

# Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction

---

Volume 4  
Issue 2 *The Journal of Mine Action*

Article 26

---

June 2000

## The HALO Trust

CISR JOURNAL

Follow this and additional works at: <http://commons.lib.jmu.edu/cisr-journal>

 Part of the [Defense and Security Studies Commons](#), [Emergency and Disaster Management Commons](#), [Other Public Affairs, Public Policy and Public Administration Commons](#), and the [Peace and Conflict Studies Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

JOURNAL, CISR (2000) "The HALO Trust," *Journal of Mine Action* : Vol. 4 : Iss. 2 , Article 26.  
Available at: <http://commons.lib.jmu.edu/cisr-journal/vol4/iss2/26>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for International Stabilization and Recovery at JMU Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction by an authorized editor of JMU Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact [dc\\_admin@jmu.edu](mailto:dc_admin@jmu.edu).

# HALO Trust

**HALO in Cambodia operates the demining system of One-Man One Lane (OMOL). Traditional mine clearance has operated with three individuals performing detection, probing and trip wire detection/ deactivation. With the use of improved German mine detectors, HALO has safely combined all tasks to a single man, doubling productivity and halving personnel costs.**

Established in 1988, The HALO Trust (Hazardous Life-Support Organization) is a non-political, non-religious British registered charity (No. 1001813) that specializes in removing landmines and UXO. HALO has 3,000 mine clearers working in six countries. HALO's operations are grouped under Asia, Africa and the Caucasus. "HALO is not distracted by involvement in campaigns and conferences. We have a simple statement: 'Getting mines out of the ground, now,'" stated Guy Willoughby, HALO Director.

HALO manages its own research and development and also works with scientific institutions. HALO has also trialed Ground Penetrating Radar, dog teams and mechanical equipment. The most successful rate of HALO's R&D has been in the adaptation of existing agricultural and civil engineering plants. HALO has modified the standard European tractor mounted hedge and verge cutter and deployed 10 units to cut vegetation growth in Cambodia, Africa and the Caucasus, which gives safer access for deminers. Twenty medium-wheeled loaders have been adapted and armored for clearing rubble. Area-reduction



vehicles have been designed to drive into suspect areas and define the "line" of laid mines. This advancement allows for a better use of clearance time with deminers deployed closer to the actual mines.

HALO's administrative staff is small. Emphasis is placed on developing local management. They train their managers and deminers as well as mechanics, medical staff equipment technicians and drivers. Mine awareness trainers are also deployed on a limited basis. Its mine clearance teams use a variety of equipment with each deminer wearing protective clothing and face visor and outfitted with the latest state of the art metal detector. Local salary costs for deminers and equipment costs are the largest part of HALO's budget. HALO is funded by a number of private donors, governments and NGOs.

## HALO's Programs

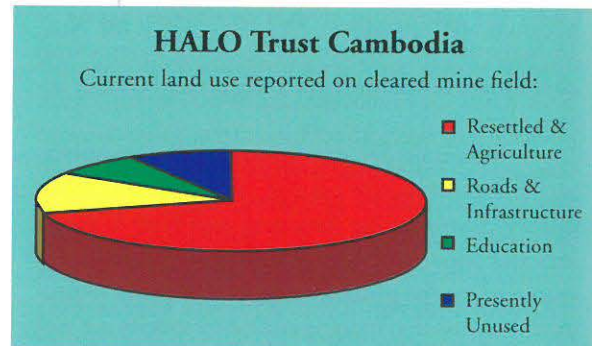
### Afghanistan

Heavily mined during its 10-year occupation, all defensive forces laid mines to protect their main supply routes, particularly the road north from Kabul to the old soviet border. HALO estimates 640,000 mines have been laid since 1979. Halo started its program in 1988, and now employs over 1,300 deminers, which are split into two 32 manual teams, 10 mechanical teams and six survey and UXO teams. The most common AP

mines are the Russian PMN-2 with the distinctive black cross and the PMN. They account for the majority of civilian deaths. Front loaders, cranes and bulldozers have been armored to deal with the mines and UXO amid the rubble of the war torn villages.

