



Thirteen regional governments and their municipalities have participated in Mine Action Committee Boards

680 public officials from thirteen departments impacted by the presence of explosive devices have participated in 34 Mine Action Committee Boards that have been held since January 2020. These committee boards seek to influence public policies, aim to train local officials, national government officials and personnel of organizations of the mine action sector, on the roles of the entities providing institutional assistance in the case of mine accidents and on the rights that victims have, so that institutional responses can be coordinated across government levels. Personnel from the UNMAS Regional Coordination project participated in these meetings.



National Standards for Mine Action in Colombia will become Technical Norms

Since August, representatives of UNMAS have participated in the review of the current National Standards for mine action, in order to convert them into Technical Norms that will regulate the sector. The virtual sessions, which will last until December, are co-chaired by the Colombian Institute of Technical Norms and Certifications (ICONTEC, in Spanish) and the OACP. The humanitarian demining organizations accredited in the country participate in them. Until the end of August, the proposals for the Land Release Standard and the Non-Technical Surveys Standard had been reviewed and subsequently presented for public consultation.



HALO TRUST and Humanity and Inclusion staff strengthen their knowledge about Victim Assistance Route

On August 25 and 31, the first virtual training workshops on access to Victim Assistance were held for personnel of the **HALO TRUST** and **Humanity and Inclusion**, mine action organizations that work in communities of the departments of Putumayo, Cauca, Meta, Tolima and Antioquia. The workshop was given by the Regional Coordinators of Antioquia and Cauca. The objective of the workshop was to strengthen the capacities of the personnel in the face of the concerns that arise in these regions, and to delve into issues of physical and psychological rehabilitation, as well as social and economic inclusion of anti-personnel mine survivors.



Public officials of the department of Chocó are trained in Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)

Public officials from the department of Chocó participated in a virtual workshop on EORE on September 3, in which they were sensitized about the danger posed by explosive ordnance and the need for them to bring these sensitization messages to communities that are at risk from the presence of these hazards. The workshop, given by the regional coordinators of the OACP and UNMAS, benefitted from the participation of the Municipal Mayor of Medio Baudo, officials responsible for victims, family affairs officials and other public functionaries.

The UNMAS Colombia team



Nathalie Ochoa
Training Officer

Nathalie joined UNMAS Colombia in 2015. One of her most important contributions was leading the training to organizations in the mine action sector, with the aim of strengthening their operational capacities with global best practices and thus ensure effectiveness and efficiency of the mine action's impact. She supported the construction of the National Standards between 2016 and 2017, and led the training of the first group of former combatants of **Humanicemos DH**. She is one of the few women certified in Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) level 3 in the world and after her contribution to the mine action sector in Colombia, she will join the UNMAS team in Mali, Africa. Nathalie received in 2019 the **UN Secretary General Special Award**.

Our results, in numbers

Since January 2020, UNMAS Colombia has carried out various actions to strengthen the mine action sector in Colombia. These actions include:



Support for 49 victims of explosive devices to access the institutional victim assistance route.



70 former combatants continue to be trained in mine action work as an alternative for socio-economic reintegration, with the support of UNMAS.



76 victim assistance routes developed or updated in the same number of municipalities with technical assistance from UNMAS.

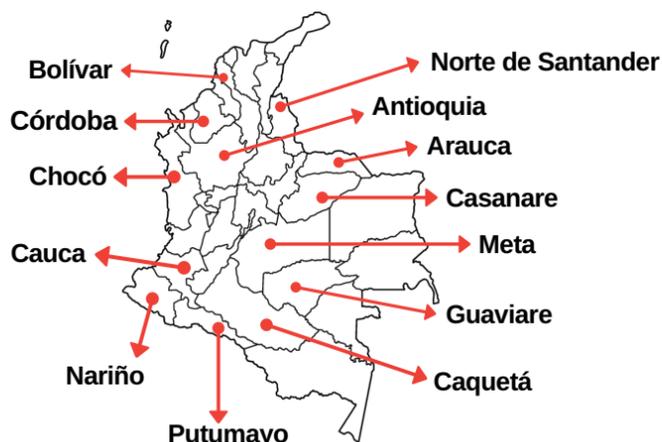


24 local and regional development plans integrated mine action, with technical assistance from UNMAS.



Series of webinars on Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to improve the operational information management capacities of organizations in the sector.

Departments participating in the 34 Mine Action Committee Boards held since January 2020:



During August, 17 former combatants, members of **Humanicemos DH**, passed the evaluations to carry out **Non-Technical Survey**.



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About UNMAS Colombia

Since 2010, UNMAS has supported the National Mine Action Center of Colombia, now under the direction of the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP, 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.

