

Updated 5-Minute Statement – Sri Lanka (Final Version)

Article 5 – Clearing Mined Areas

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Twenty-Second Meeting of States Parties (22MSP)

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to present Sri Lanka's progress under Article 5 – Clearing Mined Areas, at the Twenty-Second Meeting of States Parties.

Progress in Fulfilling Article 5 Obligations

Since acceding to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in 2018, Sri Lanka has followed a strong, coordinated, and nationally led approach to addressing landmine and explosive ordnance contamination. Our work continues in line with the Reviewed Mine Action Completion Strategy 2025–2027, developed together with GICHD and endorsed by all national stakeholders.

In 2023, Sri Lanka launched one of the most extensive Completion Surveys ever undertaken in our programme, covering **11 districts**, including the eight most heavily affected in the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

To date:

- **1,106 GN divisions (78%)** have been recommended for mine-free declaration.
- **943 GN divisions have been formally endorsed** by the Government.
- We have strengthened national systems through a new **IMSMA Core-based decision-support platform**, improving transparency and operational planning nationwide.

Since the beginning of major demining in 2010:

- **1,302 km² of land has been released.**
- **More than 918,980 internally displaced persons have safely returned home.**
- Clearance has supported agriculture, housing, transport networks, education facilities, and community infrastructure.

Our Strategy

Geographical reduction: By 2025, Sri Lanka expects to declare **3 districts mine-free**; in 2026–2027, an additional **2 districts per year**. By **2027**, a total of **7 districts** will be mine/EO-free, with the remaining **4 highly contaminated districts** to be completed beyond 2027.

Remaining Challenges

While progress is substantial, the most complex phase of clearance remains ahead.

- **22.1 km²** of confirmed contamination is yet to be cleared.
- Since September 2023, **8 km² of previously unknown contamination** has been discovered.
- A newly identified minefield in Anuradhapura means the district cannot be declared mine-free in 2025 and will likely extend into 2026.
- Donor funding is declining: **USD 18.5M (2023) → USD 14.9M (2025)**.
- Several remaining areas involve semi-submerged lagoon belts, field fortifications, and deep forest zones requiring specialised capabilities.

Due to this emerging contamination and funding realities, **Sri Lanka will not meet the current Article 5 deadline of June 2028**.

As reflected in our National Strategy, and in line with Convention procedures, **Sri Lanka will submit an Article 5 Extension Request by March 2027**.

Demining as a Driver of Development

Humanitarian demining in Sri Lanka has become a major enabler of national recovery and economic growth. Clearance has directly supported:

- Reconstruction of the **Jaffna railway station and rail line**,
- Rehabilitation of the **A9 highway**, reconnecting the North and South,
- Construction of the **Sangupiddy Bridge**,
- Resettlement, agriculture, and rural development across former conflict areas,
- Tourism expansion into the North—**Jaffna named a Lonely Planet Top 25 Global Destination for 2026**.

Demining has also restored access to forests, biodiversity corridors, and coastal lagoons, contributing to sustainable land use and environmental recovery.

Large-scale Government initiatives such as the **Northern Coconut Triangle**, covering Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Mannar, and Vavuniya, depend directly on continued mine clearance to unlock agricultural and private-sector investment.

International travel advisories continue to highlight landmine risks in parts of the North and East—reminding us that incomplete clearance can affect safety, tourism, and national reputation.

Political Commitment and National Ownership

Sri Lanka's progress is driven by strong national political will—from the President, Prime Minister, Cabinet, and local authorities.

The Government of Sri Lanka is increasing national investment despite fiscal constraints:

- **National mine action funding will rise from LKR 70 million to LKR 150 million in 2026**, more than doubling our domestic contribution.

To reach completion by 2030, Sri Lanka will require an **additional USD 3 million per year from 2026**, to maintain a clearance rate of 6 km² annually and to respond to newly discovered contamination.

Completing clearance is essential for the future of the North and East—supporting livelihoods, tourism, agriculture, environmental restoration, and long-term stability.

Conclusion – The Way Forward

Mr. President,

Sri Lanka remains firmly committed to fulfilling its obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in a responsible, evidence-based, and transparent manner. In this context, and acknowledging that Sri Lanka will not be able to meet the current Article 5 deadline of June 2028 due to newly identified contamination and funding constraints, we reaffirm our determination to progress systematically toward completion. As outlined in our National Mine Action Strategy, and in accordance with Convention procedures, Sri Lanka will therefore submit an Article 5 Extension Request by March 2027.

