GLOBAL HALO TRUST MINE ACTION PROJECTS WITH MULTIPLE SPHERES OF CHANGE

An Independent Evaluation of the HALO Trust 2016-2020
Mine Action Programmes Funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

February 2021

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GLOSSARY

Durable solutions - Durable solutions are achieved when displaced persons no longer have any specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination on account of their displacement. It can be achieved through sustainable (re)integration at the place of origin (voluntary return), local integration in areas where displaced persons take refuge or in another part of their country based on their choice. For refugees, it can also be achieved through resettlement in a third country. (ReDSS)

Gender mainstreaming - Action that recognises, accounts for, and generalises practice on gendered power relations. Gender mainstreaming in mine action recognises that programming never takes place in a vacuum, but instead in social and cultural contexts where different power dynamics exist and therefore where mine action does not benefit women, girls, boys and men from different backgrounds commensurately. Gender mainstreaming best practice also recognises intersectionality, where gender interacts and compounds other factors such as race, class, religion, income, professional status, and/or land access. (GICHD)

Human security - An approach that addresses the cross-cutting challenges affecting the survival, livelihood and dignity of all people. The people-centred approach contrasts to definitions that focus on the security of the state. The human security framework emphasises reductions in violence and fear; is comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented, and strengthens the protection and empowerment of all people. (United Nations Human Security Unit; Dutch MFA Development[1])

Mine action - Mine action comprises a set of activities aimed at reducing the risks from landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war. The five main pillars of mine action are clearance; mine risk education; victim assistance; advocacy and stockpile destruction. (GICHD, UNMAS)

Resilience - A concept with differing definitions. Donors and mine action sector stakeholders often use resilience in terms of people's abilities to respond to, absorb and navigate shocks - such economic or climactic shocks. Resilience links with the capabilities approach, including people's agency to create change in their own lives. "In the context of exposure to significant adversity, resilience is both the capacity of individuals to navigate their way to the psychological, social, cultural and physical resources that sustain their well-being and their capacity individually and collectively to negotiate for these resources to be provided and experienced in culturally meaningful ways." (ODI, Sen, Unger).

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - Global goals adopted by all United Nations Members States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. (UNDP)

Triple nexus - Triple Nexus is "an operational imperative where the development, humanitarian and peace-related actors need to take account of each other's actions – and possibly collaborate – to be efficient and effective because their activities have impact on each other and each actor is affected by the broader context where peace, development and humanitarian action interacts as well" (ICVA).

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[1] Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (nd.). Development Cooperation, Security and the Rule of Law, Human Security. Accessed at: https://www.dutchdevelopmentresults.nl/theme/security-and-rule-of-law#srol_security

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIM	Abandoned Improvised Mines
AP	Anti-personnel (mine)
AVM	Anti-vehicle mines (also known as anti-tank mines)
CORE	Community Outreach and Risk Education
CS	Case Study
DMAC	Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (Afghanistan)
EORE	Explosive Ordnance Risk Education
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
IMAS	International Mine Action Standards
IMSMA	Information Management System for Mine Action
KII	Key Informant Interview
MA	Mine Action
MACM	Mine Action and Cluster Munitions [Programme of the Netherlands]
MAPA	Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
MFA	[Netherlands / Dutch] Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MRE	Mine Risk Education
NTS	Non-Technical Survey
OECD-DAC	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development - Development Assistance Committee
RE	Risk Education
SEMA	Somalia Explosive Management Authority
SSI	Semi-structured interview
ToC	**Theory of Change**
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
VfM	Value for Money

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The evaluation of the Dutch MFA-funded 2016-2020 HALO Trust mine action programme

Samuel Hall evaluated the global HALO Trust 2016-2020 programmes funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) as part of the wider Mine Action and Cluster Munitions (MACM) programming. The HALO Trust conducted mine action across eight projects: Afghanistan, Colombia, Kosovo, the West Bank (Palestinian Territories), Somalia, Somaliland, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen. With over 16 million US dollars in funding, HALO conducted landmine/ERW clearance, explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), and victim assistance (VA), in order to prevent injuries and death, return land to local communities and increase people's resilience.

The independent Samuel Hall evaluation, which took place from September 2020 to March 2021, assessed the performance of the global programme along OECD-DAC criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, impact and sustainability. Primary data collection mainly took place in Afghanistan, Somalia and Somaliland employing a community-based, mixed methods approach, with other programmes assessed through the literature review and key informant interviews. The fieldwork consisted of 552 quantitative surveys, 18 focus group discussions and 24 interviews with community members across nine communities. In addition, 22 key informant interviews with HALO staff and government stakeholders were conducted as part of the desk research phase.

Summary findings – Largely successful along OECD-DAC criteria

The evaluation found that the HALO Trust mine action programme largely succeeded along the OECD-DAC criteria. The Dutch MFA-funded mine action resulted in multifaceted impact across physical security, economic resilience and social spheres. Landmine/ERW clearance and EORE significantly increased people's physical security and safety, and local communities put released land to productive use through a range of livelihoods activities. 92.7% (512 of 552) of people living next to the Dutch-funded HALO Trust clearance in locations across Afghanistan and Somalia/Somaliland said their physical security had increased as part of the Samuel Hall evaluation research. 87.8% (n=485) responded that their livelihoods improved and 89.1% (n=492) that they had improved resilience (better able to adapt to shocks) as a result of the mine action. The mine action also increased access to essential services, improved people's mental health and wellbeing, and fostered more cohesive communities.

The HALO Trust was found to be efficient, especially supported by the long-term and flexible funding provisioned by the Dutch MFA in the grant arrangement. In terms of effectiveness, the HALO Trust predominantly met or exceeded their programmatic targets which aligned with the core objectives of the programme. These objectives and the mine action programming were found to be highly relevant to the Dutch MFA's MACM programme, to local governments, humanitarian-development stakeholders, as well as communities themselves.

However, external coherence could be improved by strengthening linkages with other humanitarian and development organisations in an effort to consolidate their potential position at the heart of the triple nexus (of the humanitarian, development and peace agendas). The results of the mine action should continue, if not accelerate, in the medium-to-long term with landmines/ERW removed forever, meaning that benefits should continue into the future. The evaluation found that HALO Trust could further extend or maximise positive changes regarding productive land use and other positive impacts resulting from their work through stronger emphasis on sustainability regarding the environment, natural resource management and links with development that happens on land after it is cleared.

Three areas of lessons learned from the combined HALO country projects

Three areas of lessons learned from the eight combined HALO country projects were presented as part of emerging good practices. Lessons emerged on data-driven action; sectoral links; and local mine action. This included specific lessons on the potential for inclusive mine action programming adapted to difference - such as more tailored programming to enhance the protection of vulnerable groups, including nomads and displaced persons who constitute large population groups in many of HALO's programmes. Lessons were also found on research; EORE; the need to strengthen safeguarding; and how funding used as a foundation for new country projects or areas were likely to pay dividends over time.

Recommendations

Along the spheres identified in the lessons learned, four overarching recommendations are presented based on the findings, lessons learned and conclusions. The first recommendation links to the following three:

1) **The HALO Trust face the impetus to balance their operational strengths with a renewed emphasis on outcomes and impact** – or how mine action connects with changes in people's lives.

2) **The HALO Trust have an opportunity to further their research and learning agenda** to more robustly demonstrate the impacts resulting from their work.

3) **The HALO Trust can also pursue meaningful partnerships as they situate their mine action at the heart of the triple nexus** of the humanitarian, development and security spheres.

4) **Finally, the HALO Trust should accelerate their gender mainstreaming,** which has been an area of significant gains across the 2016-2020 period.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

I.   Programme background

The mine action sector has made vital progress to reduce landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) and the pronounced harm they engender since the HALO Trust was first created in 1988.[2] Despite this, landmines/ERW continue to cause high numbers of civilian casualties and inhibit sustainable development globally.[3] The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) are a major donor for global mine action, including through the Mine Action and Cluster Munitions (MACM) 2016-2020 clearance programme.[4] [5] As part of the 2016-2020 MACM, the Dutch MFA provided US$16,319,643 in funding to the HALO Trust to conduct mine action projects across eight country projects.[6] The HALO projects where the Dutch MFA grant funded mine action for some or all of the 2016-2020 funding period were: Afghanistan, Colombia, Kosovo, the Palestinian Territories (The West Bank), Somalia/Somaliland, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen.

Figure 1. HALO Country Projects funded by the Dutch MFA 2016-2020 MACM
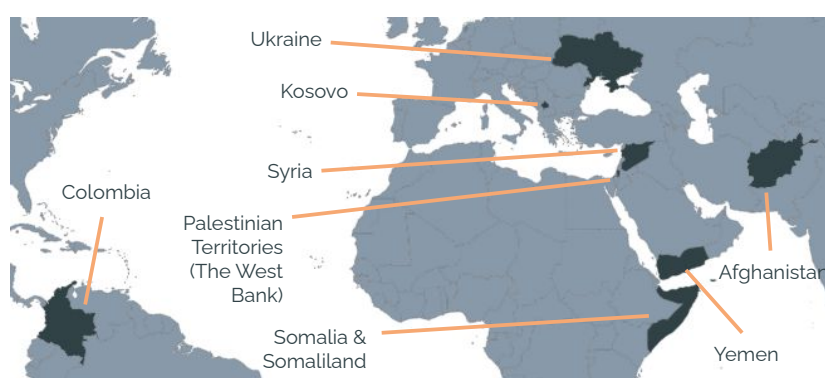
The overall objectives of the Dutch-funded HALO programme were to: 1) Improve human security through decreasing the risk of death and injury, and 2) Enhance resilience and decrease poverty by returning land to productive use. These core objectives aligned with the emphasis of the overall MACM and of the Dutch MFA as an international humanitarian and development donor with a focus on human security, stability in fragile states, personal safety and livelihoods impacts. These points of emphasis span both the lifesaving humanitarian work related to people's physical security as well as the notion of longer-term development effects that stem from the release of cleared land.

Each Dutch-funded HALO project had its own slightly modified theory of change (ToC), linking HALO activities with the intended outcomes and impacts aligned with the description above. A synthetic recreation of these ToCs shows the flow from HALO mine action with the intended changes in the areas of intervention in Table 1.

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[2] GICHD (2014). GICHD Guide to Mine Action - Chapter 1: Introduction and History of Mine Action
[3] Landmines and ERW were responsible for at least 5,554 casualties including 2,170 deaths worldwide in 2019. International Campaign to Ban Landmines – Cluster Munition Coalition (ICBL-CMC) (2020). Landmine Monitor 2020.
[4] The 45-million-Euro grant under the Dutch MACM included funding for the HALO Trust, the Mine Advisory Group (MAG), and Danish Church Aid (DCA) from 2016-2020, for fourteen (14) countries. The final evaluation for the MACM grant as a whole: Keeley, R., Gasser, G. and Wels, M. (2019). "Evaluation of the Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme of the Netherlands 2016-2020". Transtec and Transition International.
[5] The Dutch MFA proceeded with a new grant from 2020-2024, of which the HALO Trust successfully tendered for new project funding.
[6] To situate this funding, donors provided a combined US$650 million in funding for mine action in 2019.International Campaign to Ban Landmines – Cluster Munition Coalition (ICBL-CMC) (2020). Landmine Monitor 2020. Funding has progressively decreased over the past decade despite mine action advocates calling for funds to address increasing numbers of civilian casualties, especially in conflict zones from improvised mines, the Ottawa Convention (formally The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction) with obligations for mine-free status countries, and the multiple other spheres of landmine/ERW impact.

Table 1. Synthesised Theory of Change for the Dutch-funded 2016-2020 HALO Trust Programme

INPUTS	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	IMMEDIATE OUTCOMES	HUMAN SECURITY OUTCOMES	IMPACT
Netherlands Funding HALO personnel - Demining - Community Outreach and Risk Education (CORE) - Victim's Assistance (VA) - Support Staff Equipment Local & Global Information, Knowledge & Experience	Survey & Re-Survey Manual Clearance Mechanical Clearance ERW Callout Response Data collection Mine Risk Education Victim's Assistance Capacity building for local mine action coordination authorities Training Coordination between mine action stakeholders	Land Release Explosive hazards destroyed Callouts attended Community Risk Education Sessions Victims Assisted Personnel Employed & Trained Increased Capacity of mine action national authorities	Direct & indirect beneficiaries benefit from land release Socio-economic reconstruction with service access, infrastructure, agriculture & livestock Communities feel safer, increasing well-being Reduction of accidents Poverty reduction and sustainable development Improved livelihoods opportunities reducing disaffected civilians who could engage in violence/conflict	Improved safety & security Enhanced resilience through sustainable livelihoods Gender inclusive access to basic services, material resources & formal / informal justice Reduction in & prevention of incidences of violence Reduction in outwards migration Sustainable peace, security & stability	Increased resilience / ability to cope with shocks Sustained conditions for human security Space for inclusive development

The HALO Trust used the Dutch MFA funding primarily to mobilise teams of manual and/or mechanical deminers as well as community outreach and risk education (CORE), Victim's Assistance (VA) and support staff.7 Funding was also used to support the establishment or consolidation of new country projects, such as in Yemen and Somalia, or areas of operations, such as Valle del Cauca in Colombia. The Dutch funding of HALO Trust activities occurred alongside funding streams from other international donors within HALO Trust country programmes. Project activities were principally conducted by the HALO Trust. A small number of partnerships were established on a country project basis, such as with a Victim Assistance (VA) organisation in Afghanistan, and remote management through a local organisation in northern Syria. The HALO Trust also worked closely with local mine action authorities and/or stakeholders across all their Dutch-MFA funded projects. **The eight country projects covered diverse contexts** - both geographically, as well as in the characteristics of the socio-political and landmine/ERW situations. Some countries were experiencing conflict, such as Yemen, Afghanistan, Syria and Somalia, while others such as Kosovo were more stable politically. Each of the project areas also had significant heterogeneity within the countries in terms of the landmine/ERW conditions and the environment for the subsequent HALO response. Table 2. provides a synoptic overview of the different country projects, their funding cycle, grant size and major pertinent features.

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7 Community liaison and risk education activities are combined by the HALO Trust. The evaluation uses the Community Outreach and Risk Education (CORE) designation, while other mine action component terms such as mine risk education (MRE) and explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) may be used in the report interchangeably while referring to activities of educating population groups on the risks of landmines, ERW and unexploded ordnance.

Table 2. Synopsis of HALO Trust projects funded by the Netherlands 2016-2020

Programme	Start Date	End Date	Funding (US$)	Overview Description
Afghanistan	1 Sep 2016	31 Aug 2020	$7,199,707	Dutch-funded teams operated in multiple provinces, including Samangan and Balkh where primary data was collected. The Dutch MFA also funded Abandoned Improvised Mine (AIM) survey and clearance operations by HALO studied in the concurrent Samuel Hall AIM Impact Assessment.
Colombia	1 Jan 2017	31 Dec 2018	$1,449,689	Dutch funding supported mine action activities in central Colombia's ethnically and linguistically diverse regions. The Dutch funding allowed the HALO Trust to commence operations in the department with funding across the 24-months contract period supporting manual clearance, non-technical survey (NTS), mine risk education (MRE) and events investigations. 50% of staff employed were women.
Kosovo	1 Sep 2016	31 Aug 2020	$382,435	Kosovo has experienced accelerated landmine/ERW clearance and is aiming to move towards mine free status. HALO Kosovo entailed a strong gender mainstreaming emphasis. There was also advocacy for the inclusion of mine action in the Kosovo development strategy, alongside a formal socio-economic survey for those living near minefields, aimed at understanding the impact of landmines/ERW and mine action over time.
Somalia & Somaliland	1 Sep 2016	31 Aug 2020	$2,555,030	The HALO Trust commenced operations in Somalia in 2015, with a focus on the South-Central Somalia. Activities include battle area clearance, community outreach and risk education (CORE) and manual clearance of landmines/ERW and battle area clearance (BAC). HALO Somalia worked with Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining's (GICHD) Gender and Mine Action (GMAP) unit in an evaluation and survey in 2020 to enhance HALO Somalia's gender inclusivity.

HALO have been operating in Somaliland since 1999, as they work towards the region's mine free status. HALO are conducting landmine/ERW clearance activities for large minefields in Somaliland's interior areas, close to the border with Ethiopia. |
| Syria | 1 Sep 2016 | 31 Aug 2020 | $950,362 (North)

$558,087 (South) | HALO's northern Syria operations are conducted through a third-party organisation. HALO provide remote management, training and support from Amman, Jordan with a presence in Turkey. The activities in northern Syria focused on community outreach and risk education (CORE) and victim's assistance (VA), with planned progress to explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) reassessed due to cross-border restrictions. |
Ukraine	1 Jan 2017	13 Dec 2019	$781,769	Conflict in Donbass in the East of Ukraine has led to the country being one of the most mine-affected globally. The HALO Trust are conducting mine clearance, survey activities, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) and mine risk education (MRE) across the Ukrainian government-controlled areas. HALO's advocacy efforts led to the passing of the Law on Mine Action in 2019 and materialised in the formal handover of HALO-cleared areas to communities for the first time in the same year. HALO works closely with mine action stakeholders to enhance the coordination in the country. HALO Ukraine successfully lobbied the Ukraine government to change laws allowing women to work as deminers, part of the project's gender mainstreaming achievements.
West Bank (Palestine)	1 Sep 2016	31 Dec 2018	$382,949	Dutch MFA-funding supported the HALO clearance of five minefields in the West Bank (Palestine), predominantly used for agriculture. HALO activities were supported by Georgian, Palestinians and Israeli staff.
Yemen	1 Aug 2017	31 August 2020	$1,225,945	HALO operations commenced in Yemen with the support of the Dutch MFA funding, and centred on training, capacity building, and operational set-up as HALO got a foothold in the country in response to escalating landmine/ERW

				contamination resulting from the Yemen civil war. The funding supported the foundations of HALO mine action during a major humanitarian crisis, with expectations of high clearance needs over the decade ahead.

II.   Evaluation background

The objective of the Samuel Hall Final Evaluation was to assess the performance of the 2016-2020 programme and to inform the HALO Trust and Dutch MFA with findings, recommendations and lessons for future mine action. The evaluation of the 2016-2020 Dutch MFA-funded programmes was a requisite component of the grant. The scope was intended to provide an overview of the global HALO programming along OECD-DAC criteria and key associated research questions within the constraints of a post-facto evaluation. The research concentrated on how the programme was implemented and the major results of the mine action programme. Particular attention was given to the perspectives of people living proximate to landmines/ERW and HALO Trust mine action to better understand their views of the implementation, as well as of the outcomes and impact. **The best people to provide information on the impact of landmines are the beneficiaries themselves, living proximate to landmines/ERW.**

Table 3. Final Evaluation OECD-DAC Criteria Framework and Research Questions

RELEVANCE	1) To what extent were the HALO Trust-implemented programmes consistent with the Netherland's priorities and with stakeholders within each country of implementation, including landmine/ERW affected local communities and people?
COHERENCE	2) Externally, were the programmes compatible with other interventions in each of the countries, each country's mine action efforts, and broader humanitarian and development interventions linked to intended outcomes and impact? 3) Internally, to what extent was there coherence of the projects in terms of: i) Overall objectives; ii) Programme purposes; iii) Expected Results; iv) Activities; v) Assumptions / preconditions; vi) Theory of Change?
EFFECTIVENESS	4) To what extent were the programmes' objectives achieved? This includes the: i) extent of achievement of projects' objectives and purposes; ii) realism of assumptions required to translate projects' purposes into the projects' results?
EFFICIENCY	5) To what extent did the HALO Trust programmes deliver results in an economic and timely way? The efficiency with which the activities were undertaken in order to yield planned results. This includes: i) Organisation and management arrangements (funding, structures, human resources, responsibilities and contractual arrangements such as grant contracts); ii) The value-for-money; iii) Management capacities of the coordination structures and mechanisms, including for monitoring & planning; iv) Alternatives which may have been most cost effective
IMPACT	6) What have been the foreseen and unforeseen impacts from the HALO programmes, whether they are positive or negative? This includes a comparison of the situation immediately prior to the implementation of the programmes with the situation after completion of the interventions.
SUSTAINABILITY	7) To what extent are the net benefits from the mine action interventions likely to continue, with emphasis on: i) acceptance and ownership; ii) appropriate technology; and iii) institutional and management capacity?

The evaluation covered all eight HALO projects but geographical coverage of primary data collection focussed on Afghanistan, Somaliland and Somalia. These three programmes formed some of the largest Dutch-funded project components and offered a comparative geographical and project diversity. The other projects were evaluated through desk research and key informant interviews with HALO Trust programmatic staff.

Figure 2. Primary data collection with community members took place in Afghanistan, Somalia and Somaliland. Here, a focus group discussion in the Interior of Somaliland.

The independent evaluation by Samuel Hall commenced in September 2020 and concluded in March 2021. The primary data collection was conducted concurrent to the desk research in order to better understand and evaluate the programme in its entirety.

Table 4. Evaluation Timeline Overview

Phase	Timeline	Overview
Inception	Sept 2020-Oct 2020	Kick-off meetings with Afghanistan and Somalia/Somaliland. Inception Key Informant Interviews and literature review. Design of the methodology and tools.
Desk Research	Nov 2020-Jan 2021	Ongoing desk review of HALO Trust documents, data and other literature. Remote Key Informant Interviews with HALO Trust staff across the different country programmes, along with other key informants. Overlap with Field Research.
Field Research	Nov 2020-Jan 2021	The Field Research phase consisted of primary data collection activities and fieldwork in Afghanistan, Somalia and Somaliland. This phase also included preliminary data analysis and sense-making.
Synthesis: Analysis & Reporting	Jan 2021-March 2021	The final phase consists of analysis of the mixed methods data along with the key evaluation themes. It culminates in the Final Evaluation Report and the AVM/AIM Clearance Impact Assessment.

Methodology - The research consisted of mixed methods primary data collection including both quantitative surveys and qualitative research tools. Samuel Hall conducted qualitative research – Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Interviews – together with 552 number of quantitative surveys in select HALO Trust mine clearance locations Afghanistan, Somaliland and Somalia. This mixture of methods was used to collect insights on the projects from the community perspective, to combine with findings from the desk research. The literature review centred on HALO Trust reports and documents together with wider literature related to mine action. Key Informant Interviews were conducted with HALO Trust programme staff and relevant government officials to provide a high-level overview of the Dutch-funded programmes.

