



PEACE FOR THE PEOPLE OF KOSOVO  
Clearing the Last Remnants of War



## About The HALO Trust

**HALO is the largest humanitarian landmine clearance organization in the world. We save lives and restore communities threatened by landmines and other remnants of war, such as unexploded ordnance, cluster munitions, stockpiles of small arms, and improvised explosive devices (IEDs).**

Our work prevents casualties, allows relief agencies to provide immediate aid, and helps displaced families return home to rebuild their lives. Demining enables communities to construct schools and hospitals, facilitates infrastructure development, and catalyzes economic growth.

Princess Diana's 1997 walk through a minefield in Angola made landmine removal a global priority, resulting in the adoption of the Mine Ban Treaty. While millions of mines have been removed, mines still cause indiscriminate harm to vulnerable communities to this day.



## Where we work

Born out of work in Afghanistan, which began in 1988, we now have nearly 8,000 staff working in more than 20 countries and territories around the globe.

## We have destroyed over:



1.6m mines



12.1m pieces of ordnance



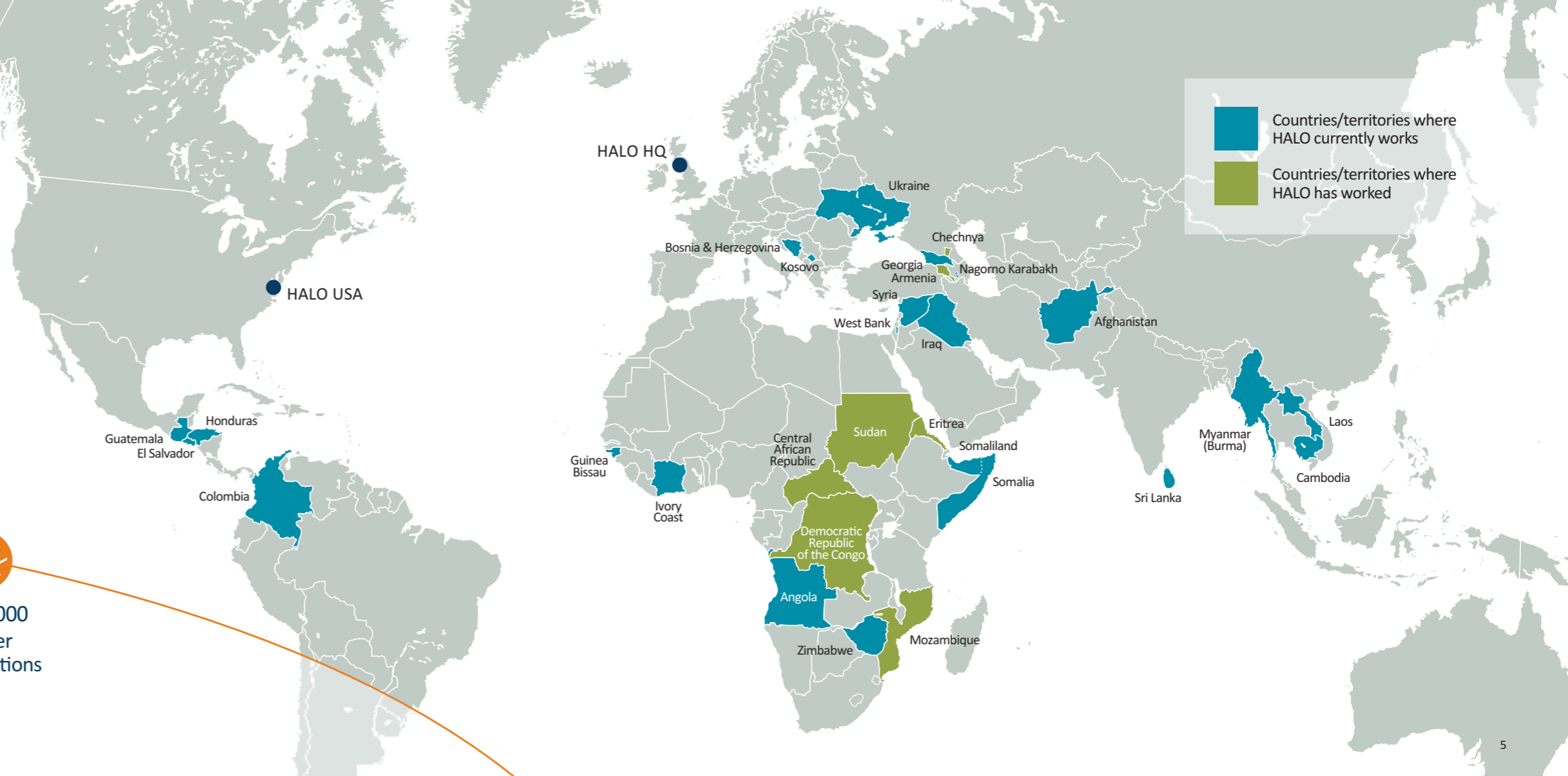
55m bullets



193,000 guns



225,000 cluster munitions



“ We knew that mines had been laid during the war, but nothing prepared me for the first time I spotted one. I was scared to death; it was a terrible feeling. ”

