

A woman wearing a purple headscarf and a blue patterned dress is carrying a young child. The child is wearing a red vest over a black long-sleeved shirt and blue shorts. They are standing in a dusty, outdoor environment with a blurred background of what appears to be a settlement or camp. A semi-transparent dark blue banner is overlaid at the bottom of the image, containing the title text.

**BUILDING RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF CRISIS  
2020 IMPACT REPORT**



# ACHIEVING A LANDMINE-FREE 2025

Princess Diana's iconic walk in 1997 through a HALO minefield in Angola captured the attention of the world and gave international prominence to the devastating impact of landmines. Later that year, 122 countries came together to sign the Ottawa Treaty, banning the use of anti-personnel mines. Two decades on, much has been achieved—almost 30 countries have been declared free of landmines.

Even with this remarkable progress, 60 million people are still threatened by these murderous devices. That's why Prince Harry has continued Princess Diana's legacy in 2019, retracing his mother's footsteps in Angola at the same location she visited in 1997. But instead of a minefield, the surrounding area is now a prosperous neighborhood.

**"As much as she did then, there is still so much to do. But without question, if she hadn't campaigned the way she did 22 years ago, this could arguably still be a minefield." – Prince Harry**

Moving forward, HALO is committed to fulfilling their vision of building a mine free world.

In Sri Lanka, we surpassed our 700th minefield, helping displaced families return home. Our teams in Zimbabwe have also been working at record pace, destroying their 100,000th landmine this past year. And in Kosovo, our team inches closer to removing the last of the deadly explosive remnants left by the 1999 war. **With your continued support, we can carry on Princess Diana's legacy and make landmines history for millions around the world.**



# A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



**Dear HALO Partners,**

2020 was a unique year. In many of the countries where HALO works, such as Syria and Yemen, the Coronavirus was an additional burden in the midst of violence and displacement. In others, like Zimbabwe or Cambodia, it strained already weak healthcare systems.

I am pleased to report that while facing challenges of our own, HALO was able to mobilize its logistics capability and our expertise in risk education to support communities in 15 countries. In all, we reached over one million people with our Covid response.

We provided this support while continuing with our regular life-saving work – often in places where fresh conflict erupted. In September, when war returned to Nagorno Karabakh we immediately responded to find and clear hundreds of unexploded cluster bombs. We reached thousands in bomb shelters to provide risk education.

2020 also carried a dramatic reminder that if left insecure, explosives cause immense destruction, as we saw in the films of the Beirut blast.

We are grateful that in such a difficult year you stood with families affected by war and crisis. During these challenging times, you make a difference for millions. From all of us at HALO – thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'James Cowan'.

**James Cowan**  
CEO, The HALO Trust

BS / CMAA / 35890

# HALO IN ACTION



Our values have been shaped by our experiences over the past three decades. By investing in our most valuable asset—our people—HALO will continue to adapt and meet global challenges linked to conflict, violence and fragility.

## OUR VALUES

### MORAL COURAGE

To do that which prevents any opportunity for wrongdoing.

### INTEGRITY

To uphold the right moral and ethical standards.

### LOYALTY

Loyalty to each other, the whole team and to HALO's mission.

### DISCIPLINE

To achieve consistently professional standards in the delivery of HALO's mission.

### RESPECT FOR OTHERS

To treat others as we would expect to be treated.

### SELFLESS COMMITMENT

Putting the needs of those we serve before our own.

HALO goes where the need is greatest. By empowering refugees, war widows, and survivors of conflict to take on new challenges through training and opportunities, HALO country staff build the skills to become leaders capable of managing hundreds of employees. These leaders become agents of change by empowering others, transforming people with few job prospects into professional deminers with career skills.

The UN estimates that one percent of the world's population, almost 80 million people, is currently

displaced by war, and that 60 million people live in the shadow of landmines, with over 75% consisting of women and children. Landmines, cluster munitions, and other explosives are a primary driver of this displacement as they keep killing years after the fighting stops. While women are disproportionately impacted by war, they also hold the key for clearing the way for the safe return of millions. HALO is committed to providing invaluable employment to communities where conflict has left many households led by single women.

