

25 years of Getting Mines out of the Ground, for Good.



THE
HALO
TRUST

Donor Report 2014



HALO
specialises in
removing the
debris of war





The HALO Trust is a pioneering charity that specialises in the removal of the deadly debris of war. We locate and destroy landmines, cluster bombs, other explosive items and dangerous stockpiles of weapons and ammunition so that some of the world's most vulnerable people can return home, plant their crops and raise their families in safety.

Our mission is to get mines off the ground, for good.

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HRH Prince Harry with Teresa Heinz Kerry and US Senator Patrick Leahy at a dinner to celebrate his work with HALO in Washington, DC

Celebrating 25 Years of Getting Mines out of the Ground

In 2013 HALO marked a quarter of a century of work removing the deadly debris of war. We held a special 25th Anniversary Appeal with our Patron, His Royal Highness Prince Harry, to raise awareness of the need to employ more deminers to get more landmines out of the ground more quickly.

Throughout the year we held a series of international events and exhibitions. Prince Harry launched our 25th Anniversary Photo Exhibition on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC where he was hosted by Senator John McCain and his wife Cindy, a HALO Trustee. The exhibition portrays the devastating effect of landmines, our work to remove them and the positive impact demining has on communities. The exhibition then travelled to Sri Lanka, Kosovo, Colombia, Mozambique, San Francisco and Google's campus in Mountain View.

Prince Harry also visited our demining operations in Angola, following in the footsteps of his mother, Princess Diana, who visited a minefield in Angola in 1997. It gave

the Prince an opportunity to meet with HALO deminers and beneficiaries, while bringing worldwide media attention to the ongoing landmine problem.

Speaking at a dinner in Washington, DC, hosted by the British Ambassador Sir Peter Westmacott to recognise Prince Harry's work with HALO, the Prince recalled his mother's interest in the issue and paid tribute to HALO and our donors:

"My mother, who believed passionately in this cause, would be proud of my association with HALO. In her special way, she adopted it as her own. She would join me – along with all of you, I'm sure – in praising HALO for the amazing work that it has done over the past quarter century, and in hoping that one day soon its humanitarian work will be done."

Thank you to all our donor governments, foundations and individual supporters for their invaluable support over the last 25 years. We look forward to continuing our work together, "getting mines out of the ground, for good".



The Problem

Landmines and explosive remnants of war continue to endanger some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people, injuring and killing thousands every year.

*Above: A mine victim in Cambodia, one of over 25,000 amputees in the country
Below: Prince Harry visited the town of Cuito Cuanavale during his 2013 visit to Angola*

The most mined town in Africa

The town of Cuito Cuanavale, in the very south of Angola, is a rural, poor African town in an extremely remote location. It was here that one of the most significant cold war battles in Southern Africa took place, leaving a legacy of lethal minefields behind.

This small town, with a current population of 43,000, is surrounded by these lethal minefields. Indeed, on a recent visit by HRH Prince Harry, Cuito Cuanavale was described as “the most mined town in Africa”.

There are varying accounts of the Battle for Cuito Cuanavale, which took place in the late 1980s, but what is certain is that the battle was a decisive event leading directly to the negotiated withdrawal of South African and Cuban troops. Angolan sources claimed to have defeated a force of 500 tanks, in the largest battle on African soil since the Allies' victory at El Alamein in the Second World War. Although these



numbers are exaggerated, it is true that the South African tanks encountered an extensive system of defensive mine belts that stopped the armoured attack dead in its tracks.

We began mineclearance in Cuito Cuanavale in 2005 and over 22,000 landmines have been located and destroyed so far. The minefields closest to the town centre have been cleared and we are now pushing out to reach those further afield.

More than 25 years on from their creation, these minefields continue to pose a deadly threat to the local population and they prevent the expansion of the growing town. Indeed, today the need

for land to farm is so strong that families are encroaching within mine lines, and footpaths can be seen running straight through minefields.

When these mines were laid in the 1980s, the grandfather of HALO deminer Daniel Antonio was told to leave his land and he was given a smaller plot in a crowded area close to town.

Working for HALO, Daniel and his colleagues have destroyed over 2,400 mines from 10 hectares on and around his grandfather's land. "We destroyed several MON-200s here," Daniel said, referring to the large Soviet directional fragmentation mines which each contain over 26 pounds of high explosives. Now Daniel's growing family has been able to move back to his grandfather's land, producing corn to sell in the local market.

With his own family plot secure, Daniel continues demining to clear ground for his neighbours. Clearance is saving lives, preventing accidents and allowing people to use their land productively and without fear. Yet there remains much work to be done to tackle at least 10 very large minefields remaining around the town.

When Prince Harry's mother, Princess Diana, visited HALO in Angola in 1997 she saw first hand HALO's mineclearance in the towns of Huambo and Kuito, and by doing so she raised global awareness of the suffering caused by landmines.

Since finishing the clearance of the minefields Princess Diana visited, these areas are now home to the centres of two bustling cities, and are completely unrecognisable as previous minefields. One day, in the not too distant future, the same could be true for the minefields Prince Harry visited during his trip to Cuito Cuanavale.



A silent hidden threat denies some of the world's poorest people safe access to their homes and land in 58 states around the world. Each and every day 10 more people become casualties of landmines and explosive remnants of war.

HALO deminer works towards a 1980s South African tank in one of the very large and dense minefields in Cuito Cuanavale



Children killed by cluster bombs

On Saturday January 25 2014, two boys from Salen village, in Savannakhet Province, Laos, found a BLU-26 cluster munition, also known as a 'bombie'. The boys, Phouvan, aged 13 and Khonsavanh, aged 16, attempted to cut it open to see what was inside. The 'bombie' exploded killing both boys instantly.

At least 20,000 people have been killed or injured by Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) in Laos since the end of the Vietnam War. Accident victims tend to be the most vulnerable people in the community and, right now, 40% of all cluster bomb casualties are children.

As a result of an extensive bombing campaign from 1964-1973 around one third of Laos remains contaminated with unexploded cluster bombs. With generations growing up alongside the threat of UXO, the Laotian people are adept at incorporating remnants of war into their everyday lives – they are used as decorations, and fences and houses have stilts made of bombs – but this activity brings people into direct and dangerous contact with the explosives. Many accidents are related to scrap metal collection and the ever changing global metal prices tempt people to harvest metal from explosive items despite the risks.

HALO began UXO clearance operations in Laos at the start of 2013. We currently operate in Savannakhet Province, an area heavily contaminated with explosive remnants of war and subject to the most UXO accidents in Laos.



Sepon, one of our target districts within Savannakhet, averages 19 accident victims per village – the highest of any district in the country. Reports estimate that at current rates it would take hundreds of years to clear all the UXO that contaminates Laos. We are hopeful that our new programme will significantly shorten this time period.

According to the Cluster Munitions Monitor, civilians account for 94% of global casualties from cluster munitions. Cluster bombs disperse large numbers of small 'bombies' over a wide area; many did not explode at the time, killing children like Phouvan and Khonsavanh many years later.

While these highly sensitive sub-munitions remain on the surface or under the ground, they pose an ongoing serious threat to communities in an estimated 24 states around the world.

By the end of 2013, HALO had cleared over 200,000 cluster bombs around the globe, but too many cluster bombs remain. We are committed to removing them, bringing an end to the carnage caused by these dangerous 'bombies'.

Children are at high risk for UXO accidents because of their natural curiosity





Raimon Chinoza, a mine victim, pictured in front of his family's home in Zimbabwe

Mined and forgotten: Zimbabwe's border communities

Last year 17 year old Raimon Chinoza stepped on a landmine while farming his family's land. Family members carried him to the dirt track and he was taken by ox cart to the village. Many hours later an ambulance finally arrived to take him to the hospital. Raimon lost his leg in the blast. To pay for his treatments and a prosthetic limb his family sold the three cows they owned. Without their cows or Raimon, their eldest son, the family had to stop farming. Raimon's mother did what she could on her neighbours' land to help earn food for the family while his father began working as a labourer to repay a debt incurred for his son's treatment. Without income it was impossible to send Raimon's younger brothers and sisters to school.

Landmine injuries often have a far more devastating impact than the initial blast, with the consequences of injury rippling out across families and communities. The Chinozas' story is by no means unique and the families of other Zimbabwean landmine victims frequently suffer the same sudden downward spiral.

Zimbabwe's border communities live on the knife-edge of poverty, many depending on subsistence farming alone. It is common for the whole family to be brought in as labour while cattle are a critical source of draught power, manure and milk. This existence is so precarious, so fragile, that one upset – like a landmine accident – has calamitous results for the whole family.

Raimon is one of the forgotten victims of a brutal war fought at the end of the colonial period, 20 years before he was born. In the late 1970s Rhodesian forces laid landmines along the northern and eastern borders at a

reported density of 8,850 per mile of frontage in an attempt to prevent liberation fighters from entering the country. Thirty-five years later the majority of these mines remain.

The minefields, which follow the border with Mozambique, are some of the biggest in the world. If reports and partial records are correct, Zimbabwe's minefields may contain millions of mines.

Forty years after the war ended, the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe is that of a country in the immediate post-conflict phase. There are landmines in close proximity of houses, schools and clinics; access to agricultural land is denied to small scale farmers and livestock are killed weekly.

Communities are separated from their primary water sources, poor rural families live in peril and fear and are unable to use the land for crops and grazing. It is estimated that 16,728 hectares of valuable farmland is being denied to a population fighting to feed itself.

We began mineclearance in Zimbabwe in November 2013. The 1,000th landmine was destroyed a mere six months after the start of those demining operations. Mineclearance will allow for a brighter future for these forgotten border communities who are isolated and devoid of wider development opportunities.

Our mineclearance work transforms communities and changes lives. Soon after HALO began operations in Zimbabwe, Raimon's father found steady work as one of our deminers, and, as a result, Raimon's brothers and sisters are back in school and the family is optimistic about the future.

