



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**.

In February Colombia surpassed 12,000 victims of anti-personnel mines



Colombia ended February with a total of **12,014 victims of anti-personnel mines registered** by the national authorities. This figure ranges from January 1990 (the year in which official records began) until February 28 of this year. Colombia continues to be **the second country in the world with the most registered victims of anti-personnel mines**, only surpassed by Afghanistan whose records began in 1998. In February, 19 new victims of explosive ordnance were registered with Tumaco, in the department of Nariño, currently the most affected municipality with six new victims. *"All accidents in Colombia occur with improvised mines, and it is the second country with the highest number of accidents with this type of mines, behind Afghanistan"*, said Jan Philip Klever, UNMAS Colombia Programme Manager, *in a recent webinar organized* in collaboration with the **Global Compact Colombia**.



Photo: Alejandra Padilla / RC Project

Victim assistance: three municipalities of Caquetá build their VA referral pathways

Officials of the municipal mayors' offices of Curillo, San José del Fragua and Solita, in Caquetá, participated in a training session on safe behaviors and Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) given by the Regional Coordinator in Caquetá. The meeting helped these municipalities **to build their anti-personnel mines Victims Assistance (VA) referral pathway for the first time**. The next step will be for municipal authorities to train the communities with the highest risk of accidents about these routes. The meeting held on February 19 in Florencia, Caquetá, was in response to an "Early Warning" from the Ombudsman's Office in which it requested to train communities affected by the conflict in the Caquetá, Cauca and Putumayo departments for the prevention of accidents and the protection of their rights.



Photo: Courtesy CCCM / Juan Arredondo

UNMAS and Global Compact held a webinar: successful partnerships between companies and mine action organizations

Better access to territories, better relations with communities, and reconstruction of the social fabric are some of the contributions generated by partnerships between private companies and mine action organizations. These are some of the conclusions shared in a recent webinar organized by UNMAS and Global Compact Colombia, in which representatives of the companies **Gran Tierra Energy** and **Grupo Energía Bogotá**, highlighted their successful alliances with **The HALO Trust** and the **Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines**, to the implementation of humanitarian demining projects in areas where these companies operate and that present contamination with explosive ordnance. **[Watch here the webinar: Territories of Opportunities](#)**



Reference photo/ Courtesy ERM UNICEF

Progress in the tripartite mechanism for the provision of information about explosive ordnance by ex-combatants

The tripartite mechanism, created to promote the provision of information about the location of explosive ordnance installed by the FARC-EP before the signing of the Peace Accord, approved an important technical note. This note forms a methodological basis **that will allow the collection of all available information among the ex-combatants** of the extinct guerrilla. This mechanism is made up of the Government of Colombia (represented by the OACP), the FARC component and the United Nations. The information collection methodology was developed by UNMAS. Following the approval of the technical note, the members of the mechanism will raise funds to implement a large-scale project and, at the same time, the first information collection activities will begin.



UN officials working in Colombian territories received Explosive Ordnance Risk Education workshop

Fifteen United Nations (UN) officials in Colombia received EORE training to strengthen their knowledge of safe behaviors, taking into account that **these officials carry out work missions in different regions of the country** and some of these areas are contaminated with explosive ordnance. The training was given by the Local Coordinator of Meta to personnel working with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the UN Verification Mission in Colombia. The meeting was held in Villavicencio on February 22 in coordination with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS).

Photo: Regional Coordination Project /UNMAS



Photo: Mauricio Morillo / RC Project

Five new survivors of anti-personnel mines in Nariño received accompaniment during the month of February

Five new survivors of anti-personnel mines received support from the Nariño Local Coordinator in February in order to access the institutional Victim Assistance Referral pathway of the Government of Colombia. These people are among the most recent victims of accidents with explosive ordnance in this department, which already accounts for 12 of the 27 victims registered in Colombia in the first two months of 2021. The work of the Local Coordinator includes the management of emergency humanitarian aid and complementary support with non-governmental organizations that work with the affected population. The UNMAS **Regional Coordination Project** seeks to strengthen the presence of the OACP in the territories affected by explosive ordnance.



Health personnel and indigenous leaders of Nariño are sensitized about anti-personnel mines Victims Assistance

How to respond to an emergency and what is the anti-personnel mines Victims Assistance (VA) referral pathway, were some of the issues on which public officials, health personnel and indigenous leaders from the municipality of Cumbal, Nariño, were sensitized. The Local Coordinator conducted this EORE workshop aimed for delegates from municipality's medical centers, Local Health Director, officials responsible for victims and other functionaries of the municipality. Representatives of the Mayasquer and San Martín Reservations, which are part of the Indigenous People of Los Pastos, also participated in the workshop, complying with a request from the Ombudsman's Office. This meeting, held on February 17, was supported by the Regional Government of Nariño.

Photo: Mauricio Morillo / RC Project

