RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp
05/23/2024

RECEIVED
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PUBLIC RECORDS
2024 MAY 23 PM 5:47

Post Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the Office of Public Records in 232 Hart Building. **This form is a public disclosure. The form and all attachments will be made publicly available.**

Certification: *In compliance with the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel, Senate Rule 35, and the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, I certify that I accepted the following gift of privately sponsored travel:*

Private Sponsor(s):
The HALO Trust (USA), The HALO Trust

Travel Dates:
04/21/2024 to 04/26/2024

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler:

Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
$1,672.00	$225.00	$115.00	$60.00

I also certify that attached to this form are all required documents for post travel disclosure, including:

- **The final Employee Pre-Travel Authorization** (Form RE-1)
- The final **Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form** with all attachments
- The final invitation
- The final approved itinerary

Finally, I certify that all trip information reflected in the attachments above accurately reflects the travel that I accepted. If there were any changes to the trip after I received approval from the Committee, the changes are described in ATTACHMENT 1.

05/23/2024
Date

Francesca Eremeeva
Printed Name of Traveler

Signature of Traveler

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the Employee Pre-Travel Authorization form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

05/23/24
Date

Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

ATTACHMENT 1 – CHANGES FROM APPROVED PRE-TRAVEL

Note: Material changes to a trip that occur after the Committee has issued an approval letter may invalidate the Committee's approval. Please contact the Committee with any questions regarding changes to an approved trip.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved travel expenses? (Transportation, Meals, Lodging, Other)?

◉ Yes ○ No

Expense Change	Revised Amount	Explanation
Transportation	$1,672.00	Actual flight cost: $1636 Actual ground transportation cost: $36
Misc. Expenses	$61.00	Visa actual cost: $61
Lodging	$225.00	Hotel cost (2 nights at $58 per night): $116 HALO Ina Guuxaa deminer camp cost (1 night): $109
Meals	$115.00	Actual amount of meal/water costs between April 21-25 (no meals on the 26): $115

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

◉ Yes ○ No

Explanation: Adjustments April 22 (flight delay), 23 (briefings, timings), 25 (substituted briefings): APRIL 22 2:30 PM Arrival at airport. Transport to hotel 4-5 PM Arrive at hotel and check-in 5-5:45 PM Freshen up 5:45-6 PM Walk to HALO Compound 6-7 PM Dinner: Intros and briefing: demining/malnutrition policy. Compound Tour. 7-8 PM Briefing on conflict history APRIL 23 9:00-10:30 AM Visit school/former minefield 10:30-11:30 AM Drive to HALO Compound, pack vehicles 11:30-2 PM Drive to Ina Guuxaa 2 PM-3:30 PM Lunch at HALO camp, briefing: mines and every day life in Somaliland. 3:30-4:30 PM Briefing: Mine Risk Education Session 4:30-6:15 PM Briefing: HALO Ethiopia and comparing to other programs 6:15-7:15 PM Briefing: HALO's work in Horn of Africa 7:15-9 PM Meet with Village Elders 9-9:30 PM Dinner, briefing: HALO Somalia APRIL 25 9-10 AM Briefing: security in Somaliland with HALO's security officers 10-11 AM Briefing: HALO's medical team 11-12:15 PM Briefing: women & demining technology

Were there any additional changes to the pre-approved trip?

○ Yes ◉ No

Explanation: There were no additional changes to the pre-approved trip.

RE-1 Employee Pre-Travel Authorization

Date/Time Stamp

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics** in **SH-220.** Incomplete and late travel submissions will **not** be considered or approved.

Name of Traveler: Francesca Eremeeva

Private Sponsor(s): The HALO Trust (USA) and HALO Trust

Employing Office/Committee:
VAN HOLLEN, CHRIS

Destination(s):
Hargeisa and Ina Guuxxaa, Somalia

Travel Dates:
04/21/2024 to 04/26/2024
NOTE: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you **must** notify the Committee.

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties.

Senator Van Hollen has been a leading member on issues pertaining to food security, addressing malnutrition, and demining around the world, but especially in the Horn of Africa. This trip will allow me, as a member of his national security staff, to speak directly with implementers of U.S. assistance on the ground and learn more about the intersection of demining work and combating food insecurity in the region. The trip will allow me to better inform and support the Senator's work on the Appropriations Committee by giving me direct insight into how U.S. assistance is meeting needs on the ground and how it can be improved.

