



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 UNMAS Colombia in 2021\*

Since 2010, the UNMAS programme in Colombia has sought to strengthen the capacities of the mine action sector to maximize the impact of operations and to support the implementation of the mine action aspects of the 2016 Peace Agreement. Through its implemented activities, UNMAS seeks to contribute to three goals:



**Strengthening the presence and capacities of the national mine action center (OACP-Descontamina Colombia).**



**Support to the implementation of the mine action related aspects of the Peace Agreement.**



**Strengthening the capacities of mine action organizations.**

### Beneficiaries: 30.713



16.548  
Women



14.165  
Men

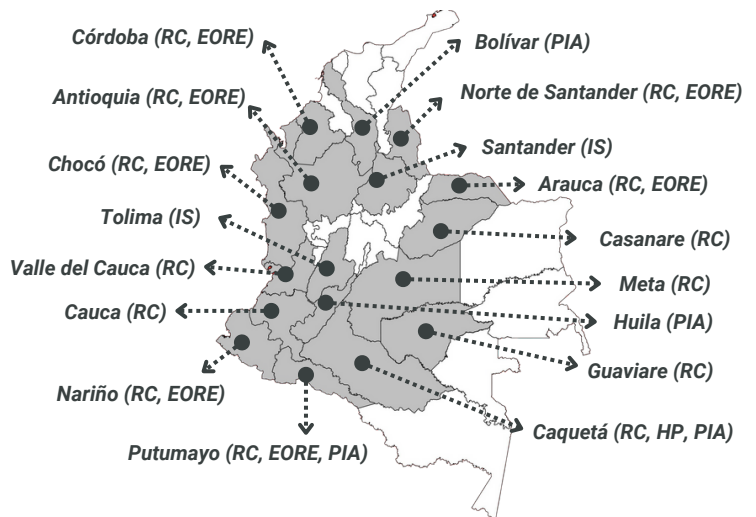


8.575  
Children

### Activities and projects implemented

- **Technical Assistance**
- **Regional Coordination Project (RC)**
- **Humanicemos Project (HP)**
- **Post-clearance Impact Assessments Project (PIA)**
- **Pre-pilot on Information Sharing on the location of EO (IS)**
- **Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) Grants for emergency situations**

### Departments covered in 2021



### Our results, in numbers



**9 Local Coordinators deployed covering 13 of the departments** most affected by anti-personnel mines in Colombia.



**20,046 people in 10 departments of Colombia** benefited from EORE sessions funded by UNMAS.



**10 mine action departmental plans developed** with technical support from the Local Coordinators.



**16 training sessions for mine action organizations** on land release; gender and diversity, among other courses.



**46 municipal and departmental Victims Assistance (VA) Referral Pathways** created and updated with assistance from UNMAS.



**84 reports on the possible location of about 500 explosive devices** installed during the conflict, compiled with the support of UNMAS.



**265 survivors and indirect victims of anti-personnel mines** received advice to enter the VA Referral Pathway of the Colombian State.



**77 ex-combatants of the FARC-EP guerrilla, members of HUMANICEMOS DH,** certified in humanitarian demining tasks thanks to UNMAS training.

\*Source: UNMAS Colombia Programme Team.



## Peace signatories share information on possible locations of explosive devices installed in three departments

In May and June, 18 FARC-EP ex-combatants in the process of reintegration, participated in two information gathering sessions on possible areas contaminated with explosive devices during the conflict. In these first two sessions, held in Medellín, Antioquia, and in Planadas, Tolima, **information was collected on the possible locations of 3,128 explosive devices (EO) installed** in three municipalities in Antioquia (*Ituango, Tarazá and Peque*), one in Córdoba (*Puerto Libertador*) and one in Tolima (*Planadas*). More than 2,900 EO were reported in Planadas, as it was an area where the former FARC-EP had a strong territorial presence. Data collection is carried out by six ex-combatants trained by UNMAS. Thanks to this project, **funded by the Kingdom of Norway**, one of the most complex commitments of Peace Agreement is being fulfilled.

