



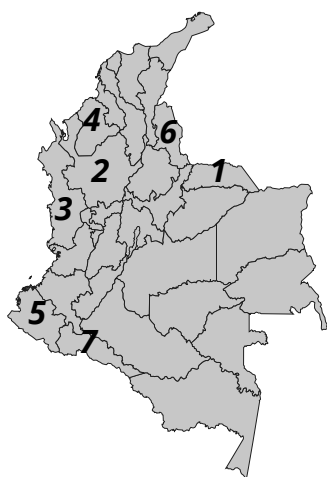
United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in Colombia newsletter informs about the main technical assistance activities carried out through the projects implemented in the country to strengthen the mine action sector, in conjunction with the **Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP, in Spanish)**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

UNMAS will finance three local organizations to implement Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) activities



Photo: HUMANICEMOS DH EORE Team

UNMAS will finance three local organizations of the mine action sector to implement EORE activities in emergency situations in some of the regions most affected by the presence of explosive ordnance. These interventions will be carried out between April and November 2021 in communities of seven departments. **The EORE activities will directly benefit more than 13,000 girls, boys, men and women of the communities, including indigenous and Afro-descendants.** They will also contribute to the objectives of the OACP's EORE Strategic and Operational Plan, and the Ottawa Convention extension request of the Government of Colombia to achieve the goal of a mine-free country. These activities are supported by the Government of Germany.



Municipalities in which EORE workshops and public information dissemination activities will be held:

1. **Arauca:** Arauquita, Saravena y Tame.
2. **Antioquia:** Frontino y Dabeiba.
3. **Chocó:** Bojayá, Acandí y Carmen del Darién.
4. **Córdoba:** Puerto Libertador, San José de Uré y Tierralta.
5. **Nariño:** Tumaco, Barbacoas, Magüí Payán y Roberto Payán.
6. **Norte de Santander:** San Calixto, Hacarí, Abrego, Teorama.
7. **Putumayo:** Puerto Asís y Puerto Caicedo.



With funding from the Government of Germany



Photo: Javier Tabora/HUMANICEMOS DH

HUMANICEMOS DH consolidates its operational capacity: 100% of its personnel passed at least one evaluation

HUMANICEMOS DH, a humanitarian demining organization composed and led by ex-combatants of FARC-EP guerrilla, in April achieved that every single one of its operations personnel has at least one operational certification, which allows them to carry out Non-Technical Survey (ENT), Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Manual Clearance tasks, that make up the various stages of humanitarian demining. **76 ex-combatants have passed the operational evaluations** that have been carried out since August 2020 by the External Monitoring Component (CEM) of UNMAS. The CEM sends the results of the evaluations to the OACP, so that this entity can issue official certifications. This project is supported by the **European Trust Fund for Peace**.



Indigenous Reservation of Tumaco affected by explosive ordnance benefits from institutional accompaniment

On April 19, the Regional Coordinator of Nariño, in support of the Municipal Mayor's Office, coordinated the Transitional Justice Committee of the municipality of Tumaco, in which actions were agreed to respond to the emergency faced by the Awa Piguambí Palangala Indigenous Reservation, **after illegal groups installed explosive ordnance on the access road to the Reservation and around the school**, which serves more than 60 students daily. To carry out EORE activities to avoid accidents was one of the actions that were coordinated with the Indigenous Authority, the Barco Foundation and the Social Pastoral of Tumaco.

Photo: Awa Indigenous Reservation /Courtesy



Photo: Alejandra Padilla / Proyecto GT

Córdoba approved its Departmental Mine Action Plan for 2021

Córdoba approved its Departmental Mine Action Plan on March 18, which will allow the development of activities focused on EORE, Victim Assistance (VA) and the performance of drills in response to accidents with explosive ordnance, taking into account that in most of this department's municipalities **humanitarian demining operations cannot deploy due to security risks**. The plan was approved during the first ever Departmental Committee of Landmines held in the city of Montería and led jointly by the *Regional Coordinator* together with the Departmental Secretary of Government. Territorial authorities and representatives of humanitarian organizations such as the Colombian Red Cross, UNICEF, the Victims Unit, among others, participated in this meeting.



