



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST
REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE, GENEVA**

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The Permanent Mission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Office in Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), and has the honour to submit herewith the annual updated report of Sri Lanka under article 7 of the Convention.

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Office in Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the assurances of its highest consideration.

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)

Geneva, 29 June 2022



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

Article 7 Report

STATE PARTY: ***Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka***

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REPORTING PERIOD: January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

Form A**National implementation measures**

Article 7.1

"Each State Part shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

a) The national implementation measures referred to in Article 9."

(In accordance with Article 9, "Each State Part shall take all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures, including the imposition of penal sanctions, to prevent and suppress an activity prohibited to a State Party under this Convention undertaken by persons or on territory under its jurisdiction or control".)

State Part: Sri Lanka

Reporting for time period from: January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

Measures	Supplementary information (e.g., effective date of implementation & text of legislation attached).
Act no. 03 of 2022 on Prohibition of the Anti-personal Mine was certified on 17th of February, 2022 by the Parliament and published as a Supplement to Part II of the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on 18 February 2022 enabling the successful adoption of the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines Act of Sri Lanka. Accordingly Sri Lanka has fulfilled the obligations under Art. 9 of the Convention on national implementation measures. The ICRC has provided technical assistance to prepare the legislation	This Act can be downloaded from : in English at: https://www.parliament.lk/uploads/acts/gbills/english/6231.pdf

Form B **Stockpiled anti-personnel mines**

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

b) The total of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned or possessed by it, or under its jurisdiction or control, to include a breakdown of the type, quantity and, if possible, lot numbers of each type of anti-personnel mine stockpiled."

State Part: Sri Lanka

Reporting for time period from: January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

Type	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information
	Nil		
AP mines	Nil	Not applicable	Sri Lanka is pleased to declare the completion of APMBC obligation under Article 4 of the Convention with regard to the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines almost a year earlier than the deadline set by the Convention. The last remaining stockpiled anti-personnel mines consisting of 11,840 mines were destroyed by the Humanitarian Demining Unit of the Sri Lanka Army on 24 th August 2021 in Kilinochchi.

Form C Location of mined areas**Article 7.1** "Each State Part shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

c) To the extent possible, the location of all mined areas that contain, or are suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines under its jurisdiction or control, to include as much detail as possible regarding the type and quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine in each mined area and when they were emplaced."

State Part: Sri Lanka**Reporting for time period:** From January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021**1. Areas that contain mines**

Province	District	Number of areas known to contain anti-personnel mines	Number of areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines	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 suspected to contain anti-personnel mines(square meters)	Total amount of area known or suspected to contain antipersonnel mines(square meters)
North	Jaffna	19	1	20	1,080,102	-	1,077,072
	Kilinochchi	63		63	2,202,267	-	2,202,267
	Mannar	74	2	76	1,134,049	76,177	1,210,226
	Mullaitivu	136	11	147	5,512,460	250,505	5,762,965
	Vavuniya	25	2	27	654,263	612,159	1,266,422
North Central	Anuradhapura	1		1	18,945	-	18,945
Eastern	Trincomalee	18	8	26	327,223	24,623	351,846
Total		336	24	360	10,929,309	963,464	11,889,743

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

Non-technical survey (NTS) has been conducting as a joint survey with Sri Lanka Army and de-mining operators in Sri Lanka to identify the previously unknown mine and ERW contaminated areas to facilitate the development of the New Strategy and to do the tasking of clearance. NTS is almost completed and new strategy development workshop will be conducted on last week of June 2022. Sri Lanka has a total of 336 areas identified as APMs contaminated, totaling up to 10,929,309 square meters, and 24 areas that are suspected to be contaminated with APMs, are total of 963,464 square meters. These known or suspected areas belong to 7 Districts in 3 Provinces of Sri Lanka.

