



# YOUR IMPACT IN 2023

CLEARING PATHS  
TO A SAFER FUTURE



# 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.





# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



James Cowan in Somaliland

Dear Friend,

I am deeply proud of what The HALO Trust achieved in 2023 thanks to your continued support. Your belief in HALO's mission has enabled us to save countless lives and limbs as we cleared landmines, secured munitions from falling into the wrong hands, and enabled civilians to stay safe through risk education.

There was a lot to celebrate in 2023, including clearing 2 million landmines. This milestone — 35 years after our start in Afghanistan is not merely about the numbers. Clearing 2 million mines forever not only means at least 2 million lives spared from disability or death, it also means at least 2 million new opportunities for health, education, economic growth, environmental protection, and safety in the communities served.

In 2023, we significantly scaled operations in Ukraine, responding to Russia's invasion. Thanks to our donor-partners, HALO is now the largest humanitarian demining organization working to return land to farmers in the world's food basket.

We also stayed agile, providing support after natural disasters in Syria and Afghanistan, where conflict has made communities even more vulnerable to crisis.

The blockade and military aggression in Nagorno Karabakh caused great hardship for families living in the region, forcing us to evacuate HALO staff and their families. For 23 years, the Nagorno Karabakh program faced many challenges, but the unwavering compassion and generosity from the Armenian diaspora through these obstacles inspires us and showcases the power of HALO's private donor community.

Your support is essential to our lifesaving work. Together, we are not just removing landmines, we are cultivating safe environments where communities can thrive for generations to come.

**James Cowan**  
Chief Executive,  
The HALO Trust

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James Cowan".

# WHERE WE WORK



**174,392**

mines and explosive items destroyed



**49,113**

Anti-personnel mines



**10,952**

Anti-tank mines



**52,656**

Unexploded Ordnance



**61,671**

Abandoned ammunition



**1,124,762**

Adults and children taught how to stay safe from explosive hazards



**75,016**

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education classes



**17,340**

Acres of land made safe



**743,156**

People benefitting from clearance

HONDURAS  
GUATEMALA  
EL SALVADOR  
COLOMBIA

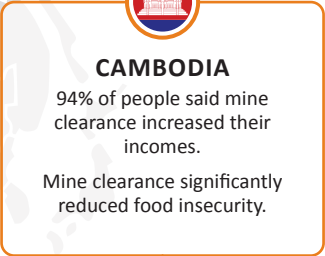
HALO PROGRAM –  
IN-CONFLICT COUNTRIES  
HALO PROGRAM –  
POST-CONFLICT COUNTRIES





## AFGHANISTAN

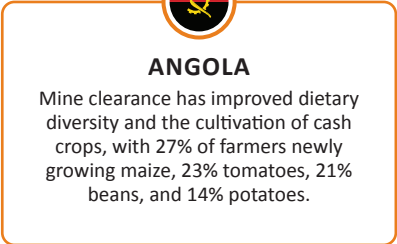
97% say mine clearance improved access to farm land, 96% say it increased safety and reduced anxiety, 92% noted improved access to services, and 88% reported fewer livestock accidents.



## CAMBODIA

94% of people said mine clearance increased their incomes.

Mine clearance significantly reduced food insecurity.



## ANGOLA

Mine clearance has improved dietary diversity and the cultivation of cash crops, with 27% of farmers newly growing maize, 23% tomatoes, 21% beans, and 14% potatoes.



## ZIMBABWE

80% increase in land ownership after mine clearance in six communities.

50% increase in attendance in three schools, thanks to safer routes after mine clearance.

# CLEARING THE WAY:

## UKRAINE'S PATH TO SAFETY

In Ukraine, local families are still living under the constant threat of air raids and explosive contamination. Fertile fields are riddled with tripwires and deadly explosives. Farmers, who are crucial to maintaining Ukraine as the 'world's food basket', face life-threatening risks if they dare step on their fields.

Despite these challenges, HALO remained committed in 2023 and scaled our response to address this unprecedented landmine crisis, thanks to our incredible donors.

Last year, HALO nearly doubled the size of our teams from around 600 deminers in one location to more than 1,100 staff working across northern, central, and southern Ukraine.

This remarkable expansion was spearheaded by a historic investment from the **Howard G. Buffett Foundation**. This enabled us to hire, train, and equip hundreds of new staff, acquire large-scale machinery for efficient clearance, and to test cutting-edge technology that pinpoints the precise location of explosives.

While recruiting and training 500 deminers, our teams were still able to identify and map more than 3,200 acres of hazardous land in Ukraine and make over 741 acres safe. This cleared land is not just a statistic. It is giving hope and some normalcy for Ukrainian families and allowing farmers to reclaim their fields and plant crops again.



