



# THE LIVES YOU HAVE TRANSFORMED



A BRIEF REVIEW OF YOUR IMPACT  
IN NAGORNO KARABAKH





The HALO Trust is the world's largest humanitarian landmine clearance organization. Our mission is to lead the effort to protect lives and restore the livelihoods of those affected by conflict. For over thirty years, we've been saving lives and helping war-torn communities recover by making their land safe. We employ over 8,600 staff and operate in more than 25 countries and territories.



## FROM THE CEO

*Dear Friends,*



JAMES COWAN

Over the past few years, you were a part of something amazing. Since 2017, over 36,000 lives in Nagorno Karabakh were improved as a result of HALO's work to remove deadly landmines and destroy hazardous explosives.

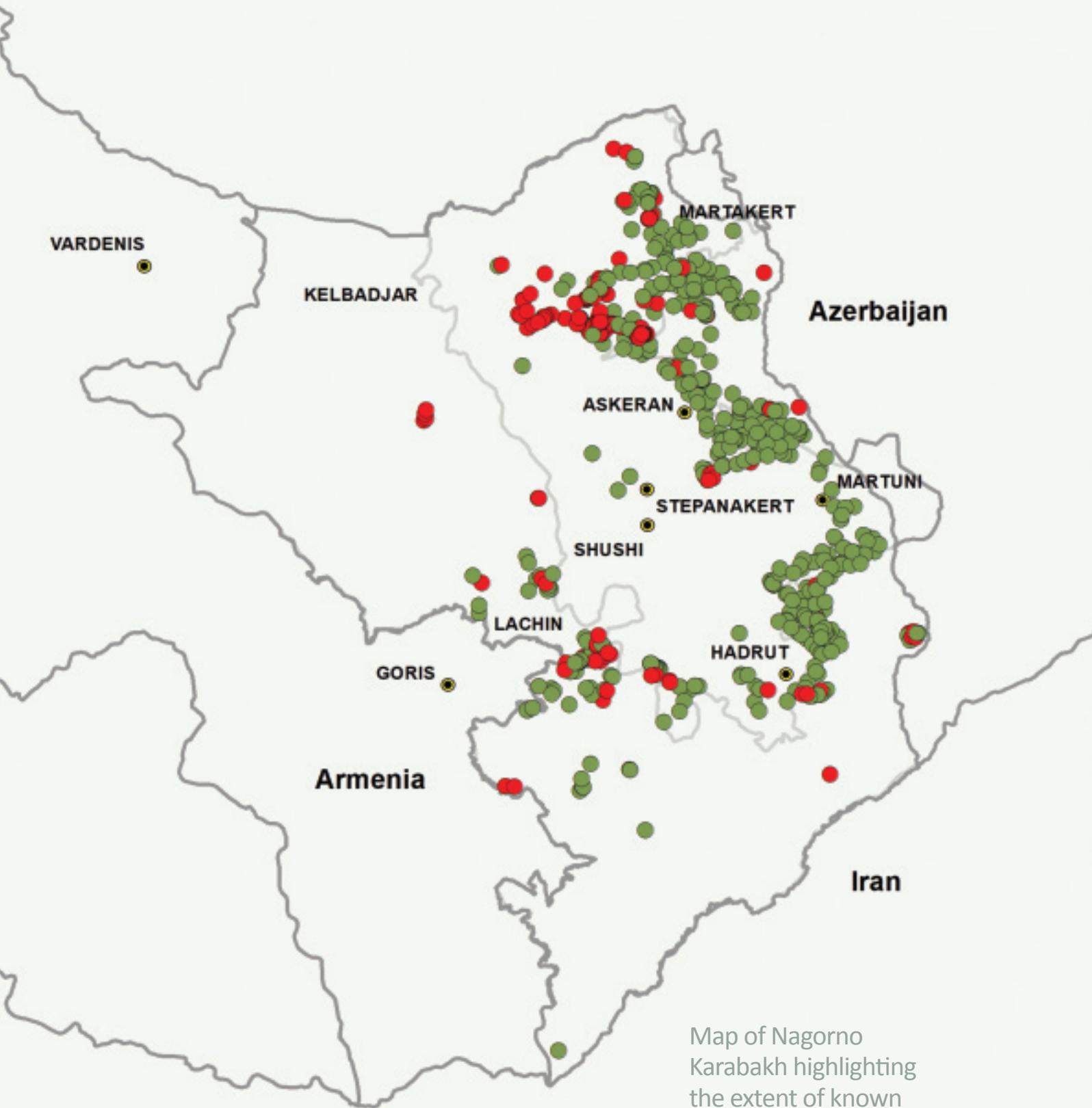
Every time I visit Karabakh, the importance of our work is immediately apparent. What once used to be dangerous minefields are now farms, pastures, and vineyards, an economic lifeline for thousands. Villages once abandoned due to the danger of landmines are being revitalized as more land is cleared. Areas where families once felt afraid to raise their children, are becoming prosperous again.

