

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual *Financial Disclosure Statements* of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House by email at gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please **do not** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

- Name of Traveler: Emma Consoli
- a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ **OR** None
b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
- a. Dates: Departure: April 21, 2024 Return: April 26, 2024
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ **OR** None
- Departure City: Washington, DC Destination: Hargeisa, Somaliland Return City: Washington, DC
- Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: The HALO Trust (USA), The Eleanor Crook Foundation, The HALO Trust
- Describe Meetings and Events Attended: Meetings/events provided education on humanitarian demining and food security in the Horn of Africa, including sessions from HALO staff, UNICEF, the World Food Program, FAO, government ministers and a minefield visit.
- Attached to this form are **each** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*:
 - a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
 - the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor **prior** to the trip, **including all** attachments **and** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
 - page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the employee; **and**
 - the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
- a. I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*
b. If not, explain: _____

I certify that the information contained on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Traveler: Emma Consoli Date: 5/8/2024

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Name of Supervising Member: Chrissy Houlahan Date: 5/8/2024

Signature of Supervising Member: Chrissy Houlahan

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

Original Amendment

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip within 10 days of their return.** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: _____
The HALO Trust (USA), The Eleanor Crook Foundation (ECF), The HALO Trust

2. Travel Destination(s): Hargeisa, Somaliland

3. Date of Departure: April 21, 2024 Date of Return: April 26, 2024

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Emma Consoli

Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if **all** information is **identical** for each person listed.

5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	\$1,672	\$225	\$115	\$61 (visa) \$1 (water bottle)
Accompanying Family Member				

6. All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment.
Signify statement is true by checking box.

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Kristen Stevens Digitally signed by Kristen Stevens
Date: 2024.05.02 17:12:44 -04'00' Date: 5-2-2024

Name: Kristen Stevens Title: Head of Congressional Affairs & Strategic Engagement

Organization: The HALO Trust (USA)

I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.

Address: 1730 Rhode Island Ave. NW, Suite 206, Washington, D.C. 20036

Telephone: 202-331-1266 Email: kristen.stevens@halousa.org

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection.

This form and any attachments may be submitted at 1015 Longworth House Office Building or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. **You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.**

Name of Traveler: _____

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Emma Consoli

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): _____

Office Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address of Contact Person: _____

Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, *and* these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM. Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via email: travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: _____

2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: _____

3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: _____

4. a. Date of Departure: _____ Date of Return: _____

b. Yes No Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?

If yes, list dates at personal expense: _____

5. a. Yes No Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**

(1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: _____

(2) Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____

(3) Yes No Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age?

6. a. Yes No Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?

b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:

7. Yes No *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitation, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.

NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.

8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. **Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**

9. **Yes No Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**

10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member:  Date: _____

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:

The HALO Trust (USA)

2. I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

3. **Check only one.** I represent that:

a. The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**

b. The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**

c. The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.

If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: The Eleanor Crook Foundation & The HALO Trust

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): Please see attached

5. Yes No Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?

6. Date of Departure: April 21, 2024 Date of Return: April 26, 2024

7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC

b. Destination(s): Hargeisa, Somaliland

c. City of return: Washington, DC

8. **Check only one.** I represent that

a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**

b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**

c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. **Check only one of the following.**

- a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
- b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
- c. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
- d. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. _____

10. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. **Check only one of the following.**

- a. I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box;* **OR**
 - b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.
12. For *each* sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip **and** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:

Please see attached

13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**

- a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (specify: _____)
- b. Class of travel: Coach Business First Charter Other (specify: _____)
- c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:

- a. The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
- b. The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:
 - 1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): \$20 per person on average

2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: Somaliland is an area where landmine contamination and hunger intersect, and therefore where participants can see programming from HALO and other relevant stakeholders.

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel Name: Maansoor Hotel City: Hargeisa Cost Per Night: \$100 per person
Reason(s) for Selecting: Directly next to HALO compound, secure. (2 nights)
Hotel Name: HALO Camp City: Ina Guuxaa Cost Per Night: \$30 per person
Reason(s) for Selecting: HALO to provide lodging in deminer camp, providing understanding of demining operations.
Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$1600	\$230	\$100
For each Accompanying Family Member			


	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$70 per person	visa
For each Accompanying Family Member		

19. **Check only one:**

- a. I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**

- a. **I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;**
- b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
- c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature:  Date: 4/12/24
 Name: Kristen Stevens Title: Head of Congressional Affairs
 Organization: The HALO Trust (USA)
 Address: 1730 Rhode Island Ave NW, Suite 206, Washington, DC 20036
 Email: kristen.stevens@halousa.org Telephone: 202-331-1266

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Primary Sponsor Form Question 4. Names/Titles for Members/Employees invited:

Name	Title	Office	Reason inviting
Francesca Eremeeva	Foreign Policy and Defense Legislative Aide	Sen. Chris Van Hollen	Oversees policy for a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Sophie Jones	Democratic Staff Director	House Foreign Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Africa	Oversees policy directly related to Africa for HFAC
Emma Consoli	Legislative Correspondent	Rep. Chrissy Houlahan	Manages activities for the UXO/Demining caucus
Mike D'Orazio	Legislative Director	Rep. Guy Reschenthaler	Oversees policy for a Member who is part of the SFOPS Appropriations subcommittee
Lale Morrison	Chief of Staff	Rep. Jared Moskowitz	Oversees policy for a Member who is part of HFAC
Alyssa Anderson	Deputy Chief of Staff	Rep. Juan Ciscomani	Oversees policy for a Member who is part of the SFOPS Appropriations subcommittee
Patrick Mocete	Chief of Staff	Rep. Young Kim	Oversees policy for a Member who is part of HFAC, on the Africa subcommittee
Elizabeth Mount	Policy Advisor	House Foreign Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Africa	Oversees policy directly related to Africa for HFAC

House Ethics, PTSE, Question 12. For each sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip and its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:

The HALO Trust (USA): Inviting participants, planning itinerary/coordinating with stakeholders, planning activities, hosting/conducting visit, leading briefings. HALO USA conducts advocacy in the US supporting demining and supporting livelihoods in conflict/post-conflict environments.

The Eleanor Crook Foundation: Funding travel, providing input on discussions on malnutrition during trip, exploring educational themes along with other participants. ECF is a philanthropy dedicated to ending global malnutrition.

The HALO Trust (UK): Providing expert-level education and demonstrations on demining, booking air travel and hotel, providing ground transportation, arranging security, supporting with meeting invitations to Somaliland Government officials community leaders, and visitors will stay at HALO (UK) deminer camp. HALO UK conducts demining operations globally and is a State Department implementing partner. The HALO Trust (UK) receives approximately 10% of its funding from the UK government and its UK government funding is in the form of grants.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

ADDITIONAL TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by an organization that provides funds, services, or in-kind assistance to another entity to underwrite, in whole or in part, a trip or an event, meal, or activity that will occur during a trip, or a necessary expense that will be incurred during a trip, with express or implicit knowledge or understanding that one or more House Members or employees may participate in or attend that trip or event, or otherwise may be beneficiaries of the gift or donation. **Provide a copy of your completed form to the primary sponsor of the trip.**

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Name of Primary Trip Sponsor for this trip: The HALO Trust (USA)
2. Name of your organization: The HALO Trust (registered charitable organization based in United Kingdom)
3. Yes No Is your organization designated a § 501(c)(3) charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Service?
4. Yes No Does your organization receive funding from any foreign government or multinational organization?
5. *Check one.* I certify that my organization:
 - a. Has provided a grant, gift, or donation to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor and conducts an audit or review of its grant, gift, or donation to ensure that the funds are spent in accordance with the terms of its grant, gift, or donation. **OR**
 - b. Has had a direct role in the organizing, planning, or conducting of a trip to
Destination: Hargeisa, Somaliland on Date: April 21, 2024
that is being organized or arranged by the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor. **OR**
 - c. Has provided in-kind support to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor (e.g., meeting planning assistance, meeting space and set-up, and paying for expenses related to this trip directly to the service provider).
6. *Check only one:*
 - a. My organization does not employ or retain a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent **OR**
 - b. My organization employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but their involvement in planning, organizing, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the travel regulations.
7. I certify by my signature that
 - a. I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
 - b. I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent;
 - c. I am an officer of this organization and am duly authorized to sign this form; and
 - d. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Date: 4/12/2024

Name: Calum Gibbs Title: Program Manager

Organization: The HALO Trust

Address: CARRONFOOT, THORNHILL, DUMFRIES, DG3 5BF

Telephone: +44 (0) 1848 331100 Email: mail@halotrust.org

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

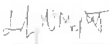
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

ADDITIONAL TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by an organization that provides funds, services, or in-kind assistance to another entity to underwrite, in whole or in part, a trip or an event, meal, or activity that will occur during a trip, or a necessary expense that will be incurred during a trip, with express or implicit knowledge or understanding that one or more House Members or employees may participate in or attend that trip or event, or otherwise may be beneficiaries of the gift or donation. **Provide a copy of your completed form to the primary sponsor of the trip.**

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

- Name of Primary Trip Sponsor for this trip: The HALO Trust (USA)
- Name of your organization: The Eleanor Crook Foundation
- Yes No Is your organization designated a § 501(c)(3) charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Service?
- Yes No Does your organization receive funding from any foreign government or multinational organization?
- Check one.* I certify that my organization:
 - Has provided a grant, gift, or donation to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor and conducts an audit or review of its grant, gift, or donation to ensure that the funds are spent in accordance with the terms of its grant, gift, or donation. **OR**
 - Has had a direct role in the organizing, planning, or conducting of a trip to
Destination: _____ on Date: _____
that is being organized or arranged by the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor. **OR**
 - Has provided in-kind support to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor (*e.g.*, meeting planning assistance, meeting space and set-up, and paying for expenses related to this trip directly to the service provider).
- Check only one:*
 - My organization does not employ or retain a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent **OR**
 - My organization employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but their involvement in planning, organizing, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the travel regulations.
- I certify by my signature that
 - I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
 - I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent;
 - I am an officer of this organization and am duly authorized to sign this form; and
 - The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Digitally signed by Lesly Weber McNitt
Date: 2024.03.18 23:20:19 -04'00' Date: 3/18/2024

Name: Lesly Weber McNitt Title: Senior Director of Advocacy & Communications

Organization: The Eleanor Crook Foundation

Address: 227 N Mitchell St San Marcos, TX 78666-4217

Telephone: 512-392-5205 Email: lmcnitt@eleanorcrookfoundation.org

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

The HALO Trust - HALO Somaliland Trip

With financial support from the Eleanor Crook Foundation 501(c)(3)

Hargeisa, Somaliland

April 21 - 26, 2024

MISSION GOALS: *The purpose of this trip is to educate Congressional participants about the challenges of malnutrition and food insecurity in Somaliland and Ethiopia, about the presence and impact of landmines in the region, and the ways in which demining can support food security regionally and globally. Members of the delegation will visit active HALO demining projects to see how the work is conducted, see the impact of demining, visit a health clinic and hear from experts working on food security issues.*

RELEVANCE TO OFFICIAL DUTIES: *The subject matter of the trip is important to Congressional staff members as their official duties pertain to foreign, defense, humanitarian, or Africa policy. Their duties also require consideration of legislation regarding US demining and food security specifically.*

LOCATION: *The purpose of travel to Somaliland is to learn about HALO Somaliland's conventional weapons destruction programs and their effects on local communities. Most briefings, meeting, and health clinic site visit will be in Hargeisa, while school visit will take place in Abaarso and the minefield visit will take place in Ina Guuxaa in Somaliland.*

ITINERARY

SUNDAY, APRIL 21: TRAVEL

Morning flight departs Washington, DC on April 21. Connection through ADD to Hargeisa.

MONDAY, APRIL 22: TRAVEL AND ORIENTATION

11:00 AM: Arrival at Egal International Airport on April 22. Transport to Maansoor Hotel in HALO vehicles.

Location: Hotel Maansoor, jigjiga-yar, Hargeisa, Somaliland

1:30 – 2:25 PM Arrive at Maansoor for Check-in *Transportation by foot to HALO Compound next door.*

2:30 – 4:00 PM Working Lunch and Tour of HALO Compound

Lunch at HALO House with introductions of group members and briefing by HALO with input from ECF on US policy around demining and food security at a high level. After lunch, there will be a Compound tour to learn about

demining equipment, types of explosive threats found in Somaliland, and to see members of HALO's team at work.

Staffers must have sufficient background information about US policy issues related to demining and food security for them to contextualize how demining and food security issues may factor into legislative decision-making. The compound tour will further highlight the unique threats and tools used in demining and highlight local staff. This operational insight is critical for policy decisions about demining and food security via HFAC or a Member's office.

Presenters: Kristen Stevens, Head of Congressional Affairs & Strategic Engagement, HALO USA
Chris Whatley, Executive Director, HALO USA
Mariana Becerra, Associate Director of Advocacy, Eleanor Crook Foundation

Location: HALO Guest House: Essa Dhara, Mansoor Area, Hargeisa, Somaliland

The entirety of the allotted time for the working meal and final policy presentations will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

4:00 – 6:25 PM *Transport by foot to Mansoor hotel and freshen up for evening briefing.*

6:25 – 6:30 PM *Transport by foot to HALO Compound next door.*

6:30 – 7:30 PM Working Dinner and Conversation with Local Staff

Dinner in HALO office with a detailed briefing on HALO's demining programs in Somaliland and Ethiopia. Staffers will also have the opportunity to speak with some of HALO's local staff during the meal.

Staffers must have sufficient background information and context about HALO's work and policy issues related to demining for them to contextualize operations in scheduled site visits. Visitors will learn about conflict, demining and related programming operations, impact, and challenges to help inform US policy in region.

Presenters: Calum Gibbs, Program Manager, HALO Somaliland
Rob Syfret, Head of Region (Horn of Africa), The HALO Trust

Other participants: Khadar Qaline, Program Coordinator, HALO Somaliland, Abdikarim Bare Yoonis, Operations Officer, HALO Somaliland

Location: HALO Office: Essa Dhara, Mansoor Area, Hargeisa, Somaliland

The entirety of the allotted time for the working meal and final policy presentations will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

7:30 – 7:35 PM *Transport by foot to Maansoor Hotel for early night.*

TUESDAY, APRIL 23: DEMINING

6:55 – 7:00 AM *Transport by foot from Mansoor Hotel to HALO Office.*

7:00 – 8:30 AM Working Breakfast, Overview on Day's Activities, and Briefing

Discussion will cover the history of Somaliland since independence from the UK, focusing on the period of the 1980s-1990s and covering who the parties to minelaying.

