

Impact and Implementation

Sri Lanka

Impact Contamination

LANDMINE & CLUSTER MUNITION
MONITOR

International **TO BAN**
CAMPAIGN
LANDMINES

History of contamination

Sri Lanka is heavily contaminated by mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). Most contamination is in the north, the focus of three decades of armed conflict between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which ended in May 2009.¹ Both sides made extensive use of mines, including blast antipersonnel mines laid by the Sri Lanka Army (SLA), and a mixture of mines and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) laid by the LTTE.² Indian Peacekeeping Forces also used mines during their presence from July 1987 to January 1990.³

Extent of Contamination

The estimate of mine/ERW contamination as of February 2017 was just over 26.3km². Of this, 22km² was confirmed as mined.

Estimated extent of contamination: Heavy

Mine/ERW contamination by district (as of February 2017)⁴

Province	District	Area (m ²)
Northern	Jaffna	821,555
	Kilinochchi	10,787,756
	Mullaitivu	7,391,741
	Vavuniya	2,098,660
	Mannar	4,160,512
Subtotal		25,260,224
Eastern	Trincomalee	403,823
	Batticaloa	323,133
	Ampara	9,839
Subtotal		736,795
North Central	Anuradhapura	344,437
Subtotal		344,437
Total		26,341,456

Casualties

Mine/ERW casualties in Sri Lanka 1999–2016																		
Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Casualties	34	223	207	142	99	56	38	64	34	79	38	47	24	47	21	16	8	8

All known casualties (through 2016)			
22,193 mine/ERW casualties			
Casualties in 2016			
Annual total	8		No change from 8 in 2015
Survival outcome	1 killed; 7 injured		
Device type causing casualties	1 antipersonnel mine; 2 antivehicle mine; 5 ERW		
Civilian status	8 civilians		0 unknown
Age and gender	8 adults: 0 women, 8 men	0 children	

Addressing the impact through treaty implementation

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines has noted that all states, including Sri Lanka, should implement an efficient land release methodology to accurately define the size of contamination. The ambitious 2020 target for completion of clearance in Sri Lanka will also require the mobilization of additional funding.

Victim assistance action points

- Increase support to the physical rehabilitation sector
- Improve referral mechanisms between health facilities and physical rehabilitation services
- Implement long-term follow-up at home and community level

Clearance

Mine action management	
National mine action management actors	<p>The Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement, and Hindu Religious Affairs became the lead agency for mine action in 2015 as chair of the interministerial National Steering Committee for Mine Action (NSCMA).⁵</p> <p>Its policies and decisions are implemented by the National Mine Action Center (NMAC), set up in 2010.⁶</p> <p>Clearance operations are coordinated, tasked, and quality managed by a Regional Mine Action Office (RMAO) in Kilinochchi, working in consultation with District Steering Committees for Mine Action.⁷</p>
Mine action strategic plan	The national mine action strategy for 2016–2020 sets the goal of clearing all mines and ERW by 2020

Land release in 2016

Antipersonnel mines	A total of 22km ² was confirmed as mined. A total of 32km ² was canceled by non-technical survey, 4.2km ² was reduced through technical survey, and 2.3km ² of mined areas was cleared. 59,304 antipersonnel mines were destroyed.
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Major developments

Mined area survey in 2016⁸

Operator	SHAs canceled	Area canceled (m ²)	SHAs confirmed as mined	Area confirmed (m ²)	Area reduced by technical survey (m ²)
DASH	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	286,348
MAG	277	27,607,927	97	6,517,936	755,769
HALO		41,601 ⁹	4	10,157	123,626
HALO (re-survey)	49	4,423,138	103	14,667,094	0
SHARP	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	0
SLA	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	3,014,006
Total	326	32,072,666	204	21,195,187	4,179,749

Note: N/R = not reported; SHAs = Suspected Hazardous Areas

Mine clearance in 2016¹⁰

Operator	Areas cleared	Area cleared (m ²)	Antipersonnel mines destroyed	Antivehicle mines destroyed	ERW destroyed
DASH	N/R	770,110	12,630	65	875
MAG	29	453,575	10,280	2	430
HALO	29	802,168	16,192	44	1,214
SHARP	N/R	27,264	69	0	5
SLA	N/R	296,304	20,133	6	383
Total	58	2,349,421	59,304	117	2,907

Note: N/R = not reported

Victim assistance

International commitments and obligations

Sri Lanka is responsible for a significant number of landmine survivors and survivors of other ERW. The total number of survivors in Sri Lanka, both civilian and military, was estimated to be in the thousands.¹¹ NMAC reported 1,474 registered civilian mine survivors injured in Sri Lanka between 1985 and the end of 2011.¹²

Sri Lanka has made commitments to provide victim assistance through the Mine Ban Treaty and has ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Sri Lanka ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on 8 February 2016.

