# 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.**

1. Name of Traveler: Julia Rodriguez
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ ***OR*** ☒ None
   b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: October 10th 2026 Return: October 17th 2026
   b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ ***OR*** ☒ None
4. Departure City: Washington, DC Destination: Colombo, Sri Lanka Return City: Washington, DC
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Halo Trust Fund and Eleanor Crook Foundation
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: We attended meetings with government officials, NGOs, and civil society members. We discussed the current situation in Sri Lanka and humanitarian assistance.
7. Attached to this form are ***each*** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*:
   a. ☒ a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
   b. ☒ the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor ***prior*** to the trip, ***including all*** attachments ***and*** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
   c. ☒ page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the employee; ***and***
   d. ☒ the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. 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:** Julia Rodriguez **Date:** 11/9/2026

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:** Rep. Kamlager-Dove **Date:** 11/9/2026

**Signature of Supervising Member:** Sydney Kamlager-Dove

*last updated 7/2023*

# 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 HALO Trust, Eleanor Crook Foundation
2. Travel Destination(s): Colombo, Sri Lanka; Jaffna, Sri Lanka
3. Date of Departure: 10/10/2026 Date of Return: 10/17/2026
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Julia Rodriguez
   ***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 | $13,530 | $504 | $373 | $255 ($58 for visa/entry, $96 for conference space, $54 for cultural tours, $9 for gifts, $38 for early check-in at hotel) |
| Accompanying Family Member | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

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:** _____ **Date:** 10/27/2026

**Name:** Chris Whatley **Title:** Executive Director

**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, DC 20036

**Telephone:** 202-331-1266 **Email:** chris.whatley@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.**

*last updated 7/2023*

# 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: Julia Rodriguez

**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: Julia Rodriguez

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): Rep. Kamlager-Dove

Office Address: 144 Cannon House Office Building

Telephone Number: 202- 225-7084

Email Address of Contact Person: Julia.Rodriguez@mail.house.gov

☐ 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: Julia Rodriguez

2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: The HALO Trust (USA), Eleanor Crook Foundation

3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Colombo and Jaffna, Sri Lanka

4. a. Date of Departure: October 10th 2026 Date of Return: October 17th 2026

   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.**

   As the foreign affairs advisor for Congresswoman Kamlager-Dove who sits on the foreign affairs committee ~~and is the Raking Member of the South and Central Asia subcommittee this trip will help me better~~ understand the impact congressional programs have in Sri Lanka for their de-mining efforts.

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:** 9/4/2026

# 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 HALO Trust, Eleanor Crook Foundation

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: October 10th, 2026 Date of Return: October 17th, 2026

7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC
   b. Destination(s): Colombo and Jaffna, Sri Lanka
   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:
    Charter flight is required as there are no commercial flights available for this route between Colombo and Jaffna. Alternative road or rail and road options would consume over 16 hours of program time, compared to 3 hours via flight.
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): $76 (average of $65 in Colombo and $88 in Jaffna)
       2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: HALO has active demining operations in Jaffna, and Sri Lankan Government officials, the US Embassy, and malnutrition organizations are located in Colombo.
16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
    Hotel Name: Sheraton Colombo City: Colombo Cost Per Night: $200 (per room)
    Reason(s) for Selecting: Central location in Colombo, safety, and proximity to US embassy.
    Hotel Name: Jetwing Hotel City: Jaffna Cost Per Night: $140 (per room)
    Reason(s) for Selecting: Central location in Jaffna, safety, and value.
    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:**

| ☐ Actual Amounts<br>☒ Good Faith Estimates | Total **Transportation** Expenses per Participant | Total **Lodging** Expenses per Participant | Total **Meal** Expenses per Participant |
|---|---|---|---|
| For each Member, Officer, or Employee | $12,543 | $880 | $380 |
| For each Accompanying Family Member | N/A | N/A | N/A |

| | **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 | $410 | Visa fee ($60), Tour Guide ($7), Conference Room Rental Fees ($143), Early Check-In Fee at Hotel ($200, for 5:20am arrival on 10/12) |
| For each Accompanying Family Member | N/A | |

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: 8/20/2026

Name: Chris Whatley Title: Executive Director

Organization: The HALO Trust (USA)

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

Email: chris.whatley@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.

Michael Guest, Mississippi
*Chairman*
Mark DeSaulnier, California
*Ranking Member*

Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Ashley Hinson, Iowa
Nathaniel Moran, Texas
Brad Knott, North Carolina

Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland
Sylvia R. Garcia, Texas
Suhas Subramanyam, Virginia

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

**U.S. House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
*Staff Director and Chief Counsel*

Jordan Downs
*Chief of Staff to the Chairman*

David Arrojo
*Counsel to the Ranking Member*

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515–6328
Telephone: (202) 225–7103
https://Ethics.House.gov

October 5, 2026

Ms. Julia Rodriguez
Office of the Honorable Sydney Kamlager-Dove
144 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Rodriguez:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Sri Lanka,[1] scheduled for October 10 to 17, 2026, sponsored by the HALO Trust (USA), Eleanor Crook Foundation, and the HALO Trust.

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 $525 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 $525] 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.

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[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,



Michael Guest
Chairman



Mark DeSaulnier
Ranking Member

MG/MD:kjf

# 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 the UK)

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: Sri Lanka (Colombo, Jaffna) on Date: October 10th, 2026 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: 8/7/2026

Name: Hannah Picton Title: Program Manager, Sri Lanka

Organization: The HALO Trust

Address: Carronfoot Thornhill Dumfries DG3 5BF United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)1848 331100 Email: hannah.picton@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.**

*last updated 7/2023*

# 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 completedform to the primarysponsor 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: Eleanor Crook Foundation
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: _____ on Date: _____ 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: Aug 11,2026

Name: Mariana Becerra Title: Director of North American Advocacy

Organization: Eleanor Crook Foundation

Address: 227 N Mitchell St., San Marcos, TX 78666 4271

Telephone: (202) 766 0197 Email: mbecerra@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.**

*last updated 7/2023*

House Ethics, PTSF, 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): Selecting and inviting participants, planning itinerary/coordinating with stakeholders, booking international flights, 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. ECF is a U.S. philanthropy dedicated to ending global malnutrition.

The HALO Trust (charitable organization based in the U.K.): Providing expert-level education and demonstrations on demining, booking hotels and in country flights, providing ground transportation, supporting with meeting invitations to partners, community participants, and Sri Lankan Government officials. 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. UK funds received by The HALO Trust are not traceable to any expenses for this trip.

**Invitee List**

The invitees listed below staff Members of Congress who provide oversight of and make policy decisions relevant to the funding of U.S. humanitarian demining programs and the U.S. Army Strategic and Low Intensity Conflict Demining program. They are invited because of their roles related to foreign, defense, technology, appropriations, budget, and ways and means policies. Staffers were also invited for their roles covering the impact of conflict on natural resources, agriculture, and malnutrition.

