HUMANITARIAN
MINECLEARANCE IN:

AFGHANISTAN
GEORGIA
COLOMBIA
ZIMBABWE
MOZAMBIQUE
SOMALILAND
LAOS
KOSOVO
SRI LANKA
CAMBODIA
ANGOLA
IVORY COAST
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Australian AID

FINAL REPORT

Mineclearance for resettlement in Northern Sri Lanka

Agreement No. 61807

1st February 2012 – 30th September 2012

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 1st February 2012, this AusAID-funded project (agreement no. 61807) has facilitated the safe return of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and the resumption of livelihoods to 22 Grama Niladhari (GN) divisions in Kilinochchi, Jaffna and Mullaitivu Districts by supporting:

- Manual mineclearance of 172,803 m^2 / 17 hectares / 43 acres of residential and livelihood areas in Jaffna, Kilinochchi and Mullativu Districts,
- Battle Area Clearance (BAC) of 348,785 m^2 / 34 hectares / 86 acres in Kilinochchi District,
- Removal and destruction of 2,280 anti-personnel mines, 11 anti-tank mines 1,616 items of unexploded or abandoned ordnance (including mortars, grenades and booby-traps) and 11,633 rounds of small arms ammunition.

There were a total of 34,900 direct and indirect beneficiaries from this project based on the number of returnees to the 22 GN Divisions in which work took place.

A deminer clears along the former SLA front line at Nagarkovil, where AusAid teams worked. Clearance of this minefield allowed over 230 families to resettle.

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

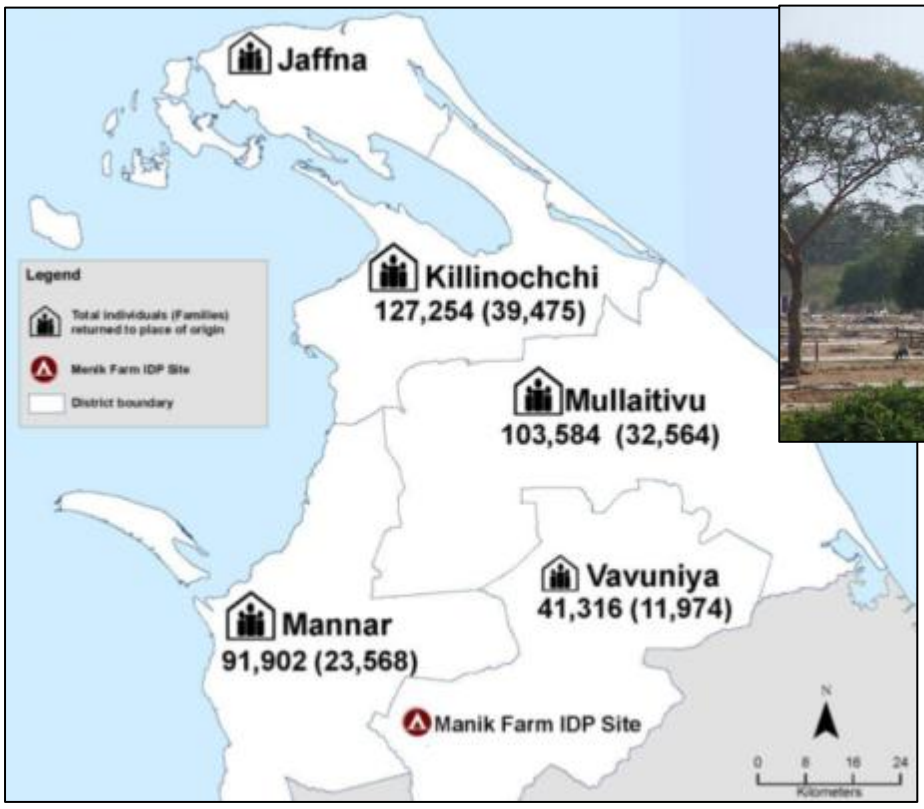
Goal

- ***To support the Government of Sri Lanka's on-going IDP returns programme by providing a secure environment through efficient mineclearance***

While the majority of the 300,000 IDPs displaced from the Vanni in the final stages of the conflict had returned to their homes by 2011, at the start of the reporting period, some 7,000 IDPs remained in Menik Farm awaiting resettlement. Predominantly from coastal areas in Mullativu District - the last battleground of the war, these people were not allowed to return to their land as it was thought to be highly contaminated with mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). In addition, while the majority of IDP's had returned to their area of origin in Kilinochchi District, many had not yet returned to their own land either residential or agricultural due to it being contaminated with mines/ERW.

During the reporting period, AusAID funded teams in Karachchi and Pachchilaipallai DS Divisions (Kilinochchi District) have cleared over 13.9 hectares through manual mineclearance on 48 minefields. In addition 34.8 hectares have been cleared through Battle Area Clearance (BAC), facilitating the return of IDPs. During this time, over 4,800 IDPs returned to Kilinochchi District, some 4,300 of whom have returned to GNs where HALO has conducted mineclearance and BAC.

In April 2012 HALO was given permission to survey and clear minefields in the coastal DS Divisions of Maritimepattu and Puthukkudiyiruppu (PTK) in the district of Mullaitivu. AusAID funded teams have cleared over 1.8 hectares of land in PTK, with one minefield completed and waiting to be handed over. During the reporting period, 7,623 people have returned to Mullativu District from Menik Farm and other IDP camps which closed its doors in September 2012.



Menik Farm after closure (above)

Returnees to Districts in Northern Sri Lanka as of end September 2012 (left)

Source: Compiled by UNHCR from district and Government data, released by UN OCHA Sri Lanka

As these areas were opened for demining HALO began clearance in the GN's of Thevipuram and Valipunam where resettlement was already underway. While the area had been declared safe, as returnees began to rebuild their houses, and cultivate their land, previously unknown minefields began to be identified. Initially requested to conduct non-technical survey, HALO began clearance in April 2012. Although small, these contaminated areas abutted houses and gardens and so severely restricted both movement and the resumption of any form of normal life.

In addition to the 300,000 people displaced since 2007, it is estimated that around 25,000 "old caseload" IDPs who were displaced before the 2002 ceasefire, have still not been able to return to their homes, some for over 20 years. These IDPs own land either inside the High Security Zone in Jaffna or on the densely mined former front lines at Mugamalai (Pachillaipallai Division) and Nagarkovil (Maruthankerny Division).

AusAID-funded teams have cleared 14,400 sq.m (1.4 hectares) of the former front line at Nagarkovil allowing for the resettlement of over 230 families since April 2012. AusAID funding has also contributed to the on-going clearance of the former front line at Mugamalai through BAC and mineclearance, which will allow some 52 families to resettle.

In April 2012 Danish Demining Group withdrew from the Jaffna peninsula due to funding restrictions. Following this HALO was requested by the RMAO to complete the clearance of the minefields along the eastern edge of the former HSZ that had already been started by DDG. HALO has responded rapidly in order to complete clearance of these high priority minefields, both around the perimeter of the High Security Zone (HSZ) in Jaffna and the eastern sectors of the former front line at Nargarkovil. In addition to these being very high priority minefields in their own right, restricting the resumption of livelihoods and resettlement, there is a particular danger that with the departure of mineclearance teams it is assumed by the local community that the area has been cleared and it is now safe to use. HALO survey teams undertook a significant amount of community liaison in order to prevent this assumption.

Map of the Jaffna High Security Zone minefields that were suspended with DDG's withdrawal from the Jaffna Peninsula.

The areas where HALO is currently conducting clearance are highlighted in yellow.

The following are just some examples of those returning to land where AusAID has funded clearance:

FORMER FRONT LINE, NAGARKOVIL EAST, JAFFNA

Since March 2011 HALO has been clearing the densely mined former front line at Nagarkovil. Before the start of this reporting period, HALO had already completed clearance on the western side of the village, allowing more than 200 families to resettle.