Victim assistance planning and coordination	
Government focal point	None specified; the Ministry of Social Empowerment, Welfare and Kandyan Heritage (formerly the Ministry of Social Services, MoSS) is responsible for coordinating the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities
Coordination mechanisms	UNICEF has acted as the coordination point for victim assistance activities
Plans/strategies	The national mine action strategy was revised in 2016 and included a section on victim assistance ¹³
Disability sector integration	As noted above; the Ministry of Social Empowerment, Welfare and Kandyan Heritage is also the main institution that manages matters relating to the rights of persons with disabilities
Survivor inclusion and participation	Survivors and their representative organizations were not involved in the provision of victim assistance services ¹⁴
Reporting	Sri Lanka's initial Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Report submission is due on 28 November 2018

Laws and policies

Sri Lanka lacked adequate legislation to protect and respect the rights of persons with disabilities. A new law on the rights of persons with disabilities has been in development for several years. A Draft Disability Rights Bill was amended by the Department of Legal Draftsman, and the Ministry of Social Empowerment, Welfare and Kandyan Heritage for further approval.¹⁵

Developments in victim assistance

There was a decrease in the number of victim assistance service providers; especially among international NGOs.¹⁶ Handicap International (now known as Humanity and Inclusion, HI) physical rehabilitation centers were handed over to the Ministry of Health to continue the delivery of services. UNICEF reported a reduction in the availability of physical rehabilitation and economic inclusion services, due to a decrease in funding.¹⁷

Victim assistance providers and activities

Name of organization	Type of activity
Government	
Ministry of Social Empowerment, Welfare and Kandyan Heritage (formerly the MoSS)	Community-based rehabilitation including self-help groups, medical care, assistive devices, income-generation projects, assistance with housing, and self-employment
Ranaviru Sevana Rehabilitation Centre	Provided physical rehabilitation, social support, economic inclusion, and other assistance to disabled veterans
National	
Jaffna Jaipur Centre for Disability Rehabilitation (JJCDR)	The only center providing physical rehabilitation on the Jaffna peninsula; produced prostheses for amputees, wheelchairs, and other mobility devices, and provided micro-credit for persons with disabilities and financial support for students with disabilities; operated an outreach program for those unable to travel to the center
Sarvodaya	Psychological assistance
Social Organizations Networking for Development (SOND)	Provided mobility devices, psychosocial support, referrals, support for medical assistance, and economic inclusion
Valvuthayam Caritas	Providing prosthetics and mobility devices through Mannar Rehabilitation Center; outreach to areas such as Kilinochchi, Mullaitheivu, and Puttalam
International	
Leonard Cheshire Disability Resource Centre	Providing access to livelihood for persons with disabilities in Gampaha District
Meththa Foundation	Providing prosthetic and mobility devices
Motivation	Supporting provision of prosthetics and wheelchairs to mine/ERW survivors in Vavuniya, Jaffna, and Mannar
UNICEF	Support to MoSS and NGO rehabilitation services; mine risk education; provided financial support to implementing NGOs and referrals through a victim assistance network
ICRC	Trained and reimbursed some patients for the cost of treatment

Support

International contributions: 2016 ¹⁸			
Donor	Sector	Amount (national currency)	Amount (US\$)
US	Clearance and risk education	\$2,500,000	2,500,000
Japan	Clearance	¥154,161,266	1,418,749
Canada	Clearance	C\$569,386	429,952
United Kingdom	Clearance and risk education	£173,036	234,550
Total			4,583,251

International assistance to mine action has considerably declined in recent years, dropping from \$12.5 million in 2012 to just \$4.6 million in 2016 (a 63% decrease).

Although Sri Lanka has never reported an annual financial contribution to its mine action program, in 2012 it was stated that since 2009 the army has been engaged in demining, rebuilding, and urban development at a cost of LKR5.4 billion (approximately US\$42 million).¹⁹

Summary of international contributions 2012–2016		
Year	Amount (US\$)	% change from previous year
2016	4,583,251	-18
2015	5,614,583	-34
2014	8,449,142	-19
2013	10,372,587	-17
2012	12,490,824	-49
Total	41,510,387	

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Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor provides a global overview of the landmine situation. Chapters on developments in specific countries and other areas are available in online Country Profiles, found at: <http://www.the-monitor.org/cp>

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The Monitor acknowledges the contributions of the Mine Action Review (www.mineactionreview.org), which has conducted the primary clearance and contamination mine action research in 2017 and shared all its country-level landmine reports (from “Clearing the Mines 2017”) and country-level cluster munition reports (from “Clearing Cluster Munition Remnants 2017”) with the Monitor. The Monitor is responsible for the findings presented online and in its print publications.