This presentation is important to the execution of the trip because it provides a more detailed background on the situation in Somaliland, which participants will refer to throughout the trip. This offers foundational information to support regional policymaking.

Presenter: Calum Gibbs, Program Manager, HALO Somaliland

Location: HALO Guest House: Essa Dhara, Mansoor Area, Hargeisa, Somaliland

The entirety of the allotted time for the working meal and final policy presentations will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

8:30 – 9:00 AM *Travel by HALO vehicles to Abaarso village*

9:00 – 10:00 AM Visit a Former Minefield and a School

HALO staff will brief Congressional staffers on the minefield history, clearance, and land use in Abaarso Village to see the impact of demining operations. Staffers will visit a school that was built on the minefield after HALO cleared the land.

This is relevant to the mission of the trip and the Member's official duties because it is educating the staffers on the effects of funding for demining programs efforts and policy in Africa. Staffers work directly in the appropriations and legislation process with their offices and with HFAC.

Presenter: Abdi Kareem, Operations Officer, HALO Somaliland

Location: Abaarso village school, Somaliland

10:00 – 10:30 AM *Transportation by HALO vehicles to HALO Compound, pack vehicles for overnight visit to minefield*

10:30 – 1:30 PM *Transportation by HALO vehicles to Ina Guuxaa*

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM Working Lunch in Ina Guuxaa

Quick tour of camp, ablutions, drop luggage then proceed to lunch. Local staff will brief the visitors on every day life in Somaliland, with emphasis on

how landmines impact the people of Somaliland.

It is important that staffers understand how landmines affect people living in contaminated areas, with context of how people live in this area to inform policy to address regional challenges. Touring the camp will show staffers how deminers live during operations and show how donors are recognized at HALO sites – important considerations as it relates to the value of funding or supporting these programs through policy.

Presenter: Khadar Qalinle, Program Coordinator, HALO Somaliland

Location: HALO camp, Ina Guuxaa

The entirety of the allotted time for the working meal and final policy presentations will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

2:30 – 3:30 PM Mine Risk Education Session Briefing

After lunch, staffers will receive a briefing on mine risk education before seeing a live session. They will learn about how HALO works with communities to keep people safe. Staffers will also have an opportunity to speak with mine accident survivors about their experiences.

Understanding the elements of mine action outside of demining, like mine risk education, are critical to a comprehensive understanding of effective programs in mine-contaminated areas. Hearing from mine accident survivors also helps with an understanding of the impact of mines in the region and worldwide. This helps to inform humanitarian policymaking regionally and worldwide.

Presenter: Calum Gibbs, Program Manager, HALO Somaliland

Other participants: Shide Hassan, Community Outreach and Risk Education Team Leader, HALO Somaliland
Ishtail Ismail, Community Outreach and Risk Education Team Leader, HALO Somaliland

Location: HALO camp, Ina Guuxaa

3:30 – 3:45 PM *Transportation by HALO vehicles to local school in Ina Guuxaa near camp*

3:45 – 5:00 PM Observe Mine Risk Education Live Session

Staffers will observe a mine risk education session at a local school. This will solidify knowledge gained from the earlier briefing on why risk education is a key component of mine action and an important community liaison opportunity.

Understanding the elements of mine action outside of demining, like mine risk education, are critical to a comprehensive understanding of effective programs in mine-contaminated areas. Hearing from mine accident survivors also helps with an understanding of the impact of mines in the region and worldwide. This helps to inform humanitarian policymaking

regionally and worldwide.

Presenter: Shide Hassan Community Outreach and Risk Education Team Leader. Ishtail Ismail, Community Outreach and Risk Education Team Leader.

Location: Ina Guuxaa School, Ina Guuxaa

5:00 – 5:15 PM *Transportation by HALO vehicles back to HALO Camp, Ina Guuxaa*

5:15 – 6:15 PM Briefing on HALO Ethiopia

Staffers will be briefed on HALO's demining program in Ethiopia just across the border. They will learn about conflict history elements unique to Ethiopia, mine contamination, how mines uniquely impact life in Ethiopia, and program operations.

This briefing will help inform policymaking as it relates to Ethiopia specifically – how the challenge of mine contamination and food security is the same/different, and understanding the humanitarian needs.

Presenters: Rob Syfret, Head of Region (Horn of Africa), HALO Ethiopia
Mahad Ibrahim, Operations Manager, HALO Ethiopia

Location: HALO Camp, Ina Guuxaa Minefield

6:15 – 7:15 PM Working Dinner and Presentation on HALO's Work in Horn of Africa

Trip participants will gather for dinner at the HALO deminer camp and hear a briefing on HALO's work in the Horn of Africa as a whole, including more detail on demining efforts in Somalia, links between Somalia, Ethiopia, and Somaliland programs and food security challenges.

This information will be important for Staffers so they can learn about demining work and conflict challenges in the region, building on the previous briefings specific to particular programs. This will help staff better understand the cross-cutting and regional, as well as unique elements of conflict issues and programs to address explosive remnants of war throughout the three areas.

Presenter: Rob Syfret, Head of Region (Horn of Africa), The HALO Trust

Location: HALO Camp, Ina Guuxaa, Somaliland

The entirety of the allotted time for the working meal and final policy presentations will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

7:15 - 8:00 PM Meeting with Village Elders

Staffers will have the chance to speak with community leaders to

discuss the impact of Ina Guuxaa minefield on their community and highlight the impact of HALO's work.

This discussion will further inform staffers about community structures in Somaliland, and the detrimental effects of mines in the region to help them better provide oversight on and build US policy for the region.

Presenter: Hassan Ali, Community Liaison Officer, HALO Somaliland

Other participants: Village elders (specific participants TBC)

Location: HALO Camp, Ina Guuxaa

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24: DEMINING AND MALNUTRITION

5:30 – 6:30 AM Wake Up, Ablutions, and Working Breakfast

Staffers will receive an overview of the day's activities as they prepare for the day and review of key themes to pay attention to throughout the day regarding the demining, challenges driving food insecurity, and the conflict context.

This refresher is critical to make sure that Staffers have context to maximize their experience traveling and attending site visits throughout the day.

Presenter: Calum Gibbs, Program Manager, HALO Somaliland

Location: HALO Camp, Ina Guuxaa

The entirety of the allotted time for the working meal and final policy presentations will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

6:30 – 6:45 AM *Travel by HALO vehicle to Ina Guuxaa Minefield*

6:45 – 7:30 AM Minefield Safety Briefing

Staffers will receive a safety briefing including safety and emergency procedures. This will be conducted in HALO's minefield checkpoint, located approximately 300 yards from the start of the minefield to ensure a suitable safety distance. The briefing will also include minefield history, analysis of past accidents, and context on the minefield.

This briefing is necessary for the protection of minefield visitors, provide insight into the seriousness of the threat people living nearby face daily, and educate Staffers on data collected at each minefield. Understanding the safety and specific practices at this minefield help to inform policies around demining worldwide.

Presenter: Calum Gibbs, Program Manager, HALO Somaliland

Location: At minefield safety checkpoint, Ina Guuxaa, Somaliland

7:30 – 8:45 AM Field Visit of a Minefield

Staffers will walk through safe areas of the minefield, witnessing demining operations and speaking with deminers about their work and background, including the impact of HALO's work on their local communities. Participants will observe the process of mine clearance and be given an opportunity to take part in a safe demonstration of clearance operations in the cleared area by using a metal detector and practicing soil excavation.

This is important for staffers because they will get to see first-hand the work that deminers undertake. They will be able to use this knowledge when prioritizing policy recommendations about demining in their work with Congressmembers or Committees.

Location: Ina Guuxaa Minefield

8:45 AM – 12:25 PM *Transportation by HALO vehicle back to Maansoor Hotel in Hargeisa*

12:25 – 12:30 PM *Transport by foot to HALO Office next door*

12:30 – 1:30 PM Working Lunch on Malnutrition and Food Security

HALO will lead discussion, with input from the Eleanor Crook Foundation, on observations on the challenges of global malnutrition and food security in the region and outline possible opportunities to improve conditions.

This information relates to Staffers' work in foreign and humanitarian policy especially as it relates to conflict-induced famine. Staffers will learn more about the intersections between demining and food security as well as environmental and other factors, helping them to craft more comprehensive regional policies.

Participants: Chris Whatley, Executive Director, HALO (USA)
Kristen Stevens, Head of Congressional Affairs & Strategic Engagement, HALO (USA)
Mariana Becerra, Associate Director of Advocacy, Eleanor Crook Foundation

Location: HALO Office: Essa Dhara, Mansoor Area, Hargeisa, Somaliland

The entirety of the allotted time for the working meal and final policy presentations will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

1:30 – 2:15 PM *Travel by HALO vehicles to Mohamed Moge Health Facility in Hargeisa*

2:15 – 4:00 PM **Tour UNICEF Mohamed Moge Health Facility**

Participants will tour UNICEF's Mohamed Moge Health Facility to hear from service providers about malnutrition and child wasting treatment.

This presentation will build on Staffers' previous knowledge of food insecurity and demonstrate the tangible suffering that hunger causes, which is relevant for staffers who work on humanitarian policy or with the Congressional Hunger Caucus.

Presenter: Hamda Omar Yousuf, Nutrition Program Officer, UNICEF

Location: Mohamed Moge Health Facility, Hargeisa, Somaliland

4:00 – 6:00 PM *Transportation by HALO vehicles to HALO Compound in Hargeisa*

6:00 – 7:30 PM Working Dinner with UN World Food Program and Food and Agriculture Organization

Staffers will learn from UN WFP and FAO representatives about food security issues and local and regional programs in the region.

Information about the on-the-ground situation from different organizations in the field will help inform Staffers' policy recommendations going forward.

Presenters: Khalid Al-Qudsi, Head of Hargeisa Area Office, World Food Program
Abdoul Karim Bah, Head of Office (Somaliland), Food and Agriculture Organization

Location: HALO Guest House: Essa Dhara, Mansoor Area, Hargeisa, Somaliland

The entirety of the allotted time for the working meal and final policy presentations will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

7:30 – 7:35 PM *Transportation by foot back to Maansoor Hotel for the night*

THURSDAY, APRIL 25: GOVERNMENT MEETINGS AND TRAVEL

8:00 – 9:00 AM Working Breakfast and Briefing on the Day's Activities

Staffers will receive a virtual briefing on the US position on Somaliland and political considerations from a representative who covers Somaliland in the US Embassy in Somalia, followed by a HALO briefing covering the history of empire in the Somali region, including current population split, the major clans and the 4.5 system in Somalia and political sensitivities of the governments of Somalia, Ethiopia and Somaliland.

This briefing will prepare Staffers for their government meetings and provide

important context for their policy work with Members and HFAC in terms of US-Somaliland politics, bilateral relations, and regional sensitivities.

Presenters: Geoffrey Parker, Foreign Service Officer, US Embassy (Mogadishu)
Rob Syfret, Head of Region (Horn of Africa), The HALO Trust

Location: HALO Office, Hargeisa

The entirety of the allotted time for the working meal and final policy presentations will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

9:00 – 9:45 AM *Transportation by HALO vehicles to government meetings in Hargeisa*

9:45 AM – 11:30 AM Presidential and Vice Presidential Meeting

HALO will accompany staffers to a meeting with the President and Vice President of Somaliland to discuss challenges and opportunities in Somaliland regarding demining and food security, and other key policy priorities.

This discussion will help provide Staffers with a government perspective on the activities they have learned about, and additional policy issues that they may wish to raise with their Members or HFAC.

Participants: President Muse Bihi Abdi
Vice President Abdirahman Abdilaahi Ismail
Congressional Staff
HALO Staff
Eleanor Crook Foundation

Location: Presidential Building, Wadada Madax-tooyada, Hargeisa,

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM *Transportation by HALO vehicles to HALO Compound*

12:15 – 1:30 PM Minister-level Meetings

HALO will be met at the HALO Office for meetings with the ministries of Agricultural Development, Defense, and Environment and Rural Development to discuss issues related to demining and food security from a Somaliland-Government perspective.

This discussion will help provide Staffers with a government perspective at a more granular level on the activities they have learned about, and additional policy issues that they may wish to raise with their Members or HFAC.

Participants: Minister of Agricultural Development, Ahmed Mumin Seed
Minister of Defense, Abdiqani Mohamoud
Minister of Environment and Rural Development, Shukri Haji Ismail
Congressional Staff
HALO Staff
Eleanor Crook Foundation

Location: HALO Office: Essa Dhara, Mansoor Area, Hargeisa, Somaliland

1:30 – 2:30 PM Trip Summary Working Lunch

HALO will lead a discuss summarizing the trip, discuss key takeaways from their visit and policy topics for further exploration, and have the opportunity to ask final questions to HALO staff.

This will be the culmination of the trip and will help provide clarity to Staffers. They will be able to take the concise information provided at this briefing back to their Members, hear policy crystallizations from other visitors, and share their insights for future policy considerations.

Participants: Congressional staff
HALO Staff
Eleanor Crook Foundation staff

Location: HALO Office: Essa Dhara, Mansoor Area, Hargeisa, Somaliland

The entirety of the allotted time for the working meal and final policy presentations will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

2:30 – 2:35 *Transportation by foot to Mansoor Hotel and guests prepare luggage for departure*

3:00 – 4:00 PM *Transportation by HALO vehicle to Egal International Airport*

5:50 PM Flight departs Hargeisa for Washington, DC. Connection via ADD.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26: TRAVEL

8:55 AM Arrival at IAD.

End of Trip.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* at least 30 days before the start date of the trip. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:

The HALO Trust (USA)

2. I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

3. *Check only one.* I represent that:

a. The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**

b. The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**

c. The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.

