

22nd International Meeting of National Mine Action Programme for
National Directors and United Nations Advisors

A Safer Tomorrow for Children

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Secretary

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Development and Youth Affairs and**

Secretary

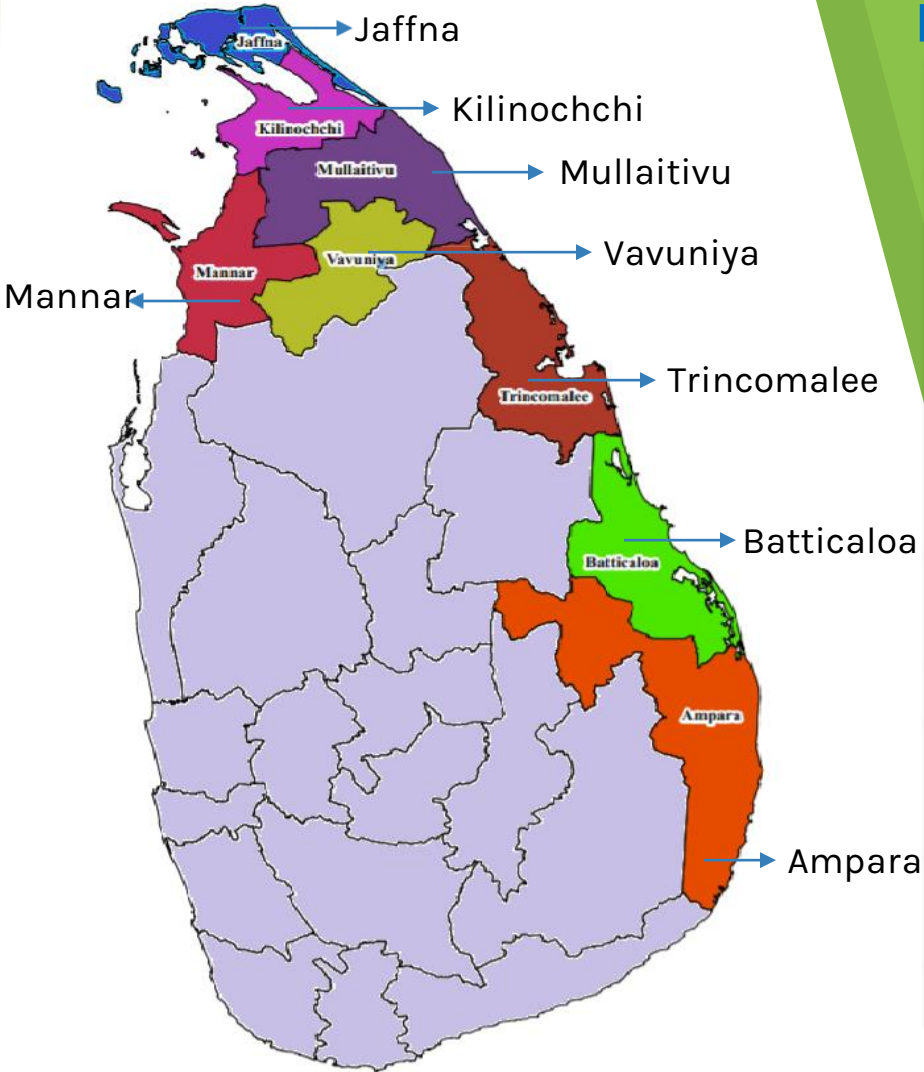
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Lands Contaminated by Mines

- 30 year long civil conflict between Sri Lankan Security Forces and the LTTE left many areas in the Northern and Eastern Parts of the country contaminated by
 1. Anti-Personal Mines (APM)
 2. Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)
- Both Sri Lankan Security Forces and the LTTE laid mines Also Indian Peace Keeping Forces (IPKF) used land mines during the period 1987-1990
- The protective mine fields were used for defensive positions
- Initial Survey - Approximately 1,302 Sq.km were identified as Suspected Hazardous Areas contaminated with mines and ERW

