



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 trains magistrates and officials of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace in Colombia about Mine Action



Image: from the website of the JEP

Answering a request from the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP, in Spanish), the UNMAS Colombia operations and technical assistance team conducted three training workshops on mine action and its operations in Colombia, aimed at more than 60 officials of JEP. **The JEP analyzes the inclusion of mine action activities as reparatory actions** that could be carried out by the actors of the armed conflict who have to appear before this special tribunal, which was established by the Peace Agreement. The workshops were held between March and May, and a number more meetings are planned for the next months. These activities are part of the technical assistance provided by UNMAS for the fulfillment of the mine action elements that were included in the Peace Accord.

Community leaders and anti-personnel mine survivors in Chocó receive EORE and Victim Assistance workshops



Photo: Ayiseliz Moreno/Regional Coordination Project

During April, the Local Coordinator of the department of Chocó conducted a series of trainings of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) and the Victims Assistance (VA) Referral Pathway aimed at community leaders from the Uradá Jiguamiandó Indigenous Reservation, in the municipality of Carmen del Darién; and landmine survivors from the Chocó Cimarronaje Collective Association. **The main objective of these spaces was to socialize safe behaviors to prevent new accidents with explosive ordnance** in this region. The landmine survivors also clarified doubts about the rights they have related to medical care, as well as physical and psychological rehabilitation by the Colombian State.

"Mine action: hope and way to peacebuilding in Colombia"



Photo: Javier Taborda/HUMANICEMOS DH

UNMAS in alliance with the University of Antioquia (UDEA) organized on May 19 the Panel Discussion **"Mine action: hope and way to peacebuilding in Colombia"**, in which participated Jan Philip Klever, Programme Manager of UNMAS Colombia; and Ángela Orrego, Director of HUMANICEMOS DH, the first mine action organization in the world formed and led by ex-combatants in the process of reintegration. In this space both shared how mine action has been a confidence-building factor during peace negotiations in Colombia and other countries, and its contribution to the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially # 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

[Watch the full broadcast HERE.](#)



Photo: Courtesy Government of Guaviare

More than 50 officials from the department of Guaviare are sensitized about mine action

On April 21 and 22, the Local Coordinator in Guaviare led training sessions about the pillars of mine action in Colombia (Humanitarian Demining, EORE and VA) aimed at public officials of the Government of Guaviare, the Mayor's Office and the Municipal Board of Victims of San José del Guaviare, as well as other entities such as the Ombudsman's Office, the Red Cross and the National Army. During these sessions, the Coordinator also presented a report on the anti-personnel mine contamination in Guaviare, highlighting the fact that **262 victims of explosive ordnance have been registered in the department since 1990**. These trainings were carried out in coordination with the Departmental Government Secretariat and the Guaviare Victims Liaisons.

Our results, in numbers

On April 30, the third phase of the **Regional Coordination Project** ended, which was implemented by UNMAS Colombia with the aim of strengthening the presence of the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP) in the territories most affected by explosive ordnance. Within the framework of this project, actions were implemented such as:



Advocacy for the public policies of the territories to include mine action



Facilitation of inter-institutional coordination spaces



Training for public officials and community leaders about mine action



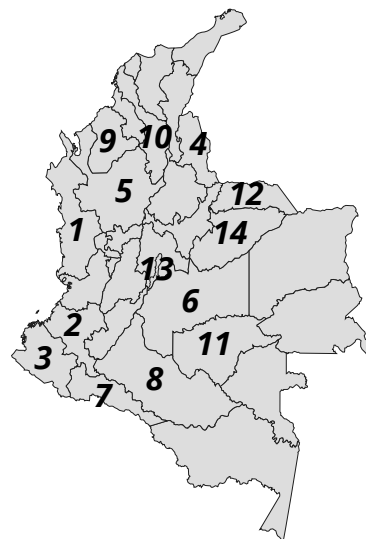
Accompaniment of victims to enter the VA Referral Pathway of the Government

Activities implemented by the Project: 739

- 323 territories with mine action accompaniment.
- 235 municipalities with mine action interventions (HD, EORE, VA, RC)*.
- 58 ethnic territories with mine action interventions (HD, EORE, VA, RC).
- 35 entities incorporated mine action public policies.
- 82 follow-ups to court orders or administrative mine action requirements.
- 6 reports prepared on Planning, Follow-up and Monitoring of Regional Coordination.

*HD (Humanitarian Demining); EORE (Explosive Ordnance Risk Education); VA (Victims Assistance); RC (Regional Coordination).

Departments benefited by the activities



1. **Chocó: 138**
2. **Cauca: 114**
3. **Nariño: 93**
4. **Norte de Santander: 91**
5. **Antioquia: 88**
6. **Meta: 65**
7. **Putumayo: 29**
8. **Caquetá: 29**
9. **Córdoba: 26**
10. **Bolívar: 22**
11. **Guaviare: 16**
12. **Arauca: 12**
13. **Bogotá D.C.: 12**
14. **Casanare: 4**

Project Participants / Beneficiaries



+5.100



+4.600



62



16

Victims of landmines accompanied: 34



First aid and rescue:
5



Hospital phase:
8



Hospital care:
4



Rehabilitation phase:
4



Inclusion Phase:
5

This third phase began in January 2021 and was financed by the Government of Germany. UNMAS Colombia is now preparing the fourth phase of the project with its own funds approved from New York, to continue implementing this important collaboration with the OACP.

The UNMAS Colombia team



Carlos Díaz
Operations and
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Carlos is an architectural and engineering drawing technologist, specializing in cartography, terrain analysis, and databases. He has nine years of work experience in the oil industry and mine action. For two years he was part of the local organization Colombian Campaign Ban Landmines (CCCM) as Information Officer. In 2019 he joined the UNMAS team to form part of the **Humanicemos Project** team, whose main mission is to train ex-combatants members of HUMANICEMOS DH in humanitarian demining tasks. Thanks to the formal training in Non-Technical Survey (NTS) that Carlos provided, 36 persons from this organization were certified by the national authority: OACP. The training provided was key for HUMANICEMOS DH to now have a great operational capacity.

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.

