

No. 520/2023

File Ref. APMBC

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 Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, and pursuant to Article 7 (2) of the Convention, has the honour to enclose herewith the Annual Transparency Report of Sri Lanka containing updated information on the implementation of the Convention.

The Permanent Mission appreciates receiving from the ISU an acknowledgement of receipt of this communication.

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 Implementation Support Unit of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, the assurances of its highest consideration.

Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction Email: aplc@un.org

Enclosed.

Geneva, 30 May 2023



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

Point of Contact:

W. S. Sathyananda

Secretary, Ministry to the Urban Development

and Housing

National Director - National Mine Action Centre

Phone: +940112862225

Email: secretary.udhousing@gmail.com

REPORTING PERIOD: January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022

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, 2022 to December 31, 2022

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	This Act can be downloaded from
certified on 17th of February, 2022 by the Parliament and published	
as a Supplement to Part II of the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist	: in English at: https://www.parliament.lk/uploads/acts/gbills/english/6231.pdf
Republic of Sri Lanka on 18 February 2022 enabling the successful	nesper / / www.parnamenany aproads/ acts/ gbms/ engisti/ 0251.pur
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	

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 b 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, 2022 to December 31, 2022

Туре	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information
	Nil		ND CAC A LABOR AND
AP mines	Nil	Not applicable	NMAC reported that all stockpiled expect training purpose have been destroyed in 24 Aug 2021 almost a year earlier than the deadline set by the Convention. and no more stockpiled as
			per tri-forces and police reported.

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, 2022 to December 31, 2022

1. Areas that contain mines

Province	District	Number of areas known to contain anti- personnel mines	Number of areas suspected to contain antipersonnel mines	Total number of areas known or suspected to contain anti- personnel mines	Amount of area known to contain antipersonnel mines (square meters)	Amount of area suspected to contain antipersonnel mines(square meters)	Total amount of area known or suspected to contain antipersonnel mines (square meters)
	Jaffna	21	1	22	955,414	24,871	980,285
	Kilinochchi	73	2	75	1,657,989	233,245	1,891,234
North	Mannar	124	29	153	1,333,030	169,505	1,502,535
	Mullaitivu	233	11	244	8,300,152	494,109	8,794,261
	Vavuniya	41	16	57	580,294	833,826	1,414,120
North Central	Anuradhapura	1		1	37,399		37,399
Norm Central	Polonnaruwa	3	2	5	19,278	33,230	52,508
Eastern	Batticaloa	18	5	23	314,167	45,223	359,390
Eastern	Trincomalee	20	21	41	323,632	83,529	407,161
Grand Tota	1	534	87	621	13,521,355	1,917,538	15,438,893

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 New Strategy and to do the tasking of clearance. Sri Lanka has a total of 534 tasks identified as APMs contaminated, totaling up to 13,521,355 square meters, and 87 tasks that are suspected to be contaminated with APMs, are total of 1,917,538 square meters. These known or suspected areas belong to 9 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 b a State Part to retain or transfer anti-personnel mines, in accordance with Article 3"

State Part: Sri Lanka Reporting for time period: From January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022

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

Туре	Quantity Retained	Lot numbers
		Sri Lanka Army
P4MK II	5,968	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	238	51-95,652A,22-95-652A,01-95-652A,40-95-652A,51-95- 652A,48-95-652A
VS 50	491	EJD-001
Type 1969	139	Unknown
PRB 409	38	FMP-01-0-01-74
Total	6,874	

		SLA Navy
P4MK I	25	Unknown
Total	25	
		Sri Lanka Air Force
AP Mines P4MK II	2,754	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	2754	
		Sri Lanka Police – STF
P4MK 1	172	TT-1
Total	172	Unknown
Grand Total	9,825	