Form D APMs retained or transferred

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:
d) The types, quantities and, if possible, lot numbers of all anti-personnel mines retained or transferred for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction techniques, or transferred for the purpose of destruction, as well as the institutions authorized by a State Party to retain or transfer anti-personnel mines, in accordance with Article 3"

State Part: Sri Lanka**Reporting for time period:** From January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

1. a) Retained for development of and training in (Article 3, para.1)

Type	Quantity Retained	Lot numbers
Sri Lanka Army		
P4MK 1	1,290	076,046,033,010,031,030,026,110,046,064,006,018,085,047,0 09,007,022,032,086,006,081,107,023,008
P4MK 11	8,547	006,013,012,009,092,004,091,036,008,093,001,021,090,028,0 08,050,007,006,031,092,020,045,044,014,013,092,085,004,09 1,029
Type 72	508	51-95,652A,22-95-652A,01-95-652A,40-95-652A,48-95- 652A,10-95-652A,20,95-652A,38-95-652A,01-95-652A
VS 50	760	EJD-001
Type 1969	165	Unknown
PRB 409	38	FMP-01-0-01-74
Total	11,308	

SLA Navy		
P4MK I	16	Unknown
Total	16	
Sri Lanka Air Force		
AP Mines P4MK II	2,793	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
Total	2793	
Sri Lanka Police – STF		
P4MK 1	372	Unknown
Total	372	
Grand Total	14,489	

Data Source - Ministry of Defence

2. Transferred for development of and training in (Article 3, Para. I)

Type	Quantity Used	Authorized Institution	Lot numbers	Actual use
Sri Lanka Army				
P4MK I	1,290	Headquarters, Engineer Brigade	076,046,033,010,031,030,026,110,046,064,006,018,085,047,009,007,022,032,086,006,081,107,023,008	For Seasoned Mine Field Preparation/Test Pits
P4MK II	8,547	Headquarter, Engineer Brigade	006,013,012,009,092,004,091,036,008,093,001,021,090,028,008,050,007,006,031,092,020,045,044,014,013,092,085,004,091,029	Test Preparation at Sites
Type 72	508	Sri Lanka School of Military Engineering	51-95,652A,22-95-652A,01-95-652A,40-95-652A,48-95-652A,10-95-652A,20,95-652A,38-95-652A,01-95-652A	Use 3 Mines Per Student for a Training Year
VS 50	760	Sri Lanka School of Military Engineering	EJD-001	A Mine for Each Student for a Training Year
Type 1969	165	Sri Lanka School of Military Engineering	OPS/OLLB/801/95/39	Introduction to Mine Warfare
PRB 409	38	Sri Lanka School of Military Engineering	FMP-01-01-01-74	1 Mine for Each Student (Students of Sister Services on Demining and EOD)
SLA Sub Total	11,308			
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	60-95-652	Used for Training (Model Room Display)
Type 72		Dockyard, Trincomalee		
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	1,476	Sri Lanka Air Force, Academy, Chinabay	042,039,030,060,001,034,064,019,058,057,074,034,21,002,022	Train Officers, Officer Cadets, Recruits and Airmen on arming, laying, recovering, disarming, detection, effect of mines, demining and mine disposal.
P4MK II	1,314	Sri Lanka Air Force Station Palavi	006,018,019,020,022,024,025,030,038,043,044,048,050, 057,058,059,060,067	
P4MK II	1	Sri Lanka Air Force Station Ampara	060,01860018	
P4MK II	2	Sri Lanka Air Force Station WLA	057,030,034	
Air Force Sub Total	2,793			
Sri Lanka Police – STF				
P4MK 1	372	Special Task Force - Katukurunda	Unknown	Basic and Refresher Training course
Police - STF	372			
Sub Total	14,489			

Data Source - Ministry of Defence

Form E **Status of programs for conversion or de-commissioning of APM production facilities**

Article 7.1 "Each State Part shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

e) The status of programs for the conversion or de-commissioning of anti-personnel mine production facilities."

State Part: Sri Lanka

Reporting for time period: From January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

Indicate if to "convert" or "decommission"	Status (indicate if "in process" or "completed")	Supplementary information
Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Sri Lanka does not produce any anti-personnel mines. Therefore, Sri Lanka has no additional information to provide on the conversion or de-commissioning of anti-personnel mine production facilities.

Form F**Status of programs for the destruction of APMs**

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

f) The status of programs for the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Articles 4 and 5, including details of the methods which will be used in destruction, the location of all destruction sites, and the applicable safety and environmental standards to be observed."

