

ABSTRACT

Cambodia and Sri Lanka are two countries which have experienced high levels of mine contamination due to prolonged military conflict. High mine contamination resulted in demining becoming a key priority immediately after the end of the respective conflicts in these two countries. The main aim of this study is to analyze the approaches adopted by these two countries to addressing this problem, identify similarities and differences in the demining approaches of these two countries, and determine which demining approach was more effective. Research strategy applied in this study was an analytical research strategy. In this analytical research strategy, secondary sources such as documents, publications, and academic research from previous studies on the mine action program in Sri Lanka and Cambodia were analyzed to obtain a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of the programs. Findings from the thematic analysis revealed that the main factors which have contributed to effective mine and explosive remnants of war hazard clearance in Sri Lanka and Cambodia are the active involvement of the central government in the mine clearance, support and advice provided by international organizations, and the implementation of a comprehensive national mine action program. Further, the study revealed that Sri Lanka's mine action program was more effective than that of Cambodia as it cleared a higher percentage of mine and explosive remnants of war hazard areas in a shorter period of time, recorded lower civilian mine related deaths and injuries, maintained excellent relationships with all local and international donor agencies, and recorded zero instances of mismanagement and corruption.

Key words: Mines, explosive remnants of war, demining, hazard area