Data Source - Ministry of Defence & Special Task Force

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

Туре	Quantity Used	Authorized Institution	Lot numbers	Actual use	
			Sri Lanka Army		
P4MK II	5,968	Headquarter, Engineer Brigade	006,013,012,009,092,004,091,036,008,093, 0 0 1,021,090,028,008,050,007.006,031,092,020,0 45,044,014,013,092,085,004,091,029	Test Preparation at Sites	
Type 72	238	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	491	Sri Lanka School of Military Engineering	EJD-001	A Mine for Each Student for a Training Year	
Туре 1969	139	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-01-01-74	1 Mine for Each Student (Students of Sister Services on Demining and EOD	

SLA Sub Total	6,874			
			SL Navy	v.
P4MK 1	8	Naval Deployment Maho	Unknown	Training Purpose & Model Room Display
P4MK 1	11	Naval Armed Deployment, Trincomalee	Unknown	Training Purpose
Type 72	4	Sri Lanka Navy School , Baran, Mullikulam	Unknown	Training Purpose
Type 72	1	Sri Lanka Navy School, Shilpa, Thalathuoya	60-95-652	Training Purpose
Туре 72	1	Sri Lanka Navy School, Mahanaga, Panama	Unknown	Used for Training (Model Room Display)
SL Navy Sub Total	25			
		Sr	i Lanka Air Force	
P4MK II	2,754	Sri Lanka Air Force, CTS, Diyathalawa	042,039,030,060,001,034,064,019,058 ,057,074,034,21,002,022,006, 018,019,020,022,024,025,030,038,043 ,044,048,050,57,058,059,060, 067,60,018	
Air Force Sub Total	2,754			
Sri Lanka Police	e – STF			
P4MK II	172	Special Task Force - Katukurunda	Unknown	Basic and Refresher Training course
Police - STF	172			
Sub Total	9,825			

Data Source - Ministry of Defence & Special Task Force

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, 2022 to December 31, 2022

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, 2022 to December 31, 2022

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

Туре	Quantity Destroyed	Lot Numbers	Date of Destroyed	Place of Destroyed
	<u>'</u>	Sri I	anka 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 I	538	Unknown	01 Jan 2019 - End of April 2021	For Training Purpose
P4MK II	4,282	Unknown	01 Jan 2019 - End of April 2021	For Training Purpose
P4MK I	1,290	076, 046, 033, 010, 031, 030, 026, 110, 046, 064		
P4MK II	2,579			
Type 72	270			
VS 50	269			
Туре 1969	26	Unknown		

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	
P4MK I	1,290	076, 046, 033, 010, 031, 030, 026, 110, 046, 064	01 Jan 2022 End of Dec 2022	For Training Purpose	
P4MK II	2,579	006, 013, 012	01 Jan 2022 End of Dec 2022	For Training Purpose	
Type 72	270	51-95-652A	01 Jan 2022 End of Dec 2022	For Training Purpose	
VS 50	269	EJD-001	01 Jan 2022 End of Dec 2022	For Training Purpose	
Type 1969	26	Unknown	01 Jan 2022 End of Dec 2022	For Training Purpose	
Total Destroyed	76,026		01 Jan 2022 End of Dec 2022	For Training Purpose	
		Sri La	nka Navy		
Mines anti-Personnel POF)	48,792	12-97, 08-97, 94,		m : 1 D	
Mines anti- Personnel(CH)	1,368	56, 15,16,92,95	04 July 2016 - 05 January 2017	Trincomalee Base	
Total Destroyed	50,160				
		Sri Lanl	ka 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	

P4 MARK II	39	60, 18, 19, 50, 039, 001, 038, 022,002, 019, 057	01 Jan 2022 End of Dec 2022	SL Air Force Training Purpose
Total Destroyed	2,517			
		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
P4 MARK II	200	Unknown	01 Jan 2022 End of Dec 2022	STF Training School Katukurunda
Total Destroyed	593			
Grand Total Destroyed	129,216			