***"Aside from defeating Russia on the battlefield, Ukraine's capacity to clear mines quickly and effectively is the single largest challenge to its own recovery and to the future stability of the world's food supply. Clearing landmines and explosives, and rapidly returning land to agricultural production, cannot wait until the war ends."** – Howard G. Buffett*

Howard G. Buffett on the ground in Ukraine with HALO Program Manager, Pete Smith and Head of Operations for Mykolaiv and Kherson, Jasmine Dann

THE HOWARD G.  
**BUFFETT**  
FOUNDATION

## PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: FMC

HALO is proud to be partnering with FMC Corporation in their Cultivating Freedom campaign. FMC is donating 3% of their annual income in Ukraine to significantly expanding demining efforts in impacted regions.

SCAN TO LEARN  
HOW WE ARE  
PARTNERING  
WITH FMC TO  
HELP FARMERS  
IN UKRAINE  
CULTIVATE  
THEIR LAND  
WITHOUT FEAR



We are profoundly grateful to our funding partners for recognizing the urgency of the moment, swiftly investing in our mission, and standing by the people of Ukraine as we continue this vital work. Your support is allowing us to scale our operations, reach new areas that were previously inaccessible, and make a tangible difference for those impacted by this war.

We are honored to share these milestones with you. But the need for landmine clearance remains acute. There is still much work to be done to ensure families can safely return to their homes and farmers can confidently till their land.

## HALO UKRAINE: BY THE NUMBERS

Since the full-scale invasion (February 2022 – July 2024)  
HALO Ukraine has:



Made **1,245**  
acres of land safe



Destroyed **27,171**  
mines and explosives



Trained **267,178**  
people to stay safe  
from explosive hazards



Employed **1,255**  
Deminers & field  
specialists



Enabled **134,191**  
people to benefit  
from mine clearance





# THE LAND WE LOVE:

## HELPING FARMERS RECLAIM THEIR FIELDS

In the farmlands of Ukraine, village residents face a harsh reality: instead of being sown with crops, their fields are littered with the debris of war. Landmines and other dangerous explosives have devastated the Ukrainian economy and disrupted the lives and livelihoods of countless farmers, making agricultural production nearly impossible. The impact extends beyond lost crops; landmines not only threaten farmers' lives, but also destroy thousands of dollars' worth of equipment, undermining years of investment and stripping farmers of their ability to support their families and communities.

*"Our fields are contaminated with landmines,"* Natalia says with a weary yet determined voice. *"All our fields. There's nowhere to plant."* Farming was more than a livelihood for Natalia and her husband Vyacheslav: it was their connection to the land and to each other. Now, it's a dangerous endeavor.

### PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: CARGILL



***"What we're able to achieve with Cargill is to scale up the number of survey and clearance teams deployed across agricultural fields. But also more than that, provide some valuable risk education to the farmers and the farmers' communities."***

***— Pete Smith, Program Manager, HALO Ukraine***



***"Ukraine now has the sorry distinction of being one of the most mined countries in the world. Seeing it with my own eyes made it clear that Russia's use of these weapons is a tactic not just to win the war but also to poison Ukraine's agricultural areas for generations to come."***

***— John Jameson, HALO USA  
Ambassador***

Even though the village of Mykolaivka was liberated in September, the couple's land remained fraught with danger. Vyacheslav attempted to clear the mines himself – using a makeshift hook – in a bold yet perilous effort to reclaim their land.

Though danger looms, they continue returning to their land and hope to move back one day. HALO is working in Mykolaivka, clearing anti-personnel and anti-tank mines from five active minefields, while preparations are underway to begin work in 15 remaining minefields. Once the village is completely cleared, families like Natalia and Vyacheslav's can return to their land, homes, and livelihoods.



***"We just keep going. We have no choice. We have to plant. We have to earn money. If we abandon all this, then we won't be able to restore everything... We definitely won't give up." – Natalia, pictured with her husband Vyacheslav, Mykolaivka, Ukraine***



Alexander Mikolaevich is a landowner who's farmed in Kharkiv for more than 40 years. After the Russians retreated, everything in the vicinity was destroyed, leaving behind a lethal tide of mines and explosives. HALO began working in Kharkiv in March 2023 to clear the mines and explosives from villages and farmlands like Alexander's.

Mykhailo Storozhenko is a local farmer from a small village in Kharkiv that endured nearly a year of Russian occupation. The village was liberated in 2023, but the fear of landmines persists.