Your impact cannot be expressed solely by numbers. That is why this report highlights the individuals you have made a difference to in the region. Without your support, their stories are not possible. However, the threat has not yet been vanquished. Landmines still plague communities across Karabakh, killing and maiming unsuspecting victims. This is a legacy we must remove for good but we will need sustained resources to do so.

That is why your support over the coming years will be crucial to ensure that these communities are liberated from the scars of war. Thank you again for all that you do, and I look forward to working with you in the years ahead.

*Yours sincerely,  
James Cowan*

# OUR PROGRESS



Map of Nagorno Karabakh highlighting the extent of known minefields.

- = Cleared minefields
- = Known remaining minefields

OUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS  
SINCE 2017, YOU HELPED US:



Clear 389  
acres of land



Support 36,000 people  
who benefited from  
cleared land



Destroy 588  
landmines and  
explosive hazards



Provide 20,985 people  
with life-saving risk  
education



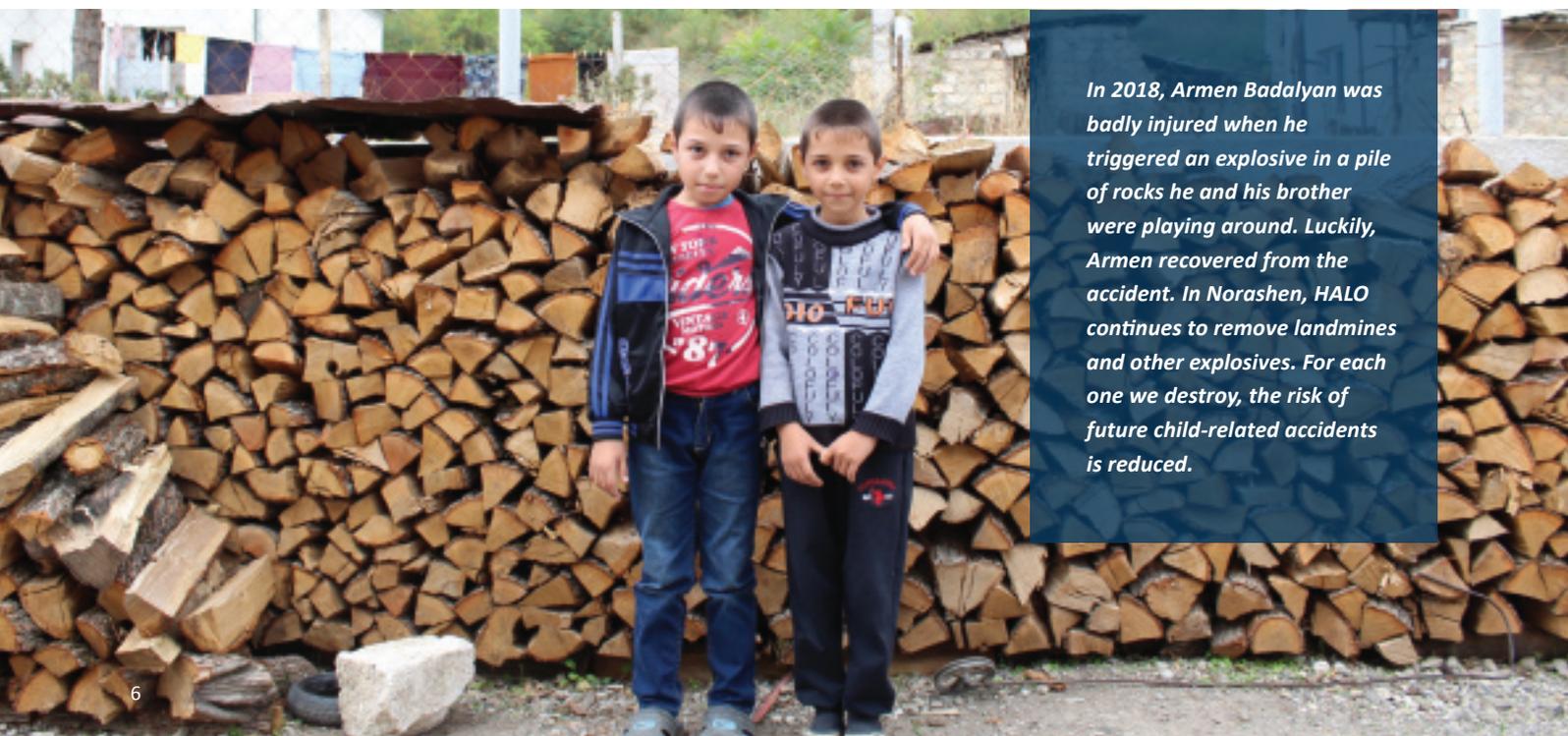
## PROTECTING LIVES

Landmines, cluster bombs, and other explosives kill people and inflict appalling injuries that have a devastating impact on their futures. HALO protects lives by destroying landmines and teaching people, particularly children, how to stay safe until our work is done. Your support protects the lives of thousands who previously lived in fear of landmines and other explosives in Karabakh.

### NORASHEN

For the residents of Norashen, landmines around their village have made it impossible to travel safely to nearby towns for schools and jobs. Anti-tank mines, large enough to destroy a bus, menace the same path used by children to walk to school in the neighboring village.

