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UNMAS



MINE ACTION: A SAFE ROUTE FOR REINTEGRATION OF EX-COMBATANTS

The experience of Colombia

Since 2017, UNMAS has implemented the **Humanicemos Project** in Colombia, which contributes to the reintegration of at least 90 ex-combatants, now members of **HUMANICEMOS DH**, through mine action. **HUMANICEMOS DH** is the first civil mine action organization in the world formed and led by ex-combatants in the process of reintegration, which emerged after the Peace Agreement signed between the Government of Colombia and the FARC-EP guerrilla.

UNMAS conducted an **Early Effects Assessment** of the project amongst ex-combatants and communities in the municipality of La Montañita, Caquetá, where HUMANICEMOS DH is deploying its operations. Between October and December 2020, interviews, focus groups and surveys were conducted with:

- **HUMANICEMOS DH staff.**
- **Ex-combatants from the Agua Bonita II community.**
- **Beneficiary population of La Montañita.**

THE PERSONNEL OF HUMANICEMOS DH



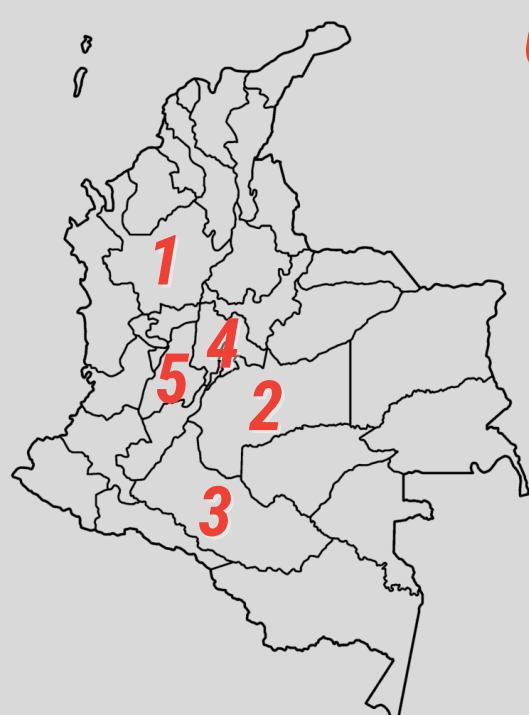
Despite the lower percentage of women, they hold leadership positions. **HUMANICEMOS DH** is the only mine action organization in Colombia that is led by a female director (also an ex-combatant in the process of reintegration)

EX-COMBATANTS OF AGUA BONITA II



60% of the ex-combatants of the Agua Bonita II community were born in Caquetá and 97% currently live in this department.

ORIGIN OF PERSONNEL



1. Antioquia (26%)
2. Meta (23%)
3. Caquetá (10%)
4. Cundinamarca (7%)
5. Tolima (7%)
6. Otros (27%)

77% of the personnel currently reside in Caquetá, where **HUMANICEMOS DH** has humanitarian demining tasks assigned

