

# SRI LANKA

**ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 JUNE 2028**  
(ON TRACK TO MEET DEADLINE)

<b>PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE</b>	2017	2016
Problem understood	9	9
Target date for completion of mine clearance	8	8
Targeted clearance	8	8
Efficient clearance	8	8
National funding of programme	6	5
Timely clearance	8	8
Land-release system in place	7	7
National mine action standards	6	6
Reporting on progress	4	5
Improving performance	8	8
<b>PERFORMANCE SCORE: GOOD</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>7.2</b>

## PERFORMANCE COMMENTARY

On 13 December 2017, Sri Lanka acceded to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), becoming the 163<sup>rd</sup> country to join. It became a state party on 1 June 2018 meaning that it must formally report on any mined areas under its jurisdiction or control by 28 November 2018 and clear all mined areas containing anti-personnel mines as soon as possible but not later than 1 June 2028. In fact, it is expected to complete clearance by 2021 at the latest.

A district-by-district re-survey which began in 2015 was completed in February 2017, with cancellation of 42.4km<sup>2</sup> of suspected hazardous area (SHA), providing far greater clarity on the extent of confirmed contamination remaining.<sup>1</sup> In June 2017, Batticaloa was declared Sri Lanka's first mine-affected district to be free of the threat of mines, a significant step forward as clearance of the entirety of Eastern province nears to completion.<sup>2</sup>

While initially optimistic that Sri Lanka was on track to meet its 2016–20 National Mine Action Strategy goal of completion of mine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) clearance by 2020, at the end of 2017, The HALO Trust and Mines Advisory Group (MAG), the two international demining operators in Sri Lanka, reported that with existing capacity and funding levels, Sri Lanka could complete clearance by 2021, falling just short of its earlier 2020 goal. They forecast that an additional US\$8 million in funding per year is needed if Sri Lanka is to reach completion by the end of 2020; however, both operators were expecting cuts in funding in 2018 that could potentially affect operations.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Sri Lanka should comply with the 28 November 2018 deadline for the submission of its initial Article 7 transparency report under the APMBC.
- Greater resources should be allocated to the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) to enable it to increase its capacity and effectiveness, and to ensure sufficient resources for mine action activities.
- NMAC should provide regular and accurate progress updates on survey and clearance, contamination remaining, and any changes in capacity or funding requirements that will impede completion of mine clearance.
- Increased collaboration and more frequent operational and strategic planning meetings between NMAC and mine action operators would enhance the efficiency of the national mine action programme.
- Sri Lanka should implement its resource mobilisation plan and seek increased funding with a view to meeting its 2020 clearance target.

## CONTAMINATION

Sri Lanka is extensively contaminated by mines and 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. However, estimates of total contamination have fallen sharply: from 506km<sup>2</sup> at the end of 2010, to 98km<sup>2</sup> at the end of 2012, to nearly 68.4km<sup>2</sup> in 2015, and down to just under 25.8km<sup>2</sup> as at July 2018. The Northern province is by far the most affected, though limited contamination remains in Eastern province, and in North Central, North Western, and Western provinces, as set out in Table 1.<sup>3</sup>

As noted above, non-technical survey which began in June 2015 was completed in February 2017, with cancellation of 42km<sup>2</sup> of SHA, reducing total contamination from over 68km<sup>2</sup> to close to 26km<sup>2</sup>.<sup>4</sup> In another milestone achievement, Batticaloa district in Eastern province was declared free of the threat of mines in June 2017, the first of Sri Lanka's mine affected provinces to do so.<sup>5</sup> In December 2017, Sri Lanka informed states parties to the APMBC that 98% of its mine contamination had been cleared, with assistance from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the international donor community.<sup>6</sup>

**Table 1: Mine/ERW contamination (at July 2018)<sup>7</sup>**

Province	District	Area (m <sup>2</sup> )
Northern	Jaffna	2,150,624
	Kilinochchi	10,849,638
	Mullaitivu	8,475,610
	Vavuniya	1,968,607
	Mannar	1,940,326
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>25,384,805</b>
Eastern	Trincomalee	111,311
	Ampara	12,686
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>123,997</b>
North Western	Puttalam	17,613
North Central	Anuradhapura	216,524
Western	Colombo	52,730
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>286,867</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>25,795,669</b>