Do you have an accompanying family member or spouse on this trip?
No

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
N/A

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

04/18/2024
Date

Signature of Employee

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER
(President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain)

I Chris Van Hollen hereby authorize Francesca Eremeeva
(Print Senator's/Officer's Name) (Print Traveler's Name)

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate.

☐ (signify "yes" by checking box)

4/18/24
Date

Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

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

Francesca Eremeeva

Title:
Legislative Aide

Employing Office/Committee:
VAN HOLLEN, CHRIS

Duty Station:
WASHINGTON,DC

Destination(s):
Hargeisa, Somalia
Ina Guuxxaa, Somaliland, Somalia
Hargeisa, Somalia

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties:

Senator Van Hollen has been a leading member on issues pertaining to food security, addressing malnutrition, and demining around the world, but especially in the Horn of Africa. This trip will allow me, as a member of his national security staff, to speak directly with implementers of U.S. assistance on the ground and learn more about the intersection of demining work and combating food insecurity in the region. The trip will allow me to better inform and support the Senator's work on the Appropriations Committee by giving me direct insight into how U.S. assistance is meeting needs on the ground and how it can be improved.

Name of accompanying family member (if any):
Not Entered

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
None

Organization Information

Organization Name
The HALO Trust (USA)

Is your organization classified as a §501(c)(3)?
● Yes ○ No

§501(c)(3) Organization Type
Public Charity

Address
1730 Rhode Island Ave

Address 2 (Optional)
Ste. 206

City, State Zip
Washington, District Of Columbia 20036 United States

Phone Number
3603911015

Organization URL

History of Congressional Travel

The HALO Trust (USA) previously was a co-sponsor for a staffdel with the International Conservation Caucus Foundation to Angola and Botswana.

Educational Activities

HALO educates Congressional offices on humanitarian landmine removal programs, and other conventional weapons destruction activities through meetings, coordinating briefings, and supporting events for the UXO/Demining caucus.

Lobbyist and Foreign Agent Registration Information

Lobbyist Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist and do not retain or employ a federally registered lobbyist.*

Foreign Agent Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal and do not retain or employ an agent of a foreign principal.*

Foreign Government Involvement

Foreign Agent Registration Status:

- ● I certify that the sponsor is not a foreign government.
- ● I certify that the sponsor is not an entity that is owned or operated by a foreign government.
- ● I certify that the sponsor does not receive funding from a foreign government.

Comments

None Entered

Signature Page

The signature page is below.

Purpose and Details

Provide a brief description of the trip.

The purpose of this trip is for Congressional staff to learn about the intersection of global food security, and humanitarian landmine removal programs. Participants will learn about conflict in the region, see demining activities along the Somaliland-Ethiopia border, hear from organizations such as UNICEF, FAO, and World Food Program about malnutrition programming, visit a health clinic to see malnutrition response efforts, speak with local community members to learn about how mines impact their daily life, and meet with high level Somaliland government officials.

Explain how the purpose of the trip relates to your organization's mission.

HALO is the world's largest humanitarian demining organization with a mission to protect lives and restore the livelihoods of those affected by conflict. This trip allows participants to see demining work, learn about the aftermath of conflict in the Horn of Africa, see the impact of demining. The trip also provides education on food security challenges in the region and programming to support malnutrition.

Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

○ Yes ● No

Describe your organization's role in planning the trip.

The HALO Trust (USA): Inviting participants, planning itinerary/coordinating with stakeholders, planning activities, hosting/conducting visit, leading briefings. The HALO Trust: Providing education and demonstrations on demining, employing deminers, drivers, providing ground transportation and security, operating deminer camp, booking hotel and air travel, sending meeting invitations to Somaliland Government and community leaders.

Joint Sponsor: The HALO Trust

Organization Information

Organization Name
The HALO Trust

Is your organization classified as a §501(c)(3)?
● Yes ○ No

§501(c)(3) Organization Type
N/A

Address
The Design Office, Unit 8a/9c Wilton Shopping Village

Address 2 (Optional)
King Street, Wilton

City, State Zip
Wiltshire, District Of Columbia SP2 0RS United Kingdom

Phone Number
+447443824529

Organization URL

History of Congressional Travel

The HALO Trust (based in the UK) has not previously sponsored US Congressional travel.

