

The HALO Trust Mineclearance Case Study

Julghar Mountain, Feyzabad, Badakhshan

Julghar minefield is located on a hilltop overlooking Feyzabad city in Badakhshan. It was the site of a Soviet tank and artillery position during the 1980's placed here to protect the city from Mujahedeen attack. Dense belts of anti personnel (AP) mines and fragmentation mines were laid surrounding the position on all sides. The high number of mines here coupled with their proximity to a major population center has led to a particularly high number of accidents: 29 human accidents (non military) and 154 animal accidents were known to local people. After the withdrawal of the Soviet military, the position was occupied by the forces of Dr. Najibullah followed by the Jamiat Mujahedeen. Much fighting occurred here leading to a high level of UXO contamination alongside the mines problem.



The close proximity of the minefield to the city can be seen in this photograph. This HALO deminer is checking the location of a metal signal with his detector.

The HALO Trust started clearance here in February 2009 with two manual teams (totaling 44 deminers) and hope to be completed approximately half of the minefield by July 2009. Clearance is particularly difficult on this minefield due to the high levels of metal contamination remaining from military use, thus limiting the effectiveness of our metal detectors. This is illustrated in the photograph below where the deminer is working his way through the minefield towards piles of discarded food cans, painstakingly excavating all of the soil in front of him.



Once the minefield surrounding the Julghar hilltop has been cleared, it will enable HALO teams to remove and destroy known piles of discarded ammunition remaining around the position. Much of this is littering the surface, though there is likely to be more buried under the ground, all of which will be dug up and destroyed.

HALO clearance of Julghar mountain will have an immediate primary benefit in stopping any further mine accident victims. The demand for agricultural land in Badakhshan is particularly high, and during the winter months the province is dependent on the distribution of food-aid, mostly wheat transported from Pakistan. Currently farmers are forced to plough this hilltop to within a couple of meters of the mines, and following clearance, the land will be put to agricultural use straight away.

THE HALO TRUST / Friends of John Mock and Kimberley O'Neil
AFGHANISTAN MINECLEARANCE PROGRAM - Badakhshan
Period: April 2009

1 month funding for 1x manual team

Code	Budget Line		Number	Cost US\$	Months	Cost US\$	
Personnel:							
2010	Local Staff		27		1	5,180	
2670	Insurance		27			234	
		Subtotal, personnel				5,414	
Operating costs							
						2,261	
Administration							
						553	
TOTAL PROJECT COST						US\$	8,228