Sampling - The community-based data collection approach comprised nine Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) across Afghanistan, Somalia and Somaliland. The PSUs consisted of community and household clusters located close to the Dutch-funded mine clearance and those who used the land most. PSUs were selected in a way that ensured geographical diversity while taking access limitations and changes into account. To cover further potential beneficiaries of mine action, data was also collected from outside the target PSUs. Semi-structured interviews (SSI) were conducted with a small number of nomadic pastoralists.

For further information on the methodology, the detailed evaluation methodology appears in Annex 3.

Figure 3. A focus group discussion in Afghanistan discussing the HALO Trust programme Implementation and Impacts

Methodology Overview

9 Communities, 3 Countries
Primary Data Collection

18 Focus Group Discussions

19 Interviews with community leaders, nomads, IDPs, returnees and victims

552 **Quantitative Surveys**

5 Child Pair Interviews To better understand mine action from the perspective of children

22 Global Key Informant Interviews with government stakeholders and HALO Trust staff
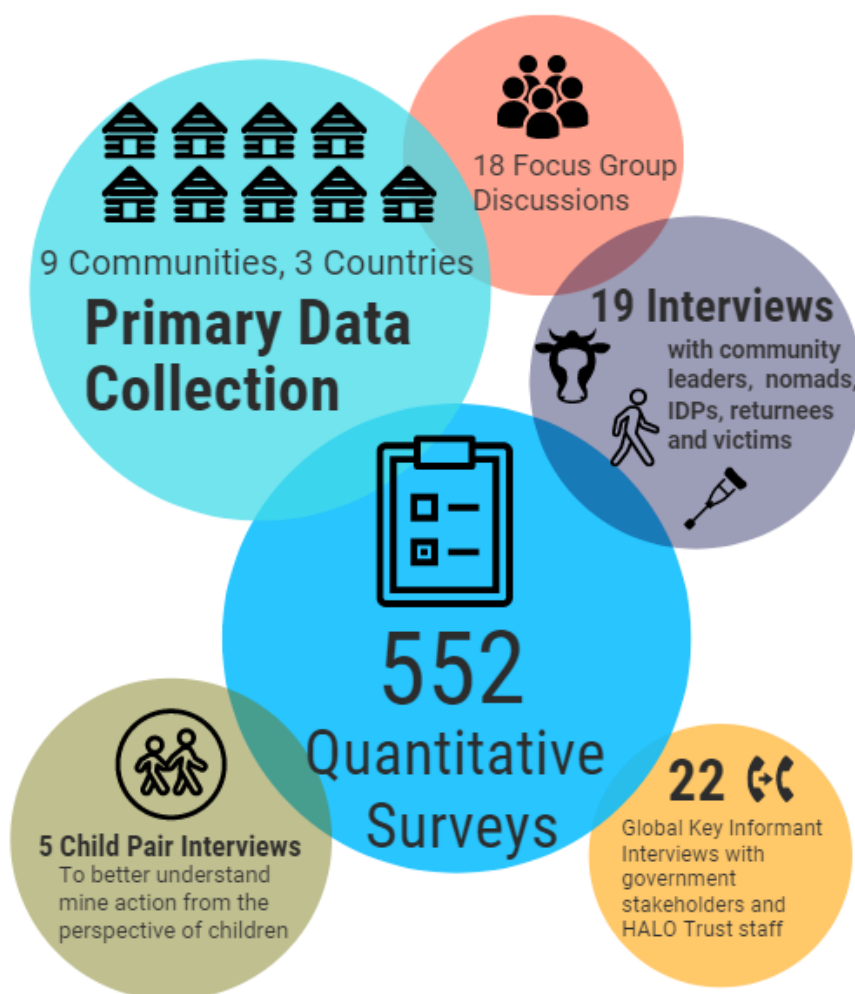
EVALUATION FINDINGS

The Dutch-funded HALO Trust programming from 2016-2020 spanned eight projects and multiple different types of context and mine action programming specificities. Across these country projects, the evaluation found:

Multifaceted impact from mine action and landmine/ERW clearance on people's lives and livelihoods

Progressive improvements in HALO Trust gender mainstreaming across the four-year funding cycle, which were more pronounced in some country projects compared to others

Efficiencies in HALO Trust operations, including from the Dutch long-term funding model and flexible approach

Uneven external coherence, despite nascent links and the importance of HALO Trust mine action for other interventions

An organisation and programming that is well-positioned at the heart of local communities' needs and the triple nexus

I.   Multifaceted impact on people's lives

Both the HALO Trust as the mine action implementation partner and the Netherlands as a donor did not solely focus on outputs of metres squared cleared, devices destroyed and number of people participating in risk education. Instead, there was a broader focus on the changes in people's lives. This recognises that mine action has far-reaching implications in communities that are proximate to landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). These changes can be understood in a framework of three major spheres of impact[8]:

1. Physical security sphere - Lifesaving, humanitarian mine action which prevents or precludes people losing their lives or being maimed by landmines and explosive remnants of war.

2. Economic sphere - The freeing up of land holds transformative power to increase economic opportunities for people. Prior to mine action, land could not be used, or only used in a limited fashion, with the constant fear of threat to one's life.

3. Social sphere - Which spans mental health, access to services and stability or social cohesion. The removal of landmines/ERW affects people's mental health and psychosocial wellbeing, their ability to access services such as education and health, as well as holding implications for community stability and social cohesion.

The evaluation found that the HALO Trust mine action funded by the Netherlands has had major effects across these three spheres, with impacts that mutually reinforce each other as the spheres overlap.

"There have been a lot of changes in our community because of the mine action. Civilian casualties have decreased. Before, these lands were not used for more than 30 years due to the landmines. Now, we use the cleared lands for agriculture, cultivating barley and wheat. As the mountainsides and pastures have been released of landmines, we can herd livestock there without issue. We also use the forests and the land for pistachios, bringing us many advantages."
Male community member, Balkh Province, Afghanistan [FGD14]

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[8] HALO Trust staff members supported the identification of these three spheres of change - KII1 [HALO Somalia]. They match Ananda Millard and Kristian Harpviken's framework which employs similar categories, with an "economic field; human field; and social field". See Ananda S. Millard & Kristian Berg Harpviken (2001). Community Studies in Practice: Implementing a New Approach to Landmine Impact Assessment with Illustrations from Mozambique.

The Mine Action Impact Assessment (Figure 4), a set of indicators designed by Samuel Hall as an external tool, provides a visual overview of HALO Trust's indicative contribution to different dimensions of impact, from central objectives including security and resilience, to other areas of their impact spheres described above.

Figure 4. Samuel Hall Mine Action Impact Assessment for HALO Trust 2016-2020 Mine Action programmes.[9]

Mine Action Impact Assessment
(MAIA) Indicator
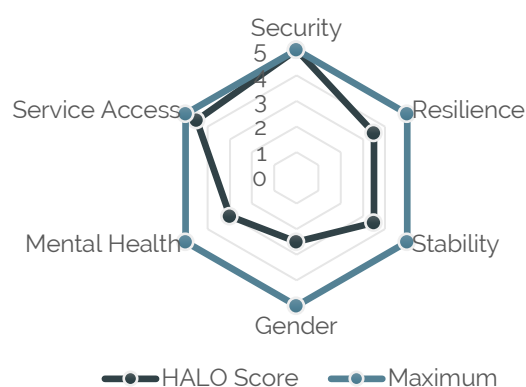
After Dutch MFA-funded HALO Trust mine action, people's lives changed across multiple spheres and dimensions, including in physical security, livelihoods opportunities and mental health related to landmine/ERW clearance.

1a) Improving people's safety and physical security

Almost all participants reported improved physical security and safety as a direct result from the mine action. Most of the cleared areas had been contaminated for decades and community members knew many people who had been injured or killed. 63% (n=423) of survey participants responded that there had been at least one civilian casualty in the area from landmine/ERW accidents. The vast majority of these respondents knew of more than one casualty. An Afghan man stated: *"Too many people have lost their lives or been injured due to lack of awareness. We have had more than 100 casualties. For example, our neighbour was killed by a landmine. We have had casualties every year for over 30 years. About four years ago, we had five martyrs and injured ones."*[10]

Landmine/ERW clearance by HALO changed the situation dramatically. A man in Somalia explained *"Before the intervention the mine risk was high. We were committing suicide or gambling with our lives, because if you went to the bush to collect firewood, you never knew whether or not you would come back. But after intervention we can go to the cleared sites for domestic uses."*[11] Another man in the focus group discussion quickly agreed: *"Before the intervention we were dead people walking, because the danger was imminent. But after the intervention, the situation improved."* At a different location in Somalia, men also highlighted the major changes that have occurred in people's physical security. They described the many painful incidents that occurred between 1991 and 2015 with the nearby battle area, while noting that these have stopped since the HALO Trust mine action.[12]

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[9] The Samuel Hall designed scores derive from an analysis of quantitative and qualitative analysis.
[10] FGD14 [Male FGD, Balkh Province, Afghanistan]
[11] FGD6 [Male FGD, El Barde, Somalia]
[12] FGD7 [Male FGD, Guriel, Somalia]

Figure 5. Improved physical security resulting from mine action

Improved Physical Security Resulting From Mine Action

No 40

Yes 512

93% (n=512) of the 552 quantitative participants responded that they had experienced improved physical security as a result of the mine action. Of the 40 participants who responded that they did not, 20 lived in a Somaliland village situated on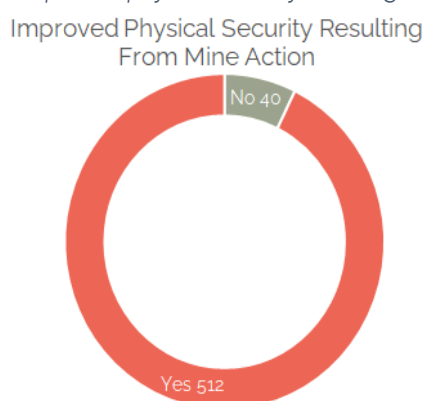 the border with Ethiopia where the HALO Trust were not permitted to conduct clearance on the Ethiopian side of the border, and where there was a landmine accident killing community members in the weeks prior to the survey.

These connections between the programming and increased physical safety were drawn globally. The HALO Trust were operating in contexts where there were continual civilian casualty incidents from landmines and ERW, and across the eight country projects found that perceptions of safety increased amongst beneficiaries.[13]

"The changes here are immense. All the pastures, agricultural lands, and mountains are demined, and people live out their lives without the fear of landmines. Before the HALO Trust came, when someone got injured during an explosion, as we were trying to save the injured person's life, we would have to send goats or sheep in front of us in order to see whether landmines would explode or not."
Male community member, Samangan Province, Afghanistan [FGD18]

The programme also improved the physical safety of children. In 2019, 43% of all civilian casualties globally were children under the age of 18.[14] In that same year in Afghanistan, children made up 51% of the 1,519 recorded civilian casualties.[15] Yunus and Amrullah[16] in Afghanistan participated in a child pair interview for the evaluation to gain the perspective of children on the Dutch-funded HALO Trust programmes.[17] Yunus' favourite subject at school is biology and his hobby is hunting, while Amrullah likes volleyball and running in the hills. Both hunting and running were made possible by the HALO Trust clearance operations. As part of the research, the two boys drew a map to visually show the areas of landmines/ERW and the changes in the community resulting from their clearance.

Yunus explained: *"The areas we showed in the pictures were contaminated with landmines. Before demining, people were not able to move around there. Four people had a landmine accident there. After demining, people take their livestock there for grazing, as well as people go there for sightseeing. Young people go there for hunting – and people collect bushes, ferula, and pistachios. Some people also collect stones from the mountains for construction purposes."* Amrullah added: *"I know the four people in our community who were injured by the landmines. But after demining, no one has had any landmine accidents. Since the landmines have been cleared, people can move around with peace of mind."*

Similar accounts emerged from Somaliland and Somalia. In Somaliland, another boy recounted: *"Once a kid from our community found a landmine and didn't have any knowledge of what it was. He wanted to use it to make a bell to place around goats and camels. The landmine exploded and the kid lost his fingers in that tragic accident. Luckily, it was a small explosion and didn't do much damage."*[18] Since the Dutch-funded HALO Trust operations, the children, and their parents, feel much safer. *"Before the landmine clearances we couldn't even go play sports on the fields because of fear. Now we get to play on the fields, we can take our cattle out for grazing and also fetch water."*

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[13] KIIs and Literature
[14] Landmine monitor 2020. The percentage comprises the total of where the age of the civilian casualties was known.
[15] DMAC, IMSMA Database. In 2019, there were 1519 recorded casualties: 780 were children, 739 were adults.
[16] Names have been changed
[17] CPI3 [Child Pair Interview, Afghanistan]
[18] CPI2 [Child Pair Interview, Somalia]
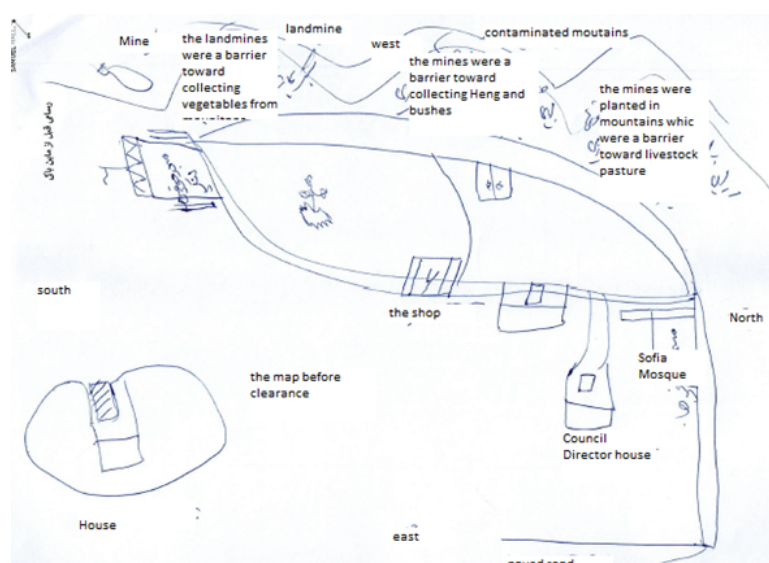
Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) and people's safety

In addition to clearance, which directly removes physical security threats, the HALO Trust also implemented CORE activities. These were found to be beneficial to people's safety during the time period of clearance, which often spanned multiple years of the 2016-2020 funding cycle. Risk Education is also important in contexts where there may be further contamination that was not cleared. This is notably the case because 60.3% (n=333) of surveyed participants responded there were still remaining landmines/ERW in the area that had not been cleared.[20] Almost every survey participant who had completed risk education since 2016 (n=268)[21] responded that they deemed it very important to their safety.

In Somalia, HALO conducted twelve focus group discussions with 141 participants (51 female, 90 male) *prior* to risk education activities. While a high number of people recognised which areas were safe and which were not, eight of the twelve groups cite unsafe practices "such as moving the items to the bush and collecting them to store away from children."[22]

The EORE helped raise awareness and led to people employing safer practices. Evaluation participants noted that they often did not know what different landmines looked like, but now they could recognise suspicious items and avoid them. Children would be able to report such incidents. People in the community were now more aware and more cautious.[23] Alongside the actual landmine/ERW clearance, HALO's EORE activities were found to also improve people's safety, especially during the period before landmine/ERW clearance completion.

Figure 7. Importance of risk education to respondent's safety

How important was the risk education to your safety?

- Neutral
- Important
- Very important

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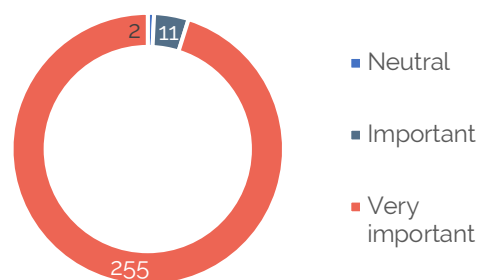
[19] The English translations cover the Dari explanations. "Heng" Is ferula, grown as a cash crop in lands made newly accessible by the demining. "Bushes" are used as fuel for cooking and heating.
[20] 552 total responses. A further 40 responded that they did not know whether there were remaining mines that had not been cleared.
[21] 296 in total, 28 people had done it prior to 2016.
[22] LR53 - HALO Trust (2020). SOM NL Annual Report 2019
[23] FGD1 [Female FGD, Somaliland]

Ib) Livelihoods from lands cleared of landmines/ERW

Alongside decreasing threats to physical security, the Dutch-funded HALO Trust mine action also contributed to the resilience of local communities living proximate to demining locations through increasing the availability of land for productive use. The mine action directly opened up a range of livelihoods options and released land back to the community that was being used for agriculture, pastoralism and resource gathering.

> *"All around Chenargai and especially the mountainous areas were contaminated with mines, but in 2016, the HALO Trust office educated us on the risks and after consulting with people, they started to decontaminate the area. In the same way, they cleared both private and public lands which were previously impossible to use in order to grow, graze animals, or collect wood."*
> Male community member, Samangan Province, Afghanistan [FGD18]

Figure 8. Chenargai, Samangan, Afghanistan. While winter snows blanket the mountains, the cleared lands are used to grow cash crops including ferula and carraway seeds, pasturelands and to allow locals to collect wood and brush for fuel.

Landmine/ERW clearance increased the land available for agriculture, which was quickly acted upon in most communities. This was particularly true for Afghanistan where 87% (n=151) of survey respondents mentioned farming as one of the main activities the land was used for, compared to an average of 47% for Somalia (n=88) and 44% for Somaliland (n=81). In Samangan province in northern Afghanistan, cash crops were planted in the hillsides cleared of landmines. Ferula and caraway seeds were especially popular, as they fetch high market prices and the community members saw an opportunity with the expansion of available land needed to cultivate the crops.[24] One participant in Samangan noted that people's economic situation and income had improved thanks to increased crop cultivation, in turn leading to community members returning to the area from Pakistan where they had previously gone because of the lack of work in the area.[25]

Figure 9. The uses of land after landmine/ERW clearance across the main Dutch-funded HALO Trust programmes

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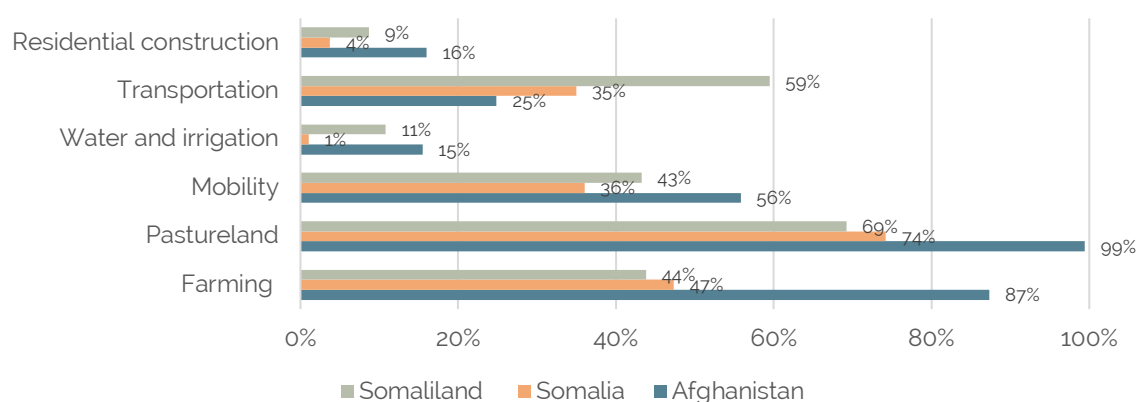
[24] CLSSI3 [Community Leader, Samangan Province, Afghanistan]
[25] FGD18 [Male FGD, Samangan Province, Afghanistan]

Mine action has been especially pertinent for improvements in livestock grazing in Afghanistan and Somalia/Somaliland. Landmines/ERW blocked access to grazing lands or made it dangerous to access them. A child in Somaliland explained: *"The landmines blocked us from doing and accessing a lot of things such as taking cattle out for grazing, fetching water from close by sources... They were blocking all of the grasslands and water pools near the village."*[26] Increased access to pastureland through demining also largely benefited the nomadic populations. A nomad in Somalia indicated that *"the land was chosen to fit the needs of the community and the grazing land was prioritised due to the high number of nomads in the area."*[27]

Figure 10. Cleared pastureland in Somaliland marked by blue-painted stones

Prior to landmine/ERW clearance, pastoralists and their livestock were particularly vulnerable to landmines and ERW. Along with the deaths and injuries of people, **there has been a very high number of livestock animals killed while grazing.** Almost half of all survey respondents across Afghanistan, Somalia and Somaliland have had livestock animals killed by landmines/ERW (44.6%, n=246). The losses include a large number of sheep, goats, donkeys, cows and camels. As a HALO Trust report from Somalia described, the loss of livestock can be financially debilitating for families: *"The loss of a camel is devastating to a Somali family, whose average monthly income is far less than the cost of a male camel at $1500."*[28] Among survey participants alone, 108 respondents from Somalia/Somaliland (of 371 total respondents, 29.1%) reported having lost between one or more camels to landmines or explosive remnants of war, representing hundreds of thousands of dollars of livestock. Similar tolls occur across all the programmes and different livestock animals.