But thanks to you, this is changing. HALO has cleared landmines from an area the size of 181 football fields around the village. Each landmine cleared brings Norashen one step closer to a day where every child can walk in safety. When a landmine is destroyed, it is gone forever and can never injure anyone again.



*In 2018, Armen Badalyan was badly injured when he triggered an explosive in a pile of rocks he and his brother were playing around. Luckily, Armen recovered from the accident. In Norashen, HALO continues to remove landmines and other explosives. For each one we destroy, the risk of future child-related accidents is reduced.*



## MAKING LAND SAFE

**Clearing landmines is the essential first step in rebuilding lives after conflict. The fighting may be over, but if landmines and explosives are in the ground, communities across Karabakh remain threatened. HALO works to make land safe so that life can begin again.**

### SARINSHEN

Sarinshen, literally “the village on the mountain,” is an idyllic location at the top of a vast, green mountain bursting with wildlife and pastures. Despite its peaceful surroundings, the trauma of conflict haunts the village as it bore the brunt of fighting in the region during the war. In many ways, life stopped for the people of Sarinshen after the war. The single dirt road which connects the village to the rest of Karabakh was strewn with landmines, making travel difficult.

For years, local families had to carefully follow the tire tracks left in the road by other cars to avoid running over a landmine. Raising cattle, one of the few sources of income, became difficult. In 2004, HALO began clearing the land around the village and has since cleared the main road. Karo and Venera Minasyan, longtime village residents, are eager to bring people back. They are optimistic that once the remaining landmines are gone, Sarinshen will thrive again.