### Cambodia

During the 10-year Vietnamese occupation, both forces laid landmines. Mine laying increased during 1989-1991, as the Cambodian government used mines as sentinels. The opposition, to prevent the government from extending its areas of control, also laid mines. Highly mined areas include the northwestern provinces bordering Thailand, which had also been the



most agriculturally productive and populated. HALO has over 500 deminers split into 16 manual clearance teams and supported by 17 tractor-mounted vegetation cutters.

### Africa

Major clearance programs are underway in Mozambique and Angola, and extensive surveys and UXO disposal have taken place in southern Sudan and Somaliland. Anti-vehicle mines have been extensively used on African roads, and though their effect has been less publicized than AP mines, they cause a high number of civilian deaths.

### Angola

Programs have concentrated in the Central Provinces of Bie and Huambo.



Demining beside the Benguela railway.  
Photo c/o HALO Trust

During the 16-year civil war, the government and Cuban forces laid planned, defensive mine fields around key installations while UNITA and other factions mined roads and approaches to rebel bases. After the collapse of the government in the 1992 elections, indiscriminate mine laying took place during the fighting for the provincial capitals. HALO is clearing the wide variety of mined areas that most affect the daily lives of the population.

### Mozambique

This program encompasses all four northern provinces of Zambezia, Nampula, Niassa and Cabo Delgado. The government used AP mines to defend provincial and district towns, airstrips, key bridges, power supplies and military posts. RENAMO, Mozambican National Resistance, laid anti-vehicle mines to close the roads connecting towns and markets. In the Zambezia and Niassa provinces, HALO has cleared the majority of the mine fields. The provinces of Nampula and Cabo Delgado will require another three years of concentrated clearance.

### Sudan/Somaliland

The Sudan is the biggest country in Africa. Success by the SPLA in 1997

resulted in the front line moving away from the Uganda/Zaire borders. As a result, over 50,000 refugees moved into the Kaya-Yei corridor. They found their villages mined and their fields littered with UXO. The center of Kaya had an ammunition dump. Anti-vehicle mines had been buried in the roads, and until these were cleared, rehabilitation could not start. Somaliland is extensively mined. HALO has surveyed the city of Burao in response to a request by the government of Somaliland. HALO has limited private funding for small programs in Southern Sudan and Somaliland, and both countries require major donor support.

## The Caucasus

### Chechnya

The Russian army has relied heavily on extensive bombardments in both the current and previous war with the Chechen forces. Air-dropped AP mines and wide mine fields around military positions hold the small country hostage. In 1997, HALO surveyed 286 mined areas and was demining these areas with over 150 Chechens, but this and other programs had to be abandoned in December 1999, because of the fighting.



Nineteen civilians were killed when this Land Rover taxi drove over an anti-tank mine.  
Photo c/o HALO trust

### Abkhazia

Mines are left over from the secessionist war with Georgia, which was characterized by front lines moving back and forth along the Black Sea Coast. Mines were laid in the flat fertile valleys to augment the natural obstacles of the rivers. These mines have denied land to over 300,000 displaced people. Homes, agricultural land, orchards and industry lie deserted. HALO deploys integrated manual and mechanical clearance teams, maintains a central mine database and a mobile bomb disposal capacity assists reconstruction.

In April 2000, The HALO Trust received 55 surplus Army vehicles from the British Ministry of Defense. This latest donation included Land Rovers, lorries and heavy-duty bulldozers with reinforced buckets that can scoop debris and mines safely. The undersides and cabs of the vehicles will be specially reinforced with armor plating to protect the driver. Some of the heavier equipment will go to Africa where plastic Czech anti-tank mines, which cannot be detected manually, must be detonated by scraping away at gravel road surfaces until they detonate.

### Contact Information

The HALO Trust  
10 Storey's Gate  
London SW1P 3AY  
Tel: +44 20 7222 7177  
Fax: +44 20 7222 7178

Scotland Office  
Tel: +44 1848 331100  
Fax: +44 1848 331122