A deminer clearing around a house in Nagarkovil East

In March 2012 HALO handed over the village of Nagarkovil for resettlement of the western part of the village to begin. Over 230 families have been able to resettle since. During the clearance over 18,000 mines were found and removed. AusAID teams conducted clearance of 13,400 sq.m in Nagarkovil, and clearance continues so as to enable the remaining families to resettle, paddy fields to be ploughed and access to the coast for the dozens of fishermen who have returned to the area.

HALO has also been working with development NGOs such as ZOA Refugee Care (under a DFID funded contract) to facilitate the construction of temporary shelters, latrines, well cleaning and renovation as well as provision of livelihoods assistance. This high degree of coordination has allowed resettlement to take place immediately on the completion of HALO's clearance.

Sivapalasuntharam with his wife and two of their children inspect what remains of their permanent house upon their return to Nagarkovil.

Arumukam Sivapalasuntharam and his family of seven were displaced from Nagarkovil in 1995 and were forced to move south to Mullaitivu, where they lived for 13 years before being displaced again in 2008 to Kaithady IDP camp in Jaffna. At the end of the war they left the camp to live in a relation's house in Kudathanai, as their land was still inaccessible due to the presence of mines in Nagarkovil.

In April 2012 they were finally able to return to their land after HALO had completed mineclearance on the eastern side of the village. Before the war they had a permanent house, but the years of heavy fighting left nothing more than the foundations remaining (as seen in the photo). When they first returned to Nagarkovil they had to build a shelter out of readily available materials. They have since

received a temporary shelter with concrete foundations and a tin sheet roof from ZOA, which will provide more shelter during the wet season.

Like many of the community in Nagarkovil, before the war Sivapalasuntharam was a fisherman, owning several boats and nets, and could afford to employ casual labourers to assist him. However, when he was displaced he was forced to leave all his fishing materials and boats behind. While he earns less than before the war, with the provision of a fishing net from ZOA and a boat shared with another fisherman from the village, Sivapalasuntharam has been able to resume his livelihood and he hopes that one day he will be able to rebuild the permanent house for his family.

KILINOCHCHI DISTRICT

Ponnagar

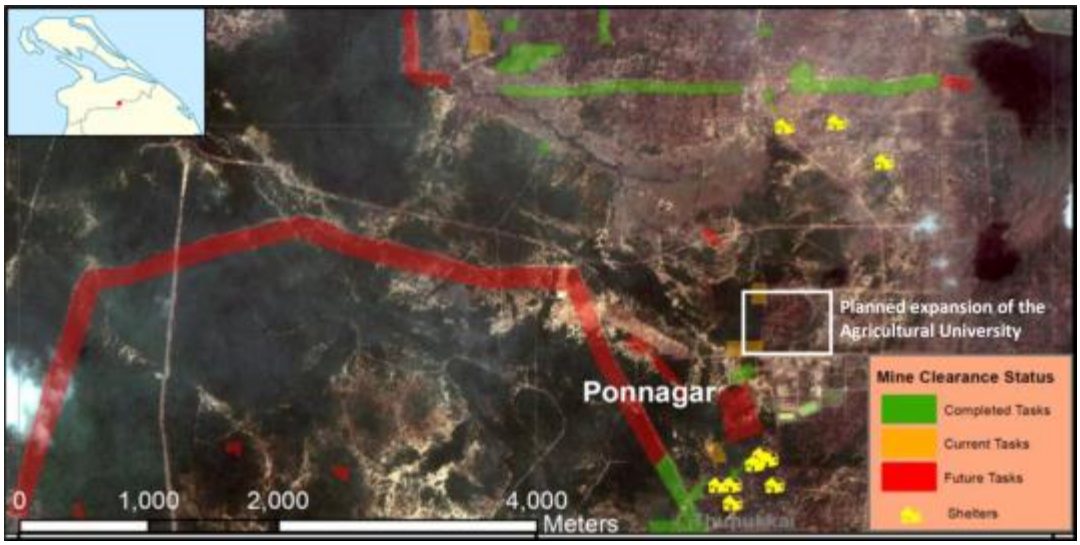
In 2008 the LTTE created a defensive bundline running along the southern edge of Karachchi Division from Ponnagar in south east Karachchi defending Kilinochchi against the Sri Lankan army's advance on the town. Smaller minefields were also laid around Ponnagar village in order to defend an LTTE munitions factory. Under this project AusAID teams have conducted clearance on six minefields around Ponnagar, three of which have now been completed.

A HALO team clearing an LTTE bunker in Ponnagar

Due to the unknown extent of the minefields around Ponnagar, many families, such as Annatharasa Sadayan (pictured below) and his family, were unable to resettle onto their land until clearance had been completed. Displaced from Ponnagar in 2006, Sadayan's family migrated to India until the war finished.

In November 2011 they returned to Ponnagar, only to find a minefield adjoining their land. In 2003 Sadayan lost his leg in a mine accident while working as a labourer in Mannar, so he was concerned about the safety of his family living so close to a minefield. They therefore decided to wait until mineclearance was completed before returning to their land. In March 2012 they were able to move back onto their land and they have since received a temporary shelter (pictured left) and toilet from ZOA, funded through HALO.

Map showing the status of minefields in the Ponnagar area



In addition to assisting resettlement of IDPs, HALO's mineclearance around Ponnagar will also benefit the wider area of the northern provinces through allowing the expansion of the Agricultural University (now a department of the University of Jaffna), which was constructed but never opened due to the resurgence of the conflict in 2006. As some of the University's land has since been mined by the LTTE, it cannot reopen until the mines have been cleared from this land.

While work to repair the university buildings damaged during the war is ongoing (pictured left), AusAID demining teams cleared over 100 mines from the land. The University hopes to be ready to open in January 2013, which will create an initial 100 jobs. Future plans to expand it to include an engineering school, will bring further opportunities for employment and education, and help put this part of Kilinochchi District back on its feet.

Akkarayankulam Bundline

Akkarayankulam is one of the many villages in Karachchi Division which saw the 22km long bund-line run straight through houses, gardens and paddy fields. The defensive line, which was built by the LTTE in 2008 as an attempt to defend the outskirts of Kilinochchi town is mined along its entire length and subsequently a major obstacle to the resettlement of returnees.

Many of those families displaced in 2008 returned in April 2011 to see their homes destroyed and plots of land littered with mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO). HALO began clearance immediately as there were 23 families waiting to resettle onto the mined land. Desperate, as so many are, to start building homes and planting crops, many families stayed just meters away from clearance on the other side of the bund whilst HALO teams cleared the minefield.

One of these was Sellamuthu Sevalingham and his family, who were staying in a temporary shelter just meters from the other side of the bund. He visited his own plot of land daily after it had been cleared of mines, to make plans for the construction of his new home. Since the land was cleared of mines he became eligible for a permanent house under the Government scheme.

Sevalingham is grateful to HALO; he says that without the land being cleared, he would not have been able to register for support in constructing a new home. He too will use the land to grow vegetables which will provide some additional income. In one day the family could earn an additional 400Rs from selling their produce while at the moment they are surviving on 600Rs per day through Sevalingham's labour work.

Above: Sevalingham stands on his plot of land after HALO Trust clearance, before his new house was constructed under the housing scheme. The yellow sticks mark where HALO teams removed mines.

In addition to housing plots being cleared from any mines threat, clearance of the areas of jungle and scrub, which had never been used for residential purposes before the war, has enabled it to now be used for new housing schemes.

Left: Sevalingam and family in front of their almost completed permanent house

Objective One

To save lives and prevent injury and create conditions for the safe return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes

- ***Contaminated land identified, marked, recorded and prioritised for clearance***

The HALO survey teams are considered to be a programme-wide asset and therefore assist all demining operations through the identification and definition of suspected hazardous areas which are then reported and recorded onto the national Mine Action database (IMSMA).

