



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)** - **Descontamina Colombia**.

Colombia becomes the first UNMAS programme led by national personnel



After more than four years, my tenure as Programme Manager of UNMAS Colombia comes to an end. My tenure concluded in the nationalization of the programme, a transition which we have been working on for the past year, and which makes us - and hopefully our stakeholders as well - proud.

On July 1, my Colombian colleague Pablo Parra will take over as acting Programme Manager and from that day on will lead all joint initiatives and the stakeholder relationships. This change is a strategic milestone, not only for UNMAS Colombia but also for UNMAS at the global level, as Colombia will become the first program

*to achieve this goal, emanating, amongst others, from the context of the **The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness**.*

This achievement is also an investment in the sustainability of the programme, as it demonstrates the maturity it has achieved, backed by the United Nations inclusion, diversity, gender and capacity building policies that we implement.

UNMAS's mission is to strengthen national capacities, and this is a substantial step into that direction.

I finish my tenure as Programme Manager satisfied with the work done by this special, dedicated and flexible team, especially in the current pandemic times. I much appreciate the support of the donors and partners in the mine action sector, under the leadership of the Government of Colombia. UNMAS Colombia is ready to continue working to improve the livelihoods of communities impacted by anti-personnel mines, leaving no one behind.

Jan Philip Klever

Programme Manager of UNMAS Colombia



Reference photo: UNMAS Colombia

Officials of humanitarian organizations operating in regions affected by anti-personnel mines receive EORE workshop

Within the framework of the joint work plan between the Mine Action Subgroup and the Child Protection Subgroup, UNMAS in collaboration with UNICEF, organized an Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) session addressed to 20 representatives of humanitarian organizations who work in territories affected by the presence of anti-personnel mines. The purpose of this session was to disseminate prevention messages among officials of organizations such as **Save the Children, the Norwegian Council for Refugees and Terre des Hommes**, to contribute to their protection and that of the beneficiary populations of their interventions. Through actions like this one, the two subgroups, which are part of the Protection Cluster, will strengthen the capacities of the organizations and the coordination of their humanitarian interventions.



ARCgis viewer with data from Colombia

UNMAS Colombia uses new information management platform

The Information Management (IM) team of UNMAS Colombia recently completed the transfer of all the country project implementation information to the new ArcGIS Enterprise system that will be managed by UNMAS global. The programme in Colombia had already used this platform locally for three years to collect information on its activities and maintain data visualization tools that serve the sector. This is an important step, since from now on all the data of the activities that are implemented in Colombia will be collected, analyzed and presented on this global platform, which **will allow for more in-depth analysis of operations across the global operations**. The process of unifying all UNMAS programs started 2 years ago and has been led by the IM global team in New York and Geneva.

Our results, in numbers

Photo: Javier Taborda / HUMANICEMOS DH



On June 30, UNMAS officially ends the technical assistance process for **HUMANICEMOS DH**, mine action organization that emerged after the 2016 Peace Agreement. From July 1, HUMANICEMOS DH will operate with complete autonomy and with its capacity installed, like the rest of the mine action civil organizations in Colombia. Since 2018 UNMAS has implemented the **Humanicemos Project** with the objective of developing and then strengthening the organizational and operational capacity of the aforementioned organization, through training for ex-combatants members of HUMANICEMOS DH. After more than three years, the job is done.

Main results

- **HUMANICEMOS DH employs 94 ex-combatants in the process of reintegration in managerial, administrative and operational tasks.**
- **UNMAS trained 76 ex-combatants in humanitarian demining tasks, which were certified by the OACP.**
- **HUMANICEMOS DH was assigned mine action tasks in two municipalities: La Montañita and Solita, Caquetá.**

Assigned municipalities*



*Municipalities are assigned by the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP).