ACTION IN A  
YEAR OF CRISIS

# MOBILIZING AGAINST COVID-19



1 Million+  
People Reached



2,700+  
Relief Projects



15 Countries  
Reached

COVID-19 presented a terrifying new threat to families already struggling to survive in conflict-affected and fragile communities. As health systems fractured and countries around the world went into lockdown, we were determined to reach vulnerable communities and immediately help them to protect themselves and their families. Thanks to supporters like you, we were able to mobilize our resources to help over one million people, across fifteen countries.



In Myanmar, thousands of families are displaced and living in refugee camps. Water, sanitation, and healthcare are severely limited. Keeping your children safe from COVID-19 in these overcrowded conditions is nearly impossible. HALO responded by mobilizing our teams to deliver sanitation kits to over 37,000 people in crowded refugee camps and remote communities with hygiene kits.



In Hargeisa, the capital of Somaliland, there are only two ambulances and one COVID-19 treatment center for 1.2 million people. Medics had no protective visors. HALO had the resources and network to make a difference. Our ambulances were deployed to transport COVID-19 patients to the hospital. We repurposed our protective gear for doctors and nurses. We also built an entire alternate care facility to ensure the sick can be screened safely and efficiently.

## Partnership Spotlight

TraceLink, a leading digital platform company for the life science supply chain industry, has partnered with HALO to support our COVID-19 response effort and empower local communities to overcome the pandemic.

**tracelink**  
NETWORK FOR GREATER GOOD



# RESPONDING TO NAGORNO KARABAKH'S DARKEST HOUR

In September, the worst fighting in decades erupted in Nagorno Karabakh. Violence and bombardments took a massive toll on civilians. Over half the population was displaced and those who stayed had to flee to shelters because of regular 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 deploy teams during the conflict to locate explosive items, warn civilians of unexploded hazards in their communities, and deliver supplies to families in shelters. Since the truce, we have deployed over 150 staff to provide risk education, and conduct mapping, survey and disposal of ordnance in the region's Armenian-controlled population centers.



# ON THE CUTTING EDGE



HALO is at the forefront of innovative mine action, testing new methods to improve the efficiency of our work and the whole sector. Over the past decade, we have been partnering with public and private donors to trial and equip deminers with the best technology and machinery available. Pioneering new innovations ultimately benefits all organizations conducting humanitarian landmine clearance.



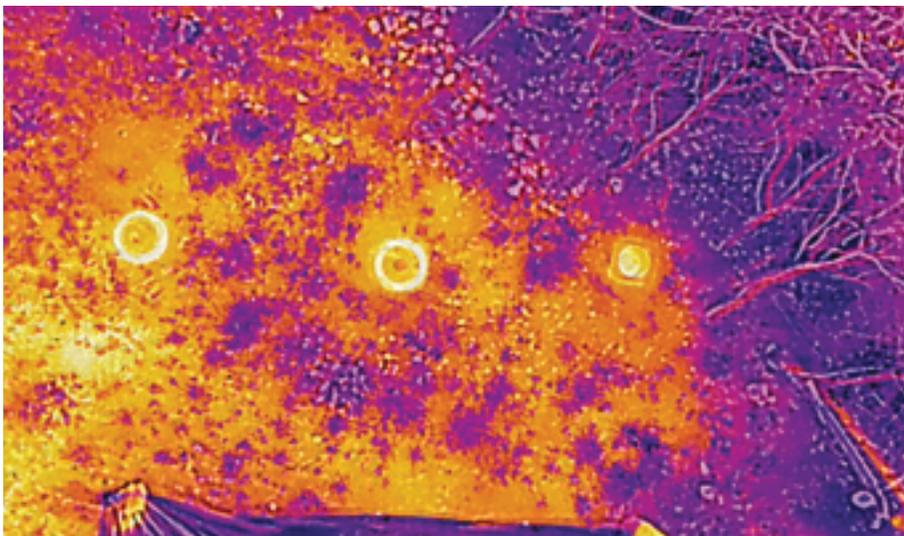
The introduction of the Handheld Standoff Mine Detection System (HSTAMIDS) to our work has made a significant impact and represents a major success in HALO's partnership with the U.S. Army's Humanitarian Demining R&D Program. HSTAMIDS uses a metal detector combined with ground penetrating radar that can distinguish between landmines and other metallic false alarms. This device has greatly increased our work efficiency in Afghanistan, Kosovo, Zimbabwe, and beyond.

Advanced analytics have powered revolutionary changes in industries across the world. It also has the power to greatly benefit the communities we work in. HALO is working to "digitalize" our field work, using new data collecting systems and machine learning to improve how we identify, map, and clear explosive hazards.