State Part: Sri Lanka

Reporting for time period: From January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

1. Status of programs for the destruction of stockpiled APMs (Article 4)

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
P4 MARK II	12,000	Unknown	1 Aug 2020 - 31 Jan 2021	Ampakamam Range
P4MK 1	538	Unknown	01 Jan 2019 - End of April 2021	For Training Purpose
P4MK 11	4,282	Unknown	01 Jan 2019 - End of April 2021	For Training Purpose
Type 72	826	Unknown	01 Jan 2019 - End of April 2021	For Training Purpose
VS 5 0	448	Unknown	01 Jan 2019 - End of April 2021	For Training Purpose
Type 1969	89	Unknown	01 Jan 2019 - End of April 2021	For Training Purpose
PRB 409	9	Unknown	01 Jan 2019 - End of April 2021	For Training Purpose
Total Destroyed	67,158			

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			
Total Destroyed	50,160			
Sri Lanka Air Force				
P4 MARK II	1,350	Unknown	1/7/2018	SL Air Force Station Palavi
P4 MARK II	29	Unknown	1/2/2018	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
P4 MARK II	57	Unknown	1 Aug 2020 - 31 Jan 2021	SL Air Force Training Purpose
P4 MARK II	47	Unknown	03 Mar 2021 - 04 Apr 2022	SL Air Force Training Purpose
Total Destroyed	2,478			
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 Destroyed	593			
Grand Total Destroyed	120,389			

Data Source - Ministry of Defense

2. Status of programs for destruction of APMs in mined areas (Article 5)

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	57,241,262	22,270,950	83,651,782	199,164	585	261,876	1,313
	Kilinochchi	1,661,368	41,587,163	22,045,076	65,293,607	161,605	839	515,410	849
	Mannar	18,628,916	184,560,169	31,883,197	235,072,282	126,864	37	127,187	651
	Mullaitivu	9,844,579	168,840,327	31,569,274	210,254,180	184,007	260	535,881	1,082
	Vavuniya	3,078,495	79,383,052	10,189,794	92,651,341	144,633	376	56,737	661
Northern Total		37,352,928	531,611,973	117,958,290	686,923,191	816,273	2,097	1,497,091	4,556
Eastern	Trincomalee	6,554,045	100,864,999	11,803,342	119,222,386	12,007	14	6,973	158
	Ampara	37,845	104,017,318	7,246,551	111,301,714	593		3,480	22
	Batticaloa	15,267,012	357,348,043	8,311,619	380,926,674	13,786	8	19,209	272
Eastern Total		21,858,902	562,230,360	27,361,512	611,450,774	26,386	22	29,662	452
North Central	Anuradhapura	31,244	255,580	335,288	622,112	5,094		26	26
	Polonnaruwa	12,150	19,856	118,649	150,655	619		1	6
North Central Total		43,394	275,436	453,937	772,767	5,713	-	27	32
North Western	Puttalam	-	472	17,761	18,233	815		-	1
Western	Colombo	52,730	-		52,730				
Grand Total		59,307,954	1,094,118,241	145,791,500	1,299,217,694	849,187	2,119	1,526,780	5,041

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

Significant progress has been made in Sri Lanka to date. Since 2002, GoSL has been able to declare 5,041 areas totaling 1,299,217,694 square meters of land as free of antipersonnel mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW). Cleared lands were handed over to the community to start their day to day activities. 849,187 antipersonnel mines and 1,528,899 ERW including anti-vehicle mines, have been removed and destroyed through clearance operations conducted up to end of December 2021.

Form G**APMs destroyed after entry into force**

Article 7.1

"Each State Part shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

g) The types and quantities of all anti-personnel mines destroyed after the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party, to include a breakdown of the quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine destroyed, in accordance with Articles 4 and 5, respectively, along with, if possible, the lot numbers of each type anti-personnel mine in the case of destruction in accordance with Article 4"

