



HALO has just set up their remote camp with two teams of deminers at Salaxey which is about 30km south of Hargeisa. The town and surrounding area is mined, as there was a Somali National Army military camp on the outskirts, resulting in a number of accidents in the area.



We met Mohammed Hussain (*left*), who had stepped on a mine and lost his right leg when he was walking on the road outside of the town. He told us he knew of six major accidents in Salaxey, and in January this year a child lost his fingers playing with a fuse.

Just 150 meters out of the village on the road towards the Ethiopian border, HALO is starting clearance. Fra lives with her large family in the middle of a mined area and 100 meters from the deminer's camp. She is waiting for HALO to clear



around their old well that they are not able to use as the landmines are visible. She is concerned for the safety of her children who have found an anti-tank mine close to the house. They had brought it back to the house where their father burnt it in the garden. HALO started to clear this area in November.



On the other side of the town 10 year old Abdi (*pictured left*) lives with his father (who is the local policeman in Salaxey), his mother, Sara, and six brothers and a sister. Three years ago he blew off his fingers when he picked up a fuse. Abdi was lucky only to lose the tops of his fingers - from the blast he received a large lump of shrapnel in his forehead that you can easily feel with your fingertips! Mines are being found by the locals in the ground around their homes and Abdi has found another mine next to his house and also three detonators.



Due to a large population and a school being in close proximity to the suspect area, this task was put into the 2009 workplan. Clearance began in November 2009, and is expected to be completed by March 2010.