***"Life is now improving ... HALO is helping here to find out where the landmines are, and we understand that we need to wait, that these things take time... I hope that HALO can clear all of the land here so that we can all go back to our normal lives."***



Serhii Kishkovskiy is a medium-sized farmer from Snihurivka in Ukraine's Mykolaiv region. After the Russian occupation, his 500 hectares of land were almost 100% mined. HALO began non-technical surveys in Snihurivka in 2023, providing hope for Serhii and his community. With clearance efforts underway, Serhii is optimistic about reclaiming his land and rebuilding.

***"My soul aches, my heart cries, but I want to work. I have no alternatives. I'm ready to risk everything, but I'm waiting...Thank you for what you are doing today."***

# MILESTONE MOMENTS



HALO's explosive ordnance disposal team safely removed 34 IEDs from one family's home.

## AFGHANISTAN: CLINICS AND SCHOOLS REOPEN AFTER 5,000 IEDS CLEARED

In May, we celebrated another milestone in our efforts to free Afghanistan of explosive ordnance – having safely disposed of 5,000 Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) since IED clearance began in 2018.

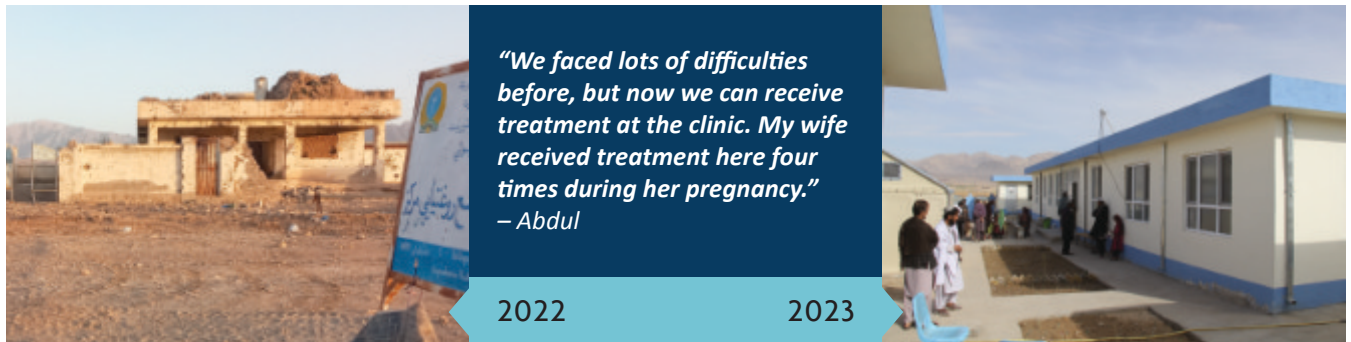
IEDs function in a similar way to conventional landmines but can be more dangerous due to their improvised and inconsistent nature. The key difference is that they are “homemade,” often utilizing nails, glass, or metal in addition to explosives.

Numerous clinics and schools closed due to the threat of IEDs. In a country where public services are limited, this

leaves entire communities without access to healthcare or educational facilities. So far, HALO's IED clearance efforts have made three clinics and 14 schools safe.

One of these, Yaklinga clinic in the village of Haji Ismail, reopened in January 2023. It now employs 25 local people and provides maternity care, nutrition services, psychological support, and other outpatient services. Since then, doctors have provided healthcare services to over 15,000 people.

Abdul, who brought his wife to the clinic to give birth, was relieved that they no longer had to endure a four-hour journey for healthcare.



Yaklinga Clinic, pictured during clearance efforts in September 2022, is now open to the community.





*"Without the mine clearance, Cuito would not be as developed as we see it today...so we are very grateful for this mine clearance." – Mr. Zeca Domingos, Principal, Kambulukuto School*



## ANGOLA: EDUCATION FILLS THE VOID OF 1,000 FORMER MINEFIELDS

For nearly 30 years, thousands of dedicated Angolan deminers have worked tirelessly to achieve a monumental milestone: completely clearing 1,000 minefields in Angola. This incredible feat has transformed nearly 10,000 acres of land – equivalent to 7,560 American football fields – into safe ground where families can now grow food, build schools, and develop their communities.

The first minefield HALO cleared was in Cuito, Bié Province. Today, this same land is home to Kambulukuto School, where 3,400 children are learning and building bright futures every day.

## LAOS: 100,000 UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE CLEARED

In 2023, HALO destroyed its 100,000th unexploded bomb in Laos – a landmark achievement in one of the most heavily bombed countries in the world. Since we began operating there in 2012, we've cleared and surveyed 81,500 acres of land, an area equivalent to 61,000 American football fields.

