



**The Humpty Dumpty Institute**  
Putting The Pieces Together Again

# **ANGOLA**

## **Humanitarian Demining Program**

Sponsored By  
**The Humpty Dumpty Institute**

Made Possible Through  
**The United States Department  
of Agriculture**

In Partnership With  
**The HALO Trust**

# **The Humpty Dumpty Institute**

**Opening Roads to Angola's Future:**

## **Milk Sale Clears Mines**

### **FINAL REPORT**

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# **PROCEEDS OF MILK SALE USED TO REMOVE LANDMINES IN ANGOLA**

## **7 KEY RESULTS**

Through USDA's 416(b) Food Aid Program, in October 2004 and January 2005, HDI monetized 500MT of powdered milk raising \$770,000. These funds were used to finance a mine clearance operation in central Angola. The project was successfully completed in November, 2005. What precisely was accomplished as a result of this project?

- ☑ **350 km of significant roadway has been cleared of land mines. Today, farmers from 200 villages now have safe passage to central markets and provincial highways. (350 km represents the driving distance between Washington, DC and New York City)**
- ☑ **15,000 sqm of densely mined land around bridges, markets, farms and houses situated along selected roadways has been demined. (15,000 sqm is approximately the size of 3 football fields)**
- ☑ **Today, approximately 200,000 people living within 5 km of previously mined roadways can resume normal lives. Villagers can safely get water, access farm land, send children to school, and transport produce to market hubs.**
- ☑ **Today, humanitarian organizations and international NGOS are able to use newly cleared roads to deliver food, water, medicine and other supplies to previously inaccessible communities.**
- ☑ **Safe passage along these roadways now allow the Angolan government and humanitarian organizations to initiate long delayed infrastructure and development projects in three central provinces, indirectly benefiting over 2 million people. Mine-free roadways will also expand internal commerce and traffic.**
- ☑ **Expensive demining equipment purchased specifically for this project will continue to be used at new mine clearance sites in other parts of Angola and ultimately in other countries around the world.**
- ☑ **Likewise, this project funded the recruitment and training of 29 new local Angolan deminers from areas affected by landmines. These deminers will continue their jobs in other parts of Angola.**

## Angola's Landmine Problem

Angola is one of the most heavily mined countries in the world. Nearly 650,000 square meters (an area about the size of Texas) is infested with anti-personnel and anti-vehicle landmines, as a result of the 25 year civil war. Consequently, economic development, commerce, and the delivery of humanitarian relief have been greatly hindered or prevented altogether.



The Planalto region in southern Angola, one of the most agriculturally rich areas in the country, is also one of its most heavily mined regions. Major and minor arterial roads connecting local producers and farms to commercial hubs have been mined extensively, preventing the movement of people and goods. As the Angolan peace agreement took root over the last few years, several hundred thousand internally displaced persons (IDPs) began returning to the Planalto region, and recently, road and foot traffic has more than quadrupled. As a result, landmine-related casualties have increased dramatically and local farmers have not been able to safely transport their produce to and from local markets. Without safe access to land or markets, rural economic recovery has been at a standstill.

Since 2002, HALO Trust Angola has received many urgent requests from Angolan government authorities, the United Nations, and other aid organizations to remove anti-tank mines from the newly busy market routes. Angolan government agencies, and mine action and development organizations continue to chip away at this problem. The Humpty Dumpty Institute joined in this effort in 2004-2005.



**With the return of peace, road traffic has dramatically increased, and a significant number of civilian trucks and buses have been blown up in anti-tank mine accidents all over the region**



## Road Threat Reduction Project

The Humpty Dumpty Institute established a partnership with HALO Trust to clear hundreds of kilometers of crucial arterial roads connecting farms to market centers in the Planalto region. HDI provided \$770,000 to fund this project, and served as overall project manager, monitoring, reporting, and verifying all aspects of this year-long project. HALO Trust implemented the demining operations in Huambo and Bie provinces.

The funds used to execute this project were raised through the monetization of 500 metric tons of powdered milk obtained from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Under the 416(b) Food Aid Program, the powdered milk was sold to the largest dairy operator in Angola, with proceeds used to fund HALO Trust's Road Threat Reduction operations on impacted roads. This project is the first time that an U.S. food aid program has ever been applied toward humanitarian demining in 50 years of their existence. This unique partnership revolves around the simple concept that clearing landmines is a fundamental first step toward agricultural and economic development.

