



UNMAS Colombia/Stock Photo

Germany provides grant to UNMAS to strengthen the Mine Action sector in Colombia

Germany renewed its commitment to peace and mine action in Colombia through a new contribution of **\$ 1.5 million euros** to UNMAS for a period of two years. This support will serve to provide technical assistance to organizations in the sector that carry out humanitarian demining, Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) and victims assistance, with the aim of reducing the threat of explosive ordnance in the communities. This support will allow to promote good global practices such as post-clearance impact evaluations to ensure that previously contaminated land is released for productive work and the impact of the sector operations maximized.



Photo: UNMAS Colombia

Former combatants begin humanitarian demining work in La Montaña, Caquetá

As a socio-economic reintegration initiative, the civil humanitarian demining organization **HUMANICEMOS DH**, founded and led by former combatants, began on October 5 its humanitarian demining work in the municipality of La Montaña, Caquetá, with the deployment of its first Non-Technical Survey (NTS) teams. These teams were certified by the **Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP, in Spanish)** and their mission is to identify the areas contaminated with explosive ordnance to be cleared in the coming months. HUMANICEMOS DH contributes to the implementation of the mine action related aspects in the Peace Accord. This project is implemented by **UNMAS Colombia** with funds from **the European Union, through the European Trust Fund for Peace**.



Credit: UNMAS Colombia/Stock Photo

Second phase of the Regional Coordination project, in support of the work of OACP in mine action, concludes

The second phase of the Regional Coordination project, implemented by the OACP and UNMAS with the support of the **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)**, ended on 4 October. The objective of the project is to strengthen the presence of the OACP in thirteen departments of the country to:

- Improve the coordination of national and local authorities in decision-making related to mine action,
- Influence public policies at regional and local level of government,
- Improve the role of regional and local authorities in the implementation of the mine action pillars in the territory.

The goal is to mitigate the problem of explosive ordnance in the country. The first phase of the project was financed by the **United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund (UNMPTF)**, and the third phase will continue with the Germany support.

Results of second phase of the Regional Coordination project*



11 departmental development plans and 61 municipal development plans included mine action.



198 Departmental Coordination Spaces and 231 Municipal Coordination Spaces accompanied (Mine Action Committee Boards, Transitional Justice Committees, among others).



190 public officials, from departments affected by the presence of explosive ordnance, were trained in Victims Assistance routes and EORE.



The project contributed to the **development of the first virtual diploma in Regional Mine Action Coordination**, together with the OACP and **Pastoral Social**. The Diploma is benefiting 50 public officials.

Integration of mine action into other tools that will improve responses to mine survivors:



7 territorial action plans for departments and 47 plans for municipalities.



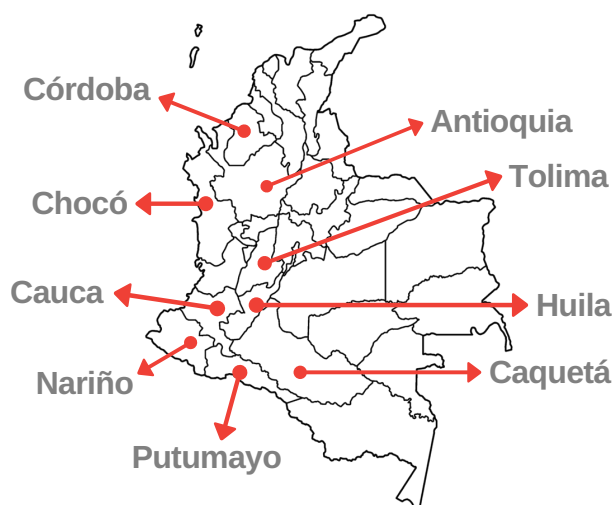
3 departmental contingency plans and 36 municipal contingency plans.



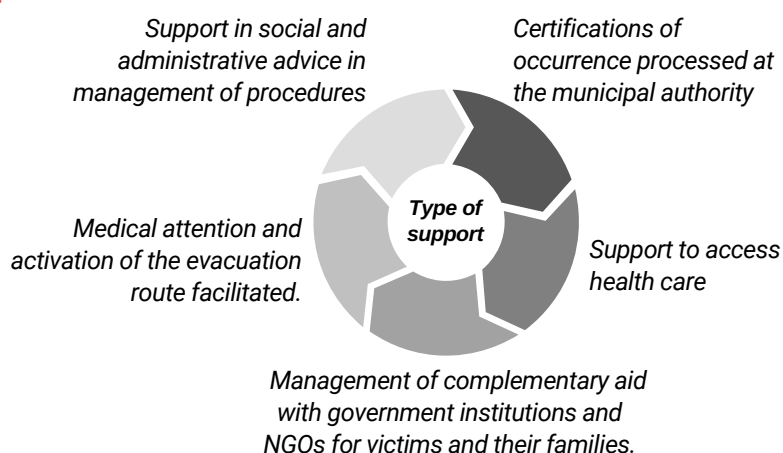
4 departmental plans and 30 municipal plans for Prevention, Protection and Guarantees of Non-Repetition (PPGNR).

*These data correspond to the second phase of the project. These are not accumulated data.

Departments covered by the Regional and local Coordinators deployed by UNMAS for the OACP



169 mine victims referred to victims assistance pathways



The UNMAS Colombia team



Mario Aguirre
Regional Coordinator, Cauca

Mario joined the UNMAS team in 2018 as part of the Regional Coordination project in the department of Cauca. In Cauca, he has helped to forge strategic alliances between the department's Mine Action actors, strengthening the coordination and improving communication mechanisms between public institutions and organizations involved in the humanitarian response. Given the ethnic and cultural diversity of the department of Cauca, Mario has worked on building understanding of mine action's environmental approach and has sought to integrate the views and needs of local ethnic groups into the designs and implementation of mine action operations. This has helped to consider a cultural dimension to mine action, beyond "just" the explosive ordnance clearance of the territory.

About UNMAS Colombia

Since 2010, UNMAS has supported the National Mine Action Center of Colombia (now 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, Sweden and Switzerland**, whom we thank for their contributions in 2020.

