



UNMAS
COLOMBIA



OUR IMPACT IN 2020

Former combatants, members of HUMANICEMOS DH, trained by UNMAS.

In 2020, despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, UNMAS Colombia successfully delivered its Country Programme Strategy (CPS)* and even advance key issues. The capacity for resilience and adaptation allowed us to continue mitigating the humanitarian and socio-economic impact of explosive ordnance (EO) in Colombia, and to support the implementation of the peace accord's mine action elements. UNMAS Colombia CPS articulates three strategic outcomes and these were the advances during 2020.



OUTCOME #1: The national Mine Action Centre (MAC) coordinates a prioritized, principled and effective mine action programme

- **Implementation of the Regional Coordination project** in support of the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP), for the inclusion of mine action (MA) into regional and local policy instruments of 15 departments and 61 municipalities. Funds were mobilized to extend this line of work through March 2021.
- **Participation in the technical review process of Colombia's National Mine Action Standards (NMAS).** With technical inputs from UNMAS, 17 NMAS are in the process of being updated, this will allow the sector to continue operating effectively in 2021.
- **Approval of a joint work plan with the OACP for 2020-2022, contributing to building sustainable national capacity.** The support is implemented by enhancing OACP's presence and coordination capacity in the most EO-affected regions, supporting the peace accord implementation plan, amongst others.
- **Coordination of the local Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR).** UNMAS has contributed to improve the state response, by supporting training local ombudspersons of the most EO affected regions in MA and Victim Assistance (VA).

Departments covered by the Regional Coordination project in 2020



- Antioquia
- Arauca
- Bolívar
- Casanare
- Caquetá
- Cauca
- Chocó
- Córdoba
- Guaviare
- Huila
- Meta
- Nariño
- Norte de Santander
- Putumayo
- Tolima

**Albeit not approved until December, the CPS was in final draft from beginning Q2 and accordingly implemented*

UNMAS is thankful to the European Union and the Governments of Italy, Germany, Sweden, and Switzerland for their 2020 contributions.





OUTCOME #2: Mine action related aspects of the peace process are implemented



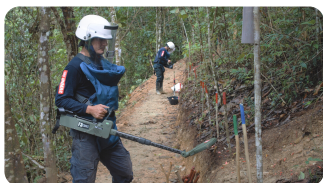
- **Quality-assure humanitarian demining operations of former combatants.** Signature, on 10 March, of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of Colombia and the UN, that designated UNMAS as the external monitoring and evaluation component in charge of verifying demining operations from HUMANICEMOS DH (HDH).



- **Implementation of the second phase of the *Humanicemos Project*.** UNMAS began formal training with HDH in June. During 2020, 47 ex-combatants were certified in NTS and Manual Clearance. The first team deployed operations in October in La Montañita, Caquetá, and to date has already identified two confirmed hazardous areas and one hazardous area. The project will continue operations and training in 2021



- **On 10 December 2020, HUMANICEMOS DH received the official notification of a second tasks assignment by the National Authority.** The municipality of Solita, also in Caquetá, was assigned to HDH for NTS and manual clearance operations.



- **Preliminary findings of an internal impact evaluation for Humanicemos project.** 59 perception surveys were applied to the community benefitting from mine action activities implemented in La Montañita. In the preliminary findings, 79% of the community members recognize the contribution of HDH to reconciliation.



- **Participation in, and technical assistance to a tripartite mechanism (Government, FARC, and United Nations).** Advances on the tripartite mechanism for information sharing on the location of explosive ordnance installed by FARC-EP during the conflict. In addition, technical assistance was provided so that the Mine Action elements of the peace accord could be considered as reparatory actions (TOARs) by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace.



OUTCOME #3: Mine action sector performs Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) effectively

- **Assistance to victims of accidents with explosive ordnance.** Accompaniment to survivors to guarantee their access to the VA pathway of the Colombian State, and support to the national authorities in the design and updating of 59 VA pathways in municipalities affected by EO contamination.
- Following COVID-19 safety regulations, **UNMAS carried out on-line EORE sessions to affected communities**, including Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities, and virtually supported the national authorities in responding to possible early warnings on EO contamination in isolated communities suffering from ongoing armed conflict dynamics.
- **Provision of technical assistance to the OACP and MA Operators on Information Management (IM)**, which led to the design of a dashboard on EO contamination and victims registered in Colombia. UNMAS also delivered webinars on Geographic Information Systems (GIS), among others.