Although this project has not funded HALO survey teams, the work of AusAID deminers has been facilitated by the survey teams through their identifying, defining and marking of mined areas.

Baseline assessment

In the second half of 2011, in conjunction with non-technical survey, HALO conducted a socio-economic baseline study, which has enabled a work plan to be drawn up that prioritised clearance of those areas that were most deprived, and where minefields or ERW contamination exacerbated the problems faced by the local community. This data has been used throughout this project, enabling a greater understanding of the expected outcome of mineclearance on the livelihoods of the local population and IDPs returning to the area. With this information, those areas in which minefields seriously hamper development, either through preventing the construction of houses, the cultivation of land, or through blocking access to economic centers or water sources are prioritised.

HALO staff interviewing a landowner to identify the land use of a mined area in Jaffna

One example of the importance of this socio-economic information, is HALO's clearance at Nagarkovil, where the information received from the study enabled HALO to prioritise clearance of the village area first to allow IDPs who had been displaced for over 15 years to resettle as soon as the village had been cleared, while clearance of the rest of this former front line is on-going. In addition, information received by HALO during clearance from people waiting to return to their land, enabled ZOA Refugee Care to plan for shelter construction and livelihood package distribution with a greater confidence in the number of returnees and their economic status.

Through possessing socio-economic information about minefields before clearance, HALO will be able to effectively plan a post-clearance land-use study to be conducted in the third quarter of 2013. This will show the impact of HALO's mineclearance on the welfare of returning IDPs in northern Sri Lanka, and the livelihoods of their families now and of generations to come.

Tasking, Coordination and Prioritisation

Throughout the reporting period senior HALO staff have attended the weekly coordination meetings held in each of the districts where HALO is conducting clearance, Jaffna Kilinochchi and Vavuniya (the Vavuniya RMAO covers mineclearance activities in Mullaitivu). The principle purpose of these meetings, in addition to supplying updates on the status of minefields, is to provide a forum for discussions on technical problems, both in the field and administration and to respond to requests from NGOs and Government authorities.

Minefields are also 'tasked' to Mine Action agencies during these meetings, whereby an agency receives permission to begin clearance on a particular minefield that is signed off by the RMAO, Government Agent and Security Forces Commander for the area. The Jaffna RMAO has organized this along geographical and administrative boundaries and issues general tasking orders that cover a number of minefields; however Vavuniya still allocates individual tasking orders for each minefield

which must be received prior to clearance beginning. HALO maintains that a single agency being held responsible for a particular area allows for a greater degree of accuracy and flexibility as the survey and clearance is conducted by the same teams and they can therefore react to additional information and/or a change in priority more rapidly.

While the national work plan is drawn up by NMAC in full consultation with all agencies, there are many factors that lead to this changing throughout the year. These can range from a change in land allocation to weather conditions that may delay the deployment of resources in a particular area. All recorded data is submitted into the IMSMA database through which the prioritisation process is able to take place and HALO's proposed changes to work plans are discussed with the RMAO during the weekly coordination meetings.

A HALO survey officer marks the periphery of the mined area at Nagarkovil (left)

In addition to coordinating with the RMAO, HALO also maintains close ties with other Mine Action agencies in Sri Lanka. This is particularly the case regarding the SLA and DASH who have regularly requested assistance relating to survey and GIS. HALO has also supplied DASH with technical assistance relating to the detection of SLA laid P4 antipersonnel mines at depth which were tested at the HALO training ground in Kilinochchi. These are minimum metal mines and the Minelab F3S detectors must be re-calibrated before they will receive a signal.

National database (IMSMA) updated and land handed over

The process of 'cleaning' the data held on the national IMSMA database also continues, with HALO providing the Survey and GIS resources in order to cancel or resurvey 'Dangerous Areas' that had been mapped previously and with only a limited knowledge of the threat. As people resettle, additional information becomes available and the threat can be more accurately assessed. This enables NMAC to make much more realistic assessments of the remaining threat and what resources the government requires both in the short and long term.

Accurate survey also enables local government to continue with the coordination of development in the areas in which minefields still pose a threat. HALO has demonstrated that both resettlement and other development projects can continue alongside mineclearance as long as there is good communication and a detailed understanding of the extent of the threat. For example, HALO has responded to requests from the Government Agent in Kilinochchi for clarification over the extent of minefields and the location for housing projects in the area of Vannerikulam in which UNHABITAT is constructing permanent housing. While some of their chosen locations could not be used due to contamination by ERW (the priority of the minefield was then upgraded, and clearance began soon after), adjacent properties could, enabling UN HABITAT to more accurately plan their shelter construction.

During the reporting period HALO survey teams conducted a thorough survey of the suspected mined area around the Mugamalai forward defence line (FDL) which helped to define the suspected hazardous

area. The cancellation of large parts of the suspected hazardous area has enabled the local government authority to declare these areas safe for resettlement after BAC conducted by AusAID funded teams. As a result, over 240 families were allowed to move back to Kilali village where development agencies have also been implementing housing and livelihoods projects to assist returnees. On the south-eastern side of the identified minefields (as shown in the map below) 177 families have returned to the GN of Vempodakerny and 150 families have returned to the GN of Ithavil since the land was declared safe for resettlement in 2011. Finally, an area which underwent extensive battle area clearance by AusAID, the GN of Mugamalai, (to the northwest of the FDL) was declared safe to resettle in 2012, where 130 families have registered to resettle from October 2012.

The Mugamalai Forward Defence Line and surrounding resettlement areas

Through engaging with local authorities, residents and returnees, HALO was able to prioritise the areas requiring the most urgent resettlement along the Mugamalai former front line. These areas include a 200m wide strip either side of the A9, the main highway to Jaffna, as this is originally where many services were located before the war, including two schools, a health centre, library and a church.

Mixed anti-personnel and anti-tank minelines at Mugamalai

During this project AusAID funded demining teams have cleared

over 7,000 sq.m of this minefield in addition to battle area clearance in the surrounding GNs which has facilitated resettlement.

In addition to this, the road between Kilali and Palai town has been prioritised for clearance as it is a highly desired transport route between the two towns. Clearance of this route will help fishermen in Kilali to take their catch to market in Palai without the detour they currently have to travel. It will also provide access to the principle administrative centre of the Division, schools and other facilities.

HALO deminers conduct manual mineclearance along the side of the A9 road (one of the prioritised sections of the Mugamalai FDL)

Objective Two

Restoration of safe access to land and infrastructure for the resumption of livelihoods

- ***Land cleared of mines for resettlement and livelihood activities***

Mineclearance

Over the period of this contract, aided through a devaluation of the rupee and careful budgeting, AusAid has funded an additional 31 section months to the initially proposed 104. The teams worked on a total of 48 minefields in Jaffna, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu Districts, 17 of which have now been completed. These teams removed 999 anti-personnel mines, 11 anti-tank mines and 292 items of unexploded or abandoned ordnance. A total of 172,803sq.m / 17 hectares / 43 acres were cleared manually.

HALO continues to use metal detectors wherever possible, however areas with high metal contamination require full manual excavation methods to be used. Unfortunately, due to both heavy fighting

A deminer conducting clearance using the linear method, which allows the deminers to work along long strips of land greatly improving efficiency and fluidity

and the close proximity of LTTE minefields to residential areas, this comprises a large proportion of HALO's current minefields. In addition to this, during the reporting period the most common LTTE manufactured mine, the Rangan, has become more difficult to detect due to degradation of the metal components after more than three years since they were laid. This has resulted in the increased use of full manual excavation resulting in lower clearance rates than HALO has had in previous years.

In order to improve the efficiency of clearance, during the reporting period HALO began to retrain its manual mineclearance teams to use a "linear drill" on minefields where detectors can be used. This clearance method aims to improve efficiency through the use of a team system, in which each deminer is responsible for a single task such as cutting vegetation, identifying signals or excavating signals, rather than a single deminer switching between the different tasks. Quality control of this clearance method uses the same measures as other detector clearance.