State Part: Sri Lanka

Reporting for time period: From December 17, 2017 to December 31, 2021

1. Destruction of stockpiled APMs (Article 4)

Type	Quantity	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
P4 MARK II	12,000	Unknown	1 Aug 2020 - 31 Jan 2021	Ampakamam Range
P4MK 1	538	Unknown	01 Jan 2019 - End of April 2021	For Training Purpose
P4MK 11	4,282	Unknown	01 Jan 2019 - End of April 2021	For Training Purpose
Type 72	826	Unknown	01 Jan 2019 - End of April 2021	For Training Purpose
VS 5 0	448	Unknown	01 Jan 2019 - End of April 2021	For Training Purpose
Type 1969	89	Unknown	01 Jan 2019 - End of April 2021	For Training Purpose
PRB 409	9	Unknown	01 Jan 2019 - End of April 2021	For Training Purpose
Total Destroyed	67,158			

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			
Total Destroyed	50,160			
Sri Lanka Air Force				
P4 MARK II	1,350	Unknown	1/7/2018	SL Air Force Station Palavi
P4 MARK II	29	Unknown	1/2/2018	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
P4 MARK II	57	Unknown	1 Aug 2020 - 31 Jan 2021	SL Air Force Training Purpose
P4 MARK II	47	Unknown	03 Mar 2021 - 04 Apr 2022	SL Air Force Training Purpose
Total Destroyed	2,478			
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 Destroyed	593			
Grand Total Destroyed	120,389			

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

2. Destruction of APMs in mined areas (Article 5)

Type	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information
APE	1,302	Unknown	
Claymore	57		
Detonator	6,571		
ELECTRONIC, MODEL UNKNOWN	18		
ETM 1	53		
ETM 2	131		
ETM 3	14		
FM 60	102		
FM 81	56		
JONY 95	3,664		
JONY 99	1,332		
LANDMINE FUZE	4,783		
M/969	23		
M-18 A1 Claymore	14		
M969	38		
P2 MK 2	23		
P4 MK1	45,943		

P4 MK2	1,309		
P4 MK3	72		
PBM 1	420		
Rangan 99	54,000		
TYPE 69, (BOUNDING)	10		
TYPE 72	2,975		
Unknown anti-personnel mine	24		
VS/50	18		
Total	122,952		

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

As per the technical note 07.11/03 on All Reasonable Effort, NMAC keeps minimum data requirements for recording the identification and processing of hazardous areas. Accordingly, NMAC records type, location and depth of APMs but it does not record the lot or batch number of APMs.

Form H Technical characteristics of each type produced/owned or possessed

Article 7.1 "Each State Part shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

h) The technical characteristics of each type of anti-personnel mine produced, to the extent known, and those currently owned or possessed by a State Part, giving, where reasonable possible, such categories of information as ma facilitate identification and clearance of anti-personnel mines; at a minimum, this information shall include the dimensions, fusing, explosive content, metallic content, color photographs and other information which ma facilitate mine clearance"

State Part: Sri Lanka

reporting for time period from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

1. Technical characteristics of each APM-type produced

Type	Dimensions	Fusing	Explosive content		Metallic Content	Color photo attached	Supplementary information to Facilitate mine clearance.
			Type	Grams			
Not Applicable							Not applicable. Sri Lanka does not produce any anti-personnel mines..

2. Technical characteristics of each APM-type currently owned or possessed

Type	Dimensions	Fusing	Explosive content		Metallic Content	Color photo attached	Supplementary information to Facilitate mine clearance.
			Type	Grams			
Sri Lanka has no additional information on the technical characteristics of anti-personnel mines owned or possessed. See the report submitted in 2021 for information that has already been provided by the Sri Lanka on the technical characteristics of anti-personnel mines possessed by Sri Lanka.							

Victims Assistance

Sri Lanka experienced a major reduction in mine accidents during the last ten years with only two mine related accidents recorded in 2021. GOSL 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. Therefore we make every effort to ensure gender and diversity considerations are taken into consideration in the planning, implementation and monitoring phases of mine clearance.

The establishment of a hospital based injury surveillance system in Sri Lanka is considered a milestone of the National Mine Action program. Non-Communicable Disease unit (NCD) of the Ministry of Health initiated the establishment of a Hospital based injury surveillance system during 2016 with the support of UNICEF Sri Lanka. The objective of this system is to record all accidents reported to hospitals in any part of the country including mine and ERW incidents.