Data Source - Ministry of Defence & Special Task Force

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
	Jaffna	4,141,004	57,289,503	22,815,574	84,246,081	199,370	585	262,758	1316
	Kilinochchi	1,738,051	41,914,694	27,465,094	71,117,839	176,458	905	543,994	886
Northern	Mannar	18,630,943	184,631,684	32,847,959	236,110,586	128,334	38	127,221	669
Northern	Mullaitivu	9,859,466	169,155,877	35,240,268	214,255,611	195,700	264	539,444	1117
	Vavuniya	3,087,429	79,585,280	11,204,422	93,877,131	145,917	378	56,995	675
Northern Total		37,456,893	532,577,038	129,573,316	699,607,247	845,779	2,170	1,530,412	4,663
HOI CHE I VIGI	Ampara	37,845	104,017,318	7,246,551	111,301,714	593		3,480	22
Eastern	Batticaloa	15,267,012	357,348,043	8,311,619	380,926,674	13,786	8	19,209	272
	Trincomalee	6,554,045	100,864,999	11,967,764	119,386,808	12,061	14	6,974	160
Eastern Total		21,858,902	562,230,360	27,525,934	611,615,196	26,440	22	29,663	454

Grand		59,411,919	1,095,102,714	157,597,494	1,312,112,127	878,786	2,192	1,560,102	5,152
Western	Colombo	52,730			52,730			=	1
North Western	Puttalam		472	17,761	18,233	815	=	4	1
North Central Total		43,394	294,844	480,483	818,721	5,752		27	33
	Polonnaruwa	12,150	19,856	118,649	150,655	619		1	6
North Central	Anuradhapura	31,244	274,988	361,834	668,066	5,133		26	27

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 5,152 areas totaling 1,312,112,127 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. 878,786 antipersonnel mines and 1,562,294 ERW including anti-vehicle mines, have been removed and destroyed through clearance operations conducted up to end of December 2022.

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, 2022

1. 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 I	538	Unknown	01 Jan 2019 - End of April 2021	For Training Purpose
P4MK II	4,282	Unknown	01 Jan 2019 - End of April 2021	For Training Purpose
P4MK I	1,290	076, 046, 033, 010, 031, 030, 026, 110, 046, 064		
P4MK II	2,579			
Type 72	270			
VS 50	269			
Type 1969	26	Unknown		
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
P4MK I	1,290	076, 046, 033, 010, 031, 030, 026, 110, 046, 064	01 Jan 2022 End of Dec 2022	For Training Purpose
P4MK II	2,579	006, 013, 012	01 Jan 2022 End of Dec 2022	For Training Purpose
Type 72	270	51-95-652A	01 Jan 2022 End of Dec 2022	For Training Purpose
VS 50	269	EJD-001	01 Jan 2022 End of Dec 2022	For Training Purpose
Type 1969	26	Unknown	01 Jan 2022 End of Dec 2022	For Training Purpose

Total Destroyed	76,026		01 Jan 2022 End of Dec 2022	For Training Purpose
				-
Sri Lanka Navy				
Mines anti-Personnel POF)	48,792	12-97, 08-97, 94,	04 I. J. 2016 05 I	m : 1 P
Mines anti- Personnel(CH)	1,368	56, 15,16,92,95	04 July 2016 - 05 January 2017	Trincomalee Base
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
P4 MARK II	39	60, 18, 19, 50, 039, 001, 038, 022,002, 019, 057	01 Jan 2022 End of Dec 2022	SL Air Force Training Purpose
Total Destroyed	2,517			
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
P4 MARK II	200	Unknown	01 Jan 2022 End of Dec 2022	STF Training School Katukurunda
Total Destroyed	593			

Grand Total	129,216	
Destroyed		

Data Source - Ministry of Defence & Special Task Force

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

Туре	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information
APE	6,948		
Claymore	896		
Detonator	32,710		
Eerthan 99	1		
ELECTRONIC, MODEL UNKNOWN	34		
ETM 1	361		
ETM 2	923		
ETM 3	38		
FM 60	458		
FM 81	275		
IAPFM	2	Unknown	
JONY 2000	3,889		
JONY 95	6,918		
JONY 99	154,515		
LANDMINE FUZE	4,764		
M/969	332		
M-18 A1 Claymore	330		
M2A3 & M2A4 GROUP, HE	10		
M969	70	-	
P2 MK 2	2,320		
P4 MK1	351,235		
P4 MK2	9,223		

Grand Total	865,533
VS/50	10,508
Unknown anti-personnel mine	6,486
TYPE 72	37,812
TYPE 69, (BOUNDING)	634
Rangan 99	230,046
PRB 409	55
PBM 1	2,979
P5 MK 1	761

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, 2022 to December 31, 2022

1. Technical characteristics of each APM-type produced

Туре	Dimensions	Fusing	_	osive itent Grams	Metallic Content	Color photo attached	Supplementary information to Facilitate mine clearance.
						*	Not applicable. Sri Lanka does not produce any anti-
Not Ap	plicable						personnel mines.