The Solution

Demining is a simple process, generally carried out with simple equipment by locally recruited staff.



Above: A supervisor checks his calculations before the next demolition. The white sticks that surround him are where mines have already been destroyed.

Below: Mr. Cham Mao is one of 20 amputees hired by HALO in 2013

Landmine survivors become deminers

Cham Mao was a soldier during the Cambodian conflict in the 1990s. He was on leave and walking to visit his family in Ou Trouy village, near the Thai border, when he stepped on a landmine. Mao suffered a traumatic amputation of his lower right leg.

Ou Trouy village was still two miles away so he wrapped clothing around his leg to try and stop the bleeding as he made the slow journey home. Mao then spent six months in a hospital in Thailand. When he recovered he worked on his family's farm but it was difficult to provide enough food for everyone and to look after his injury.

Eleven years later donor funding allowed HALO to begin clearing the remaining mines near Mao's village. His daughter, Neang Vann (22 years old), applied for a job and joined HALO as a deminer. Then in January 2013 his daughter told Mao that we were



offering employment specifically to mine survivors. Mao came for an interview and was offered a job, joining his daughter in working for HALO. Mao is now able to support his family for the first time since his accident.

At first Mao was nervous of working in a minefield, but HALO's training, procedures and safety rules have given him the confidence and knowledge to undertake this important work. Since he started working with HALO Mao has removed mines in the northwest province of Otdar Meanchey where he was once based as a soldier, and he has helped to clear seven minefields near the site of his own accident.

He takes pride in his role in making Cambodia a safer place to live.

In 2013 20 landmine survivors, all amputees, passed HALO's demining training course and all are physically capable of carrying out the demining work needed in the



HALO deminers are trained as paramedics and often provide critical medical assistance to the rural communities

Idil Suleiman Ahmed is the most senior female member of staff in Somaliland. Idil started with HALO as a radio operator before moving on to later take over the role of Finance Manager.



minefields of Cambodia. Employment with HALO offers these survivors an opportunity to support their families and a chance for them to remove the deadly legacy of war, which almost took their lives, once and for all.

Demining provides dignified, respected and valued employment. HALO's work in Cambodia, and around the globe, supports casualty reduction and poverty alleviation. Our employment practices have a significant financial impact on the mine affected communities, predominantly the rural poor, from which staff are recruited. We provide our local staff a chance to improve their community and earn a proper wage that can typically support five or six people.

Locally recruited and trained HALO staff provide a full range of operational, administrative and managerial services, including medics, deminers, GIS experts, finance staff and senior managers.

Landmine survivors celebrate passing their demining course in Cambodia





A Cambodian survey team member speaks to the local people to map where accidents have occurred

The first step to solving the global landmine problem

Every day tens of thousands of civilian humanitarian deminers around the world go to work to prevent injury and death. They make land safe so that people can return home, plant crops and rebuild their lives.

In 2012 the cost of this work was \$681 million in international and national support for mine action. It is time-consuming work and can be expensive, but the impact of this work in transforming lives and communities is staggering.

Accurate survey is essential to correctly identify the minefields and prioritise the allocation of donor resources. With over 25 years' experience HALO's survey work is tight, accurate and evidence-based. Our approach, known as 'polygon survey', has significantly reduced the size of suspected hazardous areas around the world. This has dispelled the notion that the mine problem is intractable and our approach has paved the way for realistic and accurate planning.

In the last year the results achieved by the survey teams in Zimbabwe have been phenomenal. HALO was originally asked to survey 145km² of suspected minefields, a huge area. By employing rigorous

questioning and accurate mapping, we have reduced the estimated area in need of mine clearance to approximately 30km². This is still a very significant area to deal with, but the 79% reduction makes it a far more manageable project.

There is a desperate need for accurate data and a clear understanding of the remaining landmine and explosive remnants of war problem. Many governments have asked us to conduct surveys, both immediately post-conflict and after Mine Action programmes have been well established.

Other notable survey work carried out by ourselves, and where relevant collaboratively with other actors, includes comprehensive surveys of all remaining minefields in Cambodia (2012), Somaliland (2009) and Mozambique (2007) and of cluster munitions and landmine contamination in Georgia immediately post conflict (2008).

Interview:

Surveying in Colombia

Johanny Zuluaga manages a HALO survey team working in Colombia's Antioquia Department. As soon as the fighting ends, their work begins; travelling from village to village to locate and map minefields in areas that have emerged from guerrilla control. The findings of such survey teams are used by policymakers to guide national strategy, by government agencies to facilitate the return of people displaced during the fighting and by HALO to plan its demining operations. We spoke to Johanny and his colleagues, Henry, Llesenia and Katherine about their work.

You're from this region and lived through the worst of the fighting: what was it like?

Johanny: I lived in the village of Campo Alegre which is approximately 20 minutes from the town of Nariño. It took the guerillas three days [in 1999] to take over the town. I saw them and went there to warn my relatives. The guerrilla attack began and I, together with my mum, had to escape through the crossfire. The guerrillas had set up gas cylinders as bombs in my house hoping to attack the military when they passed through the area. This is why my family decided to leave for a week until we found out that the armed groups were no longer surrounding the house.

What's the situation like in southeast Antioquia now?

Llesenia: The situation has really calmed down. People can at least leave their houses without worrying, go into the countryside without worrying, travel without worrying. You just couldn't do that nine or ten years ago.

Describe your typical day working for HALO?

Johanny: The day starts at about 5:30 am when I start preparing equipment and checking how the team are, making sure they're feeling ok before we leave. Beforehand, we will have made contact with the president of the village so that when we get to the village, we can start visiting houses, speaking to the community and explaining who we are and what we are doing.

If the community fears a certain place, we go there and ask them specifically why they're afraid. If possible, they will identify the area as either a definite minefield or just a suspicious site. We will map the area, mark it and carry out all the other activities required of a survey team. Before leaving we always sign an agreement with the community leaders sharing our primary survey findings.

How do communities know where minefields are located?

Johanny: Rural communities lived side-by-side with the armed groups when the violence was at its worst. Often the groups would warn the communities not to go to certain areas, or the communities would work out where the minefields were, based on where the armed groups had camped, or passed through or where accidents or incidents had occurred at some point.

Sometimes it's obvious and the community will tell you "the minefield is from here up until that point", and that's the most helpful scenario for us. But sometimes they'll say, "the whole mountain is mined", and that's when we have to investigate. We have to define a specific area, not leaving out a single metre that might contain mines.

HALO uses the model of recruiting people from the same communities we are working in, which means we are not complete strangers.

If we're in a group of four or five and one of us is known to the family and they've seen us around, that inspires more trust. We explain what we're doing there, that we are a civilian organisation, that we're completely independent from any governmental group, and that creates trust.

What are you most proud of?

Henry: It is wonderful work to be able to return land to the communities. It's a source of pride, to be carrying out this work so that other communities, as well as my own, can return to cultivating their land.

Katherine: We want these people to return to their land, to cultivate, to be able to walk on it because you can see that they need it. This is great work that is being done, please keep supporting it.





HALO deminer clearing the first minefield in the West Bank

Building trust in the West Bank

Almost 50 years ago, a minefield was laid by the Jordanian military just 200 metres from the village of a-Nabi Elyas in the Qalqiliya District of the West Bank. In the subsequent decades accidents have occurred regularly and these landmines have blocked access to fertile agricultural land owned by the Palestinian people in this community.

Ra-ed Halil's family owns land that is part of a-Nabi Elyas minefield. Ra-ed's father was forced to relinquish the use of this land in the 1950s and it has since remained unused and unproductive. In a region where agricultural land is scarce, leaving land uncultivated has a negative impact on the entire community, suppressing economic opportunity and reducing food security.

With funding support, primarily from the US Government, HALO is now clearing this minefield with the mutual consent of both the Israeli and Palestinian mine action authorities. The Israeli and Palestinian authorities have made significant efforts to facilitate HALO operations in the West Bank. HALO field operations at a-Nabi Elyas began on April 2, 2014 and by the end of the second month of clearance 45 mines had been destroyed.

Once a-Nabi Elyas minefield is cleared, Palestinian landowners will be able to replant their olive groves and resume farming other valuable crops for the first time since 1965.

Ra-ed is looking forward to planting olive trees on his cleared land. This is the principal cash crop for much of the West Bank and once the trees reach maturity, the sale of olive oil will generate an estimated annual income of 15,000 Shekels (approximately \$4,000 USD).



Destroying weapons and ammunition

In Herat City Afghanistan in April 2014, HALO teams defused a 30 year old 500kg Russian aircraft-dropped blast bomb. The bomb, which was found during the construction of a residential building, was fused and armed and so posed an immediate danger to the surrounding community. HALO teams used 8,000 sandbags and 140 metric tons of soil to create protective works which allowed the fuse to be safely removed by rocket wrench.

In Afghanistan, HALO plays a significant role in the security situation by leading the hunt for insecure ammunition. This helps governments consolidate peace by destroying ammunition and deactivating weapons, preventing them being re-used by non-state armed groups.

In the Central African Republic we provided weapons disposal training to the local Gendarmerie and Army. The training focused on the use of weapons shears, a specialised weapons cutting tool designed by HALO and used in six countries to facilitate disarmament projects. During the training thirteen students were certified and 745 weapons were destroyed. The newly trained teams can now dispose of unwanted and potentially dangerous weapons at a rate of up to 50 items per hour.

HALO has dedicated Weapons & Ammunition Disposal (WAD) teams to destroy excess, insecure and unstable

weapons and ammunition around the globe, and to assist with physical security and stockpile management. This humanitarian work reduces the threat to civilian populations and promotes stability in fragile states.

In the aftermath of a conflict communities too often face a range of hazards related to weapons, such as abandoned caches and stockpiles containing excess munitions or weapons that are poorly secured. The global problem of poor ammunition is such that on average there is a major unplanned explosion, somewhere in the world, once every three weeks.