Currently in Sri Lanka updates both IMSMA and hospital based injury surveillance system to collect information on mine victims and to provide further follow-up support. As per the present status, Hospital based injury surveillance system was expanded to 116 government hospitals in the country and it will be further expanded to cover the entire country. This system includes both inpatient and outpatient admissions to the hospitals ensuring sustainability of the program and relevant support to victims in the long run.

Furthermore, the NMAC maintains a database on mine/ ERW victims and has 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.

This survey, in addition to disaggregate data of victims by gender, age and disability also includes a need assessment component. As per the findings of the survey, NMAC has allocated Rs 18Mn in year 2021 to provide immediate assistance to the identified mine and ERW victims. NMAC has also commenced raising awareness on victim assistance as an obligation among partners.

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 traumatic situations.

Furthermore, 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. Sri Lanka is in the process of drafting a new Bill on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) was signed by Sri Lanka in 2007 and ratified in 2016. Due to the lack of legal provisions of 1996 Disability Rights Act, the need arose to bring in a new Act to cover more disability rights under the CRPD Convention. Accordingly, many of the rights enshrined in the CRPD Convention, including the General Principles, are protected by the new Bill. This draft will be forwarded to the legal draftsman department in the near future. The following clause has been included in the new draft to protect the rights of victims of land mines.

16 (1) A person with disabilities shall have security and safety in the event of humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including emergencies, armed conflicts, post-war situations, and epidemics.

(2) The provision of protection and facilities to persons with disabilities in the circumstances referred to above sub clause (1) shall not be discriminated against by any special provisions of the applicable laws.

Another important aspect of victim assistance is provision of physiological support. 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 commencing from the position of Medical Officer of Health downwards to other officers. The Northern Province on the other hand has extensive mental health services.

Currently there are a few non-governmental organizations as well working exclusively in the counselling sector in the Northern Province. Victim assistance and follow up will remain one of our main priorities throughout our humanitarian demining program including through addressing the immediate and long-term needs of mine accident survivors, their families, mine-affected communities and persons with disabilities.

Oslo Action Point	Progress
<p>Action #33</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 V.1 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>Action #34</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>Action #35</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>Data on direct and indirect victims</p> <p>Total number of individuals recorded as having been injured by APMs or other ERWs is 1716, since 1985 to 2022. Please see Table V.3 on disaggregated data by district on total numbers of persons injured from APMs/ERWs from 1995 to 2002</p> <p>Please see Table V.3 on disaggregated data by district on total numbers of persons injured from APMs/ERWs from 1995 to 2021</p> <p>Please see Table V.3 on disaggregated data by gender on persons killed or injured due to antipersonnel mines since 2010 up to 2021</p>
<p>Action #36 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>Action #38 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>Physical rehabilitation</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"> 1. Ragama Rheumatology & Rehabilitation Hospital 2. Digana Rehabilitation Hospital 3. Maliban Rehabilitation Hospital 4. Jayanthipura Rehabilitation Hospital 5. Kandagolla Rehabilitation Hospital <p>Out of these five hospitals Ragama Rheumatology & 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 & 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>Psychological support</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>Action #37</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>Action #39</p> <p>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>Action #41</p> <p>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>
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Total number of individuals recorded as having been injured by APMs or other ERWs is 1716, since 1985 to December 2021. People injured during 1995 to December 2001.

Table V.2

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
Grand Total	2	3	22	18	5	29	20	9	19	11	20	95	119	98	105	183	236	994

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

The total numbers of People injured from 1995 to December 2021 are as follows:

Table V.3

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				0	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

Numbers killed or injured due to antipersonnel mines from January to December 2021 (Table V.4)

		Women	Girls	Boys	Men	Total
Killed		0	0	0	01	02
Injured		0	0	0	01	00
Total		0	0	0	02	02

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

Civilian Mine/ERW casualties from 2010 to December 2021

The Sex and age disaggregated data of the 184 individuals injured by anti-personnel mines and other Explosive Remnants of War since 2010 (end of the conflict) are shown in bellow table.

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. Also boys enjoy more freedom with their play activities compared to girls.

Table V.5

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	3
Totals	29	92	8	55	183

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

Disaggregate victim data by sex, age and disability.