Figure 11. Number of survey participants with animals killed by landmines/ERW (of total n=552)
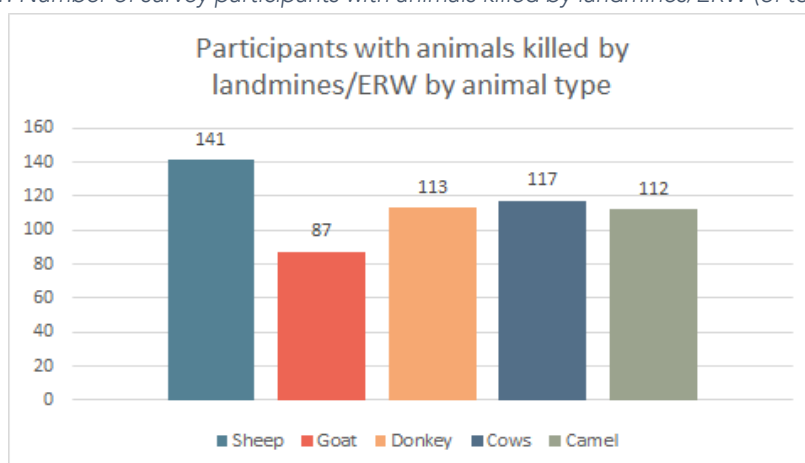
After landmine/ERW clearance, beneficiaries were able to herd their animals without fear and the apprehension of losing expensive livestock. This contributed to increases in household income, as more animals and derivative products such as milk could be brought to market for sale.

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[26] CPI1 [Child Pair Interview, Saya Bari, Somaliland]
[27] SSI1 [Nomad SSI, El Barde, Somalia]
[28] HALO Somalia NL Annual Report 2019

> *"There were many risks before the mine action and every family was in sorrow. Lots of people have lost their fathers, sons, or other family members. Besides, if a widow would lose her cow, then her family's economic condition would get worse because they were dependent on the cow and its products [such as milk and yoghurt]. But after the mine action, these problems have gone and everybody – male, female, children and animals – is safe now. And in addition to this, livestock herding and agriculture has also developed."*
> Community leader, Kabul Province, Afghanistan [CLSSI1]

Figure 12. Overlooking a village in Khaki Jabar District, Kabul Province Afghanistan. Demined areas are used for rain-fed wheat, pasture access for livestock and natural resource collection.

Finally, landmine/ERW clearance allowed community members**, especially from poorer households, to gather resources from the cleared lands such as wood, brush, stones, herbs and dung.** Because much of the released land in the rural communities in Afghanistan, Somalia and Somaliland is public, this resource gathering increased self-sufficiency and decreased the high costs often associated with winter heating and construction. A female evaluation participant in Balkh province in Afghanistan explained that before mine action, villagers were forced to spend their income buying basic necessities such as firewood, livestock-feeding straw and wheat.[29] Since the completion of demining activities, their economic situation has changed: they are able to gather natural resources and firewood in addition to agricultural cultivation and livestock herding.[30]

1c) Access to services

Beyond access to livelihood opportunities, demining increased access to social services, such as health and education. Prior to landmine/ERW clearance, contaminated land and roads blocked access to schools and medical clinics or hospitals. In Somaliland, some parents banned their children from going to school out fear of mine explosions. These mobility restrictions were strongly felt by children who report how landmine clearance was a relief for them: *"Before the landmine clearance we were scared and worried about going to school. Some parents wouldn't even send their children to school at all. After the landmine clearances we are more confident*

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[29] FGD13 [Female FGD, Balkh Province, Afghanistan]
[30] Similar sentiments were echoed across the research locations in regards to the benefits of resource gathering. A man in Somalia for instance noted: *"Community-members can now collect firewood as well as soil for construction purposes. Basically, whoever wants to go and make use of the cleared land can do so, everybody benefits equally."* FGD6 [Male FGD, El Barde, Somalia]

and less worried and so are our parents and elders."[31] At the same time, pregnant or ill women could not be transported to the nearest hospital using the contaminated road, putting them at a higher risk of life-threatening complications. But after mine action, the situation improved with indirect life-saving consequences for women: *"For pregnant women, this cleared road can be used to transport any emergency case as quickly as possible because it is a good shortcut to the nearest hospital. Before the mine action, we had to take the longer route which is also rough and might cause discomfort to the sick, pregnant woman."*[32]

In villages where the provision of social services was not guaranteed, landmine/ERW clearance encouraged the construction of much-needed infrastructure. For instance, a respondent in Somalia explained that before mine action, the town did not have a secondary school and children had to go to the neighbouring district to pursue their education. Since demining was completed, the town built its first secondary school and now has a functioning hospital. Moreover, the community founded an electricity company and *"some of the mine action staff have shares in the company, hence fulfilling the district's demand for electricity."*[33] Yet, as Figure 12 shows, landmine clearance did not lead to significant increases in access to education and health in Somalia and Somaliland, compared to Afghanistan. This can notably be attributed to the missing links between mine action and development programming.

Figure 13. Improved access to social services as a result of landmine/ERW clearance across the three main Dutch-funded HALO Trust programmes
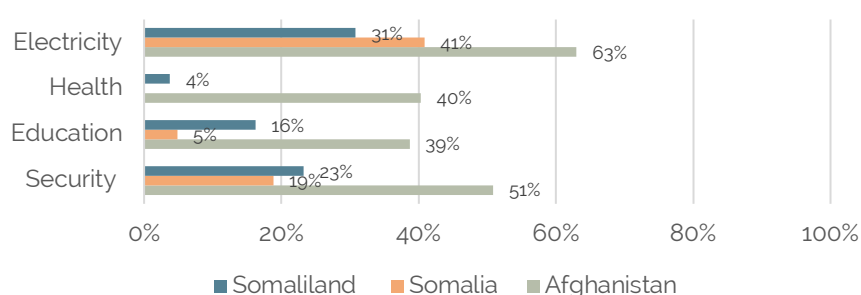
Community-members also stressed the importance of clearing contaminated roads, which facilitated both access to social services and neighbouring markets. As the community leader of a village in Somaliland near to Ethiopian border explained, *"the areas that were cleared are public roads that are used by the whole community for transport – including men, women, children and nomads. The road is also used for herding because it has grassland."*[34] This was further confirmed during focus group discussions, where participants claimed that landmines/ERW were solely contaminating the roads that connected Bixinduule to other villages and, most importantly, to the coastal city of Berbera. In fact, 59% (n=110) of survey respondents in Somaliland stated that the cleared land was used for transportation, among other activities, exceeding figures for Somalia and Afghanistan. Even in those countries, community members pointed out that landmine/ERW clearance helped to build or pave roads. In a village in northern Afghanistan, landmines previously blocked the way to the provincial centre Mazar-e-Sharif and its many services such as hospitals, and it took more than four hours to reach there by donkey. Since clearance, travel only takes one hour along the paved road.[35] Landmine removal from contaminated roads has been crucial in supporting local economic development and allowing pastoralists to sell their products on larger markets.

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[31] CPI1 [Child Pair Interview, Saya Bari, Somaliland]
[32] FGD3 [Female FGD, Bixinduule, Somaliland)
[33] FGD9 [Female FGD, El Barde, Somalia]
[34] CLSSI2 [Community Leader SSI, Bixinduule, Somaliland]
[35] FGD14 [Male FGD, Balkh Province, Afghanistan]

Figure 14. A road cleared of landmines in Somaliland

Id) Stability and peaceful coexistence

Participants reported that, prior to mine action, the presence of landmines/ERW was eroding the social fabric and sparked tensions among community members. Respondents explained disputes would emerge every time a mine incident occurred and villagers solicited the community leader to settle the disagreement. Whenever children got injured in a mine explosion, parents would blame each other and place the responsibility on each other's children, worsening the social climate. Following landmine clearance, the pretext for fighting disappeared and communities are now able to live in a more peaceful environment.

"Once, some children went to the mountain in order to find iron to sell. They all got injured in a mine explosion – and their parents blamed each other's sons for taking them to the mountain. After the mine action, all these issues of conflict are gone." (Female FGD, Afghanistan)[36]

Moreover, HALO Trust's mine action laid the foundations for increased unity among different ethnic groups living in the same province. In Samangan Province, Afghanistan, a respondent stressed: *"Whenever our people see members of HALO Trust no matter which tribe they belong to, be it Pashtun, Hazara, or Tajik, they respect them. Similarly, people of different tribes work with HALO Trust to neutralise the threat of mines. Our people learn from them to unite and follow each other. Education and law have been reinforced here, and violence has been reduced as well."*[37]

Mine action also created the space for NGOs and governments to become more involved in local development, contributing by the same token to the increased sense of security interviewed respondents reported in decontaminated areas. As a result of landmine/ERW clearance, governments are visiting demined communities more often and NGOs are keen to invest in infrastructure-building and livelihoods programming. These recent efforts to improve living conditions appeased community members and contributed to their wellbeing.
"Previously, none of the NGOs had the courage to come here, and when we told the government that we don't have clean water, school, clinic, or electricity, the government used to reply that we didn't have security. Now, different organisations come and safely implement their projects."[38]

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[36] FGD13 [Female FGD, Balkh Province, Afghanistan]
[37] FGD18 [Male FGD, Samangan Province, Afghanistan]
[38] FGD16 [Male FGD, Samangan Province, Afghanistan]

Figure 15. Mine action's impact on peace and coexistence across the three main Dutch-funded programmes
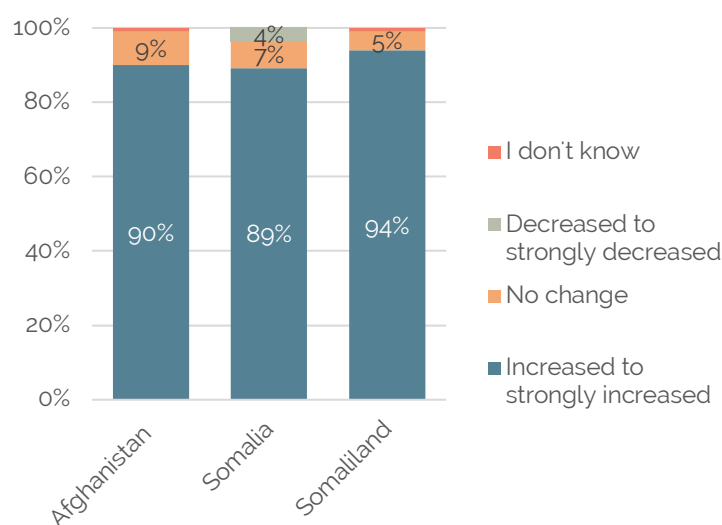
As a by-product of increased governmental presence, mine action returned a sense of law and order in demined communities. In Afghanistan, the government has become more proactive in setting rules, notably on natural resource management, and community members are in a better position to obey the law. *"Currently, we don't feel insecure, and our people obey the law. When my husband goes to the mountains to collect wood, the government forbids him from cutting pistachios or other trees. Nobody infringes on other people's rights anymore."*[39]

In Somalia and Somaliland, participants contended that mine action prevented young people from being co-opted by non-state armed groups. They attributed this to new employment opportunities mine action created, either directly by hiring youth as deminers, or indirectly by allowing them to carry out income-generating activities on the cleared land, including in the construction sector. *"Many young people got job opportunities and were employed which prevented them from joining armed opposition groups in Somalia. This enhanced the state of security in our villages, and diminished youth crimes and insecurity among the community."*[40]

Ie) Mental health and psychosocial wellbeing

HALO Trust's mine action had significant impacts on people's mental health and psychosocial wellbeing. On top of systematic academic reviews detailing **the high comorbidity of anxiety and depression for landmine victims,**[41] **the presence of landmines/ERW had widespread deleterious effects on mental health and wellbeing in participating communities more generally.** Evaluation participants felt less stressed and anxious about going outside, or having their children play in the field. 83% (n=458) of survey respondents stated that people feel less or much less anxious as a result of mine clearance, and the percentage of people who felt it was somewhat unsafe to very unsafe for the children to play outside decreased from 55% (n=305) to less than 2% after mine clearance (n=9). A woman living in Balkh explained that before mine clearance operations, she and other community members used to live in constant fear. *"Actually, we feared the blast of mine, so we compared every heavy sound to a mine blast. Now, our children play on hills and collect wood, but we don't have to worry anymore."*[42] In Somaliland's Bixinduule community, a respondent stated that despite no recent landmine accidents, people were *"worried about getting injured at any time"* before the minefields were cleared.[43] Respondents repeatedly used the terms "peace of mind", "tranquillity" and "stress-free" to describe the current

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[39] FGD13 [Female FGD, Balkh Province, Afghanistan]
[40] CLSSI4 [Community Leader SSI, El Barde, Somalia]
[41] Peter Boyle, Philippe Autier, Colin King, Wim Zwijnenburg, David Hewitson. The effect of explosive remnants of war on global public health: a systematic mixed-studies review using narrative synthesis. *The Lancet.* Vol 2, Iss 6, E286-E296, 1 June 2017.
[42] FGD13 [Female FGD, Balkh Province, Afghanistan]
[43] FGD4 [Male FGD, Bixinduule, Somaliland]

state of living in their village. Some even mentioned the importance of being able to attend their friends' and relatives' ceremonies thanks to the clearance of a contaminated road.

Figure 16. Respondents' attitudes towards children playing outside before and after mine clearance (n = 552)
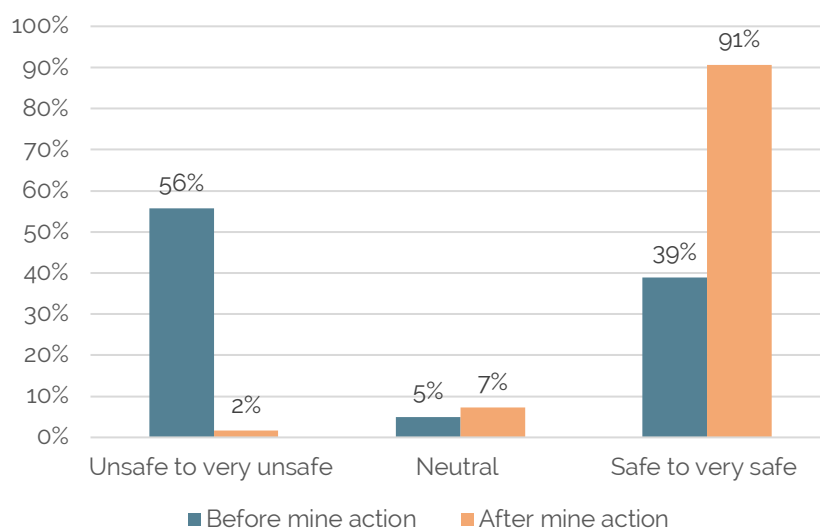
Interviewed children also demonstrated an acute awareness of mine-associated risks and were able to label how they felt before and after mine clearance: *"I feel safer, less anxious, and less sad now that the landmine is cleared from the area."*[44] They reported having more freedom to play in the fields and engage in extracurricular activities such as sports, which contributed to their psychosocial wellbeing. As some did not know what landmines looked like, children stressed the added value of risk education in familiarising them with the different types of landmines, suggesting that it is essential to tailor risk education to the needs of different target groups. Children also described the positive changes they had witnessed in their parents' behaviour after landmines/ERW were removed.

Figure 17. A Child Pair Interview, Somaliland

"We used to feel like prisoners when there were landmines because our parents were scared to let us out. My parents used to always warn us and tell us about the dangers of the landmines and how to keep safe. After the mines were cleared, they don't have to warn us anymore because they know we are safe."
Child Pair Interview, Somaliland [CPI1]

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[44] CPI2 [Child Pair Interview, Guriel, Somalia]

While HALO's demining operations effectively mitigated the negative mental health effects of landmines/ERW on local communities, some research participants considered that the fear never truly goes away, with more profound impacts such as sleeping disorders and trauma still present.[45] A female research participant in Somaliland stated, *"the mine action has lessened our worries and fears but we are still very cautious and afraid of the remaining landmines."*[46] Another respondent confirmed that *"the majority of [us] are still traumatised, and the fear and worries are still present."* Mine explosions after landmine/ERW clearance notably provoke the resurgence of distress and anxiety among local communities. Such incidents reinstate a climate of fear and insecurity, resulting in renewed mobility restrictions and livelihoods decline, as experienced by the Ballidhiig community.

> *"At first, there was some sort of stability and peace after the landmine clearance, but the fear has always been there. Especially after recent incidents. The locals would love for the HALO Trust to come back and try to completely clear the land of explosives and mines. The community was able to coexist freely before the recent explosion, but they cannot move around and cross the border ever since the explosions. Therefore, it is very important for the mine action to return and support us with more clearance. The community again feels unstable and insecure because of the recent explosion and newly found explosives."*
> Community Leader SSI, Somaliland [CLSSI3]

Though recognising the importance of mine action in reducing the constant fear and stress they face, several respondents did not label themselves as mentally ill. For instance, one participant in Somalia contended: *"I think mentally, we don't have any problems."*[47] Such statements point to the low level of awareness of mental health and psychosocial wellbeing that prevail across demined communities, clarifying to some extent the coherence between largely positive quantitative findings and more nuanced qualitative insights signalling long-term repercussion on mental wellbeing. Stronger emphasis could be placed on the delivery of mental health services, victim's assistance and risk education to ensure a comprehensive mine action programming with long-term, multifaceted impacts.

If) Unintended negative impacts and duty of care

While HALO programmes yielded positive multifaceted outcomes overall, some respondents noted unintended negative impacts resulting from mine action. In different locations in Somalia, respondents reported that demining was not always mindful of the environmental ecosystem. Deminers had to cut down trees during the process of landmine/ERW clearance. One participant in Guriceel stated that *"a lot of areas where mine action occurs become pockmarked by holes and are left with almost no trees or vegetation, in effect the absence of plants and trees can amplify the risks of flooding."*[48]

Such practices were thought to speed up deforestation and soil erosion in predominantly agro-pastoralist communities, subsequently undermining the livelihoods opportunities the cleared land could have offered. In these cases, mine action has acted as a double-edged sword, alleviating the risks of landmines/ERW on people's lives and physical security on the one hand, and decreasing their resilience capacities with negative impacts on their living environments on the other hand. As will be discussed later in the report, adopting a more integrated approach that aligns mine action with development priorities could help anticipate and avoid the unintended consequences of mine action.

Mine action was found to have a higher legitimacy and to positively impact people's mental health when undertaken in a rigorous manner. Ensuring that no mines were left behind made a difference in local communities' state of mind and daily attitudes. In Balidhiig in Somalia, respondents reported mine incidents after HALO Trust had completed its demining, bringing back fear and anxiety among the local community. Quantitative data also mirrors this finding with 60.3% (n=333) of survey respondents contending that mines are

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[45] See Graeme R. Goldsworthy, Erica M. Pasini and Hope Rosenbaum, "Measuring the Psychosocial Impact of Mine Action: A Mixed Method Approach," July 2010. The study finds that "mine action alone does not restore individual and community functioning to pre-mined levels." Even those who relocate to areas that have been decontaminated continue to experience high levels of stress and fear.
[46] FGD1 [Female FGD, Balligubadle, Somaliland]
[47] FGD9 [Female FGD, El Barde, Somalia]
[48] FGD7 [Male FGD, Guriel, Somalia]

still present in areas where HALO Trust led its operations.[49] While this figure should be taken with caution, as respondents might have referred to specific locations that were not prioritised by HALO staff, it can serve as a reminder to carry out mine action with care and diligence.

It equally signals a need to communicate on the targets that have been achieved and on the precise locations that have been demined in an effort to empower local communities. To preserve its credibility and to ensure that communities are at zero risk of encountering explosives once mine action operators leave, HALO can call upon external quality control bodies, as it was done in Ukraine, that can attest that previously contaminated lands are entirely cleared of landmines/ERW.[50] When carrying out its demining activities, a systematic account of potential negative externalities can prove useful, especially if the aim is to mitigate those negative effects in a timely fashion and adjust operations accordingly. This holistic impact assessment approach covering positive and negative, direct and indirect, intended and unintended impacts, is decisive for achieving sustainable outcomes.

II.   Donor flexibility: a driver for HALO programming in challenging environments

Donor flexibility together with the four-year funding model were salient in HALO programme design and roll-out. The challenging and rapidly evolving contexts meant that the HALO Trust had to adapt their programming and were not always able to meet projected outputs and outcomes in the early years of the funding-cycle. For instance, the Netherlands' openness eased the launch of demining operations in the south of Yemen and enabled HALO Trust to adjust activities according to the security situation. At the same time, the high levels of flexibility meant that groundwork for the mine action intervention could continue to be laid while political and security changes unfolded. The HALO Trust then demonstrated the ability to meet and often exceed the overall output targets in subsequent years. A high level of donor flexibility is key in politically challenging contexts that can slow down the mine clearance operations. Table 5 summarises the practical implications of the four-year grant.

Table 5. The advantages of the Dutch four-year funding model for HALO programmes

Advantage	Short description
Effective monitoring and evaluation	Mine action impacts are usually visible and measurable at least six months after landmine/ERW clearance. The four-year timeframe allowed HALO programmes that launched their operations with the Dutch grant to examine outcomes over a longer period. This long-term impact assessment was particularly useful in areas where soft activities were undertaken in the first year, which would have not yielded significant outcomes if evaluated shortly after implementation.
Efficient resource allocation	HALO programmes are able to move money from one year to the next in case of underspending. For instance, HALO Somalia moved non-spent money to the following year after receiving funds from another donor to buy a second-hand truck and transport goods to the minefields.
Staff retention and inclusive employment policy	HALO programmes can move teams from one year to the next without breaking contracts. In Kosovo, this has enabled HALO to formulate a coherent gender policy with a provision for parental leave.
Cost-effectiveness and value for money	Multi-annual funding offers an opportunity for long-term investments. In Yemen, HALO was able to purchase expensive equipment, such as vehicles and mine detectors, and ensure their maintenance in the long run.

Many of the outcomes and impacts resulting from mine action and landmine/ERW clearance occur over longer periods of time rather than immediately. This includes crops that can be grown on or near land that has been released after clearance. The crop cycle may not commence immediately after handover, for instance, if it is winter, and after commencing may take six to twelve months to complete and for the positive outcomes and

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[49] 123 of 250 (49.2%) of women and 210 of 302 men (69.5%) responded that mines were still remaining in the area, indicating that gender in the handover process was not a factor for people thinking there were still mines in the area.
[50] KII27 [HALO Trust Ukraine]

impacts to be understood through monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL). Some crops may take even longer than this. The Netherlands funded landmine/ERW clearance in Samangan Province in northern Afghanistan where the evaluation team found communities who have used the released land to plant ferula for the spice asafoetida or hing. The crop will take four years to grow, but is considered highly valuable for sale and export, with research participants discussing the increased income they are expecting in the future. Short-term programmes with corresponding short-term monitoring and evaluation capacities could miss many of these changes that occur in the months and years following clearance, hence overlooking or underestimating the benefits deriving from the programming. The longer-term funding cycles allows for a commensurate monitoring, evaluation and learning to more accurately assess the outcomes and impacts of programming.