- ***Hazardous items removed and destroyed***

Battle Area Clearance (BAC)

During the reporting period, AusAID funded teams have conducted surface Battle Area Clearance (BAC) of seven contaminated areas in Pachillaipallai Division (Kilinochchi District). A total area of 348,785sq.m (34.8 hectares) was cleared with 1,281 anti-personnel mines, 466 items of unexploded ordnance, 859 items of stray ammunition and 9,692 rounds of small arms ammunition found and destroyed. All of the items found were abandoned by either the LTTE or SLA, both in the form of caches, or more widely distributed around defensive positions.

Ammunition recovered during BAC from a bunker behind the Mugamalai front line

All the BAC tasks cleared by AusAID funded teams were around the Mugamalai Forward Defence Line. As this formed the front line for over a decade, the quantity of both stray or abandoned ordnance and unexploded ordnance is extremely high. The clearance conducted by the BAC teams is integral to the resettlement process, and in these areas cleared by the AusAID teams, 186 families are expected to resettle from October 2012 onwards, after being displaced from their homes for over 15 years.

Sellaiya Thayaparan was displaced from Mugamalai GN in 1995 after fighting drew nearer. He moved to PTK to stay with his parents until the final stages of the war, when they were all displaced to an IDP camp in 2009. In 2010 Sellaiya moved to Kilinochchi in search of work in order to support his wife and two young children. In 2010 Sellaiya joined HALO as a deminer and in 2012 was promoted to a medic

Sellaiya and family waiting to clear their land

deminer. With his salary from HALO he would like to start up his own coconut farm on his land in Mugamalai once he is able to return.

Initially Sellaiya was told by the local authority that it would be at least 15 years before he would be able to return to his own land in Mugamalai due to the presence of the minefield, however through HALO's survey which helped to define the mined area as well as the extensive BAC which was conducted in the Mugamalai GN, over half of the Mugamalai GN has been released and 65 families are expected to return to their land their at the beginning of October 2012, with another 65 families hoping to return later in the year.

Since this area had been uninhabited for over 15 years, there is nothing but jungle left where houses once stood, so returnees will have to clear their land and rebuild their houses from scratch. In order to assist the resettlement, ZOA will provide temporary shelters under HALO's funding to families such as Sellaiya's. While continuing to work for HALO demining on the nearby Mugamalai FDL, he hopes to be able to construct the shelter in his spare time, and ultimately to cultivate a coconut garden, to start rebuilding a life for his family back on their land.

Quality Assurance

HALO has strict processes for internal quality control in a minefield where the work of the each 8-lane demining section is checked by the section commander. After a maximum of 5m is cleared, the section commander will re-check the ground cleared by the deminer. Ground is then subsequently checked by the Task Commander – hence all ground is checked at least three times by three different individuals.

For mechanical mineclearance HALO's mechanical supervisor regularly visits sites in which mechanical support units are deployed. His job is not only to ensure that good planning and SOPs are being employed, but also to strictly control the chances of environmental damage which can often occur if machinery is left unchecked.

For breaches in SOPs HALO has a standard disciplinary system set within the framework of Sri Lankan labour law, using formal warnings, limited fines and where necessary dismissal.

A Task Commander conducts a QA check of a deminer's lane

A HALO expat medical adviser assesses medic deminers during a casualty evacuation drill

In order to maintain the high standards of clearance that HALO expects the HALO Sri Lanka programme has an internal reporting system to monitor and evaluate performance output indicators. The system is overseen by HALO's programme expatriates and senior local staff. Four Area Supervisors monitor demining sections in their specific geographic areas of responsibility while every site where multiple sections have been deployed is overseen by a task commander. Each minefield has a book in which expatriates and Area Supervisors write their comments after each visit. This ensures "continuity of message". HALO headquarters monitors the programme through a series of desk officer visits. These are all-encompassing, covering demining drills, planning and deployment, stores, finance and security issues. There are additional visits from the global mechanical officer, a member of the headquarters finance team and a member of HALO's expatriate doctors' group. After each visit a written report and action points are produced.

The Regional Mine Action Office (RMAO) in Jaffna has quality assurance teams which visit HALO's work sites a minimum of once a month and also perform final QA checks prior to the handover of completed tasks. In addition, HALO reports clearance progress on a weekly basis to the RMAO and quarterly to the District Government Agent, NGO Secretariat and Ministry of Economic Development.

In 2012 the National Mine Action Centre began the process of accrediting all Mine Action agencies working in Sri Lanka. As with the regular RMAO quality assurance assessments of HALO minefields, these are principally to ensure that all mine action agencies are working in accordance with the Sri Lankan Mine Action Standards. However this process has led to in-depth discussions over the benefits and any potential concerns over standard operating procedures, the prioritization of particular minefields and the completion/handover process. These have led to changes being made to both HALO SOPs and to the SLNMAS. These changes have not had any significant impact on HALO clearance rates.

During the reporting period two technical working groups (TWG) were organized by the National Mine Action Centre. The first was held in Vavuniya and had been called in response to an issue raised by HALO at a meeting in Colombo in August 2011. With numerous Mine Action agencies working in Sri Lanka it is natural that there will be variation in clearance techniques. However, some agencies were deploying a methodology known as manual verification. This is not clearance, but more a practice of confidence building for the benefit of a local population who may not accept the absence of mines in an area. Two issues were raised with this, firstly the reporting of these statistics as clearance, and secondly, its viability in Sri Lanka and its safety. Initially, clarifying what *is* being reported as 'clearance' and what *should* be has allowed the National Mine Action Programme to predict with a far greater degree of accuracy the rate at which clearance is being conducted and the resources required for the future. Secondly, due to grave doubts over the safety of this technique that were voiced during the technical working group it was decided that no agency should be allowed to conduct manual verification in the future and the SLNMAS changed so as to reflect this.


HALO staff demonstrating the deployment of linear detector and raking drills to representatives from the National Mine Action Centre (who are responsible for writing the Sri Lankan National Mine Action Standards), the Sri Lanka Army and other international Mine Action agencies.

The second was conducted at the HALO minefield of Nagarkovil. Attended by representatives from all Mine Action organisations currently working in Sri Lanka, in addition to UNDP Technical Advisors and NMAC officials this was an opportunity for HALO to demonstrate some of the new Standard Operating Procedures it has begun to deploy in Sri Lanka in addition to discussing areas within Sri Lanka's National Mine Action Standards (SLNMAS) that either required updating or could be improved. These specifically included the possibility of increasing the width of a deminers working lane beyond one meter, as is currently stated. Without increasing the width, this severely limits the development of 'linear' detector based drills, which have the potential to significantly increase clearance rates, as well as a raking drill developed by HALO specifically for use on soft soils.

The third was held in Mullaitivu and was focused on the use of mechanical rakes (a tool that HALO does not currently deploy). The question was not the viability of the tool, but rather its deployment. While the majority of Mine Action agencies utilise mechanical rakes as a ground preparation tool, some parties had raised the possibility of these being used for clearance. After a series of demonstrations and presentations it was agreed that the use of mechanical rakes for clearance did not comply with current national standards and should not be used as such. This is the position that HALO has held for some time and was strongly recommended during the TWG.

These technical working groups help in building a critical understanding of mine clearance in Sri Lanka and in improving the quality of the national standards as well as the introduction of techniques that may not have been seen in Sri Lanka before.

Local Recruitment and Gender

HALO currently recruits over 1,000 Sri Lankan staff, over 700 of whom are recently returned IDPs. HALO policy is to always recruit deminers from the immediate locality of the minefields. While this has multiple benefits, not least a vested interest on the part of the deminer in ridding the area of ERW, it also leads to a reduction in transport and camp maintenance costs. HALO staff can return

Female trainee deminers learn how to use a detector

to their families each night, rather than staying in remote camps.