Most remaining contamination is located in Sri Lanka's five northern districts. Both sides made extensive use of mines, including belts of P4 Mk I and Mk II blast anti-personnel mines laid by the Sri Lanka Army (SLA), and long defensive lines with a mixture of mines and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) laid by the LTTE.<sup>8</sup> Indian Peacekeeping Forces also used mines during their presence from July 1987 to January 1990.<sup>9</sup>

The SLA used both anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines, with all use said to have been recorded.<sup>10</sup> Operators have encountered a wide range of LTTE devices, including anti-personnel mines with anti-tilt and anti-lift mechanisms. Tripwire-activated Claymore-type mines and, to a lesser extent, anti-vehicle mines, were also used by the LTTE, along with a number of forms of improvised devices to act as fragmentation mines, bar mines, electrical and magnetically initiated explosive devices, and mines connected to detonating cord to mortar and artillery shells.<sup>11</sup>

Sri Lanka remains contaminated with a wide range of ERW, including unexploded air-dropped bombs, artillery shells and missiles, mortar bombs, handheld anti-tank projectiles, and rifle and hand grenades. Large caches of abandoned explosive ordnance (AXO) also exist, particularly in the north.<sup>12</sup> These are being cleared concurrently to the remaining minefields.<sup>13</sup>

Since early 2009, resettlement of internally displaced persons (IDPs) has been the focus of survey and clearance activities, including in Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Mullaitivu, and Vavuniya districts in the north, and Ampara, Batticaloa, and Trincomalee districts in the east.<sup>14</sup> Clearance is focused on high-priority areas for

resettlement, agricultural land, irrigation tank areas, and other infrastructure and development initiatives, as well as of heavily mined areas such as around Kilinochchi and the Muhamalai Forward Defence Line.<sup>15</sup> In addition, in 2016, the Government of Sri Lanka granted increased access to areas of the Jaffna High Security Zone allowing The HALO Trust to conduct clearance and MAG to clear previously restricted areas in Eastern province, further expanding the reach of mine action in the country.<sup>16</sup>

In 2017, The HALO Trust reported that the impact of mine contamination in its areas of operations in northern Sri Lanka was primarily socio-economic, with large areas of agricultural land and forest blocked for use or the collection of natural resources. However, the highest priority for clearance is land designated for the resettlement and return of IDPs, mainly concentrated in areas around Muhamalai, Nagarkovil, and the Jaffna High Security Zone.<sup>17</sup> During the year, HALO Trust continued to focus clearance on areas of the Muhamalai minefield pegged for resettlement. In December 2017, the Government of Sri Lanka released two additional sectors of the Muhamalai minefield, following completion of clearance by HALO Trust, for a total of six out of twenty-one sectors completed by HALO. The areas were cleared and released for the purpose of resettlement at Intherapuram village, facilitating the resettlement of 24 displaced families, and opening land for agriculture, specifically for coconut cultivation.<sup>18</sup>

In 2017, The HALO Trust reported that across its area of operations in Kilinochchi, Jaffna, and Mullaitivu districts the extent of contamination remaining was well established, with most mined areas identified and confirmed. While 11 confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) were identified in HALO's operations in 2017, these were for the most part extensions of neighbouring minefields and HALO did not anticipate the identification of many additional CHAs in the future, now that survey and re-survey have been completed.<sup>19</sup>

In 2017, MAG's main operational focus continued to be Mannar district, where it reported that more than 100,000 IDPs had been resettled since 2010. According to MAG, more than 70% of the population in Mannar district rely on agricultural activities for their livelihood. MAG remained the only clearance operator in Mannar district and continued to support its district development plans.<sup>20</sup>

As stated above, in June 2017, Batticaloa was declared Sri Lanka's first district free from the threat of mines, following re-survey by MAG and joint clearance efforts from MAG and the SLA.<sup>21</sup> MAG reported releasing a total of just over 246,000m<sup>2</sup>, with the destruction of 383 anti-personnel mines and 2 items of unexploded ordnance (UXO).<sup>22</sup> Sri Lanka has set out a district-by-district approach to completing clearance, under which, following completion of Batticaloa, clearance of Trincomalee and Jaffna districts are planned to be completed next.<sup>23</sup>

## PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

The Ministry of 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). This body sets policy and is mandated to “manage linkages within the government, mine action community and donors”.<sup>24</sup> Its policies and decisions are implemented by the NMAC, set up in 2010<sup>25</sup> to: liaise with government ministries and development partners to determine mine action priorities; prepare a strategic plan; and set annual workplans to put it into effect. NMAC is also responsible for accrediting mine action operators, setting national standards, and acting as the secretariat of NSCMA.<sup>26</sup>