The Netherlands' flexibility and open-mindedness were found to be crucial for programme implementation in politically unstable countries. In almost all cases, it provided for the possibility to roll-out activities in an incremental way, starting with "soft activities", such as MRE, in the contract's first year and moving towards landmine/ERW clearance at a later stage. This was the case in Syria, where HALO Trust pioneered the remote management approach: *"Every programme starts with the technical things first, such as dealing with explosive hazards. We've done it the opposite way. We took a very soft approach initially through risk education, contamination impact surveys, victims assistance and data gathering, and lastly, we introduced explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) [in southern Syria]."*[51] Similarly, HALO Colombia realised the importance of investing in activities such as community liaison, MRE and non-technical survey (NTS) from the onset to inform land selection and plan culturally sensitive clearance operations aligned with local communities' needs. As the programme manager stressed: *"If we were to receive new funding to go back to that specific area, we would have a much better idea on how to distribute funds."*[52]

Flexibility was particularly beneficial for recently established programmes. HALO programmes that were set up in a new location with a shifting security and political context could not always reach their targets in the beginning phase. Working with an understanding donor allowed them to adjust their targets and outputs on a regular basis, in line with contextual developments. For instance, HALO Ukraine rolled-out its activities at a slower pace than anticipated, as it was progressively granted access to contaminated areas, namely those adjacent to the line of contact. It also encountered technical challenges that limited its clearance capacities and forced it to review its targets twice.[53] As it started its operations in the south of the country, HALO Yemen also praised the donor's openness and continuous support. *"The Dutch's flexibility is one of their strongest assets. It was absolutely essential in getting HALO Yemen setup given the high long-term needs and minimal capacity. The Dutch's long-term support prevented HALO Yemen from drawing heavily on core resources, which are usually regarded as a buffer."*[54] While strong donor-agency collaboration proved to be a driver for effective roll-out, more cautious planning and prioritisation remain essential to formulate realistic targets and avoid overpromising outputs.

The four-year funding structure was also crucial to carry out demining activities in accordance with local realities. Across HALO programmes, programme managers highlighted the long-term visibility and planning capacity offered by the multi-annual funding model. *"The benefit of the Dutch grant is that it allows us to plan and look ahead. The last few years, we got a better picture of contamination and how long it takes to work in certain areas. We created a prioritisation overview on which we can work to locate areas of highest need."*[55] HALO programmes were able to prioritise activities and set targets on a four-year basis, as opposed to an annual basis. This was particularly useful in volatile environments and offered programmes sufficient leeway to review priorities as the local situation evolved.

III.   Gender mainstreaming in HALO mine action

HALO has made a concerted effort to mainstream gender into the operations and programming, expanding the focus on women in the organisation across the last four years. The gender inclusion policy aligns with the Dutch's priority to ensure women are a central part of rebuilding and peace efforts. Beyond gender mainstreaming,

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[51] KII6, HALO Syria
[52] KII26, HALO Colombia
[53] KII27, HALO Ukraine
[54] KII25, HALO Yemen
[55] KII27, HALO Ukraine

HALO's mine action also contributed to empowering women economically and socially. However, fieldwork has revealed that the shift in mentalities has been uneven across implementation locations. Stronger community engagement and awareness-raising can play a vital role in rebalancing gender dynamics within local communities.

In line with the Netherlands' focus on gender equality, HALO made it a point to increase the share of its female employees across Dutch-funded programmes. In Kosovo, HALO ensured 50% of staff in the two mine action teams funded by the Dutch (alongside the matched donor funding) were women – a significant increase from 2017 when women only represented 3% of HALO Kosovo staff.[56] In an effort to embed gender policy in its standard operating procedures, HALO Kosovo also institutionalised the recruitment and training of mixed gender teams for non-technical surveys. In Somalia, HALO's campaign to encourage women to apply for different operational roles, including deminer positions, has borne its fruit: around 13% of the staff employed under the Dutch funding were women in 2019.[57]

Beyond recruitment, it came to HALO's attention that women's retention rate in employment was lower than that of men. *"Recent statistics show that around 38 women resigned last year [from the HALO Trust Kosovo]. 42% of them stated that one of the key reasons for leaving was family-related."*[58] As a result, HALO has moved its focus from recruitment, towards the retention of female employees and the creation of a work environment that allows women to feel safe, thrive in their careers and progress up the ranks. In Colombia, it trialled new ways of retaining female staff, notably through childcare and day nurseries. In Kosovo, HALO partnered with the Kosovo Women's Network (KWN) to expand its gender policy with the adoption of a childcare stipend and increased parental leave. As this collaboration proved to be highly effective, there is room to further replicate this partnership model in other countries and to tap into the learnings of local women's organisations to overcome gender barriers. In this context, HALO also benefited from the gender and inclusivity training implemented by the Gender & Mine Action Programme (GMAP) addressing underlying assumptions of staff and managers about gender.[59]

The Dutch funding also acted as a catalyst for change by urging programmes to challenge gender stereotypes. Directly after the end of the 2016-2020 contract, women from the Dutch-funded teams were promoted to assistant team leaders. HALO Kosovo noted that the Dutch grant was crucial in allowing women to gain the requisite experience and supporting them to become senior managers within the HALO Trust.[60] Similarly, HALO Colombia is increasingly pushing women to take on more senior roles: *"We were doing exceptionally well in 2019 as 40% of location managers were women. But two left and we inadvertently slipped back to a more slightly male dominated environment. Mentorship for women in more senior position should be promoted to avoid that."*[61] As the gender focus is expanding across HALO Trust programmes, including for countries outside of the Dutch funding such as Bosnia, programme managers note that the next steps are to further anchor the gender policy into wider internal processes.

The increase in female staffing and gender inclusion has not been uniform across all Dutch-funded HALO programmes due to local gender restrictions in different contexts. For instance, Yemen and the West Bank noted that conservative gender societal norms make it hard, and sometimes dangerous, to employ more female staff, though almost all HALO Programmes have women community liaison and risk education staff in order to gather information from women directly. In Colombia, challenges included local indigenous practices forbidding women to cross water while menstruating, but the HALO programme still prioritised increased employment of female staff. Across fieldwork locations, some community member research participants reported that they believed women were solely responsible for risk education and awareness-raising. This was despite the employment of 8 female deminers in Somalia and the setting up of two female-run demining teams in Somaliland.[62] This was justified through gender stereotypes that assume higher female involvement in positions that require *softer* skills

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[56] KII23, HALO Kosovo
[57] 2019 HALO Somalia Annual Report
[58] KII26, HALO Colombia
[59] KII Somalia
[60] KII23, HALO Kosovo
[61] KII26, HALO Colombia
[62] 2019 HALO Somalia Annual Report

(e.g. pedagogical skills). Both female and male respondents in Somaliland argued that landmine clearance was "too dangerous" for women and that men tend to be more "risk prone", explaining their greater contribution to demining activities. Despite women still being restricted to care-taker roles, some changes towards more progressive mentalities can be witnessed.

"Women's future participation in demining activities can be enhanced by equal opportunities for women and men to compete [for jobs], and by encouraging the institution, community leaders, and tribal elders to protect the role of women. Women are the backbone of society. Women can do any type of work, from cooking to clearing landmines. There are many activities that women can even do better than men such as community awareness and reporting information about landmines." (Female FGD, Somalia)[63]

"The involvement of women in the mine action operation in the area was good. The women made remarkable progress as they were acting as reporters to the mine action by showing them where the landmines are exposed and also, they have taken part by digging the earth during the removal." (Male FGD, Somalia)[64]

Gender inclusion was also reflected in HALO programming through direct impacts on women's economic situation. Mine action changed women's lives by allowing them to move freely and access the resources they need to sustain their livelihoods. It also relieved them from part of their workload as they can more confidently ask their children to fetch firewood or herd the livestock: *"Before the mine action, we were afraid to use the help of our children with the housework such as water and wood fetching or livestock rearing, therefore, we had to always do everything by ourselves. Currently, after the mine action, we are able to be supported by the children and send them to work with us without worrying about their safety all the time."* (Female FGD, Somaliland)[65]

IV. Missing Links? Fostering the triple nexus approach and maximising the potential for mine action-development linkages

HALO achieved strong collaboration with local stakeholders in the mine action sector, be they national mine action authorities or local operators in the absence thereof. These interactions have secured HALO's credibility on the ground and provided reliable channels for intervention delivery. However, HALO was not able to fully develop coherent links with development partners, owing to both a partial understanding of the triple nexus approach[66] and contextual challenges when operating in humanitarian settings. Another complicating factor is that most donors have restrictions on both their mine action and development funding, which does not allow support to projects with an integrated mine action/development approach. A weak translation of the triple nexus into practical linkages can minimise mine action's potential for building economically resilient and cohesive communities.

Across the Dutch-funded programmes, HALO established strong links with mine action stakeholders. When local mine action authorities were institutionalised, HALO successfully collaborated with them in the delivery of its interventions. For instance, in the West Bank, HALO was required to report to two mine action authorities, the Israeli authority on operational matters and the Palestinian authority on administrative matters. In an effort to preserve its neutrality, HALO shared all relevant information with both authorities. As explained by the programme manager, HALO fostered cooperation around mine action in a politically sensitive context, acting as a bridge between two communities to achieve its landmine/ERW clearance objectives.[67] *"By the end of the clearance, we were able to waive the military legal orders that prevented access to the contaminated lands."*[68] In Ukraine, linkages with the broader mine action sector were consolidated through advocacy. HALO played a vital role in the passing of the Law on Mine Action in January 2019 and in advising the government on a blueprint to

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[63] FGD10 [Female FGD, Guriel, Somalia]
[64] FGD7 [Male FGD, Guriel, Somalia]
[65] FGD1 [Female FGD, Balligubadle, Somaliland]
[66] The triple nexus approach conceptualises the interlinkages between the humanitarian, development and peace sectors. This approach presumes the necessity for actors in these three fields to work together in a more holistic and integrated fashion to ensure that people's needs are met, and their resilience capacities are guaranteed. Marina Caparini and Anders Reagan, "Connecting the dots on the triple nexus", Sipri, 29 November 2019. Available at: https://www.sipri.org/commentary/topical-backgrounder/2019/connecting-dots-triple-nexus
[67] HALO West Bank's programme managers explained that minefields that constituted disputed land, or were claimed by the Israeli settlers, were not selected for clearance. In line with the donor's agenda, it cleared lands that belonged to private individual Palestinians. Through sustained efforts to consult with the two parties, HALO succeeded in lifting the military order that prevented the land from being returned to its owner.
[68] KII24, HALO West Bank

translate the law into practice.[69] Its advocacy efforts culminated with the official handover of the cleared lands to local communities.

In countries where mine action authorities were absent, HALO partnered with local operators to carry out its mandate. This was done with the dual intention of harnessing local knowledge and ensuring local ownership of HALO operations. Because HALO did not have direct access to contaminated areas in northwest Syria, it contracted out its activities to a Syrian NGO, *Shafak*. To secure quality interventions, HALO managed the partner NGO remotely and built its capacity in areas such as risk education, victims assistance and data collection.[70]

According to HALO Syria's programme manager, this contributed to empowering the local NGO: *"We have come to a point where OCHA (the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), which coordinates the Syria cross-border humanitarian fund, won't allow HALO to partner with Shafak because it is seen to be mature and capable in its own right to do risk education. We have enabled that, namely thanks to the Dutch grant."[71]*

However, beyond the mine action sphere, linkages with other types of stakeholders, including development partners, have shown to be weak. In some cases, this can be attributed to the fact that HALO operates in countries that continue to be qualified as humanitarian emergencies.[72] Political instability, the prevalence of humanitarian aid, and weak institutional capacities are common denominators in these operational contexts that may explain HALO's limited ability to cooperate with development actors. More broadly, HALO programmes displayed a limited understanding of mine action-development links and their practical implications. Respondents regarded mine action as a precursor for development and/or livelihoods programming.[73]

The main objective of landmine/ERW clearance was summarised as lifting the barriers that hinder development actors' access to and use of contaminated land. To stress the role of demining as a catalyst for development activities, a programme manager explained: *"One of the unwritten rules in our sector is that development organisations don't tend to move in until the whole municipality is deemed landmine free. So, there is a suspicion that landmines act as an inhibitor. Until all demining activities are finished, it is very hard to come in and start projects. Even municipal governments are restricted in what they are able to do until clearance is completed."[74]*

Quantitative data also corroborates this generalised view. Among survey respondents who witnessed an acceleration of development efforts post-demining, the majority advanced two major factors that made this new tendency possible: using the land was "too dangerous before" and development actors are now "more confident". Mine action is thus understood as a means to alleviate the fear and threat to one's life that inhibit NGOs and other development actors from being proactive in contaminated communities.

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[69] The Law on Mine Action was adopted by the Parliament in December 2018 and signed by the President in January 2019. HALO Ukraine's lobbying efforts were key to amend two controversial articles, articles 20 and 28, which banned direct donor funding to mine action operators and instead stipulated that donors had to channel their funds to the State which would then allocate them. For more information see the DRC/DDG Legal Alert Special: Mine Action law, Issue 35, January 2019. Available at: https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/drc-ddg_legal_alert_on_mine_action_law_eng.pdf

[70] 2019 HALO Syria Annual Report

[71] KII6, HALO Syria

[72] As an example, Yemen counts 80% of its population, or some 24 million people, in need of humanitarian assistance, and is deemed to be the largest humanitarian crisis in the world. The UNICEF Regional Director for the MENA region summarised the conflict in Yemen as "a living hell for children" in his press conference in November 2018 with more than 2 million children under the age 5 suffer from malnutrition.

[73] Russell Gasser characterises this as the leader-follower relationship. Mine action and development come one after the other, rather than being thought through and designed simultaneously. While some planning may be kickstarted during the clearance process, there is a high propensity of delay between land release and the launch of a development project. See Russel Gasser, "Linking Mine Action and Development: Local-level Benefits and Challenges," *The Journal of ERW and Mine Action,* Vol. 12 : Iss. 2, Article 1, March 2008.

[74] KII26, HALO Colombia

Figure 18. Main reasons why development projects are possible after mine action, among respondents who witnessed development projects (n= 324)
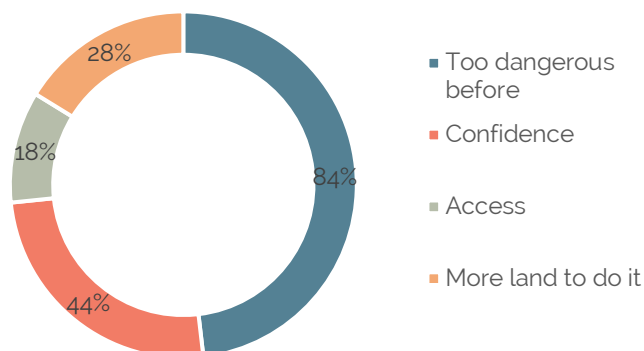
In contexts where livelihoods promotion and resilience-building are strewn with obstacles, there is a high added value in adopting an integrated approach to mine action from the onset.[75] This implies anchoring land release targets in national and local development agendas, as well as fostering triple nexus links with partners from the development and peacebuilding sectors.[76] Although this approach can lead to more expensive and less efficient demining operations that are not always welcomed by the donor,[77] its goal is to maximise the impacts of mine action on people's lives and community development, eventually rendering it more cost-effective.

More importantly, using development impacts to guide land selection helps ensure that cleared land is not underutilised and that time and resources are not wasted. While this has not been the case in Afghanistan with 80% of survey respondents reporting new development projects following landmine/ERW clearance, only 46% and 50% of respondents in Somalia and Somaliland respectively saw the land being used by NGOs and other development partners. A research participant in Somalia explained: *"[Mine action] has made it easier to access health facilities at any time and there has been an increase in the number of commercial centres opening in the area after the mine clean-up. But there has been no community project, government project or NGO project established locally."* (Female FGD, Somalia)[78]

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[75] Gasser, "Linking Mine Action and Development: Local-level Benefits and Challenges".
[76] A successful case of mine action-development integration is the UK-funded HALO Trust 2016-2020 programme implemented in six Afghan provinces: Kabul, Logar, Khost, Baghlan, Balkh and Samangan. To maximise the impact of traditional demining activities, HALO partnered with DACAAR and Afghanaid to deliver rural agricultural and/or water, sanitation and health (WASH) activities following landmine/ERW clearance operations. For an evaluation of this programme, see Samuel Hall, "The Link: Connecting Mine Action and Livelihoods", 24 June 2020.
[77] HALO Europe's programme manager explained that the Dutch financing model was "too strict" and did not provide enough room for manoeuvre to work in a more holistic way with development partners on the ground (KII5, HALO Europe)
[78] FGD10 [Female FGD, Guriel, Somalia]

Development projects in the area only as a result of landmine/ERW clearance

Legend: ■ I don't know ■ No ■ Yes

Values shown in bars:
- Afghanistan: 9 (I don't know), 28 (No), 144 (Yes)
- Somalia: 24 (I don't know), 76 (No), 86 (Yes)
- Somaliland: 1, 90 (No), 94 (Yes)
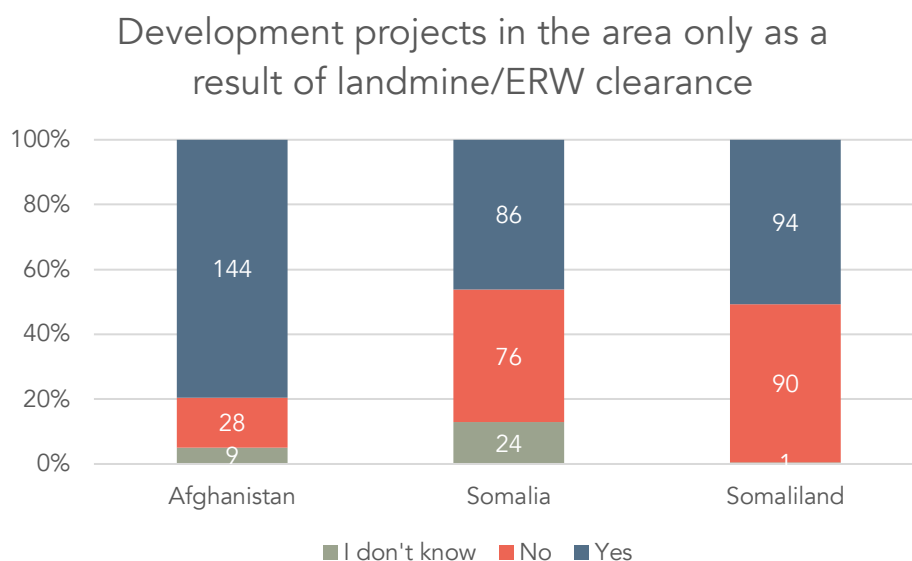
V.   Long-term credibility and sustainability

To be credible in the eyes of the local community and achieve sustainable outcomes, HALO Trust had to foster local acceptance and ownership for its different Dutch-funded programmes. It did so by working closely with local stakeholders and consulting with local communities. While there is a broad consensus that HALO gained the trust of local communities, more efforts could be made to increase women's participation in decision-making processes to both shift local power structures through women empowerment and be more relevant to contextual needs.

HALO managed to create buy-in for its operations by working closely with local stakeholders. In Colombia, the programme manager emphasised the vital role of community liaison in achieving local acceptance, especially given the region's complex socio-demographic landscape and the prevalence of local traditions.[79] Hiring locally also proved to be decisive for local buy-in: *"Especially when it comes to non-technical surveys, we have very talented surveyors across the country. If we take someone from another province and ask the person to work in [Valle de] Cauca, the first person they meet would instantly know they're not from the area."*[80] In Ukraine, as part of the practical enforcement of the Law on Mine Action, external quality control bodies audited HALO's activities. To do so, HALO trained them and shared with them good demining practices. Not only were these bodies used as a safeguarding mechanism against incomplete mine clearance, but they also acted as the precursors of future mine action centres. This quality check contributed to increasing HALO's legitimacy in the eyes of local communities.

Also critical was the extent to which HALO consulted with local communities prior to, during and following demining operations. Across Afghanistan, Somalia and Somaliland respondents indicated high to very high levels of community consultation, ranging between 80% and 95%. Yet, HALO preferred to consult with community leaders rather than interacting with community-members on a personal level to determine the prioritised areas for clearance. (CLSS, Somaliland)[81] This explains why the share of respondents who were personally involved in land selection amounts to approximately 45% for the three biggest programmes. Gender-disaggregated data provides a better understanding of gendered trends and the differential levels of involvement. Men tend to be more involved than women in decision-making processes: 57% of men were

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[79] Colombia's Valle de Cauca is made up of a large indigenous and afro-Colombian population. Their relationship to the contaminated land is embedded in cultural traditions and meanings. This makes community liaison indispensable to legitimately carry out landmine/ERW clearance activities. As the programme manager explained, it took HALO two years to get permission to enter a specific *verada* bordering an indigenous reserve, a duration which could have been shortened through increased community engagement. (KII, HALO Colombia)
[80] KII26, HALO Colombia
[81] CLSSI1 [Community Leader SSI, Balligubadle, Somaliland]

involved in land selection compared to 31% of women, 65% of men provided information to mine action groups on the location of explosives compared to 44% of women, and 49% of men were involved in land handover compared to 28% of women.