REINCORPORATION PROJECT

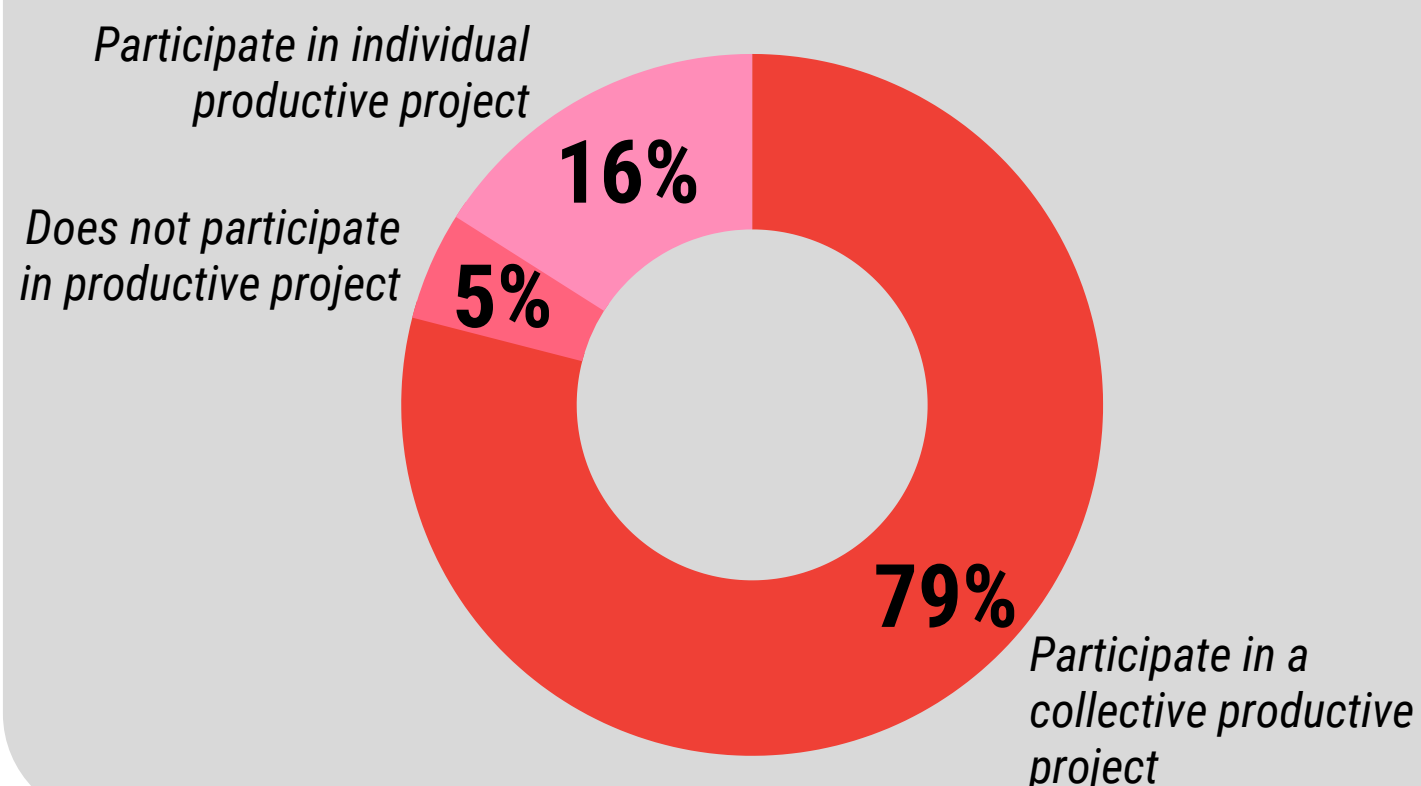




Photo: HUMANICEMOS DH / July 2018.

MINE ACTION, A SUCCESSFUL MODEL OF REINTEGRATION

A project for the reintegration of ex-combatants through mine action, as is the case of **HUMANICEMOS DH**, shows comparative advantages over other social-economic reintegration projects. This conclusion was obtained after analyzing five dimensions in the process:



Time linked to the project



Education



Employment relationship and income level



Safety



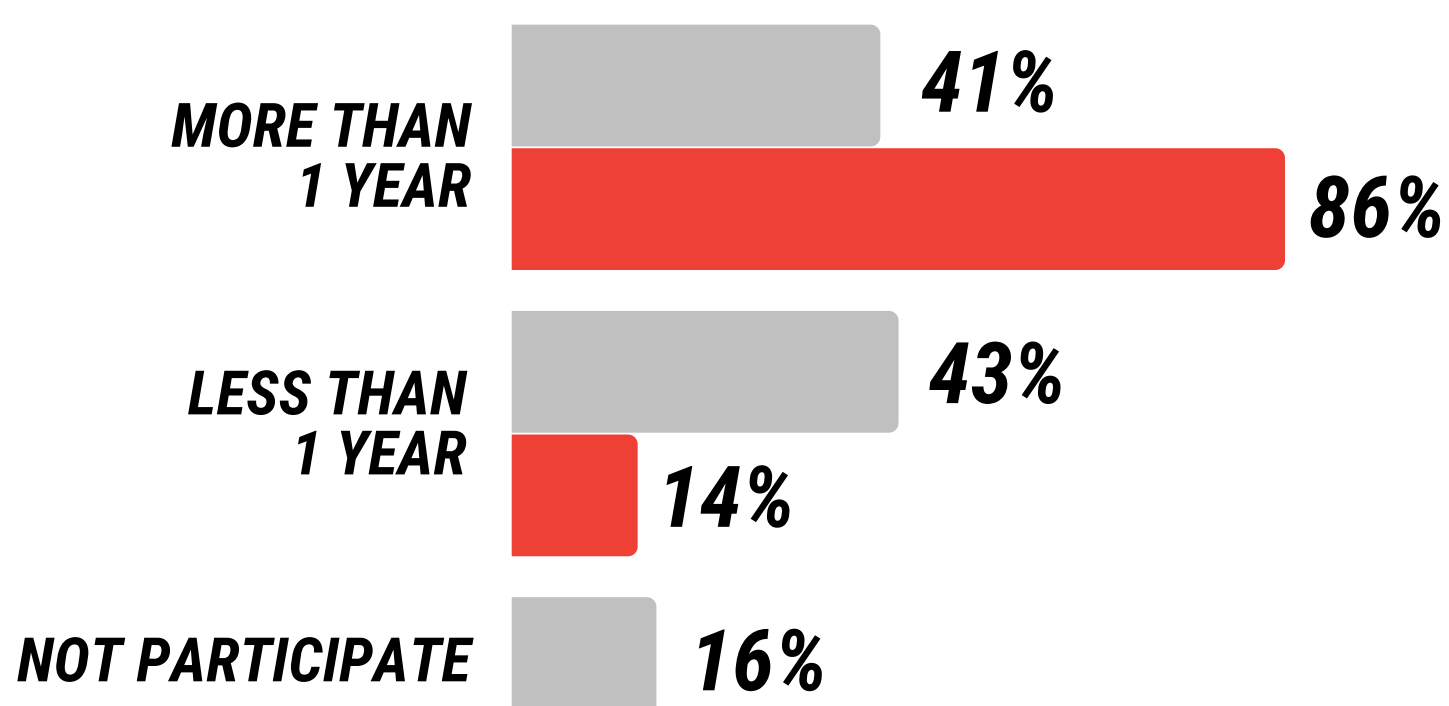
Life project



TIME LINKED TO THE PROJECT

86% of the **HUMANICEMOS DH** personnel has been linked to the Project since the organization was created, doubling the average time spent compared to productive projects. This shows the interest of ex-combatants in formal jobs, which becomes a factor that reduces the risk of recidivism. The remaining 14% are linked for one year or less. In productive projects, the results are different.