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. The Committees are chaired by government agents heading district authorities.<sup>27</sup>

Under its National Mine Action Strategy for 2016–20, the Government of Sri Lanka intends to convene steering committee meetings for mine action up to twice per year at national level and at three regional levels, one for Eastern province and two for Northern province.<sup>28</sup>

### Strategic Planning

At the request of NMAC, Sri Lanka’s National Mine Action Strategy for 2016–20 was reviewed in April 2018, in a multi-stakeholder workshop facilitated by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), and in consultation with operators and the SLA. The strategy, which sets the goal of clearing all mines and ERW by 2020, contains the following strategic objectives:

- The scope of the mine/ERW problem is identified, confirmed, and addressed using appropriate methodologies and resources
- Mine/ERW safe behaviour among women, girls, boys and men is promoted
- The needs of mine/ERW victims are determined and met and victims are integrated into society
- Sri Lanka accedes to the APMB and complies with relevant obligations
- Long-term residual contamination is effectively managed by appropriate and sustainable national capacities
- The Sri Lanka mine action sector can access quality information for its strategic and operational decision-making.<sup>29</sup>

The review of the strategy was necessitated by the completion of re-survey efforts which concluded in early 2017 and in order to revise the remaining estimate of contamination.<sup>30</sup> Notably, one of the main objectives of the plan, that Sri Lanka accedes to the APMB, was achieved in December 2017.

The initial strategy set a target of the release of 6.5km<sup>2</sup> of contamination by clearance and technical survey per year. According to The HALO Trust, the strategy is highly ambitious, but achievable, providing funding is in place.<sup>31</sup>

### Legislation and Standards

There is no national mine action legislation in Sri Lanka, based on available information. According to The HALO Trust and MAG, a review of Sri Lanka’s National Mine Action Standards (NMAS) was carried out in May 2017 with the input of all demining operators, and support from the GICHD.<sup>32</sup> As at August 2018, however, the revised standards had yet to be finalised and distributed to operators.<sup>33</sup>

### Quality Management

The HALO Trust and MAG confirmed that external quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC) were conducted by NMAC in 2017 on clearance tasks and that completed areas were sampled during post-clearance inspections prior to handover to local communities.<sup>34</sup>

According to The HALO Trust, NMAC maintained an improved response time to QA activities in 2017, as in 2016. HALO Trust stated that NMAC carried out QA site visits, post-clearance inspection visits, monitoring of data submitted by HALO, and QA of minefield execution plans throughout the year. On average, it reported that NMAC carried out site visits to three to four task areas in one field visit per month throughout the year. Final QA checks of post-clearance inspection had been occurring within one month of HALO’s submission of completion reports, it said, and that approval of minefield execution plans often occurred within the same day of submission.<sup>35</sup>

MAG confirmed that all tasks allocated by NMAC via the IMSMA database required the submission of a task execution plan and a completion report, and upon task completion, NMAC conducted post-clearance inspection visits, prior to hand-over to local communities.<sup>36</sup>

### Information Management

Sri Lanka’s Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database has reportedly undergone substantial and continuing improvements since the installation of an updated version of the software in 2015 and the initiation of a process of data entry and ground verification. Since that time, operators have reported that significant efforts have been exerted by stakeholders to correct erroneous data entered into IMSMA and to update the database on the basis of re-survey results, leading to a complete overhaul of the database and a more accurate representation of remaining contamination.<sup>37</sup>

The HALO Trust reported that it continued to liaise with NMAC to improve erroneous data in Sri Lanka's IMSMA database in 2017, as in the previous year, with QA by NMAC of IMSMA data typically occurring on a quarterly basis. It stated that the quality of data was vastly improved and that it continued to conduct trainings with the Geographic Information System (GIS) department of NMAC to ensure data accuracy.<sup>38</sup> According to The HALO Trust, however, while steady improvements were made throughout the year, towards the end of 2017 IMSMA encountered a number of problems that affected accuracy. These were addressed, and the GICHD, with support of operators, was planning to review the IMSMA system in the country in early 2018.<sup>39</sup>

MAG likewise confirmed that the IMSMA database continued to be refined in 2017, in particular as new data from non-technical survey results continued to be inputted by operators.<sup>40</sup> NMAC stated that all records of CHAs and SHAs were verified against old data in IMSMA in 2017 and cross-checked with all demining agencies.<sup>41</sup>

However, despite the improvements to the quality of the database reported by MAG, The HALO Trust, and NMAC in recent years, in 2017 significant delays persisted in the provision of transparent and timely updates by NMAC in response to information requests from international mine action stakeholders and discrepancies continued to be reported between the information reported from the IMSMA database and operators' records.