If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: The Eleanor Crook Foundation provided the grant funding for this trip
(their paperwork is included)

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): Please see attached

5. Yes No Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?

6. Date of Departure: 4/21/2024 (arrive Hargeisa 4/22/2024) Date of Return: 4/26/2024 (depart Hargeisa 4/25/2024)

7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC

b. Destination(s): Hargeisa, Somaliland

c. City of return: Washington, DC

8. *Check only one.* I represent that

a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**

b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**

c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$1600	\$300	\$100
For each Accompanying Family Member			


	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$70 per person	visa
For each Accompanying Family Member		

19. *Check only one:*

- a. I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**

- a. **I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;**
- b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
- c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature:  Date: 3/18/24
 Name: Kristen Stevens Title: Head of Congressional Affairs
 Organization: The HALO Trust (USA)
 Address: 1730 Rhode Island Ave NW, Suite 206, Washington, DC 20036
 Email: kristen.stevens@halousa.org Telephone: 202-331-1266

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Day 1: Travel day (April 21)		
Time	Location	Activity
10:50	Washington DC	Depart Washington, D.C. (ET501 and ET372, connecting through Addis Ababa). Copies of the informational packet will be provided for perusal during travel.
Day 2: Arrival and orientation (April 22)		
11:00	Egal International Airport	Arrive at Hargeisa, Somaliland.
13:30	Mansoor Hotel	Travel to Maansoor Hotel in Hargeisa. Check in and prepare for the day's activities. Walk to HALO compound (next door).
14:30	HALO HQ	Lunch in Hargeisa on the HALO House rooftop and <i>briefing on HALO, ECF, and US policy related to demining and food security.</i> Compound tour to see inert explosives found in area and to see demining equipment.
18:30	HALO HQ	Dinner and speak with HALO local staff. <i>Briefing on HALO's demining program in Somaliland and operations.</i>
19:30	Mansoor Hotel	Early night
Day 3: Demining (April 23)		
07:00	HALO HQ	Walk to HALO briefing room for breakfast & overview on the day's activities. <i>Briefing on history of Somaliland since independence from the UK, focusing on 1980s - 1990s and covering actors involved in mine laying.</i>
08:30	HALO HQ	Depart HALO HQ
09:00	Arrive Abaarso village	Visit a former minefield that was cleared by HALO. A school has now been built on the site. <i>Briefing on the minefield history, clearance, and impact of demining/land use. Visit the school.</i>
10:00	HALO HQ	Return to HQ for refreshments and to pack vehicles for overnight visit to the minefield.
10:30	HALO HQ	Depart for Ina Guuxaa , a border minefield with Ethiopia. minefield remains from the Ethiopian Border War in 1982 and where the local population is forced to develop the community amongst the danger, resulting in high levels of accidents.
13:00	Near Sallaxley	Lunch en route to Ina Guuxaa, near Sallaxley. <i>Briefing to be delivered by local staff on how landmines impact people in daily life.</i>
14:00	Ina Guuxaa	Meet with the Mine Risk Education team and mine accident survivors at a local school next to a minefield in Ina Guuxaa. The MRE team will share their experiences, the benefits of their work, and what they are encountering in the community. Opportunity to speak with mine accident survivors and hear their stories. Depart for HALO deminer camp.

15:30	Ina Guuxaa	Arrive at HALO deminer camp in Ina Guuxaa. Drop luggage, tour of camp. <i>Briefing by HALO-Ethiopia Program Manager, Toby, Operations Manager, Mahad, and Ethiopia Survey team on demining operations across the border in Ethiopia.</i>
18:00	Ina Guuxaa	Dinner in camp. <i>Briefing on HALO in the Horn of Africa region overall, including links between Somalia, Ethiopia, and Somaliland programs and food security challenges.</i>
Day 4: Demining & Malnutrition (April 24)		
05:30	Ina Guuxaa	Wake up, ablutions and breakfast. <i>Briefing on the day's activities.</i>
06:30	Ina Guuxaa	Depart for Minefield
06:45	Ina Guuxaa Minefield	Arrive at minefield and safety briefing including safety and emergency procedures. This will be conducted in HALO's minefield camp, located approximately 300 yards from the start of the minefield to ensure a suitable safety distance. The briefing will also include minefield history, analysis of past accidents, and context on the minefield.
07:30	Ina Guuxaa Minefield	Field visit of a minefield. Interviews with deminers about their work and background, including the impact of HALO's work on their local communities. Look at the overall process of mine clearance and give an opportunity for all visitors to take part in a demonstration of clearance operations in the cleared area (e.g., try to use a metal detector and practice soil excavation.)
08:45	HALO Vehicles	Travel back to Hargeisa to Mansoor Hotel.
12:30	HALO HQ	Lunch. <i>Briefing from ECF representative on global malnutrition/food security challenges.</i>
13:30	HALO HQ	Depart for Mohamed Moge Health Facility in Hargeisa.
14:15	Mohamed Moge Health Facility, Hargeisa	Tour UNICEF Mohamed Moge Health Facility, hearing from service providers about malnutrition issues and child wasting treatment. Travel back to HALO HQ.
18:00	HALO HQ	Dinner with representatives from malnutrition actors including the UN World Food Program and Food and Agriculture Organization. <i>Briefing on food security and local, regional, and global programs to address food security in the region.</i> Walk to Mansoor Hotel.
19:30	Mansoor Hotel	Overnight Mansoor Hotel
Day 5: Government Meetings and Departure (April 25)		
08:00	HALO HQ	Breakfast & briefing on the day's activities. <i>Briefing on the history of empire in the Somali region, including current population split, the major clans and the 4.5 system in Somalia and political sensitivities of the governments of Somalia, Ethiopia and Somaliland.</i>
09:00	Hargeisa	Travel to government meetings

09:45	Hargeisa	Government meetings (will seek meetings with the President, Vice President, Minister of Defense who is responsible for demining, Minister of Agriculture who covers malnutrition and food security, Minister of Environment and Climate Change who oversees projects that intersect with food security.)
13:30	HALO HQ	Lunch. <i>Summary of visit and questions to the HALO team and ECF from the delegation.</i>
15:00	Hargeisa	Depart for the airport
17:50	Egal International Airport	Flight to Washington, DC (ET 375 Hargeisa to Addis Ababa, ET 500 to DC). Touch down in DC 8:55am, April 26 th .

Primary Sponsor Form Question 4. Names/Titles for Members/Employees invited:

Name	Title	Office	Reason inviting
Jim Baird	Member of Congress		Member of HFAC, oversees policy relevant to Africa
Sophie Jones	Democratic Staff Director	House Foreign Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Africa	Oversees policy directly related to Africa for HFAC
Emma Consoli	Legislative Correspondent	Rep. Chrissy Houlahan	Manages activities for the UXO/Demining caucus
Mike D'Orazio	Legislative Director	Rep. Guy Reschenthaler	Oversees policy for a Member who is part of the SFOPS Appropriations subcommittee
Lale Morrison	Chief of Staff	Rep. Jared Moskowitz	Oversees policy for a Member who is part of HFAC
Jesse Von Stein	Legislative Director	Rep. Jim Baird	Oversees policy for a Member who is part of HFAC, on the Africa subcommittee
Alyssa Anderson	Deputy Chief of Staff	Rep. Juan Ciscomani	Oversees policy for a Member who is part of the SFOPS Appropriations subcommittee
Patrick Mocete	Chief of Staff	Rep. Young Kim	Oversees policy for a Member who is part of HFAC, on the Africa subcommittee
Braden Dreiling	Chief of Staff	Rep. Jake LaTurner	Oversees policy for a Member who is part of the SFOPS Appropriations subcommittee
Giselle Reynolds	Legislative Director	Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart	Oversees policy for a Member who chairs the SFOPS Appropriations subcommittee
Arian Beckwith	Legislative Director	Rep. John James	Oversees policy for a Member who is part of HFAC, chairing the Africa subcommittee
John McDonough	Legislative Director	Rep. Chris Smith	Oversees policy for a Member who is part of HFAC, on the Africa subcommittee

Michael Guest, Mississippi
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Susan Wild, Pennsylvania
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Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland



ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

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April 17, 2024

Ms. Emma Consoli
Office of the Honorable Chrissy Houlahan
1727 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Consoli:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Somalia,¹ scheduled for April 21 to 26, 2024, sponsored by Halo Trust, Eleanor Crook Foundation, and Halo Trust UK.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$480 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House employees may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently \$480] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

¹ Please be aware that the Committee's review of the proposed trip does not extend to either the security situation in the destination country or security related to foreign travel in general. We recommend you contact the Office of House Security (OHS) for a safety and security briefing prior to your departure. OHS may be reached at (202) 226-2044 or ohsstaff@mail.house.gov. House travelers should also register for the U.S. State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at <https://step.state.gov>.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Guest". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Michael Guest
Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Wild". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

Susan Wild
Ranking Member

MG/SW:tn



**The HALO Trust (USA) and The HALO Trust:
Demining and Food Security Visit to Somaliland**

Funded by The Eleanor Crook Foundation

Information Packet

April 21-26, 2024



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ABOUT THE HALO TRUST



Our history and mission

The HALO Trust is the world's largest humanitarian landmine removal organization, operating in 30 countries and territories. HALO was founded in 1988 by members of the British military who saw the devastation caused by explosive hazards in Afghanistan. The organization employs nearly 12,000 staff worldwide, 98% of whom are locally recruited. Our mission is to protect lives and restore the livelihoods of those affected by conflict.

What we do

- **Clearing landmines & explosive threats:** Landmines, improvised explosive devices, and other forms of unexploded ordnance threaten lives years after conflicts end. Using technical expertise and local knowledge, HALO maps areas potentially containing explosives, systematically checks those areas for hazards using metal detection or mechanical equipment, and safely destroys threats. HALO also responds to calls from the public when explosives are found.
- **Risk education:** For families living near explosive threats, knowing how to identify hazards can be life or death. Using a variety of digital and in person methods, HALO helps people, especially children, learn to stay safe around explosives until they can be removed for good.
- **Weapons & ammunition security management:** Fragile states often struggle to control weapons and ammunition stockpiles. To prevent lethal unplanned explosions and weapons diversions to criminal or terrorist groups, HALO works with national security forces to develop weapons security systems.
- **Survivor assistance:** For those injured by mines, recovery can be long and resources may be inaccessible. HALO helps connect people with medical and rehabilitative care so survivors can regain their mobility, independence, and livelihoods.



HALO'S IMPACT SINCE 1988



714,395+
Acres of land made safe



14.4 million+
Landmines & other lethal
explosives destroyed



58 million+
Bullets destroyed



13 million+
People benefiting from
clearance *since 2015



7.4 million+
People taught how to stay safe
from explosive hazards

Benefits of partnering with us

- **Saving lives:** Landmines and other explosives still threaten communities in 60 countries worldwide. In 2022, the Landmine Monitor recorded over 4,700 casualties from mines and explosive hazards across 49 countries. The majority were civilians, and nearly 1,200 were children.
- **Supporting stability:** For families living near explosive threats, knowing how to identify hazards can be life or death. Using a variety of digital and in person methods, HALO helps people, especially children, learn to stay safe around explosives until they can be removed for good.
- **Promoting U.S. leadership:** Humanitarian demining is a highly visible and popular form of international U.S. aid, strengthening bilateral relationships and promoting positive U.S. leadership abroad. Demining programs, utilizing a local workforce sporting U.S. flags on their gear, transform unusable land into markets, roads, and schools. This is in stark contrast to the approaches of America's adversaries engaging in Africa, Latin America, the Asia-Pacific region, and beyond.
- **Countering terrorism & violence:** Through weapons security management programs, HALO supports U.S. national security interests by fortifying government armories to stop dangerous weaponry from entering the black market or falling into the hands of terrorist groups and gangs. Demining programs prevent non-state actors from accessing explosive materials, while also providing local employment opportunities to those at risk of recruitment into criminal groups.



- **Empowering women:** Around the world, HALO hires women at every level - from deminers, to weapons security specialists, to managers at headquarters. Including women is essential to gathering information on how explosives uniquely impact women and girls, while providing sources of income and skills training in countries where there may be few career opportunities for women.
- **Enabling food security:** Explosive contamination of farmland leads to food insecurity – including in Ukraine, where large swathes of arable land has become unusable. Since 2015, HALO has returned nearly 62,000 acres of agricultural land to local communities, ensuring that farmers can safely grow and export crops and that parents can feed their children.
- **Supporting environmental conservation:** With U.S. and Angolan Government funding, HALO is clearing landmines across southeast Angola in the Okavango Delta region, supporting wildlife management and the implementation of The DELTA Act. Demining here will allow elephants to return, park rangers to safely prevent poaching, and National Geographic and others to continue to discover new species through biodiversity research.

Management and funding

These programs are administered by the Office of Weapons Removal & Abatement in the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs (PM/WRA). The United States is the largest funder of humanitarian demining. Since 1993 the U.S. Government has contributed over \$5.09 billion to conventional weapons destruction (CWD) programs, as well as USAID and DOD programs supporting demining and related programs. The U.S. has funded CWD efforts in over 125 countries and areas, helping seven countries achieve mine-impact free status. In FY23, U.S. support in 82 countries made safe 47,200 acres of land and removed 247,500 landmines and other explosives.

Account: International Security Assistance, Non-proliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining & Related Programs Account (NADR), Conventional Weapons Destruction (CWD) sub-account.

Appropriations history

FY20 Approp.	FY21 Approp.	FY22 Approp.	FY23 Approp.	FY24 PB	FY24 House draft	FY24 Senate draft	FY24 Approp.	FY25 PB
\$227.55m	\$233.85m	\$254.9m	\$264.103m	\$237.05m	\$271.703m	\$264.103m	\$258m	\$270.650m

Top donors

HALO's top donors include the governments of the US, Germany, UK, Angola, EU, UN, Norway, Canada, Ireland, Japan. HALO also receives support from NATO, private foundations, individuals, and corporations such as John Deere, FMC Corp, Trimble, Pioneer, and Cargill. HALO's income is roughly \$180 million per year.

HALO also partners with the U.S. Department of Defense through the Army Humanitarian Demining Research & Development program to access equipment to increase demining efficiency.

Partnering with the Defense Department

HALO partners with the Army's Humanitarian Demining Research & Development program to test and evaluate demining equipment in field conditions. Demining technology innovations from this program increase efficiencies in HALO's operations, improve safety, and allow us to address emerging threats - saving the lives of civilians and U.S. servicemembers. The feedback we give to the Army then allows for the U.S. military to access the best possible demining equipment.

Working with U.S. companies

Across the world, HALO partners with American companies. We source equipment from Caterpillar, Bobcat, Case, Toyota, Land Rover, Schonstedt, and others. Our partnerships with Trimble, Esri, Google Earth, and Amazon Web Services provide us with innovative technology that allows us to map hazards and track types and locations of contamination. Support from Archer-Daniels-Midland, John Deere, FMC Corporation, and Cargill Inc. have allowed us to quickly respond to the war in Ukraine, and cooperation with Meta has also allowed us to reach millions with life-saving risk education messaging.

For more information, please contact:

Kristen Stevens, Head of Congressional Affairs and Strategic Relations, HALO USA
Kristen.Stevens@halousa.org; M: +1 360 391 1015

Background

Since the Ethiopian Border War in 1969, minelaying and weapons insecurity in the Horn of Africa have been major threats to the people of Ethiopia, Somalia, and Somaliland. The border between Ethiopia and Somalia and the Tigray region are two of the most heavily contaminated areas on Earth. Despite the enormous humanitarian need, the Horn of Africa receives little public attention.