Laos has the world's largest unexploded cluster munition problem, due to more than 2.5 million tons of bombs being dropped from 1964 to 1973 during the Second Indochina War. There have since been an estimated 50,000 casualties from unexploded ordnance in Laos.



*"I am very proud that I have destroyed so many items of unexploded ordnance that I can't tell you the exact number. It makes our land safe and allows the local people to develop their farms without danger. With my salary, I am helping my sister to finish college and helping to improve our family home." – Namfon Thochan*

Namfon Thochan, 24, has worked for HALO for five years and is now a supervisor in charge of 50 staff.

# DISASTER RESPONSE



In times of crisis or natural disaster, such as floods and earthquakes, HALO is often among the first to respond. The deep knowledge of our extensive local workforce means that when disasters and crises strike, we already have boots on the ground, ready to spring into action with our vehicles, supplies, medics, and resources to reach families in need.



## EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID

We rapidly deploy paramedic teams to provide first aid and critical care, providing fast and life-saving interventions in disaster zones.



## FOOD & ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTION

As a first response to disasters, HALO teams often deliver food packages, clean water, and vital living supplies to affected communities.



## DEBRIS & RUBBLE CLEARANCE

In times of disaster, HALO repurposes landmine clearance equipment to clear debris and rubble from roads and homes, redirect floodways, and reconstruct waterways.



## CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

HALO provides direct cash support when possible to meet immediate needs and accelerate recovery.

## EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE IN NORTHWEST SYRIA

When a 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Syria and Turkey in early 2023, HALO was ready to provide relief in Syria, where HALO has been working since 2016. The situation was catastrophic in Northwest Syria, home to over 1.8 million displaced Syrians already suffering after a decade of conflict.

HALO stepped in by removing rubble, including from a sewing shop and a neighboring three-story building. Partnering with other organizations, we leveraged our logistical capacity to transport injured individuals to medical facilities and to deliver

essential supplies like food, clothing, formula, and diapers to shelter centers. Our case management workers, usually aiding landmine victims, mobilized their network to swiftly connect people with vital medical care and necessities.

Amid the devastation, our team witnessed incredible resilience and solidarity. Nour, one of our team members, shared, ***“In Syria, communities are resilient... People donated clothes, food, cash—everything they had to help. It was great to witness that.”***



## FLOOD RESPONSE IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN AFGHANISTAN

In July 2023, torrential rains triggered severe flash flooding in central and eastern Afghanistan, leading to significant casualties and displacement. And then, in early October 2023, Herat was struck by three devastating earthquakes within days, claiming over 1,400 lives, injuring 2,100, and destroying 3,330 homes. Thousands were left displaced and in desperate need.

Each time, HALO teams responded, swiftly clearing roads, delivering food packages and kitchen supplies to hundreds of displaced families. Our commitment extended beyond immediate relief – we deployed ambulances and even repurposed our landmine-clearing excavator to remove rubble, unblock roads, and help families recover their important belongings.



### THE DISASTER & CRISIS RESPONSE FUND

HALO's Disaster & Crisis Response Fund supports HALO's preparedness efforts, enabling us to stay ready for the next crisis and deliver aid where it is needed most. Your contribution is vital to providing immediate, life-saving aid, and bringing hope and recovery to those affected by disasters.

SCAN TO  
SUPPORT  
AND  
LEARN  
MORE





# CRISIS & RESILIENCE:

## HALO'S HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS IN NAGORNO KARABAKH

### UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGES: A BLOCKADE, A FOOD CRISIS, AND AN EXODUS

In 2023, Nagorno Karabakh faced severe hardships. The Lachin corridor, the only road that linked Nagorno Karabakh with Armenia, was blocked by Azerbaijan for over 9 months starting in December 2022. On June 15, 2023, Azerbaijan banned all humanitarian passage, leaving 120,000 people without basic necessities like food, medicine, and fuel.

By September 24, Armenians in Nagorno Karabakh, including HALO staff, began evacuating, scared for their lives and safety. Thanks to our donors' unwavering generosity, HALO was able to pivot rapidly and support Nagorno Karabakh refugees as they evacuated to Armenia. We set up a base in Goris, and our security and safeguarding team worked tirelessly to help staff and their families reach Armenia. We stayed connected with everyone and – thanks to the generous support of private donors – established a Direct Cash Assistance Fund to help refugee families with critical needs

Mothers and  
their children in  
Stepanakert during  
the blockade. Photo  
by Siranush Sargsyan.



## DIRECT CASH ASSISTANCE: A LIFELINE FOR FAMILIES

The cash payments went to heads of households – many of them women caring for children and the elderly. They helped refugee families pay for things like temporary accommodation, food, and fuel. Contributions from our private donors provided much-needed stability for our staff and the wider community of Nagorno Karabakh refugees who evacuated to Armenia.