Globally HALO WAD teams have disarmed, destroyed or dismantled 3,000 heavy weapons ranging from tanks to rocket launchers and anti-aircraft guns, and we have cut up over 150,000 surplus, illegal and redundant small arm weapons.



The 500kg bomb found in Herat was destroyed under controlled conditions at a central demolition site





The Impact

By clearing landmines from schools, water sources, hospitals, housing and farmland, whole generations and communities have the opportunity to rise out of poverty.

Children collect bamboo on ground made safe by HALO in Cambodia

How mineclearance is bringing people home

Before fighting began the village of Nagarkovil, in northern Sri Lanka, had been home to over 1,700 people. During the civil conflict the village formed part of the eastern side of the Forward Defensive Line, and families were forced to flee with many going to live in temporary government camps. Once the war was finished, these families were unable to return to their homes. The reason? Dense mine lines and scattered unexploded ordnance covering Nagarkovil.

We began removing mines from Nagarkovil in April 2011, gradually moving all our demining teams from Jaffna there to accelerate clearance for resettlement. By August that year the area began to open up and 86 families immediately returned after 10 years of displacement, to begin rebuilding their lives. Since then another 150 families have followed.

HALO's partnership with ZOA Refugee Care, a development NGO, provided assistance to the newly resettled families, and shelter, sanitation and livelihoods projects began almost immediately. "Our village was on

the front line for years" said Pararasasingham Vejayakumar from Nagarkovil village. "Now, after mineclearance, we have a village again."

Having completed clearance of the central part of the village, we are now working around Nagarkovil's perimeter to improve security. This includes the coastal strip and coastal road that are used by fishermen, and areas in east that have traditionally been used by the community to grow rice and graze cattle.

Nagarkovil village is just one example of a community returning and rebuilding after HALO mineclearance in Sri Lanka. In total, some 160,000 people have returned to the areas surveyed and cleared by HALO in northern Sri Lanka. In Jaffna district, some families had been displaced for more than 20 years.

As areas that were formerly off limits during the long civil war open up, we conduct mineclearance to allow these long-term Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to return to their land to finally rebuild their homes, grow crops and re-open small businesses. Kanthan

Armenian Diaspora help clear Nagorno Karabakh

Generous contributions from Armenian Americans has funded clearance of cluster bombs from the village of Norashenik in the Kashatagh/Lachin region of Nagorno Karabakh.

Norashenik village was hit by a cluster bomb strike during the war of 1992-94 between Azerbaijan and Armenia. In 2013 12 cluster bombs and 28 other dangerous items of unexploded ordnance were found and destroyed by HALO teams to make safe over 370 acres of land.

The constant threat of cluster bombs meant Virab Shaboian had previously been unable to let his children outside. Now Virab's children can play in safety, he can cultivate the land to feed the family and the entire village of 105 is no longer in danger.

Virab had these words for the donors:

"I definitely have to say thank you to all the people who ensure the safety of my children, but also other children



in this region. I am very glad that there are people who give money to this type of charity."

The funding to clear Norashenik village was made possible thanks to support from Landmine Free Artsakh, a group of concerned Armenian Americans, based in Los Angeles, who have committed to helping HALO clear all the remaining landmines, cluster bombs and unexploded ordnance from Nagorno Karabakh. The mission of Landmine Free Artsakh is to generate awareness of the mine problem and to fundraise for demining, clearing one village at a time.

The villages they are focused on are in the Lachin, Hadrut and Martuni regions where no international government grants and funds have been secured. Without private funding these minefields might never be cleared.

Their next campaign will aim to raise \$100,000 to make Govshatly village, in Hadrut Region, safe and to return 43 acres of fertile land to the residents for safe farming.



In 1988 landmines killed and injured 25,000 people. Last year landmines killed and injured 2,430 people. Demining works!

Pararasasingham Vejayakumar from Nagarkovil Village, Jaffna District

Arunakerinathai, a beneficiary from Jaffna said, "Thanks to HALO we've been able to return to our land after 22 years. Now we have a new house and can sell our crops again."

With more than half of all families in northern Sri Lanka dependent on the land for their livelihoods, restoring agricultural land to its original use is vital for local people, and it contributes hugely to the socio-economic development in the region.

A study we co-conducted with ZOA Refugee Care found that, on average, the cost of mineclearance (paid by donors) is made back by villagers using the land in just two to four years. The rise in agricultural output has already substantially reduced imports of food, especially rice, the staple crop. Our work supports the quick resumption of self-sufficient agriculture and fishing, and it provides access to fresh water for people and their animals.

Cultivating a safer Afghanistan

Between 2002 and 2006 Herat Province suffered the most accidents of any province in Afghanistan with 627 recorded accidents. In 2007 the then British Secretary of State for Development, Douglas Alexander, visited Afghanistan and allocated additional funding to HALO for a major expansion into Herat, enabling us to deploy 500 new deminers.

Between 2008 and 2013, these deminers cleared 5,500 hectares of minefield and battlefield across 14 of Herat's 16 districts, with 172,607 families directly benefiting from this work. Since then there has been a sharp drop in the number of casualties.

HALO's five year Phase 1 mineclearance project (2008-2013) in Herat Province scored the highest marks in an independent evaluation of UK Aid. The report explains the project had "...exceeded its first five year targets... showing significant improvements to the lives of intended beneficiaries..." when measured against our original aim. This was to enable increased legal livelihood opportunities for the poorest and most vulnerable communities through mine and UXO removal. In March 2014 when the report was released the BBC featured our work in Herat Province as a positive example of aid that works in the war-torn country.

HALO clearance in the province has also facilitated the return of refugees from Iran, while other internally displaced persons have been able to re-build homes, re-establish communities and businesses and resume agricultural activities safely in order to support their families.

Swathes of prime agricultural land that had lain barren for three decades due to anti-tank mines is now being cultivated. Of the 2,000 hectares of anti-tank minefields surrounding the community at Islam Qala, Kohsan District; more than half of this land is now producing crops.

Community members that had benefited from clearance are more likely to have better access to education, improved skills and better nutrition and health. In pre-clearance communities, high levels of illiteracy were recorded with just two communities having schools. Post-clearance there is a growing number of schools to cater to the large demand existing for an education. Almost three quarters of these schools cater to girls, in stark contrast to the pre-clearance communities where no girls were able to receive an education. One such school, in Kamana village, was built directly on HALO cleared ground.

In March 2013 the Department for International Development announced a further five years of funding to continue the HALO project in Herat. The second five year funding phase (2013 – 2018), aims to complete the clearance of all remaining recorded contamination in the province, and bring Herat to mine-impact-free status.

Girls from Kamana Village at the school constructed on HALO cleared ground





Celebrating the first mine found in Colombia

Below: The first cleared minefield is handed over to the community in Colombia

A safe path to a peaceful future

Not long ago in the Colombian village of Puerto Venus, a father and son found two landmines on the path to their home. Over 2,000 people lived in close proximity to the minefield. Not any longer. HALO finished clearing this minefield, the first to be cleared by a civilian operator in Colombia, in March 2014. The land was handed back to the community for safe use, and the residents can now reach their fields, and their children can attend school, without the threat of mines.

We began clearing this minefield in Colombia in September 2013, and we are the first and only international humanitarian organisation to conduct mineclearance in this heavily mine-impacted country. Within one day Deminer Jorge Daza found the first mine and it was safely destroyed. Jorge works as part of a team funded by the US Government, and this marked a milestone in Colombia's mine action sector as the first mine cleared by a civilian team. Nine landmines were found and destroyed in total during clearance.

A celebratory handover ceremony took place in Puerto Venus to mark the occasion attended by over

100 beneficiaries, adults and school children, together with local government authorities, representatives from the Organisation of American States and a delegation from the US Department of State. The land was formally handed over to the community and residents were able to walk through the cleared area to view photos and descriptions of the landmines cleared.

Mineclearance will compliment the evolving peace process. An agreement between the government and the FARC would make the need for demining all the more urgent, since any accord will see the return of millions of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to previously conflict-stricken areas. In fact tens of thousands of people have already registered to return to the municipalities where HALO is to conduct future clearance.

Puerto Venus is the first of many villages that will benefit from HALO's vital work in Colombia. We are currently clearing a further seven minefields, with survey teams working ahead in other municipalities. As security continues to improve in the country families are returning to the homes and farms they abandoned during the fighting.





HALO HEADQUARTERS

HALO USA
(West Coast)

HALO USA

HALO's global headquarters in southwest Scotland has only twenty staff (most of whom travel to support, lead and evaluate HALO's overseas programs).

