakeholders, including INGOs (Handicap International, Motivation, and Caritas Vazhvodayam) and EORE NGOs.</p> <p>During a coordination meeting convened by the Foreign Ministry of Sri Lanka in April 2021, it was agreed to further strengthen coordination between the activities of the Ministry of Health and the NMAC, to better streamline victim assistance programmes related to mine victims with a view to ensure expedited referral of mine victims for assistance</p>

<p><b>Action #39</b> Carry out efforts to ensure the social and economic inclusion of mine victims, such as access to education, capacity-building, employment referral services, microfinance institutions, business development services, rural development and social protection programmes, including in rural and remote areas.</p>	<p>The NMAC has allocated Rs 18Mn for Victim Assistance in 2021 to provide immediate assistance to the mine and ERW victims such as livelihood assistance, water and sanitation facility, artificial limbs and arms, clutches and wheel chairs, spectacles and other essential supports. However, it will not be adequate to fulfill the need of the mine and ERW victims in the country and NMAC seeks donor support to assist the victim assistance programme.</p>
<p><b>Action #41</b> Ensure the full inclusion and effective participation of mine victims and their representative organizations in all matters that affect them, including in rural and remote areas.</p>	<p>National Council for Persons with Disabilities 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. National Action Plan on the Equalization of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has been amended to 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.</p>

**Table 12: Disaggregated data on requirements of victims by district**

District	No of Mine and ERW victims	Requirements of victims											
		Male	Female	Children	Immediate Assistance	livelihood assistance	Water and Sanitation	Artificial limbs	House entrance access road	spectacles	clutches	Wheel chair	Other
Trincomalee	75	57	11		7	42	19	13	6	1	4	3	9
Puttalam	16	16				2	3	3	1		2	4	3
Vavuniya	24	23	1			22	5	3	1		3	1	83
Mullaitivu	15	11	4			12		1			1	1	45
Polonnaruwa	4	3	1			4							12
Batticaloa	102	65	36		1	64	43	14	29	9	3	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>53</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>155</b>

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

**Table 13: Disaggregated data by district on total numbers of persons injured from APMs/ERWs from 1995 to 2001**

District	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	1995-2001
Ampara						2					1	4		4	2			13
Anuradhapura																	11	11
Badulla																	6	6
Batticaloa		2	5	2	1	10	5	1	3		9	1	2	20	17	31	14	123
Colombo																		
Gampaha																		
Hambantota																		
Jaffna	1		10	4	1	10	10	5	10	5	9	88	114	69	67	52	113	568
Kalutara																		
Kegalle																		
Kilinochchi							1	1	1	1			1	2	4	42	44	97
Kurunegala																		
Mannar			1		1	5		2	3	2	1	2			6	12	5	40
Matara																		
Monaragala																		
Mullaitivu				1			1							1	9	42	29	83
NuwaraEliya																		
Polonnaruwa																	3	3
Puttalam			6			1										1		8
Trincomalee																	9	9
Vavuniya	1	1		11	2	1	3		2	3			2	2		3	2	33
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>994</b>

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

**Table 14: Total numbers of People injured from 1995 to 2021 are as follows:**

District	1995-2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	1995-2021
Ampara	13	1			6				1			2										23
Anuradhapura	11		13	4			4		4													36
Badulla	6	2	1	1																		10
Batticaloa	123	3	2	5		26	12	1	s	2						1						175
Colombo			2																			2
Gampaha		4																				4
Hambantota		1		1																		2
Jaffna	568	76	54	23	28	12	4	5	14	22	13	7	1	2					3	1		833
Kalutara			2																			2
Kegalle		2																				2
Kilinochchi	97	15	21	5	7	2	1			13	6	5		5		4	1		5			187
Kurunegala		4																				4
Mannar	40	5	7	5	2	1		2	2	6		7			3							80
Matara		4		1																		5
Monaragala		2		2																		4
Mullaitivu	83	12	1	4	1	2			32	4	3	24		11							2	179
NuwaraEliya		6																				6
Polonnaruwa	3	2	7	1								2										15
Puttalam	8	4	1			7				1												21
Trincomalee	9	7	1	4	1	14	17		1	5		1					1					61
Vavuniya	33	5	10		2	3		1	5	2	3	1										65
Grand Total	994	155	122	56	47	67	38	9	59	55	25	49	1	18	3	5	2	0	8	1	2	1716

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

**Table 15: Disaggregated data by gender on persons killed or injured due to antipersonnel mines since 2010 up to April 2021**

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
2020	0	1	0	0	1
2021	0	2	0	0	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>184</b>

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

## 9. Cooperation and assistance

The Government of Sri Lanka is able to share expertise and/or experiences as concerns mine clearance and victim assistance with the international community. Since 2002, NMAC initiated inter-institutional cooperation with other programmes, states and military bodies, and also international partnership with the GICHD and UN agencies attending relevant international meetings of the convention. NMAC coordinates monthly coordination meeting with all implementing operators to discuss progress, challenges and the way forward to achieve ultimate goal. Sri Lanka will seek possibilities in necessary cooperation and assistance.