Our field teams are also trialing drones with remote sensors to locate landmines using thermal imaging. This technique has the potential to revolutionize how we locate landmines in rough rural terrain and find explosive hazards in urban areas that experienced war and fighting.

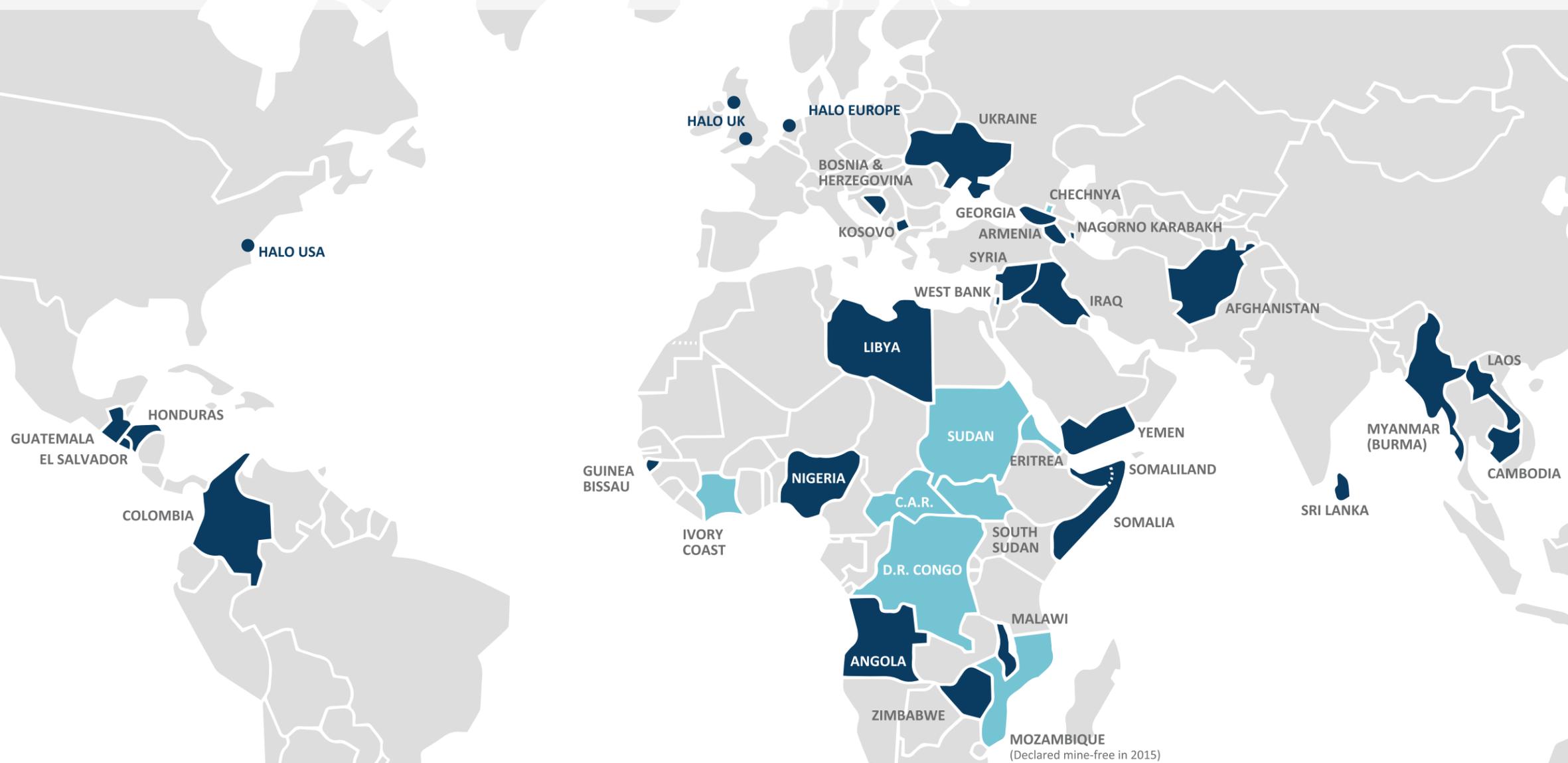
## Partnership Spotlight

SC Johnson is funding our drone research to improve how we clear landmines in Angola's Okavango headwaters.