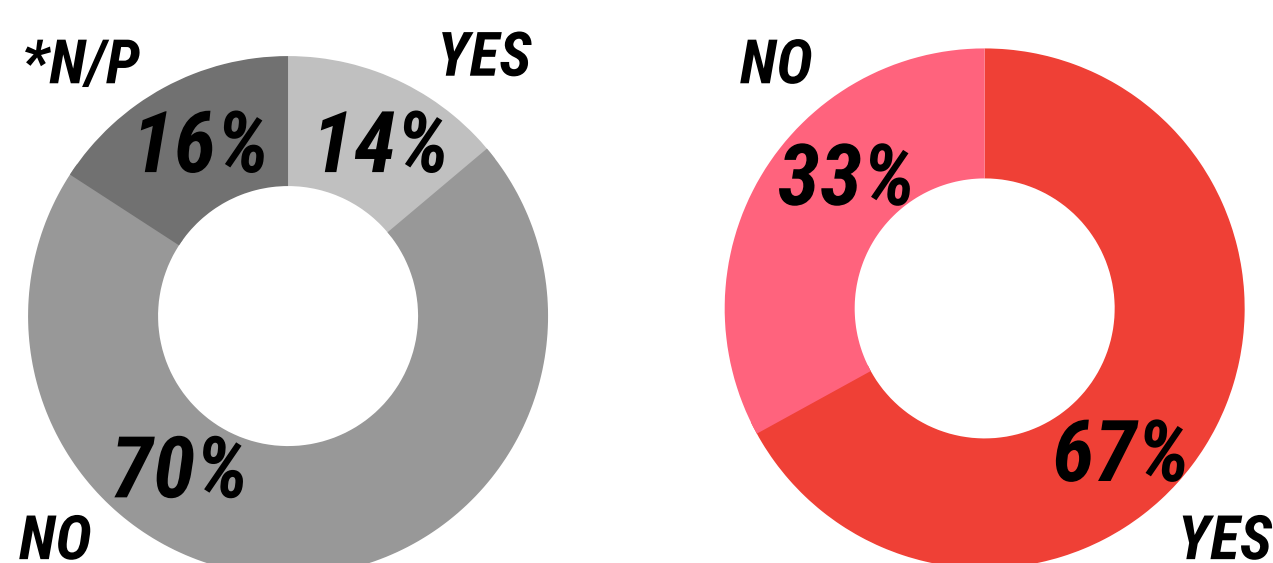
TIME LINKED TO THE PROJECT



EMPLOYMENT RELATIONSHIP AND INCOME LEVEL

100% of the **HUMANICEMOS DH** personnel have a labor contract and receive their social benefits with different salary scales according to the role they occupy. This generates a high percentage (67%) of perception of satisfaction of basic personal needs and those of the family nucleus. In contrast, only 14% of the ex-combatant population of the Agua Bonita II community has a formal employment relationship.

DOES THE INCOME YOU RECEIVE FROM YOUR PROJECT HELP YOU MEET YOUR BASIC NEEDS?



● AGUA BONITA II ● HUMANICEMOS DH

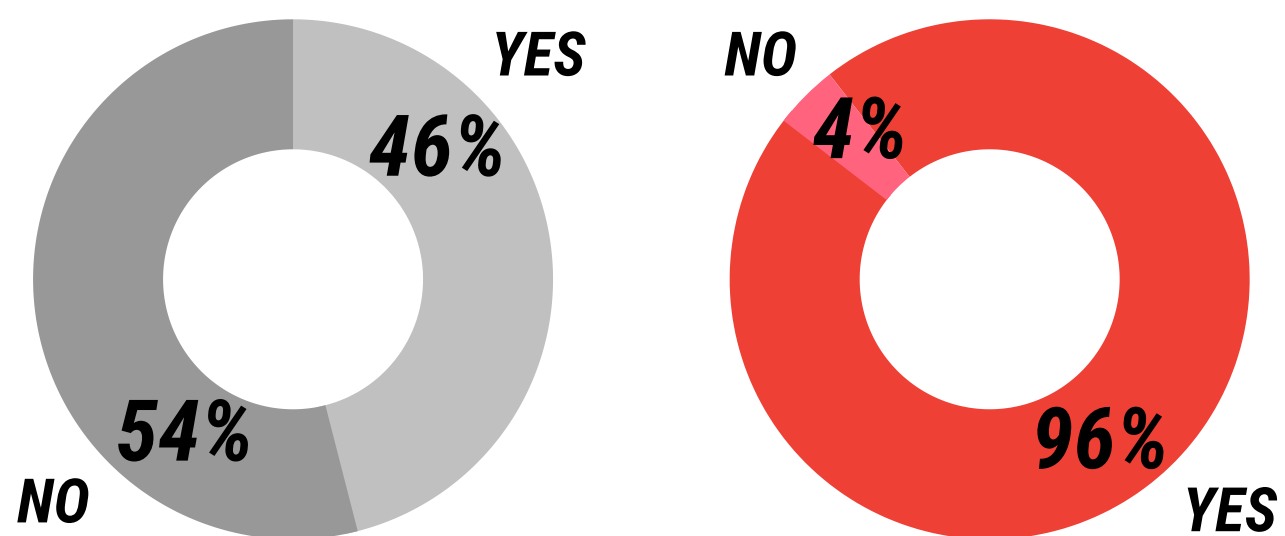
*N/P: Not participate in projects.