**Mary B.:** *“You brought hope and joy to our family during the time of despair. Huge thanks to everyone who helps our children.”*

**Inna:** *“Thanks to your support, me and my seven children can finally have a decent diet. Thank you so much!”*

**Zhanna:** *“If it weren’t for HALO’s financial support, I don’t even know how I would have sent my children to school, because in such cold weather they didn’t have warm clothes.”*

Your support was vital to families like Ruzanna, her husband, and her two children. They could not take advantage of the financial assistance provided under the state program because of missing documents. Ruzanna used the money to buy school supplies and nutritious food for her children, which is especially important because both her children suffer from cerebral palsy and muscle weakness. “I am grateful that you helped us in this difficult moment,” Ruzanna told us, wiping away tears.

Although HALO is no longer operating in Nagorno Karabakh, your generosity truly made a difference during the decades that HALO operated there, for the families that you kept safe by clearing their communities from landmines, and for the hundreds of staff you supported with meaningful, well-paying jobs. We are deeply grateful for all you have done for this community.

Photos by Scout  
Tufankjian. Nagorno  
Karabakh refugees,  
September 2023.



# TOP PHOTOS OF 2023



Left: Honiara's Barana Village Museum exhibits WWII war relics, such as this mechanical time fuse, used to control the detonation timing of various types of ordnance, like artillery shells or bombs. Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands.



Left: With mine clearance complete, Coco the sheep now safely grazes in the Nasa indigenous reservation, providing wool for the community. Cauca Valley, Colombia.



Left: Deminers return from a minefield on the banks of the Lomba river in southern Angola. Nearly half of the deminers working for The HALO Trust in Angola are women. Photo by Tommy Trenchard for The HALO Trust.

Below: Over one third of Ukraine is suspected to be contaminated with landmines and explosive hazards. Nearly 6.5 million acres of the country's farmland has been impacted, leaving crops like this corn to rot in the fields, too dangerous to harvest. Kyiv Oblast, Ukraine.







Top: Students in Zimbabwe participate in an explosive ordnance risk education class, learning essential safety practices while improving their English skills with Happy Readers.

Above: Every family fleeing their homes in Nagorno-Karabakh brought whatever was most precious to them. This family brought a lemon tree. Kornidzor, Syunik province, Armenia, Photo by Scout Tufankjian.

Left: Lilia Haynatulina, a deminer and medic, kneels while working in Velyka Dmyrka, Ukraine. HALO has been clearing this area since June 2022, allowing farmers to replant their fields.

# NEW PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

## SOLOMON ISLANDS

Remnants from intense battles 80 years ago during World War II continue to threaten people's lives today in Solomon Islands, a large archipelago northeast of Australia and east of Papua New Guinea.

Legacy contamination has stunted economic growth and infused daily activities with deadly risk. We are excited to introduce HALO's newest program aimed at addressing these challenges and saving lives. The program will focus operations on Guadalcanal, New Georgia, Vella Lavella, Tulagi, Malaita, the Russell Islands, the Shortland Islands, and Choiseul — areas heavily impacted by wartime activities.

In Solomon Islands, HALO is working to eliminate hidden dangers from historical battles — such as the Japanese-held airfield at Munda Point — where local children still unwittingly play near lethal ordnance.

SOLOMON  
ISLANDS



SCAN TO WATCH: IN THIS EXCLUSIVE SESSION HOSTED BY HEAD OF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT, SIMON CONWAY, THE AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR SHARES HIS FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE IN SOLOMON ISLANDS AND DETAILS THE HALO TRUST'S LATEST ENDEAVORS.



Doreen Noda's son Charley, an accountant, died in 2021 at a church fundraising event alongside his friend Rasif Hilly, a mechanical engineer who worked at the airport. An artillery shell exploded beneath a barbecue pit they were tending.





## A LOOK INSIDE: A DEMINER'S TOOLKIT

- 1** Visor to protect the head and eyes
- 2** Gloves to protect the hands
- 3** Loppers for cutting bushes
- 4** Angled scissors for cutting grass
- 5** Pruning shears for cutting roots during excavation
- 6** A rubber mallet for hammering sticks into the ground
- 7** A tripwire feeler
- 8** The unpainted 1m stick measures the distance between marking sticks
- 9** The red 1m stick indicates the boundary between cleared and uncleared areas
- 10** Two red/white triangles for marking discovered mines or explosive items

\* Deminer toolkits can vary from country to country with different terrains and types of explosives



# KEEPING COMMUNITIES SAFE:

## EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION

The best way to prevent casualties is to clear the debris left behind after conflict. This painstaking work requires time and dedication, but the stakes couldn't be higher – particularly for children. Children are especially at risk because they are naturally curious. An air dropped explosive with a brightly colored ribbon attached might seem like an innocent toy to a child playing outside. Risk education is also vital for community members who go out and use the land, such as farmers and those who forage mushrooms. Until we can remove these hidden dangers for good, teaching adults and children how to stay safe is essential and truly lifesaving.