NOTES:

¹ Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement, and Hindu Religious Affairs, "Sri Lanka National Mine Action Strategy 2016–2020," May 2016; email from Mahinda Bandara Wickramasingha, Assistant Director of Operations, Quality Management, and Planning, and Chairman of Accreditation Committee, National Mine Action Center (NMAC), 14 October 2016; NMAC, "Annual Progress Report on Mine Action Year 2014," undated but 2015; Mines Advisory Group (MAG), "SL District Re-survey Results Before & After Re-survey," August 2017; and email from Alistair Moir, Country Director, MAG, 28 September 2017. The figure of 26.3km² includes contamination figures for Anuradhapura district as of 30 June 2016. MAG reported that Anuradhapura was not part of the 2015–2017 re-survey and that the total amount of contamination remaining in the areas re-surveyed (Mannar, Vavuniya, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, and Ampara) amounted to 25,997,019m² as of August 2017.

² Interviews with demining operators, Colombo, 29 March–2 April 2010; and with Maj. Pradeep Gamage, Officer-in-Charge, North Jaffna Humanitarian Demining Unit (HDU), Jaffna, 3 April 2007.

³ "Sri Lanka National Mine Action Strategy 2016–2020," May 2016, p. 6.

⁴ MAG, "SL District Re-survey Results Before & After Re-survey," August 2017; and emails from Alistair Moir, MAG, 28 September and 6 October 2017. Figures for Anuradhapura are as of 30 June 2016. MAG reported that Anuradhapura district was not part of the 2015–2017 re-survey. It is also not clear based on previous reporting if a small amount of contamination remains in Colombo district.

⁵ "The National Strategy for Mine Action in Sri Lanka," Ministry of Economic Development, September 2010, p. 9; and email from Sri Mallikarachchi, Senior IMSMA Officer, NMAC, 13 October 2015. After Sri Lanka's January 2015 presidential elections and change of government, the Ministry of Economic Development, which formerly housed NMAC, was dismantled. A March 2015 Cabinet memorandum then assigned development activity, implemented by the former Ministry of Economic Development, to other relevant ministries. This resulted in responsibility for the national mine action program being assigned to the Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement, and Hindu Religious Affairs. "Sri Lanka National Mine Action Strategy 2016–2020," May 2016, p. 10.

⁶ The Cabinet formally approved the creation of NMAC on 10 July 2010.

⁷ "Sri Lanka National Mine Action Strategy 2016–2020," May 2016, p. 9. It states that: "Steering committees used to play an important role in providing guidance to the mine action programme and in promoting transparency and accountability. At the national level the Steering Committee fulfilled the role of a National Mine Action Authority. It used to convene key national stakeholders including the SLA and relevant Ministries, mine action NGOs and main development partners. At regional and district levels, steering committees were tasked to ensure priority-setting of survey, clearance and MRE activities."

⁸ Email from Alistair Moir, MAG, 21 August 2017; and from Helaine Boyd, HALO Trust, 25 April 2017; and presentation by Mahinda Bandara Wickramasingha, NMAC, "1st Quarter Meeting 2017," undated.

⁹ HALO Trust reported that this was cancellation of confirmed hazardous areas, not suspected hazardous areas. Email from Helaine Boyd, HALO Trust, 25 April 2017.

¹⁰ Emails from Alistair Moir, MAG, 21 August 2017; and from Helaine Boyd, HALO Trust, 25 April 2017; and presentation by Mahinda Bandara Wickramasingha, NMAC, "1st Quarter Meeting 2017," undated.

¹¹ Based on casualty figures in statement by Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara, Chief Field Engineer, Sri Lanka Army, in "On land-mines and explosive remnants of war: raising awareness and taking Action," *Asian Tribune* (Colombo), 30 April 2010; and response to Monitor questionnaire by Mihlar Mohamed, UNICEF, Colombo, 4 November 2014.

¹² Government of Sri Lanka, UN Nations & Partners "Joint Plan for Assistance Northern Province 2012," p. 57.

¹³ "Sri Lanka National Mine Action Strategy 2016–2020," May 2016.

¹⁴ Response to Monitor questionnaire by Mihlar Mohamed, UNICEF, Colombo, 13 October 2017.

¹⁵ Letter from the Ministry of Social Empowerment, Welfare and Kandyan Heritage, 17 October 2017.

¹⁶ Response to Monitor questionnaire by Mihlar Mohamed, UNICEF, Colombo, 13 October 2017.

¹⁷ Average exchange rate for 2016: C\$1.3243=US\$1; ¥108.66=US\$1; £1=US\$1.3555. US Federal Reserve, "List of Exchange Rates (Annual)," 4 January 2017.

¹⁸ Ministry of Economic Development, "2012 Budget 100 Proposals for Development His Excellency the President Mahinda Rajapaksa presented the 2012 budget proposals to the parliament," undated. Average exchange rate for 2012: LKR127.231=US\$1, Oanda.com, Historical Exchange Rates.