**Danielle Fulfs,** Policy Director, Sen. Adam Schiff

**Zev Siegfeld**, Legislative Director, Rep. Claudia Tenney

**Ted Verrill**, Chief of Staff, Rep. Julia Letlow

**Eliza Ramirez**, National Security Advisor, Sen. Ruben Gallego

**Deepa Patel,** Deputy Chief of Staff; Legislative Director, Rep. Jonathan Jackson

**Julia Rodriguez,** Policy Advisor, Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove

**Eamon Passey,** Legislative Correspondent, Rep. Pat Harrigan

**Monique Bolsajian**, Deputy Chief of Staff; Legislative Director, Rep. Gil Cisneros

**Conor Hartnett,** Legislative Assistant, Rep. Glenn Thompson

**Juliana Dauchess,** Legislative Director, Rep. Lloyd Smucker

**Penny Stehlik,** Senior Legislative Assistant, Rep. Michael Simpson

**Hillary Parkinson,** Chief of Staff, Rep. Keith Self

**Stephanie Pendarvis,** Deputy Chief of Staff, Rep. Joe Wilson

**Matt Alvero,** Legislative Director, Rep. Mark Alford

**Dylan Chandler,** Chief of Staff, Rep. Jason Smith

**Jake Kochmansky,** Legislative Director, Rep. John Moolenaar

**Amelia Allert,** Legislative Director, Rep. French Hill

**Caroline Bender,** Chief of Staff, Rep. Erin Houchin

**William Reynolds**, Legislative Assistant, Rep. Hal Rogers

**Sami Araboghli**, National Security Advisor Rep. Greg Steube

**Hayden Upchurch**, Legislative Assistant, Rep. Nathaniel Moran

**Ian Merritt**, Legislative Director, Rep. Chuck Fleischmann

**Austin Johnson**, Director of Foreign Policy and Latin American Affairs, Rep. Maria Salazar

**Jim Dolbow,** National Security Advisor, Rep. Austin Scott

**Liz Stinebaugh,** Legislative Director, Rep. Tom Emmer

**Amanda Shaw Kain,** Chief of Staff, Rep. Dave Joyce

**Mike Velasquez**, Senior Policy Advisor for Appropriations, Rep. Jake Ellzey

**Chris Ringer,** Legislative Director, Rep. Sheri Biggs

**Ashley Roberts,** Legislative Director, Rep. Dave Joyce

**McKayla Swan**, Professional Staff Member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs

**Adam Stasiewicz**, Legislative Assistant, Rep. Jefferson Schreve

**Ashley Wood,** National Security Legislative Aide, Sen. Brian Schatz

**Harley Gonsalves**, Legislative Correspondent, Sen. Brian Schatz

**Caroline Campbell**, Legislative Aide, Rep. Ronny Jackson

**Jason Berado**, Legislative Director, Rep. Mike Turner

**Samuel Jockisch**, Legislative Assistant, Rep. Darin LaHood

**Shaefer Bagwell**, Legislative Director, Rep. Suhas Subramanyam

**Anna Zimmerman**, Legislative Assistant; Counsel, Rep. Gabe Amo

**Brendan Larkin**, Deputy Chief of Staff, Rep. Paul Tonko

**Johan Propst**, Chief of Staff, Rep. Brad Sherman

**Brandon Mendoza**, Legislative Director, Rep. Sara Jacobs

**Marshele Bryant**, Legislative Director, Rep. Maxwell Frost

**Casey O'Shea**, Chief of Staff, Rep. Brad Schneider

**Kate Kenworthy,** Chief of Staff, Rep. Kevin Mullin

**Jennifer Chandler**, Chief of Staff, Rep. Jim McGovern

**Robyn Russell**, Chief of Staff, Rep. Mike Quigley

**Tim Rieser**, Senior Advisor for Foreign Policy and Appropriations, Sen. Peter Welch

**Georgia Wood**, Legislative Aide, Sen. Elissa Slotkin

**Alex Schroder**, Senior Policy Advisor, Rep. Nicole Malliotakis

**Sam Silvernagel,** Legislative Correspondent, Sen. John Hoeven

**Alec Daman**, Legislative Director, Rep. Bill Huizenga

**Molly Carpenter**, Legislative Director, Sen. Mike Crapo

**Julia Wood**, Legislative Assistant, Sen. Roger Wicker

**Mindi Linquist**, Chief of Staff, Sen. Patty Murray

**Elizabeth Boyle,** Foreign Policy and Defense Legislative Correspondent, Sen. Chris Coons

**Jodi Herman,** Senior Professional Staff Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee

**Samantha Schifrin,** Defense and Foreign Policy Advisor, Sen. Cory Booker

**Serena Gobbi,** Legislative Director, Rep. Norma Torres

**Molly Cole**, Senior National Security Advisor, Sen. Chris Van Hollen

**Abby Avery,** Military Legislative Assistant, Sen. Katie Britt

**Emilio Navarrete,** Chief of Staff, Rep. Pat Fallon

**Andrew Maloney,** Legislative Director, Rep. Rob Wittman

**Colby Kuhns,** National Security Policy Advisor, Sen. Kevin Cramer

**Gianmarco Herrera,** Legislative Correspondent, Sen. Ashley Moody

**Angela Merkle**, Senior Advisor, Sen. John Thune

**Jacob Gattman,** National Security Advisor, Sen. Tim Sheehy

**Ross Dietrich,** Deputy Chief of Staff, Rep. Brian Mast

**Bessie Chen**, Policy Analyst, Senate Foreign Relations Majority

**Tiffany Mortimore**, Legislative Assistant, Sen. John Barrasso

**Ben Petri**, Legislative Aide, Sen. Rick Scott

**Madison Sparber**, Foreign Relations Legislative Assistant, Sen. Ted Cruz

**Lavanya Mohan**, Senior Defense and Foreign Policy Advisor, Sen. Ron Wyden

**John Bleed**, National Security Advisor, Rep. Blake Moore

**Charles Morrison**, National Security Advisor, Sen. Jim Banks

**Michelle Schein**, Legislative Director; Deputy Chief of Staff, Rep. Greg Stanton

**Chandler Smith,** Legislative Director, Rep. Guy Reschenthaler

**Simon Joenler,** Deputy Chief of Staff, Rep. Robert Aderholt

**Andrew Pantino,** National Security Advisor, Sen. Pete Ricketts

**Max Harris,** Legislative Assistant, Rep. Grace Meng

**Katie Abrames,** Professional Staff Members, Senate Foreign Relations Committee

**Davis Bunn,** Legislative Director, Rep. Barry Moore

**Bobby Zarate,** National Security Advisor, Sen. Bill Hagerty

**Nate Barker,** Legislative Director, Rep. Rick Crawford

**Luis Reyes,** Military Legislative Assistant, Sen. Eric Schmitt

**Max Berry,** Legislative Director, Rep. Rich McCormick

**Tyler Goldstein,** Legislative Aide, Sen. Jacky Rosen

**Liz Liebowitz**, Senior Advisor, Sen. Jacky Rosen

**Pragneya Sharma,** Legislative Assistant, Rep. Ami Bera

**Ben Peterson,** Deputy Chief of Staff, Rep. Betty McCollum

**Jenn Miller**, Foreign Policy Advisor, Rep. Lois Frankel

**Ausan Al-Eryani,** Foreign Policy Advisor, Sen. Jeff Merkley

**Zachary Horsford,** National Security Advisor, Sen. Brian Schatz

**Colby Harriman**, Legislative Director, Rep. Dina Titus

**Michael Koren,** Staff Director, House Foreign Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Europe

**Olivia Speno,** Legislative Assistant, Rep. David Valadao

**Jonas Miller,** Chief of Staff, Rep. John Carter

**Bailee Sneed**, Legislative Correspondent, Sen. Katie Britt

**Olivia Kirk,** Legislative Correspondent, Sen. John Curtis

**Scott Graber**, Chief Counsel and Deputy Legislative Director, Sen. Darline Graham

**Luke Burke,** National Security Advisor, Sen. Dave McCormick

**Troy Dougall**, National Security Advisor, Sen. John Curtis

**Lucy Hulet**, Legislative Assistant, Sen. Jerry Moran

**Erin Jarnagin**, National Security Advisor, Sen. John Kennedy

**James Hart**, Deputy Chief of Staff and National Security Advisor, Sen. Eric Schmitt

**Jane Scarborough**, Legislative Assistant, Rep. Michael Baumgartner

**Vidya Neelakantan,** National Security Advisor, Sen. Chris Coons

**Giselle Reynolds,** Legislative Director, Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart

**Matt Hennessey**, Chief of Staff, Sen. Elissa Slotkin

**Elizabeth Falcone**, Chief of Staff, Sen. Mark Warner

**James Court**, Military Legislative Assistant, Rep. Chrissy Houlahan

**Tyler Kendall,** Military Legislative Assistant, Sen. Jerry Moran

**Charter Flight Justification**

A charter flight is required to transport travelers between Colombo, Sri Lanka and Jaffna, Sri Lanka because no scheduled commercial flights for this route exist. Alternative road or rail options would consume approximately 14-16 hours of program time, compared to approximately 3 hours via charter flight.

The charter flight will be operated by David Pieris Aviation (Pvt) Ltd., which is a commercial operator certificated by the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka and required to be conducted under air carrier safety rules. Please see attached for the Air Operator Certificate.

DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

# CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY OF SRI LANKA

(P.O. Box 56, No.152/1, Minuwangoda Road, Katunayake, Sri Lanka)

# AIR OPERATOR CERTIFICATE

**(Section 73 of Civil Aviation Act No 14 of 2010)**

AOC Number: 17/2025

CAA File Reference: OP/03/25/04

## David Pieris Aviation (Pvt) Ltd.

**Trade Name: DP Aviation (Pvt) Ltd**

No.120, 120A, Pannipitiya Road, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka
Telephone: 00 94 11 4215855, 00 94 765656568 E-mail: info@dpaviation.lk

**Operational Point of Contact:** AVM O D N L Perera (Retd), Accountable Manager
Mobile: 00 94 777712031, E-mail: info@dpaviation.lk

In pursuance of powers vested in me under Section 73 of Civil Aviation Act No 14 of 2010 as the Director General of Civil Aviation, DP Aviation (Pvt) Ltd, is hereby authorized to perform commercial air transport operations as specified in the attached Operations Specifications, in conformity with the Operations Manual of DP Aviation (Pvt) Ltd, which is approved by this office and in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Ceylon Air Navigation Regulations of 1955 as amended by the Civil Aviation (Interim) Regulations No. 01 of 2002 and any other requirements imposed under the provisions of this Act or any Regulations, rules, implementing standards, Directives or Directions issued thereunder.

The nature and scope of the commercial (traffic) rights and associated privileges together with the terms and conditions governing the exercise of such rights and privileges shall be as specified in the License to be issued to DP Aviation (Pvt) Ltd, under Section 84 of the Civil Aviation Act No. 14 of 2010.

This Air Operator Certificate is not transferable.

Note- AOC holder shall be required to keep adequate liability insurance in force at all times of operations, as mentioned under Section 75 of the Civil Aviation Act No.14 of 2010 and as per the Directive (SLCAD 18) issued by the DGCA.

Capt. Daminda Rambukwella
Director General of Civil Aviation
& Chief Executive Officer

11th June 2026

Date of Initial Issue: 13th June 2025

Date of Expiry: 12th June 2027

**Demining and Malnutrition in Sri Lanka**

**Colombo and Jaffna, Sri Lanka**

**October 10-17, 2026**

**PRIMARY SPONSOR:** The HALO Trust (USA)

**MISSION GOALS:** The purpose of this Congressional staff delegation is to educate participants about the challenges of malnutrition, food insecurity, and health issues in Sri Lanka, the presence and impact of landmines and other explosive remnants of war, and the ways in which U.S. demining programs support food security and prevent malnutrition in the area and worldwide.

**RELEVANCE TO OFFICIAL DUTIES:** The subject matter of the trip is important to Congressional staff participants to provide oversight of U.S.-funded humanitarian demining programs and the U.S. Army Strategic and Low Intensity Conflict Demining Program. It is also critical for consideration of foreign, defense and appropriations policies focused on Sri Lanka and South Asia. It is also relevant for considering the impact of conflict on natural resources and U.S. policies regarding food security and malnutrition.

**LOCATION:** The purpose of travel to Sri Lanka is to see a large and established humanitarian demining operation, supported by the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Army Strategic and Low Intensity Conflict Demining Program. Sri Lanka also suffers from malnutrition and food security challenges, and critical operators in this space are based in Colombo and the Northern Province, including Jaffna.

## ITINERARY

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10: TRAVEL

**1:25 PM-12:35 PM +1:** Flight: Turkish Airlines 180, Los Angeles International Airport (Los Angeles, CA) to Istanbul Airport (Istanbul, Türkiye)

**Participants:** Deepa Patel

**9:40 PM-2:50 PM+1:** Flight: Turkish Airlines 8, Washington Dulles International Airport (Washington, DC) to Istanbul Airport (Istanbul, Türkiye)

**Participants:** Congressional staff (not including Deepa Patel), HALO Trust (USA) staff

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11: TRAVEL

**6:40 PM-5:20 AM+1:** Flight: Turkish Airlines 730, Istanbul Airport (Istanbul, Türkiye) to Bandaranayake International Airport (Colombo, Sri Lanka)

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 12:

*Participants arrive in Colombo, Sri Lanka.*

**8:20-9:00 AM: Flight lands (time moved back due to unscheduled flight delay at Istanbul Airport), airport customs, immigration, and baggage collection**

**Participants**: Congressional staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**9:00-11:00 AM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Sheraton Colombo Hotel with* **presentation en route by HALO Trust Sri Lanka's Hannah Picton and Matthieu Guillier**

From the drive from the airport to the hotel, HALO Trust's Hannah Picton and Matthieu Guillier will begin familiarizing the delegation with life in Sri Lanka in the context of the surroundings, highlighting the local climate, population, languages, religions, infrastructure and housing, key areas of commerce, and the significance of the airport in the conflict.

This will provide the delegation with foundational information on the local context, key to successful meetings throughout the week and for policy discussions on Sri Lanka.

**Presenter:** Hannah Picton, Program Manager, HALO Trust Sri Lanka; Matthieu Guillier, Senior Program Officer, HALO Trust Sri Lanka

**Participants**: Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** Airport to Sheraton Colombo Hotel, 265 Galle Road, Colombo 03 (00300), Sri Lanka

The entirety of the allotted time for the drive will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

**11:00-12:30 PM: Check into the Sheraton Colombo Hotel, informal breakfast at hotel, recovery time**

**12:30-1:30 PM: Working lunch and seminar on U.S. global demining efforts**

During lunch, the HALO Trust (USA)'s Chris Whatley and Kristen Stevens will introduce key HALO Trust staff and provide an overview of the trip learning objectives and activities, followed by an overview of U.S. global demining efforts and HALO's role as a State Department implementing partner.

This seminar will inform policy work relevant to U.S. State Department conventional weapons destruction programs.

**Presenters:** Chris Whatley, The HALO Trust (USA), Executive Director; Kristen Stevens, The HALO Trust (USA), Director of Congressional Affairs and Strategic Engagement

**Participants**: Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** Sheraton Colombo Hotel

The entirety of the allotted time for the working lunch will be spent covering officially connected activity.