Universidad de Antioquia and UNMAS organize chair about mine action's contributions to peacebuilding

Highlighting the role of mine action in building trust during peace negotiation processes and its importance for peacebuilding, reconciliation and reintegration, is the objective of an open university chair that UNMAS Colombia and the University of Antioquia are organizing for next May 19 at 10:30 am. The speakers for the chair **"Mine action: hope and the way to peacebuilding"** will be Jan Philip Klever, Programme Manager of UNMAS Colombia; and Ángela Orrego, Director of HUMANICEMOS DH. The presentations will be open to the public.

Photo: UNMAS Colombia/ HUMANICEMOS DH



April 4: International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action

Last Sunday, April 4, the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action was commemorated, a day which seeks to visibilize the risks that explosive ordnance represent for the life and sustainable development of the communities affected by this scourge. As part of the visibility efforts a radio program dedicated to mine action in Colombia was produced together with the United Nations Information Center (UNIC), which was broadcast on Radio Nacional. The following participated in this program: The Officer-in-Charge of UNMAS, Ilene Cohn; spokespersons of UNICEF, the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines; representatives of international cooperation and beneficiaries of UNMAS projects. [Listen the Program HERE.](#)

Photo: UNMAS Colombia/ HUMANICEMOS DH

Our results, in numbers

n April 12, the **Regional Coordination Project** team shared with the OACP the progress made between 2020 and early 2021 in terms of inter-institutional coordination, especially with the **Victims Unit and the Territorial Renewal Agency**. The data presented will allow the departmental mine action plans to include precise information about the initiatives developed by these state entities aimed at supporting survivors and territories with contamination by explosive ordnance.

Achievements of inter-institutional articulation facilitated by the Regional Coordination Project



342 municipalities identified together with the Victims Unit, in which mine action activities (*HD, EORE, VA*)* should be prioritized. Technical assistance has been provided to the territorial authorities



Inclusion of mine action activities in 11 Collective Reparation Plans and 10 Return and Relocation Plans



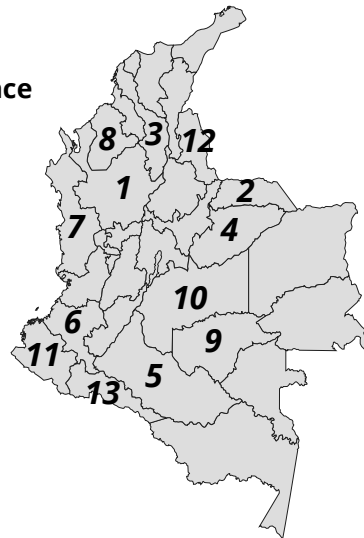
Accompaniment in the implementation of 56 initiatives of the Development Plans with a Territorial Approach (PDET)



28 municipalities are already free of contamination with anti-personnel mines, out of the 170 prioritized in PDET



1,140 projects contemplated in development policies are being implemented



Departments accompanied:

1. ***Antioquia***
2. ***Arauca***
3. ***Bolívar***
4. ***Casanare***
5. ***Caquetá***
6. ***Cauca***
7. ***Chocó***
8. ***Córdoba***
9. ***Guaviare***
10. ***Meta***
11. ***Nariño***
12. ***Norte de Santander***
13. ***Putumayo***



*With funding from the
Government of Germany.*

*HD: Humanitarian Demining
VA: Victims Assistance

The UNMAS Colombia team



Claudia Godoy
Associate Support
Services Officer

Claudia is a professional in International Business specialized in Project Management with more than 10 years of experience in public institutions, diplomatic delegations and cooperation organizations, such as the Colombian Geological Survey, the National Mining Agency and USAID. **Since July 2016, she assumed the responsibility of leading the Support Services team of UNMAS Colombia**, which ensures the efficient management of the Program, focusing on the coordination of daily operations, supervision of human talent, procurement management, logistics, administrative and financial tasks. Her support was vital for the implementation of UNMAS projects in the country, analyzing and improving organizational processes, always seeking efficiency. After almost five years in the team, Claudia finished her time at UNMAS in April. We appreciate all of her contributions and wish her well for her future endeavours.

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.