UNMAS and Descontamina Colombia hold a joint workshop for FARC-EP ex-combatants with the purpose of engaging them in mine action

MARCH 2017

Phase 1 of the Project begins, implemented by UNMAS and financed by the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund (UN-MPTF)

MAY 2017

HUMANICEMOS DH is officially established as a mine action civil organization

After conducting the first operational evaluations, the OAS informs that it cannot be the External Monitoring Component (EMC) of ex-combatants of the FARC-EP

FEBRUARY 2018

UNMAS provides grants to HUMANICEMOS DH, The HALO Trust and Norwegian Popular Aid (APN) to these organizations to train 124 ex-combatants

APRIL 2018

The Government of Colombia and the UN sign the Memorandum of Understanding that designates UNMAS as the EMC in charge of monitoring HUMANICEMOS DH

MARCH 2020

Phase 1 of the Humanicemos Project, funded by the MPTF, ends

FEBRUARY 2020

Phase 2 of the Project begins, financed by the European Trust Fund for Peace

JANUARY 2020

The United Nations begins negotiations with the Government of Colombia to define a new EMC for HUMANICEMOS DH

JULY 2018

Launch of the HUMANICEMOS DH Regional Base in Aguabonita II, Caquetá. Participation of the Government, UN, local authorities and national and international NGOs

MAY 2018

UNMAS begins formal training in humanitarian demining work, after a pause by the Covid-19 pandemic, so that staff can be certified by the OACP

JUNE 2020

27 members of HUMANICEMOS DH pass the evaluations in Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Level 1, and as medical support, personnel necessary to deploy NTS teams in the communities

AUGUST 2020

The first 17 ex-combatants pass the evaluations of UNMAS, which allowed them to be certified by the OACP in Non-Technical Survey (NTS) work, the first step of humanitarian demining

SEPTEMBER 2020

HUMANICEMOS DH deploys the first NTS teams in La Montañita, Caquetá, to identify areas with contamination by explosive ordnance. The first two Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHA) were identified in the municipality

OCTOBER 2020

JUNE 2021

HUMANICEMOS DH completes humanitarian demining work in the Embera Chamí Indigenous Reservation of La Montañita, the first area to be handed over free of mines by ex-combatants

MARCH 2021

HUMANICEMOS DH deploys its first Manual Clearance teams in La Montañita. A week later they identify the first anti-personnel mine and proceed to neutralize it

Photos: HUMANICEMOS DH and UNMAS Colombia



FEBRUARY 2018
Signing of the agreement with the UN-MPTF for Phase 1



JULY 2018
Launch of the HUMANICEMOS DH Regional Base



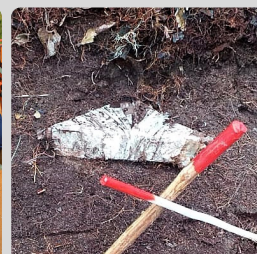
MARCH 2020
Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding



AUGUST 2020
First staff accredited by the OACP



DECEMBER 2020
First teams of Manual Clearance (MC)



MARCH 2021
First anti-personnel mine identified by MC teams

The UNMAS Colombia team



Jan Philip Klever
Programme Manager
UNMAS Colombia

Philip hails from Hamburg, Germany. He is a political scientist with a specialization in Peace and Security Studies, and has more than 15 years of experience working at the United Nations in New York and Denmark, and in conflict and post-conflict areas of Kenya and Myanmar. In November 2016, Philip assumed the role of Programme Manager of UNMAS in Colombia to lead the team, whose main mission is the provision of technical assistance to the mine action sector, so that best global practices would be incorporated in the sector, and the support to the implementation of the mine action elements included in the 2016 Peace Agreement. **The UNMAS team in Colombia recognizes Philip's leadership during these years** so that the programme could advance in its mission of supporting the Government's goal of a Colombia free of mines.

About UNMAS Colombia

Since 2010, UNMAS has supported the National Mine Action Center of Colombia, under the direction of the OACP, humanitarian demining, victim assistance and explosive ordnance risk education organizations, to increase the capacity of the mine action sector and strengthen its coordination and regulatory frameworks, considering best global practices. UNMAS works in Colombia with the support of the **European Union**, through the **European Trust Fund for Peace**; and the Governments of **Germany, Italy and Republic of Korea**, whom we thank for their contributions in 2021.

