

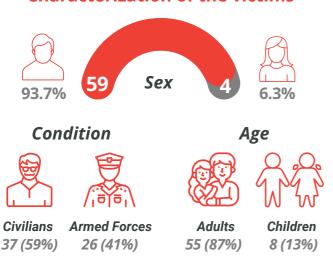
# **Newsletter**Colombia August - September 2022

The United Nations Mine Action Service (<u>UNMAS</u>) in <u>Colombia</u> newsletter informs about the main technical assistance activities carried out through the projects implemented in the country to strengthen the mine action sector, in conjunction with the <u>Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP, in Spanish)</u>.

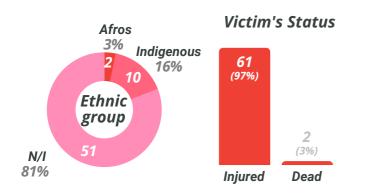
# The impact of anti-personnel mines in Colombia January - June 2022

Colombia recorded at least **63 new victims of Anti- personnel Mines (APM) and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) during the first half of 2022**, according to official statistics from *OACP - Descontamina Colombia*. This figure is lower than that recorded in the first six months of 2021, when 76 new APM/UXO victims were registered.

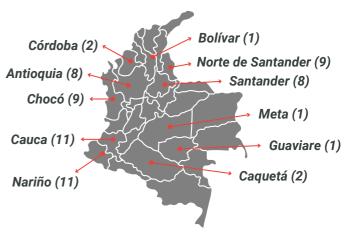
#### Characterization of the victims



The indiscriminate nature of APM/UXO is again reflected in the percentages of civilians affected: 6 out of 10 victims are civilians who are not part of the conflict.

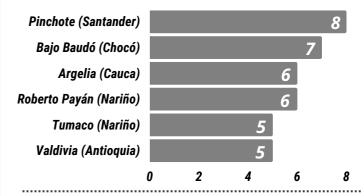


#### **Departments with registered victims**



The situation on the Pacific Coast is especially worrying, since almost 5 out of 10 registered victims in 2022 are from this region, inhabited mainly by Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities.

#### Municipalities with the most victims



An analysis of the data shows that, as in 2021, there are two municipalities that remain on the list of those most affected by APM/UXO this year: **Tumaco**, **Nariño**; and **Argelia**, **Cauca**. The fist municipality because it is a territory disputed by various non-state armed groups, and the second has been the scene of constant attacks with explosive devices during 2022.



The meeting with the United Nations Country Team was held at the Casa de Nariño (presidential house). Photo: Courtesy.

## Representatives of UN funds, programs and agencies in Colombia meet with President Gustavo Petro

Representatives of the United Nations funds, programs and agencies in Colombia met last Wednesday, September 28, with President Gustavo Petro, and Foreign Minister Alvaro Leyva, to learn more about the efforts of the State of Colombia to achieve Total Peace, one of the programmatic priorities of the current government. The meeting was attended by the Resident Coordinator of the UN Country Team in Colombia, Mireia Villar, and the Head of the UN Verification Mission in Colombia, Carlos Ruiz-Massieu. On behalf of UNMAS, program director Pablo Parra participated. "We at UNMAS believe that only with a strengthened Mine Action sector, total peace will be achieved. We are ready to continue working together for a mine-free Colombia", said Parra after the meeting.



Photo: Didier Alvarado / UNMAS.

## UNMAS provides training on humanitarian demining to military personnel from Brazil and Colombia

Last August 4, the UNMAS operations and technical assistance team provided an introductory training on International Humanitarian Law, disarmament, land release, UNMAS operations, and other topics, addressed to military personnel of the Colombian Army and the Brazilian Army that belong to the Inter-American Technical Advisors Group in Colombia (GATI-CO), created with the support of the Organization of American States (OAS). The objective of GATI-CO is to train members of the Colombian military forces in quality management of humanitarian demining operations. With these training, UNMAS seeks to strengthen national mine action capabilities.

### **UNMAS** and its support to peacekeeping operations



## September 21st International Day of Peace

Last September 21st was commemorated the International Day of Peace, a day designated by the United Nations to strengthen the ideals of peace, non-violence and cease-fire. On this day, we share with you details about the eight UN peacekeeping missions atound the world in which UNMAS operates. The operations are designed to create conditions for peacebuilding and mine action is vital at all stages of these missions.

# UNMAS supports peacebuilding in Colombia

Mine action is a cross-cutting element of the 2016 Peace Agreement signed between the Government of Colombia and the former FARC-EP guerrilla. UNMAS supports the implementation of key elements of the Agreement related to mine action, such as:



Social-economic reintegration of excombatants employed in mine action work.



Information gathering on possible hazardous areas with explosive devices used during the conflict.



Support for the inclusion of mine action as reparatory activity by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP).

#### TERRITORY OF WESTERN SAHARA

MINURSO (United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara)

- Training on Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) to MINURSO.
- Training of local authorities and local organizations in mine action.
- Support to Victims Assistance (VA) organizations.

Quality Management of demining operations. Technical assistance to the national authority

Training of MINUSMA personnel on demining.

MINUSMA (United Nations Multidimensional

Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali)

#### **LEBANON**

EORE to UNFICYP personnel.

UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon)

Quality Management of demining operations.

**UNFICYP (United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus)** 

Planning and coordination of clearance operations.

Removal of APM and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW).

Technical assistance to the Committee on Missing Persons.

EORE to inhabitants and UNIFIL personnel.

**CYPRUS** 

#### **SOUTH SUDAN**

**UNMISS (United Nations Mission of Assistance in the** Republic of South Sudan)

- Humanitarian demining operations in specific areas.
- EORE.

### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

MINUSCA (United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic)

UNISFA (United Nations Interim Security Force in Abyei)

- Technical assistance to strengthen national capacities
- Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) training for MINUSCA.
- WAM training.

EORE and VA.

Humanitarian demining.

**ABYEI** 

EORE.

WAM.

EORE

#### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

MONUSCO (United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo)

- Humanitarian demining in specific areas.
- EORE to MONUSCO personnel, UN System and humanitarian orgs.
- Humanitarian demining training to national organizations.

#### The UNMAS Colombia team



Juan David Peña

**Programme and Communications Intern** 

Juan David is a professional in International Relations from Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá. His first work experience was with the International Democratic Institute in 2019 supporting the program team in administrative tasks. He has also been a youth volunteer with the Colombian Red Cross for eight years, an institution where he has also been a training assistant. In September 2021 he joined UNMAS as an intern in the programme and communications team, a role in which he has supported in the preparation of reports to donors, monitoring and evaluation of the programme, writing contents for programme communication materials, among other tasks that allow UNMAS to meet its commitments to funders and key partners. In September Juan David finished his position with UNMAS. We recognize his contributions and wish him success in this new professional stage.

#### **About UNMAS Colombia**

Since 2010, UNMAS has supported Colombia's national mine action authority, now under the leadership of the OACP, and mine action organizations to increase the sector's capacity, develop and strengthen their coordination and regulatory frameworks. UNMAS works in Colombia with the support of the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund (UN-MPTF); and the Governments of Denmark, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Kingdom of Norway, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland, to whom we are grateful for their contributions in 2022.



**FONDO MULTIDONANTE DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA** EL SOSTENIMIENTO DE LA PAZ



