## Operators

In 2017, demining was conducted by the SLA; a national NGO, DASH and its subcontractor national organisation SHARP; and the two international NGOs, The HALO Trust and MAG.

The HALO Trust reported that as at December 2017, its operations staff capacity had increased by 62% over the previous year to a total of 715 (65 manual clearance teams, 12 mechanical clearance teams, and two survey/explosive ordnance disposal teams) – the result of greater funding from existing and new donors. As at 31 December 2017, mechanical assets comprised six front-end loaders, one tracked Caterpillar, one excavator, one tiller, one sifter, and one stone crusher. It also shared a second excavator with MAG. Machines are proving especially valuable in clearing mine lines in the Muhamalai minefield.<sup>42</sup>

MAG's capacity in 2017 remained largely consistent with the previous year at 15 manual clearance teams, 8 mechanical teams, as well as 2 community liaison teams and 9 medical teams.<sup>43</sup>

According to NMAC, in 2017, the SLA's demining unit deployed a total of 418 persons in demining operations, while DASH employed 369 staff in its demining activities, and its subcontractor, SHARP, employed a further 115 persons. The SLA had a total of 33 mini-flail machines, of which 12 were serviceable in 2017, along with a total of 12 mine detection dogs, of which 11 were deployed. Additionally, DASH deployed a mechanical rake machine during the year.<sup>44</sup>

## LAND RELEASE

A total of just over 5.7km<sup>2</sup> of anti-personnel mine contamination was reported released in 2017: nearly 4.8km<sup>2</sup> by clearance and technical survey and close to 1km<sup>2</sup> cancelled by non-technical survey.<sup>45</sup> This was a significant decrease from the overall land release reported in 2016 of nearly 38.5km<sup>2</sup>, (6.5km<sup>2</sup> by clearance and technical survey and 32km<sup>2</sup> cancelled).<sup>46</sup> This sharp decline in land release output was primarily due to the large drop in cancellation reported in 2017, due to the completion of a massive district-by-district re-survey at the beginning of the year.

The non-technical survey that began in June 2015 was completed in February 2017 with the cancellation of 42.4km<sup>2</sup> of SHA, reducing total contamination from 68.4km<sup>2</sup> to close to 26km<sup>2</sup>.<sup>47</sup>

NMAC has reported that, cumulatively, a total of 137km<sup>2</sup> of mined area was reduced or cleared between 2002 and May 2018, and a total of 735,444 anti-personnel mines, 2,073 anti-vehicle mines, and 556,384 items of UXO destroyed during that timeframe.<sup>48</sup> A total of nearly 38.5km<sup>2</sup> was reported released in 2016, including 6.5km<sup>2</sup> through clearance and technical survey, and over 32km<sup>2</sup> by non-technical survey. Close to a further 22km<sup>2</sup> was confirmed.<sup>49</sup>

## Survey in 2017

A total of just under 0.96km<sup>2</sup> was reported cancelled by non-technical survey by MAG and The HALO Trust in their areas of operations in 2017, while close to 0.76km<sup>2</sup> was confirmed as mined.<sup>50</sup> A total of just over 1.5km<sup>2</sup> reduced through technical survey by all operators during the year.<sup>51</sup> This compares to MAG and The HALO Trust's survey output in 2016, when a total of 32km<sup>2</sup> was cancelled by non-technical survey and 22km<sup>2</sup> was confirmed as mined, along with a total of just under 4.2km<sup>2</sup> reportedly reduced by technical survey by all operators.<sup>52</sup>

As stated, the sharp decline in cancellation reported by MAG and The HALO Trust in 2017 was due to the completion of large-scale re-survey efforts early in the year, after which operations focused on clearing the defined CHAs.<sup>53</sup> Ultimately, according to MAG, re-survey from June 2015 to February 2017 led to cancellation of 42.4km<sup>2</sup> of land, reducing the total of confirmed contamination to nearly 26km<sup>2</sup>.<sup>54</sup>

