



First former combatants pass evaluations to carry out humanitarian demining in Colombia

17 former combatants of the FARC-EP, belonging to the civil organization of mine action Humanicemos DH, passed the evaluations to carry out Non-Technical Surveys, the first phase of humanitarian demining operations aiming to clear land from the threat of landmines. These personnel will identify the areas for mine clearance, which marks the beginning of humanitarian demining operations by Humanicemos DH in the municipality of La Montañita, Caquetá, Colombia. The evaluation was conducted by UNMAS for the government of Colombia, in the context of a project funded by the European Union, through the European Trust Fund for Peace. [READ MORE](#)



Officials of 125 municipalities in Antioquia, Colombia are sensitized in Mine Action

150 local officials responsible for the issue of victims in Antioquia have been sensitized in mine action, within the work undertaken by the *Regional Coordination project*. From 29 to 31 July, representatives, provincial attorneys and personnel who provide victim assistance were trained, focusing on compliance with the directive of the Attorney General's Office, which seeks to promote humanitarian mine action in rural areas. This workshop was given thanks to the coordination of institutions such as the Office of the Attorney General of the Nation, the Unit for Victims, and the Government of Antioquia, among others.



23 members of humanitarian organizations receive a virtual workshop on explosive ordnance risk education

The *Regional Coordination project*, implemented by UNMAS Colombia and the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP, acronym in Spanish) - Descontamina Colombia, on 24 July held an awareness workshop for representatives of humanitarian organizations on safe behavior against the risk that anti-personnel landmines and unexploded ordnance pose. The participating organizations attend to emergencies in vulnerable communities. Three mine survivors participated in the workshop, who taught prevention measures from their experiences.



UNICEF Colombia explosive ordnance risk education facilitators were virtually trained on land release

On 22, 23 and 24 July, the UNMAS Operations and Technical Assistance team held the first virtual workshop on "Introduction to Land Release" for UNICEF staff. The objective of these workshops is to strengthen the capacities of the explosive ordnance risk education facilitators that operate in the various regions of Colombia. The plan is to replicate these virtual workshops, since the virtual format proved to be effective in reaching the personnel who are deployed in these areas.



Officials responsible for the issue of victims in Norte de Santander are trained in explosive ordnance risk education

On 15 July, a mine action awareness workshop was held for 27 local government officials responsible for the issue of victims in Norte de Santander. During this activity, access to the route of assistance and restitution of victim's rights was also discussed, taking into account that these officials visit communities on a daily basis to attend to the victims of conflict. This makes them key actors in the communities to share messages of safe behavior against anti-personnel mines and to answer questions about victims assistance.

Our results, in numbers

During 2019, UNMAS Colombia carried out various actions to strengthen the mine action sector in Colombia. Among these actions are:



35 trainings to improve the operational capacities of organizations in the sector.



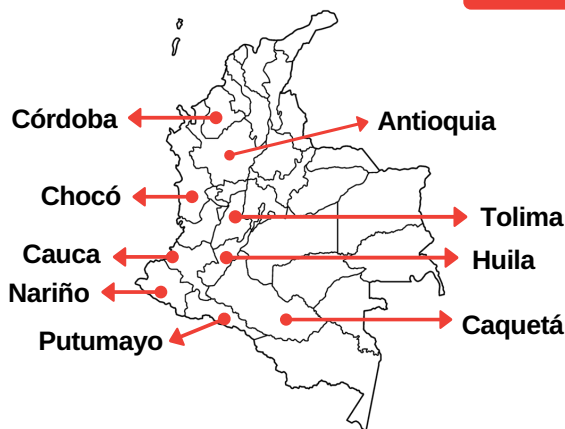
29 local mine action plans developed with technical assistance from UNMAS.



124 former combatants trained in mine action as an alternative for socio-economic reintegration.



35,699 people benefited from explosive ordnance risk education workshops, carried out with funds from UNMAS.



Civil organizations benefited from UNMAS grants since 2015



About UNMAS Colombia

Since 2010, UNMAS has supported Colombia's National Mine Action Center, now under the direction of the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP, acronym in Spanish), 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, Sweden and Switzerland**, whom we thank for their contributions in 2020.