We will continue to rely on our valued partnerships—with GICHD, the ISU, donor governments, and humanitarian demining organisations—to reach a decisive and sustainable completion.

Together, we can ensure that Sri Lanka becomes a mine-free nation, unlocking the full social, economic, and environmental potential of communities long affected by conflict.

Thank you, Mr. President.



Overview & Article 5 Implementation

Clearing Mined Areas

**Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention: Twenty Second Meeting of States
Parties (22MSP), Geneva, Switzerland**

**National Mine Action Center (NMAC)
Ministry of Housing, Construction and Water Supply**



Vision & Mission



Vision

Women, girls, boys and men thrive in a mine free Sri Lanka where explosive ordnance (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.



Sri Lanka acceded to the
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
(APMBC) on 1 June 2018, officially
becoming a State Party to the convention



PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF
SRI LANKA

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

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Sri Lanka Mine Action Completion Strategy 2023- 2027



Launched the Sri Lanka Reviewed Strategy on 28 August 2025 with the participation of the Hon. Minister and all international and national stakeholders in Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the GICHD, to support achieving Sri Lanka's Article 5 obligations



Survey & Progress



Completion Survey Launched in 2023

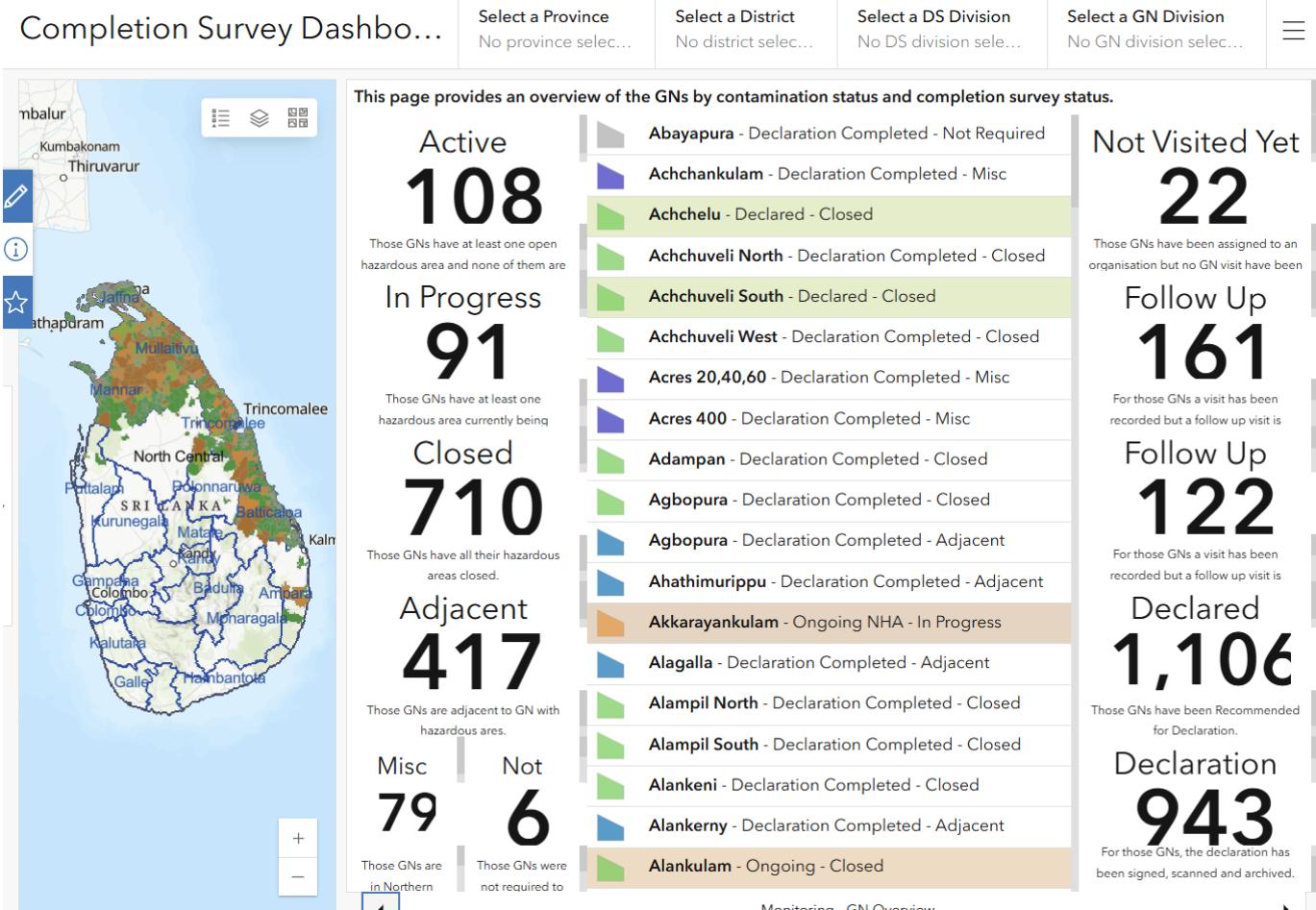
- Coverage: **11 Districts** (8 districts in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, & 3 adjoining districts)
- 1,411 Grama Niladhari Divisions assessed (The smallest administrative boundary)
- As of Today, **1,106 (78%)** recommended for declaration as a mine- and EO-free and endorsed declaring **943 (66%)** by the Government
- Remaining undergoing verification