This also increases the proportion of women and those from single parent headed households who are willing to work for HALO, therefore putting money into the pockets of those who need it most. In an area where cash for work programmes are still seen to be required so as to inject capital into the local market, HALO fulfills this function while also conducting vital work and investing in skills for the wider market. HALO currently employs over 280 female staff, operating mixed teams lead by both men and women, and during the reporting period has seen more female staff promoted to more senior roles.

Sustainability

Sinnappu's story is just one example of how HALO's employment has a sustainable effect through providing its employees with a regular salary, which enables them to support their families while also providing them with the security to re-start businesses, cultivate land or purchase equipment such as fishing boats and nets to return to their original livelihood activities. Since 2009, HALO has employed over 1,500 staff in Kilinochchi and Jaffna districts, of which over 500 have used their employment with HALO as a spring board into other jobs and livelihood activities.

Uthayakumar Sinnappu (32), his wife and five children, all under the age of eight, were displaced from their village of Thirunagar, Kilinochchi, in August 2008. They spent the next two years moving between relatives, host families and welfare camps. In February 2010, following the end of the war, they returned to their village to find their house and possessions either lost or destroyed.

Before the war Sinnappu had owned a bicycle repair shop, however with no workshop and no tools there was no longer any possibility of returning to his former profession. He joined The HALO Trust in May of 2010 and trained to be a deminer. He then conducted manual mineclearance on minefields across Karachchi Division, Kilinochchi. Although Sinnappu Uthayakumar only worked for HALO for five months, it was enough to be able to buy the materials for his workshop and tools that he needed in order to re-establish his business. He now earns 21,000Rs a month, enough to support his family, and with the prospect of being able to build and expand his business.

Sinnappu in his bicycle repair shop, Kilinochchi

Conclusion

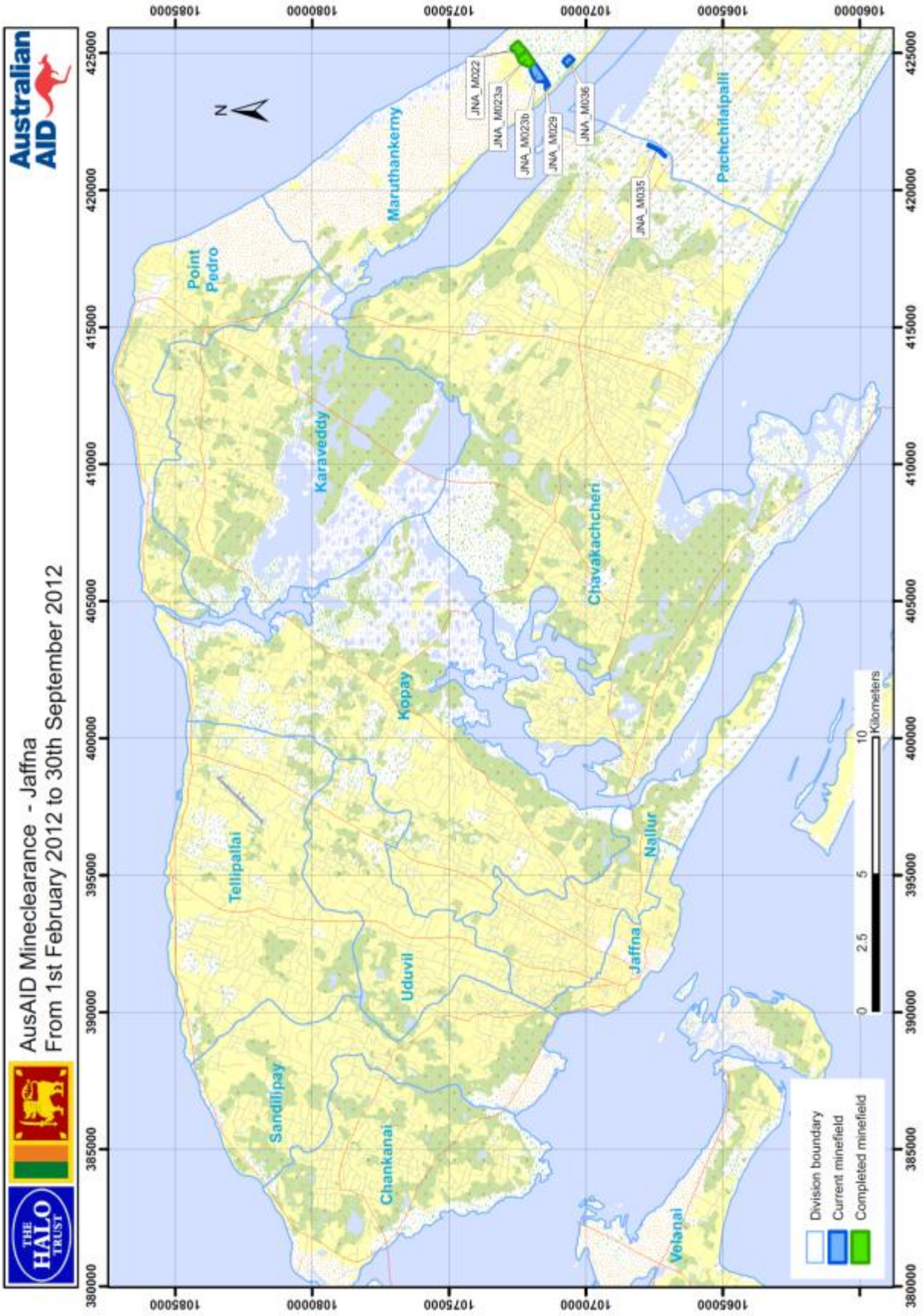
AusAid funded mine action teams have made a significant contribution to helping rid Sri Lanka of its mines and UXO problem and have provided crucial assistance on resettlement of IDPs. All targets set at the beginning of the project were met and exceeded by a margin.

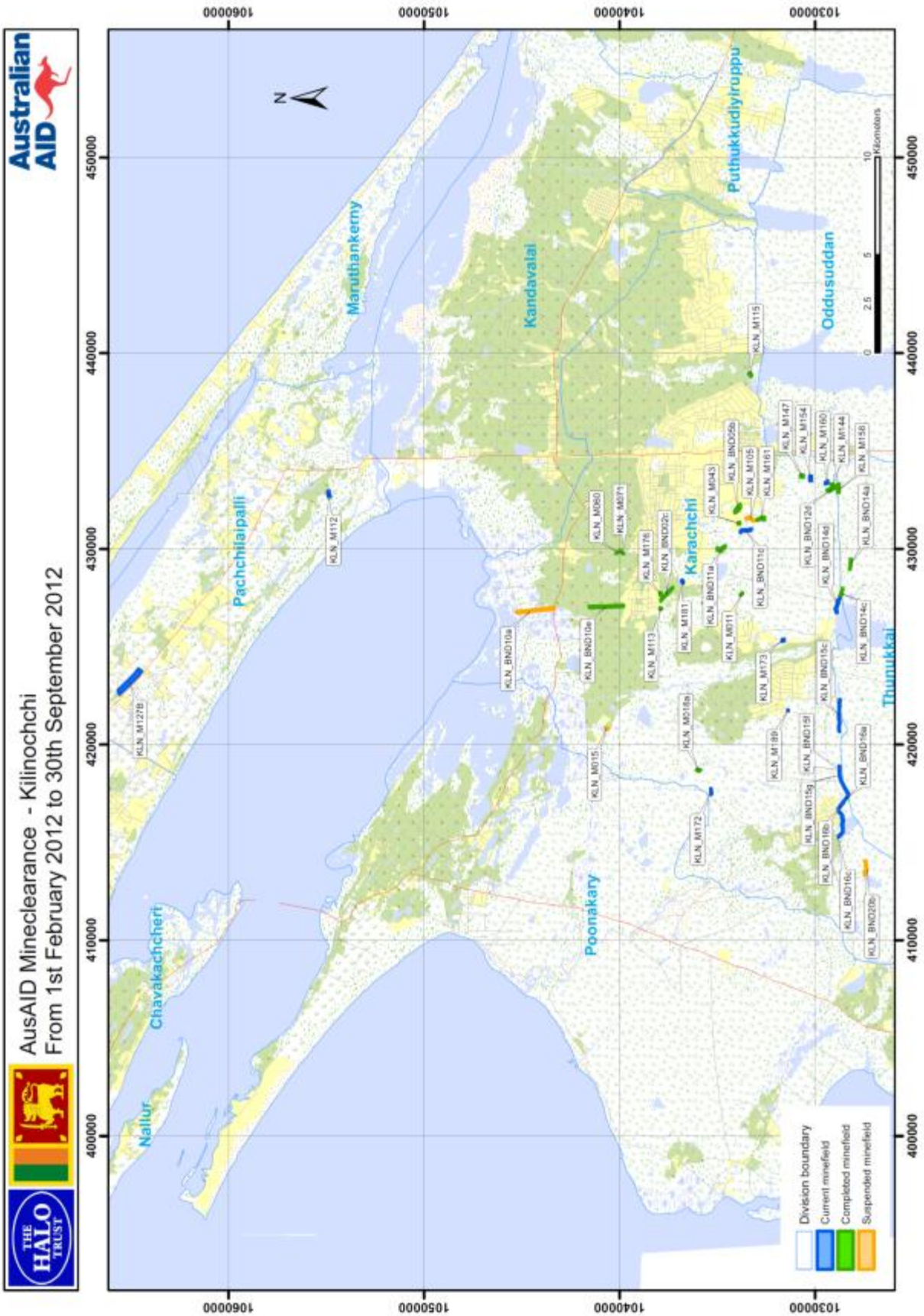
HALO Trust Sri Lanka would like to use this opportunity to thank AusAID for its continuous support to mine action in northern Sri Lanka.