COLOMBIA

IVORY COAST

Equator

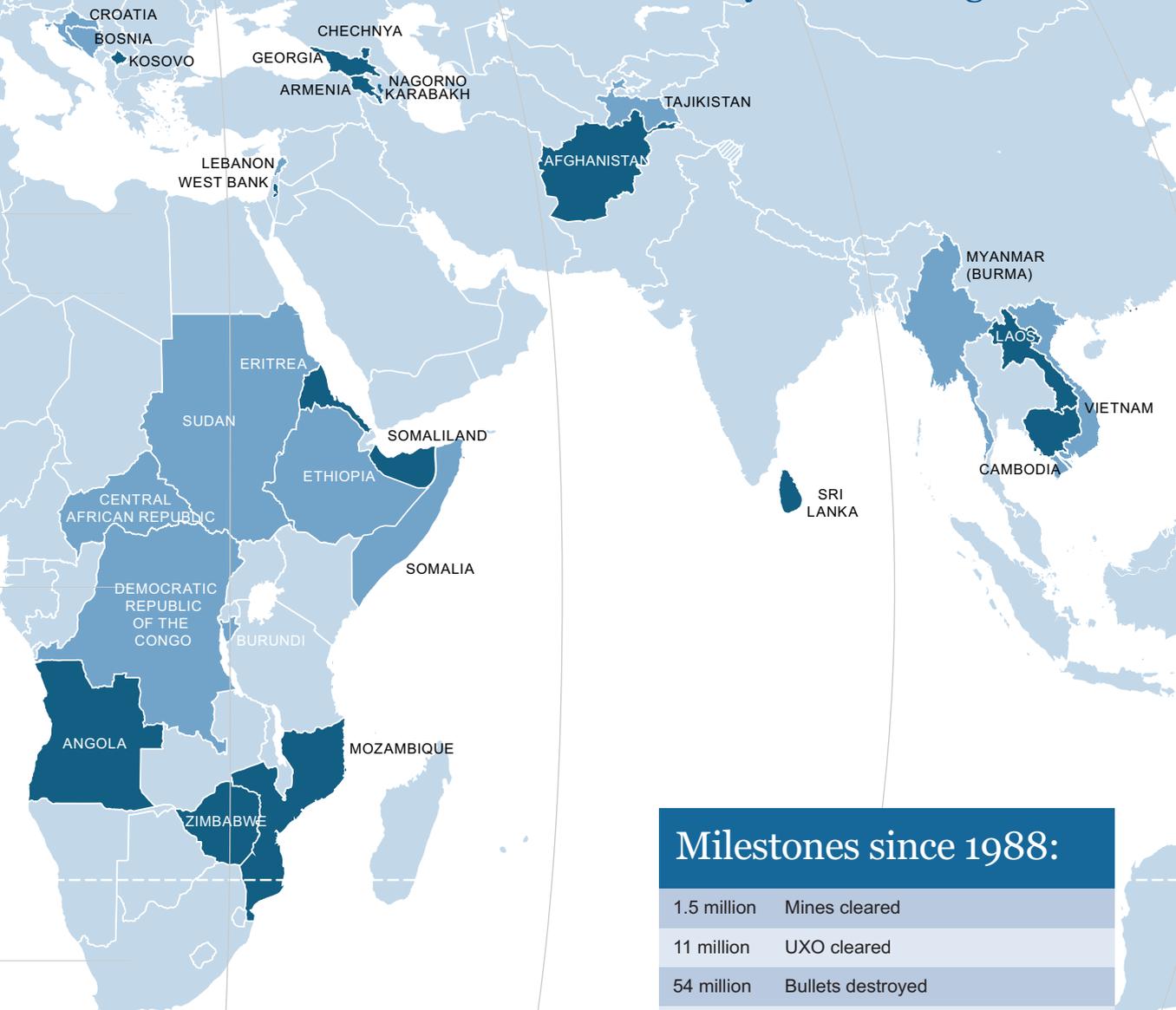
FALKLAND ISLANDS

Our Progress Through 2013/14

Over 25 years of work to remove landmines has helped millions of families to return home safely. In 2013/14 alone, we destroyed a total of 62,507 landmines and 187,858 items of unexploded ordnance (UXO). We returned 3,922 hectares of former minefields to local populations for housing, farming, water and other development projects. We made safe over 2,678 hectares of battlefield that was littered with unexploded and abandoned ammunition. Our Weapons & Ammunition teams destroyed 737,154 rounds of small arms ammunition and Mine Risk Education was delivered to 34,888 people.

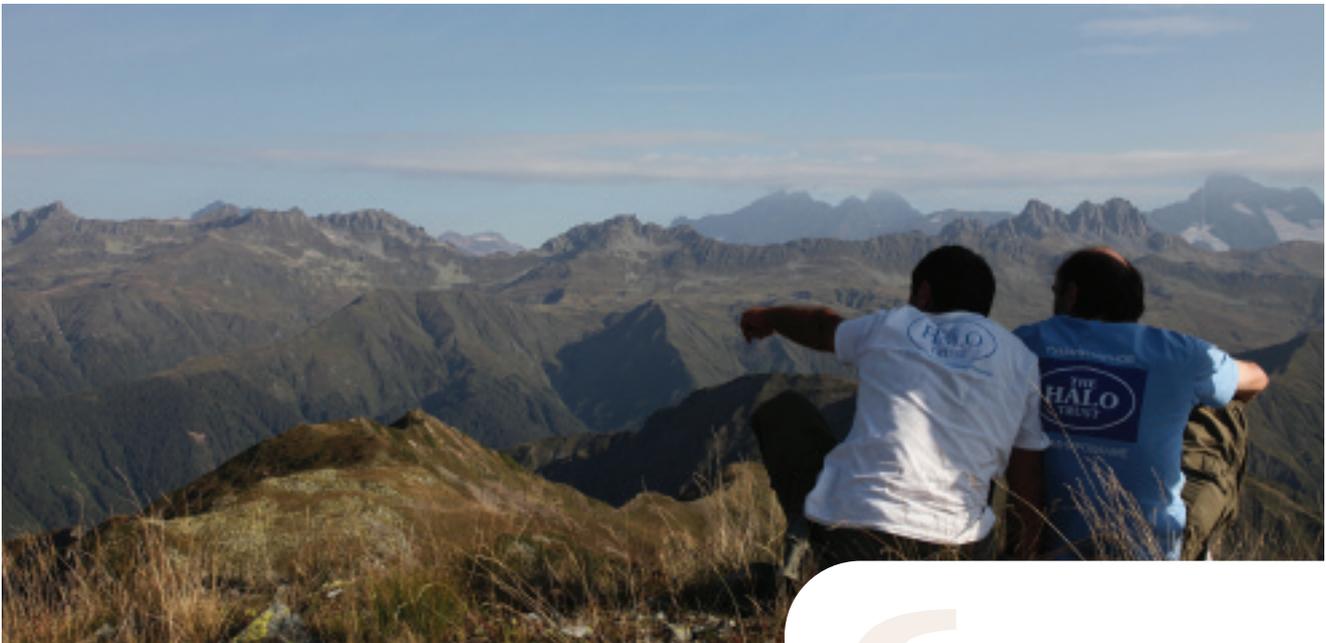
HALO has over 7,500 full-time staff operating in conflict and post conflict zones in 17 countries and territories, with on-going surveys into new regions.

Arctic Circle (66°33')



Clearance Programmes
 Surveys & Assessments

Milestones since 1988:	
1.5 million	Mines cleared
11 million	UXO cleared
54 million	Bullets destroyed
20,000	Cluster munitions cleared
167,000	Assault rifles destroyed
3,400	Heavy weapon systems immobilised
10,800	Minefields cleared
450,000	Acres of land returned for safe use
9,000	Miles of roads cleared



Abkhazia

After 14 years of HALO mineclearance, Abkhazia was declared Mine Free in November 2011. However, UXO continues to be found and HALO is the only organisation in Abkhazia capable of dealing with this danger to the public.

Abkhazia was contaminated with mines during the 1992-1993 conflict between the breakaway area and the government of Georgia. The completion of clearance covered an area of more than 1,500 hectares; with 9,788 mines and 48,998 items of UXO found and destroyed.

Many individuals hold mines and ordnance in their homes as a legacy of the war, and the ongoing danger such items pose has created a desire to hand in this ordnance. HALO's status as an independent organisation, trusted by all communities in Abkhazia, means that we are ideally positioned to undertake the role of collecting and disposing of these items.

In 2013, we removed UXO in Abkhazia at the rate of



three UXO per day and we retain small ordnance disposal teams based in the cities of Sukhumi and Gali, employing both ethnic Abkhaz and ethnic Georgian staff.

We also dispose of ageing ammunition from military stores, with 36 metric tons being destroyed last year, and we oversee the Abkhazia Mine Action Office which maintains the detailed reports and maps of clearance operations, important resources for anyone developing rural land in Abkhazia.

Next Steps

In rural communities the collapse of roads was jeopardising the ability of people to use the land freed by mineclearance. Strong river flows had taken their toll and farmers were at risk of being cut off from their land and the market. Our extensive experience restoring roads in order to gain safe access to conduct mineclearance has led to a new HALO project.

With \$750,000 funding from USAID and the European Union, we are in the process of rebuilding and restoring bridges, culverts and flood defences that have collapsed or are close to collapse. Such is the need for road repairs in Abkhazia that word of HALO's work has spread and over 100 requests for further works have been received.





Afghanistan

Afghanistan was the birthplace of HALO and twenty-five years later our work in this densely mined and heavily UXO contaminated country continues to be the largest mineclearance programme in the world.

More than a million Afghans live within 500 metres of a mined area and after enduring three decades of violence there remains desperate need for our work. We have cleared over 11,500 hectares of minefield in Afghanistan, removing over 220,000 mines to directly assist more than 1.7 million families. In 2013 alone in Afghanistan we found and destroyed 6,949 mines and UXO and our Herat Province mineclearance project scored the highest marks in an independent evaluation of UK Aid.

By undertaking mineclearance programmes we reduce casualties among rural families, return land to farmers, allow for infrastructure development and promote resettlement, peace and stability.

But that's just half the story.

We are dedicated to building local capacity and our programmes 3,250 Afghan staff is managed by Afghans, with support and assistance from just two international staff.

Working with the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme (APRP), we reintegrate former combatants into demining teams. So far 300 former fighters have



joined HALO, providing valuable demining services to Afghanistan's people while earning regular salaries to support their families.

We recruit a multi-ethnic workforce in Afghanistan, helping to guarantee the programme's freedom of movement and our teams continue to lead the drive to locate, secure and destroy explosive ammunition that lies outside government control, preventing this material from being used in roadside and suicide bombs.

On average we destroy 80 metric tons of munitions each month, around 10,000 explosive items (not including small arms rounds).

Next Steps

As NATO troops prepare for departure, we will focus on the evolving security situation and increase our employment of men of fighting age from strategically critical provinces.

If additional funds can be secured this programme could easily assimilate thousands more deminers, supporting the peacebuilding and reconciliation process by offering these men a viable alternative to a violent future, while safeguarding the future of the communities who live close to mined areas.