*Valon Thaqi, Krivenik Village, Southeast Kosovo*



## The problem in Kosovo

**Kosovo was contaminated by landmines and cluster munitions during the conflict between Yugoslav forces and the Kosovo Liberation Army in the late 1990s.**

In 1999, NATO forces, which included US assets, bombed Yugoslav targets in Kosovo over 78 days. They released 1,392 bombs containing 295,700 cluster munitions. With a failure rate estimated between 10 and 20 percent, several thousand unexploded cluster munitions littered the countryside after the conflict, becoming buried in fields and family gardens. Many remain today.

Landmines are designed to function when stepped on and unexploded cluster munitions can detonate when mishandled or struck by a spade or plow. Families trying to meet their basic needs for survival – growing crops, gathering wood, or collecting water – face extreme risks in their daily lives.

# What we do

## Demining

Manual demining forms the backbone of our clearance operations. It is slow and painstaking, but when we hand over land we can be absolutely sure that it is free of mines and explosives.

We use the latest ground penetrating radar to make clearance as efficient as possible (*pictured right*).



## Cluster Munition Clearance

Cluster munitions are designed to scatter over wide areas. HALO uses specialized detectors and mapping technology to ensure that all areas needing clearance are made safe. In addition to searching for buried cluster munitions, HALO also removes and destroys other bombs that have been collected by civilians.



## Survey

HALO collects information to determine the scope, locations, and impacts of mines and cluster munitions in Kosovo. The perceived scale of the problem is sometimes larger than the reality, because perceptions are based on fear and unreliable information. With over 30 years of experience, HALO's detailed survey work is thorough, accurate, and evidence-based.



## Impact Monitoring

Whether we are clearing minefields or cluster munition strikes, we track the progress and impact of our work against the needs identified during the survey. After our work is complete, we measure the impact by establishing how the land is used. We track the difference clearance has made to the lives of those who use the land and to the wider community.

## The difference we've made in Kosovo

Since 1999, HALO has been working to make Kosovo safer by destroying landmines, cluster munitions, and other remnants of war.

“ We are very thankful to HALO because now we feel safe and secure. ”