**1:30-2:00 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to the Asia Foundation*

**2:00-3:00 PM*:* Briefing by the Asia Foundation**

Briefing from representatives of the Asia Foundation on the political economy of Sri Lanka and the broader Indo-Pacific region. They will provide another perspective on Sri Lanka's governance, justice, economic resilience, and civil-society landscape, helping inform U.S. engagement and assistance priorities. They will also discuss their U.S. funded research into food security and trade.

This briefing will provide Congressional participants with additional information on the broader Indo-Pacific region, and Sri Lanka's position it in, to inform broader Indo-Pacific policy work and prepare for the rest of the trip.

**Presenters:** Johann Rebert, Sri Lanka Country Representative, the Asia Foundation

**Participants**: Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** The Asia Foundation, 30, 1 Bagatalle Rd, Colombo 00030

**3:00-3:30 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Sheraton Colombo Hotel.*

**3:30-5:30 PM: Guided tour of historically and culturally significant sites in Colombo**

This driving tour of historical and culturally significant sites in Colombo will include opportunities to see the Gangarama Temple, Old Parliament Building, Independence Square, and Pettah Market to highlight Sri Lankan religious heritage, political history, independence, culture, and everyday commercial life. Local guide and HALO staff to provide insights on the local economy, role of tourism, and impact of the conflict on the city.

The monuments and sites selected for this tour and briefing are important to Sri Lanka's cultural and political history. The tour and briefing will provide a strong base of country context for Sri Lanka, which the Congressional staff will need throughout the remainder of the trip. The tour will also provide greater context for policy discussions around U.S.-Sri Lanka relations and foreign assistance.

**Presenters:** Local tour guide; Hannah Picton, Program Manager, HALO Trust Sri Lanka

**Participants**: Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** From Sheraton Colombo Hotel to Gangarama Temple, Old Parliament Building, Independence Square, and Pettah Market, and concluding at Sheraton Colombo Hotel.

**5:30-6:00 PM: Time to refresh at hotel**

**6:00-6:30 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Barefoot Garden Cafe.*

**6:30-8:00 PM: Working dinner with presentation on Sri Lankan culture and history**

Dinner at Barefoot Garden Cafe with an in-depth briefing on Sri Lanka's history and culture with local public historian and peacebuilding practitioner Radhika Hetti.

This briefing is important to provide the Congressional staff with a deeper understanding of the history and culture of Sri Lanka, which will provide greater context for policy conversations about Sri Lanka.

**Presenters:** Radhika Hetti, public historian and peacebuilding practitioner

**Participants**: Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** Barefoot Garden Cafe, 704 Galle Road, Colombo 03 (00300), Sri Lanka

The entirety of the allotted time for the working dinner will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

**8:00-8:30 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Sheraton Colombo Hotel.*

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13:**

**7:30-8:30 AM: Working breakfast with briefing on the Sri Lanka mine action sector**

Breakfast at the hotel with a detailed briefing from HALO Sri Lanka on the history, achievements, challenges and opportunities of landmine clearance and the mine action sector in Sri Lanka.

This briefing will provide Congressional staff with detailed information relevant for policy discussions on the U.S. State Department humanitarian demining program in Sri Lanka.

**Presenters:** Hannah Picton, Sri Lanka Program Manager, The HALO Trust

**Participants**: Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** Sheraton Colombo Hotel

The entirety of the allotted time for the working breakfast will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

**8:30-9:00 AM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to U.S. Embassy.*

**9:00-11:00 AM: U.S. Embassy briefing**

Briefing on key U.S.-Sri Lankan policy issues, including demining and malnutrition, led by Patrick Collins, Political-Econ Officer and Rachel Huggins, Political Officer, on US-Sri Lankan relations.

This briefing will assist Congressional staff in their policy work related to Sri Lanka relations and assistance and help inform their discussions with Sri Lankan government officials later in the day.

**Presenters:** Patrick Collins, Political-Econ Officer, U.S. Department of State; Rachel Huggins, Political Officer, U.S. Department of State

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** U.S. Embassy, 210 Galle Road, Colombo 03 (00300), Sri Lanka

**11:00-11:30 AM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to the UN Compound.*

**11:30-12:00 PM: Roundtable discussion with UN agencies working on demining and malnutrition**

The group will hear from a panel of UN agencies including the Office of the Resident Coordinator, UNDP, FAO, WFP, UNICEF, WHO, and IOM on their work on malnutrition and demining in Sri Lanka. Each agency will give a brief overview of their work, followed by an open discussion with the Congressional staff.

This will give the staff a solid foundation of knowledge of malnutrition programming across Sri Lanka, relevant to their policy work on malnutrition, including U.S-funded malnutrition programming.

**Presenters:** Azam Bakeer Markar, Partnerships & Development Finance Specialist at the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Sri Lanka; Momoe Takeuchi, Public Health Administrator at WHO Sri Lanka; Nalin Munasinghe, National Program Manager at FAO Sri Lanka; Robert Oliver, Country Director, WFP Sri Lanka; Priyan Senevirathna, Pillar Coordinator UNDP; Daiki Hayashi, Program Analyst, UNDP; Begona Arellano, Deputy Representative, UNICEF; Abner Daniel, Senior Health and Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF

**Participants**: Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** UN Compound, 202A Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07 (00700)

**12:00-12:30 PM: Breakout discussion with UNICEF on malnutrition and RUTF/MMS**

The group will have more technical briefing from UNICEF on key child health and malnutrition issues and UNICEF programming across Sri Lanka, including initiatives funded by the United States. Participants will learn about the specific effects of malnutrition on Sri Lankan children and how UNICEF and its partners, particularly MMS clinics and RUTF factories, support child health and nutrition across Sri Lanka.

This briefing and discussion is relevant to the Congressional staff's official duties because it will educate them on the current programs in place to help fight malnutrition. This knowledge will help them in their policy work to provide oversight on U.S.-funded malnutrition programming.

**Presenters:** Abner Daniel, Senior Health and Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF; Begona Arellano, Deputy Representative, UNICEF

**Participants**: Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** UN Compound

**12:30-1:30 PM: Working lunch and breakout discussion with UNDP and IOM on disaster relief, demining, and IDP resettlement**

The group will receive a briefing from UNDP on their support providing demining equipment to

the national demining authority (NMAC), and on food insecurity and post-disaster recovery since Cyclone Ditwah in Sri Lanka. UNDP and IOM will also speak about their IDP resettlement work, including on cleared land.

This briefing will provide Congressional staff with some context of the types of technology used for demining, and the impact of natural disasters such as Cyclone Ditwah in November 2025, relevant to policy discussions on demining programs, disaster-response, and bilateral assistance.

**Presenters:** Priyan Senevirathna, Pillar Coordinator UNDP; Daiki Hayashi, Program Analyst, UNDP

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** UN Compound

The entirety of the allotted time for the working lunch will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

**1:30-2:00 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to the Ministry of Ministry of Housing, Construction & Water Supply.*

**2:00-3:00 PM: Meeting with the National Mine Action Center (NMAC) and Secretary for Ministry of Housing, Construction & Water Supply**

Meeting with the National Mine Action Authority and the Ministry of Housing, Construction & Water Supply, which oversee demining in Sri Lanka. Discussions will focus on Sri Lanka's national demining efforts and coordination with demining partners.

This meeting is important for Congressional staff to understand the role of the Sri Lankan government and authorities in supporting and coordinating demining activities, helping inform policy work around U.S. State Department demining programs.

**Participants**: Hon. Susil Ranasinghe, M.P., Minister of Housing, Construction and Water Supply; Engineer L. Kumdu Lal Bogahawatta, Secretary of Housing, Construction, and Water Supply and National Director of NMAC; Congressional staff participants; HALO Trust staff; HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** 12th Floor, Sethsiripaya, Stage I Battaramulla, Sri Lanka

**3:00-3:30 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Ministry of Health*

**3:30-4:30 PM: Meeting with the Sri Lanka Ministry of Health**

Meeting with the Ministry of Health to discuss key health and malnutrition issues across Sri Lanka, including areas of U.S.-Sri Lankan cooperation.

This meeting is important so Congressional staff can learn from representatives from the Sri Lankan government about current health and malnutrition challenges and how they are being addressed through demining and food security initiatives across the country, particularly in the Northern Province.

**Participants:** Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa, Minister of Health; Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** Suwasiripaya, No. 385, Rev. Baddegama Wimalawansa Thero Mawatha, Colombo 10 (01000), Sri Lanka.

**5:30-6:00 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Sheraton Colombo Hotel.*

**6:00-6:30 PM: Time to refresh at hotel**

**6:30-7:00 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to the Galle Face Hotel.*

**7:00-8:00 PM: Working dinner at Galle Face Hotel with briefing from Rotary Colombo**

Dinner at the historic Galle Face Hotel with an in-depth briefing from the local chapter of Rotary International on the impact of food insecurity and malnutrition on farmers, businesses, communities, and local government, and their work as a community-based organization in supporting food security and health around Sri Lanka.

This is a valuable chance to hear a local perspective on the issues facing Sri Lanka, particularly in the demining and malnutrition space, and will inform the participants' visits to impacted communities and their policy work on U.S. foreign assistance to Sri Lanka.

**Presenters:** Rotarian Mr. Kumar Sundararajah, Rotary District Governor and Director, Kish Group of Companies

**Participants**: Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** Galle Face Hotel 2 Galle Road Colombo 03 (00300), Sri Lanka

<u>The entirety of the allocated time for the working dinner will be spent covering officially-connected activity.</u>

**8:00-8:30 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Sheraton Colombo Hotel.*

**<u>WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14:</u>**

**8:00-8:30 AM: Check-out of Sheraton Colombo Hotel**

**8:30-9:00 AM: Working breakfast with review of meetings and key themes for the day ahead**

Breakfast at the hotel with a review of the meetings from the last two days, followed by a discussion on the themes of the day and the field visits in the Northern Province.

This briefing will help Congressional staff synthesize information gained across meetings and prepare for their upcoming field visits.

**Presenters:** Kristen Stevens, The HALO Trust (USA), Director of Congressional Affairs and Strategic Engagement

**Participants**: Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** Sheraton Colombo Hotel

The entirety of the allocated time for the working breakfast will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

**9:00-10:00 AM: Working breakfast continued with briefing from Save the Children on U.S. Department of Agriculture School Feeding Program**

Briefing by the Save the Children Chief of Party on USDA's School Feeding Program in Sri Lanka, the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, a food assistance initiative that reduces hunger and improves literacy and primary education.

This briefing will provide an overview of the program, how it is addressing the issue of malnutrition for children and relevance of U.S-Sri Lanka relations. The congressional staff will also see the program in action in the field in the Northern Province.

**Presenters:** Micah Olad, Chief of Party for the USDA Food for Education and Child Nutrition program, Save the Children

**Participants**: Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** Sheraton Colombo Hotel

The entirety of the allocated time for the working breakfast will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

**10:00-10:50 AM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Ratmalana International Airport.*

**10:50-12:30 PM: Flight to Jaffna International Airport, with packed lunch from Sheraton Colombo Hotel**

**12:30-2:00 PM: Arrival at Jaffna International Airport**, *transportation by rental vehicle to Jetwing Hotel* **with briefing en route by Vithoozen Antony, HALO Sri Lanka Program Operations Manager**

Vithoozen Antony, HALO Sri Lanka Operations Manager, will brief the group on the history of Jaffna and its connection to HALO from his perspective as a Jaffna local.