Lands Contaminated by Mines



Description of the Area	Sq.km
Initial suspected and known contaminated area	1,302
Non-technical Survey Reduction (SHA 1)	-57
Battle Area Clearance (SHA 2)	-1,039
Confirmed Hazardous Area (CHA)	206
Technical Survey Reduction	-46
Mine Field Clearance	-134
Area to be Cleared	26

Risks and Impacts of Contamination of Mines

- ▶ Deaths, casualties, Injuries and loss of limbs by stepping on land mines created Suspected Hazardous Area (SHA) which restricted movement of children
- ▶ Obstacle to safe return of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Refugee returnees and specially the children
- ▶ Restricted the creation of safe space for freedom to think, move, play and act
- ▶ Block access to areas such as paddy fields, fishing jetties, grazing lands and community infrastructure for children and families
- ▶ Denied children and citizens access to water, food, trade and services

Mine Action Programme

- Mine Action entails more than removing land mines from the Ground
- It includes protecting people from danger
- helping victims to become self-sufficient and active members of the community
- Reducing the risks and impacts of land mines and explosive hazards
- establish a safe environment to live dignified life



Sri Lanka Mine Action Program - Key achievement - “Radical Reducing Casualties”

Mine / ERW casualties since 2001 to 2018



Factors Contributed to the Success of Reducing Casualties

Mine Risk Education (MRE)

- National Mine Action Centre of the Ministry collaborated with Unicef, Ministry of Education, community and media
- School based MRE
- Community based MRE - advocacy and awareness
- Media based MRE

Effective Victim Assistance strategies

- First Aid and Emergency Care and continuous medical care (free health care)

Mine Risk Reduction Strategies

- Prioritization (High / Medium / Low risk areas)
Mapping Marking, Sign Boards and Fencing, Posters

School based MRE

MRE integrated into National School curriculum in 2011 under Civic education from grade 6 to 9

Around 2000 teachers were trained in effective delivery of MRE Knowledge and capacity building of children

- Identification of Mines /ERW
- Preventive approach / reporting and communicating
- Presentations / Case study & Briefing by Direct Victims

Improvised Explosive Device (IED) - It is a trapping device other than the conventional method where explosives are hidden for trapping - Education to create awareness of such suspicious devices

Community Based MRE

PRA / RRA techniques - Community mapping / Focus Group Discussions

Used various modalities based on the target group requirements and their risk taking behavior

Street dramas, puppet shows True story telling , community briefings , direct presentation , focus group discussion
PRA – seasonal calendar, community mapping
House to house visit
Posters /banners/ Audio and video visual (CD)/ Play cards and games (for children) and songs



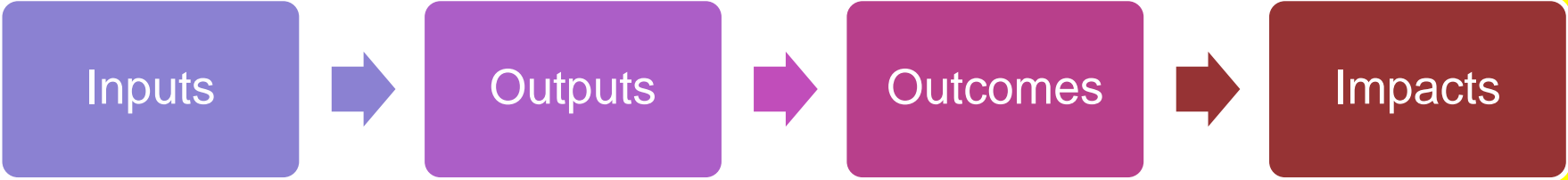
Media based MRE

MRE via Radio, local TV , Print media , SMS , Public announcing system via speaker, leaflets and poster etc.

One way communication to cover large group of audience
Media base MRE heavily used during peak of conflict in 2009 and there were very restricted options to physically reach the community members .

Media base MRE messages largely helped the community members during their move from LTTE control area to Government control areas during last battle in 2009 and save so much of people's life.