The needs of mine/ ERW victims are determined and victims are integrated into the society. Social service Ministry has victim assistance programme covering all the victims which are not specially target on mine and ERW victims. NMAC conducted a need assessment survey to identify the mine and ERW victims in Northern, Eastern and North-Central provinces.

Table V.7

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
Total	236	175	53		8	146	70	34	37	10	13	12	155

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

Cooperation and assistance

NMAC conducts operation meeting and progress meeting with the mine action stockholders and coordinates technical working group meeting with the operators. GOSL are able to share expertise and/or experiences as concerns mine clearance and victim assistance with other governments. Since 2002, NMAC initiated inter-institutional cooperation with other programmes, states (Cambodia, Vietnam, Iran, and Tajikistan) and military bodies, and also international partnership with the GICHD and UN agencies attending relevant international meetings of the convention. Sri Lanka will seek possibilities in necessary cooperation and assistance.

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)

Considerable progress has also been made in the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education(EORE) sector. The Government, partnering with the UNICEF and national MRE organizations have together developed an EORE standard and policy. The MRE activities are coordinated at national and at district levels, including through national education system and village level Mine Action Committees.

As a result of continuous EORE in the Northern and Eastern Province, the general level of understanding of mine/ERW threats has been considerably improved. 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.

Mine action has been an essential part of wider peace and reconciliation efforts in Sri Lanka by making fertile agricultural land safe and allowing the development of national infrastructure and thereby facilitating resettlement of those who were displaced by the conflict. Therefore completing de-mining has been a priority area of the successive governments. Sri Lanka will be able to complete its de-mining programme successfully, and to declare the country free of land –mines in the near future.

Under the support and coordination of the NMAC the demining operators in Sri Lanka organizing the EORE programmes in

their area of reference. School children, teachers, parents and society getting benefited in various targeted group EORE programmes in Sri Lanka.

The kids who born in 2009 or the end of the war are currently in the teenage. They do not know about the danger of Explosive Ordnance or even do not know about the shapes of devices. Refugees returning from India or returning after a generation gap, they heard about the danger from explosive ordnance in the refugee camp but doesn't know about safe behaviour related to explosive ordnance. Remembering that it is dangerous, but not knowing the correct way to deal with the device, they attempt to remove it, and end up in danger. To earn a living, collects scrap metal or harvesting explosive and sells it. These are the current problems coming under 'Explosive Ordnance Risk Education.

The economic crisis in Sri Lanka definitely boosts the people to deal with scrap metals and explosive to survive. Also the young crowd moving to forest to collect firewood in order to face the fuel and cooking gas shortages. Under this circumstance as a Sri Lankan National Mine Action Centre we have planned to establish an EORE organization to minimise the EO threads. The EORE organization will work under the NMAC and do the sessions near where the EO thread exists.

These EORE teams will observe the gender norms, gender diversity in the allocated areas and prepare EORE syllabus without gender diversity blind according to affected each district separately. The gender diversity sensitive is the important matter the EORE team should consider when they prepare the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education

Residual mine/ERW contamination is a long-term issue, and EORE is a requirement for safe return because land released through survey, battle area clearance, and mine clearance does not guarantee territory free of a residual hazard.

EORE was carried out until 2011 through UNICEF, with monies granted to local NGOs and the Ministry of Education (MOE) for school-based EORE and local NGOs for community-based EORE. EORE communications have reached approximately 562,500 community members numerous times since January 2009. 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. 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.

The general level of understanding and knowledge of the mine/ERW danger has improved as a result of constant EORE in

the Northern and Eastern Provinces, and people now know what to do if they come across mines, UXO, or abandoned ordnance. Many people show mine-smart behavior by reporting suspected unsafe devices and sites and informing their family, community members, and newcomers about the threat and the primary risk-taking behaviors. Anti-personnel mine warning signs in Sinhala, Tamil, and English have been prominently erected in all sites known or suspected to have anti-personnel mines. On a regular basis, warning signs are refreshed and maintained.

According to IMSMA data, there were two occurrences involving civilians throughout the reporting period. In 2021, one civilian was injured, and one person died, and in 2021, one civilian was injured and one person died. In comparison to the level of contamination in these places, this number is extremely low.

