



The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in Colombia 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 Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP, in Spanish).

The impact of anti-personnel mines in Colombia

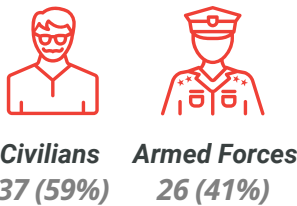
January - June 2022

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.

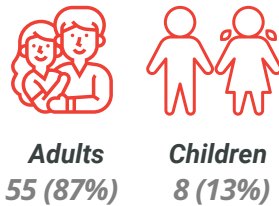
Characterization of the victims



Condition

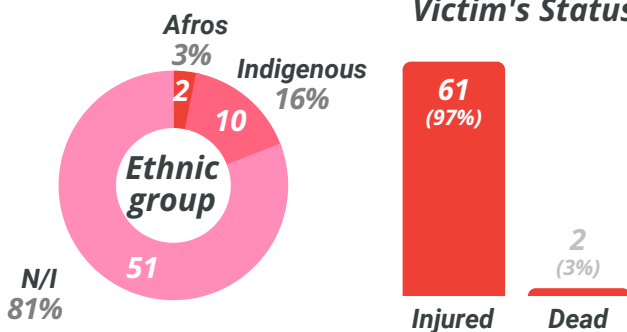


Age

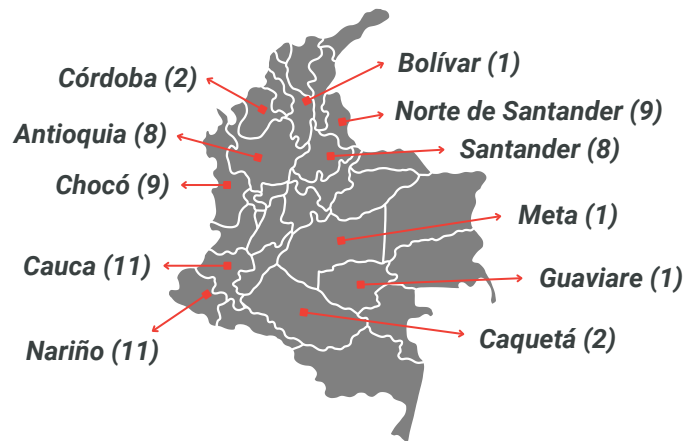


The indiscriminate nature of APM/UXO is again reflected in the percentages of civilians affected: **6 out of 10 victims are civilians** who are not part of the conflict.

Victim's Status

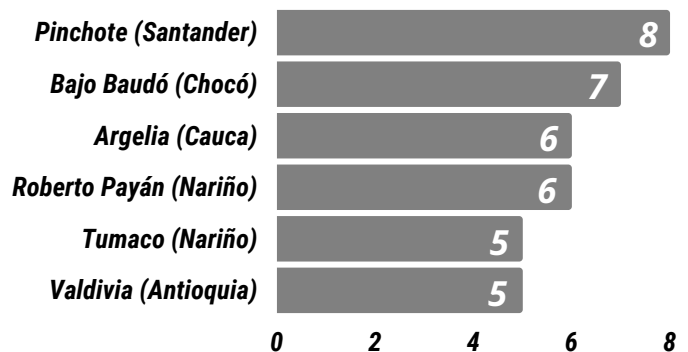


Departments with registered victims



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 first 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.

*Source: OACP - Descontamina Colombia. From January to June 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 around 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 ex-combatants 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).