**Table 2: Mined area survey in 2017<sup>55</sup>**

Operator	SHAs cancelled	Area cancelled (m <sup>2</sup> )	SHAs confirmed as mined	Area confirmed (m <sup>2</sup> )	Area reduced by TS (m <sup>2</sup> )
DASH	0	0	0	0	235,386
MAG	3	342,785	38	648,230	802,833
HALO	18	616,388	11	114,276	188,532
SHARP	0	0	0	0	0
SLA	0	0	0	0	315,014
<b>Totals</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>959,173</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>762,506</b>	<b>1,541,765</b>

## Clearance in 2017

More than 3.2km<sup>2</sup> of mined area was reportedly cleared in 2017, with a total of 31,012 anti-personnel mines, 157 anti-vehicle mines, and 6,243 items of UXO destroyed.<sup>56</sup> This is an increase in clearance output from 2016, when a total of 2.3km<sup>2</sup> of mined area was reportedly cleared, however, there was a significant decrease in the number of anti-personnel mines reportedly destroyed, down from a total of 59,304 anti-personnel mines in 2016.<sup>57</sup>

Of the total mine clearance reported in 2017, just over 1.9km<sup>2</sup> of mined area was cleared by MAG and The HALO Trust, with a total of 8,303 anti-personnel mines, 46 anti-vehicle mines, and 3,185 items of UXO destroyed.<sup>58</sup> This compared with 2016, when the two operators reported clearing a total of just under 1.26km<sup>2</sup>, and destroying a total of 26,472 anti-personnel mines, 46 anti-vehicle mines, and 1,644 items of UXO.<sup>59</sup>

**Table 3: Mine clearance in 2017<sup>60</sup>**

Operator	Areas cleared	Area cleared (m <sup>2</sup> )	AP mines destroyed	AV mines destroyed	UXO destroyed
DASH	29	920,511	18,083	50	2,274
MAG	39	632,686	1,711	0	69
HALO	14	1,303,209	6,592	46	3,116
SHARP	3	183,517	481	61	690
SLA	11	205,908	4,145	0	94
<b>Totals</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>3,245,831</b>	<b>31,012</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>6,243</b>

AP = Anti-personnel AV = Anti-vehicle

The amount of land cleared by The HALO Trust increased substantially from close to 0.8km<sup>2</sup> in 2016 to more than 1.3km<sup>2</sup> in 2017, which HALO Trust said was due to an increase in the number of clearance teams deployed with increased funding from existing donors, along with additional funding from two new donors during the year.<sup>61</sup>

In 2017, MAG released a total of just under 1.44km<sup>2</sup> through clearance and technical survey, with the destruction of more than 1,700 anti-personnel mines and 64 items of UXO, compared with 2016, when MAG released in total over 1.12km<sup>2</sup> through clearance.<sup>62</sup> MAG reported no change in capacity in 2017 from the previous year, but said it was able to release more high-priority land in 2017. The total number of mines found and destroyed decreased, though, as a result of its tasks in Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts having a scattered, rather than a pattern-oriented mine placement. In Mannar district, MAG completed a large and densely contaminated barrier minefield running east-west in Madhu district, with teams spread across smaller sites in the same area.<sup>63</sup>

As reported above, MAG, with support from the SLA, completed clearance of Batticaloa district, Eastern province in June 2017. MAG reported that following completion of re-survey of the district, it began clearance in October 2016 and finished in May 2017, releasing a total of 246,266m<sup>2</sup>: 79,817m<sup>2</sup> through clearance and 146,567m<sup>2</sup> by technical survey, with the destruction of 383 anti-personnel mines and 2 items of UXO.<sup>64</sup>

## Deminer Safety

According to NMAC, four DASH deminers were injured in three demining accidents in Muhamalai, Kilinochchi district which occurred in April, June, and July 2017. In another incident in June 2017, in Trincomalee district, it reported that a SLA deminer was injured in another demining accident.<sup>65</sup>

The HALO Trust reported that while working in the Muhamalai minefield one deminer was involved in a demining accident in June 2017. He detonated a so-called “onion blast”, a local term for a small homemade device that is placed on the ground with the intention of killing or incapacitating animals, such as wild pigs. According

to HALO Trust, typically these items are used to hunt animals and not people. They are typically packed with commercially available low-grade explosives and ball bearings or other fragmentation, are wrapped in paper or plastic, and the devices are around 2cm in diameter. The deminer sustained only light injuries to a finger.<sup>66</sup>

## ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

Under Article 5 of the APMBC, Sri Lanka is required to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 1 June 2028. It should complete clearance fair in advance of this deadline, at latest by 2021.