Decision Support for Article 5 Implementation



This approach is a scientifically designed, more accountable, and transparent system developed by the GICHD on the IMSMA Core platform. It displays IMSMA Core dashboard that enable close monitoring from the bottom to the top levels, supporting Sri Lanka in achieving its Article 5 obligations





11 District Contamination & Mine Free Declaration Map



Strategic Plan

2025

Puttalam, A'Pura & Pollonanruwa

2026

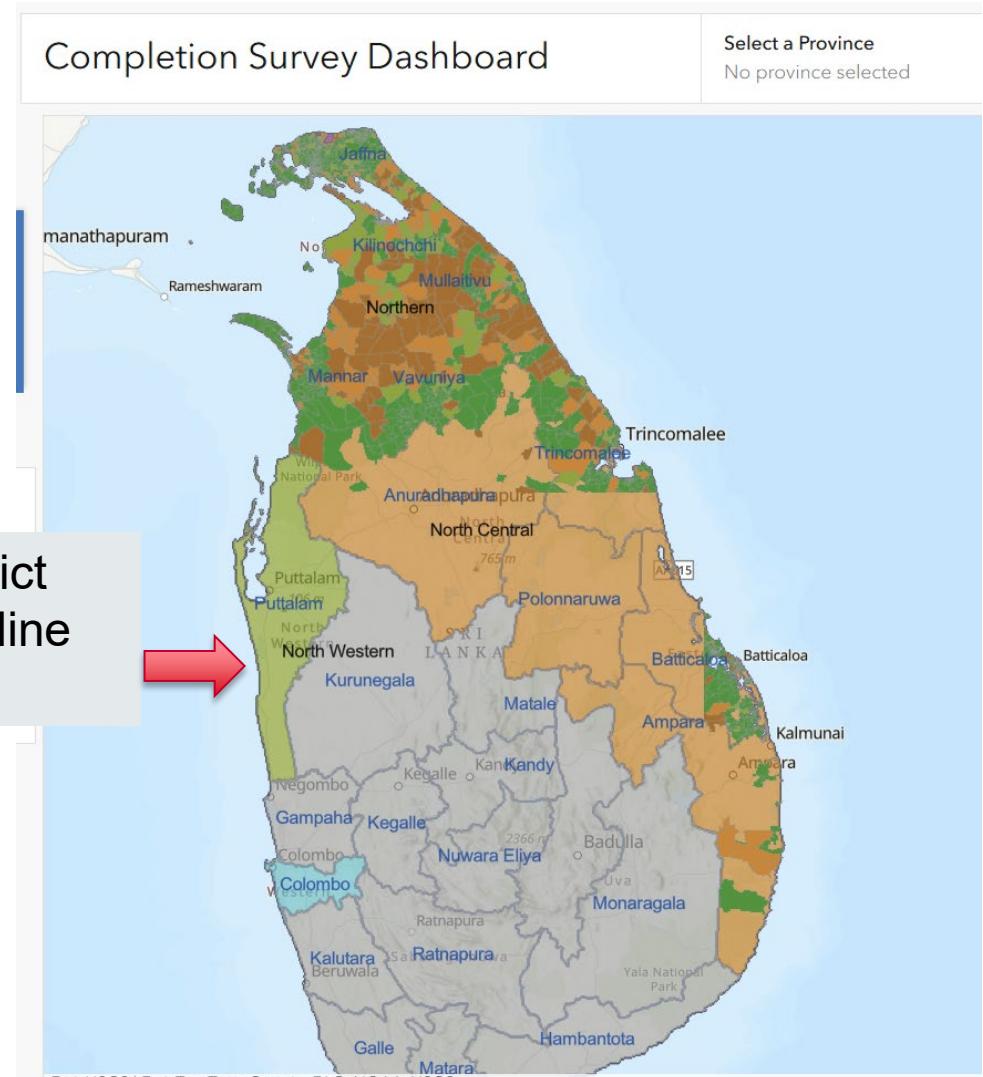
Trincomalee & Ampara

2027

Jaffna & Batticaloa

7 Districts and 3 Provinces will be declared by 2027

Puttalam District Declared as Mine and EO free





Contamination and Clearance



Contamination Identified and Addressed

Since September 2023:

- 8 km² of previously unknown contamination identified