This will provide Congressional staff with an opportunity to learn about the history of the conflict, its impact on residents, and recent development and agricultural initiatives. They will also learn how HALO's clearance work has enabled these initiatives across Jaffna City and District, from the perspective of Jaffna local and senior HALO staff member Vithoozen Antony.

**Presenters:** Vithoozen Antony, Sri Lanka Program Operations Manager, The HALO Trust

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** In transit from Jaffna Airport to Jetwing Jaffna Hotel.

**2:00-2:30 PM: Refreshments at Jetwing Jaffna and discussion with Governor of the Northern Province**

Refreshments with discussion led by the Governor of the Northern Province of Sri Lanka, Nagalingam Vethanayahan. The Governor of the Northern Province is a key regional leader who provides valuable insight into northern Sri Lanka's development priorities, economic opportunities, and post-conflict reconciliation efforts.

This conversation is important for Congressional staff to understand the unique issues relevant to the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. Meeting with the Governor will allow the Congressional staff be well-informed on development, economic, and conflict issues in the North, which will help inform their approach to future bilateral policy work.

**Participants:** Nagalingam Vethanayahan, Governor of the Northern Province; Congressional staff; HALO Trust staff; HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** Jetwing Jaffna, 37, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Jaffna 40000, Sri Lanka

**2:30-3:00 PM: Check into the Jetwing Jaffna and time to refresh**

**Participants:** Congressional staff; HALO Trust staff; HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** Jetwing Jaffna

**3:00-3:15 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Fort Jaffna.*

**3:15-4:15 PM: Visit Fort Jaffna with presentation on conflict significance and relevance to demining**

The tour guide will highlight the historical and political significance of Fort Jaffna and give an overview of its importance as an active archaeological site. HALO's Hannah Picton will add detail about how HALO's landmine clearance in part of this site helped enable public access to the Fort and supported historic preservation following the end of the conflict.

This site visit provides important historical and political context relevant for policy discussions about Sri Lanka, while demonstrating the impact of demining, which is helpful in reviewing legislation around U.S. demining efforts.

**Presenters:** Local tour guide; Hannah Picton, Sri Lanka Program Manager, The HALO Trust

**Participants:** Congressional staff; HALO Trust staff; HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** M265+R97 Fort Jaffna, Jaffna, Sri Lanka

**4:15-4:30 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Jetwing Jaffna Hotel.*

**4:30-5:00 PM: Time to refresh**

**5:00-5:30 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to the Fox Hotel*

**5:30-7:00 PM: Working dinner in conversation with local HALO staff**

During dinner at the Fox Hotel, Congressional staff will have the opportunity to rotate between tables to connect with different HALO staff members. The HALO staff members will come from different areas of Northern Sri Lanka and lead key aspects of HALO's work. They will share their personal stories, discuss their current work at HALO, and speak about their hopes for the future.

This will provide Congressional staff with an opportunity to hear firsthand accounts of life during the civil war, the impact of mine action in the Northern Province, and Sri Lankans' expectations for the future. This will inform their policy work on demining and U.S.-Sri Lankan relations as well as add context for their time in the Northern Province.

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust Sri Lanka staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** The Fox Hotel, No. 257, Jaffna–Kankesanturai Road (K.K.S. Road), Kokuvil, Jaffna

The entirety of the time allocated for the working dinner will be spent on officially connected activities.

**7:00-7:30 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Jetwing Jaffna Hotel.*

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15:**

**7:00-7:30 AM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to HALO Jaffna office.*

**7:30-8:30 AM: Working breakfast with briefing at HALO Jaffna office**

Breakfast with a detailed briefing on HALO Sri Lanka's demining operations in the Northern Province, including current contamination challenges, community impact, operational priorities, and the historical context of the Muhamalai Forward Defence Line and surrounding minefields. A minefield safety briefing will also be provided ahead of the day's field visits.

This briefing will provide Congressional staff with detailed operational and historical information necessary to safely observe demining operations. It will also help inform policy discussions regarding U.S. foreign assistance, U.S. State Department Conventional Weapons Destruction programs, and the U.S. Army Strategic and Low Intensity Conflict Demining Program.

**Presenters:** Vithoozen Antony, The HALO Trust, Operations Manager

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** HALO Trust Jaffna office, 12 Nallur Cross Road, Jaffna

The entirety of the allotted time for the working breakfast will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

**8:30-9:30 AM:** *Transportation by rental vehicles to USDA Feeding Program school* with **presentation en route by HALO**

Travel by rental vehicle to a local school. This school is on the edge of the Muhalamai minefield, on land HALO has cleared. During transit, HALO staff will brief staff on conflict dynamics in Northern Sri Lanka and the effects of explosive contamination on local fishing, livelihoods, agriculture, and community resettlement.

This will prepare Congressional staff for their field visits the rest of the day by providing

important context on the village. Staff will learn about the humanitarian and economic impacts of landmine contamination and how demining supports recovery and sustainable development, which is important for policy discussions on conventional weapons destruction programs.

**Presenter:** Vithoozen Antony, The HALO Trust, Operations Manager

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** En route to primary school

The entirety of the allotted time for the journey will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

**9:30-10:30 AM: Visit to a USDA Feeding Program school**

Staff will visit a USDA Feeding Program school**,** the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, a U.S. food assistance initiative that reduces hunger and improves literacy and primary education. The school is on land previously cleared by HALO. Staff will see the feeding program in action (serving brunch) and be able to interact with the school, staff, and chef.

By seeing U.S.-funded nutrition programming firsthand, staff will be able make more informed decisions on USDA policy matters and food security efforts.

**Presenters:** Micah Olad, Chief of Party for the USDA Food for Education and Child Nutrition program, Save the Children; Tanapalasingam Ramashwarran, School Principal

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** Primary school on HALO-cleared land on the edge of the Muhamalai Forward Defense Line Area, Northern Province

**10:30-10:35 AM:** *Transportation by rental vehicles to Sector V Farm.*

**10:35-11:05 AM: Visit to HALO-cleared Sector V Farm and meetings with beneficiaries**

Staff will meet with beneficiaries of HALO's demining work at Sector V Farm, including the Farm Manager, Jeevaradinam Pavikumar. Sector V Farm was cleared by HALO, and beneficiaries will share the impact of landmine clearance on their lives and livelihoods.

This field visit will demonstrate the real-world impact of U.S.-funded humanitarian demining activities. The visit will assist Congressional staff in understanding the relationship between demining, food security, economic development, and long-term stability, and the applications of U.S. demining technologies and assistance.

**Presenters:** Jeevaradinam Pavikumar, Sector V Farm Manager

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, HALO Trust staff

**Location:** Sector V Farm on HALO-cleared land on the edge of the Muhamalai Forward Defense Line Area, Northern Province

**11:05-11:40 AM:** *Transportation by rental vehicles to ReeCha Organic Farm.*

**11:40-12:40 PM: Working Lunch with HALO and U.S Army Strategic and Low Intensity Conflict**

**Demining Program representatives at ReeCha**

Lunch with representatives from HALO and Chris Wanner, Deputy Program Manager for the U.S. Army Strategic and Low Intensity Conflict Demining Program (SLIC-Demining) at ReeCha, an organic farm, restaurant and hotel on land cleared by HALO. ReeCha provides employment opportunities to the local community, and is the first of its kind in the Northern Province, demonstrating the impact of landmine clearance on local agriculture and economic development.

Lunch will include a briefing from representatives from SLIC-Demining on advancements in demining technology, operational challenges in heavily contaminated environments, and applications of research and development efforts in humanitarian mine action.

This briefing is important for Congressional staff to gain a deeper understanding of the current state and future of demining technology, including the role of the Department of War in advancing demining equipment for military and humanitarian use, which is important for defense and foreign affairs policy discussions.

**Presenters:** Chris Wanner, Deputy Program Manager, U.S. Army SLIC-Demining Program; Chris Whatley, The HALO Trust (USA), Executive Director

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** ReeCha, Kottandarkulam, 42556, Sri Lanka

The entirety of the allotted time for the working lunch will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

**12:40-1:05 PM:** *Transportation by both rental and HALO vehicles to the main Muhamalai HALO Control Point* **with presentation en route by HALO**

Transportation to the Muhamalai Forward Defense Line. During transit, HALO staff will brief participants on the history of the conflict in the region, patterns of contamination, clearance priorities, resettlement efforts, and remaining humanitarian challenges.

This briefing will provide additional details that will help Congressional staff understand the long-term impacts of conflict, and the implementation and impacts of U.S. demining efforts, which is key to their policy work on U.S. demining work. It will also prepare them for the minefield visit.

**Presenter:** Vithoozan Antony, The HALO Trust, Operations Manager

**Participants:** Congressional staff; HALO Trust staff; HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** En route to Muhamalai

The entirety of the allotted time for the journey will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

**1:05-1:15 PM: Stop at HALO Control Point to pick up and fit Personal Protective Equipment**

**1:15-1:30 PM:** *Transportation by HALO vehicle through HALO-cleared land to the minefield.*

**1:30-3:25pm: Tour Muhamalai minefield**.

Participants will visit Muhamalai minefield, one of the most heavily contaminated areas

remaining from Sri Lanka's civil war, that is being cleared using mechanical assets including technology developed by the SLIC-Demining program.

Participants will observe U.S.-supported Amphibious Excavator equipment being used to clear a technically challenging lagoon task, which will demonstrate the role of technological innovation and the SLIC-Demining program in enabling landmine clearance.

HALO operational staff will conduct demonstrations of the mechanical demining equipment and brief attendees on the scale of contamination, history of the former defense line, land release methodology, and how communities recover following clearance. Congressional staff will also witness the safe demolition of landmines via burning.

This minefield visit will synthesize all the information learned throughout the trip and will allow staff to witness first-hand a large demining operation. Seeing demining in action, along with the same demolition of mines, will demonstrate the scale of U.S.-supported demining operations and will help emphasize the impact of demining, as seen during the rest of the trip through visits to HALO-cleared land.

**Presenters:** Vithoozan Antony, The HALO Trust, Operations Manager

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** Muhamalai Forward Defence Line Area, Northern Province

**3:25-3:30 PM:** *Transportation by HALO vehicle to local village.*

**3:30-4:00 PM: Meeting with local beneficiaries, including resettled IDPs**

Congressional staff will then meet with local community members and beneficiaries of landmine clearance to understand how land has been developed post-clearance, including new infrastructure projects and ongoing resettlement of long-term IDPs.

This field visit will demonstrate the real-world impact of U.S.-funded humanitarian demining activities. The visit will assist Congressional staff in understanding the relationship between demining, food security, economic development, and long-term stability, and the applications of U.S. demining technologies and assistance.