We go to great lengths to reach as many people as possible with risk education sessions by going out into the community, setting up booths at local festivals, and partnering with other community organizations such as schools.

To help children understand and remember how to stay safe, we get creative and use fun and engaging methods like coloring books, puzzles, cartoons, and storybooks.



***"Children and young people make up 95% of the victims of these accidents. Because they were not born until long after the conflict ended, they have no sense of danger from the objects that have been left behind. It's why it is so important to go right across the community in schools and other gathering places to raise awareness."***

***– Felicia Pandassala, Program Officer, HALO Angola***



Risk Education in Colombia, Zimbabwe and Ukraine

In Ukraine, students receive coloring books that teach children what a dangerous device may look like, and what to do if they come across one.



In Zimbabwe, students receive Happy Readers, which teach them how to read English as a second language while also using bright and bold colors and wild animals as characters to teach explosive ordnance risk education.

# #BEYONDTHEMINEFIELD

## HARVESTING HOPE IN ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe's past is marked by the deadly legacy of the 1974-1979 Liberation War, when the Rhodesian regime planted vast quantities of mines. In some areas, as many as three anti-personnel mines were laid every meter, while in others up to 5,500 mines were laid per kilometer. These hidden dangers have threatened the lives and livelihoods of local families for decades. Children cross through minefields to reach school, water supplies are cut off, valuable livestock are lost, and parents struggle to cultivate their land to feed their families.

In northeast Zimbabwe's Rushinga District, living near landmines is a harsh reality for many, including 36-year-old Godfrey, a dedicated father of two. Family is his priority, and he works tirelessly to put food on the table. But living next to a minefield has made it nearly impossible to provide for his wife and children. Forced into subsistence farming, he couldn't expand his farm to meet the family's growing needs.

But things changed drastically with HALO's landmine clearance work. Now, Godfrey and his family have extended their farm into newly safe land, diversifying their crops to include groundnuts, cotton, and sorghum. Godfrey says that survival is no longer a daily battle, and he estimates his harvest will last a full year.

Thirty miles away in the village of Musoka, another farmer, Joshua Maramwa, has had one dream for 15 years: to expand his farm and work with livestock. Living between two minefields, this dream seemed impossible – until HALO cleared the contaminated land. This life-saving work is paving the way for millions of Zimbabweans like Godfrey and Joshua to live in safety and invest in their futures.

By removing the deadly remnants of war, HALO is not just clearing land; together we are creating opportunities and restoring hope for generations to come.







## PROVIDING HEALTHCARE SERVICES TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A healthcare facility now stands where a dangerous minefield once was, providing people with the essential medical services they deserve.

## GIVING CHILDREN THEIR RIGHT TO AN EDUCATION

Every child deserves access to education, but the presence of landmines near Ganganyama Primary School forced children to stop attending. Thanks to our generous donors, HALO Zimbabwe has cleared the landmines, allowing children to safely reach school and continue their education.

## SUPPORTING LANDMINE SURVIVORS

Noordeeu Cassim from Cassim Prosthetics and Orthotics, shares the emotional impact of partnering with HALO to help Zimbabwean landmine survivors regain their mobility with artificial limbs.

## EMPOWERING WOMEN IN DEMINING

In many places where HALO works, formal job opportunities for women can be scarce, especially leadership roles. Angeline was one of the first women to join HALO Zimbabwe as a deminer in 2015, clearing the mines that threaten local communities. Today, as a supervisor, she oversees operations, manages teams in minefields, and ensures the safety and well-being of each staff member.

HALO's work goes #BeyondTheMinefield. Your support is helping communities to recover, develop, and educate, as well as empowering women, in places like Zimbabwe.

SCAN TO SEE  
THE IMPACT OF  
OUR WORK IN  
ZIMBABWE



# THE LIFELINE OF FLEXIBILITY:

## UNRESTRICTED FUNDS AT WORK

Every landmine and item of explosive ordnance HALO destroys brings us a step closer to protecting lives and livelihoods, and each acre we clear is helping to transform entire communities. While we receive significant funding from numerous governments, these funds are restricted and specifically allocated for clearance operations. And government funding, although essential, often moves slowly and can take a considerable amount of time to be received.

