

Progress Sri Lankan Mine Action Programme

National Mine Action Center (NMAC)-Sri Lanka



Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Intersessional meetings |
18-20 June 2024

Overview

Sri Lanka acceded to the APMBC in 2017 and has committed to identifying and clearing all AP mined areas by 1 June 2028.



Sri Lanka's completion time line will depend on the discovery of previously unknown contaminated areas identified through the completion survey process and available funding.

Completion Strategy 2023- 2027

The Sri Lanka National Mine Action Completion Strategy was developed by the NMAC with the support of GICHD in collaboration with all other stakeholders. In March 2023, the Government of Sri Lanka endorsed the Sri Lanka National Mine Action Completion Strategy 2023-2027, demonstrating the government's commitment to completion.

Strategic Objectives

1. Land Release and EORE

- The release of safe land and implementation of inclusive EORE activities result in completion and facilitate sustainable development

2. Coordination and National Ownership

- Strengthened coordination and national ownership result in raised awareness, greater transparency and increased collaboration

3. Management of residual contamination

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

4. Staff transition

- Sri Lanka's staff transition process facilitates access to alternative economic activities and promotes safe and sustainable livelihood activities



Completion Strategy

Endorsement: National mine action completion strategy endorsed by the Government in March 2023.

Objectives:

1. Focus on land release and inclusive and transparent completion surveys
2. National ownership and coordination
3. Management of residual contamination
4. Staff transition

Survey and Clearance

- **Completion Survey:** Ongoing in 425 GN divisions, 313 validated.
- **Recommendations:** 201 GNs recommended for declaration, 224 for follow-up visits.
- **New Hazard Areas Identified:**
 - **Northern** : 74 tasks (4,001,450 sqm)
 - **Eastern** : 19 tasks (258,322 sqm)
 - **NCP & NWP** : 3 tasks (33,908 sqm)

Areas Containing Anti-Personnel Mines

As of December 31, 2023:

- **Confirmed Areas:** 654 tasks (16,831,534 sqm)
- **Suspected Areas:** 171 tasks (4,743,729 sqm)
- **Total:** 825 tasks (21,575,263 sqm)
- **Locations:** Across 11 districts in 4 provinces



2023 Declared Safe Zones

- **Total Safe Zones:** (6.1 sqkm)
- **Removed Items:**
 - 19,212 anti-personnel mines
 - 21,656 other explosive items



Remaining Contamination and Projections

• **Current Remaining Area** : **24,154,386.00 sqm**

CHA(692) **18,315,246 Sqm**

SHA(208) **5,837,140 Sqm**

• **2024 Release Projections** : 260 areas (6,820,291 sqkm)

• **2025-2027 Projections:**

• 2025: 210 tasks (6,080,580 sqm)

• 2026: 225 tasks (6,011,980 sqm)

• 2027: 205 tasks (5,241,535 sqm)