*“For children, taking the bus to school was forbidden in those days. Before clearance, it was very hard and dangerous to use the road, but we had no other choice. We walked the four-kilometer mined road very carefully, using the same path that had already been walked on—and prayed that nothing would happen.” – Venera Minasyan, Sarinshen resident*



## RESTORING LIVELIHOODS

People in war-torn communities are desperate to educate their children and put food on the table. If landmines and explosives are in the ground, opportunities are even more limited. They cannot plant crops, collect water, or let their children walk to school. Karabakh is a place where most people rely on farming for income. Safe land is essential for survival.

### MEGHVADZOR

Meghvadzor translates to “canyon of bees” in Armenian. It is no coincidence that Romanos, a passionate beekeeper, moved there to start a new life with his wife and five children. However, landmines near the village left Romanos concerned for the safety of his family. Oksen, his only other neighbor and longtime resident of Meghvadzor, explained that most other families left due to safety concerns and lack of opportunity caused by the landmines.

Since Romanos moved to the village, HALO has cleared several minefields that he now uses to graze livestock and house his 100 beehives. He plans to expand and produce more of the rich honey they make. As more minefields are cleared, both Oksen and Romanos grow more confident in restoring Meghvadzor.

*“There’s a lot of work to do in the village. I believe there are other families that would like to come and live there, but I know that many of them are afraid of the mines. I decided to take the risk and start a new life in Meghvadzor.” - Romanos, Meghvadzor resident*





## EMPOWERING PEOPLE



Our impact goes beyond the minefield. In Nagorno Karabakh, steady income is hard to come by. HALO is one of the area's largest employers and the people we employ become agents of change in their own communities, empowered by their new-found status, skills, and income. The core of our staff, including managers and supervisors, consist almost entirely of locals. We empower them to take the lead in making their communities safer and more prosperous, while providing jobs, skills, and training.

After passing her university exams, Lilit joined HALO and rose through the ranks to become the first female demining team leader in Karabakh. Everyday, she leads a group of deminers and is responsible for their work and safety in the fields. She enjoys working with HALO because of the mutual respect she has with her team, and because HALO trains men and women to be equally successful at removing landmines. Most of all, she enjoys the feeling she gets every time a mine is destroyed, knowing that the cleared land will be used safely by future generations.



*"My team does a very good job, we clear the land that will be used in the future. If not by me or a member of my family, then my neighbor will use it, my relatives will use it, and my children will use it."*

*- Lilit, HALO Team Leader in Nagorno Karabakh*





## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Andrey is the Mayor of Kusapat village. A few years ago, he was thrown 40 meters from his car after driving over a very large landmine near the village. He miraculously survived. Since then, HALO has cleared most of the village's minefields.

With your support, we are making a powerful difference in the lives of those living among landmines and explosives in Karabakh. Each landmine removed is one step closer to ensuring people like Andrey are safe from them, forever.



*"I feared the landmines more than I ever feared the war." – Andrey Arakelyan, Mayor of Kusapat*

## There are many ways you can support Karabakh. Become an advocate or contribute!



*"I just came back from Armenia and visited Karabakh where I spent time with a family that had a child pass away because of a mine explosion about a decade ago. I felt helpless and figured out that I can contribute a tiny amount to keep the effort moving forward. I really appreciate the work that you all do and hope that it helps save the lives of many innocent children..."*  
– Crist K. | Supporter for HALO in Nagorno Karabakh





To find out how to advocate for and contribute to this program, please contact Diana Tatili. With your support, we can transform and save lives.

Email: [Diana.Tatili@halousa.org](mailto:Diana.Tatili@halousa.org)

Tel: +1 (202) 871-7073

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The HALO Trust (USA), Inc. 1730 Rhode Island Avenue NW, Suite 206  
Washington, DC 20036 USA

Contact us at (202) 871-7073 for information about stock donations or how to include HALO in your will.



☎ 202-871-7073

✉ Diana.Tatili@halousa.org

📍 1730 Rhode Island Ave NW, Suite 206 Washington, DC 20036



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