

DEMINING IN NORTHERN AND EASTERN PROVINCES



Scope of the Project: The civil war in the Northern and Eastern Provinces over the last three decades has led to contamination of the region by deadly mines which were a serious threat to the safety of the people living in these areas and those who were displaced during the war and returning back to their homes. Based on the request from the Government of Sri Lanka, Government of India deputed seven teams to facilitate demining of the affected areas. The Humanitarian Demining operation has been one of the most important activity in helping return of normalcy in North and East Sri Lanka. The aim of the project was to support the early resettlement process of 3,00,000 IDPs.

Project Cost: LKR 1 billion (INR 40 Crore)

Project Status :Completed in 2012 (Duration 3 years)

Implementing Partners:

- a. Presidential Task Force (PTF) for Resettlement, Development and Security in the Northern Province
- b. Ministry of Economic Development
- c. NGOs – Sarvatra& Horizon from India

Mechanism of implementation: Government of India had appointed Indian NGOs Sarvatra Technical Consultants (four teams) and Horizon Assignments (three teams) to assist the Government of Sri Lanka to demine the region. These Seven teams have been engaged in de-mining operations since August 2009 in North and East of Sri Lanka. The Indian Teams undertake demining exercise both mechanically and manually as per the task assigned by the District Mine Action Office as authorized by the Government Agent and under the overall monitoring by the High Commission of India.

Benefitted areas: Areas affected by the armed conflict have been benefitted by the Project to remove the mines in civil areas



Woman deminer at workin VA 654 Railway Line

Impact :The project has cleared 65 million sqmeters of area and helped the families displaced by the armed conflict to return back to their original home to live in a safe environment. The Project has also helped to generate 350,000 mandays of employment for local deminers besides facilitating in other economic and infrastructural development of the region