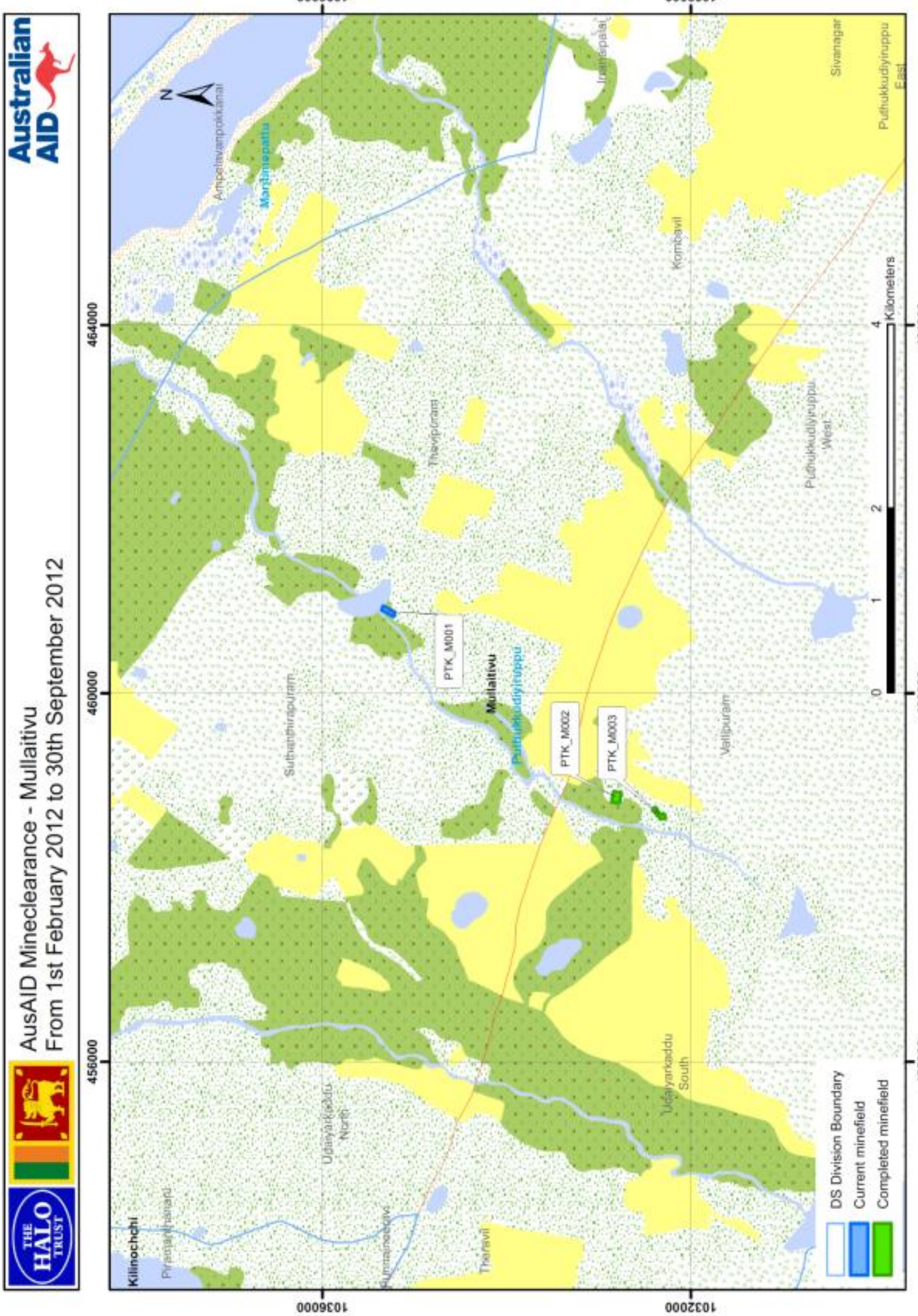
Annexes

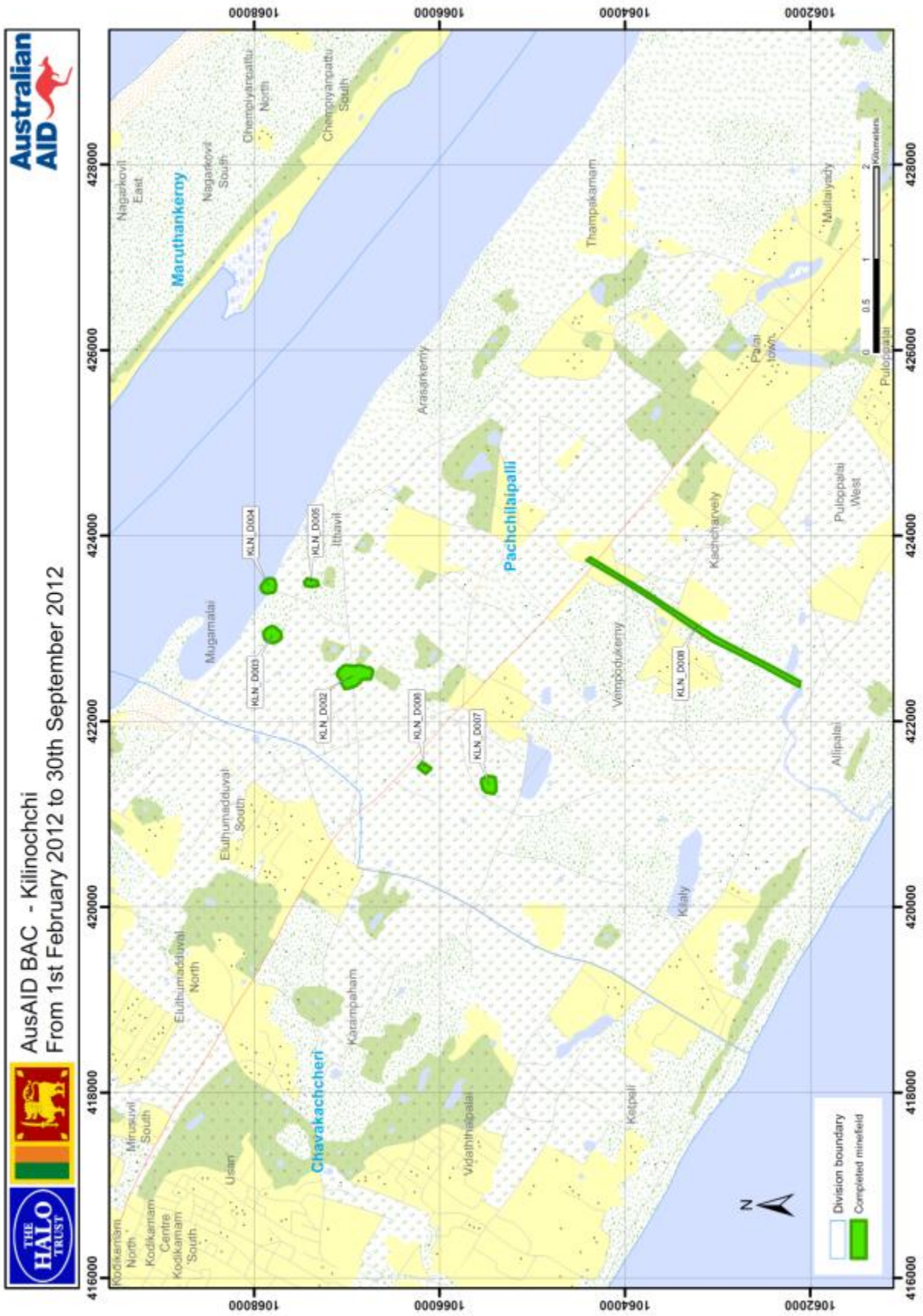
Annex A: Maps of clearance sites
Annex B: Manual Mineclearance outputs
Annex C: Battle Area Clearance outputs
Annex D: Financial statement

