

Danish Demining Group – Sri Lanka

Humanitarian Accountability Framework, October 2011

Brief description of the country programme

Due to a vigorous government campaign and with international assistance to return IDPs as quickly as possible, the camps that were housing as many as 300,000 IDP are now closing down. However, many of the returnees are still unable to return to their homes due to the threat of mine and UXO contamination. Instead, many are now hosted by family or in social institutions in their home area.

Danish Demining Group established a mine clearance program in Sri Lanka in January 2003 and has now cleared more than 9.73 million m² of land for resettlement and surveyed more than 2,147 km². In the course of our work 73,400 mines and UXO have been removed.

Initially the programme focused on supporting the 2002 cease fire and peace process by clearing land for resettlement and development in the eastern region. With renewed conflict in July 2006, DDG entered into an emergency clearance phase in support of the IDPs created by the fighting. This clearance focused on clearing contaminated villages which was hindering the return of the civil population. By 2006, DDG had supported the return of more than 2,500 families in the area.

Following the end of the conflict in May 2009, in accordance with government priorities, mine clearance was given high priority status in order to ensure a safe return of the hundreds of thousands of IDPs housed in camps in Vavuniya, Mannar and Jaffna. DDG, along with other mine action agencies responded by almost doubling our clearance capacity, to a total of 650 employees, whilst relocating operations to the areas formerly held by LTTE. This sudden increase was due to the generous support of donors including: DANIDA, Swedish Development Aid (SIDA), US Department of State, The Japanese Embassy and Swedish Postcode Lottery.

In late 2010/early 2011 this was followed by an unheralded decrease in funding, especially amongst our major donors who reviewed their strategies globally and in particular towards Sri Lanka. As a result, in late 2010 we found it necessary to reduce our capacity and resources by approximately 20%. Should additional funding not be secured for 2011/12 then further reductions will be necessary. This situation is affecting all HMA organisations to varying degrees.

According to military sources there are an estimated 1.2 million mines still to be cleared. DDG is currently operating in Jaffna, Vanni and Vavuniya. Jaffna in particular is a very high priority area to

enable the return of thousands of families. The Country Office is located in Colombo with a field office in Jaffna. External supervision and monitoring is provided by DDG HQ, Copenhagen.

DDG operates with 13 manual demining teams, 4 survey teams and 3 mechanical ground preparation units. Staff numbers include 4 internationals and 470 nationals. DDG is a manual demining based organisation utilising the raking method developed in Sri Lanka and complemented by 75 metal detectors and 3 Back Hoe Loaders (BHL) for ground preparation.

DDG expects to remain active in Sri Lanka at our current capacity until at least 2013 when the high priority tasks are expected to be completed. According to the National Mine Action Strategy (2010) it is expected that it will be necessary to continue mine clearance operations here until at least until 2015 in order to achieve zero impact status. Funding is currently provided by the US State Department (PM/WRA), DANIDA (Government of Denmark), AusAID (Australian Government) and SIDA (Government of Sweden).

Overall objectives

The Overall Objective for DDG Sri Lanka is:

'To assist in the goal of freeing Sri Lanka from the effects of landmines and UXO'

Immediate objective #1: *Facilitating the resettlement of IDPs and the regeneration of livelihoods through mine and UXO clearance in high priority areas.*

At the beginning of 2011 there were over 21,000 IDPs accommodated in Menik Farm camp. An estimated 74,000 IDP have returned and are living in either communal buildings or with relatives whilst waiting for safe access to their homes. The accelerated return programme has put pressure on all the demining organisations, adding to the emergency situation. Some IDPs have had no choice, but to settle on contaminated ground.

Mine clearance needs to be carried out not only in the residential areas, but also to allow the returnees access to traditional livelihood generating areas – these are classed as the high priority areas. Without the ability to sustain themselves and develop, the returnees will continue to be vulnerable.

Immediate objective #2: *Mitigate the risk posed by mines and UXO through information sharing and coordinating the activities of MRE teams provided by local NGOs operating with UNICEF funding.*

DDG cooperates with a local NGO to provide Mine Risk Education on our areas of operation.