## 10 . Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)

Sri Lanka experienced nearly three decades of conflict, which ended in 2009 and this left significant levels of mines and ERW contamination throughout northern and eastern districts threatening people's survival, safety, restricting reconstruction and recovery activities in the area. The total known and estimated extent of contamination to-date in Sri Lanka is 13455265 square meters. The Government of Sri Lanka has prioritized mine clearance tasks for the purpose of resettlement, agriculture, and other related activities. Mine/ERW residual contamination is a long term problem and EORE is a pre-requisite for safe return as land released via survey, battle area clearance and mine clearance cannot guarantee land without a residual threat

EORE was conducted through UNICEF until 2011 with the funds provided to local NGOs and Ministry of Education (MOE) for school based EORE and through local NGOs for community based EORE. Since January 2009 to-date, around 562,500 community members have been reached by EORE messages in multiple times. The mass media campaign launched in November 2009, had more than doubled the number of EORE 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<sup>7</sup>. EORE is incorporated 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 Incorporate -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<sup>8</sup>.

As a result of continuous EORE in the Northern and Eastern Province, general level of understanding the mine/ERW threat and knowing was improved and they know what to do in case of encountering mines, UXO or abandoned ordnance is found. 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.

As per IMSMA reports, 2 incidents involving civilians were reported in during the reporting period. One civilian was injured in 2020 and in 2021, one civilian was injured and one person died in 2021. This number is very low compared to level of contamination in these areas.

NMAC allocated Rs Mn 9 to conduct. EORE activities in the mine affected areas in the year 2021. However, due to the depletion of funds to the local and international EORE organization for MRE activities, the frequency of the EORE 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

<sup>7</sup> Action # 31

<sup>8</sup> Action # 28



The Regional Mine Action Office (RMAO) conducts EORE programmes in various levels. Mainly it focuses District Secretariats' staff, Divisional Secretaries, Grama Niladari Officers (Village administrative officer), Government Departments, Police Officers and schools which are identified as high threat. Many suspected hazardous areas and EOD spot tasks were notified after EORE programmes which were conducted in the district level, from Grama Niladari Officers (Village administrative officer) and other staff officers to the RMAO and police.

A considerable number of new explosive hazardous areas were reported after conducting the EORE programme for Forest Officers of all districts in the Northern Province. RMAO identified that it would be better to conduct more EORE programmes for forest officers as they are the most vulnerable often encountering the risk of explosive due to thick vegetation in line with Oslo Action point 30 on prioritizing the people most at risk. Furthermore, major development projects have been started in the war affected districts and EORE programme should be conducted to educate these project workers for their safety and safety of the community. Resettlement of internally displaced persons result in livelihood activities in the areas concerned and EORE should be continued to aware them to ensure that our casualty rates remain minimal and also to obtain their support to identify hazard devices and locations. It has been observed that behavior of the population and risk patterns keep changing from time to time and coping mechanisms should be changed accordingly. Most of the mine and ERW accidents before 2012 were reported in connection with the firewood collecting and garbage burning, followed by scrap metal collecting, and illegal explosive harvest. Recently, it has been noted that most of mine and ERW incidents and accidents are linked with the development activities, illegal explosive harvest and sand mining activities. We have been conducting EORE programmes with priority to the development workers and made a mechanism with the police and security forces to control the illegal explosive harvest as a coping mechanism.

RMAO conducted several EORE programmes to the Police officers in Northern Province and it is a remarkable achievement as it built up a friendly environment during EOD spot task activities and civil law implementation in the context of getting courts order for civilian reported Explosive Ordnance recoveries.

GOSL has requested the demining operators to conduct EORE programmes in areas in which they operate, to aware the nearest villages and RMAO conducts random monitoring during the operators' EORE activities.

GOSL has planned to expand Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) covering all Explosive Ordnance affected areas. Gift items (umbrellas, caps, exercise books, water bottles and posters) are provided to the participant in order to get their attraction. Most of EORE programmes which were planned by RMAO, was cancelled due to the COVID19 pandemic situation and 37 EORE programmes are been conducted in 2021 by RMAO with the support of Demining Operators. The below chart shows scheduled EORE for 2021. Covid pandemic was the main obstacle to conduct MRE programme.

Mine/ERW residual contamination is a long term problem and EORE is a pre-requisite for safe return as land released via survey, battle area clearance and demining cannot guarantee land without a residual threat. GoSL has allocated Rs 4 Million to conduct EORE activities in the mine affected areas, however, it is not adequate to cover all the affected areas. Although EORE has been very successful and casualty rates have dropped significantly, curious children must continue to receive high quality and innovative EORE. We project an investment of around \$100,000 per year will allow EORE organizations to ensure that our casualty rates remain minimal. This is especially important considering contamination in all mine affected districts remains in close proximity to many population centres.

## Explosive Ordnance Risk Educational Schedule 2021