**Participants:** Kayathiri Kumaran, Field Coordination Associate, UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO); Kandasamy Mugunthan - Field Project Officer – Northern region, United Nations Development Program (UNDP); Varunanathan Kajananan – Program Associate, World Food Program (WFP); Vairamuthu Vijayaratnam , President – Rural Development Society (RDS); Kulanthaivel Sivathasan , President – Elders' Society; Ponnu Selvaraja , Member of RDS and former president of RDS; Sutharseelan Sutharraj , Youth representative; Abraham Johnkeen , Poultry farmer; Jasmin Cloria , President – Women Rural Development Society (WRDS); Tharshiny Sureshkumar , Secretary – WRDS; Jeyavathany Thiyasharan , Treasurer – WRDS; Lakshala Gunaseelan , President – Women Action Society (WAS); Thutheeswary Suvarnakumar , Member of WAS and farmer; Amala Daisy Paramanantham, Farmer; Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** Inthirapuram Village Community Center, Kilinochchi District, Northern Province

**4:00-5:30:** *Transportation by HALO vehicle to Jetwing Jaffna Hotel.*

**5:30-6:30 PM: Time to refresh**

**6:30-7:30 PM: Working dinner with reflections on the day**

Dinner with discussion led by HALO (USA)'s Kristen Stevens on reflections from the minefield visit and conversations with beneficiaries, highlighting relevance to U.S. conventional weapons destruction and food security policy.

This discussion will tie up the themes of the days and provide the opportunity to connect demining programming to broader food security policy considerations relevant to Congressional oversight and legislative responsibilities.

**Presenter:** Kristen Stevens, The HALO Trust (USA), Director of Congressional Affairs and Strategic Engagement

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** Jetwing Jaffna, 37, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Jaffna 40000, Sri Lanka

The entirety of the allotted time for the working dinner will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16:**

**7:30-8:30 AM: Working breakfast with briefing from Jaffna business community**

Breakfast with representatives from the Jaffna business community to discuss the intersection of demining, food insecurity, and economic development in Northern Sri Lanka, and where they see opportunities for growth and investment.

This briefing is relevant to the Congressional staff's official duties because it demonstrates how U.S.-supported mine action supports broader development outcomes and complements other nutrition, food security, and economic development and stability programming fu nded by the United States, which will inform their policy work.

**Presenters:** Nilanthi Wejesooriya, General Manager, Jetwing Jaffna; L. Jekhan Aruliah, Social and Commercial entrepreneur in Jaffna

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** Jetwing Jaffna, 37, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Jaffna 40000, Sri Lanka

The entirety of the allotted time for the working breakfast will be spent covering officially connected activity.

**8:30-9:00 AM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Jaffna Teaching Hospital*

**9:00-10:00 AM: Visit to the Nutrition Unit Jaffna Teaching Hospital**

Visit the Nutrition Unit in the Jaffna Teaching Hospital where severe malnutrition cases are referred to see how RUTF is being delivered in Sri Lanka, including a discussion with RUTF beneficiaries and caregivers. Prof. M. G. Sathiadas, Chair and Professor of Pediatrics, will facilitate the discussion and provide an explanation to participants.

This visit is relevant because it allows Congressional staff to observe the implementation of the nutrition and health interventions. Seeing these programs firsthand will allow them to understand how international development and humanitarian programs address malnutrition at the community level and help form their approach to future policy work.

**Presenters:** Prof. M. G. Sathiadas, Chair and Professor of Pediatrics, Jaffna Teaching Hospital; Sarmili Thurairetnam, Child Protection Officer, UNICEF

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** Teaching Hospital Jaffna, M288+968, Hospital St, Jaffna 40000

**10:00-10:30 AM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Maternal and Child Health Clinic.*

**10:30-11:30 AM: Visit Maternal and Child Health Clinic for MMS/MMN Services**

Visit an MMS/MMN clinic to observe programming supporting maternal and child nutrition, community health, and preventative healthcare services. Participants will meet with medical personnel and program staff to learn about nutritional interventions, challenges facing vulnerable populations, and efforts to reduce malnutrition in Northern Sri Lanka.

This visit is relevant because it allows Congressional staff to observe the implementation of the nutrition and health interventions. Seeing these programs firsthand will allow them to understand how international development and humanitarian programs address malnutrition at the community level and help form their approach to future policy work.

**Presenters:** Doctor Poonkothai Thayaladeva, Medical Officer of Health; Sarmili Thurairetnam, Child Protection Officer, UNICEF

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** Maternal and Child Health Clinic, Government Health Centre (GHC), Allankulli, Sandilipay, Jaffna District, Northern Province

**11:30-12:00 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Jaffna Jetwing Hotel.*

**12:00-1:00 PM: Working lunch and discussion on HALO's work in the Info-Pacific region**

Lunch at the Jaffna Jetwing Hotel. The HALO Trust (USA)'s Chris Whatley and Kristen Stevens will provide a briefing on HALO's U.S.-supported demining work in the broader Indo-Pacific region, including impact on malnutrition.

This opportunity is important so that Congressional staff can connect information they learned in Sri Lanka to broader demining and malnutrition programming in the region, and inform regional and global policy work in Congress.

**Presenters:** Chris Whatley, The HALO Trust (USA), Executive Director; Kristen Stevens, The HALO Trust (USA), Director of Congressional Affairs and Strategic Engagement

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** Jetwing Jaffna Hotel

The entirety of the allotted time for the working lunch will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

**1:00-1:15 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Nallur Kandaswamy Temple.*

**1:15-2:15 PM: Visit Nallur Kandaswamy Temple with presentation on cultural significance**

Tour guide will highlight the cultural significance of Nallur Kandaswamy Temple, give an overview of its religious history, and how the temple is a key attraction for the Sri Lankan tourism economy. The Nallur Kandaswamy Temple is one of the most important Hindu temples in Sri Lanka, and it is a major religious, cultural, and historical center for Sri Lanka Tamils that attracts thousands of worshippers and visitors each year.

It is important for Congressional staff to visit the temple because it shows the heritage, faith, and history of the Tamil community in northern Sri Lanka. This visit and tour will help Congressional staff understand how Sri Lankan culture, history, and tourism impact the Sri Lankan economy, which is a crucial component to bilateral legislative issues.

**Presenter:** Local tour guide

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, HALO Trust staff

**Location:** M2FH+XM5, Jaffna 40000, Sri Lanka

**2:15-2:30 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Jaffna Jetwing Hotel.*

**2:30-2:45 PM: Check out of hotel**

**2:45-3:45 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Jaffna International Airport.*

**3:45-5:45 PM: Chartered flight to Ratmalana International Airport, Colombo**

Travel via charter flight from Jaffna to Colombo. During transit, participants will have an opportunity to review materials from the visit and continue informal discussions regarding observations from meetings and field activities conducted throughout the week.

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**5:45-6:30 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Sheraton Colombo Hotel.*

**6:30-7:00 PM: Check-in to Sheraton and time to refresh**

**7:00- 8:30 PM: Working dinner and final reflections on Sri Lanka visit**

Dinner at the Sheraton Hotel. The HALO Trust (USA)'s Chris Whatley and Kristen Stevens will lead a discussion reflecting on key themes from the visit, including humanitarian demining, food security, malnutrition, post-conflict recovery, and U.S. assistance programs in Sri Lanka. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss lessons learned and how observations from the visit relate to broader U.S. foreign assistance and policy priorities.

This discussion is important because it provides an opportunity to synthesize information gathered throughout the visit and will connect both the demining and nutrition programming to

broader policy considerations relevant to Congressional oversight and legislative responsibilities.

**Presenters:** Chris Whatley, The HALO Trust (USA), Executive Director; Kristen Stevens, The HALO Trust (USA), Director of Congressional Affairs and Strategic Engagement

**Participants**: Congressional Staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** Sheraton Colombo Hotel

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17:**

*Participants depart Colombo, Sri Lanka. Danielle Fulfs to extend trip in Sri Lanka at a personal expense.*

**2:50-3:00 AM:** Check out of Sheraton Colombo Hotel

**Participants**: Congressional Staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** Sheraton Colombo Hotel

**3:00-3:50 AM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Bandaranayake International Airport*

**6:50 AM-12:50 PM:** Flight: Turkish Airlines 731, Bandaranayake International Airport (Colombo, Sri Lanka) to Istanbul Airport (Istanbul, Türkiye).

**2:30 PM-6:15 PM:** Flight: Turkish Airlines 9, Istanbul Airport (Istanbul, Türkiye) to Los Angeles International Airport (Los Angeles, CA)

**Participants:** Deepa Patel

**3:50 PM-7:45 PM:** Flight: Turkish Airlines 7, Istanbul Airport (Istanbul, Türkiye) to Washington Dulles International Airport (Washington, DC)

**Participants:** Congressional staff (not including Deepa Patel), HALO (USA) staff

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18 – TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20:**

*Danielle Fulfs to extend trip in Sri Lanka at a personal expense.*

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21:**

*Danielle Fulfs departs Colombo, Sri Lanka following her trip extension at a personal cost.*

**6:50 AM-12:50 PM:** Flight: Turkish Airlines 731, Bandaranayake International Airport (Colombo, Sri Lanka) to Istanbul Airport (Istanbul, Türkiye).

**3:50 PM-7:45 PM:** Flight: Turkish Airlines 7, Istanbul Airport (Istanbul, Türkiye) to Washington Dulles International Airport (Washington, DC)

**Demining and Malnutrition in Sri Lanka**

**Colombo and Jaffna, Sri Lanka**

**October 10-17, 2026**

**PRIMARY SPONSOR:** The HALO Trust (USA)

**MISSION GOALS:** The purpose of this Congressional staff delegation is to educate participants about the challenges of malnutrition, food insecurity, and health issues in Sri Lanka, the presence and impact of landmines and other explosive remnants of war, and the ways in which U.S. demining programs support food security and prevent malnutrition in the area and worldwide.

**RELEVANCE TO OFFICIAL DUTIES:** The subject matter of the trip is important to Congressional staff participants to provide oversight of U.S.-funded humanitarian demining programs and the U.S. Army Strategic and Low Intensity Conflict Demining Program. It is also critical for consideration of foreign, defense and appropriations policies focused on Sri Lanka and South Asia. It is also relevant for considering the impact of conflict on natural resources and U.S. policies regarding food security and malnutrition.

**LOCATION:** The purpose of travel to Sri Lanka is to see a large and established humanitarian demining operation, supported by the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Army Strategic and Low Intensity Conflict Demining Program. Sri Lanka also suffers from malnutrition and food security challenges, and critical operators in this space are based in Colombo and the Northern Province, including Jaffna.

**Revised Itinerary (reflects changes due to unforeseen circumstances)**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10: TRAVEL**

**1:25 PM-12:35 PM +1:** Flight: Turkish Airlines 180, Los Angeles International Airport (Los Angeles, CA) to Istanbul Airport (Istanbul, Türkiye)

**Participants:** Deepa Patel

**9:40 PM-2:50 PM+1:** Flight: Turkish Airlines 8, Washington Dulles International Airport (Washington, DC) to Istanbul Airport (Istanbul, Türkiye)

**Participants:** Congressional staff (not including Deepa Patel), HALO Trust (USA) staff, Eleanor Crook Foundation (ECF) staff (Maura Weaver)

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11: TRAVEL**

**6:40 PM-8:20 AM+1:** Flight: Turkish Airlines 730, Istanbul Airport (Istanbul, Türkiye) to Bandaranayake International Airport (Colombo, Sri Lanka). *Group experienced flight delay at Istanbul Airport.