*Gjyle Murseli  
Debellde Village,  
East Kosovo*





## Toward a mine-free Kosovo

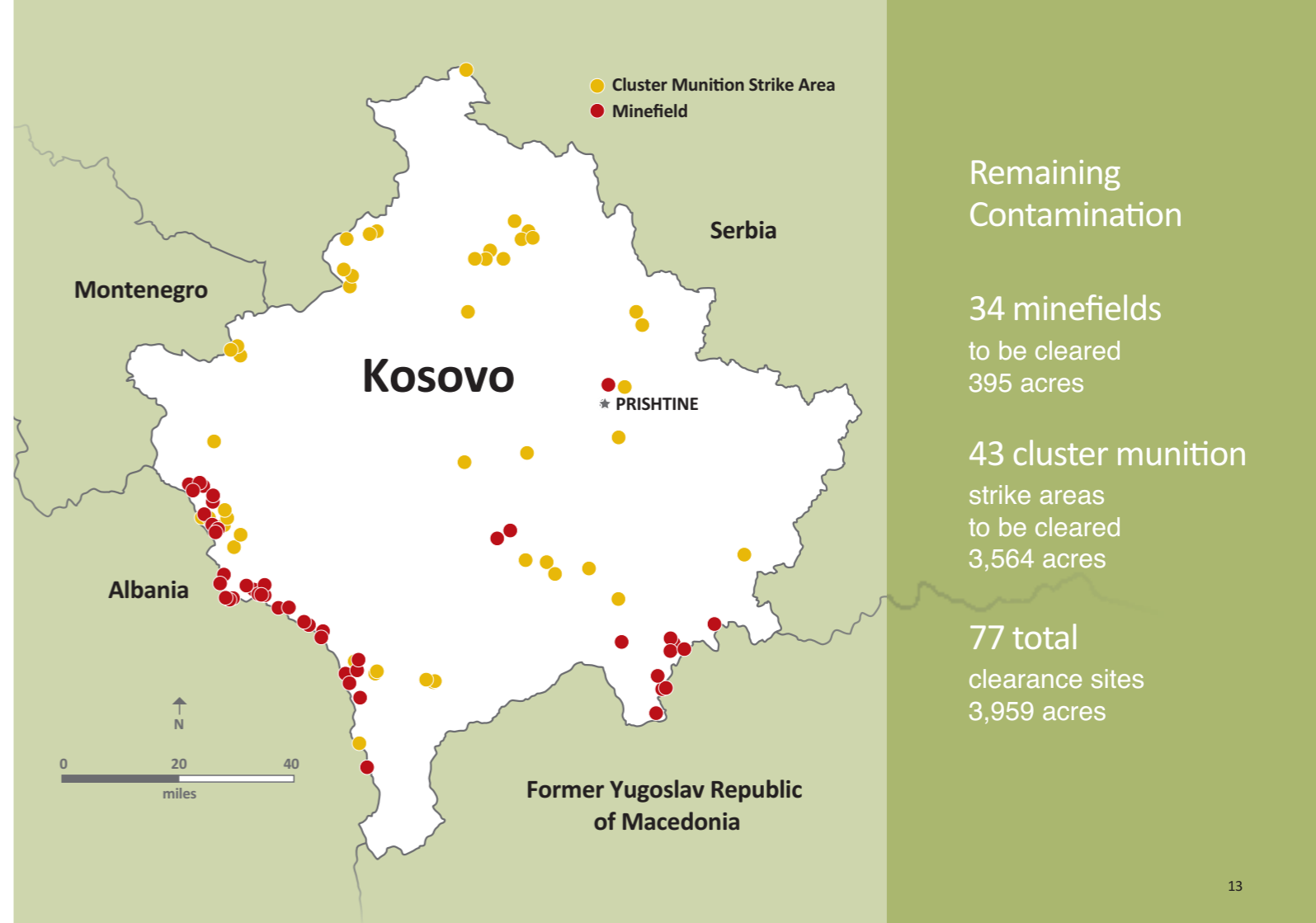
HALO has been working in Kosovo since 1999, complementing the work of the Kosovo Security Force, but clearance has been slow due to lack of funding.

Today, more than 100 locally recruited HALO staff are clearing land to help restore rural communities. Every day, on average, a deminer can clear 215 square feet for landmines or 1,400 square feet for cluster munitions and other unexploded ordnance.

Together, we can help them clear the way for a brighter future in Kosovo.

“ I can't explain in words what HALO has done for us. You've saved lives here. Our life is now better than it was before the war. ”

*Flamur Berisha, Berisha Village, Central Kosovo*





## Enabling development, transforming communities

Mine and cluster munition clearance is an essential first step to restore post-conflict communities. By removing mines and cluster munitions, we provide safe ground for economic development and productive activities.

Land is a vital source of food and income for rural families. By making more land available for productive use, farmers can cultivate crops in safety. Nationally, agriculture represents nearly 14 percent of Kosovo's economy.

Without the threat of mines or cluster munitions, local residents can lift themselves out of poverty – transforming their communities and improving their livelihoods.





## Saving lives

Since 1999, there have been **580 REPORTED ACCIDENTS** caused by landmines, cluster munitions, and other unexploded ordnance in Kosovo.

Our work prevents casualties and provides families with a greater sense of safety.



## Providing employment

The national unemployment rate in Kosovo is approximately 30 percent, with 53 percent youth unemployment, and over 80 percent unemployment among women. The problem is particularly acute in rural areas, where minefields and cluster munition strikes represent the greatest threat.

By hiring and training local women and men to clear their own communities, we help get families back on their feet. Our deminers earn a living wage while helping to make their villages, schools, and farms safer.

HALO provides stable employment to over 100 Kosovars. Each deminer supports not only their immediate family but also the local economy.



“ I’m able to look after my family of four with this job, and I’m very happy that I am helping my country. ”

*Labinot Baraku, Deminer*

## Spread the word

To talk about how you can partner with HALO for this lifesaving project, please contact Erika Cupples:

[erika.cupples@halousa.org](mailto:erika.cupples@halousa.org)  
or +1 (202) 331-1266

## You can help clear the last mines and cluster munitions in Kosovo

The people of Kosovo can't do it alone – and neither can we. Join us and your gift will be matched dollar for dollar.

### Online

[www.halotrust.org/donate](http://www.halotrust.org/donate)

### By check

The HALO Trust (USA), Inc.  
1730 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Suite 206  
Washington, DC 20036

Please include a note with your check stating that your donation is for the Kosovo campaign. All donations are tax deductible.





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