} Approximately

*** Size of SHA areas may reduce during the TS

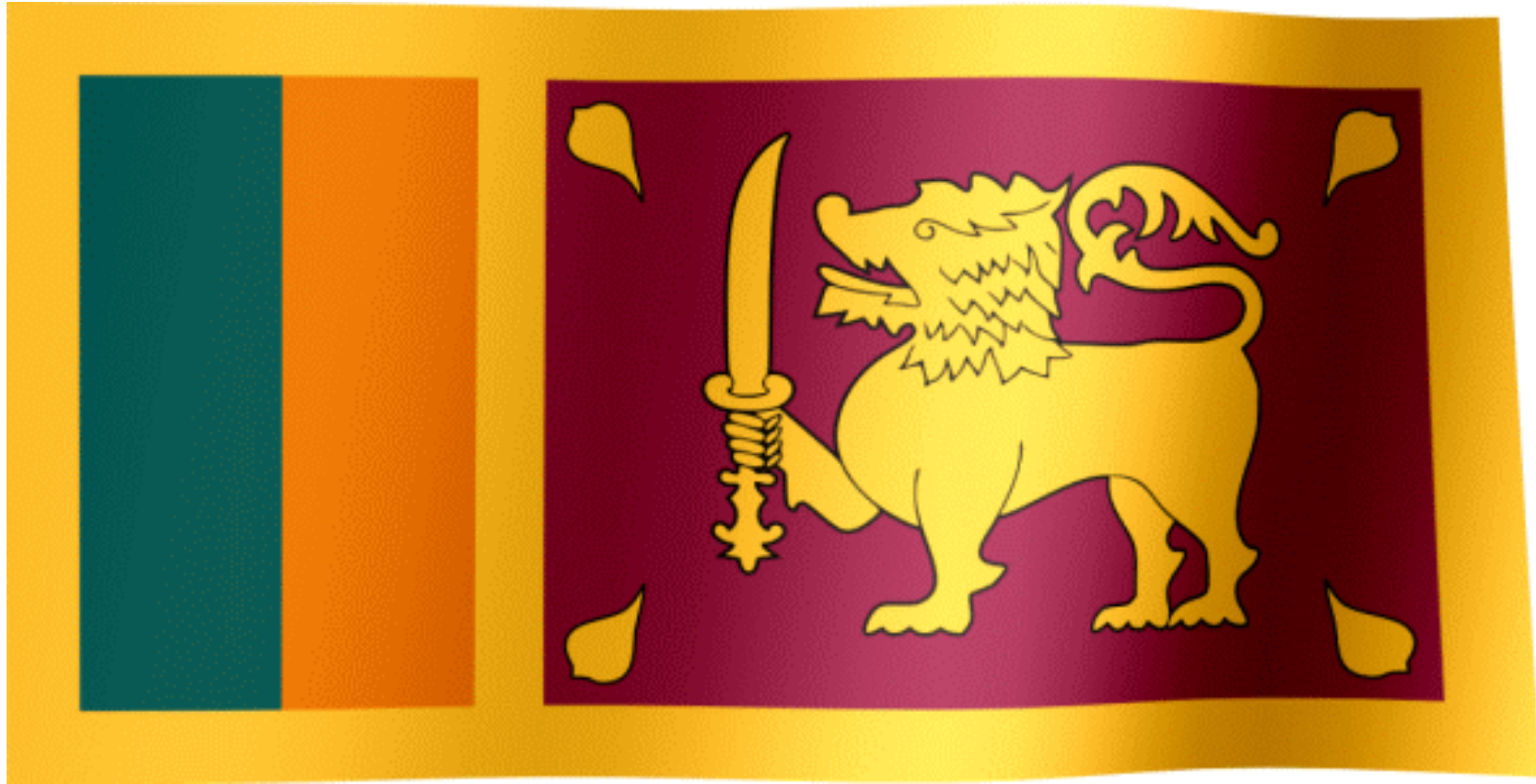
Support and Funding

GOSL Expectations: Financial, capacity development, and strategic support from the donor community and GICHD.

Funding Needs: Detailed project proposals available for interested supporters

Funding projections and resource mobilization strategy under development





Thank You



**Intersessional Meetings of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC)
18-20 June 2024**

Presentation by Sri Lanka under Agenda Item 3 – Article 5 Implementation (Mine clearance)

Mr. Chair,
Excellencies,
Members of the ISU,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

[Slide 1]

The Mine Action programme of Sri Lanka was initiated in 2010 with the support of UNDP, UNICEF, and donor countries. Sri Lanka's success in the Mine Action Programme has been achieved through the support of all the partners, especially with the assistance of Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

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Sri Lanka acceded to the APMBC in 2017 and has been committed in identifying and clearing all anti-personnel mined areas by 1 June 2028. The Government of Sri Lanka recognizes the importance of achieving the status of 'Mine Free Sri Lanka' and is planning to clear Sri Lankan soil from all explosive ordnance in known hazardous areas by the end of 2027, with all reasonable efforts.