MAG and The HALO Trust were optimistic that following Sri Lanka’s accession to the APMBC at the end of 2017, major international donors would re-engage in funding mine action to enable Sri Lanka to complete clearance by its target of end-2020, in accordance with its national strategic mine action plan.<sup>67</sup> Such an increase in funding has not yet materialised, but Sri Lanka should still complete clearance before the end of 2021. This date could itself be delayed, though, if funding is not sustained.<sup>68</sup> To meet its 2020 completion target, MAG and The HALO Trust estimate that an additional US\$8 million per year would be required.<sup>69</sup>

The Government of Sri Lanka created a national budget line for mine action in 2015.<sup>70</sup> According to NMAC, the Government’s funding for NMAC’s and the SLA demining units’ capital expenses was expected to increase significantly in 2019, to close to 260 million Rupees (approx. US\$1.5 million).<sup>71</sup>

However, both MAG and The HALO Trust feared that their operations would be hit by a possible decrease in funding for mine action by one of Sri Lanka’s largest donors, the United States (US), in 2018.<sup>72</sup>

In the last five years, Sri Lanka has reported clearing more than 19.3km<sup>2</sup> of mined area (see Table 4), though clearance dropped significantly in 2013 following a decline in capacity after closure of operations by the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD) in 2013 and two Indian demining NGOs (Horizon and Sarvatra), in 2012.

**Table 4: Mine clearance in 2013–17<sup>73</sup>**

Year	Area cleared (km <sup>2</sup> )
2017	3.25
2016	2.35
2015	3.52
2014	3.75
2013	6.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>19.31</b>

NMAC reported that according to its revised National Mine Action Strategy, the national target for anti-personnel mine clearance in 2018 is 9km<sup>2</sup>.<sup>74</sup> MAG reported that it was continuing to focus its clearance capacity in Mannar, Northern province, and Trincomalee district, Eastern province. It aimed to complete clearance of all remaining tasks in Trincomalee by mid-2018, enabling the Government of Sri Lanka to declare Sri Lanka’s second mine-affected district after Batticaloa as free of mines. It then intended to move its Trincomalee capacity to Mullaitivu district, Northern province, and continue its operations in Mannar.<sup>75</sup>

In 2018, The HALO Trust reported that in coordination with NMAC and its RMAO, it had elaborated a workplan to declare Jaffna district “mine-free” which it expected could be completed by the end of 2019, a highly significant achievement given the extent of its contamination. At the same time, it would continue to focus its operations on the Muhamalai minefield, along with other tasks in southern Kilinochchi district and northern Mullaitivu district. It also expected greater discussion and coordination with the SLA based on their increasing clearance capacity.<sup>76</sup>