Mine Risk Education - Theory Of Change



**Community Ownership
Collective Action**

**KAP - Knowledge
/ Attitude /
Practice**

Mine Risk Reduction Strategy

Alternative options and approaches to safeguard the lives of people and fulfill their immediate requirement - burning for land clearing / garbage led to explosion of mines and ERW - reduce the burning for land clearance
Garbage burning guideline in 2013 (technical Note on burning)

Local authority to collect garbage

Special training for garbage collectors

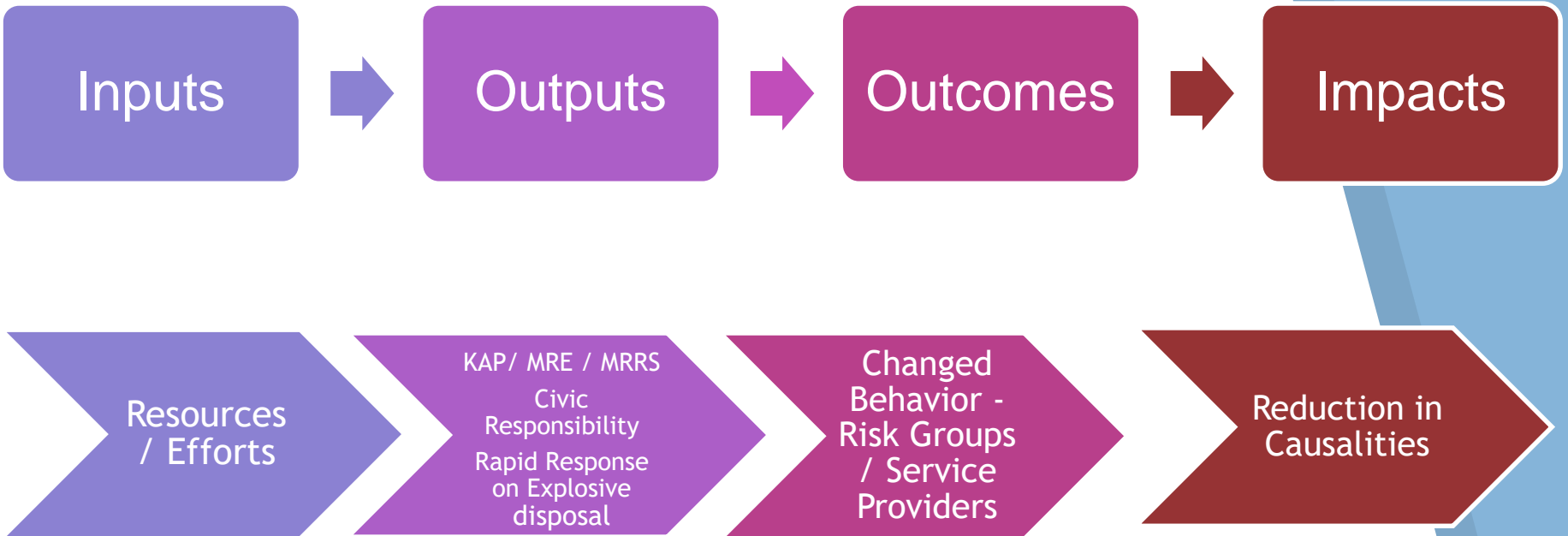
Scrap Metal Collectors - Education on possible risk