Donors 2013/14: Governments of the United States, UK, Netherlands, Norway, Germany, Ireland, Finland, Belgium, Japan and those governments supporting the UN-managed Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action. The UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Association for Aid and Relief and private individuals.



Angola

Angola is heavily contaminated with landmines and explosive remnants, a legacy of the 27 year civil war that ended in 2002.

HALO has been operating in Angola since 1994 and we have since destroyed more than 86,000 landmines and 158,000 larger calibre ordnance. More than 750 minefields have been cleared, in excess of 20,234 hectares. We have also opened 4,500 miles of road by using pioneering systems to assist emergency aid agencies who were unable to reach communities because of anti-tank mines.

HALO is the only organisation supporting the Angolan police and military to destroy unwanted weapons and ammunition. Our WAD teams have destroyed over 107,000 weapons, over 2.2 million bullets and more than 1,200 metric tons of unwanted ammunition. This has massively reduced potential unplanned explosions and armed violence.

In Huambo province clearance is nearing completion and we have deployed the majority of our current demining assets in Angola to Kuando Kubango province where a large proportion of Angola's minefields remain. In total, there are more than 540 minefields remaining in HALO's area of operations, covering an area of over 4,000 hectares.



While HALO's mineclearance has been essential in allowing provincial capitals to be rebuilt, our work is now focused in more rural areas. In particular we are helping those who travel through minefields or on a mined or suspected road to collect water, fetch firewood, grow food or market produce.

In short our priority is those vulnerable Angolans who, in order to survive, endure the threat of mined areas as part of their day to day lives.

Next Steps

Funding for the Angolan programme has reduced dramatically over recent years, despite the mine problem remaining serious and widespread. HALO currently employs 382 Angolan staff, but five years ago our staff numbered over 1,100.

As a result of funding reduction rural communities that have already waited decades for mineclearance may now have to wait decades more unless levels of funding increase.

We are therefore urgently seeking new funding to take the staff number back up to at least 1,250 as soon as possible. If we can achieve this level of staffing, Angola could be free of mines within 7 years.



Armenia

Armenia's mines problem is a product of the war over neighbouring Nagorno Karabakh. At various stages during the war fighting skirted the border between the Soviet republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan. While the border now is just a line on a map, villagers on both sides have lived with minefields for more than 20 years.

HALO conducted survey work in Armenia in 2013 and we were the first international NGO to conduct mineclearance operations in the country, commencing in April 2014.

Our teams of deminers have begun work clearing a minefield in the village of Srashen, near the town of Kapan in Syunik region. We have also deployed a mechanical clearance team who have completed the clearance of one minefield in Shurnukh, Syunik region.



35
National Staff



2
Mines destroyed

A core part of our work in Armenia is training a group of 60 deminers from Armenia's Peacekeeping Engineering Battalion (PKEB). The PKEB deminers are working alongside HALO teams clearing three minefields around Srashen. This is providing them with essential experience and developing the knowledge and skills they need to lead such work themselves in the longer term.

Next Steps

As part of a grant from the US government, HALO will train the Armenian deminers to clear to international demining standards, and we will then manage the team's clearance for two years.

HALO's training and management will provide Armenia with a well-trained and experienced team of deminers to clear Armenia's landmines problem and finally rid the country of the devastating impact of these mines.



Cambodia

Cambodia remains one of the most landmine affected countries in the world, with one in 235 Cambodians a casualty of landmine and explosive remnants. Landmine contamination was the result of extensive mine-laying during nearly two decades of fighting that began with Vietnam's ousting of the Khmer Rouge in 1979 and continued until their final demise in 1998.

HALO was the first organisation to respond to Cambodia's landmine problem, back in 1991. After more than two decades of mineclearance substantial progress has been made. We have removed more than a quarter of a million mines, the number of casualties has reduced and hundreds of thousands of Cambodians have benefited from HALO's work.

Today with over 800 Khmer men and women employed, HALO remains the largest international organisation in the country conducting survey, mineclearance, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Mine Risk Education (MRE).

The landmine threat that was once ubiquitous in Cambodia is now concentrated in the northwest border districts along the border with Thailand. Our current area



of operations is located in the northwest, where nearly all mine accidents occur today.

The rural communities in the mine affected areas rely heavily on agriculture. This, combined with an expanding population, due to migration of landless poor from urban areas, means that mineclearance rates remain outpaced by the strong demand for land.

In 2013 HALO cleared 7,127 mines from 318 minefields to return 1,186 hectares of agricultural land to rural Cambodians. Teams also cleared 10,614 other items of explosive ordnance, provided assistance to the new programme in neighboring Laos and trained new Myanmar employees. Cambodia remains a key HALO programme for global training and Research and Development.

Next Steps

Our survey teams helped to implement a countrywide survey which was completed in 2013, identifying the scale of the work that remains. At current clearance capacity it will take another 14 years to rid Cambodia of mines. This is too long.

We have an urgent need for more funding to increase the number of deminers in Cambodia to significantly speed up mine clearance.



Colombia

Colombia is one of the most mine-affected countries in the world with almost 11,000 victims recorded so far and an annual casualty rate second only to Afghanistan.

The country has endured more than fifty years of armed conflict between the government and guerrilla groups, principally the FARC, which began as a Marxist movement. The use of locally manufactured mines became a key tactic by guerrilla groups beginning in the 1990s and it continues today.

This conflict has caused significant mass displacement. Colombia has more Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) than any country bar Syria. Guerrillas have laid mines on routes used by government forces and around illicit crop plantations. In regions where the Colombian military has re-established control, these mines continue to cause indiscriminate casualties, prevent the return of civilians who fled and block urgently needed development projects.



127
National Staff



44
Mines destroyed

HALO is the first, and currently the only, civilian demining organisation operating in Colombia. We have been working in the country since 2009, initially focussed on survey and now conducting survey, mineclearance and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD).

Our first demining teams were deployed in 2013 and by the spring of 2014 HALO's eleven demining teams had cleared five minefields and are now working to clear a further nine. Five survey teams are working ahead in other municipalities of Antioquia Department, having previously conducted security and mine assessments in Bolivar, Sucre, Meta, Nariño and Cauca Departments.

The Colombian government is engaged in peace talks with the FARC guerrillas, and both sides have agreed on a programme to clear rural areas of landmines. With a possible peace deal on the horizon, HALO is set to play a critical role in Colombia's reconstruction by allowing communities to return in safety, facilitating development and helping to stabilise fragile regions.

Next Steps

HALO plans to expand to over 500 deminers within the next few years to help the country meet its Mine Ban Treaty obligation for a mine free Colombia by 2021.



Georgia

The war between Georgia and Russia in August 2008 resulted in significant contamination from cluster munitions and other unexploded ordnance (UXO), to the north of the Georgian town of Gori. HALO conducted battlefield cleanup over the next year with close to 300 staff clearing more than 1,700 hazardous items from 3,400 hectares of land.

Shida Kartli, one of the country's most productive agricultural areas, was considered the region most heavily affected by the war. HALO left Shida Kartli at the end of 2009 after successfully concluding all the clearance, which allowed internally displaced persons to return to their homes and fields and to farm their land in safety.

There are also known areas outside Georgia's conflict zones where mines and UXO continue to cause casualties. These include former military bases, border minefields and training areas which have been returned to civilian use.



174
National Staff



3,374
Mines destroyed



14,124
UXO destroyed

In early 2014, our teams concentrated on the former Soviet firing ranges around the 6th century David Garejji Monastery. This area sees an influx of thousands of tourists every year visiting from all over the world. It is receiving ongoing clearance, but the areas around the monasteries were prioritised and cleared by us in time for the busy summer tourist season.

HALO has also been conducting clearance of land close to the administrative boundary line with the breakaway region of South Ossetia. This was an area previously unused by farmers due to security concerns which opened up in late 2013, and we responded immediately to clear cluster munition strikes, making this land safe for cultivation.

Next Steps

The principal mineclearance challenge that remains in Georgia is the 7km-long barrier minefield on the border with Azerbaijan. This is probably the largest minefield with a humanitarian impact in the Caucasus region but to date it had not been possible to conduct clearance on this sensitive border.



Ivory Coast

Between 2002 and 2011 the Ivory Coast suffered two civil wars and a decade as a divided nation with separate administrations. This period culminated in a post electoral crisis and a short lived conflict that led to the arrest of former President Gbagbo in April 2011.

The following month HALO deployed a small team to undertake an emergency survey to investigate rumours regarding the use of landmines in the conflict. While the team concluded that landmines had not been used, there was a widespread problem with weapons and ammunition security in the Ivory Coast.

Across the country significant damage had been inflicted on government buildings and as a result many weapons and ammunition stores were insecure. Armouries and ammunition stores had been looted or destroyed and storage was too close to the civilian population.

The fragility of the situation was tragically illustrated by a deadly explosion in August 2011, caused by poorly stored ammunition in the town of Daloa. It was clear that



military personnel had little understanding of the ammunition that they were now responsible for.

HALO is assisting and mentoring the Ivorian authorities in the destruction of unserviceable and unwanted ammunition, we are updating and building new armouries and ammunition stores and we have created national storage best practices.

In total 167 armouries and ammunition stores have been rehabilitated or built and 20 are ongoing.

In 2013 HALO provided technical support to the Army in the destruction of the country's last known stocks of anti-personnel mines and cluster bombs. The only known minefield in the Ivory Coast has now been cleared by FRCI Engineers operating under HALO supervision. Overall, HALO destroyed a total of 74 tonnes of ammunition by the end of June 2014.

Next Steps

Now that peace and good order has been established, the process of demobilisation, disarmament and reintegration is underway. We are supporting this process with extensive technical assistance, including specialist support at all disarmament events in case unsafe items are surrendered.



Kosovo

Kosovo was contaminated in the 1990s by landmines and by explosive remnants of war during the conflicts between Yugoslav forces and the Kosovo Liberation Army.