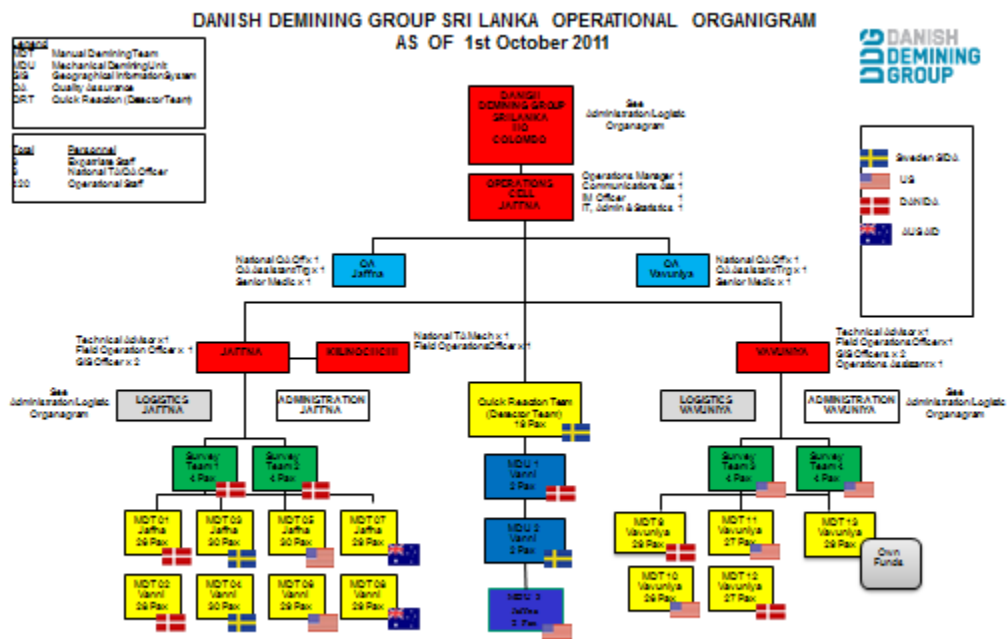
List of Stakeholders

- IDPs and returnees, waiting to return to areas of their origin
- People already returned to areas that are affected by mines and UXO

DDG coordinates its work with the local municipalities and governmental structures such as:

- The National Mine Action Centre
- Regional Mine Action centre
- Government Secretary to the districts
- NGO Secretariat
- Presidential Task Force
- UNDP
- Sri Lankan Army (SLA)
- UNICEF for Mine Risk Education
- Other mine action organisations in country

Organizational Chart



Commitment to local standards

DDG is committed to working within and complying with the requirements of the following codes, laws and standards:

- Labour code in all areas of operation
- NGO registration requirements and visa conditions
- United Nations Mine Action Standards (IMAS)
- Sri Lanka National Mine Action Standards (SLNMAS)

Relations to beneficiaries

In the mine contaminated areas where we operate we seek to provide IDPs with mine and UXO awareness of the risks and how to adopt safe behaviour.

DDG has implemented an Impact Monitoring tool to evaluate the kind and scale of impact achieved by our interventions. The impact monitoring tool not only helps us to identify where each programme and activity can adjust and change to maximize impact, it also acts as a tool for gathering information about our activities through meetings with officials and IDPs that have returned. The impact monitoring process further strengthens and builds on our data which is then disseminated to stakeholders.

Community entry meetings are conducted on all our sites where the beneficiaries and official representatives are informed about our work, our contact details and complaints procedures.

List of current projects

Project title	Emergency clearance in support of immediate return and regeneration of livelihood for internally displaced people from northern Sri Lanka
Donor	DANIDA
Project Date	01.04.2011 – 31.12.2011
Objective(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) To provide safe access to homes and livelihood activities for beneficiaries in northern Sri Lanka2) To supply key stakeholders with information regarding mine and EWR contamination in order to provide a safe environment for communities3) To assist in strengthening the national mine action capacity to manage and

	coordinate mine action activities in Sri Lanka
Number of teams supported	3 MDT, 2 ST, 1 MDU + support staff

Project title	Emergency general mine action assessment survey and mine clearance in Sri Lanka north(previous LTTE controlled area)
Donor	SIDA
Project Date	01.07.2010 – 31.09.2012
Objective(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Facilitation of resettlement or return of the IDPs originating from the northern areas 2) Clearance of residential and livelihood areas, access roads and tracks leading to resettlement areas 3) Battle area clearance and demolition of USO and ERW found 4) Assist in securing safety among returnees by information sharing and facilitation of mine risk education
Number of teams supported	2 MDT, 1 MDU + support staff

Project title	Emergency mine clearance in support of return and resettlement of IDPs in northern Sri Lanka
Donor	US DOS PM/WRA
Project Date	01.07.2011 – 31.01.12
Objective(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Facilitating the resettlement of IDPs and the regeneration of livelihoods through mine and UXO clearance in high priority areas 2) Mitigate the risk posed by mines and UXO through information sharing and coordinating the activities of MRE teams provided by local NGOs operating with

	UNICEF funding
Number of teams supported	3 MDT, 1 ST, 1 QRT, 1 MDU + support staff

Project title	Emergency mine survey and clearance in support of return and resettlement of IDPs in northern Sri Lanka
Donor	AusAID
Project Date	30.03.2011 – 31.04.2012
Objective(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The safe resettlement of IDPs and the regeneration of livelihoods through mine and UXO clearance in high priority areas 2) Mitigate the threat to returning IDPs by sharing information and coordination with MRE teams attached to DDG operations from MRE providers that are operating under UNICEF sponsorship, this ensuring all returning IDPs are informed of the mine risk specific to their home area.
Number of teams supported	2 MDT, 2 ST, 1 QRT + support staff

Essence of Accountability Baseline and Accountability Improvement Plan

HAF will be finalised and distributed for posting and training in HAP will be provided for senior managers.

Performances appraisals will be conducted on a yearly basis after a trial period we are now ready to conduct the first in November 2011. Alongside this appraisal training needs or/and wishes will be identified and evaluated.

Guidelines on Information sharing is to be designed and implemented

Impact monitoring and base line studies will continue on all our sites in a timely manner.

Our complaints procedure will be evaluated and stakeholders will be informed on our procedures.

A performance monitoring tool against HAP will be developed and implemented.