The Government of Sri Lanka has set aside Rs 4 million to perform EORE initiatives in mine-affected areas. The frequency of EORE operations has been dramatically reduced as a result of the depletion of finances to the local and international EORE organizations for MRE activities, despite the fact that such actions are a must in order to prevent mine-related accidents in those areas.

EORE programs are run at various levels by the Regional Mine Action Office (RMAO). It primarily targets District Secretariat employees, Divisional Secretaries, Grama Niladari Officers (Village Administrative Officers), Government Departments, Police Officers, and schools that are considered high-risk. After EORE programs conducted at the district level, from Grama Niladari Officers (Village administrative officer) and other staff officers to the RMAO and police, many suspected hazardous places and EOD spot tasks were informed.

After conducting the EORE program for forest officers from all districts in the Northern Province, a significant number of new explosive dangerous locations were reported. RMAO determined that more EORE programs for forest officers would be beneficial, as they are the most susceptible and are frequently exposed to the risk of explosives owing to dense foliage.

RMAO conducted several EORE programs for police officers in Northern Province, which is a noteworthy achievement because it created a friendly environment for EOD spot task activities and civil law implementation in the context of obtaining court orders for civilian reported Explosive Ordnance Recoveries.

The GOSL has asked demining operators to perform EORE programs in the regions where they operate in order to make

nearby villages aware of their presence, and RMAO conducts random monitoring during the operators' EORE activities.

GOSL intends to increase Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) to all locations affected by explosive ordnance. The participants were given gifts (umbrellas, caps, exercise books, water bottles, and posters) in order to draw their attention. The majority of RMAO's EORE programs were cancelled owing to the COVID19 epidemic, however 37 EORE programs were implemented in 2021 by RMAO with the help of Demining Operators.

Residual mine/ERW contamination is a long-term issue, and EORE is a requirement for safe return because land released through survey, combat area clearance, and demining does not guarantee territory free of a residual hazard. The Government of Sri Lanka has set aside Rs 4 million to perform EORE activities in mine-affected areas, although this amount is insufficient to cover all of the affected districts. Despite the fact that EORE has been a huge success and casualty rates have plummeted, curious youngsters must continue to get high-quality, creative EORE. We estimate that an annual investment of roughly \$100,000 will allow EORE organizations to keep casualty rates to a bare minimum. This is especially essential because contamination in all mine-affected districts is still present in close proximity to a large number of population centers.

Form J**Other relevant matters (Voluntary reporting)**

Sri Lanka Army has trained two teams of female de-miners to send the UN peace keeping mission to assist states to start emergency humanitarian works of the war affected communities.

Completion Process of Sri Lanka to comply the article 5 obligation of APMBC (Voluntary reporting)

Completion Process is the umbrella framework for the Sri Lankan Government to document and demonstrate Article 5 compliance and the all reasonable effort is being taken to identify and remove mine contamination. GoSL is next in line for the completion of mine clearance.

The ongoing Land Release Process (NTS, TS and Clearance) fits into the Completion Process. The Completion Process introduces documentation to allow Garama Niladari's (GNs) sign when there is no further evidence of EO contamination in their respective areas and are thus 'Mine Free'. For Clarity this is different from the handover of a completed CHA, but rather the community signing to say they are not aware of any contamination at this time. When all GNs within a District are complete, the District authority will sign off as 'Mine Free' etc until all contaminated provinces are complete.

At this time, the priority activity under the Completion Process is the NTS of 'unknown' contamination. This is critical to facilitate the development of the New Strategy and facilitate the tasking of clearance.

NTS are conducted by high standard by well-trained teams with sufficient time to identify the 'unknown' contamination as accurately as possible. Although this will require some time in the short term it will save time and money in the next few years.