Yet, as this report reveals, our work involves much more than what is seen on the ground. Behind every dedicated demining team stands a complex network of local and global leaders, all working tirelessly to support our mission and staff. This is where the critical need for unrestricted and flexible funds comes into play in carrying out our mission.





## SAFAA'S STORY

Safaa was the first female member of HALO in Iraq to earn her Explosive Ordnance Level Three qualification.

*"Physical, hard jobs are not usual for women in Iraq, and it took some time to explain to my family and friends that a woman can also work in the mine action sector. However, when they saw how what I learned can support my entire community to avoid danger they started to understand."*

*— Safaa, Team Leader, Explosive Ordnance Disposal.*

## ENHANCING OUR WORKFORCE AND EMPOWERING WOMEN

Unrestricted giving is instrumental in attracting and retaining talented individuals. It enables us to invest in the necessary specialized training our workforce needs to excel. This training includes highly specialized skills like explosive ordnance disposal expertise, as well as essential training for our local staff, including English language classes and computer and technology courses.

In many of the places where HALO works, women often face barriers to employment and have scarce opportunities to earn a regular salary. HALO is dedicated to addressing these barriers, such as childcare, and investing in workforce development and training.

Thanks to the generous support of unrestricted investments and donations, HALO is advancing gender equality, empowering women to become leaders in their communities, and fostering economic stability in the communities we serve.



## NEW AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT: MITZI PERDUE

Author and philanthropist Mitzi Perdue's mission to support landmine clearance in Ukraine started with a connection to agriculture in the Perdue family. As she learned about the dire scale of explosive threats in Ukraine littering farms and playgrounds alike, she began supporting HALO's landmine clearance efforts. Mitzi visited our Ukraine program in July 2023, and visited a training session for deminers in Myla, Kyiv Oblast.

*"Demining has to be the most essential thing for rebuilding Ukraine. Otherwise, how do you get your economy back, how do you get people not to be afraid and how do you plan to help them get their homes back?"*





Robocut on the field in Mila, Ukraine. Photo: Tom Pilston for The HALO Trust.

## EXPANDING OUR REACH AND SUPPORTING INNOVATION

Unrestricted funds enable us to extend our operations to new areas where our expertise and life-saving work is urgently needed. In 2023, we were able to expand to new areas like Solomon Islands, Ethiopia, and Malawi.

These funds also play a pivotal role in allowing HALO to tackle evolving challenges with cutting-edge technology innovations. In regions like Afghanistan, where the use of improvised explosive devices is increasing, and in Ukraine, where diverse types of unexploded ordnance and intricate threats like tripwires are prevalent, innovation is essential.

Drone pilot Ihor Lee, 25, is a former bartender and university student who fled from Donetsk Oblast when the Russians invaded in February 2022. Photo: Tom Pilston for The HALO Trust.





Robocut operators remotely controlling from a safe distance. Photo: Tom Pilston for The HALO Trust.

Mech operator, Kyiv, Ukraine

These funds enable us to invest in research and development aimed at devising specialized tools and techniques for detecting and safely disposing of improvised explosive devices and complex unexploded ordnance. By testing and implementing new technologies, we not only enhance the safety and efficiency of our demining operations but also adapt to the dynamic nature of modern conflicts and hazards.

Through the support of unrestricted donations, we are at the forefront of technological innovation in demining, ensuring that our teams are equipped to overcome the most daunting challenges and are continuing to save lives in some of the world's most hazardous environments.



The Little STORM can clear as much in one day as 30 deminers



# OUR LEADERSHIP

Rexon Ryu,  
HALO USA Board Chair



## US BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Rexon Ryu (Board Chair)**, President, The Asia Group  
**Jamie Morin (Vice Chair)**, Vice President of Defense Operations,  
The Aerospace Corporation  
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and Policy Advocacy, Ericsson  
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**Andrew Lyons**, Finance Director, U.S. Department of Justice  
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**Basak Yavuz**, Partner, Goldman Sachs Asset Management  
**Zaid Zaid**, Head of U.S. Public Policy, Cloudflare

## US LEADERSHIP

**James Cowan**, CEO  
**Mick Darby**, CFO  
**Chris Whatley**, Executive Director  
**Jennifer Hyman**, Head of Communications  
**Kristen Stevens**, Head of Congressional Affairs  
**Diana Tatili**, Head of Philanthropy  
**Amasia Zargarian**, Head of Government Affairs