1	Email from Alistair Moir, Country Director, MAG, 27 September 2017.	31	Email from Bartholomew Digby, HALO Trust, 5 March 2018.
2	Email from Alistair Moir, MAG, 8 August 2018.	32	Ibid.
3	Emails from Mahinda Bandara Wickramasingha, Assistant Director Operations, Quality Management, and Planning, Chairman Accreditation Committee, NMAC, 8 and 9 October 2018.	33	Email from Alistair Moir, MAG, 8 August 2018.
4	Email from Alistair Moir, MAG, 27 September 2017.	34	Emails from Bartholomew Digby, HALO Trust, 5 March 2018; and Alistair Moir, MAG, 8 August 2018.
5	Email from Alistair Moir, MAG, 8 August 2018.	35	Email from Bartholomew Digby, HALO Trust, 5 March 2018.
6	Statement of Sri Lanka, 16th Meeting of States Parties, Vienna, 18-21 December 2017.	36	Email from Alistair Moir, MAG, 8 August 2018.
7	Emails from Mahinda Bandara Wickramasingha, NMAC, 8 and 9 October 2018.	37	Emails from Bartholomew Digby, HALO Trust, 5 March 2018; and Alistair Moir, MAG, 8 August 2018 and 21 August 2017; and Helaine Boyd, HALO Trust, 25 April 2017.
8	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.	38	Email from Bartholomew Digby, HALO Trust, 5 March 2018.
9	Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement, and Hindu Religious Affairs, "Sri Lanka National Mine Action Strategy 2016–2020", May 2016, p. 6.	39	Ibid.
10	Ibid.; and interview with Rob Syfret, Operations Manager, HALO Trust, in Kilinochchi, 12 September 2016.	40	Email from Alistair Moir, MAG, 8 August 2018.
11	Email from Valon Kumnova, HALO Trust, 11 April 2014; and "Sri Lanka National Mine Action Strategy 2016–2020", May 2016, p. 6.	41	Email from Mahinda Bandara Wickramasingha, NMAC, 27 September 2018.
12	"Sri Lanka National Mine Action Strategy 2016–2020", May 2016, p. 6.	42	Emails from Bartholomew Digby, HALO Trust, 5 March 2018; and Matthew Hovell, 30 September 2018.
13	Email from Matthew Hovell, Regional Director, HALO Trust, 30 September 2018.	43	Email from Alistair Moir, MAG, 8 August 2018.
14	"Sri Lanka National Mine Action Strategy 2016–2020", May 2016, p. 7.	44	Email from Mahinda Bandara Wickramasingha, NMAC, 27 September 2018.
15	Emails from Bartholomew Digby, Regional Director, HALO Trust, 5 March 2018; and Mahinda Bandara Wickramasingha, NMAC, 7 October 2016.	45	Emails from Mahinda Bandara Wickramasingha, NMAC, 27 September 2018 and 8 October 2018; Bartholomew Digby, HALO Trust, 5 March 2018; and Alistair Moir, MAG, 8 August 2018.
16	Emails from Alistair Moir, MAG, 21 August 2017; and Helaine Boyd, Programme Support Officer, HALO Trust, 25 April and 28 September 2017.	46	Emails from Alistair Moir, MAG, 21 August 2017; and Helaine Boyd, HALO Trust, 25 April 2017; and presentation by Mahinda Bandara Wickramasingha, NMAC, "1st Quarter Meeting 2017", undated.
17	Email from Bartholomew Digby, HALO Trust, 5 March 2018.	47	Email from Alistair Moir, MAG, 27 September 2017.
18	Ibid.	48	Presentation by Mahinda Bandara Wickramasingha, NMAC, "Key Achievements and Way Forward", Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 7–8 June 2018.
19	Ibid.	49	Emails from Alistair Moir, MAG, 21 August 2017; and Helaine Boyd, HALO Trust, 25 April 2017; presentation by Mahinda Bandara Wickramasingha, NMAC, "1st Quarter Meeting 2017", undated; and "Sri Lanka National Mine Action Strategy 2016–2020", May 2016, p. 13.
20	Email from Alistair Moir, MAG, 8 August 2018.	50	Emails from Mahinda Bandara Wickramasingha, NMAC, 27 September 2018 and 8 October 2018; Bartholomew Digby, HALO Trust, 5 March 2018; and Alistair Moir, MAG, 8 August 2018.
21	Ibid.	51	Emails from Mahinda Bandara Wickramasingha, NMAC, 27 September 2018 and 8 October; Bartholomew Digby, HALO Trust, 5 March 2018; and Alistair Moir, MAG, 8 August 2018.
22	Ibid.	52	Emails from Alistair Moir, MAG, 21 August 2017; and Helaine Boyd, HALO Trust, 25 April 2017; and presentation by Mahinda Bandara Wickramasingha, NMAC, "1st Quarter Meeting 2017", undated.
23	Email from Alistair Moir, MAG, 8 August 2018; and presentation by Mahinda Bandara Wickramasingha, NMAC, "Key Achievements and Way Forward", Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 7–8 June 2018.	53	Emails from Bartholomew Digby, HALO Trust, 5 March 2018; and Alistair Moir, MAG, 8 August 2018.
24	"The National Strategy for Mine Action in Sri Lanka", Ministry of Economic Development, September 2010, p. 9; 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 programme 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.	54	Emails from Alistair Moir, MAG, 21 August and 27 September 2017.
25	The cabinet formally approved the creation of NMAC on 10 July 2010.	55	Emails from Mahinda Bandara Wickramasingha, NMAC, 27 September 2018; Bartholomew Digby, HALO Trust, 5 March 2018; and Alistair Moir, MAG, 8 August 2018. HALO Trust reported that this was cancellation of CHAs, not SHAs. It stated that the 11 areas confirmed were not SHAs, but rather newly identified as CHAs immediately during non-technical survey. NMAC, however, reported that MAG cancelled 4 areas with a size of 1,067,642m <sup>2</sup> and reduced a further 385,230m <sup>2</sup> of anti-personnel mine contamination by technical survey, while confirming 6 areas with a size of 1,179,834m <sup>2</sup> as mined. It reported that HALO Trust cancelled 18 SHAs with a size of 238,673m <sup>2</sup> and reduced a total of 16,596m <sup>2</sup> by technical survey, confirming an additional 4 areas with a size of 186,618m <sup>2</sup> . These figures do not match operators' records.
26	Email from Amanthi Wickramasinghe, Programme Officer – Peace and Recovery, UNDP, Colombo, 11 March 2011.	56	Emails from Mahinda Bandara Wickramasingha, NMAC, 27 September 2018 and 8 October 2018; Bartholomew Digby, HALO Trust, 5 March 2018; and Alistair Moir, MAG, 8 August 2018.
27	"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".	57	Emails from Alistair Moir, MAG, 21 August 2017; and Helaine Boyd, HALO Trust, 25 April 2017; and presentation by Mahinda Bandara Wickramasingha, NMAC, "1st Quarter Meeting 2017", undated.
28	"Sri Lanka National Mine Action Strategy 2016–2020", May 2016, p. 10.	58	Ibid.
29	Ibid., p. 11.	59	Emails from Alistair Moir, MAG, 21 August 2017; and Helaine Boyd, HALO Trust, 25 April 2017.
30	Emails from Bartholomew Digby, HALO Trust, 5 March 2018; and Alistair Moir, MAG, 8 August 2018.		