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

			Explosiv	e content		Color	Supplementary
Туре	Dimensions	Fusing	Туре	Grams	Metallic Content	photo attached	information to Facilitate mine clearance.

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

Despite the considerable reductions in the mine accidents as per the previous years in 2022, the need to continue healthcare and social support services to the victims continue. As per 2022, Sri Lanka has approximately 600 landmine survivors. The government of Sri Lanka is committed to ensure the continuous provision of the needed support to the landmine victims along with other persons with disabilities as well. Whole of society approach to cater to the need of landmine victims with special attention to diverse and varying needs of women, girls, boys, and men has been a key focus of the victim assistance activities during the year 2022.

A key development has been the deeper engagement of the Ministry of Health in the victim assistance coordination in this year. The Disaster Preparedness and Response Division of the Ministry of Health, which has been a long-term stakeholder in the mine action ecosystem of Sri Lanka coordinated and collaborated closely with the NMAC to coordinate victim assistance. Within the

Ministry of Health, following organizations collaborated to explore ways to strengthen victim assistance activities:

- Disaster Preparedness and Response Division
- Non-Communicable Diseases Unit
- · Directorate of Youth, Elderly and Disabled

As with any other injury that causes permanent disability, a landmine survivor will have a range of needs, varying across the life course of the survivor.

Surveillance of landmine related injuries through the routine injury surveillance system within the country. As the country is targeting the completion of the removal of landmines in 2027, this is especially important to keep track of possible injuries that could occur beyond that. The Acute Injury Division of the Non-Communicable Disease Unit of the is exploring the possibility of incorporating landmine injuries as a specific category to its surveillance system.

In addition, in the year 2022, the Ministry of Health explored the possibility of collecting health and social support related key information of victims as a part of the completion survey that NMAC is planning. This survey will provide important information to coordinate and plan victim assistance activities in a comprehensive manner.

Further, landmines have been identified as a public health risk that the Ministry of Health will bring attention of the health and non-health stakeholders during the development of the public health risk profile of Sri Lanka with the use of the Strategic Assessment Risk (STAR) tool recommended by the world health organization.

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. Cabinet approval has been granted for this draft. 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.

Osl	o A	ction	Poin
Ant	ian	422	

Action #33

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 timebound 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

Progress

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.

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 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.

developed a database in line with IMSMA and the Ministry of Health has agreed to appoint designated VA focal points.

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.

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

Action #34

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.

A new sub-committee was appointed by the Ministry of Justice to prepare a new Act to replace the existing Act No. 28 of 1996 on the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The sub-committee was attended by representatives of all relevant government agencies, including organizations representing persons with disabilities. The new draft was prepared by the said sub-committee in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. (UNCRPD) Cabinet approval has been granted for this draft.

Action #35

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.

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.

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 2022 to end of December 2022 and three Mine/ ERW civilian casualty incidents were recorded. This is clear evidence of the improved mine safe behavior among the affected communities.

During the past 10 years, around 207 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.

Data on direct and indirect victims

Total number of individuals recorded as having been injured by APMs or other ERWs is 2900, 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

Please see Table V.3 on disaggregated data by district on total numbers of persons injured from APMs/ERWs from 1995 to 2022

Please see Table V.3 on disaggregated data by gender on persons killed or injured due to antipersonnel mines since 2010 up to 2022

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.

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

Physical rehabilitation

Following five rehabilitation hospitals provide services to all patients that need physical rehabilitation including land mine victims.

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

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.