# WHERE WE WORK

- COUNTRIES/TERRITORIES WHERE HALO CURRENTLY WORKS
- COUNTRIES/TERRITORIES WHERE HALO HAS WORKED



## 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**1.8 million**  
people benefitted



**100,641**  
landmines & unexploded ordnance destroyed



**46,955 acres**  
of land made safe



=  
*just bigger than the size of Washington DC*



**12,543 acres**  
of cleared land now in use for agriculture, housing, infrastructure & development



**196,425**  
small arms ammunition destroyed



**70,861**  
weapons marked and made safe



**454,653**  
people received risk education



A JOURNEY THROUGH 2020:  
**THE DIFFERENCE  
YOU MADE**



# SAFE LAND FOR CAMBODIAN FAMILIES



Once a landmine is destroyed, it is gone forever. Like parents across the world, Chei's main priority has always been to support his family. But for many years, the presence of landmines has made this an almost impossible struggle.

As Chei's family began to grow, he needed to cultivate more land. But he knew the remainder of his farm was strewn with deadly landmines. He and his wife were faced with an impossible choice of seeing their family go hungry, or risk farming the dangerous ground. HALO worked to clear the family's land, and in July of 2020 we removed the last landmine. They are no longer in danger.

"I am so excited about feeling free to use the safe land. I believe that I will earn more than twice the money that I used to."

*Pork Chei,  
Pailin Village, Cambodia*



As of last year, over 300,000 landmines have been safely destroyed in Cambodia, giving thousands of families safe land for a better future.



# RETURNING HOME IN IRAQ



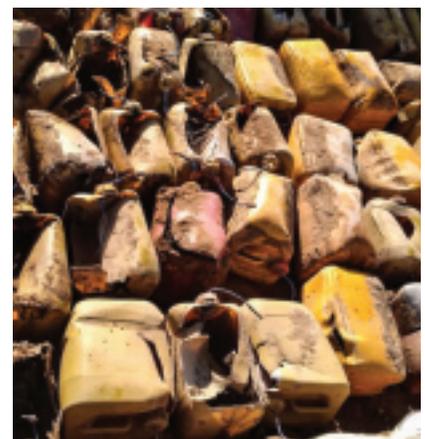
Saad and his family have endured some very dark times. When ISIS arrived in their village of Al Baeji, Iraq, in 2014, they were forced to flee. Abandoning their home, they spent three years struggling, displaced, and hungry.

Since returning, a large, unexploded hazard laid just yards from their house. Saad already lost two brothers to the conflict in Iraq, and he fears about losing more family to the dangerous hazards that lurk around his home and village. HALO was able to deploy a team to their house and safely removed the hazards so that Saad and Zanib could celebrate their wedding in safety and peace.

“When we returned to our home it had been stripped bare, empty except for bullet cartridges littering the floor.”

*Yazi, Al Baeji, Iraq*

In 2020, we cleared over 1,000 improvised explosive devices in Iraq, making families safe and paving the way for a more peaceful future.





# A SAFER FUTURE FOR CHILDREN IN ZIMBABWE



Miriam moved to Katiza with her husband 20 years ago. They were unaware that their new home was situated between two minefields until after it had been built, and the news came as a bit of a shock. Within the first few months, they lost four animals to landmines, and she feared for her children's lives.

Thanks to your support, HALO cleared the landmines from the family's land, giving Mariam's children a better future. She now knows that her family can go about their daily lives safely.

"I'm so happy now. We were always worried about the children and livestock. Now we can leave them alone, and our farming land has grown!"

*Miriam, Katiza Village, Zimbabwe*

Our demining teams in Zimbabwe are among the most efficient in the world. Over the past two years, they alone have account for 15% of the world's removed landmines.

15%



In 2020, they removed their 100,000th landmines



## NEW FIELDS OF LIFE IN SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka's civil war left vast areas of traditionally rich agricultural land unusable and littered with deadly landmines, including Urumpirai minefield near the outskirts of Jaffna. The reliable groundwater supply and good soil means crops can be grown throughout the year, but landmines make it difficult to cultivate. For people like Makanthesan Poomani, who is 71 years old and has spent her life on this land, it can make earning a living difficult.

In 2004, HALO began work to clear the minefield at Urumpirar, removing 2,300 landmines from the area. The cleared land was able to be put back to productive use and allow people like Makanthesan to safely grow abundant food and earn a living.