Annex A: Maps of clearance sites




AusAID Mineclearance - Kilinochchi
From 1st February 2012 to 30th September 2012
Australian AID
THE HALO TRUST
N
Maruthankerny
Kandavalai
Puthukkudiyiruppu
Oddusuddan
Pachchilaipalli
Karachchi
Thunukkai
Poonakary
Chavakachcheri
Nallur
Division boundary
Current minefield
Completed minefield
Suspended minefield
Kilometers
0
2.5
5
10
400000
410000
420000
430000
440000
450000
103000
104000
105000
106000


AusAID Mineclearance - Mullaitivu
From 1st February 2012 to 30th September 2012
Australian AID
456000
460000
464000
1036000
1032000
Kilinochchi
Suthanthirapuram
Mullaitivu
Puthukkudiyiruppu
PTK_M001
PTK_M002
PTK_M003
Valipuram
Kombavil
Sivanagar
Udaiyarkaddu North
Udaiyarkaddu South
Puthukkudiyiruppu West
Puthukkudiyiruppu East
DS Division Boundary
Current minefield
Completed minefield
0
1
2
4
Kilometers


AusAID BAC - Kilinochchi
From 1st February 2012 to 30th September 2012
Australian AID
THE HALO TRUST
Maruthankeroy
Pachchilaipalli
Chavakachcheri
KLN_D002
KLN_D003
KLN_D004
KLN_D005
KLN_D006
KLN_D007
KLN_D008
Division boundary
Completed minefield
N
Kilometers

THE HALO TRUST - SRI LANKA

Period Covered: 01/02/2012 to 30/09/2012

Method : Mine Clearance **DONOR : M39-AUSAID** **District: ALL** Minefields worked on: 48

Task No.	Minefield Name	Clearance Start Date	Clearance Completion Date	AP	AT	UXO Fired	SA Unfired	SAA Bullets	Area Manual m2	Area Machines m2	DS Division	GN Division	Status
JNA_M022	Nagarkovil	20/03/2011	18/05/2012	2	0	2	0	0	2,074	0	Maruthankerny	Nagarkovil East	Completed HALO
JNA_M023a	Nagarkovil 2a	20/03/2011	23/07/2012	1	0	1	0	0	9,422	0	Maruthankerny	Nagarkovil South	Completed HALO
JNA_M023b	Nagarkovil 2b	17/06/2011		0	0	3	0	0	1,986	0	Maruthankerny	Nagarkovil South	Suspended
JNA_M029	Nagarkovil 3	01/08/2011		9	0	7	0	0	262	0	Maruthankerny	Nagarkovil South	Current
JNA_M035	Eluthumadduval Ganesha Vidyalaya	01/12/2011		4	0	0	0	0	211	0	Chavakachcheri	Eluthumadduval South	Current
JNA_M036	Maruthankerny Road Side	01/04/2012		0	0	0	0	0	450	0	Maruthankerny	Nagarkovil South	Current
KLN_BND02c	Uruthirapuram Bund line 2c	05/03/2011	16/03/2012	0	0	0	0	0	29	0	Karachchi	Uruthirapuram East	Completed HALO
KLN_BND05b	Krishnapuram Bund Line b	12/01/2011	18/02/2012	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	Karachchi	Krishnapuram	Completed HALO
KLN_BND10a	Kunchuparanthan Bund Line a	23/01/2012		1	0	0	0	0	6,364	0	Karachchi	Uruthirapuram North	Current
KLN_BND10e	Kunchuparanthan Bund Line e	20/03/2012	04/06/2012	0	0	0	0	0	1,526	0	Karachchi	Uruthirapuram North	Completed HALO
KLN_BND11a	Krishnapuram 2nd Bund Line a	15/06/2011		1	0	0	0	0	3,049	0	Karachchi	Krishnapuram	Current
KLN_BND11d	Krishnapuram 2nd Bund Line d	15/09/2011		194	0	0	0	0	5,583	0	Karachchi	Krishnapuram	Current
KLN_BND12d	Ponnagar Bundline d	09/10/2011	14/05/2012	0	0	0	0	0	529	0	Karachchi	Ponnagar	Completed HALO
KLN_BND14a	Akkarayankulam East Bund Line a	09/01/2012	23/07/2012	0	0	0	0	0	270	0	Karachchi	Akkarayankulam	Completed HALO
KLN_BND14c	Akkarayankulam East Bund Line c	20/08/2011	05/10/2012	23	0	0	0	0	3,917	0	Karachchi	Akkarayankulam	Awaiting Handover
KLN_BND14d	Akkarayankulam East Bund Line d	15/09/2011		15	0	0	0	0	16,106	0	Karachchi	Akkarayankulam	Current
KLN_BND15c	Skandapuram South Bund Line	17/09/2011		9	0	0	0	0	3,477	0	Karachchi	Skandapuram	Suspended
KLN_BND15f	Skandapuram South Bund Line	09/02/2012		121	0	15	0	0	10,180	0	Karachchi	Skandapuram	Current
KLN_BND15g	Skandapuram South Bund Line	22/09/2011		7	0	0	0	0	1,845	0	Karachchi	Anaivilunthan	Current
KLN_BND16a	Anaivilunthan Bund Line a	12/04/2012		17	0	10	1	1,700	9,479	0	Karachchi	Anaivilunthan	Current
KLN_BND16b	Anaivilunthan Bund Line b	18/04/2012		11	0	0	0	0	7,268	0	Karachchi	Anaivilunthan	Current
KLN_BND16c	Anaivilunthan Bund Line c	05/03/2012		29	0	0	0	0	3,325	0	Karachchi	Anaivilunthan	Current
KLN_BND20b	Vannerikulam Bund Line b	18/05/2012		56	0	5	8	18	8,224	0	Karachchi	Vannerikulam	Current
KLN_M011	Uttupulam	01/02/2012	06/07/2012	10	0	0	0	0	3,957	0	Karachchi	Konavil	Completed HALO
KLN_M015	Sinnapallavarayan Kulam North	22/04/2012		2	0	0	0	0	3,964	0	Karachchi	Uruthirapuram West	Current
KLN_M018a	Mukkompan South a	09/06/2012	06/08/2012	0	0	0	0	0	793	0	Karachchi	Kannakaipuram	Awaiting Handover
KLN_M043	Krishnapuram	01/11/2011	23/07/2012	3	0	0	0	0	1,545	0	Karachchi	Krishnapuram	Completed HALO
KLN_M060	Sakthipuram 2	13/03/2010	16/03/2012	0	0	0	0	0	481	0	Karachchi	Periyaparanthan	Completed HALO
KLN_M071	Sakthipuram Paddy Field Road	05/03/2012	07/04/2012	0	0	0	0	0	53	0	Karachchi	Periyaparanthan	Completed HALO
KLN_M105	Kirishnapuram Village's West End	21/05/2012		1	0	0	0	0	110	0	Karachchi	Krishnapuram	Suspended
KLN_M112	Mugavil	03/05/2012		19	0	2	0	0	3,196	0	Pachchilaipalli	Mugavil	Current
KLN_M113	Sivanagar Cannel West	01/10/2011	03/06/2012	0	0	0	0	0	123	0	Karachchi	Puthumurippu	Completed HALO