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. **Psychological support** Districts in the Northern Province.

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.

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.

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.

Action #37

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.

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.

Action #39

Carry out efforts to ensure the social

The NMAC has allocated Rs 05Mn for Victim Assistance in 2022 to provide immediate assistance to the mine

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.

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.

Action #41

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.

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.

Total number of individuals recorded as having been injured by APMs or other ERWs is 1716, since 1985 to December 2022. 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																		000
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																		10
Monaragala																		
Mullaitivu				1			1							1	9	42	29	83
NuwaraEliya																		00
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 2022 are as follows:

Table V.3

District	1995-2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	5009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	1995-2021
Ampara	13	1	- 14	(4	11	.,4			1			6											32
Anuradhapura	11		57	10			16		10														104
Badulla	6	2	1	1																			10
Batticaloa	123	3	4	14		278	28	1	18	2						1							472
Colombo			2																				2
Gampaha		16																					16
Hambantota		1		1																			2
Jaffna	568	122	100	31	46	21	4	11	26	117	18	12	1	2	3			1	4	1			1088
Kalutara			4																				4
Kegalle		4																					4
Kilinochchi	97	21	35	16	11	4	1			21	8	14		7		5	1	2	6			2	251
Kurunegala		10																					10
Mannar	40	7	9	11	3	1		2	4	8		19			9					2			115
Matara		80		1																			81
Monaragala		2		4																			6
Mullaitivu	83	44	1	6	1	2			48	9	10	70		33				4			2	1	314
NuwaraEliya		36																					36
Polonnaruwa	3	4	19	1								4											31
Puttalam	8	10	1			49				1													69
Trincomalee	9	17	1	16	1	68	25		1	25		1					1	1			2		168
Vavuniya	33	5	22		2	5		1	5	2	9	1											85
Grand Total	994	385	256	112	75	428	74	15	113	185	45	127	1	42	12	6	2	8	10	3	4	3	2900

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

Numbers killed or injured due to antipersonnel mines from January to December 2022 (Table V.4)

	Women	Girls	Boys	Men	Total
Killed	0	0	0	0	0
Injured	0	01	0	02	03
Total	0	01	0	02	03

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

Civilian Mine/ERW casualties from 2010 to December 2022

The Sex and age disaggregated data of the 424 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 207 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	Total
2012	12	76	1	21	110
2013	3	7	1	10	21
2014	17	15	1	5	38
2015	0	6	0	0	6
2016	4	2	0	0	6
2017	0	2	0	0	2
2018	1	5	0	0	6
2019	2	5	0	1	8
2020	1	0	0	2	3
2021	0	3	0	1	4
2022	0	2	1		3
Total	40	123	4	40	207

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 progremme 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

	7	Requirements of victims											
District	No of Mine and ERW 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
Batticoloa	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 EORE 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 bone 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 minimize the EO threats. The EORE organization will work under the guidance of NMAC and do the sessions near where the EO threat 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 fund 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. Two civilian was injured in 2022. In comparison to the level of contamination in these places, this number is extremely low.

The Government of Sri Lanka has set aside Rs 2 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, Labours of construction workers of each project and schools that are considered high-risk. After conducting EORE programs at the district level, many information of suspected hazardous places and EOD spot tasks were informed by Grama Niladari Officers (Village administrative officer) and other staff officers to the RMAO and respected police station. Hence, after conducting the EORE program for forest officers in 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 financial crisis in the country; however 46 EORE programs were implemented in 2022 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 2 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 completed, the District authority will sign off as 'Mine Free District' etc until all contaminated provinces are completed.

At this time, the priority activity under the Completion Process is, conducting Non-Technical Survey (NTS) of 'previously unknown' contamination. This is critical to facilitate the development of the New Strategy and facilitate the tasking of clearance.

Non-Technical Survey (NTS) is conducted by high standard and well-trained teams with sufficient time to identify the 'previously unknown' contamination as accurately as possible. Although this will require some time in the short term and then 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 HALO, 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 indemand 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 counseling and over 20 staff underwent follow up credit counseling.
- 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 2022. 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.