Educational Activities

The HALO Trust conducts educational demining demonstrations in the field and holds briefings and meetings in the UK for government officials.

Lobbyist and Foreign Agent Registration Information

Lobbyist Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist and do not retain or employ a federally registered lobbyist.*

Foreign Agent Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal and do not retain or employ an agent of a foreign principal.*

Foreign Government Involvement

Foreign Agent Registration Status:

- ☑ I certify that the sponsor is not a foreign government.
- ☑ I certify that the sponsor is not an entity that is owned or operated by a foreign government.
- ☑ I certify that the sponsor does not receive funding from a foreign government.

Comments

The HALO Trust has not received funding from a foreign government for this trip. No foreign donor played ANY role in planning, arranging, or conducting this trip. All specific costs spent by The HALO Trust on this visit for Congressional staff will be billed back to HALO Trust (USA).

Signature Page

The signature page is below.

Grantmaking Organizations (Optional)

1. The Eleanor Crook Foundation

With or Without Regard for Congressional Participation

The trip is arranged or organized specifically with regard to congressional participation.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Involvement in Planning, Organizing, Requesting or Arranging

- ☑ The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal, other than de minimis involvement.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Financing

- ☑ The trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.
- ☑ No funds or in-kind contributions were earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Accompaniment

Complete if all sponsors are §501(c)(3) organizations

- ○ The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- ○ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip
- ○ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Complete if any of the sponsors is not a §501(c)(3) organizations.

- ☑ The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- ○ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip
- ○ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Certification of No Recreational Activity and No Alcohol

- ☑ Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for recreational activities.
- ☑ Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for alcohol, except as permitted by the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel

Invitees

Members and staff from the House of Representatives **will** receive invitations.

The list of invitees is below.

Travel Details

Trip Start Date/Time:
04/21/2024 @ 10:50 AM

⇄

Trip End Date/Time:
04/26/2024 @ 08:55 AM

Will the traveler be accompanied by a family member for whom the sponsor will pay travel expenses?

○ Yes ● No

Itinerary

The itinerary is below.

Transportation (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $1,520.00 | Accompanying Family Member: $0.00)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Airfare	Coach	$1,500.00
Note Round trip flights (ET501 from IAD to ADD then ET 372 ADD to HGA. ET375 HGA to ADD then ET500 ADD to IAD, with brief refuel at FCO.)		
Ground Transportation	N/A	$20.00
Note Average $20 per person for vehicle fuel		

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $230.00)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
04/22/2024	04/23/2024	Mansoor Hotel	Hargeisa	None	Somalia	1	$100.00	No
04/23/2024	04/24/2024	HALO deminer camp	Ina Guuxxaa, Somaliland	None	Somalia	1	$30.00	No
04/24/2024	04/25/2024	Mansoor Hotel	Hargeisa	None	Somalia	1	$100.00	No

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $137.00)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
04/22/2024	$5.00	$10.00	$20.00	$0.00	**$35.00**	Hargeisa	None	Somalia	No
04/23/2024	$5.00	$10.00	$20.00	$5.00	**$40.00**	Hargeisa	None	Somalia	No

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
04/24/2024	$5.00	$10.00	$20.00	$2.00	**$37.00**	Hargeisa	None	Somalia	No
04/25/2024	$10.00	$10.00	$0.00	$5.00	**$25.00**	Hargeisa	None	Somalia	No

Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $60.00)

Expense Type	Amount	Notes
Visa Fees	$60.00	Visa

Additional Attachments

Document Name
There are no additional attachments.

PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL

SPONSOR SIGNATURE PAGE

I hereby certify that the information submitted in connection with the trip listed below is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Trip Name: HALO Demining & Food Security Visit to Somaliland

Travel Date(s): April 21-26th, 2024

Travel Destination(s): Somaliland

Sponsor: The HALO Trust (USA)

Kristen Stevens — *(printed name of sponsor representative)*

Head of Congressional Affairs — *(title)*



(signature of sponsor representative)

4-18-2024 — *(date)*

PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL

SPONSOR SIGNATURE PAGE

I hereby certify that the information submitted in connection with the trip listed below is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Trip Name: HALO Demining & Food Security Visit to Somaliland

Travel Date(s): April 21-26, 2024

Travel Destination(s): Somaliland

Sponsor: The HALO Trust

Rob Syfret — *(printed name of sponsor representative)*

Head of Region (Horn of Africa — *(title)*

Robert Syfret — *(signature of sponsor representative)*

Digitally signed by Robert Syfret
Date: 2024.04.17 22:40:32 +04'00'

4/17/2024 — *(date)*

Grantmaking Organization Certification Form

Instructions: If a sponsor receives funds from a grantmaking organization, the sponsor must disclose this on the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form*, and the grantmaking organization must complete the *Grantmaking Organization Certification Form.* The completed *Grantmaking Organization Certification Form* must be submitted to the Senate Select Committee on Ethics by the trip sponsor at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date.

Grantmaking Organization: The Eleanor Crook Foundation

Private Sponsor: The HALO Trust (USA), The HALO Trust

Trip Name: HALO Demining & Food Security Visit to Somaliland

Travel Date(s): April 21-26, 2024

Destination(s): Somaliland

In compliance with the *Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel*, I certify the following:

- ☑ The grantmaking organization is a § 501(c)(3) organization.
- ☑ The grantmaking organization is not a lobbyist, lobbying firm, or foreign agent, nor an entity that retains or employs a lobbyist or foreign agent.
- ☑ The grantmaking organization provides funds under an established grant program, or in a manner that is otherwise consistent with the mission and practices of the organization.
- ☑ The grantmaking organization is not involved, directly or indirectly, in organizing and conducting the trip. This includes selecting participants for a trip.
- ☑ The grantmaking organization does not directly pay or reimburse travel expenses for any Senate Member, officer, or employee.

Lesly Weber McNitt	Sr. Director, North American Advc
(Printed name of grantmaking organization representative)	*(Title)*
Digitally signed by Lesly Weber McNitt Date: 2024.03.21 08:38:44 -04'00'	3/21/2024
(Signature of grantmaking organization representative)	*(Date)*

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

Name	Title	Office	Reason inviting
Francesca Eremeeva	Foreign Policy and Defense Legislative Aide	Sen. Chris Van Hollen	Oversees policy for a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Sen. Chris Coons	Member of Congress		Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Subcommittee on Africa
Sen. James Risch	Member of Congress		Ranking minority member of Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Sen. Brian Schatz	Member of Congress		Member of Senate Foreign Relations Committee Subcommittee on Africa
Sen. Todd Young	Member of Congress		Member of Senate Foreign Relations Committee Subcommittee on Africa
Sen. Cory Booker	Member of Congress		Chair of Senate Foreign Relations Committee Subcommittee on Africa
Sen. John Boozman	Member of Congress		Co-chair of Congressional Hunger Caucus
Sen. Richard Blumenthal	Member of Congress		Member of Senate Appropriations Committee
Sen. Dick Durbin	Member of Congress		Member of Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Sen. Bill Hagerty	Member of Congress		Member of Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Sen. Jeff Merkley	Member of Congress		Member of Senate Foreign Relations Committee Subcommittee on Africa
Sen. Marco Rubio	Member of Congress		Member of Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Sen. Raphael Warnock	Member of Congress		Member of Senate and Joint Defense Communities Caucus
Sen. Chris Van Hollen	Member of Congress		Member of Senate Foreign Relations Committee Subcommittee on Africa

Sen. Jerry Moran	Member of Congress		Co-Chair of Congressional Hunger Caucus
Sen. Jeanne Shaheen	Member of Congress		Member of Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Elizabeth Lewis	Policy Analyst, Africa	Senate Committee on Foreign Relations	Oversees Africa policy for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
John Tomaszewski	Professional Staff Member	Senate Foreign Relations Committee	Oversees U.S. foreign policy for Senate Foreign Relations Commitee
Elizabeth O'Bagy	Senior Foreign Policy Advisor	Sen. Chris Coons	Oversees foreign policy for a Member on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Subcommittee on Africa
Heather Flynn	Senior Professional Staff Member	Senate Foreign Relations Committee	Oversees foreign and health policy for Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Lucy Perkins	Military Legislative Advisor	Sen. Tammy Baldwin	Oversees foreign, homeland security, and military policy for Sen. Baldwin

1730 Rhode Island Ave NW
Suite 206
Washington, DC 20036
USA
T: +1 202 331 1266
mail@halousa.org
www.halousa.org

Dear Francesca Eremeeva,

We at The HALO Trust (USA) and The HALO Trust are pleased to invite you to the HALO Demining & Food Security Visit to Somaliland this April 21-26th.