Task No.	Minefield Name	Clearance Start Date	Clearance Completion Date	AP	AT	UXO Fired	SA Unfired	SAA Bullets	Area Manual m2	Area Machines m2	DS Division	GN Division	Status
KLN_M115	Civic Centre 2	13/02/2012	24/05/2012	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	Karachchi	Ambalnagar	Completed HALO
KLN_M127B	Muhamalai Front Line b	01/04/2012		170	11	11	1	20	7,614	0	Pachchilaipalli	Ittavil	Current
KLN_M144	Ponnagar	07/10/2011	16/05/2012	1	0	1	0	0	1,180	0	Karachchi	Ponnagar	Completed HALO
KLN_M147	University 1st Lane	01/02/2012		22	0	0	0	0	14,148	0	Karachchi	Ponnagar	Current
KLN_M154	Kllinochchi University North	01/12/2011		74	0	4	217	203	12,695	0	Karachchi	Ponnagar	Current
KLN_M158	Ponnagar North	01/12/2011	10/03/2012	0	0	0	0	0	149	0	Karachchi	Ponnagar	Completed HALO
KLN_M160	Ponnagar North	01/03/2012		16	0	0	0	0	1,103	0	Karachchi	Ponnagar	Current
KLN_M161	Malayalapuram South	02/02/2012	23/07/2012	0	0	0	0	0	736	0	Karachchi	Malayalapuram	Completed HALO
KLN_M172	Suramanai Jungle M/F	07/08/2012		24	0	0	0	0	5,246	0	Karachchi	Anaivilunthan	Current
KLN_M173	Akkarayankulam Canal	03/08/2012		0	0	0	0	0	391	0	Karachchi	Akkarayankulam	Current
KLN_M176	Uruththirapuram South	03/03/2012	24/05/2012	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	Karachchi	Puthumurippu	Completed HALO
KLN_M181	Puthumurippu Ammakamam	21/07/2012		5	0	0	0	0	797	0	Karachchi	Puthumurippu	Current
KLN_M189	Maniyankulam Minefield	18/07/2012		1	0	0	0	0	250	0	Karachchi	Skandapuram	Suspended
PTK_M001	Thevipuram Stage-1	01/04/2012		96	0	1	0	0	10,799	0	Puthukkudiyiruppu	Thevipuram	Current
PTK_M002	Vallipunam	01/04/2012	12/08/2012	34	0	2	0	0	5,929	0	Puthukkudiyiruppu	Vallipunam	Awaiting Handover
PTK_M003	Vallipunam Edaikadu	13/08/2012		21	0	0	0	0	1,931	0	Puthukkudiyiruppu	Vallipunam	Current
		Total		**999**	**11**	**64**	**227**	**1,941**	**172,803**	**0**			

GLOSSARY

AP : Anti- Personnel mine

AT : Anti- Tank mine

UXO : Unexploded Ordnance (items of Ordnance > 23mm)- fused and fired

SA : Stray Ammunition destroyed (items of ordnance > 23mm) - unfused, usually stored or cached

SAA : Small Arms Ammunition (bullets < 23mm)

THE HALO TRUST - SRI LANKA

Period Covered: 01/02/2012 to 30/09/2012

Method : BAC **DONOR : M39-AUSAID** **BAC Tasks worked on: 7**

Task No.	Minefield Name	Clearance Start Date	Clearance Completion Date	AP Mine	AT Mine	UXO Fired	SA Unfired	SAA Bullets	Area BAC m2	District	Division	Status
KLN_D002	Mugamalai 1	01/04/2012	03/05/2012	35	0	13	120	1,482	83,320	Kilinochchi	Pachchilaipalli	Completed HALO
KLN_D003	Mugamalai 2	15/04/2012	08/05/2012	1,225	0	6	186	2,508	19,615	Kilinochchi	Pachchilaipalli	Completed HALO
KLN_D004	Mugamalai 3	15/04/2012	18/05/2012	4	0	11	5	181	28,235	Kilinochchi	Pachchilaipalli	Completed HALO
KLN_D005	Mugamalai 4	15/04/2012	05/05/2012	0	0	39	437	891	16,650	Kilinochchi	Pachchilaipalli	Completed HALO
KLN_D006	Mugamalai 5	02/03/2012	07/03/2012	4	0	73	38	38	15,700	Kilinochchi	Pachchilaipalli	Completed HALO
KLN_D007	Mugamalai 6	04/03/2012	23/03/2012	0	0	17	34	3,070	36,117	Kilinochchi	Pachchilaipalli	Completed HALO
KLN_D008	Kachcharveli LTTE Bund	07/05/2012	04/09/2012	13	0	307	39	1,522	149,148	Kilinochchi	Pachchilaipalli	Awaiting Handover
		Total		**1,281**	**0**	**466**	**859**	**9,692**	**348,785**			

GLOSSARY

AP : Anti- Personnel mine
AT : Anti- Tank mine
UXO : Unexploded Ordnance (items of Ordnance > 23mm)- fused and fired
SA : Stray Ammunition destroyed (items of ordnance >23mm)- unfused, usually stored or cached
SAA : Small Arms Ammunition (bullets <23mm)

Annex D

The HALO Trust, Sri Lanka and AUSAID
Final Financial Report to 30 September 2012
All Figures in AUD

Budget Line	Budget	Expenditure	Unspent Balance
National Staff	252,956.00	253,743.92	-787.92
Redundancy Provision	15,810.00	15,810.00	0.00
International Staff Flat Rate	29,400.00	29,400.00	0.00
PPE	5,474.00	4,993.47	480.53
Medical	700.00	701.67	-1.67
Food & Water	3,500.00	3,287.79	212.21
Fuel & Lubricants	10,500.00	11,391.82	-891.82
Vehicle Maintenance & Spares	7,700.00	8,201.00	-501.00
Vehicle Hire	9,100.00	9,576.98	-476.98
Demining Stores	11,900.00	12,256.57	-356.57
Equipment Repair	1,400.00	1,549.11	-149.11
Engineering Stores	2,800.00	2,789.37	10.63
Communications	1,400.00	1,391.99	8.01
Data Handling	700.00	875.37	-175.37
Office Equipment	700.00	278.64	421.36
Accommodation	5,600.00	5,350.04	249.96
Freight	700.00	768.93	-68.93
Insurance	10,320.00	8,797.67	1,522.33
Vehicle Ins & Registration	350.00	279.81	70.19
Bank Charges	350.00	73.89	276.11
Security	2,695.00	2,657.38	37.62
International Travel	2,600.00	2,501.01	98.99
National Travel	704.00	702.58	1.42
HQ Amin Flat Rate @ 6%	22,641.00	22,620.99	20.01
Total	**400,000.00**	**400,000.00**	**-0.00**