HALO cleared its 700th minefield in Sri Lanka, inching the country closer to becoming landmine-free by 2025.

"I remember HALO coming with a big bulldozer to level the bund and clear the landmines. They also helped to flatten the land so we could cultivate it again. I am very thankful because many accidents were happening at this time. I know a Hindu priest who lost his leg in an accident."

*Makanthesan Poomani,  
Farmer*

William moved to Nariño village in 1982, working the land to support his family. In 2004, he was badly injured when he activated a landmine while traveling to a neighboring village to vaccinate cattle. As Colombia's conflict worsened, William felt he had no choice but to leave his home, fearful his young sons might be forcibly recruited by illegal armed groups.

Concerned for the farm he'd left behind, William returned home a year later. But the presence of landmines made him too fearful to cultivate all his land. In 2013, HALO began removing the landmines.

As of last year, William is able to use all his land without fear and now has safe access to a nearby water source. He is now able to expand the use of his land and increase his income.

"My life is once again peaceful, and that the mined land that once was a symbol of violence today provides an opportunity for an improved livelihood for me and my family."

*William Otálvaro,  
La Ceja, Colombia*

## MAKING LAND SAFE IN COLOMBIA



A young boy stands in a muddy river, looking towards the camera. He is shirtless and wears a thin necklace and a blue cloth around his waist. In the background, several cows are wading in the water. The top left corner features a white box with a faint map overlay and the text 'YOUR IMPACT BEYOND THE MINEFIELD'.

# YOUR IMPACT BEYOND THE MINEFIELD



## PROTECTING NATURE

The presence of landmines near the Angolan headwaters of the Okavango Delta makes large areas a lethal habitat for both animals and people.

In 2019, Prince Harry joined HALO in launching a ground-breaking project to clear the landmines and protect the Okavango headwaters so that wildlife can return. HALO has since been hard at work with our partners to preserve this precious habitat. We cleared all the minefields from Dirico, the first minefield in the area visited by Prince Harry.

We have also begun clearing minefields around the settlement of Tempué in Angola so that the National Geographic Society's Okavango Wilderness Project can develop a wildlife research center and implement conservation development projects.

The Ethiopian border along Somaliland has areas particularly prone to desertification because of reduced vegetation and soil erosion. The impact of climate change resulting in water shortage in these areas has led to a critical need for greening to prevent further environmental degradation. Intervention projects such as rainwater capture bunds and tree seeding in Angola and other countries is an important expansion of HALO's future work.



# WOMEN CHANGING THE WORLD

Every day, teams of formidable women work tirelessly, clearing minefields with HALO to keep their families and communities safe. Many of the women we employ were displaced or impacted by the conflict and violence that happened in their countries. By working with HALO, they are learning new skills to make a difference in their communities and take control of their own destiny.

## Partnership Spotlight

With the support of BP, HALO Angola has recruited our first-ever all-female demining teams.



## PROTECTORS OF THEIR COMMUNITY

“This project is very important because so many women are unemployed. I never thought that I would do this job and that women would clear landmines but I'm very proud...”

*Yolanda, Deminer,  
HALO Angola*



## FROM REFUGEE, TO HERO

“When we were displaced during the war, we lived in a camp... Women were mostly below men, but now women are at the forefront. Now women are being examples for their communities.”

*Thillainayagi, Section Commander,  
HALO Sri Lanka*





Nadim Asfour / CTS

# PROTECTING HISTORY AT CHRIST'S BAPTISM SITE & THE WEST BANK

For Christians worldwide, the Site of the Baptism of Christ on the River Jordan is one of their faith's holiest places. Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims and tourists consider it as a crucial part of any visit to the Holy Land.

After the Six Day War in 1967, the border between the West Bank and Jordan was heavily mined. This included the churches and compounds of eight Christian denominations at the site of the Baptism of Christ at a place known as Qaser al-Yahud. For over five decades no worshippers could enter the churches and the clergy had to stay away as their buildings decayed. In April 2020, the sky was lit up as the last line of anti-tank mines was destroyed.