*“The work of HALO goes beyond saving lives; it restores hope, transforms communities, and lays the groundwork for sustainable peace and prosperity. I am deeply honored to have the opportunity to help advance HALO’s work clearing landmines and unexploded ordnance. America’s support for HALO is more important today than ever and I look forward to elevating this urgent work in the United States.”*  
— Rexon Ryu, HALO USA Board Chair

## UK BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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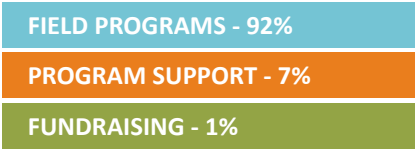


# GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY

	Fiscal Year 2023 (April 2022 – March 2023)
Revenue from Government Grants	\$51,110,565
Contributions	\$5,867,149
Invested Income, and Other	\$712,715
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$57,690,429</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.halousa.org/about-us/governance/reports-strategy/](http://www.halousa.org/about-us/governance/reports-strategy/)*

Accountability is very important to us. The HALO Trust is proud of our fiscal efficiency. We ensure that gifts and grants are diligently used to tangibly impact and benefit as many people as possible.



# UNWAVERING SUPPORT

MAKE A  
DONATION



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to HALO's community of private donors. The flexible support of private donors is essential to our operations, allowing us to move with the speed and agility our work demands. Your contributions not only facilitate landmine clearance but also drive forward essential investments in HALO's operational capabilities, including advancements in training, technology, and women's empowerment.

This past year, we have faced the complexities of working in fragile and conflict-affected regions, such as navigating the ongoing crisis in Ukraine while addressing the escalating

humanitarian needs. Additionally, our rapid response to natural disasters around the globe is only possible through your generous support. Despite the challenges, our dedicated private donors in the United States and Canada have consistently prioritized the communities HALO serves and our overarching mission.

Your continued generosity and compassion are making a tangible difference in the lives of millions worldwide. It is because of you that we have achieved the significant milestones highlighted in this report – thank you!

**There are many ways to support HALO:**

**MAKE A TAX-FREE GIFT WITH AN INDIVIDUAL  
RETIREMENT ACCOUNT (IRA)**

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**CHOOSE THE HALO TRUST FOR LEGACY GIVING**

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**EMPLOYEE PAYROLL & CORPORATE MATCHES**

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**MAKE A STOCK DONATION**

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**JOIN THE MINE  
FREE COLLECTIVE**

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The Mine-Free Collective is HALO's community of passionate individuals investing in a safe, mine-free world on a monthly or quarterly basis. Join the Mine-Free Collective to help us reach more people in need and receive exclusive updates at [www.halousa.org/minefreecollective](http://www.halousa.org/minefreecollective).

To learn more, contact [Lisa.Balestrieri@halousa.org](mailto:Lisa.Balestrieri@halousa.org) or visit [www.halousa.org](http://www.halousa.org)

# ADVOCATING FOR A SAFER WORLD

The HALO Trust (USA) leads advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill and across the country to ensure people can stay safe from landmines. Together, in 2023, we sent an unprecedented number of letters to lawmakers urging action for demining.



35,000 ADVOCATES



FROM ALL 50 STATES



SENT 134,000 LETTERS TO CONGRESS

Last year, a record-breaking 112 Representatives and 45 Senators signed appropriations letters supporting increased funding for life-saving demining programs. Consequently, Congress proposed record funding levels for demining, including significant emergency support to address hazards in Ukraine.

Thanks to your advocacy, the Congressional Unexploded Ordnance/Demining Caucus expanded to 67 bipartisan members, led by co-chair Rep. Bill Johnson (R-OH-06) and incoming co-chair Rep. Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA-06). The caucus is a group of Members of the U.S. Congress that work to support global demining and related programs.

Join us and make a lasting impact. It only takes one minute to send a letter to your Member of Congress.

Visit: [action.halousa.org](https://action.halousa.org)

To learn more about advocacy opportunities, contact: [Lauren.Henasey@halousa.org](mailto:Lauren.Henasey@halousa.org)



*“Over time, the physical reminders of war in places will slowly fade [...] except where it comes to landmines and unexploded ordnance. These weapons remain a very serious threat, sometimes for decades afterwards, to communities that have already been exposed and suffered with so much.”*

– Rep. Chrissy Houlahan



*“We must continue to stand with families living in countries that have fallen out of the headlines yet continue to suffer from the presence of mines. I’m proud that there continues to be growing support in Congress for these programs.”* – Rep. Bill Johnson





Ukraine



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**CFC #10860.**


The HALO Trust (USA), Inc. is a 501(c)(3) corporation. US Federal Tax ID # 522158152.


The HALO Trust is a company limited by guarantee. Registered in England No. 2228587.

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