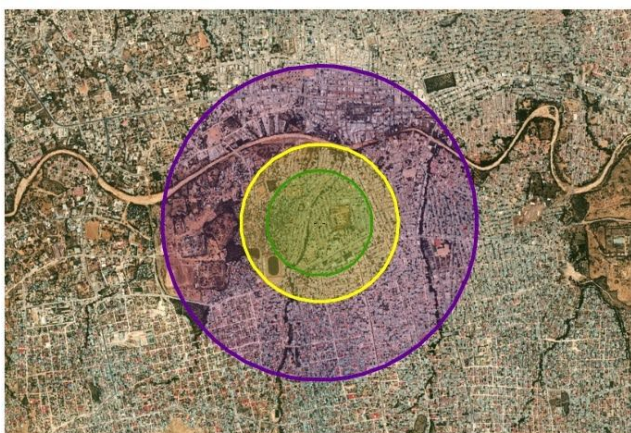
Somaliland

Somaliland has been embroiled in armed conflict for over three decades, contaminating the nation with vast amounts of landmines and other weapons of war. At least **3,200 acres of contaminated or suspected contaminated land remain**, with some minefields stretching as large as 100 baseball fields. **UNICEF estimates there could be as many as 100,000 landmines in the country.** Somaliland contains over 100 different types of munitions, from WWII German Aircraft bombs to Soviet MANDPADS (shoulder-fired rockets).

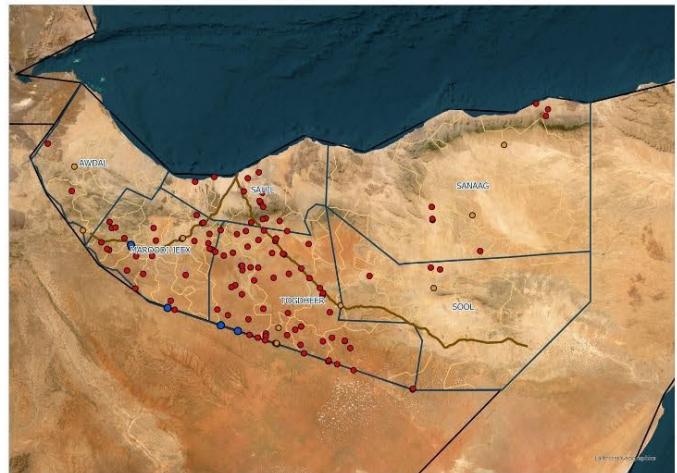
The Landmine Monitor reports that there have been over **1,045 casualties in Somaliland since 2000 from explosives.** Just in February 2024, a 16-year old boy encountered a P4 anti-personnel mine, resulting in life-altering injuries.

An estimated **\$30 million is needed to clear the remaining contamination from Somaliland.** At current rates this will take roughly 10 years, but an increase of \$1 million per year would bring down the estimated completion time to 6-7 years.

The Somaliland Government has also requested support destroying more than **165 tons** of varied unserviceable ammunition, currently stored in the city. The risk of an unplanned ammunition depot explosion poses a threat to thousands of people.



In the event of an ammunition depot explosion, all areas within a 3/4 mile radius would be destroyed, as indicated above.



Red dots: to be cleared, Blue dots: ongoing demining, Yellow: suspended demining, Blue lines: regions, Yellow thin line, districts, Brown lines: tarmac roads

HALO has been operating in Somaliland since 1999, with a staff of 400. We currently engage in demining and risk education activities, with the potential to support weapons and ammunition management activities.

Donors include: The UK, Ireland, The Netherlands, and private sources. The US previously supported demining efforts in Somaliland between 1999-2004, and 2008-2018, **but funding has since ceased.**



HALO staff lead a mine risk education session to ensure communities members stay safe around explosive hazards.

Ethiopia



Ethiopia has been stricken with conflict throughout the 20th and 21st centuries, from the Second Italo-Ethiopian War (1935-37), through the Second World War, the Ogaden War (with Somalia, 1977-8), a border war with Sudan (1980), the Ethiopian Civil War (1974-91), the Eritrean War (1998 -2000) and the Tigrayan War (2020-2022). The Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) is deployed in areas of Somalia providing security against Al-Shabaab, and is engaged with several ethnic insurgencies from groups seeking greater influence or autonomy within Ethiopia.

The Tigrayan War led to the deaths of up to 600,000 people from famine and fighting, and has left the area with a significant explosives problem. At present there is no reliable data on the total number of landmine and explosive remnant of war victims in Ethiopia, however it is certainly in the thousands.

The true extent of contamination is not precisely known, however it is estimated that **over 6,600 acres across the country require clearance, while a further 173,000 acres need to be checked for hazards.** The majority of minefields are along the borders with Somaliland and Somalia in the south, and the border with Eritrea in the north. Somali Regional State is believed to be the most heavily affected area.



The conflict in and around Tigray from 2020 - 2022 is believed to have left large quantities of explosives, though reports of anti-personnel and anti-tank landmines are rare. Ethiopia requires a national baseline assessment to confirm the true extent of the problem. We anticipate finding Pakistani P4 (AP) and P2 (AT) mines, and the Belgian PRBM3 (AT).

The Landmine Monitor reports that explosives in Ethiopia have caused nearly **17,000 casualties.**

Clearing explosive hazards from Ethiopia will require over \$70 million and at least 10 years to clear.



Above: HALO deminer uses metal detector to locate explosive hazards, Below, left: HALO deminer excavates signal to uncover explosive for safe detonation.

HALO has been operating in Ethiopia since 2021 and currently has a staff of 100, 30% of whom are women. Teams are conducting demining and risk education along the border with Somaliland, where the density of minelaying is expected to be the greatest. While it is not possible to work in the Tigray region at this time, we expect to find heavy contamination that will require clearance when conditions allow.

Donors include: Germany, Norway, Ireland, and the UK. The US does not currently fund demining in Ethiopia. **An additional \$1 million per year would allow HALO to employ 40 more staff, enabling the clearance of an additional 32 acres per year.**

Somalia

Somalia has suffered continuous conflict since the Ogaden War of 1977, which degenerated into the Somali Civil War. The civil war ended in 1991 with the breakaway of Somaliland. However, in south central Somalia, this was immediately followed by inter-clan fighting that led to Operation Restore Hope and the famous Black Hawk Down incident in October 1993. Internecine fighting continued.

In 2006 the Islamic Courts Union came to power. Ethiopian troops invaded to help remove this government, which was feared to be aligned with Al-Qaeda. In 2007, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) deployed to Mogadishu. Al-Shabaab, which had started to gain prominence in 2006, has continued to fight with ATMIS forces (AMISOM was re-named in 2021), Somali government federal forces and clans militias who do not agree to its rule. In the north of the country, forces from Puntland have been involved in fighting with Somaliland forces in the so called SSC-Khatumo region. The casualties from these conflicts are in the thousands. Due to the wide-spread and long-term instability, accurate statistics are hard to come by, but it is believed thousands of people have been injured by landmines, with reports of accidents continuing on a regular basis.

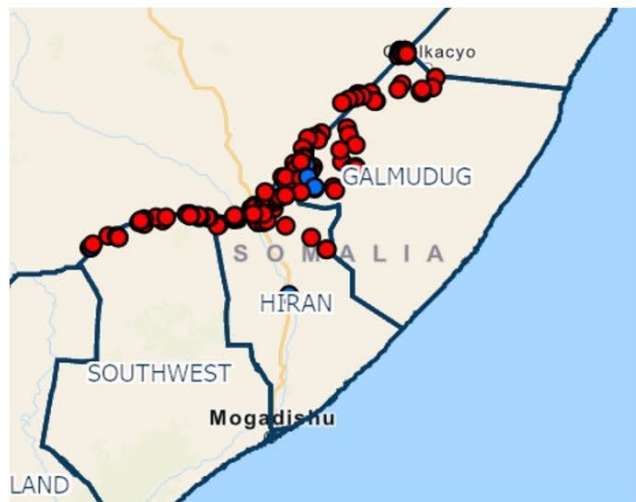
Most mines in Somalia were laid during the Ogaden War, in the vicinity of the border with Ethiopia, however numerous conflicts over time have resulted in varied contamination.

There are at least 138 acres of surveyed minefields in Somalia, that threaten civilians and foster instability. Clearing the known hazardous areas would cost approximately \$5 million and take an estimated five years.

In Somalia, weapons security and storage pose the largest threat to civilians. Al-Shabaab continues to control large swaths of territory and has gained most of its weapons from insecure government stockpiles, and explosives from unsecured munitions storage facilities. **There are an estimated 1,145,000 small arms and light weapons circulating through the country, which is around 1 weapon for every 13 Somalis.**

HALO has been operating in Somalia since 2015 and currently employs a staff of 400. Activities include demining, risk education, and weapons and ammunition management.

HALO's weapons security management teams gather ordnance either reported by or held by civilians and dispose of it, reducing the stock of items that can either be used in further conflict, caused to detonate accidentally, or re-purposed for use in IEDs. Another crucial strand of the program is the building of safe and secure stores for the police and military, and training personnel in stock management.



Red dots: areas to be cleared, blue dots: ongoing demining

Donors include: The governments of the US, UK, Ireland, the Netherlands, Finland, Norway, UNMAS, and private sources.

The Somalia program has an annual operating budget of approximately \$6 million, of which roughly \$4 million is from the U.S. An uplift of \$1 million dollars per year could translate in a increase to the workforce of up to 80-100 staff.



HALO staff prepare for a safe demolition of items of unexploded ordnance.

Our Impact

SAVING LIVES & LIMBS

Until removed, landmines and explosives threaten people’s lives. HALO’s demining work protects people from death, injury, and eliminates psychological damage associated with living near lethal devices.

SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT

Landmines prevent the construction of homes, roads, schools, farms, and infrastructure. In February 2024, a Somaliland Government contracted grader was struck by a mine while widening a major road, disabling it. The damage forced this vital work to cease.



COUNTERING MALIGN PRC INFLUENCE

In recent years, China has begun to shift its focus toward the Horn of Africa as an area of strategic geopolitical influence and has begun to invest heavily in the region. Through demining and weapons security and by employing local staff, HALO is working to ensure that the U.S. is still seen as the key ally to the people in the Horn.



HALO staff member provides support to a displaced family in Somaliland.

GENERATING STABILITY

The Horn of Africa faces complex threats such as terrorist networks, limits to fresh water and other resources, and sporadic violence. Clearing mines and UXO and increasing capacity for weapons security builds stability and provides economic opportunities for communities across the region. Demining efforts also remove scars of past conflicts, setting the preconditions for peace.

HALO’s achievements in the Horn of Africa



110,226+ direct beneficiaries



83q/km+ of land cleared



685,856+ risk education participants





Empowering Women

Khadija (pictured above) has been working with HALO Somalia since June 2015 - one of the first women to be employed with HALO Somalia. Khadija has been able to achieve a positive balance between her home life and her work with HALO through being given a privately-funded stipend: "I can get a babysitter who will take care of my kids while I'm at work so that I do not have to worry about them while I am gone." Khadija believes the stipend has played a supportive role in allowing her to work outside the home.

Throughout Somaliland, Somalia, and Ethiopia women enjoy fewer human rights protections and socioeconomic opportunities than men, with Somalia ranking fourth lowest on the UN's global gender inequality index. In this historically patriarchal society, women carry the burden of being primary caregivers in traditional family structures, and these duties create obstacles for women to enter, or remain in the workforce - translating into lower levels of economic support. HALO is breaking down these barriers by providing stable employment, training, and stipends to support women.

Food Security

The Horn of Africa is facing crisis-level food insecurity and malnutrition. Tens of millions face food insecurity throughout the region. According to both the World Food Program's 2023 ranking of 10 countries suffering most from hunger, Somalia (including Somaliland) and Ethiopia ranked 8th and 9th, respectively. The International Rescue Committee's 2024 Emergency Watch List ranked Somalia (including Somaliland) and Ethiopia as 7th and 9th for countries most at risk of experiencing new or worsening humanitarian crises.

Landmines prevent communities from safely reaching vital resources such as water supplies, and the presence

of mines makes agricultural land unsafe to farm or use to graze livestock. There have been nearly 400 livestock accidents on one large minefield in Somaliland alone. For families, losing a sheep or camel equates to losing roughly \$100, which is more than the monthly income for the average Somalilander, in one of the poorest areas of the world.

Further, the conflict in Ukraine has interfered with critical food supplies reaching the region. This has been exacerbated by extensive landmine contamination in Ukraine, with 1.1 million acres of arable land being kept out of use. Demining is needed to enable food exports to resume at full capacity.



HALO is the world's largest landmine clearance organization. We save lives and restore communities threatened by landmines and other explosive remnants of war. HALO employs more than 11,000 staff and operates in more than 30 countries and territories.

The HALO Trust (USA) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Federal Tax ID Number: 52-2158152.

Please join the Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)/Demining Caucus



Caucus Members (67)

Reps. **Chrissy Houlahan (Co-Chair)**, **David Valadao (Co-Chair)**, Becca Balint, Ami Bera, Don Beyer, Sanford Bishop, Earl Blumenauer, Lisa Blunt Rochester, Julia Brownley, Matt Cartwright, Judy Chu, Katherine Clark, Steve Cohen, Gerry Connolly, Lou Correa, Jim Costa, *Rick Crawford*, Madeleine Dean, Mark DeSaulnier, *Tom Emmer*, Anna Eshoo, Adriano Espaillat, *Chuck Fleischmann*, Ruben Gallego, John Garamendi, Robert Garcia, Raúl Grijalva, Jim Himes, Sara Jacobs, Pramila Jayapal, Ro Khanna, Dan Kildee, Derek Kilmer, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Rick Larsen, Mike Levin, Stephen Lynch, *Brian Mast*, Betty McCollum, Jim McGovern, Joe Morelle, Kevin Mullin, Joe Neguse, *Dan Newhouse*, Donald Norcross, Eleanor Norton, Ilhan Omar, Frank Pallone, Jimmy Panetta, Chris Pappas, Brittany Pettersen, Dean Phillips, *Aumua Amata Radewagen*, *Guy Reschenthaler*, *Maria Salazar*, Linda Sanchez, Adam Schiff, Brad Schneider, Brad Sherman, *Mike Simpson*, Adam Smith, *Jason Smith*, Dina Titus, Rashida Tlaib, Jill Tokuda, Lori Trahan, and David Trone

Purpose & Activities

The UXO/Demining Caucus works to educate Congressional Members and staff about the humanitarian dangers of unexploded ordnance and successes of U.S. demining programs around the world.

The caucus advocates for the support of life-saving demining programs that protect communities and serve U.S. security, economic, and political interests abroad.