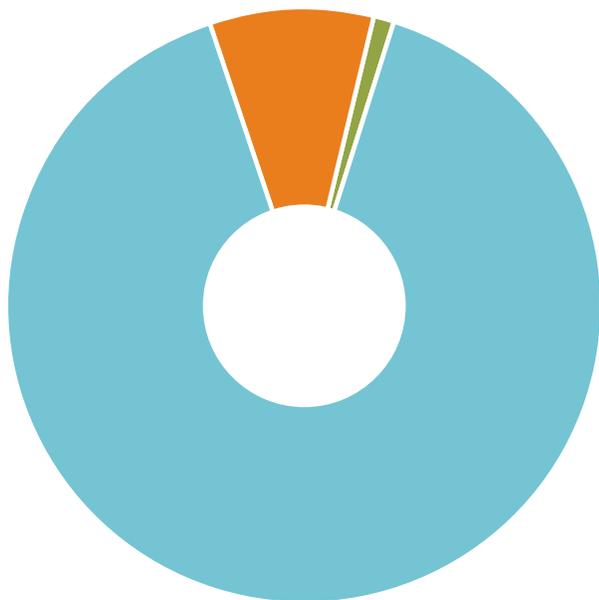
After two years of painstaking work, HALO deminers removed each and every explosive hazard from the Baptism Site, making it safe for thousands of pilgrims. Just this past year, Franciscan Friars held an Epiphany procession near the site on the West Bank of the River Jordan for the first time in 50 years.



# FINANCE

	2020	2019
Revenue from Government Grants	\$29,995,641	\$28,053,481
Private Contributions	\$499,171	\$942,722
Federated Contributions	\$15,457	\$16,648
Grants, Invested Income, and Other	\$3,195,938	\$2,875,534
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$33,706,207</b>	<b>\$31,888,385</b>

The revenue above reflects the audited financial statements of The HALO Trust (USA), a registered 501(c)(3). To view the full financial reports of The HALO Trust's global operations, please visit our website here: [www.halotrust.org/about-us/governance/reports-strategy/](http://www.halotrust.org/about-us/governance/reports-strategy/)



Accountability is very important to us. The HALO Trust is proud of our efficiency and promise that gifts and grants are diligently used to make tangible impact and to benefit more people.

- FIELD PROGRAMS - 92%
- PROGRAM SUPPORT - 7%
- FUNDRAISING - 1%

# OUR LEADERSHIP

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# SAVING LIVES CANNOT WAIT



Last year, you made a real difference for nearly 2 million people across the world. But more important than the numbers are the lives you saved, the communities you helped rebuild, and the families you protected. Each one of our donors, partners, and supporters is key to HALO's success. We simply could not do our work without you – thank you!

## 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. Unrestricted private revenue is incredibly valuable to HALO and allows us to use our strength and expertise to save lives, lead innovation efforts, and to respond in times of crisis.

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.**

DONATE TODAY

MONTHLY GIVING

LEAVE A LEGACY

CORPORATE GIVING

To make a gift, contact  
**Diana.Tatili@halousa.org**  
or visit  
[www.halotrust.org/donate](http://www.halotrust.org/donate)



# 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. And this year, we saw more advocates than ever join our cause. **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, **writing 11,500+ letters to Congress.**

With your help, we secured \$233.85 million in funding for demining and weapons security programs in the 2021 budget, a \$6 million increase from 2020. Last year, we also increased funding for demining research and development by \$3.4 million.

The Congressional Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)/Demining Caucus also grew to include 30 Representatives. This group, co-chaired by Representatives Jackie Speier (D-CA) and Bill Johnson (R-OH), with support from HALO, continues to be a driving force for humanitarian landmine clearance on the Hill, ensuring demining programs remain a focus for Congress.

Is your Representative on the caucus yet? Find out and express your support for demining at our Action Center: [www.halotrust.org/take-action/](http://www.halotrust.org/take-action/)

Join our advocacy team today, and together, we can make a difference!

To take action, contact:  
[Kristen.Stevens@halousa.org](mailto:Kristen.Stevens@halousa.org)



“Landmines hold back communities and economies wherever they are present, but they often unfairly impact women who are more likely to work in those areas. HALO’s deminers are true trailblazers and agents of change, helping to take back their communities and make the world a safer place for everyone.”

*Representative Jackie Speier (CA-14), UXO/Demining Caucus Co-Chair*



“The humanitarian work being conducted through the Department of State, Department of Defense, and USAID is critical in enabling displaced persons to rebuild and local economies to flourish.”

*Representative Bill Johnson (OH-6) UXO/Demining Caucus Co-Chair*



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