Figure 20. Different levels of involvement for men and women in the landmine/ERW clearance process
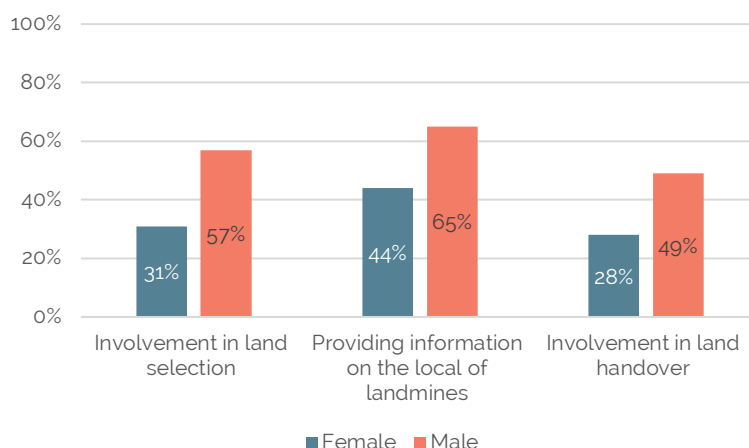
Examining the different involvement levels between men and women for each HALO programme reveals different patterns. Gendered imbalances are more acute for Afghanistan where only 12% of women were involved in land selection compared to 72% of men. Meanwhile, 39% and 46% of women were involved in land selection in Somalia and Somaliland respectively, slightly exceeding the share of men in the latter case. Similarly, 71% of women in Afghanistan were not personally consulted during the landmine clearance process compared to only 20% of women in Somalia and 42% in Somaliland. These findings suggest a potential shift in mentalities in Somalia and Somaliland where the integration of women in decision-making processes that concern the community is increasingly accepted.

Figure 21. The percentage of men and women who were not personally consulted during the clearance process for each HALO programme
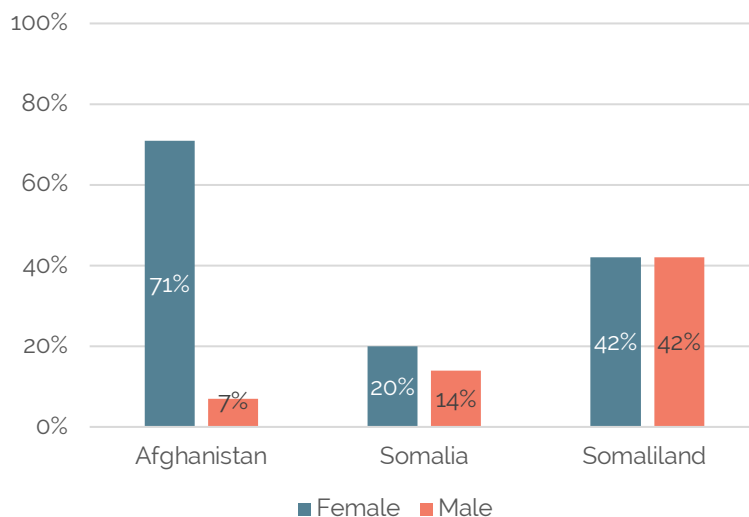
To level the playing field, HALO made it a point to constitute CORE teams that include both men and women. This maximised access to women and helped ensure that their needs and priorities are accounted for in the activities carried out.[82] While such inclusive policies are promising, more ambitious measures can help guarantee women an active role in decision-making processes. Because men and women fulfil distinct economic and social

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[82] 2019 HALO Somalia Annual Report

functions, they are differently exposed to the threats of landmines:[83] women tend to be more vulnerable closer to villages or water sources, while men are more prone to risk in fields and forests. Community-members are also becoming aware of the valuable information women hold that is not being harnessed: *"Because it is now known that women do not share information with the agency's office if they see explosives, as women are shy or scared, the agency should open a sub-office in the cleaned neighbourhoods where women, children and the general public would be encouraged report any explosive devices they have been able to locate."* (Male FGD, Somalia)[84] Future programming could encompass a gender inclusion strategy that suggests mechanisms to boost women's involvement in the clearance process from land prioritisation to handover.

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[83] Catherine Cecil and Kristen Rasmussen, "Increasing Female Voices in Mine Action Planning and Prioritisation", *The Journal of ERW and Mine Action*, Vol. 12 : Iss. 2, Article 5, March 2008.
[84] FGD7 [Male FGD, Guriel, Somalia]

LESSONS LEARNED

Lessons from the eight Dutch MFA-funded HALO projects

The evaluation identified three overlapping areas of learning from across the eight HALO country projects. These lessons were drawn from either individual or multiple contexts, but are relevant to wider HALO Trust mine action. The lessons learned are summarised below and will be explained in the following chapter.

1. Data-driven action
   a. Assessing needs: nomads and displaced people have specific CORE and programming needs
   b. Showing impact: Socio-economic data is key
   c. Assessing intangible impacts: beyond socio-economic data
   d. Newly commenced operations are likely to show dividends over time
2. Sectoral action: Education and Health
   a. Risk Education will benefit from synchronisation
   b. Mental health from landmines and victims' health issues are prominent challenges
3. Local action: Triple nexus and safeguarding
   a. Mine action can situate itself at the heart of the *Triple Nexus*
   b. Safeguarding remains key
   c. Mine action is needed on both sides of borders

1. Data-driven mine action

Lesson 1a. Programming adapted to difference: inclusive mine action for nomads, migrants and displaced

Mine action programming can be sensitive to different population groups and demographics and can be tailored to the different contexts where HALO Trust works. In Somalia, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) estimates that approximately a quarter of the country's population are nomadic, numbering over three million people.[85] The landmine/ERW cleared areas in Somalia and Somaliland on the border of Ethiopia are used by Somali groups engaged in transhumance - using the lands for livestock water, pastures and transportation. Despite this, the HALO Trust has not fully developed an operations framework to take nomadic groups into account. While strong on engagement with settled populations and communities, community outreach and risk education may not be fully reaching people on the move.

> *"The community is now fully aware of the dangers of mines, but the problem we have now and need urgent intervention in is educating the pastoralist community on the danger of landmines, because we see casualties monthly."*
> Male FGD, Somalia [FGD6]

Kuchi nomads are also a major population group in Afghanistan and are also inordinately affected by landmines and ERW on their migration routes and as they herd livestock. The HALO Trust often conduct programming in contexts of high displacement and migration - with IDPs and potential returnees often the potential beneficiaries of their work In Afghanistan, Somalia, Yemen, Syria and Colombia.

The HALO Trust can integrate vulnerable population groups, or specific demographic groups, into their programming: from prioritisation, consultation, socio-economic surveys, CORE to handover. HALO would have to first identify groups who interact with HALO mine action and gain a broad understanding of their distinct characteristics. HALO can then formulate tailored engagement strategies for different groups. For instance, HALO may identify that mine action is being conducted in areas where IDP returnees or refugee returnees are likely after conflict cessation or landmine/ERW removal and development programming. HALO could then build off existing mine action activities with displaced populations such as CORE with returning refugees at borders to include displaced people in HALO activities. Alternatively, HALO could contact people through community members who stayed, to ensure their voices and perspectives are heard and understood in regards to

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[85] United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), "*Population Estimation Survey 2014*", 2014. See estimations for the 18 pre-war regions of Somalia.

landmine/ERW locations, land ownership and usage. In another example, the HALO Trust could identify nomads who traverse and/or use the land where HALO activities are being conducted - who may be elsewhere when HALO first start operations - in order to ensure they are involved in CORE and handover. This could support 1) safety of nomads and 2) productive use of lands (if nomads do not know it has been cleared, they may not be using the land). Programming that recognises and adapts to the diversity of potential beneficiaries will lead to more inclusive outcomes from mine action.

Lesson 1b. Socio-economic data can show HALO Trust and mine action impact

The HALO Trust are enhancing their socio-economic data collection practices and targeted monitoring and evaluation practices globally[86], which holds strong potential to show - in more robust ways - the impact of HALO mine action. HALO Kosovo, with support of Dutch MFA funding, completed a socio-economic survey in 2020. The HALO Kosovo Programme Manager noted that with the comprehensive socio-economic data, HALO can already better understand the communities and beneficiaries they will be working in and for. Longer term, HALO have the repository of data acting as a baseline for socio-economic change. This represents an exciting opportunity to track changes over time and to see the tangible, statistical changes resulting from landmine and ERW clearance.

The HALO Trust have an opportunity to leverage their experiences from 2016-2020 and use socio-economic data to show the impact of their work. The HALO Trust can combine the learning outcomes from the socio-economic survey in Kosovo - collaborative sharing which has commenced[87] - with best practices from external socio-economic research.[88] This can be matched with HALO's already-strong reporting practices which include targeted qualitative case studies documenting outcomes and impact after the completion of HALO Trust work. Evaluations, assessments and high-level research[89] are continuing to evidence what mine action sector intuition and the HALO Trust's on-the-ground experience has long pointed to: important socio-economic changes in communities as well as at wider geographical scales.[90] If HALO continues to make investments in socio-economic data collection, the baseline and evolving panel data will be able to meaningfully show the changes from prior to HALO Trust intervention to the changing situations in the years following.

Lesson 1c. Beyond quantitative data, intangible impacts are evident

The changes that result from mine action extend beyond quantitative statistics and socio-economic data. The general sense from the evaluation's qualitative research with community members was a sense of profound change from the removal of landmines and ERW, which had often been a fact of life - and death - for decades. This sense framed the multifaceted Impacts of the findings, and often expressed itself as a lifting or of emergence from a prison.

> *"Peace and stability are important issues in our community because this was a battlefield before but now it is a field of peace. The mine action has impacted us positively; as when you are hungry and you need food, in the same way we were hungry for peace and stability. Before mine action, our life was endangered but now we live with peace of mind and we are happy. "*
> Male FGD, Afghanistan [FGD12]

The HALO Trust often capture this sense through case studies presented in annual and final reports to the donor. HALO can continue this work and expand upon it, as the voices directly from beneficiaries contain valuable insights for the organisation, for donors and for the wider humanitarian-development sector. This can be achieved through further bolstering internal research mechanisms as well as further research collaborations, dissemination of reports, partnership visits and communications.

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[86] KII5 HALO Europe, KII23 HALO Kosovo
[87] KII23 HALO Kosovo
[88] For instance, the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) in Afghanistan conduct annual post-demining livelihoods impact assessments.
[89] Chiovelli G, Michalopoulos S, Papaioannou E (2019). Landmines and Spatial Development. December 11, 2019.
[90] Wider geographical scales refers to knock-on economic impacts that extend along potential value chains and for areas around the communities directly proximate to landmines/ERW. For one example examining higher-scale economic impacts, the previous reference can be seen: Chiovelli G, Michalopoulos S, Papaioannou E (2019). Landmines and Spatial Development. December 11, 2019.

Lesson 1d. Commencing new projects or areas of operations likely to show dividends over time rather than immediate changes

Dutch funding in the 2016-2020 MACM programme supported the HALO Trust to set up or accelerate new areas of operations. This includes in the relatively nascent operations of Somalia, a new programme in Yemen, expanding remote operations in Syria, or new areas within longer-standing country programmes such as Valle De Cauca in Colombia. The Dutch grant also funded mine action in longer-established programmes, such as Afghanistan where the Dutch have been supporting the HALO Trust since 2003,[91] and Somaliland where the HALO Trust have been working since 1999. While projects such as Afghanistan and Somaliland were able to leverage existing operational infrastructure and experience, newer operations required different strategies for mine action.

Setting up new country programmes or new areas of operations were resource and time intensive, but with the initial support from the Dutch, these new operations appear well placed to produce long-term benefits over time. In Yemen, the HALO Trust overcame a series of obstacles that made initiating the programme difficult and initial outcomes modest. Similar lessons were identified in Colombia, where HALO have longstanding operations, but Valle de Cauca represented a new area which required significant community liaison for mine action buy-in.

Conceptually, studying the foundations which were laid for the 2016-2020 Dutch-MFA funded teams in established programmes - such as in Afghanistan and Somaliland - fell outside the scope of the evaluation designed to assess the funding window of 2016-2020. Yet this foundational work was recognised in the evaluation as of paramount importance for successful subsequent work - as mine action organisations cannot simply commence clearance activities from day one in a new area or country. Groundwork for further operations may not be immediately seen in high output numbers but is understood to be the requisite precursor to outcomes and impact long after the 2016-2020 funding cycle finishes in the months and years ahead.

2. Sectoral mine action: Education & Health

Lesson 2a. Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)

Explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) has shown to be a cost-effective way of reducing mine-induced casualties while planning landmine/ERW clearance activities and waiting for access to contaminated land to be granted. This is largely because local communities are not familiarised with the risks of explosive devices. Some had never even seen a landmine before attending risk education training. *"At first we just used to hear stories about landmines so we never took it seriously. After being shown a landmine for the first time, we started becoming very afraid and cautious. So, the risk education activities made us more aware of the situation."[92]* Children are particularly receptive to risk education as they tend to be exposed to the risk of mine incidents to a higher extent than other population groups, due to their daily activities (i.e., helping their families with resources gathering, herding livestock, or simply playing in the fields).

Especially in rapidly evolving contexts where demining was not possible during the first years of the Dutch grant, HALO has placed a strong emphasis on community outreach and risk education (CORE). 75% of survey respondents stated that community-members in Afghanistan, Somalia and Somaliland took part in MRE activities. Yet, risk education has not targeted population groups evenly across programmes and within programmes. Data shows that men had a higher propensity to participate in risk education than women, with proportions of 60% versus 45%. In Somalia, only 18 respondents claimed that children took part in MRE activities compared to 147 respondents in Afghanistan. Moreover, programmes have different views on the best way to sensitise adults, and more precisely parents. Some would rather conduct risk education at the household level to reach a broader audience, while others believe targeting children at the school level maximises the chances of diffusion, as knowledge is likely to spill over from children to parents.

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[91] HALO Trust (2018). Dutch support benefits 3 million people in Afghanistan. Accessed at: https://www.halotrust.org/latest/halo-updates/news/dutch-support-for-clearing-afghanistan/ on 22 February, 2021.

[92] FGD8 [Female FGD, Ballidhiig, Somaliland]

To optimise the life-saving effects of risk education, HALO Trust could aim to isolate the impact of EORE on local communities from other mine action activities. Specific indicators could be designed to measure the separate impact of risk education and risk knowledge tests could be carried out on a yearly or bi-annual basis to assess the extent of the information participants retained and identify possible gaps in the EORE programme. Such mechanisms to track and report learning outcomes can help inform future programme design and roll-out, as well as guide mine action stakeholders in their prioritisation efforts. Closer attention could also be given to tailoring risk education programmes to the needs and specificities of different populations, including children but also nomadic populations. Finally, an overarching risk education strategy, common to all Dutch-funded programmes, is needed in order to harmonise sensitisation efforts, avoid the multiplication of risk education approaches that are only trialled at one specific location and adopted without a rigorous impact assessment, and favour the exchange of best practices among the different HALO programmes.

Lesson 2b. Victim's assistance and mental health promotion

The mental health effects of mine action are increasingly brought up in impact discussions, but only a few studies have actually attempted to quantify those effects to this day. HALO's mine action programming has positively impacted the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of demined communities, with twice as many people feeling safe about their children playing outside after mine action. However, it was also found that the more profound impacts of mine action on people's mental health, including those related to a traumatic experience, never truly disappear. This can partially be explained by the low percentage of individuals who label themselves as mentally ill in contaminated areas.

Another factor that has a toll on communities' mental health beyond landmine clearance is the prevalence of people who have been severely injured or maimed. Landmine victims continue to require assistance following the completion of demining activities. Evidence has shown that HALO was not sufficiently proactive in terms of victim's assistance. Quantitative findings confirm the reality research participants depicted: 60% of survey respondents state that they were not aware of any victim's assistance programme in their community.

The physical, psychological and mental impacts of mine induced-injuries are disproportionately felt by men and women.[93] While landmine accidents affect men more than women (85 to 90% of victims are male), women tend to receive less medical care and rehabilitation, resulting in a higher female fatality rate. Societal stigmatisation also tends to be experienced differently by disabled men and women due to gender biases. While men see their masculinity challenged, women can be marginalised and encounter difficulties in getting married as they are believed to "bring bad luck". The wives of landmine survivors also carry a heavy psychological burden as they need to take on the additional role of the family's main breadwinner and can become victims of domestic violence. Adopting a mental health sensitive policy and setting-up facilities offering psychosocial support services and victim's assistance are crucial to inscribe the impacts of mine action across a long-term timeframe.

3. Local Action: Triple Nexus and Safeguarding

Lesson 3a. HALO Mine Action can situate itself at the heart of the triple nexus

HALO Trust mine action can be situated at the heart of the triple nexus: It is humanitarian in its lifesaving work, is a precursor to longer term development and has positive implications for peace and security. In a previous evaluation, Samuel Hall found that HALO Trust mine action relieved tensions over land between settled communities in Afghanistan and nomadic pastoralists, with increased pastureland meaning there was less tension over land use.[94] Additionally, research participants discussed how mine action bolstered social cohesion and security (Evaluation Findings). With the triple nexus of humanitarianism, development and security rising in prominence[95], the HALO Trust can find further opportunities to match nexus ambitions to practical programming.

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[93] Marie Nilsson and Virginie Rozes, "Gendered Structures of Mine Action", *The Journal of ERW and Mine Action* , Vol. 2 : Iss. 2, Article 9, March 2008.
[94] Samuel Hall (2020). "The Link: Mine Action and Livelihoods Development. An Evaluation of the HALO Trust CSSF programming 2016-2020."
[95] See also: Samuel Hall & DACAAR (2021). Towards the Triple Nexus: Toolkit on Afghanistan's NPP, SDGs & Triple Nexus/

Figure 22 Triple nexus between humanitarian, development and peace
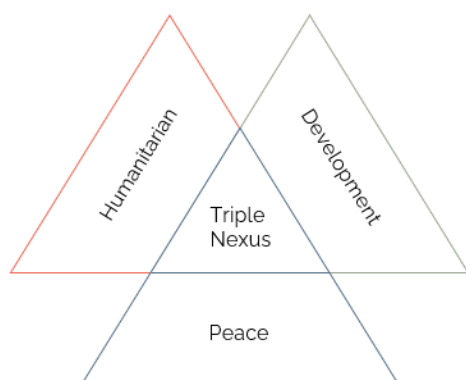
Designing arrangements that allow for greater collaboration with development partners and prioritisation in line with development objectives can be further explored. Efforts can be made to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the integrated (or partnership) approach that acknowledges how mine action-development links generate gains for community development and wellbeing that compensates for potential losses in efficiency. This is particularly relevant as local communities share the desire for alignment between mine action and development, notably through interactions at the grassroots level: *"It would have been better for the agency to do this, before the site was cleaned up by conducting a major public interview and asking questions about how best to do the work and how they would like the land to be used if it was cleaned up."*[96]

Lesson 3b. Safeguarding and referral mechanisms can continually be strengthened

The evaluation team encountered very few complaints, but local community members in one area of Somaliland reported a safeguarding issue with a perceived offence by a member of the local demining team operating near to that location. Samuel Hall shared the information with the HALO Trust, who commenced safeguarding and incident response investigations immediately.[97] While the issue was initially reportedly resolved within the community through somaliniimo and local cultural practice, the reports demonstrated the ongoing need for robust safeguarding, reporting and referral mechanisms, which can identify and address even the perception of safeguarding breaches or issues with local people who the HALO Trust work with.

Additional avenues of communication and reporting could be made available beyond the direct contacts with the HALO Trust demining or support staff on the ground. CORE staff could make these alternative reporting pathways available during community liaison and risk education. This would allow community leaders and/or community members to have multiple communication avenues to address any concerns they may have, for instance regarding land disputes, issues that arise during the course of HALO activities and newly-found landmines/ERW. In Afghanistan, Samuel Hall has previously recommended that the HALO Trust develop a closer partnership with *Awaaz* - the humanitarian hotline that can act as both a referral and a whistleblowing toll-free hotline for people to call into. While a third-party pathway such as Awaaz may not be available in all countries that HALO operate in, having clear pathways for people to contact will support community engagement, improve referrals and enhance safeguarding.

Lesson 3c. Mine action without borders? Expanding HALO's regional approach.

The HALO Trust's work to expand operations to both side of mined border regions and increase the regional angle of their operations[98] was found to have further impetus with grave lessons from the Somaliland - Ethiopia border. The Somaliland village of Ballidhiig (Sheekh Hasan Geele) straddles the border. Siad Barre's troops had planted mines on both sides of the border.[99] The HALO Trust conducted landmine/ERW clearance operations on the Somaliland-side of the border but did not have authorisation to conduct operations on the Ethiopian side of the border. Two weeks prior to the evaluation, a bus driver swerved slightly off the road to avoid a large hole and hit a landmine close to the village of Ballidhig. The incident killed a village elder and two other people, the driver and the elder's nephew were severely injured. The villagers, both men and women were in deep mourning. The accident was continuing to have repercussions. With many water wells on the Ethiopian side of the border still blocked, water access was an issue, especially because water tank vehicles were then refusing to enter and supply water to the community because of fear from the recent explosion of the bus. *"The water trucks are not*

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[96] FGD10 [Female FGD, Guriel, Somalia]
[97] Communications between the Samuel Hall Safeguarding Focal Point and the HALO Trust Safeguarding Focal Point
[98] The HALO Trust, The Border Project. Accessed at: https://www.halotrust.org/latest/special-projects/the-border-project/ on 19 February, 2021. Also discussed in a meeting between Samuel Hall evaluation team and HALO Trust Somalia, Somaliland and Horn of Africa Region.
[99] FGD5 [Male FGD, Ballidhiig, Somaliland]

delivering water to anyone at the other end of the border which is still basically at the same village." Another villager noted that the landmine was very close to a school and that nobody knew it was there. *"This landmine could have killed many children."* Another community member requested: *"We would like HALO Trust to seek permission to search the Ethiopian side of the border as these areas remain contaminated and that they completely clear our side."*

Figure 23. The bus which hit a landmine on the border of Somaliland and Ethiopia

Landmines are often particularly prevalent along borders - de jure or de facto - including Dutch-funded 2016-2020 HALO projects in Somaliland (with Ethiopia), Somalia (with Ethiopia), Kosovo (mainly with Albania), Ukraine (lines of separation in Donbass), the West Bank (Palestine) (with Syria) and Syria (with multiple neighbouring countries). While HALO Trust mine action is implemented through country programmes (or "projects" during this evaluation) - with country offices administering mine action efficiently, there could be scope to further conceptualise landmine/ERW removal in the context of regions. In practice, this could link hitherto separated programmes. This could also bring about further complexity due to political issues. But HALO's role as a humanitarian organisation would support this building. The HALO Trust's "Border Project" outlines a similar village to the example above, Dabogoryaale, in Somaliland, with the borderlands project intended to protect lives and also unlock economic prosperity with the borderlands key to the livestock trade through the Berbera Corridor and Port. Harmonised strategy for regions and border areas will help the many communities situated on or near borders, such as in Somaliland.