The caucus hosts regular staff briefings, exhibitions, and Member-level events. Recent briefing topics have included:

- U.S. legacy ordnance in Southeast Asia
- Demining in Ukraine, Iraq, Syria, Colombia, the Pacific Islands, Laos, and beyond
- Demining & refugee crises
- Women in demining
- Veterans in demining & weapons security

To join, please reach out to:

Emma.Consoli@mail.house.gov (Rep. Chrissy Houlahan) or Kellie.Hartl@mail.house.gov (Rep. David Valadao)



Eleanor Crook
Foundation



The Eleanor Crook Foundation is a United States-based philanthropy with a single goal:
to eradicate global malnutrition.

ABOUT US

The Eleanor Crook Foundation (ECF) works to scale improved solutions to malnutrition by investing in research, policy analysis, and advocacy.

Our approach goes beyond grant-making. We serve as a key convener, advocate, and thought leader in the malnutrition sector.

ECF actively invests in scaling high-impact, cost-effective solutions to address malnutrition. The Foundation has already invested nearly \$100 million in the fight against malnutrition. Our growing endowment will allow us to continue working to end malnutrition for as long as it takes.

ENDING MALNUTRITION

Malnutrition is entirely preventable – and yet it remains the number one killer of children worldwide, taking the lives of more children each year than malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS combined.

Wasting, the deadliest form of malnutrition, affects an estimated 45 million children under five years old around the world.¹

Despite malnutrition causing half of all child deaths, less than 1% of official development assistance goes to high-impact malnutrition programs.

**Malnutrition is a crisis we can solve.
There are proven, cost-effective solutions that could
end malnutrition in our lifetime.**

www.eleanorcrookfoundation.org

The Power 4

Backed by more than 15 years of evidence, these nutrition-specific interventions could effectively end global malnutrition. But right now, they are largely not being delivered at scale.

Prenatal Vitamins

Over 40 percent of pregnant women globally suffer from anemia and, in some countries, 80 percent of women have at least two micronutrient deficiencies at the outset of pregnancy.² Multiple micronutrient supplementation (MMS) combines 15 essential vitamins and minerals in a single daily pill and significantly improves birth outcomes and children's survival in the critical 1,000 day period between the start of a woman's pregnancy and a child's second birthday. Despite the proven benefits of providing MMS during pregnancy, most women in low- and middle-income countries do not have access to these extremely low-cost supplements.³

Vitamin A Supplementation

Reaching young children with two high-dose vitamin A supplements every year is one of the most cost-effective ways to protect children from blindness, diarrhea, and other fatal illnesses. It can reduce a child's overall risk of death by up to 24 percent.⁴ One vitamin A dose costs just two cents to manufacture and is typically delivered through existing routine health services, annual health events, and/or vaccination campaigns.⁵

Breastfeeding Support

Babies get the best start in life when they are fed only breast milk until six months old and continue breastfeeding until at least age two. Skilled breastfeeding counseling can help women access the support needed to meet their breastfeeding goals, and can protect vulnerable infants from becoming malnourished. *The Lancet* reports that achieving optimal breastfeeding practices globally would result in the prevention of 820,000 child deaths and 20,000 breast cancer deaths each year.⁶

Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF)

Should prevention fail, RUTF (often known as Plumpy'Nut)—a relatively simple paste made of peanuts, powdered milk, and multivitamins—is a lifesaving medical food that can bring severely malnourished children back from the brink of death in a matter of weeks. The cost of this treatment is less than US\$ 1 per day. Alarming, three-quarters of children suffering from wasting worldwide lack access to this essential treatment.⁷ ECF estimates it would cost an additional US \$950 million annually to scale up RUTF treatment to reach nearly all severely wasted children in the world.

**What are
“nutrition-specific”
interventions — and
why are they best
buys in global
development?**

Nutrition-specific interventions like the Power 4 address the immediate causes of malnutrition. Despite being “best buys” in global development, they have been chronically underfunded and therefore are not reaching the majority of women and children who need them most. While other interventions can play an important role in development, they do not provide direct prevention and relief from malnutrition.

Scaling the Power 4 in just nine countries would reduce child deaths in those countries by up to 11 percent, and save nearly 1.2 million lives over five years. The cost for this increase in coverage is as little as \$1,570 per life saved.

1 World Health Organization: WHO. (2021, June 9). Malnutrition. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malnutrition>

2 “Maternal and Child Undernutrition Progress,” *The Lancet*.

3 “Why Multiple Micronutrient Supplements (MMS),” *Kirk Humanitarian*, accessed April 2, 2021, <https://kirkhumanitarian.org/why-mms/>.

4 “Vitamin A Deficiency,” UNICEF, accessed April 2, 2021, <https://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/vitamin-a-deficiency/>.

5 “Improving Child Survival Rates with Twice-Yearly Vitamin A Supplementation,” *Nutrition International*, February 3, 2021, www.nutritionintl.org/project/vitamin-a-supplementation/.

6 “Maternal and Child Undernutrition Progress,” *The Lancet*.

7 UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group, and United Nations, “Levels & Trends in Child Mortality: Report 2019,” <https://www.unicef.org/media/60561/file/UN-IGME-child-mortality-report-2019.pdf>

Image credit: © UNICEF/UN0640853/Dejongh



Travel Information

Travel to Somaliland

Flight Information: The Staff Delegation will depart from Dulles International Airport on April 21 at 10:50 a.m. (ET501) and arrive in Addis Ababa on April 22 at 7:05 a.m. From there, participants will take a connecting flight (ET374) that leaves Addis Ababa at 1:00 p.m. and arrives at Hargeisa Airport at 2:30 p.m. that same day. For the return journey beginning on April 25, participants will fly out of Hargeisa Airport at 5:55 p.m. (ET375) and arrive in Addis Ababa at 7:10 p.m., where they will take a connecting flight (ET500) from Addis Ababa to Dulles that leaves Ethiopia at 10:50 p.m. and arrives in the U.S. at 8:55 a.m. on April 26. The plane briefly touches down in Rome, but travelers do not exit the plane.

Flights have been purchased in economy class, with effort made to secure requested aisle or window seats. Please note that exit rows were not available during the booking process for those that requested an exit row seat. You can check your seat or make any changes (at your own personal expense) on the Ethiopian Airlines “manage booking” section of the website using your last name and the following code:

GFMKMG for Morrison, Mount, DOrazio, Stevens, Whatley

KTINVA for Mocete, Consoli, Eremeeva

Please note that check out/security when departing Hargeisa (for the return flight) requires you to turn on and show your laptop or other major electronic devices to airport security. **Please make sure your devices have enough charge to complete this!**

Upon arrival, please follow HALO staff to enter the airport and proceed through the standard immigration checkpoint, we will then go onto the baggage hall. All luggage will be laid out on the floor after being scanned. Collect your luggage, then an airport staff member will cross-reference the bag you pick up with your baggage tag provided at check-in with your boarding pass. **Please do not dispose of your boarding pass during your travels.**

Please note that it is common for checked baggage to arrive late (by several hours or the next day), so it is recommended to bring a change of clothing and any necessary medications in your carry-on luggage.

While delays at the airport are typical, HALO is well known and respected by Hargeisa Airport immigration staff, and we will try to make the visa acquisition and baggage pick up process as fast as possible.

Important: Alcohol is illegal in Somaliland. Any checked/hold baggage will be scanned on arrival. Alcohol will be removed and there is the possibility of arrest, although confiscation is more likely.



Medical

Malaria is **not** a major risk in Somaliland, and insect repellent and the use of a mosquito net (provided) amount to sufficient methods of prevention, but please use your own judgement.

Clean drinking water will be provided – avoid drinking tap water anywhere. We would encourage you to bring a water bottle with you.

In emergency situations, the Hargeisa International Hospital is well equipped to stabilize casualties and perform emergency surgery. If guests require further or complex treatment or surgery they will be lifted to Dubai, Djibouti or Nairobi by either EU, UN aircraft, or private operators.

Accommodation

Accommodation will be provided at the Maan-Soor Hotel in Hargeisa, Somaliland. The hotel is about 17 minutes from the airport and located directly next door to the HALO compound. Pending Ethics Committee approval, you will be staying in King/VIP Rooms with king beds. The hotel requires a security screening upon arrival. Hotel rooms include mosquito nets, a towel, and small items of shampoo and soap. Hairdryers are **not** available in rooms, and please make sure to bring appropriate adapters for your electronics.

For one night you will have the opportunity to see how our deminers live on site. Accommodation at the deminer camp will be *rustic* (think camping), and you will be staying in individual huts that include a cot with a mattress, blanket, overhead light, and an electronic hookup to charge any devices. There is Wi-Fi in the camp, but it is spotty. Basic shower (non-heated water) and toilet facilities will be available.

Money

All transactions are available in US dollars, but small notes are advisable for any personal purchases. Change may not be available and will often come in Somaliland Shillings. ATMs are available in the adjoining Maan-Soor Hotel, but they do charge fees.

Communications

While US phones will not work in Somaliland for calls, you will have access to Wi-Fi for internet messaging at the hotel, HALO compound, and spotty internet at the camp. HALO will also provide a 4G mobile wireless router that will enable WhatsApp or Skype calls (credits can be purchased directly from Skype). In an emergency, if you must make a non-internet-based call, a member of HALO's staff will assist.



Given the sensitivities of traveling to Somaliland, and for the safety of all travelers and HALO staff operating in Somaliland and Somalia, **we ask that you please refrain from publicly commenting via press release, social media, web, or any other platform about the trip before or during the trip.** Participants may take photos and videos during the trip, but we ask that you wait until guests have safely returned before posting.

Given volatility around topics including but not limited to the Somaliland-Ethiopia relationship and Somaliland Independence, we ask that any posts or publicity made after all guests have safely returned home focus on HALO's program in Somaliland (not Somaliland AND Ethiopia) and focus on the humanitarian and non-political nature of the work you will witness. **Please see Annex 1: Communications for more information.**



Trip Itinerary

Day 1: Travel day (April 21)		
Time	Location	Activity
8:50 AM	Dulles Airport	Meet at Dulles International Airport , Ethiopian Airlines Check-In Desk
10:50 AM	Washington DC	Depart Washington, D.C. Ethiopian Air. Copies of the informational packet will be provided for perusal during travel.
Day 2: Arrival and orientation (April 22)		
2:30 PM	Egal International Airport	Arrive at Hargeisa, Somaliland. Transport to Maansoor Hotel.
4:00 PM	Mansoor Hotel	Arrive at Maansoor Hotel in Hargeisa (see Annex A for images.) Check in and prepare for the day's activities. Safety briefing.
5:00 PM	Maansoor Hotel	Time to freshen up for the evening. Walk to HALO Compound for dinner.
6:00 PM	HALO HQ	Dinner in Hargeisa on the HALO House rooftop. Introductions, safety briefing, <i>briefing on HALO, ECF, and US policy related to demining and food security.</i> Compound tour and see demining equipment.
7:00 PM	HALO HQ	Briefing on HALO's demining programs in Somaliland and overview on Ethiopia and Somalia. Walk back to Maansoor Hotel.
8:00 PM	Mansoor Hotel	Early night.
Day 3: Demining (April 23)		
6:55 AM	HALO HQ	Walk to HALO briefing room for breakfast & overview on the day's activities. <i>Discussion on history of Somaliland since independence from the UK, focusing on the period of the 1980s - 1990s and covering who the parties to the border minelaying were including the SNM.</i>
8:30 AM	Depart HALO HQ	Depart HALO HQ and travel to Abaarso village.
9:00 AM	Arrive Abaarso village	Visit a former minefield that was cleared by HALO. A school has now been built on the site. <i>Briefing on the minefield history, clearance, and land use. Visit the school.</i>
10:00 AM	HALO HQ	Return to HQ for coffee and to pack vehicles for overnight visit to the minefield.
10:30 AM	HALO Vehicles	Depart for Ina Guuxaa, a border minefield. The minefield remains from the Ethiopian Border War in 1982 and where the local population is forced to develop the community amongst the danger, resulting in high levels of accidents.



1:30 PM	HALO Camp (Ina Guuxaa)	Working Lunch in Ina Guuxaa. <i>Quick tour of camp, ablutions, drop luggage then proceed to lunch. Briefing to be delivered by local staff on how landmines impact people in daily life.</i>
2:30 PM	HALO Camp (Ina Guuxaa)	Meet with the Mine Risk Education team. The MRE team will share their experiences, the benefits of their work, and what they are encountering in the community. Depart for school to see live session.
3:45 PM	Ina Guuxaa School	Observe Mine Risk Education Live Session. Staffers will observe a mine risk education session at a local school. This will solidify knowledge gained from the earlier briefing on why risk education is a key component of mine action and an important community liaison opportunity. Transport back to HALO Camp.
5:15 PM	HALO Camp (Ina Guuxaa)	Briefing on HALO Ethiopia. Staffers will be briefed on HALO's demining program in Ethiopia just across the border. They will learn about conflict history elements unique to Ethiopia, mine contamination, how mines uniquely impact life in Ethiopia, and program operations.
6:15 PM	HALO Camp (Ina Guuxaa)	Working Dinner and Presentation on HALO's Work in Horn of Africa. Trip participants will gather for dinner at the HALO deminer camp and hear a briefing on HALO's work in the Horn of Africa as a whole, including more detail on demining efforts in Somalia, links between Somalia, Ethiopia, and Somaliland programs and food security challenges.
7:15 PM	HALO Camp (Ina Guuxaa)	Meeting with village elders. Staffers will have the chance to speak with community leaders to discuss the impact of Ina Guuxaa minefield on their community and highlight the impact of HALO's work.
8:00 PM	HALO Camp (Ina Guuxaa)	Early Night.
Day 4: Demining & Malnutrition (April 24)		
5:30 AM	Ina Guuxaa	Wake up, ablutions and breakfast. <i>Briefing on the day's activities.</i>
6:30 AM	Ina Guuxaa	Depart for Minefield
6:45 AM	Ina Guaxxa Minefield	Arrive at minefield and safety briefing including safety and emergency procedures. This will be conducted in HALO's minefield camp, located approximately 300 yards from the start of the minefield to ensure a suitable safety distance (see Annex B for map.) The briefing will also include minefield history, analysis of past accidents, and context on the minefield.
7:30 AM	Ina Guaxxa Minefield	Field visit of a minefield. Interviews with deminers about their work and background, including the impact of HALO's work on their local communities. Look at the overall process of mine clearance and give an opportunity for all visitors to take part in a demonstration of clearance operations in the cleared area.
8:45 AM	HALO Vehicles	Depart for Mohamed Moge Health Facility in Hargeisa
11:15 AM	Mohamed Moge Health Facility	Tour UNICEF Mohamed Moge Health Facility, hearing from service providers about malnutrition and child wasting treatment.
12:30 PM	HALO Vehicles	Travel to HALO Compound by HALO Vehicles.