**EDUCATION**

37% of the **HUMANICEMOS DH** staff have attended a formal educational institution (college, polytechnic, institute or university) in the last year. Additionally, 93% of the **HUMANICEMOS DH** staff have benefited from the more than 30 training courses given by UNMAS. Meanwhile, 49% of the ex-combatants of Agua Bonita II have attended an educational institution in the last year.

Although the percentage of attendance at a formal educational institution is higher in Agua Bonita II, the Humanicemos Project shows other advantages:

DO YOU CONSIDER THAT YOUR PROJECT WILL HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATIONS?

**LIFE PROJECT**

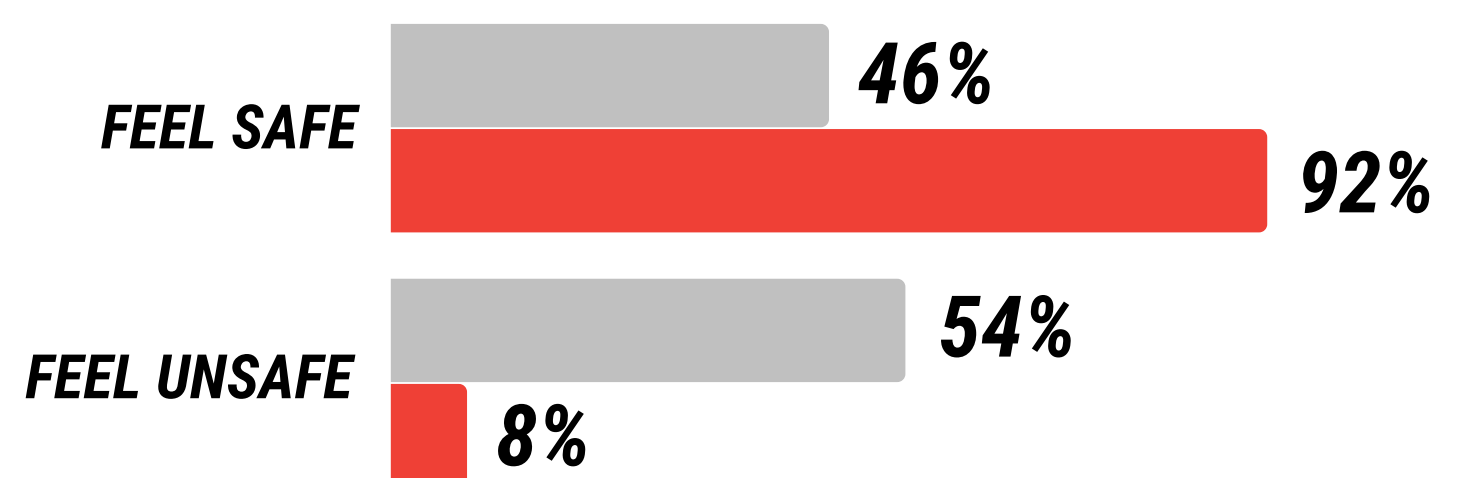
100% of the **HUMANICEMOS DH** staff affirmed that the project has positively impacted their life and considers it a safe route to reintegration (95%). The respect and social recognition they receive is a factor of commitment and a sense of belonging to the project. Among the ex-combatant population of Agua Bonita II, 14% perceive that the productive project to which they are linked has contributed to their lives.