CONCLUSION

The Dutch MFA-funded 2016-2020 HALO Programmes were assessed to perform strongly across the different OECD-DAC criteria. In addition to the criteria, the HALO Trust are also increasing gender mainstreaming into their organisation and activities. HALO Trust is making notable progress in gender inclusion, as they change from an organisation dominated by men to one employing a diverse range of women across different projects, with positive ramifications for gender in their sphere of influence.

The HALO Trust programmes were found to be highly relevant to multiple stakeholders to the work. The programme aligned with the MACM and the objectives of the Dutch MFA in terms of humanitarian life-saving work; security and the lower risk of physical insecurity; longer-term development and stability in fragile settings; and a focus on gender in overseas assistance. The programme was also relevant to local governments and humanitarian-development stakeholders, almost all with an interest in mine-free areas linking to their own agendas.[100] Finally, the 2016-2020 MACM was found to be highly relevant to beneficiaries themselves.

HALO Trust continue to be an efficient organisation in terms of implementation and mine action activities. The organisation is understood to innovate with technology, finding cost-effective means of mechanical and demining clearance. Efficiency was enhanced by the funding arrangements, which was long-term and flexible, of significant note for planning, grant management and implementation being able to adapt to dynamic contexts of conflict and COVID-19. The long-term and flexible arrangement meant that while access and implementation constraints did not always allow HALO Trust to meet goals in the initially projected years, the HALO Trust largely met or exceeded their targets in signs of effectiveness. These targets were understood to align with the strategic objectives of both the HALO Trust and the Dutch MFA's Mine Action and Cluster Munitions (MACM) programme. A deeper understanding on the effectiveness in meeting outcomes - both primary outcomes and the human security outcomes - would be enhanced by greater research and MEAL capacities.

The HALO Trust 2016-2020 were a precursor to other humanitarian-development programmes. However, more coherent links could be developed with other actors to reinforce the impact in people's lives. More formal links using Dutch funding would move the HALO Trust from an organisation that stands apart maintaining informal, important links, to an organisation that situated itself at the heart of the triple nexus of humanitarianism, development and security.

Almost all community members and HALO Trust staff participating in the evaluation expect benefits deriving from the 2016-2020 to continue - or even improve as productive land use accelerates - in the medium-to-long term. However, renewed emphasis on what occurs after the HALO Trust conclude operations and leave the area could ensure greater sustainability in terms of land use, natural resource management, sustainable development and impact.

HALO Trust mine action focused on clearance of landmines/ERW - the removal of explosive hazards thereby intending to decrease physical harms and allow land to be used productively. The Dutch-funded HALO programming from 2016-2020 has already made and will continue to make meaningful differences in people's lives. These positive changes - from precluding injuries and deaths in areas that have experienced landmine/ERW accidents for decades, to enhanced livelihoods directly from land released from hazards - demonstrated the programme extended beyond outputs of metres squared cleared and explosive devices removed. Indeed, the findings showed that the programme created multifaceted positive outcomes and impacts in the lives of beneficiaries across humanitarian, economic and social spheres.

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[100] Key Informant Interviews with a range of government officials In Afghanistan

RECOMMENDATIONS

The evaluation resulted in four major recommendations for the HALO Trust and their future mine action especially relating to funding from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but which can apply more broadly to inform protection, integrated services and durable solutions for the displaced; socio-economic development and peacebuilding approaches.[101]

Recommendations for the HALO Trust

Data-driven Action		Sectoral Action
Recommendation 1. Continue to balance strengths in operations with the expansion of emphasis on outcomes & impact		Recommendation 3. Create meaningful partnerships, including across connected
Recommendation 2. Strengthen HALO's research and MEAL		Recommendation 4. Accelerate gender mainstreaming across HALO projects and programmes
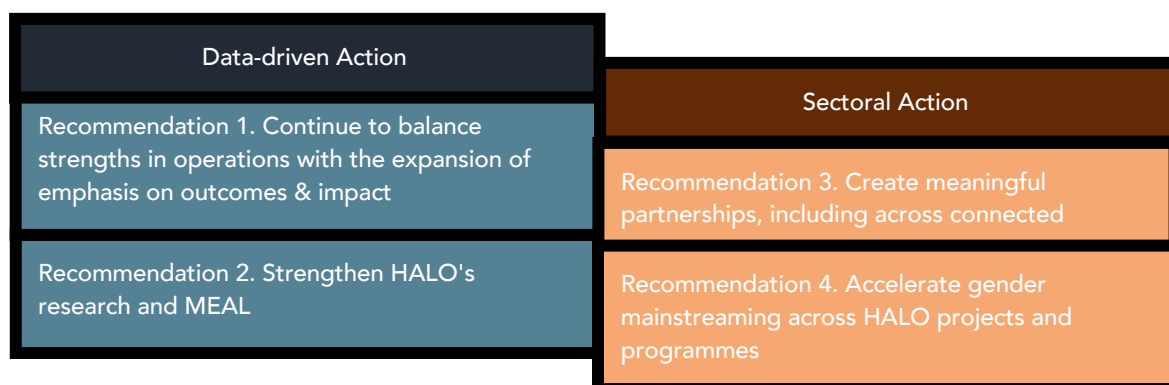
Data-driven action

Recommendation 1. Balance operational strengths with the expanding emphasis on impact

The HALO Trust have long prided themselves on their strengths in operations – the organisation are experts in landmine/ERW clearance. The "get in, clear, get out" attitude that may have permeated the culture – sometimes helpfully – in earlier years and decades of the organisation is now undergoing major change, as donors and HALO itself realise that what happens in communities *after* mine action is of central importance. The evaluation of the Dutch MFA-funded programmes found that these two strengths are being managed relatively well, with HALO maintaining efficiency (with the help of multiyear and flexible funding) while reorienting their outlook to track human security, resilience and poverty reduction.

It is recommended that HALO maintain their strengths in outputs and innovation, while renewing the emphasis on how HALO interventions make differences in people's lives. The Netherlands MFA have partially attached funding in the renewed 2020-2024 grant to outcome achievements, rather than solely linking them to the achievement of outputs. This move already means that HALO Trust have to adapt to prioritise programming that can best lead to outcome achievement. This emphasis may lead to changes in land prioritisation – assessing not only where the most devices are located and most metres can be cleared, but also which areas and categories (such as abandoned improvised mines) might create the greatest positive changes for large numbers of people.

The expanding focus on outcomes presents challenges but also opportunities, and can lead to a "virtuous cycle". Combined with the other recommendations - such as enhanced research and monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL), HALO will be able to better show changes, many of which were identified in the findings of this report. This demonstration of positive change in turn can attract further attention and funding to HALO's mine action. Maintaining operational excellence on efficiency, effectiveness and outputs with and increased focus on changes in people's lives is less a tension than a dual imperative for HALO moving forward.

Recommendation 2. Strengthen HALO's research and MEAL

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[101] The Transtec and Transition evaluation of the wider MACM formulated specific recommendations to the Dutch MFA, while the scope of the Samuel Hall evaluation was focussed on HALO Trust programming.

Increasing HALO's research and monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL) would reflect the growing importance of understanding: 1) the challenges caused by landmines/ERW; and 2) the changes resulting from mine action. In this evaluation, HALO Trust's mine action programme was found to have multifaceted impact. With enhanced baseline and monitoring data, the multiple areas of this impact – including safety; resilience; stability and mental health - could be more robustly understood and better illustrated.

The success and key learnings from the socio-economic surveys in Kosovo demonstrate HALO's movements in this direction as an organisation. The survey exercise also shows recognition that research and MEAL can be a cost-effective way to better understand the situation where HALO Trust will be implementing work, supporting prioritization, community liaison and implementation alongside the learning outcomes.

The HALO Trust is already sharing learning from the Kosovo study, as well as increasing their internal MEAL and external research collaborations. It is recommended that the HALO Trust increase their research before commencing mine action, either with dedicated external MEAL partners or expand HALO MEAL. This includes socio-economic surveys with set indicators which can be measured over time and which can take into account externalities such as conflict or negative economic impacts from COVID-19. Increased qualitative research, which can be done by trained CORE staff, would also support understanding of areas, communities and households before mine action commences, such as the current impact on landmines/ERW.

Additional evidence and learning that HALO Trust generate can help guide implementation, better understand how theories of change are working in practice and show the impact of HALO's mine action work.

Sectoral action

Recommendation 3. Create meaningful partnerships

The HALO Trust should seize partnership opportunities where they can prove mutually beneficial towards joint objectives and impact. Partnerships with gender actors, livelihoods organisations and other humanitarian-development actors. The focus would further expand beyond metres squared cleared and numbers of devices destroyed, and recentre on improving the lives of people who have been living proximate to landmines/ERW, often for many decades.

International donors have recognised that mine action is integral in providing the space and opportunity to rebuild livelihoods, but also that "development does not happen automatically once land or infrastructure is declared safe for productive use."[102] HALO Trust have successfully partnered with NGOs conducting rural livelihoods and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) previously in Afghanistan.[103] While partnerships do not need to be at this formal level for all programmes and projects, linking with organisations at different scales could better ensure needs are addressed during and after the HALO Trust conduct their mine action work.

Recommendation 4. Accelerate HALO's gender mainstreaming

Despite the variations across HALO programmes, women continue to have a limited capacity to voice their concerns and participate in decision-making processes to an equal extent as men. This can be attributed to the traditional gender roles and responsibilities that prevent them from contributing to public life and sharing their knowledge at key milestones of the landmine clearance process.

Yet, evidence from Kosovo and Colombia have shown that different strategies can be put in place to mainstream gender in HALO programming and encourage women's empowerment both economically and in terms of shifting local power structures. Across fieldwork locations, and especially in Somalia where HALO hired women as deminers, some changes in mentalities can be perceived. This suggests that even in countries where conservative gender prescriptions prevail, HALO can act as a catalyst for challenging societal considerations and gender stereotypes.

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[102] DFID (20130> "Clearing a path to development. The UK government's approach to landmines and explosive remnants of war in developing countries," 22 November 2013.
[103] Samuel Hall (2020). "The Link: Connecting Mine Action and Livelihoods".

Hiring and retaining female staff is only a first step to powering gender transformations. More can also be done to further involve women in the landmine clearance process, from the selection of contaminated land to land handover. In doing so, HALO would move toward achieving a dual finality. First, this can increase the efficiency of HALO's operations as women may dispose of hints and indications on the locations of explosive devices that could go unnoticed had they not been asked to share this information with the mine action group. Second, it can also propel women at the forefront of public life, altering power dynamics between men and women. Gender mainstreaming and inclusion into HALO operations can only be ingeniously achieved if mine action team design culturally sensitive gender strategies that take into account local specificities, as it was notably done in Colombia among others.

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ANNEX 1. EVALUATION TERMS OF REFERENCE

SPECIFIC TERMS OF REFERENCE

Final Evaluation of The HALO Trust's mine action programme from 2016-2020 as funded by The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Contracting Authority: The HALO Trust

1. Background

1.1. Relevant project background

The HALO Trust (HALO) received a grant from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands (hereafter: the Ministry) for the period September 2016 – August 2020, to implement mine action programming in the countries as listed in the table below.

Programme	Start	End
Afghanistan	1 September 2016	31 August 2020
Afghanistan AIM project	1 July 2018	31 August 2020
Colombia	1 January 2017	31 December 2018
Kosovo	1 September 2016	31 August 2020
Somalia/Somaliland	1 September 2016	31 August 2020
Syria	1 September 2016	31 August 2020
Ukraine	1 January 2017	13 December 2019
West Bank	1 September 2016	31 December 2018
Yemen	1 August 2017	31 August 2020

As part of the contract requirements, an external evaluation has to be conducted of the programme's effects with regard to the overarching goal of the Netherlands Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme 2016-2020. Apart from the contractual obligations, the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation will provide guidance to delivery of next 4-year programme cycle and will contribute to organisational learning at the global and country levels of the organisation.

In addition to the evaluation, HALO would like the evaluator/evaluation team (hereafter: evaluator(s)) to conduct an impact assessment of Anti Vehicle Mines (AVM) and Abandoned Improvised Mines (AIM) clearance in Afghanistan. The findings of the case study will be used to inform HALO's programming in Afghanistan and shared with other HALO countries. The findings will also be shared with the Ministry.

1.2. The Action to be evaluated

Title of the Action to be evaluated	HALO Trust grant 2016-2020 from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Total value of the Action	USD 16,319,643
Dates of the Action to be evaluated	1 September 2016 – 31 August 2020

1.3. Stakeholders of the Action

The main stakeholders for this action are:
a) HALO Trust programmes and HQ
b) National Mine Action Centres or equivalent local authorities for mine action
c) Beneficiaries

1.4. Other available information

The Action is supported by a framework of output and outcome indicators as jointly agreed by the Ministry and the three selected implementing partners (The HALO Trust, Danish Church Aid and Mines Advisory Group) in 2016. Baseline assessments have been conducted at the start of each country project. All results have been reported quarterly in IATI (HALO IATI Organisation Identifier: GB-CHC-1001813).

1.5. Selection process

The evaluator, or team of evaluators, is invited to submit a proposal before 13:00 CET 26 July 2020. The proposals have to be submitted in digital form only, by emailing to strategy@halotrust.org. The template for the proposal is free, as long as the content is clear and concise. The proposal should at least consist of the CV(s) of the evaluator(s), an outline of the evaluation plan, a timeline and a budget. Previous work does demonstrate the experience of the evaluator(s) can be added as an Annex. A selection committee will select the proposals, with ranking based on the grid as provided in Annex I.

2. Description of the evaluation assignment

Type of evaluation	Final
Coverage	HALO's programmes funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands
Geographic scope evaluation	Afghanistan, Colombia, Kosovo, Somalia/Somaliland, Syria, Ukraine, West Bank, Yemen
Geographic scope impact assessment	Afghanistan
Period to be evaluated	From 1 September 2016 – 31 August 2020
Deadline for proposals	26 July 2020 13:00 CET
Provisional start date	September 2020
Impact assessment Afghanistan	Has to be conducted in November-December when weather conditions are still permissive for travel in country.
Deadline reporting	26 February 2021 – draft report 26 March 2021 – final report

2.1. Objectives of the evaluation

The objective of this evaluation is twofold:
a) to conduct an overall independent assessment of the past performance of HALO's mine action projects under the grant by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands 2016-2020, paying particular attention to its results measured against its expected objectives;

b) to conduct an impact assessment in Afghanistan, assessing the impact of clearance of AV- mines and AIM.

2.2. Requested services

2.2.1. Scope of the evaluation and the impact assessment

Scope of the evaluation

The evaluation will assess the Action using the six standard DAC evaluation criteria, namely: relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability.

The evaluator(s) shall furthermore consider whether gender was mainstreamed and if the relevant SDGs and their interlinkages were identified.

2.2.2. Indicative issues to be addressed

The specific issues to be addressed as formulated below are indicative. Based on the latter and following initial consultations and document analysis, the evaluator(s) will discuss them with HALO and propose in their Inception Report a complete and finalised set of Evaluation Questions with indication of specific Judgement Criteria and Indicators, as well as the relevant data collection sources and tools.

Once agreed through the approval of the Inception Report, the Evaluation Questions will become contractually binding.

2.2.3. Main areas of analysis

The evaluation questions will be identified in the first instance by the evaluator(s) during the Inception phase. The questions should include in their coverage the following main areas of analysis:

a) Relevance of the programme to overarching goal of the Netherlands Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme 2016-2020;
b) Quality of the programme's design, including: i) stakeholder and beneficiary identification; ii) institutional set-up and management arrangements; iii) management competencies and processes;
c) Robustness of its components, including their intervention logic and causal relationships between inputs, activities, expected outputs (against project objectives) and validity of indicators. Suggestions for revision may be made if appropriate;
d) Validity of assumptions and risks as initially identified in the proposal and whether unforeseen issues are negatively affecting projects implementation and progress towards objectives.

2.2.4. Evaluation criteria
The analysis should assess HALO's performance towards the identified five results areas. When undertaking the evaluation, the experts should address the following evaluation criteria:

a. Relevance
Assess the extent to which projects' designs based on the original proposals were consistent with The Netherland's priorities. Also assess the coherence of the projects with due consideration to: i) Overall objectives; ii) Programme purposes; iii) Expected Results; iv) Activities; v) Assumptions / preconditions; vi) Theory of Change.

b. Coherence
Assess if the intervention is compatible with other interventions in the country, sector or institution, including the internal coherence of the various HALO-activities in the intervention.

c. Efficiency

Evaluate the efficiency with which the activities in the Programme have been undertaken in order to yield planned results. The following aspects should be considered: i) Organization and management, analyses of the organizational arrangements (funding, structures, human resources, responsibilities and contractual arrangements) relating to the Programme (grant contracts, etc.); ii) Assess the value-for-money; iii) Assess the management capacities of the coordination structures in place and the mechanisms put in place to monitor and manage activities (plans of operations and timetables, financial management and budgeting, terms and conditions, phasing of activities, internal monitoring arrangements, institutional capacity support provided.

d. Effectiveness

Analyse the extent to which the programme's objectives are being achieved. The following questions should assist with the assessment of the effectiveness of the projects: i) extent of achievement of projects' objectives and purposes; ii) unforeseen beneficiaries or unintended consequences, and if yes, explain the extent, impact and implications for relevant stakeholders; iii) realism of assumptions required to translate projects' results into the projects' purposes; iv) relation between projects' resources (personnel, equipment, training, research etc.) with main targeted results;

e. Impact

Analyse the foreseen and unforeseen programme' impacts, whether they are positive or negative. Compare the scenario immediately prior to the implementation of the projects with the achievements of the projects. Among the points to consider is if given the desired outcome of the programme there were alternative ways of achieving it which might have been more cost effective (e.g., design alternatives, use of different materials).

f. Sustainability

In terms of sustainability particular emphasis should be given to: i) acceptance and ownership; ii) appropriate technology; and iii) institutional and management capacity.

2.2.5. Phases of the evaluation and required outputs

The evaluation process will be carried out in four phases:
- Inception
- Desk
- Field
- Synthesis

The outputs of each phase are to be submitted at the end of the corresponding phases as specified in the synoptic table in section 2.2.6.

2.2.6. Synoptic table

The following table presents an overview of the key activities to be conducted within each phase and lists the outputs to be produced by the team as well as the key meetings with HALO and the evaluator(s).

Phases of the evaluation	Key activities	Outputs and meetings

Inception Phase	• Initial document/data collection • Background analysis • Inception interviews • Stakeholder analysis • Review of the Theory of Change (based upon available documentation and interviews) • Methodological design of the evaluation (Evaluation Questions with judgement criteria, indicators and methods of data collection and analysis) and evaluation matrix	• Kick-off meeting with HALO and the evaluator/evaluator(s) • Inception report • Presentation of the Inception Report
Desk Phase	• In-depth document analysis (focused on the Evaluation Questions) • Interviews Identification of information gaps and of hypotheses to be tested in the field phase • Methodological design of the Field Phase	• Desk Note • Presentation of key findings of the desk phase
Field Phase	• Gathering of primary evidence with the use of interviews, focus groups, storytelling sessions, surveys etc. • Data collection and analysis (linked to the hypotheses to be tested in the field and in view of filling the gaps, if defined during a desk phase)	• Meetings at country level • Presentation of key findings of the field phase
Synthesis Phase	• Final analysis of findings (with focus on the Evaluation Questions) • Formulation of the overall assessment, conclusions and recommendations • Reporting	• Draft Final Report [mandatory] • Final Report [mandatory] • Presentation

3. Scope of the impact assessment

3.1. Introduction

Next to the evaluation, HALO would like the evaluator(s) to conduct a more in-depth impact assessment for two topics: the impact of Anti-Vehicle mines and the impact of Abandoned Improvised Mines. The impact assessment is not restricted to data from Dutch-funded clearance tasks only, to allow for a broader analysis.

3.2. Anti-vehicle mines

Anti-vehicle (AV) minefields make up over 50% of recorded contamination on Afghanistan's IMSMA database. While less than 4% of accidents in the last 12 months have been from conventional mines, AV contamination prevents huge swathes of land from being put into productive use. It blocks access to limited health and education services as roads are too dangerous to travel on. However, greater understanding is needed on the impact of AV minefields on the people who live in proximity to them. Similarly, more evidence of the benefit of clearance of these areas is needed to support prioritisation. A combination of qualitative and quantitative research could be paired with use of satellite imagery to evaluate the impact of AV clearance on the development and access opportunities for affected communities. HALO can provide data for a number of its historic tasks for this analysis.

3.3. AIM clearance

Abandoned improvised mines (AIM) or victim operated improvised devices (VOIEDs) accounted for 55% of all accidents with explosive ordnance in 2019.

These items have been left behind after recent conflict and are commonly found in residential areas, homes and on roads. Though they typically do not contaminate large areas, their placement is designed to target individuals and vehicles; as a result they pose a high risk. Their presence prevents displaced communities from returning safely home, and prohibits conflict affected communities from taking the first steps towards recovery. Local economies are unable to restart and shock-affected communities remain vulnerable and in need of humanitarian aid.

HALO is the only organisation currently able to survey and clear AIMs. The impact of the impact of the contamination of AIMs has yet to be comprehensively observed; better understanding is needed of the impact on people's lives and livelihoods, psychosocial welfare and ability to stabilise after conflict. Greater analysis of the connection between clearance of these items and the safe return of displaced families would evidence the humanitarian need for clearance.

4. Expertise required

It is up to the evaluator(s) to decide about the size of the team. The profile below provides the minimum requirements for the team leader.

Minimum requirements of Team Leader:

- Master's Degree in political sciences, international development or other relevant field to this sector or equivalent professional years of experience in the field (minimum 2 additional years to the number of years of experience requested below)

- 5 years of experience in the field of mine action, including monitoring and evaluation;
- Demonstrable experience in conducting impact assessments;
- Exposure to at least two of the countries;
- 6 years of experience in evaluation;
- Ability to manage a team and ensure quality of a team output.