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 12:**

*Participants arrive in Colombo, Sri Lanka.*

**8:20-9:00 AM: Flight lands, airport customs, immigration, and baggage collection**

**Participants**: Congressional staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**9:00-10:00 AM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Sheraton Colombo Hotel with* **presentation en route by HALO Trust Sri Lanka's Hannah Picton and Matthieu Guillier**

From the drive from the airport to the hotel, HALO Trust's Hannah Picton and Matthieu Guillier will begin familiarizing the delegation with life in Sri Lanka in the context of the surroundings, highlighting the local climate, population, languages, religions, infrastructure and housing, key areas of commerce, and the significance of the airport in the conflict.

This will provide the delegation with foundational information on the local context, key to successful meetings throughout the week and for policy discussions on Sri Lanka.

**Presenter:** Hannah Picton, Program Manager, HALO Trust Sri Lanka; Matthieu Guillier, Senior Program Officer, HALO Trust Sri Lanka

**Participants**: Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** Airport to Sheraton Colombo Hotel, 265 Galle Road, Colombo 03 (00300), Sri Lanka

The entirety of the allotted time for the drive will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

**10:00-12:30 PM: Check into the Sheraton Colombo Hotel, informal breakfast at hotel, recovery time**

**12:30-1:30 PM: Working lunch and seminar on U.S. global demining efforts**

During lunch, the HALO Trust (USA)'s Chris Whatley and Kristen Stevens will introduce key HALO Trust staff and provide an overview of the trip learning objectives and activities, followed by an overview of U.S. global demining efforts and HALO's role as a State Department implementing partner.

This seminar will inform policy work relevant to U.S. State Department conventional weapons destruction programs.

**Presenters:** Chris Whatley, The HALO Trust (USA), Executive Director; Kristen Stevens, The HALO Trust (USA), Director of Congressional Affairs and Strategic Engagement

**Participants**: Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** Sheraton Colombo Hotel

The entirety of the allotted time for the working lunch will be spent covering officially connected activity.

**1:30-2:00 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to the Asia Foundation*

**2:00-3:00 PM*:* Briefing by the Asia Foundation**

Briefing from representatives of the Asia Foundation on the political economy of Sri Lanka and the broader Indo-Pacific region. They will provide another perspective on Sri Lanka's governance, justice, economic resilience, and civil-society landscape, helping inform U.S. engagement and assistance priorities. They will also discuss their U.S. funded research into food security and trade.

This briefing will provide Congressional participants with additional information on the broader Indo-Pacific region, and Sri Lanka's position it in, to inform broader Indo-Pacific policy work and prepare for the rest of the trip.

**Presenters:** Johann Rebert, Sri Lanka Country Representative, the Asia Foundation

**Participants**: Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** The Asia Foundation, 30, 1 Bagatalle Rd, Colombo 00030

**3:00-3:30 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Sheraton Colombo Hotel.*

**3:30-5:15 PM: Guided tour of historically and culturally significant sites in Colombo**

This driving tour of historical and culturally significant sites in Colombo will include opportunities to see the Gangarama Temple, Old Parliament Building, Independence Square, and Pettah Market to highlight Sri Lankan religious heritage, political history, independence, culture, and everyday commercial life. Local guide and HALO staff to provide insights on the local economy, role of tourism, and impact of the conflict on the city.

The monuments and sites selected for this tour and briefing are important to Sri Lanka's cultural and political history. The tour and briefing will provide a strong base of country context for Sri Lanka, which the Congressional staff will need throughout the remainder of the trip. The tour will also provide greater context for policy discussions around U.S.-Sri Lanka relations and foreign assistance.

**Presenters:** Local tour guide; Hannah Picton, Program Manager, HALO Trust Sri Lanka

**Participants**: Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** From Sheraton Colombo Hotel to Gangarama Temple, Old Parliament Building, Independence Square, and Pettah Market, and concluding at Sheraton Colombo Hotel.

**5:15-6:00 PM: Time to refresh at hotel**

**6:00-6:30 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Barefoot Garden Cafe.*

**6:30-8:00 PM: Working dinner with presentation on Sri Lankan culture and history**

Dinner at Barefoot Garden Cafe with an in-depth briefing on Sri Lanka's history and culture with local public historian and peacebuilding practitioner Radhika Hetti.

This briefing is important to provide the Congressional staff with a deeper understanding of the history and culture of Sri Lanka, which will provide greater context for policy conversations about Sri Lanka.

**Presenters:** Radhika Hetti, public historian and peacebuilding practitioner

**Participants**: Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** Barefoot Garden Cafe, 704 Galle Road, Colombo 03 (00300), Sri Lanka

The entirety of the allotted time for the working dinner will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

**8:00-8:30 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Sheraton Colombo Hotel.*

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13:**

**8:00-9:00 AM: Working breakfast with briefing on the Sri Lanka mine action sector**

Breakfast at the hotel with a detailed briefing from HALO Sri Lanka on the history, achievements, challenges and opportunities of landmine clearance and the mine action sector in Sri Lanka.

This briefing will provide Congressional staff with detailed information relevant for policy discussions on the U.S. State Department humanitarian demining program in Sri Lanka.

**Presenters:** Hannah Picton, Sri Lanka Program Manager, The HALO Trust, ECF staff

**Participants**: Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** Sheraton Colombo Hotel

The entirety of the allotted time for the working breakfast will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

**9:00-9:30 AM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to U.S. Embassy.*

**9:30-11:00 AM: U.S. Embassy briefing**

Briefing on key U.S.-Sri Lankan policy issues, including demining and malnutrition, led by Patrick Collins, Political-Econ Officer and Rachel Huggins, Political Officer, on US-Sri Lankan relations.

This briefing will assist Congressional staff in their policy work related to Sri Lanka relations and assistance and help inform their discussions with Sri Lankan government officials later in the day.

**Presenters:** Patrick Collins, Political-Econ Officer, U.S. Department of State; Rachel Huggins, Political Officer, U.S. Department of State

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** U.S. Embassy, 210 Galle Road, Colombo 03 (00300), Sri Lanka

**11:00-11:30 AM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to the UN Compound.*

**11:30-12:00 PM: Roundtable discussion with UN agencies working on demining and malnutrition**

The group will hear from a panel of UN agencies including the Office of the Resident Coordinator, UNDP, FAO, WFP, UNICEF, WHO, and IOM on their work on malnutrition and demining in Sri Lanka. Each agency will give a brief overview of their work, followed by an open discussion with the Congressional staff.

This will give the staff a solid foundation of knowledge of malnutrition programming across Sri Lanka, relevant to their policy work on malnutrition, including U.S-funded malnutrition programming.

**Presenters:** Azam Bakeer Markar, Partnerships & Development Finance Specialist at the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Sri Lanka; Momoe Takeuchi, Public Health Administrator at WHO Sri Lanka; Nalin Munasinghe, National Program Manager at FAO Sri Lanka; Robert Oliver, Country Director, WFP Sri Lanka; Priyan Senevirathna, Pillar Coordinator UNDP; Daiki Hayashi, Program Analyst, UNDP; Begona Arellano, Deputy Representative, UNICEF; Abner Daniel, Senior Health and Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF

**Participants**: Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** UN Compound, 202A Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07 (00700)

**12:00-12:30 PM: Breakout discussion with UNICEF on malnutrition and RUTF/MMS**

The group will have more technical briefing from UNICEF on key child health and malnutrition issues and UNICEF programming across Sri Lanka, including initiatives funded by the United States. Participants will learn about the specific effects of malnutrition on Sri Lankan children and how UNICEF and its partners, particularly MMS clinics and RUTF factories, support child health and nutrition across Sri Lanka.

This briefing and discussion is relevant to the Congressional staff's official duties because it will educate them on the current programs in place to help fight malnutrition. This knowledge will help them in their policy work to provide oversight on U.S.-funded malnutrition programming.

**Presenters:** Abner Daniel, Senior Health and Nutrition Specialist, UNICEF; Begona Arellano, Deputy Representative, UNICEF

**Participants**: Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** UN Compound

**12:30-1:30 PM: Working lunch and breakout discussion with UNDP and IOM on disaster relief, demining, and IDP resettlement**

The group will receive a briefing from UNDP on their support providing demining equipment to

the national demining authority (NMAC), and on food insecurity and post-disaster recovery since Cyclone Ditwah in Sri Lanka. UNDP and IOM will also speak about their IDP resettlement work, including on cleared land.

This briefing will provide Congressional staff with some context of the types of technology used for demining, and the impact of natural disasters such as Cyclone Ditwah in November 2025, relevant to policy discussions on demining programs, disaster-response, and bilateral assistance.

**Presenters:** Priyan Senevirathna, Pillar Coordinator UNDP; Daiki Hayashi, Program Analyst, UNDP

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** UN Compound

The entirety of the allotted time for the working lunch will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

**1:30-2:00 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to the Ministry of Ministry of Housing, Construction & Water Supply.*

**2:00-3:00 PM: Meeting with the National Mine Action Center (NMAC) and Secretary for Ministry of Housing, Construction & Water Supply**

Meeting with the National Mine Action Authority and the Ministry of Housing, Construction & Water Supply, which oversee demining in Sri Lanka. Discussions will focus on Sri Lanka's national demining efforts and coordination with demining partners.

This meeting is important for Congressional staff to understand the role of the Sri Lankan government and authorities in supporting and coordinating demining activities, helping inform policy work around U.S. State Department demining programs.

**Participants**: Hon. Susil Ranasinghe, M.P., Minister of Housing, Construction and Water Supply; Engineer L. Kumdu Lal Bogahawatta, Secretary of Housing, Construction, and Water Supply and National Director of NMAC; Congressional staff participants; HALO Trust staff; HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** 12th Floor, Sethsiripaya, Stage I Battaramulla, Sri Lanka

**3:00-3:30 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Ministry of Health*

**3:30-4:30 PM: Meeting with the Sri Lanka Ministry of Health**

Meeting with the Ministry of Health to discuss key health and malnutrition issues across Sri Lanka, including areas of U.S.-Sri Lankan cooperation.

This meeting is important so Congressional staff can learn from representatives from the Sri Lankan government about current health and malnutrition challenges and how they are being addressed through demining and food security initiatives across the country, particularly in the Northern Province.

**Participants:** Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa, Minister of Health; Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** Suwasiripaya, No. 385, Rev. Baddegama Wimalawansa Thero Mawatha, Colombo 10 (01000), Sri Lanka.

**5:30-6:00 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Sheraton Colombo Hotel.*

**6:00-6:30 PM: Time to refresh at hotel**

**6:30-7:00 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to the Galle Face Hotel.*

**7:00-8:00 PM: Working dinner at Galle Face Hotel with briefing from Rotary Colombo**

Dinner at the historic Galle Face Hotel with an in-depth briefing from the local chapter of Rotary International on the impact of food insecurity and malnutrition on farmers, businesses, communities, and local government, and their work as a community-based organization in supporting food security and health around Sri Lanka.

