OUR IMPACT IN 2020

- 34,907 benefiting from explosive hazard clearance and risk education
- 721 landmines and hazards destroyed
- 15,655 pieces of ammunition cleared
- 500+ households reached in emergency COVID-19 response
Dear Friends,

2020 was a difficult year for the people of Nagorno Karabakh. In the midst of a global pandemic, war returned.

Families were forced from their homes in the tens of thousands. Those who remained had to shelter in bunkers to stay safe from daily bombardment. Several thousand people lost their lives in the conflict, including three HALO staff members who had been called up to fight.

After the ceasefire, families returned to find rockets, unexploded cluster bombs and other explosives strewn in their streets, gardens and homes.

Throughout the fighting, The HALO Trust and the ICRC were the only international organizations supporting the people of Karabakh. I would like to pay tribute to our local staff who worked tirelessly to keep people safe.

Since the ceasefire we have been clearing major population centers of deadly explosives.

Your support has been a lifeline for families in Nagorno Karabakh and a reminder that they have not been forgotten by the world. From all of us at HALO – thank you.

James Cowan
CEO, The HALO Trust
In September, the worst fighting in decades erupted in Nagorno Karabakh, taking a heavy toll on civilians. Over 90,000 people were displaced to the Republic of Armenia and those who stayed took cover in shelters because of sustained bombardments. A truce now holds, and as families come home, lives continue to remain threatened by unexploded hazards that lurk in their homes, gardens, and roads.

Because of your support, HALO was able to maintain its presence in Karabakh throughout the war, warning civilians of explosive hazards in their communities and beginning the most urgent clearance. Since the ceasefire, we have continued to provide much-needed employment, as our staff of about 150 local men and women dispose of explosive ordnance and teach people to stay safe in all Armenian-controlled towns and villages.
OUR RESPONSE
HALO’S CURRENT OPERATIONAL AREA AFTER THE WAR

3,595 people taught how to identify and avoid deadly explosives
1,548 cluster munitions found and cleared
515 acres of land made safe to use
OUR PEOPLE
Nearly all of our team members in Nagorno Karabakh are recruited locally, creating jobs for deminers, paramedics, mechanics, and translators. Our work provides stable employment for hundreds of families and helps people gain new-found skills that benefit their livelihoods for years to come.

At 28 years old, Taguhi has been working at The HALO Trust for two years. On dreary days Taguhi can be known to flash a wide smile. When she does, it becomes instantly apparent how she earned the nickname “Sunny Girl.” Previously a law student, Taguhi is now an assistant team leader, assessing the unexploded munitions that litter Karabakh and endanger displaced people. She enjoys the camaraderie of HALO and how the team members support each other.

“It was always such a relief and a joy to see each other. We would share our stories, support each other in our losses. We’re really one family.”

Araik, or Aro, as he’s known to his friends and family, is a HALO survey team leader who specializes in safely disposing of explosive ordnance. Deeply knowledgeable, with a steady, attentive gaze, Aro has been with The HALO Trust since 2000. Born and raised in Stepanakert, Aro studied civil engineering in Baku. Upon graduating, he served with the Soviet military in Siberia and Mongolia. He returned to Karabakh and after the 1990s conflict joined the Rescue Service, where he was Commander of Operations.

“This is my home, and my job is to take care of it. I know I am needed here.”
As airports closed, health systems fractured, and countries around the world went into lockdown, we were determined to reach isolated communities in Karabakh. Your support was crucial in helping these communities protect themselves and their families from COVID-19.

HALO’s emergency relief fund in Nagorno Karabakh helped us reach over 500 households in over 30 communities. We provided vulnerable families who otherwise had little access to healthcare or supplies with hygiene kits, food, and protective equipment.

Nagorno Karabakh’s healthcare system faces many challenges. Even the largest and most equipped hospitals still lack certain facilities and supplies. A COVID-19 outbreak, especially in rural areas with no hospitals at all, would be devastating.

HALO lent its support to local health authorities. Our mechanics outfitted several of our vehicles to serve as additional ambulances for COVID-19 patients. We also donated thousands of facemasks to the hospital in Stepanakert.
Our work has never been needed more in Nagorno Karabakh. The aftermath of war has left families threatened by a deadly sea of explosive hazards from Stepanakert to Martakert. Thanks to our outstanding community of supporters, we were there to help those who were most at risk.