 - 12 km² released via clearance, survey & cancellation
 - Direct benefit to communities: agriculture, housing, infrastructure



Challenges in Mine and EO Remaining Contamination



- **22.1 km²** of remaining contamination requires further survey and clearance activities.
- While priority districts are progressing, **other districts will only be completed beyond 2027**.
- Updated planning and resource allocation will be required to meet new **timelines**.

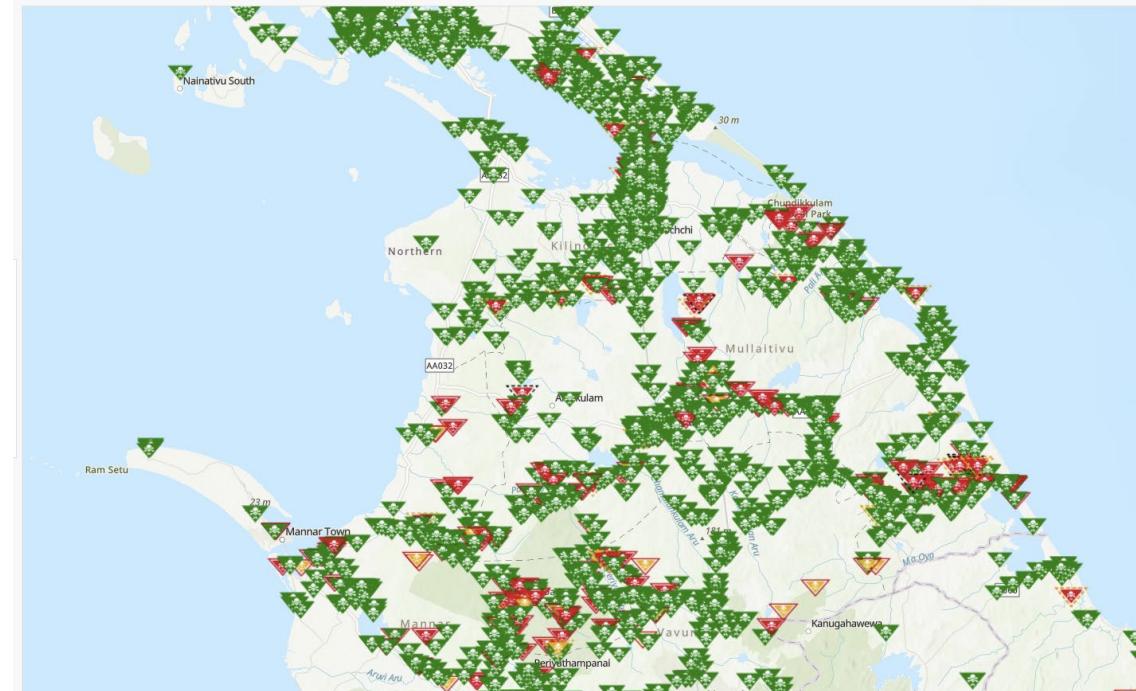
15 Nov 2025 – 22.1 km²

Completion Survey Dashboard

Select a Province
No province selected

Select a District
No district selected

Select a DS Division
No DS division selected



Mullaitivu 13.9 M2 (62%) , Mannar 2.9 (13.1%), Vavuniya 1.9 (8.8%), Kilinochchi 1.65 M2 (7.49%)