This is a valuable chance to hear a local perspective on the issues facing Sri Lanka, particularly in the demining and malnutrition space, and will inform the participants' visits to impacted communities and their policy work on U.S. foreign assistance to Sri Lanka.

**Presenters:** Rotarian Mr. Kumar Sundararajah, Rotary District Governor and Director, Kish Group of Companies

**Participants**: Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** Galle Face Hotel 2 Galle Road Colombo 03 (00300), Sri Lanka

<u>The entirety of the allocated time for the working dinner will be spent covering officially-connected activity.</u>

**8:00-8:30 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Sheraton Colombo Hotel.*

**<u>WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14:</u>**

**7:30-8:00 AM: Check-out of Sheraton Colombo Hotel**

**8:00-9:00 AM: Working breakfast with review of meetings and key themes for the day ahead**

Breakfast at the hotel with a review of the meetings from the last two days, followed by a discussion on the themes of the day and the field visits in the Northern Province.

This briefing will help Congressional staff synthesize information gained across meetings and prepare for their upcoming field visits.

**Presenters:** Kristen Stevens, The HALO Trust (USA), Director of Congressional Affairs and Strategic Engagement

**Participants**: Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** Sheraton Colombo Hotel

The entirety of the allocated time for the working breakfast will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

**9:00-10:00 AM: Working breakfast continued with briefing from Save the Children on U.S. Department of Agriculture School Feeding Program**

Briefing by the Save the Children Chief of Party on USDA's School Feeding Program in Sri Lanka, the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, a food assistance initiative that reduces hunger and improves literacy and primary education.

This briefing will provide an overview of the program, how it is addressing the issue of malnutrition for children and relevance of U.S-Sri Lanka relations. The congressional staff will also see the program in action in the field in the Northern Province.

**Presenters:** Micah Olad, Chief of Party for the USDA Food for Education and Child Nutrition program, Save the Children

**Participants**: Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** Sheraton Colombo Hotel

The entirety of the allocated time for the working breakfast will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

**10:00-10:50 AM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Ratmalana International Airport.*

**10:50-12:30 PM: Flight to Jaffna International Airport**

**12:30-2:00 PM: Arrival at Jaffna International Airport**, *transportation by rental vehicle to Jetwing Hotel* **with briefing en route by Vithoozen Antony, HALO Sri Lanka Program Operations Manager**

Vithoozen Antony, HALO Sri Lanka Operations Manager, will brief the group on the history of Jaffna and its connection to HALO from his perspective as a Jaffna local.

This will provide Congressional staff with an opportunity to learn about the history of the conflict, its impact on residents, and recent development and agricultural initiatives. They will also learn how HALO's clearance work has enabled these initiatives across Jaffna City and District, from the perspective of Jaffna local and senior HALO staff member Vithoozen Antony.

**Presenters:** Vithoozen Antony, Sri Lanka Program Operations Manager, The HALO Trust

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** In transit from Jaffna Airport to Jetwing Jaffna Hotel.

**2:00-3:00 PM: Lunch at Jetwing Jaffna and discussion with Governor of the Northern Province**

Refreshments with discussion led by the Governor of the Northern Province of Sri Lanka, Nagalingam Vethanayahan. The Governor of the Northern Province is a key regional leader who provides valuable insight into northern Sri Lanka's development priorities, economic opportunities, and post-conflict reconciliation efforts.

This conversation is important for Congressional staff to understand the unique issues relevant to the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. Meeting with the Governor will allow the Congressional staff be well-informed on development, economic, and conflict issues in the North, which will help inform their approach to future bilateral policy work.

**Participants:** Nagalingam Vethanayahan, Governor of the Northern Province; Congressional staff; HALO Trust staff; HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** Jetwing Jaffna, 37, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Jaffna 40000, Sri Lanka

**3:00-3:15 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Fort Jaffna.*

**3:15-4:15 PM: Visit Fort Jaffna with presentation on conflict significance and relevance to demining**

The tour guide will highlight the historical and political significance of Fort Jaffna and give an overview of its importance as an active archaeological site. HALO's Hannah Picton will add detail about how HALO's landmine clearance in part of this site helped enable public access to the Fort and supported historic preservation following the end of the conflict.

This site visit provides important historical and political context relevant for policy discussions about Sri Lanka, while demonstrating the impact of demining, which is helpful in reviewing legislation around U.S. demining efforts.

**Presenters:** Local tour guide; Hannah Picton, Sri Lanka Program Manager, The HALO Trust

**Participants:** Congressional staff; HALO Trust staff; HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** M265+R97 Fort Jaffna, Jaffna, Sri Lanka

**4:15-4:30 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Jetwing Jaffna Hotel.*

**4:30-5:00 PM: Time to refresh**

**5:00-5:30 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to the Fox Hotel*

**5:30-7:00 PM: Working dinner in conversation with local HALO staff**

During dinner at the Fox Hotel, Congressional staff will have the opportunity to rotate between tables to connect with different HALO staff members. The HALO staff members will come from different areas of Northern Sri Lanka and lead key aspects of HALO's work. They will share their personal stories, discuss their current work at HALO, and speak about their hopes for the future.

This will provide Congressional staff with an opportunity to hear firsthand accounts of life during the civil war, the impact of mine action in the Northern Province, and Sri Lankans' expectations

for the future. This will inform their policy work on demining and U.S.-Sri Lankan relations as well as add context for their time in the Northern Province.

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust Sri Lanka staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** The Fox Hotel, No. 257, Jaffna–Kankesanturai Road (K.K.S. Road), Kokuvil, Jaffna

The entirety of the time allocated for the working dinner will be spent on officially connected activities.

**7:00-7:30 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Jetwing Jaffna Hotel.*

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15:**

**7:00-7:30 AM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to HALO Jaffna office.*

**7:30-8:30 AM: Working breakfast with briefing at HALO Jaffna office**

Breakfast with a detailed briefing on HALO Sri Lanka's demining operations in the Northern Province, including current contamination challenges, community impact, operational priorities, and the historical context of the Muhamalai Forward Defence Line and surrounding minefields. A minefield safety briefing will also be provided ahead of the day's field visits.

This briefing will provide Congressional staff with detailed operational and historical information necessary to safely observe demining operations. It will also help inform policy discussions regarding U.S. foreign assistance, U.S. State Department Conventional Weapons Destruction programs, and the U.S. Army Strategic and Low Intensity Conflict Demining Program.

**Presenters:** Vithoozen Antony, The HALO Trust, Operations Manager

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** HALO Trust Jaffna office, 12 Nallur Cross Road, Jaffna

The entirety of the allotted time for the working breakfast will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

**8:30-9:30 AM:** *Transportation by rental vehicles to USDA Feeding Program school* with **presentation en route by HALO**

Travel by rental vehicle to a local school. This school is on the edge of the Muhalamai minefield, on land HALO has cleared. During transit, HALO staff will brief staff on conflict dynamics in Northern Sri Lanka and the effects of explosive contamination on local fishing, livelihoods, agriculture, and community resettlement. This drive also provides an opportunity to answer questions about HALO's operations and sites seen on the trip thus far.

This will prepare Congressional staff for their field visits the rest of the day by providing important context on the village. Staff will learn about the humanitarian and economic impacts of landmine contamination and how demining supports recovery and sustainable development, which is important for policy discussions on conventional weapons destruction programs.

**Presenters (in each vehicle):** Vithoozen Antony, The HALO Trust, Operations Manager, Hannah

Picton, Program Manager, HALO Trust Sri Lanka; Matthieu Guillier, Senior Program Officer, HALO Trust Sri Lanka; Chris Whatley, The HALO Trust (USA), Executive Director, Jessica Micheni, Deputy Program Manager, The HALO Trust

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff, Chris Wanner, Deputy Program Manager for the U.S. Army Strategic and Low Intensity Conflict Demining Program.

**Location:** En route to primary school

The entirety of the allotted time for the journey will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

**9:30-10:30 AM: Visit to a USDA Feeding Program school**

Staff will visit a USDA Feeding Program school**,** the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, a U.S. food assistance initiative that reduces hunger and improves literacy and primary education. The school is on land previously cleared by HALO. Staff will see the feeding program in action (serving brunch) and be able to interact with the school, staff, and chef.

By seeing U.S.-funded nutrition programming firsthand, staff will be able make more informed decisions on USDA policy matters and food security efforts.

**Presenters:** Micah Olad, Chief of Party for the USDA Food for Education and Child Nutrition program, Save the Children; Tanapalasingam Ramashwarran, School Principal

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** Primary school on HALO-cleared land on the edge of the Muhamalai Forward Defense Line Area, Northern Province

**10:30-10:35 AM:** *Transportation by rental vehicles to Sector V Farm.*

**10:35-11:05 AM: Visit to HALO-cleared Sector V Farm and meetings with beneficiaries**

Staff will meet with beneficiaries of HALO's demining work at Sector V Farm, including the Farm Manager, Jeevaradinam Pavikumar. Sector V Farm was cleared by HALO, and beneficiaries will share the impact of landmine clearance on their lives and livelihoods.

This field visit will demonstrate the real-world impact of U.S.-funded humanitarian demining activities. The visit will assist Congressional staff in understanding the relationship between demining, food security, economic development, and long-term stability, and the applications of U.S. demining technologies and assistance.

**Presenters:** Jeevaradinam Pavikumar, Sector V Farm Manager

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, HALO Trust staff, ECF staff

**Location:** Sector V Farm on HALO-cleared land on the edge of the Muhamalai Forward Defense Line Area, Northern Province

**11:05-11:40 AM:** *Transportation by rental vehicles to ReeCha Organic Farm.*

**11:40-12:40 PM: Working Lunch with HALO and U.S Army Strategic and Low Intensity Conflict**

**Demining Program representatives at ReeCha**

Lunch with representatives from HALO and Chris Wanner, Deputy Program Manager for the U.S. Army Strategic and Low Intensity Conflict Demining Program (SLIC-Demining) at ReeCha, an organic farm, restaurant and hotel on land cleared by HALO. ReeCha provides employment opportunities to the local community, and is the first of its kind in the Northern Province, demonstrating the impact of landmine clearance on local agriculture and economic development.

Lunch will include a briefing from representatives from SLIC-Demining on advancements in demining technology, operational challenges in heavily contaminated environments, and applications of research and development efforts in humanitarian mine action.

This briefing is important for Congressional staff to gain a deeper understanding of the current state and future of demining technology, including the role of the Department of War in advancing demining equipment for military and humanitarian use, which is important for defense and foreign affairs policy discussions.

**Presenters:** Chris Wanner, Deputy Program Manager, U.S. Army SLIC-Demining Program

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** ReeCha, Kottandarkulam, 42556, Sri Lanka

The entirety of the allotted time for the working lunch will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

**12:40-1:05 PM:** *Transportation by both rental and HALO vehicles to the main Muhamalai HALO Control Point* **with presentation en route by HALO**

Transportation to the Muhamalai Forward Defense Line. During transit, HALO staff will brief participants on the history of the conflict in the region, patterns of contamination, clearance priorities, resettlement efforts, and remaining humanitarian challenges.