“Safe Play Areas” for children in newly resettled areas

Civilian reporting on Mine and explosive devices - Community responsibility

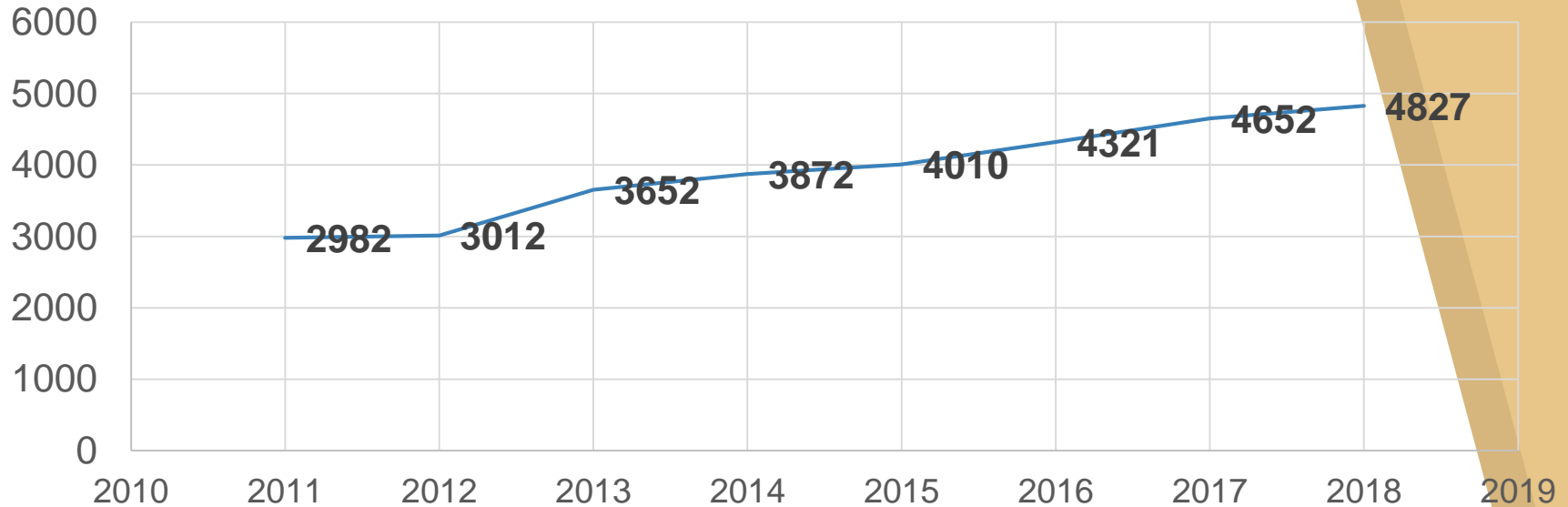
Recognize the community volunteers - Certificates / T-Shirts / Caps

Mine Risk Education - Theory Of Change



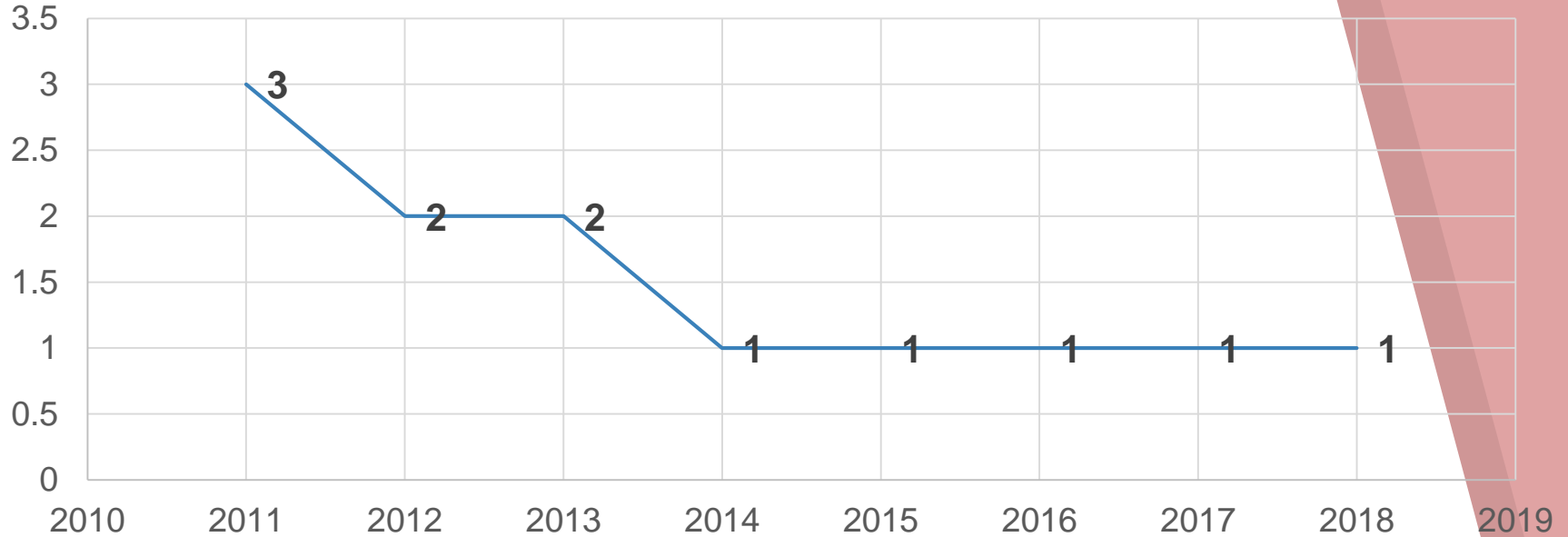
Increased Community Volunteerisms : Increased Reporting on Mines and Explosive Devices