Additional requirements of Team Leader:

- Relevant experience, at least 3 prior assignments as team leader in programme/project evaluations, with at least one in the specific field of mine action;

For the impact assessment in Afghanistan, HALO strongly recommends bidders to partner with an Afghan organisation to support with field visits. Many of the AIM-tasks are in areas which are hard to reach for persons from outside Afghanistan. If required, HALO can provide contact details of potential partners in Afghanistan. Bidders should mention their partner(s) and an overview of their relevant experience in the proposal.

5. Location and duration

5.1. Starting period

Provisional start of the assignment is beginning of September 2020.

5.2. Foreseen duration of the assignment

It is up to the evaluator(s) to plan the activities of the assignment. However, the deadline for the draft final report is 26 February 2021, and for the final report 26 March 2021.

5.3. Planning

As part of the technical offer, the evaluator(s) must provide a timetable detailing the time allocated to each phase and the planned activities.

It is recommended to plan the field visit to Afghanistan in November-December 2020, to be able to travel before winter conditions will hamper movements in country.

5.4. Location(s) of assignment

The assignment of the evaluator(s) will be home-based. At least one visit to a beneficiary country has to be included in the technical offer. HALO can support a visit with transport and arranging meetings in the beneficiary country. Travel costs, including costs like visa, flights, hotels, meals and per diems have to be covered by the budget in the technical offer.

For field visits to AV-tasks, the provinces Logar, Herat and Kandahar are suggested. For visits to AIM-tasks, Helmand, Lashkar Gah are suggested.

6. Fees

As per the Ministry's guidance[104]:

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[104] https://www.government.nl/topics/grant-programmes/documents/forms/2020/03/23/annexe-7a-format- concept-note-operational
Explanatory notes on individual cost types, 1.1.C.

The cost of consultants and advisers is based on the contractually agreed hourly rate and number of hours, including office costs if applicable. Contracting must be preceded by an appraisal of offers stating rates and number of hours. The maximum hourly rate is €187 excluding VAT. The rates of local consultants and advisers must be in line with local price levels.

The following website provides an indication of local price levels: https://www.numbeo.com/cost- of-living/

7. Reporting

7.1. Content, timing and submission

The final report of the evaluation should at least consist of the following paragraphs.

Executive Summary

A short, tightly-drafted, to-the-point and free-standing Executive Summary. It should focus on the key purpose or issues of the evaluation, outline the main analytical points, and clearly indicate the main conclusions, lessons to be learned and practical recommendations.

The main sections of the evaluation report shall be as follows:

Introduction
A description of the Action, of the relevant county/region/sector background and of the evaluation, providing the reader with sufficient methodological explanations to gauge the credibility of the conclusions and to acknowledge limitations or weaknesses, where relevant.

Answered questions / Findings
A chapter presenting the answers to the Evaluation Questions, supported by evidence and reasoning.

Overall assessment (optional)
A chapter synthesising all answers to Evaluation Questions into an overall assessment of the Action. The detailed structure of the overall assessment should be refined during the evaluation process. The relevant chapter has to articulate all the findings, conclusions and lessons in a way that reflects their importance and facilitates the reading. The structure should not follow the Evaluation Questions, the logical framework or the evaluation criteria.

Lessons learnt
Lessons learnt generalise findings and translate past experience into relevant knowledge that should support decision making, improve performance and promote the achievement of better results. Lessons learnt should be primarily directed to HALO and the Ministry.

Conclusions
This chapter contains the conclusions of the evaluation, organised per evaluation criterion. In order to allow better communication of the evaluation messages that are addressed to HALO and/or the Ministry, a table organising the conclusions by order of importance can be presented, or a paragraph or sub-chapter emphasizing the 3 or 4 major conclusions organised by order of importance, while avoiding being repetitive.

Recommendations
They are intended to improve or reform the Action in the framework of the cycle under way, or to prepare the

design of a new Action for the next cycle. Recommendations must be clustered and prioritised, practical, and carefully targeted to the appropriate audiences at all levels.

Annexes to the report
The report should include the following annexes:
- The Terms of Reference of the evaluation
- The names of the evaluators (CVs can be shown, but summarised and limited to one page per person)
- Detailed evaluation methodology including: options taken, difficulties encountered and limitations; detail of tools and analyses.
- Evaluation Matrix
- Theories of Change
- Relevant geographic map(s) where the Action took place
- List of persons/organisations consulted
- Literature and documentation consulted
- Other technical annexes (e.g. statistical analyses, tables of contents and figures, matrix of evidence, databases) as relevant
- Detailed answer to the Evaluation Questions, judgement criteria and indicators

Impact assessment
The impact assessment will be presented separately from the evaluation.

7.2. Assessment of the quality of the Final Report and of the Executive Summary

The quality of the draft versions of the Final Report and of the Executive Summary will be assessed by HALO using the Quality Assessment Grid as provided in Annex III. The Contractor is given the possibility to comment on the assessments formulated by HALO. The Quality Assessment Grid will then be reviewed following the submission of the final version of the Final Report and of the Executive Summary.

7.3. Language

All reports shall be submitted in English.

ANNEX 2. NAMES OF THE EVALUATORS

Team Member	Role
Hervé NICOLLE	Team Leader
Nassim MAJIDI	Team Oversight and Deliverables Review
Nicholas ROSS	Project Manager
Elyssa MAJED	Research Assistant
Jawid HASSANZAI	Afghanistan Research Manager
Jared OWUOR	East Africa Operations Officer
Fatuma AHMED	Somalia and Somaliland Field Coordinator
Fazal AFZALI	Afghanistan National Researcher
Ibrahim RAMAZANI	Afghanistan Field Coordinator
Basir MOHMAND	Afghanistan Field Coordinator
Haroon YAQUBI	Afghanistan Field Liaison Officer

ANNEX 3. DETAILED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Research Approach

The Final Evaluation employed a **mixed methodological approach.** In Afghanistan, Somalia, and Somaliland, the research centred on a community-based research approach using quantitative and qualitative data collection, alongside desk-based research. The Key Informant Interviews and Literature Review examined programmatic angles more broadly, including for the six programmes of Colombia, Kosovo, the Palestinian Territories (The West Bank), Syria, Ukraine, and Yemen. The approach was designed to combine different types of data to answer evaluation research questions.

The community-based primary data collection focussed on impact and relevance of the HALO Trust mine action. This approach emphasised that the best people to provide information on the impact of mines as well as the mine action programming are beneficiaries themselves – those people living proximate to landmines/ERW and who experience the changes from their clearance. Primary data collection centred on drawing out experiences relating to the OECD-DAC criteria questions of relevance to local communities and the potentially multi-variate impact. Primary research also collected data on the key themes of human security and gender. However, community-based primary research also emphasised what the mine action interventions meant to people who experience potential outcomes and impact first-hand, in their own words.

Sampling

Desk-based research, including literature review and remote key informant interviews (KIIs), covered all eight countries of the HALO Trust Netherlands-funded mine action. KIIs were conducted remotely with HALO Trust programme staff in each country. In-person, primary data collection too place in Afghanistan, Somalia and Somaliland. Afghanistan and Somalia/Somaliland represented two of the largest projects in the Netherlands-funded HALO Trust workstream from 2016-2020.

Sampling - Community Locations

Within Afghanistan, Somalia and Somaliland, the in-person data collection took place in primary sampling units (PSUs). PSUs consisted of communities or community clusters proximate to Netherlands-funded HALO Trust 2016-2020 landmine/ERW clearance locations. While it is increasingly recognised that the outcomes and impact

of mine action extends beyond communities directly next to clearance areas, such as with flow-on economic effects, the PSUs comprised communities nearest to the mine action and those who use the land most. PSUs were based on notable locations of Netherlands-funded HALO-implemented landmine/ERW clearance, at times alongside community outreach and risk education (CORE). The choice of PSUs was made on the basis of geographical diversity but also access considerations.

A small sample of nomadic pastoralists were targeted with semi-structured interviews (SSI).

Participant selection and tools

Desk Research and Literature Review

The Literature Review analysed and synthesised key information from HALO Trust documents and data. In addition to internal documentation, Samuel Hall reviewed open-source information and external literature.

Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

27 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were conducted. This mostly comprised HALO Trust staff, as well as government stakeholders.

Quantitative Survey Sampling – Samuel Hall conducted approximately 60 household surveys in each of the PSUs, collecting quantitative data from beneficiaries proximate to HALO Trust mine action. The surveys focus on relevance and impact. Surveys were conducted with randomly selected households within the PSU. Enumerators conducted a route walk and targeted households at different repetitions, in order to have a geographic spread of survey respondents from across the PSU.

Focus Group Discussion (FGDs) Sampling – Separate male and female FGDs were conducted within each PSU. The FGD facilitators recruited participants from diverse backgrounds wherever possible, including difference in ages and professions or income sources (noting that many people in the target PSU locations had agrarian livelihoods), while favouring participants knowledgeable regarding the HALO Trust mine action and those who used the cleared land. The FGDs focussed on impact, relevance, and community member experience of the HALO Trust programming.

Semi-structured interviews (SSI) Sampling – One-on-one semi-structured interviews (SSI) will be held with internally displaced persons and nomads or pastoralists who many not be present in the PSU during the time of the quantitative surveys and FGDs. Where Victim Assistance (VA) programming has taken place, landmine/ERW victims will also be requested to participate in SSI. Follow-up or targeted SSI to cover different perspectives of the HALO Trust mine action may also be held, including with IDPs (within the PSU) and recent returnees.

Paired child interviews – Semi-structured interviews were held with pairs of children aged 12-16. The pair technique was used to contribute to a more open dynamic between the research participants and the interviewer, while also capturing comparative understandings of landmines/ERW and mine action. Children under the age of 18 often account for a high percentage of civilian casualties – in Afghanistan, there were 780 child casualties of landmines/ERW in 2019 constituting 51 percent of total casualties.[105] Children often herd livestock, collect water or gather resources such as wood, placing them at risk of landmines/ERW.

Netherlands 2016-2020 Evaluation Data Collection Summary Table:

Tools	Somalia	Somaliland	Afghanistan	Global	TOTAL
KIIs	5	2	7	8	22
Community Leader SSIs	2	3	4	N/A	9
FGDs	4	6	8	N/A	18
Child Pair Interviews	1	2	2	N/A	5
SSIs	2	2	6	N/A	10
Quantitative Surveys	186	185	181	N/A	552

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[105] Directorate of Mine Action Coordination (DMAC) Afghanistan (2020). IMSMA Database. In 2019, there were 1519 recorded casualties: 780 were children, 739 were adults.

ANNEX 4. EVALUATION MATRIX

EVALUATION CRITERION 1 – RELEVANCE				
Evaluation Question 1: To what extent were the HALO Trust-implemented programmes consistent with the Netherland's priorities and with stakeholders within each country of implementation, including landmine/ERW affected local communities and people?				
Sub-question(s)	Measure / Indicator	Main sources of data / information	Data collection methods	Data analysis methods / Triangulation
To what extent did the programmes respond to local communities and beneficiaries' needs, including different groups? To what extent were the programmes consistent with Netherlands MFA priorities as they evolved over time? To what extent were the programmes consistent with wider mine action objectives in each country? To what extent did the programmes respond to government and wider humanitarian-development needs and priorities?	Stakeholder perceptions regarding the degree to which needs and priorities of different groups were identified appropriately; and interventions aligned with those needs and priorities % of beneficiaries who say that service met their needs (by group)	Netherlands MFA; HALO Trust staff; mine action stakeholders (national mine action coordinators); country governments Data from mixed methods primary data collection Netherlands government and donor documentation Country government documentation	Document review using a structured framework Key Informant Interviews Qualitative focus groups and interviews with beneficiaries Quantitative survey with beneficiaries	Narrative/thematic analysis of secondary data Qualitative analysis of primary data (interviews/ focus groups) Quantitative analysis of beneficiary survey data on relevance Data disaggregation (women/vulnerable groups/children/mobile pastoralists)

EVALUATION CRITERION 2 – COHERENCE				
Evaluation Question 2: For external coherence, were the programmes compatible with other interventions in each of the countries, each country's mine action efforts, and broader humanitarian and development interventions (especially policies)? **Evaluation Question 3:** For internal coherence within the HALO Trust, to what extent was there coherence of the projects in terms of adherence to international mine action norms and standards, other HALO Trust programmes as well as the coherence of: i) Overall objectives; ii) Programme purposes; iii) Expected Results; iv) Activities; v) Assumptions / preconditions; vi) Theory of Change?				
Sub-question(s)	Measure / Indicator	Main sources of data / information	Data collection methods	Data analysis methods / Triangulation
To what extent were HALO's programmes compatible with other interventions and policies in each country? To what extent did the programmes adhere to international norms and standards on mine action? To what extent did the interventions fit with other HALO programming? How well formulated and adaptive were the programmatic theories of change?	Degree of support or undermining between the programmes and other programmes Level of adherence to the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) Assessment of the result chain alignment.	Policy and intervention documentation HALO Trust staff IMAS HALO Trust Documents Theory of Change and Results Chain	Key Informant Interviews Synthetic literature review of other policies and interventions; IMAS; HALO Trust documents	Joint contribution analysis and results chain analysis with HALO Trust staff Narrative/thematic analysis of secondary data

EVALUATION CRITERION 3 – EFFECTIVENESS				
Evaluation Question 4: To what extent were the programmes' objectives achieved?				
Sub-question(s)	Measure / Indicator	Main sources of data / information	Data Source & Data collection methods	Data analysis methods / Triangulation
What was the extent of the achievement of the programmes' goals, objectives and purposes? To what extent were the assumptions required to translate projects' purposes into projects results realistic?	% of beneficiaries with improved physical security, livelihoods and resilience Graded assessment of assumptions	Data from mixed methods primary data collection HALO Trust documentation Theory of Change Assumptions	Document review using a structured framework Qualitative focus groups and interviews with beneficiaries Quantitative survey with beneficiaries	Narrative/thematic analysis of secondary data Qualitative analysis of primary data (interviews/ focus groups) Quantitative analysis of beneficiary survey data on effectiveness Data disaggregation (women/vulnerable groups/children/mobile pastoralists)

EVALUATION CRITERION 4 – EFFICIENCY				
Evaluation Question 5: To what extent did the programmes deliver results in an economic and timely way?				
Sub-question(s)	Measure / Indicator	Main sources of data / information	Data Source & Data collection methods	Data analysis methods / Triangulation
How was value for money tracked, including economy of inputs and efficiency of turning inputs into outputs? How efficient were the organisation and management arrangements and the relationships between them (funding, planning, structures, human resources / personnel, equipment, training, research, monitoring, responsibilities and contractual arrangements)? Were there alternative arrangements that could have been more cost effective, and if so, what were they?	VfM indicator assessment and usage rates	HALO Trust staff HALO Trust documentation	Key Informant Interviews Document review using a structured framework for efficiency	Narrative/thematic analysis of secondary data VfM analysis with HALO Trust staff Programme arrangement analysis with HALO Trust staff

EVALUATION CRITERION 5 – IMPACT				
Evaluation Question 6: What have been the foreseen and unforeseen impacts from the programmes, whether they are positive or negative? This includes a comparison of the situation immediately prior to the implementation of the programmes with the situation after completion of the interventions.				
Sub-question(s)	Measure / Indicator	Main sources of data / information	Data Source & Data collection methods	Data analysis methods / Triangulation
What were the positive impacts resulting from the programmes?	Positive outcomes and impacts realised	Data from mixed methods primary data collection HALO Trust staff	Document review using a structured framework	Narrative/thematic analysis of secondary data Qualitative analysis of primary data (interviews/ focus groups)

What were the negative impacts resulting from the programme, if any? How could these be mitigated in future programming?		HALO Trust reporting	Key Informant Interviews Qualitative focus groups and interviews with beneficiaries Quantitative survey with beneficiaries	Quantitative analysis of beneficiary survey data on impact Data disaggregation (women/vulnerable groups/children/mobile pastoralists)

EVALUATION CRITERION 6 – SUSTAINABILITY				
Evaluation Question 7: To what extent are the net benefits from the mine action interventions likely to continue, with emphasis on: i) acceptance and ownership; and ii) institutional and management capacity?				
Sub-question(s)	Measure / Indicator	Main sources of data / information	Data Source & Data collection methods	Data analysis methods / Triangulation
How likely is it that the net benefits of the programmes will continue over the medium-to-long term? What is the level of local acceptance and ownership within country programmes?	Assessment of likelihood of net benefits continuation Assessment of local acceptance and ownership	HALO Trust staff HALO Trust documents and reporting Data from mixed methods primary data collection Mine action stakeholders (national mine action coordinators); country governments	Document review using a structured framework Key Informant Interviews Qualitative focus groups and interviews with beneficiaries Quantitative survey with beneficiaries	Narrative/thematic analysis of primary and secondary data Qualitative analysis of primary data (interviews/ focus groups) Quantitative analysis of beneficiary survey data on sustainability

ANNEX 5. THEORIES OF CHANGE

A synthesised Theory of Change was displayed In the Programme Background. Theories of Change were tailored and modified for each project, but revolved around a core theory of change. The example here Is the Ukraine Theory of Change.
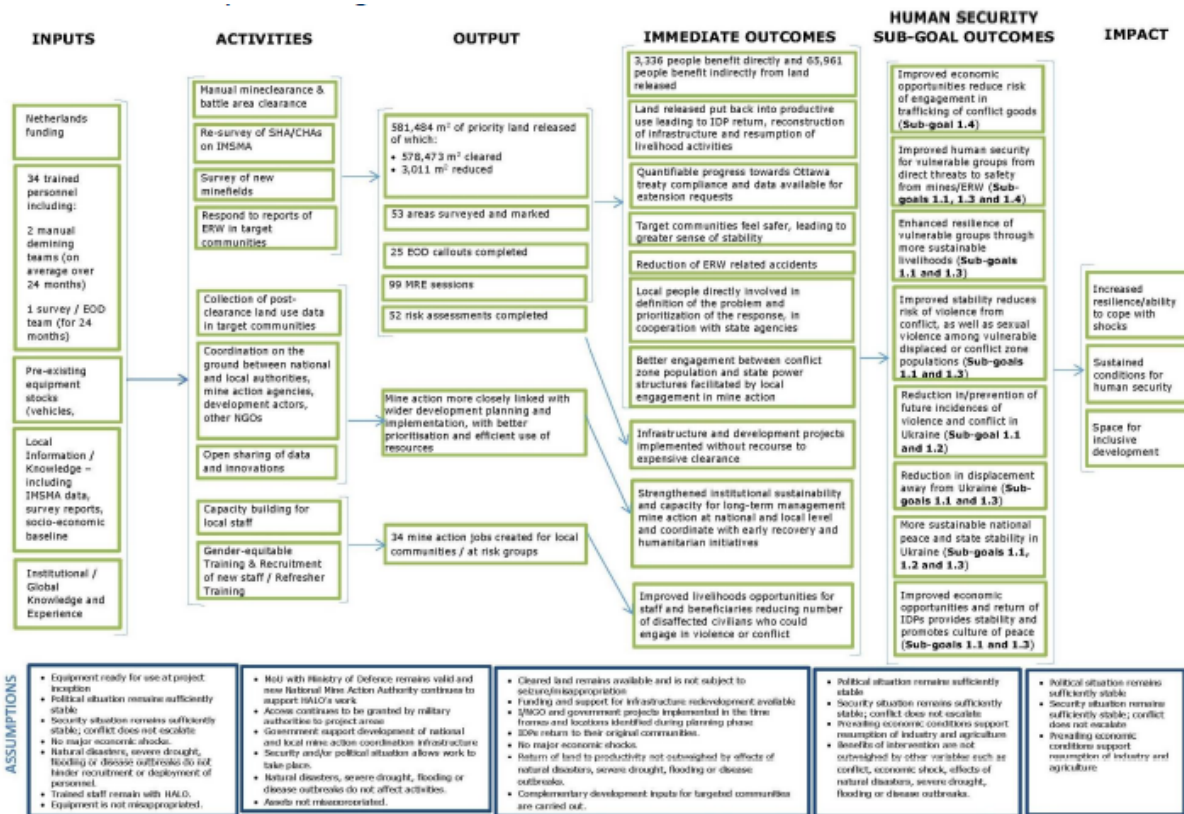
ANNEX 6. RELEVANT GEOGRAPHIC MAP(S) WHERE THE ACTION TOOK PLACE

Figure 1 in the Introduction sections depicts a geographic map where the action took place.