Over the past few years, a very loyal donor had challenged HALO to raise money for Nagorno Karabakh and in return they would match up to $500,000. Through some truly remarkable support and generosity, we met this milestone in 2020. After the match, $1 million was raised to keep communities safe.

We owe a lot of gratitude to the Armenian community, internationally and in the U.S., who led the charge to keep families in Karabakh safe. Our gratitude also extends to new supporters, such as Grapes for Humanity Canada and the Gould Family Foundation, who stood with communities in Nagorno Karabakh in their time of need.

From all of us at HALO, thank you. Your support will help pave the way for a safer and more prosperous future.

SUPPORT WHEN IT WAS NEEDED MOST
A JOURNEY THROUGH 2020:
WHEN THEY HAD NO ONE TO TURN TO, YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE
Kavahan village is located in the Martuni region, about 30 kilometers from the capital Stepanakert. The village draws its name from the Armenian word for clay, as Kavahan is historically known for its pottery and skillful potters. Once a vibrant village, it was left destitute by the recent war. Senyorik Hakobjanyan, the village mayor, is working with his wife Julieta, the local librarian, to restore the village to its pre-war bustle.

The 2020 War impacted everyone’s lives and the Hakobjanyan family is no exception. From the very first day of the war, Senyorik was conscripted to fight. His wife and children, along with the rest of the villagers, were evacuated to Armenia. When they came back to Kavahan, they found it strewn with deadly cluster munitions.

We are working with Senyorik and Julieta to bring Kavahan back to life by removing the explosive hazards plaguing the village. Since we began our clearance, Senyorik has observed the village becoming safer. “By making sure we can graze our animals safely, HALO is providing massive support to the whole village,” he said.
RETURNING HOME TO MARTAKERT

Gayane, her husband Norik, and their two teenage children fled from Martakert to Yerevan during the war.

They returned home on November 16 to find their house and yard damaged from the shelling. “I was fixing the hives that had fallen over when suddenly I saw it there in the grass,” says Gayane, pointing to a spot in the middle of the field where a latticed metal crate covers an unexploded ShOAB, as seen in the photo above, one of the dangerous cluster submunitions dropped during the recent war. Her main source of income became a field of hidden deathtraps.

HALO was immediately called out to assist. We have been working in Martakert, removing cluster munitions from homes like Gayane’s. Thanks to your support, we are providing her family a safe way to earn a livelihood and keep their home safe.
A SAFE YARD IN MARTUNI

The Danielyans live in Martuni, one of the hardest hit residential areas during the war.

After the ceasefire, they returned to find marks of fragmentation on the walls of their home, a rocket in their front yard, and several pink ribbons—the telltale sign of M85 cluster munitions—strewn about their property. To the side of their driveway, they found an unexploded cluster munition.

Like many other residents of Martuni, they returned home to deadly hazards that threatened their lives and wellbeing. Your swift support has helped us remove the rockets and cluster munitions from their yard, giving them a safe home.
SAVING LIVES CANNOT WAIT
During these unprecedented times, you can make a real difference for thousands of families across Karabakh.

**WANT TO MAKE AN IMPACT NOW?**

Donating directly to HALO is the most effective way to support our life-saving work. There are many ways you can give.

### WE MAXIMIZE YOUR INVESTMENT

Your gift goes a long way. Ninety-two percent of HALO’s funding goes directly to our programs to benefit the people we serve. Only **1% of our revenue is used for fundraising**, well below the industry standard.

### YOU SPOKE, CONGRESS LISTENED

**THE IMPACT OF YOUR ADVOCACY**

HALO continues to lead the sector in advocacy on Capitol Hill to support crucial demining programs. Over 2,600 supporters from across nearly 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico encouraged their Members of Congress to support mine action, taking 11,500 actions.

In 2020, USAID discontinued crucial funding for demining in Nagorno Karabakh. We saw an enormous display of support to resume funding for this life-saving work, with 100+ House Representatives and 30+ Senators signing letters to the previous Administration urging the U.S. to resume support for efforts to remove lethal explosive objects in the region.

Join our advocacy team today and help us ensure Congress stands with families in Nagorno Karabakh: [www.halotrust.org/take-action/](http://www.halotrust.org/take-action/)

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