1:00 PM	HALO HQ	Lunch. Briefing from ECF representative on global malnutrition/food security challenges and opportunities in region
2:00 PM	Maansoor Hotel	Return to Maansoor Hotel. Time to shower, change, catch up, rest.
6:00 PM	HALO HQ	Dinner with representatives from malnutrition actors including the UN World Food Program and Food and Agriculture Organization. <i>Briefing on discuss food security and local, regional, and global programs in the region.</i> Walk to Mansoor Hotel.
7:30 PM	Mansoor Hotel	Overnight Mansoor Hotel
Day 5: Government Meetings and Departure (April 25)		
08:00 AM	HALO Compound	Breakfast & briefing on the day's activities. <i>Briefing on the history of empire in the Somali region, including current population split, the major clans and the 4.5 system in Somalia and political sensitivities of the governments of Somalia, Ethiopia, and Somaliland.</i>
09:00 AM	HALO Vehicles	Travel to government meetings
09:45 AM	Presidential Building, Hargeisa	Presidential and Vice Presidential Meetings.
11:30 AM	HALO Vehicles	Transport to HALO HQ
12:15 PM	HALO HQ	Ministerial Meetings. HALO will be met at the HALO Office for meetings with the ministries of Agricultural Development, Defense, and Environment and Rural Development to discuss issues related to demining and food security from a Somaliland-Government perspective.
1:30 PM	HALO HQ	Lunch. Summary of visit and questions to the HALO team and ECF from the delegation.
2:30 PM	Maansoor Hotel	Prepare for Departure. Guests should pack their luggage and get ready for departure.
3:00 PM	HALO Vehicles	Depart for the airport from Maansoor Hotel
5:50 PM	Egal International Airport	Flight to Washington, DC. (Arrival in DC at IAD on April 26 th , 8:55 AM)



List of Participants

Patrick Mocete

Chief of Staff
Representative Young Kim (R-CA-40)

Mike D’Orazio

Legislative Director
Representative Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA-14)

Emma Consoli

Legislative Correspondent
Representative Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA-6)

Francesca Eremeeva

Foreign Policy and Defense Legislative Aide
Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)

Lale Morrison

Chief of Staff
Representative Jared Moskowitz (D-FL-23)

Elizabeth Mount

Policy Advisor
House Foreign Affairs Committee

Kristen Stevens

Head of Congressional Affairs & Strategic
Engagement
The HALO Trust (USA)

Mariana Becerra

Associate Director of Advocacy
Eleanor Crook Foundation

Chris Whatley

Executive Director
The HALO Trust (USA)



HALO Staff & Stakeholder Biographies

HALO Staff



Kristen Stevens

*Head of Congressional Affairs & Strategic Engagement
The HALO Trust (USA)*

Kristen joined HALO Trust in 2017 while finishing her Master's of Public Administration at American University. Previously, Kristen taught argumentation and public speaking courses in the Communication Studies Department at Western Washington University and coached the school's competitive debate team. Drawing from a background in politics and the non-profit sector, Kristen now manages HALO's Congressional advocacy and public policy engagement in the U.S.



Chris Whatley

*Executive Director
The HALO Trust (USA)*

Chris Whatley joined HALO in June 2019. Prior to HALO, Chris served as Executive Director of the United Nations Association of the United States. Chris previously served as Deputy Executive Director of The Council of State Governments (CSG) and began his career as a field-based officer for the International Republican Institute (IRI), leading programs in Liberia, Nigeria, South Africa, and Zimbabwe.



Calum Gibbs

*Country Director & Program Manager
HALO Somaliland*

Calum Gibbs began his journey with The HALO Trust as a Trainee Field Officer in 2017, working across Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Georgia, and Abkhazia. Over six years, he progressed through roles such as Operations Officer and Operations Manager, honing leadership and logistics skills before assuming his current role as Country Director in Somaliland, where he leads a team of 500 staff dedicated to landmine and explosive remnants removal.



Rob Syfret

*Deputy Regional Director, Africa
The HALO Trust*

Rob Syfret's journey with The HALO Trust began in 2014, transitioning from the British Army to operational roles across diverse locations like Ghana, Cambodia, Nagorno Karabakh, and Libya. With a background in infantry and training, he progressed to roles like Deputy Program Manager and Program Manager, showcasing leadership in mine action operations. As Head of Region in the Horn of Africa, he led initiatives focused on demining and development, leveraging his extensive experience in program management and operations, Rob is now Deputy Regional Director for Africa, bringing his leadership experience across the continent.



Abdi Osman
Operations Officer
HALO Somaliland

Abdi Osman brings over 17 years of operational expertise to his role at The HALO Trust. With a background in administration, finance, and program coordination, he's been instrumental in executing impactful initiatives. From managing operations in conflict zones to coordinating mine risk education programs, Abdi's career reflects a commitment to humanitarian service and community development. His journey, from teaching to operational leadership, showcases his versatility and dedication to making a difference in challenging environments.



Khadar Qalinle
Program Coordinator
HALO Somaliland

Khadar Qalinle, a GIS expert, began his impactful career at the Somaliland Cadastral Survey, where he played a key role in establishing a new land ownership system. Joining HALO Somaliland in 2012, he excelled as GIS/IM Officer, later rising to Programme Coordinator in 2022. Collaborating with government entities, Khadar spearheads initiatives for safer communities free from landmines. His journey reflects a steadfast dedication to humanitarian causes, ensuring stability and prosperity through his expertise in GIS and commitment to fostering safe environments, exemplifying his profound impact on Somaliland's progress and global well-being.



Shide Hassan
Community Outreach and Risk Education (CORE) Team Leader
HALO Somaliland

Shide Hassan embarked on his HALO Trust journey in 2000, beginning as a Deminer in Somaliland. His dedication and bravery quickly propelled him through the ranks to Section Commander, then Senior Section Commander, overseeing large-scale clearance operations. In 2024, he became the CORE Team Supervisor, recognized for his leadership and certified in Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) under IMAS 03. Throughout, Shide remains committed to humanitarian causes, tirelessly working to eliminate the threat of landmines and UXO, ensuring community safety and prosperity.



Istahil Ismail
Community Outreach and Risk Education Team Leader
HALO Somaliland

Istahil Ismail's humanitarian journey was sparked by personal tragedy when she lost her leg to Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in 1993. Despite this, she joined HALO Trust in 2005 as an MRE Instructor, driven to prevent others from suffering similar fates. Her authentic empathy resonated with communities, leading to her rise to Supervisor, where she continues to inspire. Istahil's story is a testament to resilience, demonstrating the human capacity for hope and healing amidst adversity.

Eleanor Crook Foundation Staff



Mariana Becerra

*Associate Director, Advocacy
The Eleanor Crook Foundation*

Mariana Becerra, Associate Director for Advocacy at the Eleanor Crook Foundation (ECF), spearheads efforts to advance maternal and child health worldwide. Previously at PATH, she advocated for MNCH and immunization, influencing global policy and leading initiatives on *P. vivax* malaria. Mariana's consultancy roles at Policy Wisdom and IQVIA focused on health policy and advocacy, enhancing access to medicines for marginalized communities. With experience at Grupo Bimbo and a Master's from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, Mariana blends strategic vision with a passion for public health equity.

Partners



Abdoul Karim Bah

*Head of Office, Somaliland
Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations*

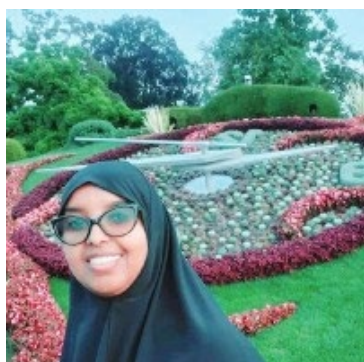
Mr. Bah holds a Master's Degree in Agricultural Sciences obtained at the University of Perugia, Italy. He is a humanitarian and development professional with more than 25 years of experience in middle income countries as well as in emergency contexts. After 7 years with NGOs, he joined FAO in 2004, where he took up several positions such as Operations Officer, Emergency Response Manager, Head of Operations and Deputy FAO Representative in South Sudan, Haiti, The Philippines, Indonesia, Ethiopia, and Somalia. Since 2021 he is the Head of the FAO Office in Somaliland.



Khalid Al-Qudsi

*Head of Hargeisa Area Office, Somaliland
World Food Program*

Khalid al-Qudsi is a seasoned humanitarian leader with over 26 years of experience at the World Food Programme (WFP). Currently serving as Head of Area Office in Hargeisa, Somaliland, Khalid oversees a diverse portfolio including relief assistance, nutrition, and climate-smart food systems. His strategic leadership has led to effective governance, financial management, and stakeholder engagement, ensuring WFP's impactful presence in regions affected by conflict and crisis. With expertise in logistics, supply chain management, and strategic partnerships, Khalid's dedication has saved millions of lives and strengthened communities across the Middle East and Africa.



Hamda Omar Yousuf

*Nutrition Program Officer
UNICEF Hargeisa Office*

Hamda Omar Yousuf has dedicated over a decade to improving healthcare in Somalia. She has worked as a Nutrition Program Officer at UNICEF for ten years, where she orchestrates impactful initiatives in Hargeisa. Previously, as Head of Health Services for Population Services International, she led transformative healthcare programs. With expertise spanning reproductive health, child survival, and disease prevention, Hamda continues to drive positive change, addressing critical health challenges in her community. She has a Master's degree in public health and a degree in nursing.



Fatima Ahmed Hersi

*Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
UNICEF Hargeisa Office*

A committed, knowledgeable, and capable humanitarian/development worker for over 30 years in the UN system with a significant experience in monitoring & evaluation, education, project management, social protection, advocacy, networking, research's, strategic planning and UNICEF program management. Seeking to advocate for children rights is my priority. Currently leads UNICEF Hargeisa Field Office Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation section in Somaliland.

Abdirashid Hashi Abdi, MD

*Health Officer
UNICEF Somalia*

Abdirashid Hashi Abdi, UNICEF Health Officer, medical doctor, former chairperson of Somaliland Medical Association with working experience of 25 years in Public/UN and Private health services, prevention and promotion engagement. Currently leads UNICEF HIV prevention, treatment and care support in Somaliland, funded by Global Fund.



Geoffrey Parker

*Foreign Service Officer
U.S. Department of State*

Geoffrey Parker, a seasoned Foreign Service Officer with 17+ years of experience at the U.S. Department of State, brings extensive expertise in international affairs. He holds a Master's degree from Georgetown University. From serving as Senior Ethiopia Desk Officer to roles in Albania, Senegal, Jamaica, and Morocco, Geoffrey has demonstrated diplomatic finesse and strategic acumen. Prior roles include pivotal positions at Catholic Relief Services and the United States Army, showcasing his commitment to humanitarian efforts and national service.

Somaliland Government Officials



Muse Bihi Abdi

President

Muse Bihi Abdi, the President of Somaliland, is a pivotal figure in the region's political landscape. With a career spanning military service and political leadership, President Abdi has championed stability and development in Somaliland. His tenure focuses on bolstering diplomatic relations, fostering economic growth, and advancing democratic principles. President Abdi's steadfast leadership continues to navigate Somaliland towards international recognition while prioritizing the welfare and aspirations of its people.



Abdirahman Saylici

Vice President

Abdirahman Saylici serves as the Vice President of Somaliland, bringing extensive experience in governance and leadership to the role. With a background in economics and public administration, Saylici has been instrumental in driving development initiatives and promoting stability within the region. His commitment to public service and dedication to the well-being of Somalilanders have earned him respect both domestically and internationally. As Vice President, Saylici continues to play a pivotal role in shaping Somaliland's future and advancing its interests on the global stage.



Ahmed Mohamed Habane

Minister of Agricultural Development

Ahmed Mohamed Habane, Minister of Agriculture for Somaliland, embarked on his journey as the customs manager at Berbera customs, earning commendation for his exemplary work. Today, he oversees agricultural initiatives implemented by the ministry and its partners, driving sustainable development and food security. With a career dedicated to empowering rural communities, Ahmed is a catalyst for agricultural innovation and resilience, fostering collaborations to maximize the sector's potential. His strategic vision ensures a thriving agricultural landscape, laying the foundation for economic growth and food sovereignty in Somaliland.



Dr. Roble Muse Abdi

Minister of Defense

Dr. Roble Muse Abdi serves as Somaliland's Minister of Defense, leading efforts to safeguard national security and promote peace. With a background in military strategy and diplomacy, Dr. Abdi brings invaluable expertise to his role. He champions initiatives to modernize defense infrastructure and enhance defense capabilities, ensuring the protection of Somaliland's sovereignty. Committed to fostering regional stability, Dr. Abdi collaborates with international partners and regional organizations to address security challenges effectively. His leadership underscores Somaliland's commitment to maintaining peace and security, paving the way for prosperity and progress.



Shukri Haji Ismail

Minister of Environment and Rural Development

Shukri Haji Ismail, Minister of Environment and Rural Development for Somaliland, champions sustainable development and environmental stewardship. With a background in environmental science, she leads initiatives to preserve natural resources and foster rural prosperity. Shukri's leadership emphasizes community engagement and innovation, driving policies that balance economic growth with conservation efforts. Her dedication to empowering rural communities ensures inclusive development and resilience to environmental challenges. By promoting environmental sustainability and rural development, she navigates Somaliland toward a more resilient future, safeguarding communities against the escalating challenges of climate change.



About Somaliland

Overview

Since the Said Barre regime collapsed in 1991, Somaliland has established itself as a stable autonomous state. The Somaliland National Movement (SNM) unilaterally declared independence from Somalia on May 18th, 1991, reinstating the borders of the former independent State of Somaliland declared after British rule. Since then, the territory has been governed by five successive democratically elected governments. The democratic election in 2017 voted in President Muse Bihi Abdi, which led to the fourth consecutive peaceful handover of power in Somaliland.

A priority of every Government of the Republic of Somaliland has been seeking international recognition and independence from Mogadishu. Informal ties are maintained with some foreign governments, including Somalia, but it remains unrecognized by any country or international organization. Although it has no international recognition, it is a functioning state that has been largely conflict free for 26 years. The economy is based around the export of livestock, with the supply of goats and camels to the Arabian Peninsula being the largest income generator, along with remittances.