Explosive devises reported by the community members



Explosive Ordnance Disposal

Average lead time for explosive devices removal in days



Use of village prioritization matrix

Village prioritization matrix assist to categories risk level of the particular village - high , medium or low
It help to identify the risk profile of the village - main risk taking behavior , target group etc

MRE program designed to cater the village specific needs

Formation of Village Mine Action Committee and Mine Action Plan

Victim Assistance in Sri Lanka

Data Gathering : Data on Victims by NMAC

First Aid Support (Emergency) - M / Health , M / Education and Community

Medical Care (continuous) - M / Health is provided free medical support

Counseling and Psycho - Socio support and addressing trauma

Physical Rehabilitation - Jaipur Centre / UOJ

a) Prosthesis - Artificial Limbs

b) Assisting Devices - Wheel Chairs / Walking Stick / Crutches

Social and Economic Reintegration - Ministry of Social Services / Ministry of Resettlement / CSOs - Vocational training, skills building and employment

Victim Assistance in Sri Lanka

Legal (Laws and Policies) - Sri Lanka was a signatory to the Convention on people with disability and ratified in 2016 - rights of persons with disability. Full and effective participation and inclusion in society (social / cultural / economic and political life)

Hospital Based Injury Surveillance System - mainstreamed into broader health system - more in-depth causes for deaths and integrating same into the health data system - already introduced in 116 hospitals (Base Hospitals and above)

Strong leadership and ownership of Sri Lankan Government on Mine Action program

National Ownership and High Level Commitment - Establishment of National / Regional Mine Action Centers under the Ministry of Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Northern Province Development - In 2009 - National level coordination mechanism

Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) - disaggregated data on hazardous areas - Prioritization of clearance operations / land release/casualties / Mine risk educational Activities - Programme planning and resource mobilization

Mine Action strategy for Sri Lanka with Demining, Mine Risk Education, Advocacy, Victim Assistance, Stockpile Destruction

MRE adopted into the National school curriculum - in 2011

Substantial Budgetary allocation for de-mining programme with designated focal point

Vision 2020 - Mine Free Sri Lanka

Signing of Anti-personnel Mine Ban treaty (2017) , convention on cluster munitions (2018) and convention on people with disability (2007)

Lesson learnt

Government Commitment to Mine Free Sri Lanka 2020 / Ownership / National Budgetary Allocation

Evidence-based programmatic interventions

Community empowerment and Civic consciousness with ownership

Innovative risk reduction strategies

Wider MRE Programme built into schools, Community and Media with prioritization of risks

Institutionalizing the Mine Action Programme into Sri Lankan Army with NMAC - Sustainability and capacity building

Mine Action Strategy / IMSMA; Village Prioritization Matrix, Mapping, Markings, Sign Boards and Fencing

Focus on Victim assistance

Victim Briefing as an Educational Strategy

Demining Facilitated Resettlement of IDPs as at 30.11.2018

Province / District	IDPs Resettled		IDPs to be Resettled		
	No. of Families	Persons	No. of WC	No. of Families	Persons
Northern Province					
Jaffna	34,391	109,678	25	627	2,216
Kilinochchi	45,501	145,383	FR	8,988	31,101
Mullaitivu	44,044	136,524	FR	68	188
Mannar	27,592	100,031	FR	-	-
Vavuniya	15,364	55,140	FR	15	44
Total Northern Province	166,892	546,756		10,138	34,916
Eastern Province					
Tricomalee	35,869	138,573	FR	240	557
Batticaloa	37,096	127,226	FR	131	453
Ampara	18,310	71,286	FR	-	-
Total Eastern Province	91,275	337,085		371	1,010
Grand Total	258,167	883,841	25	10,509	35,926

High Impact

Thank You