This briefing will provide additional details that will help Congressional staff understand the long-term impacts of conflict, and the implementation and impacts of U.S. demining efforts, which is key to their policy work on U.S. demining work. It will also prepare them for the minefield visit.

**Presenters (in each vehicle):** Vithoozen Antony, The HALO Trust, Operations Manager, Hannah Picton, Program Manager, HALO Trust Sri Lanka; Matthieu Guillier, Senior Program Officer, HALO Trust Sri Lanka; Chris Whatley, The HALO Trust (USA), Executive Director, Jessica Micheni, Deputy Program Manager, The HALO Trust

**Participants:** Congressional staff; HALO Trust staff; HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** En route to Muhamalai

The entirety of the allotted time for the journey will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

**1:05-1:15 PM: Stop at HALO Control Point to pick up and fit Personal Protective Equipment**

**1:15-1:30 PM:** *Transportation by HALO vehicle through HALO-cleared land to the minefield.*

**1:30-3:25pm: Tour Muhamalai minefield**.

Participants will visit Muhamalai minefield, one of the most heavily contaminated areas remaining from Sri Lanka's civil war, that is being cleared using mechanical assets including technology developed by the SLIC-Demining program.

Participants will observe U.S.-supported Amphibious Excavator equipment being used to clear a technically challenging lagoon task, which will demonstrate the role of technological innovation and the SLIC-Demining program in enabling landmine clearance.

HALO operational staff will conduct demonstrations of the mechanical demining equipment and brief attendees on the scale of contamination, history of the former defense line, land release methodology, and how communities recover following clearance. Congressional staff will also witness the safe demolition of landmines via burning.

This minefield visit will synthesize all the information learned throughout the trip and will allow staff to witness first-hand a large demining operation. Seeing demining in action, along with the same demolition of mines, will demonstrate the scale of U.S.-supported demining operations and will help emphasize the impact of demining, as seen during the rest of the trip through visits to HALO-cleared land.

**Presenters:** Vithoozan Antony, The HALO Trust, Operations Manager

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** Muhamalai Forward Defence Line Area, Northern Province

**3:25-3:30 PM:** *Transportation by HALO vehicle to local village.*

**3:30-4:00 PM: Meeting with local beneficiaries, including resettled IDPs**

Congressional staff will then meet with local community members and beneficiaries of landmine clearance to understand how land has been developed post-clearance, including new infrastructure projects and ongoing resettlement of long-term IDPs.

This field visit will demonstrate the real-world impact of U.S.-funded humanitarian demining activities. The visit will assist Congressional staff in understanding the relationship between demining, food security, economic development, and long-term stability, and the applications of U.S. demining technologies and assistance.

**Participants:** Kayathiri Kumaran, Field Coordination Associate, UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO); Kandasamy Mugunthan - Field Project Officer – Northern region, United Nations Development Program (UNDP); Varunanathan Kajananan – Program Associate, World Food Program (WFP); Vairamuthu Vijayaratnam , President – Rural Development Society (RDS); Kulanthaivel Sivathasan , President – Elders' Society; Ponnu Selvaraja , Member of RDS and former president of RDS; Sutharseelan Sutharraj , Youth representative; Abraham Johnkeen , Poultry farmer; Jasmin Cloria , President – Women Rural Development Society (WRDS); Tharshiny Sureshkumar , Secretary – WRDS; Jeyavathany Thiyasharan , Treasurer – WRDS; Lakshala Gunaseelan , President – Women Action Society (WAS); Thutheeswary Suvarnakumar , Member of WAS and farmer; Amala Daisy Paramanantham, Farmer; Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** Inthirapuram Village Community Center, Kilinochchi District, Northern Province

**4:00-5:30:** *Transportation by HALO vehicle to Jetwing Jaffna Hotel.*

**5:30-6:30 PM: Time to refresh**

**6:30-7:30 PM: Working dinner with reflections on the day**

Dinner with informal discussion led by HALO staff on reflections from the minefield visit and conversations with beneficiaries, highlighting relevance to U.S. conventional weapons destruction and food security policy.

This discussion will tie up the themes of the days and provide the opportunity to connect demining programming to broader food security policy considerations relevant to Congressional oversight and legislative responsibilities.

**Presenter:** Kristen Stevens, The HALO Trust (USA), Director of Congressional Affairs and Strategic Engagement, Chris Whatley, The HALO Trust (USA), Executive Director

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, Chris Wanner, Deputy Program Manager, U.S. Army SLIC-Demining Program, ECF staff

**Location:** Jetwing Jaffna, 37, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Jaffna 40000, Sri Lanka

Half of the allotted time for the working dinner will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16:**

**7:15-8:30 AM: Working breakfast with briefing from Jaffna business community**

Breakfast with representatives from the Jaffna business community to discuss the intersection of demining, food insecurity, and economic development in Northern Sri Lanka, and where they see opportunities for growth and investment.

This briefing is relevant to the Congressional staff's official duties because it demonstrates how U.S.-supported mine action supports broader development outcomes and complements other nutrition, food security, and economic development and stability programming fu nded by the United States, which will inform their policy work.

**Presenters:** Nilanthi Wejesooriya, General Manager, Jetwing Jaffna; L. Jekhan Aruliah, Social and Commercial entrepreneur in Jaffna

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** Jetwing Jaffna, 37, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Jaffna 40000, Sri Lanka

The entirety of the allotted time for the working breakfast will be spent covering officially connected activity.

**8:30-9:00 AM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Jaffna Teaching Hospital* **with presentation en route from UNICEF**

UNICEF representative to brief group on teaching hospital, review key malnutrition themes and answer additional questions about health challenges and opportunities in Sri Lanka. This briefing is critical to help prepare participants for the visit and to crystallize key areas to engage staff.

**Presenters:** Sarmili Thurairetnam, Child Protection Officer, UNICEF

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**9:00-10:00 AM: Visit to the Nutrition Unit Jaffna Teaching Hospital**

Visit the Nutrition Unit in the Jaffna Teaching Hospital where severe malnutrition cases are referred to see how RUTF is being delivered in Sri Lanka, including a discussion with RUTF beneficiaries and caregivers. Prof. M. G. Sathiadas, Chair and Professor of Pediatrics, will facilitate the discussion and provide an explanation to participants.

This visit is relevant because it allows Congressional staff to observe the implementation of the nutrition and health interventions. Seeing these programs firsthand will allow them to understand how international development and humanitarian programs address malnutrition at the community level and help form their approach to future policy work.

**Presenters:** Prof. M. G. Sathiadas, Chair and Professor of Pediatrics, Jaffna Teaching Hospital; Sarmili Thurairetnam, Child Protection Officer, UNICEF

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** Teaching Hospital Jaffna, M288+968, Hospital St, Jaffna 40000

**10:00-10:30 AM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Maternal and Child Health Clinic.*

**10:30-11:30 AM: Visit Maternal and Child Health Clinic for MMS/MMN Services**

Visit an MMS/MMN clinic to observe programming supporting maternal and child nutrition, community health, and preventative healthcare services. Participants will meet with medical personnel and program staff to learn about nutritional interventions, challenges facing vulnerable populations, and efforts to reduce malnutrition in Northern Sri Lanka.

This visit is relevant because it allows Congressional staff to observe the implementation of the nutrition and health interventions. Seeing these programs firsthand will allow them to understand how international development and humanitarian programs address malnutrition at the community level and help form their approach to future policy work.

**Presenters:** Doctor Poonkothai Thayaladeva, Medical Officer of Health; Sarmili Thurairetnam, Child Protection Officer, UNICEF

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** Maternal and Child Health Clinic, Government Health Centre (GHC), Allankulli, Sandilipay, Jaffna District, Northern Province

**11:30-12:00 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Jaffna Jetwing Hotel.*

**12:00-1:00 PM: Working lunch and discussion on HALO's work in the Info-Pacific region**

Lunch at the Jaffna Jetwing Hotel. The HALO Trust (USA)'s Chris Whatley and Kristen Stevens will provide a briefing on HALO's U.S.-supported demining work in the broader Indo-Pacific region, including impact on malnutrition.

This opportunity is important so that Congressional staff can connect information they learned in Sri Lanka to broader demining and malnutrition programming in the region, and inform regional and global policy work in Congress.

**Presenters:** Chris Whatley, The HALO Trust (USA), Executive Director; Kristen Stevens, The HALO Trust (USA), Director of Congressional Affairs and Strategic Engagement

**Participants:** Congressional staff, HALO Trust staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** Jetwing Jaffna Hotel

The entirety of the allotted time for the working lunch will be spent covering officially-connected activity.

**1:00-2:00 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Jaffna International Airport.*

**2:00-4:00 PM: Airport security, flight to Ratmalana International Airport, Colombo. ***Flight time changed due to weather constraints.

**4:00-5:00 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Sheraton Colombo Hotel.*

**5:00-6:30 PM: Check-in to Sheraton and time to refresh**

**6:30-7:00 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon Restaurant*

**7:00- 8:30 PM: Working dinner and final reflections on Sri Lanka visit**

Dinner at Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon Restaurant. The HALO Trust (USA)'s Chris Whatley and Kristen Stevens will lead a discussion reflecting on key themes from the visit, including humanitarian demining, food security, malnutrition, post-conflict recovery, and U.S. assistance programs in Sri Lanka. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss lessons learned and how observations from the visit relate to broader U.S. foreign assistance and policy priorities. Antony Chandradas from The HALO Trust to provide history of Dutch Burgher Union and cultural significance.

This discussion is important because it provides an opportunity to synthesize information gathered throughout the visit and will connect both the demining and nutrition programming to broader policy considerations relevant to Congressional oversight and legislative responsibilities.

**Presenters:** Chris Whatley, The HALO Trust (USA), Executive Director; Kristen Stevens, The HALO Trust (USA), Director of Congressional Affairs and Strategic Engagement, Antony Chandradas, The HALO Trust, Office Manager – Colombo, Sri Lanka

**Participants**: Congressional Staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff, ECF staff

**Location:** Sheraton Colombo Hotel

**8:30-9:00 PM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Sheraton Hotel*

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17:**

*Participants depart Colombo, Sri Lanka.*

**2:50-3:00 AM:** Check out of Sheraton Colombo Hotel

**Participants**: Congressional Staff, HALO Trust (USA) staff

**Location:** Sheraton Colombo Hotel

**3:00-3:50 AM:** *Transportation by rental vehicle to Bandaranayake International Airport*

**6:50 AM-12:50 PM:** Flight: Turkish Airlines 731, Bandaranayake International Airport (Colombo, Sri Lanka) to Istanbul Airport (Istanbul, Türkiye).

**2:30 PM-6:15 PM:** Flight: Turkish Airlines 9, Istanbul Airport (Istanbul, Türkiye) to Los Angeles International Airport (Los Angeles, CA)

**Participants:** Deepa Patel

**3:50 PM-7:45 PM:** Flight: Turkish Airlines 7, Istanbul Airport (Istanbul, Türkiye) to Washington Dulles International Airport (Washington, DC)

**Participants:** Congressional staff (not including Deepa Patel), HALO (USA) staff, ECF staff