



UNMAS

United Nations Mine Action Service
Colombia

Newsletter

August 2023

News highlights

UNMAS hands over external QM work to OAS

The humanitarian demining operations of peace signatories are now monitored by the OAS.

Volunteers from the Republic of Korea arrive in Colombia

The Korean government approved the sending of two international volunteers to strengthen the UNMAS Colombia team.

Strengthening capabilities

UNMAS provided workshops to HUMANICEMOS DH, a mine action organization that emerged from the 2016 Peace Agreement.

The Impact of Anti-personnel Mines in Colombia

Find out the official statistics on accidents with APM and casualties during the last 12 months.

UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) finances humanitarian assistance in mine-affected regions of Colombia



The mine action Humanitarian Coordinators will work to support the fulfillment of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) defined annually by the mine action organizations that are part of the Mine Action Area of Responsibility in Colombia. Photo: UNMAS Archive / Mario Aguirre / Cauca.

The United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) approved the disbursement of US\$6.5 million to finance various projects to be implemented by eight UN system offices in Colombia starting in June of this year, in areas such as food security, child protection and mine action (MA).

UNMAS is one of the UN entities that will implement one of these projects, which will focus on improving the

humanitarian response of the integrated mine action sector in regions contaminated with explosive devices.

With CERF funds, **UNMAS will deploy humanitarian coordinators in Chocó, Nariño and Valle del Cauca**, who will be in charge of facilitating assistance to communities threatened by anti-personnel mines and to victims of accidents, articulating the organizations of the MA sector.

UNMAS handed over the external Quality Management of HUMANICEMOS DH demining operations to the OAS



The formal handover ceremony to the OAS was attended by the Chief of Mine Action Programme of UNMAS, Pablo Parra; Marcela Moreno, EORE leader of HUMANICEMOS DH and Tammy Hall, OAS mine action coordinator. Photo: UNMAS

On 6 June, UNMAS officially handed over to the Organization of American States (OAS) all the information of the monitoring carried out to HUMANICEMOS DH by the UNMAS External Quality Management (QM) team since March 2020.

The mission of the UNMAS External QM Team was to verify the quality of the Humanitarian Demining operations carried out by peace signatories belonging to HUMANICEMOS DH, ensuring that the more than 13,000 m² of land decontaminated by this organization were completely safe for the communities of Caquetá.

Last April, the OAS QM Team was informed by the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP, in Spanish) that it would be in charge of ensuring that peace signatories' operations continue to comply with Colombian Technical Norms and International Mine Action Standards.

This transition followed the conclusion of an agreement between the Government of Colombia and the United Nations signed in March 2020, which authorized UNMAS to carry out these tasks. During the last few months, UNMAS QM Team provided technical assistance to the OACP with funding from the UN-MPTF.

Volunteers from the Republic of Korea arrive in Colombia to support UNMAS work



As part of its cooperation program, the Government of the Republic of Korea approved the deployment during 2023 of two international volunteers who have joined the UNMAS team in Colombia. **Minkyung KIM** (left) joined in February as Gender Assistant; and in July, **Dayeon PARK** (right) joined as Programme Assistant. Both are tasked with strengthening the impact of our work in Colombia. UNMAS is grateful for the support of the Republic of Korea for this important support. Photo: UNMAS.

The Impact of Anti-personnel Mines in Colombia

119 victims

registered between July 2022 and June 2023, according to OACP.



4 children

are among the registered victims. Three of them in 2023.

33 victims

belong to indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities.

Gender

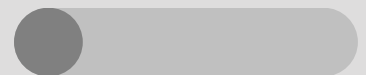


10
8.4%



109
91.6%

Condition of victims



Nearly 7 out of every 100 victims die. The rest are injured or maimed.

Status



Since 2017, following the signing of the Peace Agreement, the percentage of civilian casualties has been increasing.

Source: OACP AICMA.

UNMAS strengthens capacities of HUMANICEMOS DH, mine action organization that emerged from the Peace Agreement



Photo: HUMANICEMOS DH/UNMAS.

From June 4 to 29, the UNMAS operations team provided technical assistance for the implementation of a **capacity building course for 12 HUMANICEMOS DH Non-Technical Survey (NTS) Assistants** (three women and nine men).

The NTS is one of the key tasks for the deployment of humanitarian demining tasks. UNMAS accompanied the trainers of the mine action organization in the workshops and supported the adjustment

of HUMANICEMOS DH's internal procedures to comply with the new Colombian Mine Action Technical Norms, released on 2022.

With this technical assistance, the best practices of the sector continue to be shared with peace signatories that have been assigned demining operations in three municipalities of Caquetá and Antioquia. **This process was possible thanks to the support of the UN-MPTF.**

About UNMAS Colombia

Since 2010, UNMAS has provided technical assistance to Colombia's national mine action authority, now Office of the High Commissioner for Peace - Mine Action (OACP AICMA, in Spanish), and sector organizations to strengthen operational capacities, sharing best practices from the mine action sector globally.

UNMAS works in Colombia with the support of the **UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Peace (UN-MPTF)** in Colombia; **UN CERF, ECHO**, and the **Governments of Denmark, the Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of Korea**, to whom we are grateful for their contributions.



FONDO MULTIDONANTE DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA PAZ



United Nations
CERF Central Emergency Response Fund



Ayuda Humanitaria



The UNMAS Colombia team



Óscar Felipe Rendón

Information Provision Project Coordinator

Oscar is an industrial engineer from the Colombian School of Engineering with a specialization in Integrated Project Management from the Universidad Militar. **He has 13 years of professional experience**, during which time he has worked in the private sector in the agribusiness and hydrocarbon sectors in

project management, sustainability and monitoring. **He has also worked in the General Archive of the Nation and the Mayor's Office of Bogota** in information and document management.

In 2021, Felipe joined the UNMAS technical assistance team, from which he began leading the activities of the project to provide information on areas contaminated with explosive devices by the former FARC-EP.

Felipe has provided advice to the Tripartite Mechanism (Government, Peace Signatories and the UN) to facilitate the collection of information on minefields managed by the peace signatories and to guarantee the systematization and quality of the data collected. With his work, Oscar helps to fulfill the commitments made in the 2016 Peace Agreement.

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