The country was also contaminated by NATO airstrikes. Over 78 days in 1999 NATO bombed Yugoslav targets in Kosovo, releasing 1,392 bombs containing 295,700 sub-munitions. With a failure rate estimated at 20%, thousands of these unexploded sub-munitions littered the ground or became buried in fields and gardens.

In 2001, despite clear evidence that many minefields remained in Kosovo, the United Nations declared the country to be 'Mine Free'. HALO was the most vocal of many agencies protesting against this decision, which condemned the people of Kosovo to living with the ongoing threat of minefields in and around their villages. The rural poor are those most directly affected.

Our work in Kosovo complements the clearance conducted by the Kosovo Security Force, however clearance has been slow due to a lack of funding. This lack of funding is because most government donors still believe the job was completed in 2001. It was not and the threat is ongoing.



71
National Staff



4,515
Mines destroyed



34,020
UXO destroyed

Despite limits on funding more than 4,500 mines have been cleared since 2001, evidencing the error in the UN's 2001 claims of 'Mine Free' status.

In 2013 our small team completed clearance on nine minefields and three cluster munition strikes. Notably, this included the last minefield in Krivenik village, an area Google has worked with us on to create an interactive map of Krivenik's minefields. This map showcases the positive impact our efforts have had in the village through a series of images and testimonials, and it can be viewed at www.halotrust.org/clearingkosovo.

Next Steps

In 2013 we worked with the Government of Kosovo to conduct a survey and identified a total of 79 minefields and 51 cluster bomb strikes remaining which require clearance.

This is more than ten years of work with the clearance capacity currently available. So we have launched an appeal called 'the four year challenge' to increase funding for this important work. We are committed to reaching a mine free Kosovo by 2017, and more funding will help us achieve this.



Laos

Laos has the world's largest contamination from unexploded ordnance (UXO), much of this consisting of sub-munitions. It is estimated that of the two million metric tons of bombs dropped during the air campaign against the Vietnamese forces, up to 30% of munitions failed to detonate on impact.

UXO significantly restricts the use of agricultural land in the country and delays economic development, as well as causing death and injury to people. As a direct result of the UXO contamination 20,000 people have been killed or injured in Laos since the end of the Vietnam War.

In 2013 HALO began UXO clearance, survey, risk education and Explosive Ordnance Disposal in Laos. With casualties still occurring 40 years after the bombings, and with such widespread contamination, there was a clear requirement for HALO to begin operations in the country.

During our first year of work in Laos we have destroyed 2,396 cluster munitions, 14 air dropped bombs and 1,557 other items of UXO, clearing a total land area of 39 hectares.



124
National Staff



5,922
UXO destroyed

We are currently working in Savannakhet Province which, historically, has accounted for 25% of all casualties. Our teams are focused on two eastern districts in Savannakhet: Sepon and Vilabuly. Located along the Vietnamese border, straddling the historic supply route known as the 'Ho Chi Minh Trail', they rank among the poorest districts in the country.

The Government of Laos has prioritised UXO clearance and aims to clear 200,000 hectares of contaminated land by 2020. However, with current clearance rates in Laos ranging between 4,000 to 5,000 hectares of contaminated land per year, this goal is ambitious. Increasing clearance capacities and efficiencies are crucial to achieving this important goal.

Our aim in Laos is to continuously raise survey and clearance standards. We will support the government in its Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Programmes through accurate survey, appropriate clearance prioritisation and, most importantly, facilitating the large scale clearance that is required.

Next Steps

HALO will expand its capacity to a further 100 national staff in 2014, doubling in size. If additional funding is forthcoming we hope to grow even more, as our growth to support clearance in Laos will be determined by the availability of funding.



Mozambique

In 1992 Mozambique emerged from almost 30 years of conflict and was regarded as one of the most mine impacted countries in the world. Twenty years after the end of the civil war there is now an end in sight.

HALO began working in the country in 1993 and we have played an integral role in Mozambique's success in dealing with its mines problem. We are the largest mineclearance organisation in the country and with the considerable progress made thus far, Mozambique's Government intends to complete clearance by the end of 2014.

In 2007 the northern half of Mozambique, an area the size of California, was declared Mine Free after 14 years of HALO mineclearance. Our teams cleared 552 minefields and over 100,000 mines in northern Mozambique, then visited over 6,000 communities to determine that no known minefields remained. This process, called the Mine Free District survey, was designed by HALO and has since been recognised as a



model for other countries and has also been used in south and central Mozambique.

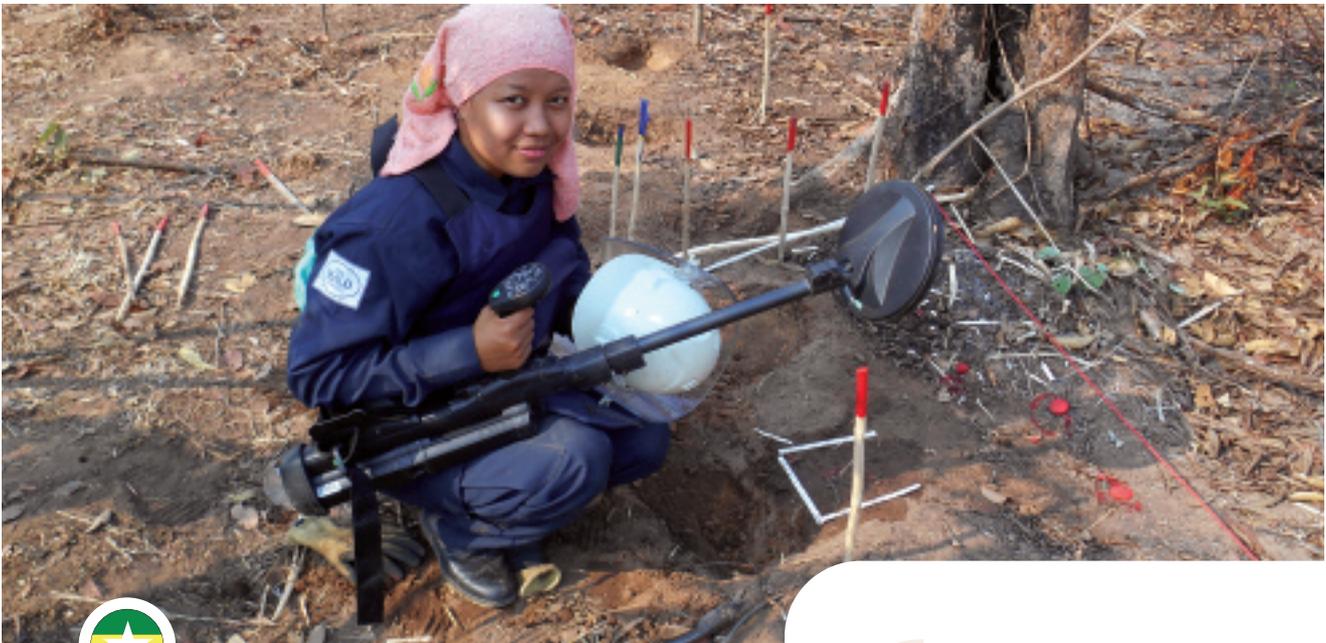
In 2007 we were asked to move to south and central Mozambique to conduct a Baseline Assessment of the remaining mines problem and to then conduct mineclearance in the provinces of Tete, Manica and Maputo.

In March 2014, Maputo province was declared Mine Free allowing us to focus on expanding our clearance operations in Manica and Tete provinces. In the first four months of 2014, our teams have been clearing an average of just over 1,500 mines each month.

Next Steps

It will be a busy rest of 2014 as Mozambique nears completion. There are factors that could challenge Mozambique's wish to complete by 31st December 2014, but we will continue to deliver highly efficient quality clearance.

HALO thanks our donors, for providing the funding required to reach this point. We will remain flexible in case we are needed to assist in other provinces in Mozambique and we will respond appropriately should there be a need to keep a small residual capacity in the country post 2014.



Myanmar



10
National Staff

The Landmine Monitor reports that over the past six years Myanmar has had the third highest number of known landmine casualties in the world. Despite this no mineclearance to international standards has taken place in Myanmar.

Landmines are concentrated in the states around Myanmar's borders with Thailand as a result of decades of war between the government and ethnic minority armed groups. The presence of landmines hinders the safe return of both Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees, and it restricts livelihood opportunities in conflict areas.

HALO established an office in Myanmar in September 2012, and since October 2012 we have been working with the Myanmar Peace Centre (within which the Myanmar Mine Action Centre is being established) to draft national standards. We have also joined the UNHCR-led National Protection Working Group.

We have recruited men and women from key ethnic groupings and have trained them on our programme in Cambodia during the first half of 2014. During this 6 month training package Myanmar's future mine action managers have learnt and practiced minefield survey and marking, manual mineclearance with a range of detector types, Explosive Ordnance Disposal and management of a mineclearance project. During the first half of 2014 HALO has also participated in pilot survey projects in Myanmar.

An integrated approach, encompassing risk education, survey and clearance, will be vital to peace-building efforts in Myanmar. This will enable the return of displaced people, improved economic opportunities in affected ethnic minority areas and increasing physical security.

Next Steps

We are prioritising developing risk education training and field coordination capacity which will support community based organisations in affected areas. At this early stage of the ceasefire process this is the most effective method for reaching communities and building relationships.

The key approach of HALO's project is full transparency to all stakeholders, and our plan has been endorsed by key peacemakers at the highest levels. The community orientated nature of our approach will push the boundaries of what is currently possible, building grassroots relationships as a precursor to the deployment of survey and clearance teams in the future.





Nagorno Karabakh

The Armenian people of Nagorno Karabakh are locked in post-Soviet isolation and poverty due to the disputed status of the territory. During the intense two-year war between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno Karabakh in the early 1990s, landmines were laid across large swathes of land and cluster bombs were dropped that failed to detonate at the time.

Although fighting ceased 20 years ago, the people of Nagorno Karabakh continue to suffer. In fact, Karabakh has one of the world's highest per capita mine casualty rates, on a par with Afghanistan.