*This project emerged from the Tripartite Mechanism, composed of the OACP, the Comunes Party and the United Nations. Photo: CEPDIPO / UNMAS.*



## Officials from 11 municipalities of the Pacific Coast of Nariño are trained on assistance to landmine victims

On May 20, the Local Coordinator in Nariño trained the Victims' Liaisons and Ombudsmen of 11 municipalities of the Pacific Coast of Nariño (*Tumaco, Roberto Payán, Magüí Payán, Barbacoas, Olaya Herrera, El Charco, Ricaurte, Mosquera, Francisco Pizarro, Santa Bárbara de Iscuandé*) for the inclusion of mine action in the municipal contingency plans. The contingency plans provide guidance for emergency response in these territories. This workshop emphasized the importance of the Victims Assistance (VA) Referral Pathway, since **these municipalities concentrated the largest number of mass displacements in 2021**, many of them generated by the presence of EO.

*This workshop was led by the Victims Unit and OCHA. Photo: Mauricio Morillo.*



## Officials and victims' representatives from municipalities of Guaviare strengthen their knowledge on mine action

Officials and representatives of victims in the municipalities of Calamar, Miraflores, El Retorno, San José del Guaviare and Puerto Concordia, in Guaviare, participated in a session to strengthen their knowledge of mine action, led by UNMAS in coordination with OACP, the *Organization of American States (OAS)* mission for the peace process, the *Lutheran World Federation* and the *Victims Unit*. During this event, held on May 20, an EORE session was given, the VA Referral Pathway was socialized, and the procedure for reporting possible areas contaminated with EO was shared. **The objective was to build the capacities of local officials to reduce the risk of accidents** and provide effective assistance to victims.

*Photo: Juliana de la Vega / UNMAS.*



## Indigenous communities of Tumaco, Nariño affected by disputes between armed groups receive EORE

On May 19, UNMAS conducted the first awareness session on EORE for communities of the AWA Indigenous Reservation of Peña Lisa, located in the municipality of Tumaco, Nariño. More than 60 delegates from the Reservation participated in the session. The activity was carried out at the request of the indigenous authorities due to the suspected presence of EO in these areas. **This collective territory is disputed by various armed groups**, for this reason the Ombudsman's Office issued an early warning in 2019 to protect the lives of its inhabitants.

*Photo: Mauricio Morillo / UNMAS.*

## Inhabitants of municipality of Briceño, in Antioquia, receive EORE after recent anti-personnel mine accident



Photo: Valeria Atencio / UNMAS.

On 10 June, 120 children and 30 adults living in the communities of Briceño, Antioquia, participated in sessions to strengthen their knowledge on mine action led by UNMAS in the village of Pueblo Nuevo. In this space, they received EORE sessions, EORE kits donated by the *Corporación Paz y Democracia* were handed out, and the VA Referral Pathway of the municipality was socialized. This event was carried out in coordination with the Mayor's Office of Briceño, the UN Verification Mission in Colombia (UNVMC) and the OAS Mission, after an accident occurred last April in the Buenavista village of this municipality. **During these sessions, forms were also collected on possible areas contaminated with anti-personnel mines reported by the communities.**



Photos: Mayor's Office of Briceño. Courtesy.

## The UNMAS Colombia team



**Cecilia Smith Alarcón**

Programme Intern

Cecilia has been part of the UNMAS Programme team since January of this year. **She comes from Spain and joined the UNMAS team through an internationalization scholarship for young people** from the Government of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country. Cecilia holds a degree in Business Administration and Engineering in Industrial Technologies from the University of Deusto. She has worked as a financial consultant in Madrid, Spain, in large capital projects in Southeast Asia and Northern Europe. From her role in UNMAS, **she supports the Programme team in the formulation of new projects; monitoring and evaluation of ongoing projects; preparation of reports to donors, among other functions** that allow UNMAS to continue impacting thousands of people with its activities. With this experience in UNMAS Colombia, Cecilia turned her professional career into the world of cooperation for development, thus contributing to the peacebuilding in Colombia.

## 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.