For the most part, Somaliland has not been directly affected by Southern Somalia's long-lasting instability, faction conflicts, and ongoing war against Islamic insurgents. One incident to note was the 2008 bombing of the Ethiopian delegation in Hargeisa by Islamic extremists; it is widely acknowledged that AS affiliates were responsible for the attack, but no further significant attacks have been successful. Somaliland has been effective in combating the AS insurgency, not by employing large scale security reforms, but by empowering all citizens. Somaliland's relative stability belongs therefore to the citizens. Everyone forms the eyes and ears for the security services, motivated by preserving what the Government and the People have built since the atrocities of the Civil War.

The HALO Trust (HALO) has been working in Somaliland since 1999 and currently employees approximately 400 local staff, making it one of the largest employers in Somaliland. HALO is the only mine action agency in Somaliland apart from a small, part-time MAG presence conducting physical security and stockpile management projects with the police and military.

Geography

Somaliland shares borders with the Republic of Djibouti to the northwest, the Federal Republic of Ethiopia to the south and west and Somalia (Republic of Puntland) to the east. Somaliland has a coast running along the northern edge of the country, which extends 460 miles along the Red Sea. The territory is a bit smaller than Oklahoma, with an area of 68,000 sq. miles, and is split into 5 administrative regions: Awdal, Maroodi Jeh Togdheer, Sanaag, and Sool.



Population / Economy

The World Bank estimates Somaliland's GDP to be \$2 billion (2020), with annual GDP per capita of \$571 for a population of 4.2 million. Were Somaliland a recognized state, these per capita figures would place it fourth from the bottom in global rankings. Somaliland's efforts to boost development are limited by low inflows of donor aid. The government's main source of revenue for its \$400 million budget has been the port of Berbera, which is being rebuilt by DP World from the UAE, at the cost of \$442 million. Somaliland has also made great strides in the communication sector, with leading mobile phone services like Somtel and Telesom dominating the market. The two companies also provide mobile money transfer services which are widely used in the country.

Around 60% of the population rely on livestock for their livelihoods, and a large proportion of the rural population maintain a nomadic herding lifestyle. The average life expectancy is 50 for men and 54 for women.

Religion

Almost all Somalis are Sunni Muslims. Islam is the principal faith, though traces of pre-Islamic traditional religion exist in Somaliland. Islam is integral to the Somali sense of national identity. You will hear regular calls to prayer throughout the day, beginning quite early in the morning.

Due to Islamic tradition, be mindful that men may not shake women's hands and physical contact between men and women in public is not encouraged. Please note that women in Somaliland typically wear a hijab, and loose, long skirts with loose long shirts over the top, covering legs and arms. Please see packing list for more detail.

Important: Disrespecting Islam or its practices is a punishable offence in Somaliland. For international visitors, this can mean revoking visas and deportation.

Climate

In April, Somaliland will be in its spring rainy season. While Somaliland suffered severe drought in 2015-16, there has been a significant increase in rainfall since 2020. When it rains, flash floods are common. The average temperature in Somaliland from March through May is 83° Fahrenheit. This heat can be intensified by a lack of cloud cover and reflected heat from the pale, sandy ground. Importantly, the temperatures fall much lower at night – sweaters are needed.

The 2015-16 drought culminated in the loss of as estimated 10 million livestock, roughly 56% of estimated totals, decimating herds and livelihoods in the southern and eastern regions especially. Across Somalia and Somaliland 1.4 million people are currently experiencing 'crisis' levels of food insecurity, many of them



within the Awdal region of northern Somaliland. There has been a significant increase in rainfall in 2019/20 averting the potential for returning drought.

History

Greater Somalia comprises the territories of Somaliland, the Republic of Somalia (including Puntland), the Ogaden (in Ethiopia), Djibouti and a small section of modern-day Kenya. Links with Arabian Peninsula have existed for millennia, with the Ottoman Empire establishing a presence through the middle part of the second millennium, but European colonial powers didn't involve themselves until later into the nineteenth century when Greater Somalia was divided. At that point the French obtained Djibouti, Ethiopia retained the Ogaden, Italy took the remainder of Somalia, and Britain assumed responsibility for the territory now known as Somaliland. The British Somaliland protectorate was ruled from British India and was to play the role of increasing the British Empire's control of vital naval routes through the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

The State of Somaliland was granted independence on June 26th, 1960, but days later Somaliland merged with Somalia on July 1st, 1960, to form the Somali Republic. The Prime Minister for the State of Somaliland, Ibrahim Egal, became a minister in the new Somalia. He later became Prime Minister in 1967, but a coup deposed him in 1969. This coup elevated General Muhammed Siad Barre to power, and he became a close ally of the Soviet Union.

Following an unsuccessful attempt by Somalia to capture the Ogaden region of eastern Ethiopia in 1977, during which the government lost the support of the Soviets, Somalis from the northwest (primarily the Isaaq clan) living in the United Kingdom formed the Somali National Movement (SNM) in 1981. The SNM was one of a growing number of groups which aimed to topple Siad Barre. During the 1980s, Siad Barre's regime became increasingly unstable, and the SNM expanded its control in the northwest region. Mogadishu responded by instituting draconian measures to suppress the SNM. When these failed, the government indiscriminately used air raids and bombing campaigns to assert control. By the end of the 1980s, the SNM controlled virtually all the northwest, including the major towns of Hargeisa and Burao. In 1991, after the collapse of the central government in Somalia in the Somali Civil War, the territory asserted its independence as the Republic of Somaliland, although it has still received no international diplomatic recognition. Abdirahman Ahmed Ali Tur was sworn as the first president of Somaliland, although he died just a year later. Egal was elected president in 1993, re-elected in 1998 and remained in power until his death on May 3, 2002.

Since independence, Somaliland has been trying to establish domination of the Sanaag and Sool regions. Puntland forces have led several invasions to defend these areas, considered to be a part of Puntland State. The most recent flare up commenced prior to Ramadan in 2020, following two VBIED attacks on the judiciary and police which were mounted by AS. Tensions remain fractious along the main supply route East of Las Caanood, and jurisdiction of the disputed border area remains unclear. Ongoing inter-clan violence in the eastern region of Sanaag led to a delegation of government ministers deploying to the Region for a negotiated settlement with clan elders over a 3-month period up to August 2020.



To further relations between Somaliland and Somalia, a summit was held in mid-2020 to open dialogue on improved political engagement. The agreement which gave limited recognition to its status as a separate entity was widely seen as positive progress for the Somaliland government.

Language

Official languages in Somaliland are Somali, Arabic, and English. English signage is commonly seen throughout Hargeisa.

Economy

The official Somaliland currency is the Somaliland Shilling, introduced in 1994. The exchange rate is relatively stable but subject to inflation. It is currently approximately 8,000 Shillings to one dollar. US dollars are also accepted across Somaliland.

The Somaliland economy is based on a liberal-market system, under which the private sector business is thriving, especially telecommunications. However, the economy is still extremely fragile. Somaliland lacks a significant industrial sector, and unemployment remains a pressing issue for the government to resolve. Even though research indicates that the country has offshore and onshore oil and natural gas reserves, these are not being exploited by foreign oil companies due, in part, to the country's unrecognized status.

The bulk of Somaliland's exports are of livestock, which the government estimates to be around 11 million animals per year. The livestock sector traditionally comprises about 60-65% of Somaliland's GDP and plays a major role in the economy as a source of employment, income, government revenues, and subsistence. The cancellation of the Haj in 2020, for example, had a significant impact on the economy.

Many Somali families receive remittances from relatives abroad. Somalis living and working in Europe and North America regularly send money to their relatives. Remittances to Somalia as a whole are believed to amount to \$1.3 billion a year, 80% of investment. Kenya however, banned remittances to Somalia in May 2015 in response to the Garissa University attack, claiming transfers fund terrorist groups in the region. But, due to its unrecognized status, remittances are especially important in Somaliland- it struggles to readily secure international finances as opposed to Somalia. Improved communications, internet availability, cheap air fare, and the presence of members of the diaspora within the current government all help to strengthen the links between the resident and expat Somaliland communities.

The biggest private employers include Dahaabshil, a banking company with over 1,000 employees, and Teslom Communications Company, with around 400 staff. HALO with approximately 400 employees is the largest NGO and one of the largest employers in the country.



Security

Somaliland is considerably more stable than its fragile neighbor, Somalia. Somaliland can still be unpredictable, but this is managed by adhering to safety practices and carefully monitoring the security environment. HALO's security philosophy is utilized to minimize our exposure and mitigate risks. In Somaliland, life feels very normal, and the general sense is one of overriding safety. **Please see “Safety and Security” and Annex 2 for more information.**



Contact Information

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Security in HALO Somaliland

Overview & Summary

By the nature of its work, HALO programs often operate in politically unstable and volatile environments. When security cannot be guaranteed by host-country security forces, it is HALO's responsibility to protect its personnel, visitors, and equipment. To that end, HALO conducts regular evaluations of its programs' security environments and implements safety protocols accordingly.

Since 1988, HALO has worked in post-conflict and war-torn communities. Its extensive experience provides a strategic proficiency in security evaluation and planning. The safety of visitors is the top priority of HALO's security specialists, and appropriate measures have been taken to secure their wellbeing while visiting HALO's operations in the field.

Security Environment

According to HALO's scale of security states, which grades the security threat of an area in which HALO operates, Somaliland is classed as **Amber +**. States with this ranking have poor security at the nationwide level, but the areas of HALO's operations are quiet. While threat of attack is low, and life will feel "normal" from a security standpoint, there is still the possibility of isolated, unusual security incidents.

In order to determine appropriate security protocols, HALO Somaliland monitors a variety of sources, including the International NGO Safety Organization (INSO), local and international news media, and reliable local sources. HALO's global head of security has also been consulted and issued guidance for the specifics of this trip.

As of April 1, 2024, there have been no direct attacks on the Hargeisa or Burao compounds, nor have there been any fires or hazardous events since HALO occupation of the compounds. In the event, however, of a coordinated attack, fire, or other major security incident in the future, HALO staff will follow operating procedures approved at a global level.

Protocols & Responses

In accordance with HALO Somaliland's Amber + designation, the program maintains the baseline security measures required of all security states plus a minimum of three armed guards at each of HALO's permanent locations. The armed guards are supplemented by unarmed HALO duty staff and/or locally hired guards. HALO Somaliland currently employs police from the **Special Protection Unit (SPU)** for this purpose. Additionally, program management must keep a running watch on the national security situation and create contingency plans in case of deterioration.

Access to HALO compounds is tightly controlled, especially outside daylight hours. Visitors are only allowed in once they have turned off and exited their vehicle, identified themselves, and been approved by HALO staff. HALO also tracks its vehicles' locations, so it can apprise itself of visitors' whereabouts in the country.



External visitors and international staff must follow security precautions set forth by program management. As a general rule, visitors should familiarize themselves with the layout of any location they stay in, including exits and escape routes. For external visitors, the precautions are as follows:

- ***External visitors will be accompanied at all times when not in the Maansoor (which has its own security check point upon entry) by a senior member of HALO staff during the visit.***
- HALO will ask external visitors to temporarily join a WhatsApp group prior to arrival that will be managed by the Program Manager, in order to manage any developments whilst they are in transit or in the Mansoor.
- On arrival in Hargeisa, external visitors will be met at the airport by the Program Manager or equivalent. They will provide a basic oversight of the security state on the day in Hargeisa prior to making the road move to HALO HQ.
- When moving outside of Hargeisa, HALO will ensure a ratio of one **Special Protection Unit (SPU)** for every two external visitors.

When traveling by car or along roadways, there are additional safety protocols. Checkpoints staffed by various police branches are present along routes to and from Hargeisa. The following guidelines should be adhered to at checkpoints:

- Remove sunglasses
- Always be respectful to those staffing the checkpoint, let nationals lead with communications
- If there are queues for checkpoints, consider hanging back and wait for these to clear
- ***In the event of a problem, communicate your location immediately – if safe to do so or will not escalate the situation.***
- Always be compliant with the security services / local militia
- If approaching a checkpoint after dark, main lights should be dimmed or switched to side-lights, internal vehicle light switched on
- Consider placing valuables out of sight on approach

The above protocols ensure the safety of visitors and staff in Somaliland. Though threats against HALO's operations are low, HALO is well-prepared to deal with any possible security developments and will continue to provide high-quality security services for its guests.



HALO Somaliland Minefield Safety Brief

The **HALO Trust** has an excellent safety record. However, it is necessary to give all visitors the following safety brief. Please listen closely and if you have any questions please ask at any time - Thank you.

1. MINEFIELD MARKING

- Lines of **RED** and **WHITE** painted stones define the boundary between safe and unsafe areas. **DO NOT CROSS THE BOUNDARY.** The **red side** of the Stones will be facing area that is **unsafe** to walk on. The **white side** of the stones will be facing area that is **safe** to walk on.
- **YELLOW** Stones mark where AP mines have been found.
- **YELLOW AND BLACK** Stones mark AT mines.
- **YELLOW WITH A RED TRIANGLE** Stones mark **UXO.**
- **BLACK** Stones mark items found by locals or the site of an accident. All are marked with the type and date found.
- **BLUE** stones mark admin areas and Access roots
- **WHITE** stones Mark Metal or rubbish pits in to the Minefield and Parking Areas.
If at any time you are not certain if you are in a cleared or un-cleared area, **STAND STILL AND ASK.**

2. PPE

- You will be issued with a protective apron and a blast visor. **PLEASE KEEP THE VISOR DOWN** inside the minefield.
- **WHISTLES** are used in the minefield. One whistle blast marks a break time, a two-minute warning to return to work and when to start work again. You will be instructed when it is safe to remove your visor during these break periods.

3. RULES

- Please **FOLLOW** all instructions given by a HALO members of staff.
- **SMOKING** is permitted only during break times.
- **DO NOT RUN** in the minefield.
- **DO NOT THROW** anything in the minefield.
- **DO NOT PICK ANYTHING UP** without asking a senior member of HALO staff first.
- In the event of a **FIND**, you will be informed and moved to a safe area prior to the destruction of the item.
- In the event of an **UNCONTROLLED EXPLOSION**, stand still, check to ensure you are unhurt and await instructions.
- **THREE LONG WHISTLE BLASTS** means there has been an accident. If this happens stand still and await instructions.
- If you wish to take **PHOTOS**, please do but remember to keep your visor on, be careful to watch where you are walking and **DO NOT WALK BACKWARDS.**

4. MEDICAL



- All demining sections have a **MAJOR TRAUMA MEDICAL KIT** and **STRETCHER** located at the **MEDICAL POINT** marked with a green crescent flag. There is also a **MINOR INJURY KIT** and a number of trained **MEDICS**.
- In the event of an accident, casualties will be evacuated by HALO ambulance to **HARGEISA HOSPITAL**, located three hours from the Ina Guuxaa minefield.
- **ANY QUESTIONS?**

HALO staff to enter visitors Type of Blood Group in the log book.