The project was a complete success and made a huge impact by opening provincial access and providing access to remote communities. Over 350 kilometers of roads were cleared of anti-tank landmines (about 220 miles -- the driving distance between Washington, DC and New York City). Additionally, HALO's manual demining section cleared over 15,000 square meters of densely mined land around bridges, markets, farms and houses (1.5 hectares, or the equivalent of more than three football fields).

In order to complete these tasks, HALO Trust implemented a new Road Threat Reduction (RTR) system, a Multidrive tractor unit with a detonation trailer. This is a large trailer with heavy weights designed to detonate anti-tank mines on its path. The system also has a large loop metal detector attached to the front of the truck, which detects mines containing metal, buried up to 50 cm deep under the road. For added certainty, a manual team of deminers sweeps the road over large potholes with a large hand-held detector, which can detect any metallic content underground up to 1 meter deep.



**On the left: a manual RTR team carefully sweeps the roads with a large hand-held metal detector. On the right: detonation trailer with weights covering every inch of the road.**

Additionally, 29 new deminers were recruited for this project from local communities that were affected by the presence of landmines. These deminers were fully trained in mine clearance, giving them skills that provide them with employment opportunities for years to come. This project gave them a long-term job, steady income, improved their livelihoods and that of their families, and removed the danger of landmines in their own communities. Alberto Rafael Catimba and Pedro Domingo Nambi, two of the deminers employed through this project, have nine children between them, and said their job has enabled them to feed their children and send them to school, and to provide them with a safer future.

All the equipment purchased and 29 deminers trained and hired under this grant will be put



**Daniela Kempf, HDI's Program Director, with HDI/HALO Road Threat Reduction team on the road between Chitembo and Fio, part of the crucial highway leading to the neighboring province and the country of Namibia.**

Francisco Luca, a farmer and resident of Chitembo (population 2,500 families), one of the hundreds of communities located along a 200 km stretch of a crucial provincial highway cleared of mines through this project in the Bie Province in Angola, is one of thousands of direct beneficiaries of this project. He said he “had no fear any more of driving a tractor to his farm down the road. Opening up the road like this means I can sell my vegetables and my children no longer have to risk their lives by walking to school”. Francisco is a former soldier and landmine victim from Angola's devastating civil war, like many residents in this area. Booby traps and antitank landmines have been found and destroyed by HALO Trust on this road leading from Kuito, the provincial capital of Bie, to Menengue, the provincial capital of Kuando Kubango, the southern province bordering Namibia.



**Francisco Luca (left) and Laurindu Kutu, former soldiers, now farmers and residents of Chitumbu, one of the roadside communities directly impacted by this project (with Daniela Kempf). Mr. Luca lost his arm in a mine accident during the Angolan civil war.**



## The “Bridge Of A Thousand Mines”

Although this project focused mainly on mine clearance of crucial roadways, there was also a need for a number of related manual demining tasks – especially around bridges, houses, markets and farms of people living alongside the targeted roads.

The manual task at Rio Cusseque bridge, on the only road connecting the provincial capital of Bie and the neighboring province, was declared high priority by the Angolan government. Over a hundred families living in the nearby village depend on the river for water. Additionally, about 150 people and 50 vehicles pass the bridge every day. Because the bridge was densely mined, there had been a number of landmine accidents resulting in deaths of people and cattle. Children use the bridge every day to go to school, and villagers come to the river to wash their clothes and graze their cattle. The local people call it the “bridge of a thousand mines” because there are literally a thousand suspected landmines spread out in the four corners of the bridge and both banks of the river. Through this project, HALO was able to clear a small path to the river and the top of the bridge itself, so that the villagers can have limited use of it until everything is cleared and declared safe.

**About twenty-five school children cross the bridge every morning to the nearby school, laughing and running past the deminers in full gear going about their dangerous work just a few feet away (below).**



**During HDI's visit of this minefield, several women came to wash their clothes in the river and gingerly walked on the narrow path that had been cleared and marked.**

## Conclusion

As a result of this project, over 200,000 people living within 5 kilometers of mined roads can now safely use these roads to get water from nearby rivers, to access their farm land, to sell their products in markets, and send their children to school. It also provides them with access to food aid and medical help, as other NGOs and the World Food Programme are able to use the recently cleared roads to deliver food and medicine. Finally, new infrastructure and development projects, as well as commercial trade and traffic, previously impossible due to mined roads,





**PERIGO MINAS !!!**



**DANGER!! MINES!!**

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