



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) - Descontamina Colombia**.

The impact of the Regional Coordination project

Last June 30 ended the Territorial Management Project financed by the **Swiss Embassy in Colombia - Humanitarian Aid and Development (SDC)**, **Denmark and the Republic of Korea**, through which UNMAS provides technical capacities that strengthen the presence of OACP - Descontamina Colombia in the regions most affected by the presence of explosive devices. This project was extended from July 2021 to June 2022.

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)



142 EORE meetings to articulate prevention activities in vulnerable territories were accompanied.



115 EORE sessions given by the local coordinators to 4,091 direct beneficiaries in communities affected by violence.



1.486
Women



1.515
Men



606
Girls



484
Boys

40% of the beneficiaries (1,649) were members of indigenous communities.



31 early warnings from the Ombudsman's Office received a response. EORE was provided to communities at risk in Antioquia, Córdoba, Chocó, Guaviare, Meta and Nariño.

Other articulations



39 approved prevention and contingency plans, in order to have local emergency response capacity.



17 coordination activities with national entities (Ombudsman's Office, UNICEF, UNHCR, among others) to implement mine action activities.

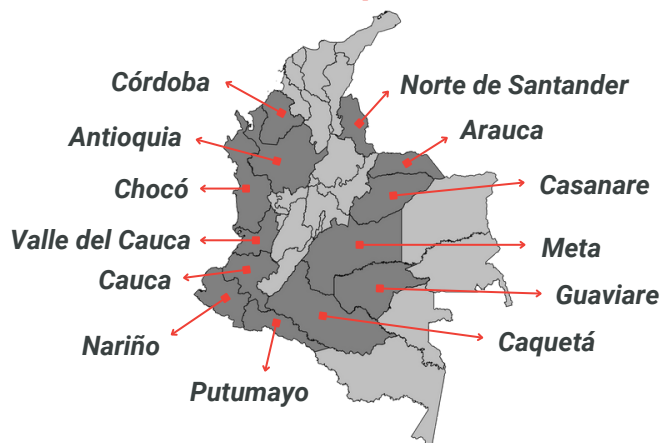
With financial support of:



9 local coordinators deployed



13 covered departments



13 departmental mine action plans developed with technical assistance from UNMAS

Victims Assistance (VA)



84 municipal and regional VA Referral Pathways (VA-RP) developed and updated with technical support from UNMAS. These VA-RP serve to effectively assist victims.



75 training sessions on the national VA-RP for officials of the governor's office, mayor's offices, hospitals and other entities.



74 victims received legal advice on the State's VA-RP and information on how to receive medical and psychological care.



12
Women



61
Men



1
Boy

95% of the new anti-personnel mine victims were attended by the local coordinators.



Photo: Courtesy.

Colombian government-elect's transition team meets with mine action sector organizations

On Friday, July 15, the Chief of UNMAS in Colombia, Pablo Parra, and representatives of mine action organizations met in Bogota with President-elect Gustavo Petro's peace team **to promote the mine action sector and discuss the perspectives and priorities of the new government to eliminate the danger of explosive ordnance in the country.** Among the topics discussed were the need to promote funding for the sector with international cooperation, the articulation with the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Peacekeeping, the protection of humanitarian space and the empowerment of UNMAS as an external quality management body of HUMANICEMOS DH operations. The joint team was led by political scientist and researcher Victor Gaviria, who is part of the elected government's programmatic team.



Photo: courtesy Twitter GICHD.

Colombia present at international Mine Action events in Geneva, Switzerland

Between June 20 and 24, Geneva, Switzerland, hosted important events for the global mine action sector. The first activities were the intersessional meetings of the Conference of States Parties to the *Anti-Personnel Landmines Convention*, known as the "*Ottawa Convention*", whose presidency is held by Colombia in 2022. UNMAS accompanied the OACP to these meetings, held between June 20 and 22. Additionally, on June 23 and 24, the International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers (NDM) was held in the same city, in which **UNMAS and the OACP held a discussion on the positive impact of humanitarian demining in the country**, in which various relevant actors of the mine action in Colombia participated.



This project is implemented thanks to the financial support of Norway. Photo: Nicholas Polley / UNVMC.

Collection of information on the location of explosive devices installed during the conflict advances

20 ex-combatants in the process of reintegration participated in two information gathering sessions on possible areas contaminated with explosive devices during the armed conflict. The sessions were held between July 14 and 16 in the municipalities of Mutatá, Antioquia; and Tierralta, Córdoba. Through 49 completed forms, **data was obtained on the possible location of at least 360 explosive devices installed** in the municipalities of Mutatá and Apartadó (Antioquia); and Tierralta (Córdoba). In these sessions, **for the first time an ex-combatant shared coordinates of contaminated areas**, which will facilitate the identification of dangerous areas. These data will allow the future deployment of humanitarian demining operations to eliminate these threats.



Photo: Didier Alvarado / UNMAS.

UNMAS gives workshops on humanitarian demining and land release to Colombian and Peruvian Navy personnel

Last May and July, the UNMAS operations and technical assistance team delivered two workshops on humanitarian demining and land release to 22 members of the Colombian Navy's Humanitarian Demining Company and the Peruvian Navy. **UNMAS personnel shared training on key issues such as national and international mine action standards, International Humanitarian Law, diversity and gender** in demining operations, among other topics. With these workshops, UNMAS strengthens national mine action capacities, sharing the best practices that exist at a global level.



Photo: Juan David Peña / UNMAS.

The Humanicemos Project, which trained and employed ex-combatants in mine action, concludes

On July 12, the **European Union's European Trust Fund for Peace and UNMAS Colombia presented the results** of the second phase of the Humanicemos Project, which supported the social-economic reintegration of former combatants who are employed by the mine action organization HUMANICEMOS DH, which emerged from the 2016 Peace Agreement. During this phase of the project, initiated in February 2020 and concluded in June this year, HUMANICEMOS DH achieved the following results:



89 FARC-EP ex-combatants (68 men and 21 women) work in HUMANICEMOS DH, performing directive and operational tasks.



77 of these people were accredited by the OACP in humanitarian demining work.



HUMANICEMOS DH has assigned demining operations in three municipalities in Caquetá: La Montañita, Solita and Cartagena del Chairá.



13,868 m² of land have been handed over mine-free and there are plans to hand over five more areas in La Montañita, totaling more than 8,400 m².



1,724 people received Explosive Ordnance Risk Education sessions to avoid new accidents with explosive devices.

It is evident that projects like this are of great importance for peacekeeping where the social fabric is repaired and strengthened

Sonia Tato, Deputy Head of Cooperation of the Delegation of the EU in Colombia.

The UNMAS Colombia team



Paula Rodríguez
Procurement Assistant

Paula studied International Relations and Political Studies at the Universidad Militar Nueva Granada, in Bogotá. Previously she was an intern at the School of Infantry and at the Municipal Council of Bogota. In September 2019 **she joined the UNMAS team in Colombia as an administrative intern**, directly supporting the Support Services team and the Regional Coordination project. **A year later she was hired as Procurement Assistant, being this her first job.** In this position, Paula performs administrative tasks and is responsible for managing the program's procurement and purchases. She is also the focal point for security and asset management. Her role enables the entire UNMAS team to perform their duties effectively and safely.

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 **European Union**, through the **European Trust Fund for Peace**; 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.

