



press release

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BP Angola commits \$1.2 million for pioneering landmine clearing in Angola with the HALO Trust

- Cash injection will support the HALO Trust's 100 Women in Demining project, designed to employ and empower more women in humanitarian mine action in rural Angola
- The project aims to safely clear the land equivalent of 40 football fields
- Supports the Angolan Government's goal to be mine-impact free by 2025, in line with its obligations to the Ottawa Landmine Treaty

BP Angola today committed a \$1.2 million grant for the British landmine clearance charity, the HALO Trust in Angola.

The donation will be used to support HALO's *100 Women in Demining* project. The initiative supports two teams of women, recruited from communities directly affected by landmines in the coastal province of Benguela.

Since 1994, HALO has safely cleared more than 850 minefields and 95,000 landmines across Angola; however, more than 1,000 known minefields remain.

The funding will enable women with typically limited employment prospects to gain financial independence and to develop transferable skills, in logistics, fleet support, IT and financial management. All of this is targeted at supporting the educational and health needs of the participants and their dependents.

One of the deminers working in the initiative, Inês Chipuco, said: "I think it's really important that women are clearing the landmines in Angola because it saves the lives of both people and animals. In the future if the fields are free we can build roads and schools here. What I earn supports my entire family and I can buy the things that my little boy needs."

The funding continues BP Angola's investments to meet social and community needs in the areas of education, enterprise development and capacity building for health, safety and the environment in Angola. In the past 15 years, BP Angola has invested \$100 million in local communities and social initiatives.

BP Angola regional president Stephen Willis, said: "The team at BP Angola is proud to support HALO's program of de-mining activity. The program and funding will enable the safe clearing of land that is currently a danger to nearby communities, preventing people being injured and allow these lands to be used productively and enjoyed. Moreover, the program will create skills and employment for women – creating financial wellbeing and support for themselves and their dependents."

James Cowan, CEO of The HALO Trust added: "The HALO Trust is deeply grateful to BP Angola for its generous support for our all-female demining teams. Their support for HALO's 100 Women in Demining project is a crucial endorsement of our determination to achieve greater gender equality in mine action and ensure a prominent and permanent female presence in demining worldwide. As a British charity which is proud to have hosted Diana, Princess of Wales here in Angola, it is particularly fitting that this support comes from a leading British global corporation."

Notes to Editors

- Angola is one of BP's key regions for hydrocarbon exploration and development and a major part of the BP group's activity in deepwater exploration and production. BP Angola has interest in four offshore deep and ultra-deepwater blocks in Angola with a total acreage of more than 32,600km².
- BP Angola invested more than \$100 million in social projects in the areas of education, enterprise development and capacity building for health, safety and environment, including support for:
 - More than 2500 engineering, science & medical students benefit from new labs, field experience improved teaching standards every year
 - More than 200 oil and gas master's graduates in LLM and Business Management
 - More than 50 graduates in master's in environmental management
 - 596 Internships for graduates
 - 18 schools, benefiting 13,000 children per year, 700 jobs
 - Rehabilitation & equipping of three health centres, 3200 beneficiaries per day
 - More than 35 rural water wells & community sanitation training deliveries
 - Nine cooperatives through micro credit and agribusiness in Benguela and Huambo, 4250 beneficiaries
 - 23,400 turtles recorded, more than 2 million hatchlings helped back to sea

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