The consequences of the widespread use of anti-tank mines in Nagorno Karabakh has been particularly devastating. Farmers face the choice of either leaving large tracts of land uncultivated or risking their lives to earn an income.

HALO has been the only organisation conducting mineclearance in Nagorno Karabakh since 2000 and in



2013 we employed 175 Karabaki staff to conduct manual and mechanical mine and cluster bomb clearance.

We also field survey and Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams and provide Mine Risk Education; the latter having been deemed so essential by Government authorities that it has been incorporated into the Nagorno Karabakh school curriculum.

HALO has now cleared almost 90% of all landmines in Nagorno Karabakh, returning 27,000 hectares of cleared land to the local people. However, the disputed status means that US Government funds (the US being the only government currently funding large-scale clearance) can be used only in certain parts of the territory.

The areas where government funds cannot be used are sometimes described as 'green areas', and the majority of the remaining mines and UXO problems are now located in these unfunded green areas.

Next Steps

HALO is actively and urgently recruiting new donors who are not encumbered by politics and are prepared to fund clearance in these politically sensitive areas where the humanitarian need is great. Such funding will allow us to work in these high priority areas.



Somaliland

Somaliland is an unrecognised independent state located in northwest Somalia in the Horn of Africa. The landmine and explosive remnants of war problem in Somaliland comes as a result of over 18 years of warfare, with mines laid during the war between Somalia and Ethiopia and later during the civil war that led to Somaliland's de-facto independence.

HALO began working in Somaliland in 1999 and we are the sole mineclearance operator across all six regions of Somaliland. A staggering 90% of Somaliland's population is unemployed and HALO is the third largest employer in the state. The steady employment of local staff from rural communities, across all ethnic clans, is a win-win situation and complements HALO's large scale mineclearance efforts.

By March 2014 we had destroyed more than 250,000 explosive items and cleared over 1,360 hectares of mined land. More than 18,340 hectares of former battlefield areas have also been returned to local communities. This cleared land has been put to immediate productive use for grazing and agriculture, access to water and markets and village expansion.



600
National Staff



4,371
Mines destroyed



32,841
UXO destroyed

Weapon and ammunition disposal teams also address the problem of explosive security and in the past 12 months we have recovered and destroyed 18 Man Portable Air Defense Systems (known as MANPADS). These unsecured guided missiles are one of the greatest threats to international security. We also mentor the Government's national demining agency and work closely with the government body in charge of mine action to maintain the mine contamination database (IMSMA).

Next Steps

There are 208 hazardous areas remaining in Somaliland comprising some 1,000 hectares contaminated by mines and 1,500 hectares contaminated by other explosive remnants of war.

The vast majority of these minefields are on roads and others block agricultural and grazing land – two activities that form the backbone of Somaliland's economy.

With marginal expansion of the programme to 700 staff, HALO expects all known minefields in Somaliland to be cleared by the end of 2017. In 2014/15 we plan to establish a programme in the south and central regions of Somalia.



Sri Lanka

In 2009 the Sri Lankan Government declared an end to decades of armed conflict with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Landmines were used by both sides at different stages of the fighting. They continue to present an obstacle to the safe return of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and block access to paddy fields, fishing jetties, grazing land and community infrastructure.

HALO began operations here in 2002 and we remain the largest mine action operator in the country. With 1,140 staff, including over 750 former IDPs and 250 women, the programme in Sri Lanka is HALO's second largest.

We initially focused efforts on clearing mine belts laid across the Jaffna peninsula during the fighting in the 1990s. With the end of the war in 2009, we expanded south to the formerly LTTE-controlled districts of Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu. During the heavy fighting of 2008 some 300,000 people were displaced and, after the war, landmines and other explosive remnants of war posed a major obstacle to their safe return.

Between 2002 and May 2014, our teams cleared over 950 hectares of minefields and over 1,650 hectares of



1,140
National Staff



182,865
Mines destroyed



59,704
UXO destroyed

former battlefield areas while destroying more than 181,000 landmines, 59,000 items of large calibre ammunition and 530,000 bullets. Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams were called to assist with over 7,200 'emergency' reports of UXO found.

By early 2013 demining had allowed most families to return home with some 160,000 people returned to the areas surveyed and cleared by HALO.

Our survey work has been essential in accurately defining the mines problem in Sri Lanka. In 2013 we conducted a survey outside the traditional area of operations on behalf of the Government and through this we were able to cancel 1,500 hectares from Mannar and Vavuniya districts. This significantly reduced the area needing to be cleared and provided a much more accurate picture of the remaining problem.

Next Steps

By the end of June 2013, the national authorities reported 8,900 hectares of contamination to be cleared. We are seeking additional funding from donor governments and private donors to increase the demining capacity to 1500 national staff. This will enable clearance of all high and medium priority minefields by the end of 2016.



West Bank

Humanitarian mineclearance is relatively new to the West Bank. Landmines were laid in the region by both the Jordanian and Israeli armies in a number of phases, including heavy minelaying by the Jordanian Army in the build up to the Six Day War of 1967.

We established a programme here in 2011 to assist the recently created Israeli National Mine Action Authority and the Palestinian Mine Action Centre in a unique collaboration. HALO was the first and only NGO with support from both the Israeli and Palestinian mine-action authorities.

In 2011 we made an initial assessment of the West Bank and the Jordan Valley, and from this assessment 90 technically challenging minefields were identified. A small, politically-neutral humanitarian programme was agreed to tackle these. Governmental support, particularly from the US, has been essential in getting this project off the ground.



33
National Staff



70
Mines destroyed

We commenced mineclearance in the West Bank in April 2013 at a-Nabi Elyas minefield, one of 13 minefields prioritised because they directly affect Palestinian communities surrounded by housing, near roads or on land that could be used for farming. Over 70 anti-tank and anti-personnel mines were found and safely destroyed in the first four months of clearance.

In the West Bank previous Israeli military clearance attempts mean that plastic mines are deeply buried in the ground, making it impractical to clear the land with conventional manual clearance methods. Mechanical clearance plays a key role in the West Bank program.

Next Steps

Governmental donors have been quick to respond to HALO's requirement for funding recognising the huge value in a unique project that enjoys Israeli and Palestinian cooperation with a tangible, permanent outcome.

We are working to secure access to start the clearance of a second minefield in the West Bank – a process that can be sensitive and politicised at times. If the programme can expand to clear the remaining minefields in less time, there may be scope for additional donor funding to support the programme.

We will continue to prioritise the clearance of the remaining minefields in the West Bank which impact upon the local Palestinian population, minefields that have remained uncleared for over 50 years.

Donors 2013/14: Governments of the United States, Netherlands, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.



Zimbabwe

If the existing records are correct then Zimbabwe contains more than a million mines, making this country home to some of the largest and most dangerous minefields in the world. Border communities are severely impacted, human and cattle accidents occur on a regular basis and valuable farmland is being denied to rural communities who depend on subsistence farming.

The mines problem in Zimbabwe dates back to the Liberation War of the 1970s when Rhodesian forces attempted to seal the country's borders with a series of killing barrier minefields to prevent liberation fighters re-entering Zimbabwe.

In 2013 HALO began survey, mine risk education and mineclearance in Zimbabwe. We have been given initial responsibility for survey and clearance of the border minefields running from Musengezi in Mashonaland Central to Rwenya in Northern Manicaland, some 13,759 hectares in total along Zimbabwe's northeast border with Mozambique.



126
National Staff



1,643
Mines destroyed

Our survey to date has identified 12 minefields within 150 metres of schools, 19 minefields within 50 metres of houses and 31 minefields within 10 metres of cultivated land. Clearance began in November 2013 and within six months we cleared more than 1,000 landmines in areas of the highest humanitarian priority.

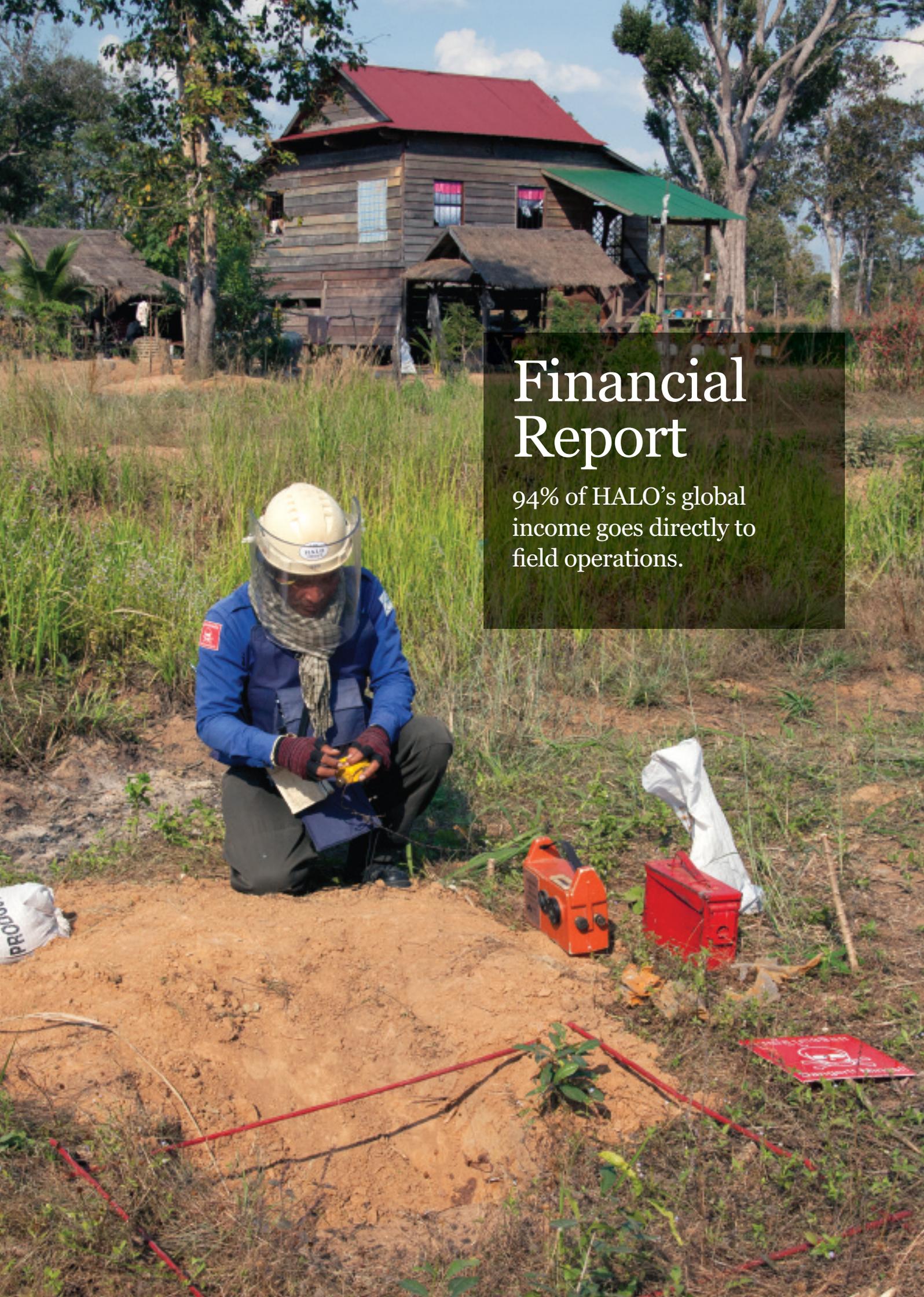
Foya village in Mashonaland Central is one example of a priority area. The population of 1,500 lives on one side of a main road that runs through the village, while on the other side is a dense barrier minefield, beyond which is the main source of water for the community. This means that villagers had to cross through the minefield daily for access to water, to graze livestock and to cultivate farmland. Our mineclearance work will make the daily lives of these villagers immeasurably safer.