ANNEX 1: Communication Guidance

Contact for all questions: Kristen Stevens, Head of Congressional Affairs and Strategic Engagement, HALO USA
Kristen.Stevens@halousa.org; M: +1 360 391 1015

Goal:

The core purpose of this Congressional Staff Delegation is to explore the impact of landmines and food security. It will achieve this by exposing participants to food insecurity and mine impacted communities, seeing demining operations in the field, and hosting briefings and discussion on the ways in which demining can support food security regionally and globally.

Key details:

- Members of the delegation will visit active HALO demining projects in the disputed area known as Somaliland to see how our work is conducted and the impact of demining, to visit a health clinic, and hear from experts working on food security issues.
- In addition to visiting HALO operations, members of the STAFFDEL will visit UN projects led by WFP, FAO, and UNICEF.
- This visit is privately funded by The HALO Trust (USA) through the support of the Eleanor Crook Foundation, under approval from the House and Senate Ethics Committee.
- Although HALO is facilitating meetings with members of the local government as a courtesy, these are not official meetings and Somaliland officials have had no role in planning this trip.

Key sensitivities to be aware of:

- HALO works across the Horn of Africa in various regions including Somalia, the disputed area known as Somaliland, and in Ethiopia. The success of these lifesaving operations, and the safety of HALO staff, depends on strict adherence to international humanitarian principles, including the principle of neutrality. Therefore, it is important to stress that the purpose of this visit is solely to explore humanitarian challenges, not to comment on the geopolitics of the region, or to convey any official recognition of Somaliland's status.
- The CODEL will be taking place in Somaliland near the Ethiopian border. Somaliland is a disputed territory that seeks independence, which is not recognized by the U.S. government.
- Government officials may attempt to politicize the visit for their own purposes and/or imply the visit is a sign of political recognition by the U.S. government of Somaliland and/or its relationship with Ethiopia.
- HALO Staff will be monitoring news and social media across the region to ensure the visit is not politicized. If needed, we are prepared to issue a public statement underscoring the neutral, humanitarian nature of the visit.



Recommendations:

- **Only communicate afterwards:** We welcome communications about HALO’s work via social media and other forums after the visit takes place, but would ask that you refrain from such messaging before and during the mission for security purposes.
- **Avoid talking about geopolitics and keep focused on the trip’s purpose:** The nature of geopolitics in the region is sensitive and it is important to keep all conversations during the STAFFDEL – particularly conversations with officials – focused on the humanitarian imperative of landmine clearance as it relates to food security and reducing malnutrition.
- **Check-ins are welcome:** Kristen Stevens will be on the CODEL to support you with messaging and keeping conversations focused on the mine clearance and food security. She is also happy to review social media messages or other communications in advance of public dissemination to ensure that nothing creates inadvertent sensitivities or challenges for our ongoing operations.
- **Turn off Geo-Location on your phones and avoid disclosing the location of HALO operations details in any photos you take:** Please turn off the geolocation feature on your phones and avoid tagging locations in any social media messages (e.g. checking in on Facebook to tag where you are). Please also avoid taking pictures of HALO-specific locations (e.g., our office compound) that could be easily identifiable.

Suggested Social Media Posts

While we request you not post anything on social media in advance of or during the visit, we do welcome you amplifying your visit afterwards. However, as noted, it is important that these messages be focused specifically on the goals of the trip – landmine clearance in support of improved food security in the Horn of Africa – without mentioning Somaliland or the geopolitics of the broader region. These posts are samples of posts you could adapt for your own use. You can tag us at @halotrustUSA (Facebook & X) or @halo-trust-usa (LinkedIn).

- I just returned from an eye-opening visit in the Horn of Africa with @halotrustusa and saw how integral landmine clearance is for food security in the region.
- To strengthen food security and malnutrition in the Horn of Africa, it is essential to continue work clearing landmines and unexploded ordnance. @halotrustusa.
- As I recently witnessed first-hand on a trip with @halotrustusa, funding for landmine clearance will play an important role in bolstering improved food security and reducing malnutrition in the Horn of Africa.



ANNEX 2: Security Guidance

KEY (MATERIAL) RISK	CURRENT CONTROLS (Mitigation)	Likelihood Rating 1-4	IMPACT (time, cost, quality, scope, benefit, people/resources)	Impact Rating 1-4	Risk Score	TREATMENT (ACTION) PLAN	Contingency Plan should risk occur
Political: Risk of inter-clan conflicts over local issues, such as land rights, water resources, employment. Clan conflicts are typically resolved swiftly following a sit down with respective elders. They rarely if ever escalate to the wider community.	Areas visit is planned for are not on inter-clan boundaries or traditional conflict areas since the end of the Somali Civil War	1	Visiting party would not go to areas affected by conflict	2	2	Excellent situational awareness of relevant areas	Immediately inform party of risk; conduct an immediate formal review of all relevant localities; re-plan visit schedule to use time safely and effectively.
Political: Breakdown of governance, law, and order. At the moment, there is nothing that would indicate a breakdown in governance is likely. Whilst there were issues relating to the timing of the Presidential elections last year, these have been resolved.	HALO maintains close contact with international, national, and private sector partners, in order to ensure advance warning of a security breakdown. Security evacuations contingencies for international staff are in place.	1	Cancellation or early termination of visit	2	2	Ongoing monitoring shows this is not a threat in the short to medium term. In the event of a dramatic change the authorities are heavily invested in the safety of this StaffDel group	Terminate visit.
Armed groups. These have been known to exist in Somaliland, however, at the moment there are none that have been flagged as a threat to HALO.	HALO undertakes extensive liaison with security agencies of Somaliland government prior to deployment and ensures that all stakeholders from government authorities to the clan elders are consulted before movement of staff and equipment. Regularly monitor local security situation and threat levels through local staff knowledge. The visiting party will be accompanied by Special Police Unit (SPU) personnel at all times. Authorities have assured HALO that the security of this visit is a top priority. No known Al-Shabaab threat in relevant areas of Somaliland. No reports of militia groups or other similar actors targetting HALO at this time.	1	Threat to staff and equipment. HALO will have to suspend operational activities or move to work in new areas unaffected by threat of terrorism.	3	3	Monitoring of security situation in area of operations and liaison with Somaliland security agencies. Currently no reports of armed militia groups threatening HALO	Immediate armed response by SPU following escalation of force protocols according to the threat from demonstration of force (cocking weapons) to warning shots to use of lethal force as a last resort; immediate action to move visitors to safety from threat followed by extraction to heavily protected location.



KEY (MATERIAL) RISK	CURRENT CONTROLS (Mitigation)	Likelihood Rating 1-4	IMPACT (time, cost, quality, scope, benefit, people/resources)	Impact Rating 1-4	TREATMENT (ACTION) PLAN	Contingency Plan should risk occur
Theft: of passports, laptops etc. Whilst always a possibility, petty theft is unlikely. We haven't encountered a case of petty theft on programme in many years.	Personal security measures; highly trusted and proven staff assisting visit; excellent track record and reputable accommodation at the Mansoor Hotel	1	Loss of a passport would lead to administrative challenges; loss of laptop or security rated item could lead to adverse publicity	2	Maintain current mitigation controls	Internal investigation to take place once the risk has been reported / confirmed. Disciplinary action to be taken against the individual(s) involved. Referral to the police according to the gravity of the situation. Liaison with Embassy in Mogadishu for emergency travel docs.
Staff/Del member falls ill. The most likely cause of illness for a visitor to Somaliland would be from poorly treated drinking water or poorly prepared food. For the STAFFDEL visit all food and water will be prepared to the highest possible standard, with every effort made to minimise these risks.	HALO Somaliland has a full time Doctor on staff. Were an issue to arise, he would lead on liaison. Dr Abdishakur is well clued into the health ministry and public health organisations to get warning of outbreaks. Annual medical checks ups to take place. Regular enforcement of field camp health and hygiene rules. Prior warning of allergies.	1	Individual requires medical treatment disrupting visit schedule	2	HALO's standing medical procedures in place and medical board available to provide immediate advice on illnesses and treatment	HALO Somaliland medical staff can perform basic treatment and record signs and symptoms; evacuate to medical facility if required; open comms with medical board for advice; air evacuation possible if required.
Environmental: Seasonal flooding. Poses a hazard to staff and disruption impacts outputs. Where we are going, the risk of flooding is low, even if there is significant precipitation.	Monitoring of weather	1	May render part of planned route untenable, disrupting schedule	2	Maintain current mitigation controls	Rearrange scheduling of visit as required.
ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT. The standard of driving in Somaliland is reasonably good. HALO drivers are taught to drive defensively and are not time pressured. The quality of the roads can be variable, so a conservative approach is encouraged.	Trained drivers; speed limits; seatbelts; supervision of drivers	1	Could lead to injury; would disrupt schedule	3	Re-brief all drivers and vehicle commanders who will be taking part in the visit	First aid or further medical support if necessary; transfer visitors to other vehicles to minimise disruption.

Demining & Food Security: Congressional Delegation to Somaliland

April 21-26th, 2024

Overview

The Eleanor Crook Foundation and The HALO Trust (USA) will co-host a U.S. Congressional delegation for Members and staff to Somaliland in April 2024 focused on the intersection of humanitarian landmine and explosive removal and food security in the region. Participants are invited to see firsthand the ways in which demining programs can support global nutrition by visiting minefields along the border dividing Ethiopia and Somaliland. Guests will also see programs and meet with partners directly addressing malnutrition including UNICEF, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, and the World Food Program. The delegation will also be able to discuss these issues with various representatives in the Somaliland Government. *No portion of the trip is financed by a lobbyist or a registered foreign agent.*

Purpose

The Ethiopia/Somaliland border region is one of the world's most heavily landmine-contaminated areas, with landmines and other explosive threats leftover from the Ethiopian Border War in 1969. UNICEF estimates the presence of more than 100,000 landmines in Somaliland, while the Landmine Monitor reports that explosives in Ethiopia have caused more than 16,800 casualties.



Simultaneously, the Horn of Africa is facing crisis-level food insecurity and malnutrition. In 2022, 22 million people were at risk of starvation in the region. And the conflict in Ukraine has interfered with food supplies reaching the region. Landmine contamination has made agricultural land unsafe to farm or use to graze livestock, and the continuing drought is pushing people into unsafe areas in the search of arable land.

The purpose of this Congressional delegation is to educate Congressional participants about the challenges of malnutrition and food insecurity in the region, the presence and impact of landmines, and the ways in which demining can support food security regionally and worldwide. Members of the delegation will visit active HALO demining projects to see how these operations are conducted and will see various programs to address hunger, including a wasting treatment center.

The delegation will have the opportunity to discuss demining and food security issues with members of local communities as well as high-level officials from the Somaliland Government.

About The Eleanor Crook Foundation (ECF)

The Eleanor Crook Foundation is a growing U.S. philanthropy fighting to end global malnutrition through Research, Policy Analysis, and Advocacy. The Eleanor Crook Foundation (ECF) was founded in 1997 with a single goal: to eradicate global malnutrition. The Foundation invests in research that proves what methods work, policy analysis to drive systems reform, and advocacy that makes the case for urgent action to address this global crisis.

ECF is an active investor and its team of experts prides itself on being accountable and informed. We ask tough questions and go beyond our grantmaking to serve the global malnutrition sector as a key convener, advocate, and thought leader. In 2017, the Foundation pledged \$100 million towards the elimination of global malnutrition. In addition, ECF's growing endowment will allow the Foundation to keep fighting to end malnutrition for as long as it takes. Today, many of ECF's grants are funded by Eleanor personally while others are fulfilled by the Foundation's endowment.

About The HALO Trust (USA)

The HALO Trust (USA) is a 501(c)(3) organization with the mission to protect lives and restore livelihoods affected by conflict. Founded in 1988, HALO is the world's largest humanitarian demining organization. HALO is dedicated to locating and destroys landmines, cluster bombs and other explosive items, and assists governments in securing stockpiles of weapons and ammunition so that some of the world's most vulnerable people can return home, plant crops, and recover from conflict in safety.

HALO currently employs nearly 13,000 locally recruited staff in just under 30 countries and territories around the world. This work prevents casualties, offers opportunities to rebuild lives and livelihoods, and prepares the way for development and long-term stability.

HALO has been active in the Horn of Africa since 1999 and is currently the only humanitarian mine clearance operator in Ethiopia, with over 500 staff deployed across Ethiopia, Somaliland, and Somalia. HALO's work has directly benefited over 110,000 people through unexploded ordnance and landmine removal, risk education programs, and efforts to support sustainable agriculture.

Working Itinerary

Day 1: April 21

Depart Washington, DC

Day 2: April 22

Arrive in Hargeisa, Somaliland. Welcome, briefings, and tour of HALO's compound.
Overnight: Hargeisa

Day 3: April 23

Visit site cleared by HALO, see demining operations near Ethiopian border
Overnight: HALO deminer camp (tent and bedding provided)

Day 4: April 24

Visit UNICEF pediatric clinic, briefings on food security and malnutrition, programming with UN Food and Agriculture Organization and World Food Program
Overnight: Hargeisa

Day 5: April 25

Government meetings with officials from the Somaliland Government, evening flight back to Washington, DC
Arrive in DC April 26th



Left photo: courtesy of UNICEF

From: [Kristen Stevens](#)
To: [Consoli, Emma](#)
Subject: Invite: HALO-ECF visit to Somaliland
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024 9:40:37 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[HALO-ECF Demining & Food Security Briefing Doc March 2024.docx](#)

Hi Emma,

Thank you so much for the meeting yesterday to discuss demining programs. Looking forward to working with you!

I'd like to officially invite you to attend a delegation hosted by The HALO Trust (USA) and the Eleanor Crook foundation to visit to Somaliland this April 21-26th, focused on demining and food security. More details in the attached.

For awareness, this was originally a CODEL (and Rep Houlihan was unable to attend), but due to limited Member availability, it is being opened up to select staff.

As we are looking at a very, very tight turnaround on Ethics paperwork submission, limited spaces are open to invited staff on a bipartisan first-come, first-served basis so please let me know right away if you'd like to join.

Thanks, and happy to answer any questions. You're also welcome to give me a call at (360) 391-1015 if there's anything urgent I can address.

Best,
Kristen



Kristen Stevens, Head of Congressional Affairs & Strategic Engagement
www.halousa.org

O: +1 202 331 1266 M: +1 360 391 1015

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

Schedule an appointment with me: <https://calendly.com/kristenstevens>

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