Furthermore, Sri Lanka's completion timeline will depend on the discovery of previously unknown contaminated areas identified through the completion survey process and the availability of funding.

[Slide 3]

Sri Lanka National Mine Action Completion Strategy was developed by the NMAC with the support of GICHD in collaboration with all other stakeholders. In March 2023, the Government of Sri Lanka endorsed the Sri Lanka National Mine Action Completion Strategy 2023-2027, demonstrating the government's strategic commitment to completion with four main objectives.

1. Focus on land release and inclusive and transparent completion surveys
2. National ownership and coordination
3. Management of residual contamination
4. Staff transition

The details of land release and completion survey will be discussed later. National ownership and coordination are the most vital part of this programme to conduct the completion survey, clearance and to meet the other three objectives. Therefore, the Government of Sri Lanka conducted awareness programmes among the national authorities including the Departments of Forest and Wildlife.

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Management of residual contamination is essential for further monitoring, spot tasks, and clearance if any contamination is found after the termination of this programme. To address this, National Mine Action Centre has initiated developing capacity of the Sri Lanka Army Humanitarian Demining Unit (SLA HDU) by providing standard training and workshops with the support of GICHD and ISU of the APMBC. Additionally, the Government of Sri Lanka has provided funds to enhance the equipment capacity of Humanitarian Demining Unit of Sri Lanka Army which will be the successor of National Mine Action Centre of Sri Lanka.

The staff transition is being conducted by National Mine Action Centre with the support of all organizations currently working in the Sri Lankan Mine Action Programme, including HALO Trust, MAG International, SHARP, and DASH. The Government of Sri Lanka is also providing vocational training and other suitable training to deminers and their family members to ensure their financial stability.

The completion survey is ongoing in 425 Grama Niladari Division (GND) which are the smallest government administrative divisions of the country. Up to now 313 Grama Niladari Divisions have been validated. 224 GNDs are recommended to be declared as 'Mine Free' and 236 GNDs are required follow-up visits. Completion Survey is conducted by all the mine action organizations and closely monitored by the NMAC representatives. According to the results of the completion survey 96 New Hazard Areas in war affected provinces: in other words, 4.29 SqKm were identified.

[Slide 5]

The progress as of 31 December is as shown on the screen. During the year 2023 cleared and released areas as safe zones were approximately 6.1sqkm including Mine Clearance, Battle Area Clearance (BAC), Technical Survey (TS) and area cancellation after the survey.

[Slide 6]

The areas to be cleared are as shown on the screen. Approximately 24.1 SqKm remain to be cleared before 2028. This target is quite challenging to Sri Lanka to achieve by 2028. However, we are planning to execute annual clearance progress as shown on the screen. However, this will not be an easy target without continued support from respective donors and clearing organizations as well from the GICHD and ISU of the APMBC.

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The Government of Sri Lanka expects continued funding and support from all the partners including donor community and the GICHD for the respective clearing organizations and national

capacity development. For those who are interested in supporting Sri Lanka's Mine Action Programme, detailed project proposals can be provided. We sincerely expect your attention for the funding requirement based on the new funding projections and resource mobilization strategy which is under development.

Furthermore, we also focus on providing comprehensive support to those affected by landmines and other remnants of war, aligning with Oslo Action #35 (Victim Assistance). We concentrate on key areas such as data collection, medical care, rehabilitation, psychosocial support, socio-economic inclusion, safety, and coordination.

By working together with all relevant stakeholders, including the Ministry of Health, the Social Services Department, NGOs, and INGOs, we can ensure that every victim receives the necessary support to rebuild their lives with dignity and hope. For the success of this integration process, technical support and donor commitment are vital for Sri Lanka's Mine Action Programme even after 2028.

[Slide 8]

Thank you