The purpose of this trip is for attendees to learn about the intersection of global food security, malnutrition, and humanitarian landmine removal programs. Participants will learn about conflict in the region, see demining activities along the Somaliland-Ethiopia border, hear from organizations such as UNICEF, FAO, and World Food Program about malnutrition programming, visit a pediatric clinic to see malnutrition response efforts, speak with local community members, and meet with high level Somaliland government officials.

Given limited space on this upcoming trip, we respectfully ask that you let us know as soon as possible if you are interested in attending.

Thank you for your interest in these important topics and we hope you will be able to attend this educational visit.

Sincerely,

Kristen Stevens

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

The HALO Trust (USA), Inc. is a 501(c)(3) corporation (Federal Tax ID # 52-2158152). Registered as a charity in Scotland No. SC039625

The HALO Trust (USA) & The HALO Trust:

HALO Demining & Food Security Visit to Somaliland

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

Hargeisa, Somaliland

April 21 - 26, 2024

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

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

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

ITINERARY

SUNDAY, APRIL 21: TRAVEL

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

MONDAY, APRIL 22: TRAVEL AND ORIENTATION

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

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

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

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

Lunch at HALO House with introductions of group members and briefing by HALO with input from ECF on US policy around demining and food security at a high level. After lunch, there will be a Compound tour to learn about demining equipment, types of explosive threats found in Somaliland, and to see members of HALO's team at work.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The entirety of the allotted time for the working meal and final policy presentations will be spent

covering officially-connected activity.

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 23: DEMINING

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

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

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

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

Presenter: Calum Gibbs, Program Manager, HALO Somaliland

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

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

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

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

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

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

Presenter: Abdi Kareem, Operations Officer, HALO Somaliland

Location: Abaarso village school, Somaliland

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

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

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

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

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

Presenter: Khadar Qalinle, Program Coordinator, HALO Somaliland

Location: HALO camp, Ina Guuxaa

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

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

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

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

Presenter: Calum Gibbs, Program Manager, HALO Somaliland

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

Ishtail Ismail, Community Outreach and Risk Education Team Leader, HALO Somaliland

Location: HALO camp, Ina Guuxaa

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

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

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

Understanding the elements of mine action outside of demining, like mine

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

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

Location: Ina Guuxaa School, Ina Guuxaa

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

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

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

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

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

Location: HALO Camp, Ina Guuxaa Minefield

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

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

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

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

Location: HALO Camp, Ina Guuxaa, Somaliland

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

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

Staffers will have the chance to speak with community leaders to discuss the impact of Ina Guuxaa minefield on their community and highlight the impact of HALO's work.

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

Presenter: Hassan Ali, Community Liaison Officer, HALO Somaliland

Other participants: Village elders (specific participants TBC)

Location: HALO Camp, Ina Guuxaa

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24: DEMINING AND MALNUTRITION

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

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

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

Presenter: Calum Gibbs, Program Manager, HALO Somaliland

Location: HALO Camp, Ina Guuxaa

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

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

6:45 – 7:30 AM Minefield Safety Briefing

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

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

Presenter: Calum Gibbs, Program Manager, HALO Somaliland

Location: At minefield safety checkpoint, Ina Guuxaa, Somaliland

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

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

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

Location: Ina Guuxaa Minefield

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Presenter: Hamda Omar Yousuf, Nutrition Program Officer, UNICEF

Location: Mohamed Moge Health Facility, Hargeisa, Somaliland

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 25: GOVERNMENT MEETINGS AND TRAVEL

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

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

This briefing will prepare Staffers for their government meetings and provide important context for their policy work with Members and HFAC in terms of US-Somaliland politics, bilateral relations, and regional sensitivities.

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

Location: HALO Office, Hargeisa

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Participants: Congressional staff
HALO Staff
Eleanor Crook Foundation staff

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

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 26: TRAVEL

8:55 AM Arrival at IAD.

End of Trip.