- 60 Emails from Mahinda Bandara Wickramasingha, NMAC, 27 September 2018 and 8 October 2018; Bartholomew Digby, HALO Trust, 5 March 2018; Camille Wallen, Head of Policy and Evaluation, HALO Trust, 9 October 2018; and Alistair Moir, MAG, 8 August 2018. NMAC reported that MAG cleared 584,278m<sup>2</sup> of anti-personnel mine contamination, destroying 1,723 anti-personnel mines, 2 anti-vehicle mines, and 128 UXO. It reported that HALO Trust cleared 531,588m<sup>2</sup> of anti-personnel mines contamination, destroying 8,788 anti-personnel mines, 8 anti-vehicle mines, and 1,554 UXO. These figures do not match operators' records. According to NMAC, the discrepancies in reporting could be due to NMAC's receiving and reporting on the basis of completion reports from operators. HALO Trust confirmed that delays in processing clearance figures for some CHAs until completion and handover could also account for discrepancies in operators' and NMAC's reported clearance figures.
- 61 Email from Bartholomew Digby, HALO Trust, 5 March 2018.
- 62 Emails from Alistair Moir, MAG, 8 August 2018 and 21 August 2017.
- 63 Email from Alistair Moir, MAG, 8 August 2018.
- 64 Ibid.
- 65 Email from Mahinda Bandara Wickramasingha, NMAC, 27 September 2018.
- 66 Email from Bartholomew Digby, HALO Trust, 5 March 2018.
- 67 Ibid.; and email from Alistair Moir, MAG, 8 August 2018.
- 68 Chris Loughran and Camille Wallen, "State of Play: The Landmine Free 2025 Commitment", MAG and HALO Trust, December 2017, p. 12.
- 69 Ibid.
- 70 "Sri Lanka National Mine Action Strategy 2016–2020", May 2016, p. 22.
- 71 Email from Mahinda Bandara Wickramasingha, NMAC, 27 September 2018. Exchange figures at 30 September 2018.
- 72 Emails from Bartholomew Digby, HALO Trust, 5 March 2018; and Alistair Moir, MAG, 8 August 2018.
- 73 In October 2018, NMAC informed Mine Action Review that a process to verify and re-enter all completion reports from 2002 to present into the IMSMA database had been completed, with the assistance of operators. NMAC stated that this had rectified a number of data entry errors and missing data which was not transferred during a migration from an older IMSMA legacy version of the database to the newer IMSMA NG software. As a result, however, NMAC reported that the total amount of anti-personnel mine clearance output per year had been adjusted from that previously reported (as contained in Table 4) to approx. 2.35km<sup>2</sup> in 2013; 2.66km<sup>2</sup> in 2014; 3.58km<sup>2</sup> in 2015; and 2.80km<sup>2</sup> in 2016. Emails from Mahinda Bandara Wickramasingha, NMAC, 8 and 9 October 2018.
- 74 Email from Mahinda Bandara Wickramasingha, NMAC, 27 September 2018.
- 75 Email from Alistair Moir, MAG, 8 August 2018.
- 76 Emails from Bartholomew Digby, HALO Trust, 5 March 2018; and Matthew Hovell, HALO Trust, 30 September 2018.