How Demining Transformed Sri Lanka-Overall Impact



Progress Since 2010

- Total land released: 1,302 km²
- Safe return of over 918,980 internally displaced persons (IDPs)
- Supports restoration of public services and economic recovery in post-conflict regions



Demolished items



Neally 1,000,000 landmines cleared

Anti Personal Mine (AP)	Anti-Tank Mine (AT)	Un Exploded Ordnance (UXO)	Small Arms Ammunition (SAA)
9,76,370	2,318	386,488	1,325,375



Demining as a Driver of Development



- Clearance directly enabled major infrastructure
- Jaffna railway station & rail line
- A9 highway reconnecting North–South
- Sangupiddy Bridge linking Jaffna & Kilinochchi
- Tourism expanding north; Jaffna named a Lonely Planet Top 25 Destination (2026)

- Safe land allows forest management, biodiversity recovery, and sustainable land use



Source : Mine Advisory Group (MAG)

Muhamalai



Kokavil communication tower



Rice bowl



Madu church





Key Findings, Challenges & Political Commitment



Current Challenges in Implementation

- Remaining challenge contamination area : 22.1 km²
- Emerging new contamination
- Funding shortfalls



Key Findings, Challenges & Political Commitment



Key Findings

Due to unknown or newly identified contamination and declining donor financial resources, it will not be possible for Sri Lanka to meet its Article 5 obligations by the current deadline of June 2028

Operational Challenges:

Unknown contamination, funding gaps, and limited operational capacity continue to delay progress.

Next Steps

- As stated in the reviewed National Mine Action Strategy, Sri Lanka will submit an Article 5 extension request by March 2027 based on ongoing progress and resources
- Strengthening operational planning, resource mobilization, and technical capacity will remain priorities.



Path to a Mine-Free Sri Lanka by 2030



- GoSL increasing national funding: **LKR 70M → LKR 150M (2026)**
- Donor support declining: **USD 18.5M (2023) → USD 14.9M (2025)**
- Additional **USD 3M/year** needed from 2026 to maintain momentum
- Completion of clearance will unlock **full economic potential** of the North and East



Official Handover of the Reviewed Sri Lanka Mine Action Completion Strategy (2025–2027)





Leadership and National Ownership in Sri Lanka's Mine Action Programme



Donor Appreciation



NMAC website launching :
www.slnmac.gov.lk



Awards Ceremony for Art Competition
Winners School in Northern Province



Ministerial Engagement at Operational Level



The Hon. Minister of Urban Development, Construction and Housing, conducted an official field visit to Mankulam in the Mullaitivu District on 24th April 2025



Conclusion and Way Forward



• Commitment to Mine Action

- Data-driven, community-centered approach despite challenges
- Continued support from donors, implementing partners, and technical advisors

• Sri Lanka's Full Commitment

- Upholds obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
- Dedicated to a realistic, inclusive, and sustainable completion of Article 5 obligations



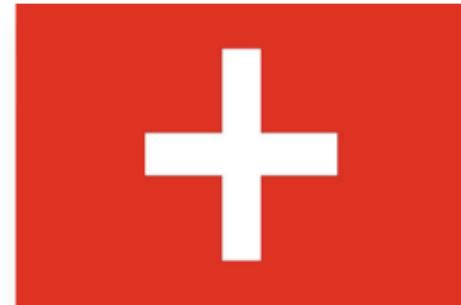
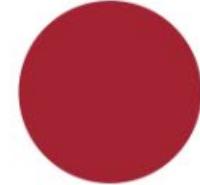
Donor Coordination, Technical Support, Strategic Planning & Information Management



Geneva International Centre
for Humanitarian Demining



Donor Support for Mine Action in Sri Lanka





THANK YOU

