



# Sri Lanka Mine Action Programme



**Moving towards completion by 2027**

**National Mine Action Centre (NMAC)**  
Ministry of Urban Development and Housing



# Background

Over three decades of conflict mines, IEDs and other explosive devices were extensively used

The National Mine Action Programme was established in 2002 with the assistance of the UN, INGOs, NGOs and several donors





# Progress to Date

Clearance from 2002 to 16<sup>th</sup> Sep 2022

Mine Field Clearance - **204,886,715**

**Sqm**

Battle Area Clearance - 1,044.33 KM<sup>2</sup>

NTS Canceled  
**Devices Recovered** - 59.32 KM<sup>2</sup>

Anti Personnel (AP) - 864,027

Anti tank (AT) - 2,148

Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)- 364,643

Small Arms Ammunition (SAA) - 1,183,578

**Confirmed Hazardous Area (CHA)**

remaining: **15,441,719 Sqm**





# Advocacy → Policy & Conventions

***Sri Lanka accedes to the APMBC and complies with relevant obligations***



- Acceded to APMBC, December 2017
- Acceded to CCM, March 2018
- Ensure Treaty compliance: reporting and implementation
- Completion deadline 2028



# Achievements

- Destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines.
- Finished last stockpiled in August 2021





# Achievements



PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC  
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF  
SRILANKA

PROHIBITION OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES  
ACT, No. 3 OF 2022

[Certified on 17th of February, 2022]

*Printed on the Order of Government*

Published as a Supplement to Part II of the *Gazette of the Democratic  
Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka* of February 18, 2022

PRINTED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING, SRI LANKA  
TO BE PURCHASED AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLIC RELATIONS BUREAU, COLOMBO 5

Price : Rs. 18.00

Postage : Rs. 15.00

*This Act can be downloaded from [www.documents.gov.lk](http://www.documents.gov.lk)*



*Sri Lanka accedes to the APMBC and complies with relevant obligations*

## Progress

- Act no 03 of 2022 on Prohibition of the Anti-personal Mine was certified on 17 February 2022 by the parliament
- Sri Lanka has fulfilled the obligations under Art. 9 of the Convention on national implementation measures.



# Sri Lanka Completion Process

## 1. Conducted Non-Technical Survey on Sep 2022

### Purpose

- To Identify the Previously unknown contaminated
- To clarify the remaining contamination problem
- To develop Sri Lanka's new national mine action strategy
- 5.3Sqkm Identified previously





# Sri Lanka Completion Process

## 2. Developed New Completion strategy




**SRI LANKA  
NATIONAL MINE ACTION  
COMPLETION STRATEGY**

2023-2027

*Women, girls, boys and men thrive in a mine-free Sri Lanka where EO victims are fully integrated into society and have their needs met*

**Vision**

Women, girls, boys and men thrive in a mine free Sri Lanka where EO victims are fully integrated into society and have their needs met

**Mission**

To coordinate and implement mine action in line with international good practice to facilitate sustainable development and achieve completion

**Strategic Objectives**

1. Land Release	2. Coordination and National Ownership	3. Management of residual contamination	4. Staff transition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The release of safe land and implementation of inclusive EORE activities result in completion and facilitate sustainable development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthened coordination and national ownership result in raised awareness, greater transparency and increased collaboration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residual EO contamination is effectively managed with sustainable national structures, ensuring safer communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sri Lanka's staff transition process facilitates access to alternative economic activities and promotes safe and sustainable livelihood activities</li> </ul>

Sri Lanka's political and financial crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keeping international donors informed of challenges and operational stand-downs, ensuring transparency and continuous communication</li> </ul>
Reduced international donor funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Mine Action Strategy – clarity on strategic priorities</li> <li>Resource mobilisation strategy that presents clear targets</li> </ul>
Insufficient funding to NMAC, RMAO and SLA HDU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lobby the treasury to ensure NMAC, RMAO and SLA HDU are fully resourced to carry out their responsibilities</li> <li>National Mine Action Strategy – clarity on strategic priorities</li> </ul>
Limited coordination and communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sri Lanka's new national mine action strategy</li> <li>Commitment to strengthened communication and coordination</li> </ul>
Pandemic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adapt and capitalise on lessons learnt and good practice from the last two years.</li> <li>Sectoral pandemic guidelines</li> </ul>
Limited employment and entrepreneurship opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring the labour market and economic prospects on a regular basis; adapting staff transition interventions to changing environment and context; keeping international donors informed of challenges and external constraints</li> </ul>



# Sri Lanka Completion Process

## 3. Staff Transition Strategy



**Phase 1 to enhance staff readiness and keep their morale and motivation up until the demobilisation process starts.**

*Rollout of staff transition interventions in parallel of clearance operations*



**Phase 2 to support a limited number of staff made redundant transition into alternative in-demand occupations**

*Access to in-demand vocational/technical training courses & Post-transition support; Field test, monitor and adjust before the scale up phase*



**Phase 3 to scale up the staff redundancy programme, incorporating the learning of Phase 2**

*Gradual demobilization process, using a batch system*



# Management of Residual Contamination

*Residual EO contamination is effectively managed with sustainable national structures, ensuring safer communities*

- EOD level III given to 40+ SLA HDU officers
- SLA HDU officers qualified IMSMA Admin levels
- Given QA training 50+ SLA HDU officers
- Established SLA HDU office in Boo Oya
  
- The Army deployment will cover the EOD requirement
- SLA HDU will be continued beyond the termination of National Mine Action Programme
- The current operation system will be continued and the IMSMA database will be updated by the SLA HDU.





# Challenges

- Reduced international donor funding
- Limited employment and entrepreneurship opportunities
- Climate-induced changes
- Mine Clearance in Forest and wildlife reserves
- NO funding for EORE
- Pandemic
- Unique clearance challenges



A group of seven mine clearance workers, including men and women, are standing in a line in an outdoor, dry, brushy area. They are all wearing full-body protective suits, including helmets with clear face shields, heavy vests with Japanese flag patches, and brown protective pants. Some are holding tools like shovels and probes. The background shows green bushes and a blue sky with light clouds.

Thank you

Moving towards Mine free Sri Lanka by 2027