The *Humanicemos Project* is an initiative that manages to transcend. Thanks to the creation of educational, work and life options for effective reintegration of ex-combatants, this project contributes to peacebuilding and the reconstruction of territories affected by explosive ordnance. Without HUMANICEMOS DH, reintegration through mine action would not be possible in Colombia.

**SAFETY**

HUMANICEMOS DH staff feel predominantly safe (92%) living and working in this region. Although the risk of possible attacks by armed groups is latent, the organization has established security protocols for operations that reduce these risks. In addition, being an organization that operates under the principles of neutrality, impartiality, humanity and independence, the exposure for the personnel and the population of the community is reduced. The perception of safety among the ex-combatants of Agua Bonita II is different.

WHAT IS YOUR PERCEPTION OF SAFETY IN THE REGION?



DO YOU THINK THAT HUMANICEMOS DH CONTRIBUTES TO IMPROVING THE PERCEPTION OF SAFETY?

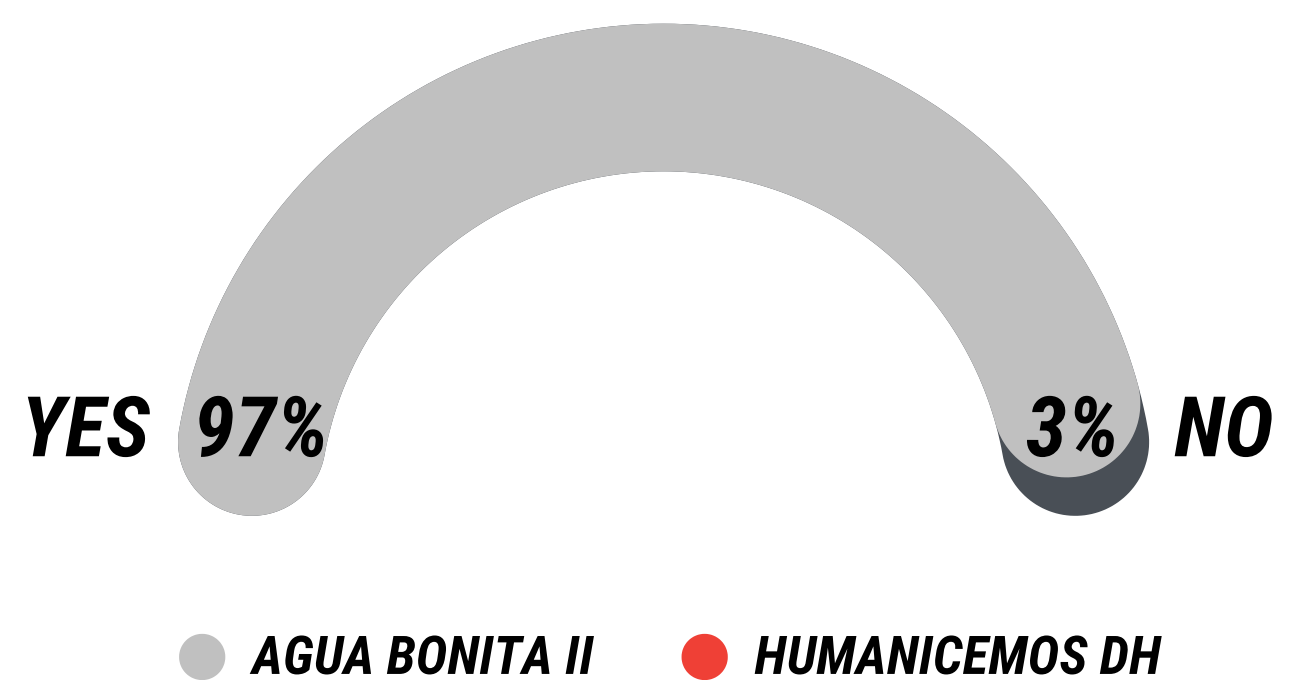


Photo: Javier Taborda / HUMANICEMOS DH