Next Steps

Accurate estimations of time and cost to clear Zimbabwe will be established once the current phase of survey is complete. This will be informed by initial mineclearance work which will identify mine density, clearance challenges and corresponding clearance rates.

However, our initial survey and clearance work makes it absolutely clear that large scale demining is urgently needed in Zimbabwe. We are seeking additional donor support to employ hundreds more deminers to rid Zimbabwe and its villages of its minefield problem within a sensible time frame.

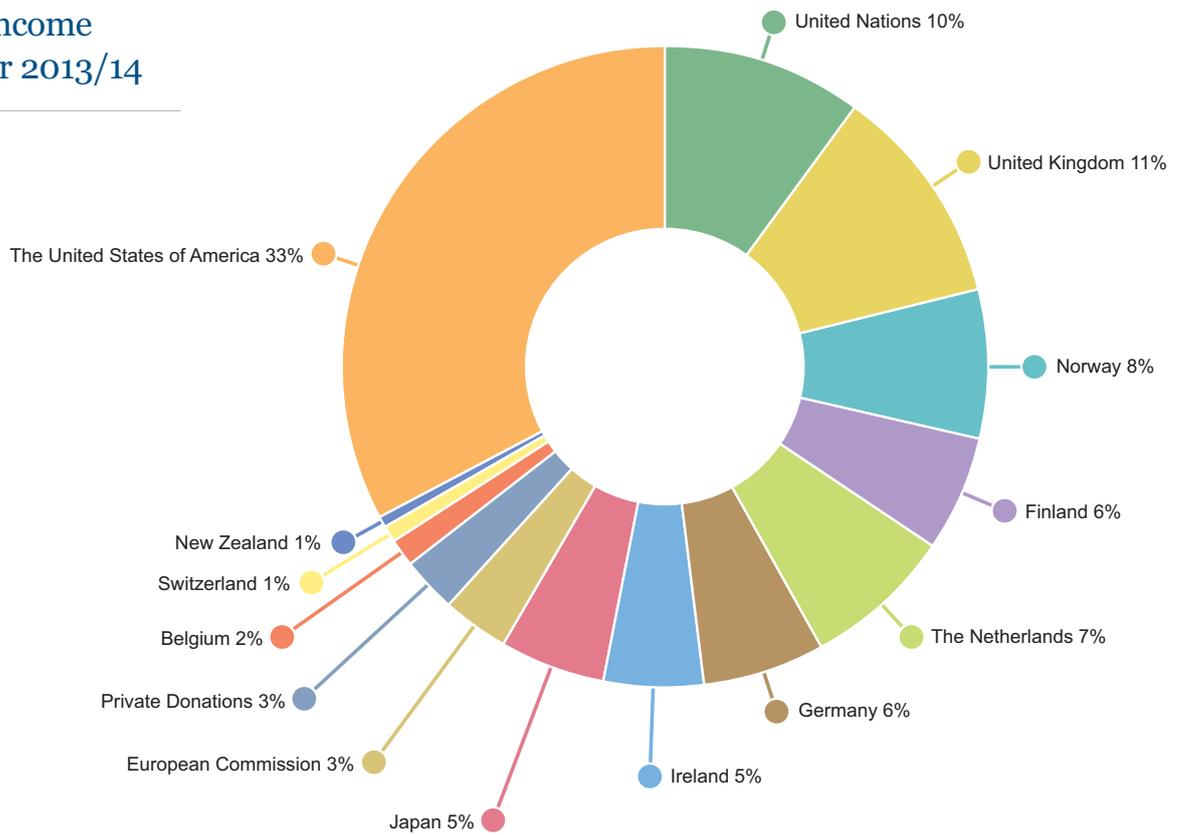


A person wearing a white helmet with a face shield, a blue long-sleeved shirt, and dark pants is kneeling in a field. They are holding a yellow device. To their right are two red pieces of equipment, one of which is a generator. A red flag is on the ground nearby. In the background, there is a large wooden house with a red roof and a thatched roof structure. The scene is outdoors with trees and grass.

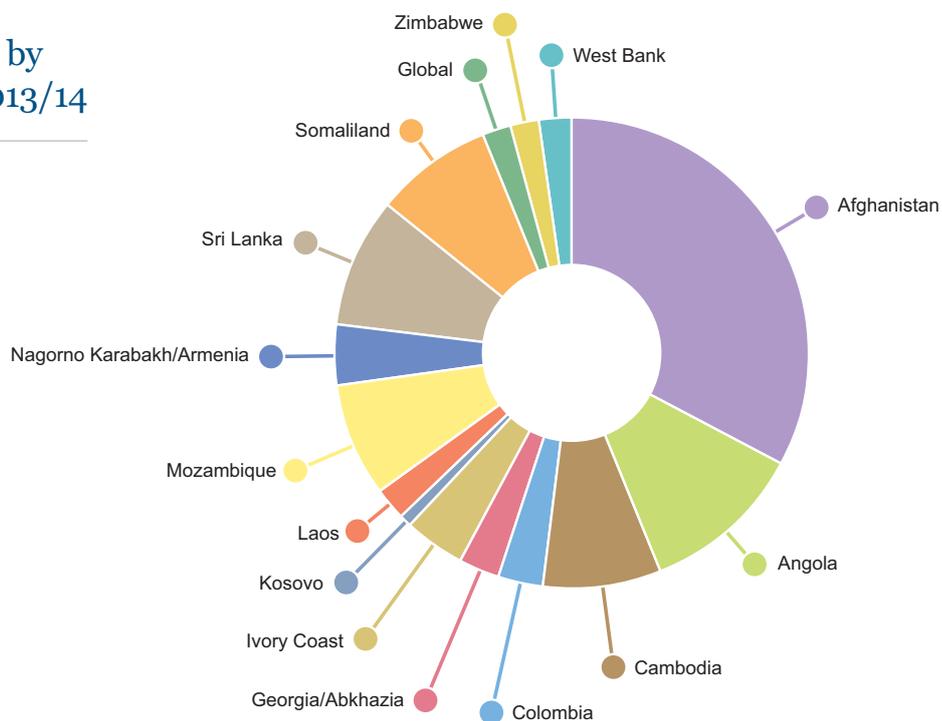
Financial Report

94% of HALO's global income goes directly to field operations.

Global Income by Donor 2013/14



Global Income by Programme 2013/14



The combined income of HALO UK and HALO USA for the year ended 31 March 2014 was approximately £37 million.

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With Thanks

We would like to thank our donors for their invaluable support. In 2013/14 HALO has generously been supported by the following national governments and international organisations: Belgium, European Commission, ECHO, EDF, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom, the United Nations and the United States of America.

And in 2013/14 HALO received support from the following major private and corporate donors, as well as receiving many other donations, large and small, from individuals and organisations around the world.

Thank you to all for making a difference:

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Mia and Larry Hamwey	Greg and Lisa Wendt

Together we are making landmines history



Get Involved

Whether individuals, small groups, organisations or governments, each and every one of HALO's donors create real and lasting change in some of the world's most vulnerable communities. HALO donors save lives and turn minefields into valuable, productive farmland. Find out more about why we are committed to making landmines history, and discover the difference you make to communities around the world when you support HALO.

Sponsor a Landmine Removal Project

At HALO we know that sponsorship of a landmine and UXO removal project can save lives. And we believe it can change yours, too.

- £150** pays a deminer's monthly salary, supporting a local family

- £900** buys a metal detector used to locate landmines

- £18,000** buys a vehicle to transport the demining teams

- £37,000** funds a demining team in Cambodia for a year

Donors who support a team of deminers for a month or more will be recognised as the project sponsor and you'll receive a detailed completion report with staff names, mines cleared and minefields transformed when the project is complete.

We'll match your gift to the area of greatest need or you can contact us to learn more about the programmes. Prices vary per country.

For more information contact us at mail@halotrust.org or +44 (0) 1848 331100

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