ANNEX 7. LIST OF PERSONS/ORGANISATIONS CONSULTED

#	Organisation	Name	Position	Country
1	HALO Somalia	Lawrie Clapton & Jessica Rice	PM & PO	Somalia
2	HALO Somaliland	Eilidh French	PO	Somaliland
3	HALO Afghanistan	Matthew Walker	Partnership and Donor Management Officer	Afghanistan
4	HALO Global	Kim Fletcher	M&E	Global
5	HALO Europe	Tim Kreuk	Head of HALO Europe	Global
6	HALO Syria	Adam Boyd & Esra Bektas	PM & PO	Syria
7	HALO Somalia	Hassan Ahmed	Operations Officer	Somalia
8	Somalia Government	Aanas Abdi Moalim	District Commissioner	Somalia
9	HALO Somalia	Abdirhaman	Operations Manager	Somalia
10	Somalia Government	Abdikafi Wardeere Omar	Somalia District Administration Office	Somalia
11	HALO Somaliland	Faisal Muhumed Abdilahi	Operation Officer	Somaliland
12	HALO Afghanistan	Mohammad Zemaryalai	Supervisor	Afghanistan
13	HALO Afghanistan	Farhad Yousafi	Assistant Supervisor East	Afghanistan
14	HALO Afghanistan	Abdul Wahid	Supervisor	Afghanistan
15	HALO Afghanistan	Buhramudin Ahmadi	Assistant Supervisor East/South	Afghanistan
16	Afghan Government	Engineer Folad	Balkh DRRD	Afghanistan
17	Afghan Government	Ahmad Wali Sangar	Balkh Governor's Office Economic Director	Afghanistan
18	Afghan Government	Mohammad Rahman Arghandiwal	Samangan DAIL Director	Afghanistan
19	Afghan Government	Engineer Abdul Rauf Hakimi	Samangan DRRD	Afghanistan
20	Afghan Government	Atiq Romal	Herat DAIL Agriculture Planning Manager	Afghanistan
21	Afghan Government	Engineer Farid Azim	Herat DRRD Director	Afghanistan
22	Afghan Government	Mohammad Rafi Farhang	Herat Department of Martyrs and Disabled Affairs - General Manager of Empowerment	Afghanistan
23	HALO Kosovo	Olivia Meader	HALO	Kosovo
24	HALO West Bank	Ronen Shimoni	HALO	West Bank (Palestine)
25	HALO Yemen	Matthew Smith	HALO	Yemen
26	HALO Colombia	Oliver Ford	M&E Officer	Colombia
27	HALO Ukraine	Toby Robinson & Ronan Shenhav	PM & PO	Ukraine

ANNEX 8. LITERATURE AND DOCUMENTATION CONSULTED

#	Title	Author(s)	Date	Type
LR1	Evaluation of the Mine Action and Cluster Munitions Programme of the Netherlands 2016-2020	Dr Robert Keeley, Dr Russell Gasser, Ms Welmoet Wels	October 2019	Evaluation
LR2	Anti-Vehicle Mine Contamination in Afghanistan Impact and MAPA Response	Rebecca Roberts	November 2018	Study
LR3	The Socio-Economic Impact of Anti-Vehicle Mines in Angola	GICHD, SIPRI, KCL	November 2019	Study
LR4	The Development of a Humanitarian IED Clearance Capacity in Afghanistan	Alexander Tan, The HALO Trust	January 2020	Journal Article
LR5	Indicators as agreed with NL MFA	The HALO Trust	-	Indicators
LR6	HALO Annual Plan 2018	The HALO Trust	-	Annual Planning
LR7	HALO Annual Plan 2019	The HALO Trust	-	Annual Planning
LR8	HALO Annual Plan 2020	The HALO Trust	-	Annual Planning
LR9	AMENDMENT The Halo Trust Humanitarian Mine Action and Cluster	The HALO Trust	September 2019	Contract and amendments
LR10	HALO 'Humanitarian Mine Action and Cluster Munitions	The HALO Trust	25 August 2016	-
LR11	HALO_Mine Action Afghanistan_2019_Amendment nr 5 version 11 July 2019	The HALO Trust	11 July 2019	Contract and amendments
LR12	HALO_Mine Action Afghanistan_2019_Amendment nr 5	The HALO Trust	July 2019	Contract and amendments
LR13	HALO Mine Action Emergency Response South Syria	The HALO Trust	4 May 2017	Contract and amendments
LR14	HALO_Mine Action_2019_Progress Report Approval SIGNED	The HALO Trust	30 July 2020	-
LR15	NL letter approving Yemen funding	The HALO Trust	29 November 2020	Contract
LR16	MINBUZA-2018.861746 29162_HALO_Mine action 2016-2020_Afghanistan_amendment_25 July 2018	The HALO Trust	25 July 2018	
LR17	AFG NL GFFO AIM Metrics Table	The HALO Trust	-	-
LR18	AFG NL metrics table Q2 2020	The HALO Trust	12/31/2018	-
LR19	COL Dutch Metrics FINAL	The HALO Trust	21/01/2019 - Completed	NL METRICS TABLE
LR20	KOS NL Metrics Q2 2020	The HALO Trust	09/07/2019 - Completed	NL METRICS TABLE
LR21	SOM NL metrics table Q2 2020	The HALO Trust	20/07/2020 - Completed	NL METRICS TABLE
LR22	SYR NL Metrics table Q2 2020	The HALO Trust	10/07/2020 - Completed	NL METRICS TABLE
LR23	UKR metrics table for annual report	The HALO Trust	24 April 2020 - Completed	NL METRICS TABLE
LR24	WB Dutch Metrics FINAL	The HALO Trust	30/09/2018 - Completed	NL METRICS TABLE
LR25	Policy-framework-mine-action-and-cluster-munitions-2016-2020	The HALO Trust	-	Policy-framework
LR26	Grant_Regulations_MFAGR-ENG	The HALO Trust	21 December 2005	Grant-regulations
LR27	Annex 1 - List of countries	The HALO Trust	-	-

LR28	Annex 2 - Corporate rates	The HALO Trust	-	-
LR29	Annex 3A - policy-framework-mine-action-and-cluster-munitions-programme-2016-2020	The HALO Trust	1 May 2015	Policy-framework
LR30	Annex 3B - Theory of Change	The HALO Trust	-	-
LR31	qa-mine-action-and-cluster-munitions-programme-2016-2020-may-20th-2016	The HALO Trust	-	-
LR32	HALO Afghanistan Annual Report 2016-17 NL	The HALO Trust	1 September 2012016 - 31 December 2017	Annual Report
LR33	HALO Annual Report 2016-17 Somaliland - Somalia NL	The HALO Trust	1 September 2012016 - 31 December 2017	Annual Report
LR34	HALO Annual Report 2016-17 Syria North NL	The HALO Trust	1 September 2012016 - 31 December 2017	Annual Report
LR35	HALO Annual Report 2016-17 West Bank NL	The HALO Trust	1 September 2012016 - 31 December 2017	Annual Report
LR36	HALO annual report 2017_questions _ and answers	The HALO Trust	-	-
LR37	HALO Colombia Annual Report 2017 NL	The HALO Trust	1 January 201 7 - 31 December 2017	Annual Report
LR38	HALO Kosovo Annual Report 2016-17 NL	The HALO Trust	1 September 2012016 - 31 December 2017	Annual Report
LR39	NL AFG OUTCOME metrics for annual report	The HALO Trust	1 September 2016 - 31 December 2017	NL METRICS TABLE
LR40	NL COL OUTCOME metrics for annual report	The HALO Trust	1 January - 31 December 2017	NL METRICS TABLE
LR41	NL KOS OUTCOME metrics for annual report	The HALO Trust	1 September 2016 - 31 December 2017	NL METRICS TABLE
LR42	NL SOM OUTCOME metrics for annual report	The HALO Trust	1 September 2016 - 31 December 2017	NL METRICS TABLE
LR43	NL SYR (North) OUTCOME metrics for annual report	The HALO Trust	1 September 2016 - 31 December 2017	NL METRICS TABLE
LR44	NL WB OUTCOME metrics for annual report	The HALO Trust	1 September 2016 - 31 December 2017	NL METRICS TABLE
LR45	190821 NL Questions for HALO on annual report 2018	The HALO Trust	-	-
LR46	NL Afghanistan Annual Report 2018	The HALO Trust	1 January 2018 - December 2018	Annual Report
LR47	NL Kosovo Annual Report 2018	The HALO Trust	1 January 2018 - December 2018	Annual Report
LR48	NL Somaliland Annual Report 2018	The HALO Trust	1 January 2018 - December 2018	Annual Report
LR49	NL Syria Annual Report 2018	The HALO Trust	1 January 2018 - December 2018	Annual Report
LR50	NL Ukraine Annual Report 2018	The HALO Trust	1 January 2018 - December 2018	Annual Report
LR51	AFG NL Annual Report 2019	The HALO Trust	1 January 2019 - December 2019	Annual Report
LR52	KOS NL Annual Report 2019	The HALO Trust	1 January 2019 - December 2019	Annual Report
LR53	SOM NL Annual Report 2019	The HALO Trust	1 January 2019 - December 2019	Annual Report

| LR54	SYR NL Annual Report 2019	The HALO Trust	1 January 2019 - December 2019	Annual Report
LR55	YMN NL Annual Report 2019	The HALO Trust	1 January 2019 - December 2019	Annual Report
LR56	HALO Final Report Emergency Funding Yemen	The HALO Trust	1 August 2017 – 31 August 2019	Emergency Funding
LR57	HALO Syria south Final Report Emergency Funding 2017-2018	The HALO Trust	1 May 2017 31 March 2018	Emergency Funding
LR58	HALO Ukraine NL Final Report 2017-2019 - with amended budget	The HALO Trust	1 January 2017 - 31 December 2019	Final report - amended budget
LR59	NL Afghanistan AIM Final Report 2019	The HALO Trust	1 January 2018 - 30 June 2019	AIM Final Report
LR60	NL Colombia Final Report	The HALO Trust	1 January 2017 - 31 December 2019	Final report
LR61	NL West Bank Final Report	The HALO Trust	1 September 2016 - 30 December 2018	Final report
LR62	AFG Country Plan FINAL	The HALO Trust	-	County plan
LR63	COL Country Plan FINAL	The HALO Trust	-	County plan
LR64	KOS Country Plan FINAL	The HALO Trust	-	County plan
LR65	PAL Country Plan FINAL	The HALO Trust	-	County plan
LR66	SOM Country Plan FINAL	The HALO Trust	-	County plan
LR67	SYR Country Plan FINAL	The HALO Trust	-	County plan
LR68	UKR Country Plan FINAL	The HALO Trust	-	County plan
LR69	COMBINED FINAL The HALO Trust RNG Tender 2016-2020	The HALO Trust	25th May 2016	Executive Summary and Qualifications to the Grant Policy Framework
LR70	NEW Budget summary and Multiyear Estimates 2016 – 2020	The HALO Trust	-	-
LR71	HALO Syria NL 2018 Survey-EOD continuation Proposal FINAL	The HALO Trust		Continuation proposal final
LR72	190218 HALO Afghanistan proposal to NL MFA 2019	The HALO Trust	1 July 2019 - 31 August 2019	Proposal - MFA
LR73	HALO Yemen proposal to NL MFA 2019	The HALO Trust	1 July 2019 - 31 August 2019	Proposal - MFA
LR74	190607 HALO Afghanistan proposal to NL MFA 2019 v2	The HALO Trust	1 July 2019 - 31 August 2019	Proposal - MFA
LR75	20180510 HALO Afghanistan - Improvised Mine Concept of Operations	The HALO Trust	1 July 2018 – 31 June 2019	Concept of operations
LR76	HALO Yemen and RNG MFA - July 2017	The HALO Trust	17 Months – August, 2017 to December 2018	Concept note
LR77	HALO update on mine action in Ukraine	The HALO Trust	-	-
LR78	Request amendment targets Ukraine 2019	The HALO Trust	13 August 2019	Amendment of targets
LR79	Update NL HALO during COVID	The HALO Trust	22nd May 2019	COVID-19 activities
LR80	Request reallocation expenditures M&E line AIM project	The HALO Trust	24 August 2020	Budget
LR81	HALO Kosovo NL budget rider National Survey	The HALO Trust	31 October 2017	Budget

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LR82	HALO Syria NL Extension Letter Emergency Funds	The HALO Trust	31st October 2017	Letter
LR83	Improvised Explosive Devices and the International Mine Action Standards	Guy Rhodes GICHD	December 2017	Article
LR84	Leaving no one Behind: Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goals	GICHD	July 2017	Article
LR85	Gender mainstreaming in mine action: Powerful interlinkages for progress across the SDGs	Laura Biscaglia, Vanessa Gomes Sampaio, Ursign Hofmann, Marion Provencher Langlois	2018	Article
LR86	Humanitarian Response, Improvised Landmines and IEDs - Policy issues for principled mine action	MAG	2016	Policy Brief / Article
LR87	Afghanistan - Mine Ban Policy	Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor	2019	Policy

ANNEX 9. OTHER TECHNICAL ANNEXES

N/A

ANNEX 10. DETAILED ANSWER TO EVALUATION QUESTIONS, CRITERIA AND INDICATORS

HALO Dutch 2016-2020 OECD-DAC Scores
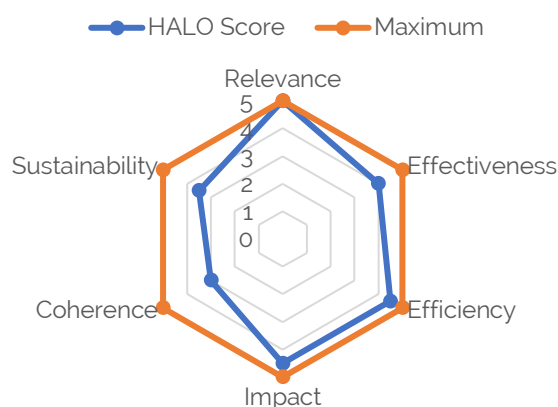
1) Relevance - To what extent were the HALO Trust-implemented programmes consistent with the Netherland's priorities and with stakeholders within each country of implementation, including landmine/ERW affected local communities and people?

These objectives and the mine action programming were found to be highly relevant to the Dutch MFA's MACM programme, to local governments, humanitarian-development stakeholders, as well as communities themselves.

Samuel Hall's first indicator for relevance included "Stakeholder perceptions regarding the degree to which needs and priorities of different groups were identified appropriately; and interventions aligned with those needs and priorities".

The Netherlands priorities were considered under the MACM as well as wider Netherlands' development priorities. The HALO Trust aligned their programming to match Netherlands and MACM priorities, with a focus

on security and the rule of law.[106] Security and the rule of law encompassed removing physical threats to people's security and safety, which constituted the main focus of the HALO Trust's work. The Netherlands foreign cooperation policies describe. The Dutch security and rule of law theme also included an emphasis on human security, whereby a traditional understanding of security as the security of the state is changed so that the state is not the sole focus, but also the multifaceted security and safety of people.[107] The HALO Trust included a set of "Human Security Sub-Goal Outcomes" in their theories of change (see Theory of Change in Annex 5), tied to Netherlands' Government Strategic Rule of Law Policy Goal 1: 'Personal Safety'.

Finally, the Dutch government also emphasise the role of girls and women in security and mine action. The Dutch MFA stated that "the Netherlands will further strengthen the role of vulnerable groups like women and young people in peace and political processes. It is crucial to continue to underscore the importance of gender in programmes on security and the rule of law."[108] The HALO Trust have made concerted efforts to include women both in their operations and in their programming, discussed in the gender mainstreaming findings.

The Stakeholders within each country of implementation includes government and the mine action bodies. Through Key informant interviews with HALO Trust staff, Samuel Hall found alignment with government priorities, almost always associated with reduction in physical security threats to populations but also longer-term livelihoods and economic gains. The HALO Trust's work was also aligned with mine action coordination bodies.

Local communities and people also found the HALO Trust programming highly relevant. The main quantitative indicator used was the percentage (%) of beneficiaries who said that the service met their needs. Across the evaluation sample, 84.9% (n=469) responded affirmative that the mine action programming in the area meet their needs. In addition, qualitative discussions and interviews showed that the landmine/ERW clearance and mine action (such as EORE) was also deemed highly relevant to local community members proximate to clearance.

2) Coherence (External) - Externally, were the programmes compatible with other interventions in each of the countries, each country's mine action efforts, and broader humanitarian and development interventions linked to intended outcomes and impact?

There were high levels of compatibility between the Dutch MFA-funded HALO Trust programmes and each country's mine action efforts. The HALO Trust coordinated with other implementing partners and prioritised the development of coordination bodies, such as in Yemen and Ukraine. The HALO Trust also conducted training activities for coordination bodies such as in Yemen.

While not a focus of the evaluation, the research team found that the HALO Trust adhered to the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) regarding the indicator "Level of adherence to the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS)".

There were nascent and ad-hoc links to other humanitarian-development interventions. Regarding the indicator "Degree of support or undermining between the programmes and other programmes", the HALO Trust programmes did not undermine other programmes. The HALO Trust activities were often important in allowing other programmes to take place or to scale, as can be seen in the access to social services and other programmes section in the findings. However, external coherence could be improved by strengthening linkages with other humanitarian and development organisations in an effort to consolidate HALO's potential position at the heart of the triple nexus (of the humanitarian, development and peace agendas).

3) Coherence (Internal) - Internally, to what extent was there coherence of the projects in terms of: i) Overall objectives; ii) Programme purposes; iii) Expected Results; iv) Activities; v) Assumptions / preconditions; vi) Theory of Change?

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[106] Government of the Netherlands (nd.). Development cooperation, Dutch policy, Security and the rule of law. Accessed at: https://www.government.nl/topics/development-cooperation/the-development-policy-of-the-netherlands/security-and-the-rule-of-law
[107] Government of the Netherlands (nd.). Security and the rule of law theme. Accessed at: https://www.dutchdevelopmentresults.nl/theme/security-and-rule-of-law
[108] Government of the Netherlands (nd.). Security and the rule of law theme. Accessed at: https://www.dutchdevelopmentresults.nl/theme/security-and-rule-of-law

The "assessment of the result chain alignment" found that their was internal coherence of the projects. The theory of change aligned and the series of results made sense while moving through inputs, activities, outputs, the two sets of outcomes and the overall, longer-term impacts.

4) Effectiveness - To what extent were the programmes' objectives achieved? This includes the: i) extent of achievement of projects' objectives and purposes; ii) realism of assumptions required to translate projects' purposes into the projects' results?

The Dutch MFA-funded HALO Trust programmes were found to be effective. The HALO Trust are strong operationally, and even where outputs and subsequent outcomes were delayed due to contextual constraints, the HALO Trust were usually able to communicate this and meet their programmatic objectives. The HALO Trust predominantly met or exceeded their programmatic targets which aligned with the core objectives of the programme.

For the indicator: "Percentage (%) of beneficiaries with improved physical security, livelihoods and resilience": 92.7% (512 of 552) of people living next to the Dutch-funded HALO Trust clearance in locations across Afghanistan and Somalia/Somaliland said their physical security had increased as part of the Samuel Hall evaluation research. 87.8% (n=485) responded that their livelihoods improved. 89.1% (n=492) that they had improved resilience (better able to adapt to shocks) as a result of the mine action.

For the "Graded assessment of assumptions", Samuel Hall found that the assumptions were mostly realistic relating to translation of the projects' purposes into the projects' results. Some of the assumptions may have been unrealistic: As can be seen in Annex 5, assumptions on security and access in conflict areas may need to be rethought for future effectiveness. Many of the countries and areas where the HALO Trust operate have major changes or prolonged insecurity, conflict, political issues and access constraints. Key informant interviews with HALO Trust programmatic staff across contexts such as Syria, Colombia and Yemen discussed how the assumptions and associated project results were ambitious, especially for projects in news countries or areas, and how this may need further work in future to integrate constraints.

5) Efficiency - To what extent did the HALO Trust programmes deliver results in an economic and timely way? The efficiency with which the activities were undertaken in order to yield planned results. This includes: i) Organisation and management arrangements (funding, structures, human resources, responsibilities and contractual arrangements such as grant contracts); ii) The value-for-money; iii) Management capacities of the coordination structures and mechanisms, including for monitoring & planning; iv) Alternatives which may have been most cost effective

The HALO Trust was found to be efficient, especially supported by the long-term and flexible funding provisioned by the Dutch MFA in the grant arrangement. The HALO Trust have minimal international staff presence and focus on delivering operational outcomes with efficient resourcing and value for money. Key informant interviews with the HALO Trust, such as with HALO Trust Yemen, discussed regional operations focus on purchasing necessary resources such as vehicles which can be used over the life cycle of longer-term projects but also beyond, finding efficiencies over shorter-term rental arrangements in countries with high costs. The Samuel Hall evaluation team did not focus on the value-for-money component and the indicator "VfM indicator assessment and usage rates". Efficiency can be understood through HALO Trust internal reporting, such as through IAITI and annual / end-of-project reports, with the evaluation instead focussing on perspectives from communities.

6) Impact - What have been the foreseen and unforeseen impacts from the HALO programmes, whether they are positive or negative? This includes a comparison of the situation immediately prior to the implementation of the programmes with the situation after completion of the interventions.

The mine action and landmine/ERW clearance was found to have major positive impacts in the lives of beneficiaries. Along with the areas of physical security, livelihoods and resilience discussed in Effectiveness above and in the findings, Samuel Hall found that the HALO programmes also increased access to essential services, improved people's mental health and wellbeing, and fostered more cohesive communities. Dutch MFA-funded mine action resulted in multifaceted impact across physical security, economic resilience and social spheres. Landmine/ERW clearance and EORE significantly increased people's physical security and safety, and

local communities put released land to productive use through a range of livelihoods activities. These areas were discussed in the findings section.

7) Sustainability - To what extent are the net benefits from the mine action interventions likely to continue, with emphasis on: i) acceptance and ownership; ii) appropriate technology; and iii) institutional and management capacity?

The results of the mine action were found to likely continue, and most likely to accelerate, in the medium-to-long term. This was because landmines/ERW, once removed, were almost always removed forever. Productive use of land usually increased over time, and the positive livelihoods impacts accelerated as crop cycles continued and increased, and people could make better use of productive lands over time. In the indicator of "Assessment of likelihood of net benefits continuation", this was found to be of very high likelihood. The evaluation found that HALO Trust could further extend or maximise positive changes regarding productive land use and other positive impacts resulting from their work through stronger emphasis on sustainability regarding the environment, natural resource management and links with development that happens on land after it is cleared.

In the "Assessment of local acceptance and ownership", there were very high acceptance rates of HALO Trust programmes. 80.0% (n=442) of survey respondents said there were very high levels of local acceptance of the mine action programmes and a further 10.7% (n=59) said there was high levels of local acceptance of the programmes. 7.9% (n=44) said there were medium levels, and only six people (three and three respectively) of the 552 participants said there was low or very low acceptance of the programmes. Slightly lower levels of survey participants found "very high levels of ownership" - 74.4% (n=410), but 15.2% (n=84) said there were high levels of ownership. n=47 responded medium and n=9 low levels of ownership. Overall, this indicated that there was very high acceptance levels of the HALO Trust programming and community members also felt significantly invested and part of the process of the HALO Trust mine action.

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ABOUT SAMUEL HALL

Samuel Hall is a social enterprise that conducts research, evaluates programmes and designs policies in contexts of migration and displacement. Our approach is ethical, academically rigorous and based on first-hand experience of complex and fragile settings.

Our research connects the voices of communities to changemakers for more inclusive societies. With offices in Afghanistan, Germany, Kenya and Tunisia and a presence in Somalia, Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates, we are based in the regions we study. For more information, please visit www.samuelhall.org.

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