Skills Acquisition & Post-demining Livelihood Transition (Voluntary reporting)

Over a decade after the civil war ended, Sri Lanka has reached the final stage of mine action activities. As Sri Lanka approaches completion of all known contaminated minefields, concerns about post-demining employment for a large, often vulnerable, workforce are emerging. Since 2002, demining work has provided a solid livelihood for over 12,000 people, including women heads of households and persons with disabilities. Despite limited education or formal qualifications in some cases, the demining workforce earn a salary above the local average and significantly higher than what they were receiving before joining the mine action sector, especially female staff. The average annual salary for women increased 3.5 times after joining mine action; for men, it increased 1.7 times on entering the sector. As the country moves towards becoming mine-free in the coming years, it is of vital importance to ensure that the livelihood of over 12,000 people is supported and that the demining workforce can make the most of their experience and skills gained in the mine action sector, by being supported to transition into mainstream economic sectors. Lessons learned from Mozambique, which was declared mine-free in September 2015, have highlighted the importance of early planning for transitioning a large workforce to alternative employment, while maintaining a close coordination and cooperation between all the mine action stakeholders. With the request and guidelines of NMAC, MAG has developed a dedicated staff transition strategy to MAG in 2020 and to DASH and SHARP in 2021 in collaboration with civilian demining operators, the GICHD and the NMAC.

The strategy and its implementation aims to address the socio-economic needs, skills gaps and opportunities of the demining staff – from deminers to supervisors and managers - for an effective and smooth transition to alternative in-demand occupations when they are made redundant.

The first phase aims to enhance staff readiness — by bridging employability skills — and keep morale and motivation up until clearance completion. It covers a wide range of interventions – to be implemented in parallel of clearance operations, mostly during the stand-down period. Each intervention will first be piloted with a small number of staff to identify the best delivery modality based on clearance needs and staff availability. Individualized pre- and post-transition support along with access to adapted and shorter vocational training courses for in-demand occupations will be then provided during the pilot redundancy programme (phase 2) and when scaling up the redundancy programme (phase 3).

The operators in country has commenced the rollout of the activities under the staff transition strategy. Please see below for details per intervention:

- Gender-Responsive Financial Literacy & Access to Affordable Financial Services: Over 400 MAG and DASH staff were trained on financial literacy. The training consists of information on savings, loan/debt management, budgeting/documenting expenses and investment / income generation. Over 30 staff underwent follow up individual financial counselling and over 20 staff underwent follow up credit counselling.
- A Financial Service Provider Mapping among both state and private, which could be reached by MAG staff/mine action sector for diverse financial services including savings, credit, insurance and wealth management was conducted in 2022. This mapping includes a review of financial product portfolio and relative strengths and weaknesses of each institution. At the moment MAG is following up with the service providers who could be 'best fit' to the needs of MAG/mine action sector workforce.
- Orientation & Referral to Market-Driven Agriculture Opportunities: MAG conducted an orientation session for 150 demining staff residing in Mullaitivu and Mannar District. These staff participated in a 1-day technical training coupled with an exposure visit - facilitated by the Department of Agriculture. David Gram. Alli and Hayleys joined sessions to present the type of technical assistance and market access opportunities they can offer for staff already involved or willing to start groundnut or dried chili cultivation.
- Development of a "Fast-Track Training Scheme" for in-demand occupations: The traditional pathway of referring staff to existing vocational training courses may lead to a lengthy transition period and result in poor incentives among MAG's staff to seize retraining opportunities. Piloting a 'fast track' training scheme for in-demand occupations aims to first recognize the existing skills of the demining workforce and then identify the missing technical competencies they need to acquire, resulting in a more adapted and shorter course delivery. Among the potential market-driven economic opportunities identified in the staff transition strategy, the domestic construction sector – experiencing large-scale labour shortages - has the potential to absorb a significant portion of the demining workforce, in the categories of skilled workers (craftsmen such as masons, building carpenters, plumbers, welders, fitters, etc.) and construction machine operators. MAG commenced development of fast track training schemes to transition in to construction sector in 2021.
- Adult Tamil Literacy Programme: MAG partnered with Department of Education in Vavuniya to conduct Tamil literacy classes for MAG staff. 11 MAG staff underwent 18 hour Tamil literacy training.
- Spoken Sinhala Language Course: MAG commenced rolling out spoken Sinhala classes for MAG staff in 2021. Around 70 MAG staff participated and completed the 18 hour spoken Sinhala course.
- MAG will second a consultant to support NMAC to establish and facilitate a Livelihood Transition Coordination Mechanism.