



UNMAS

United Nations Mine Action Service
Colombia

Newsletter

May 2023

News highlights

Visit of UNMAS Director to Colombia

Director Ilene Cohn visited Colombia to strategically engage with Government counterparts and mine action partners.

Strengthening capabilities

UNMAS provided mine action workshops to humanitarian organizations and public institutions in Colombia.

EORE to humanitarian personnel

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education was delivered to 148 humanitarian workers operating in conflict-affected areas.

The Impact of Anti-personnel Mines in Colombia

As of March 2023, Colombian authorities have recorded more than 12,300 victims of Anti-personnel Mines and Unexploded Ordnance.



FARC-EP ex-combatants hand over information on locations of 4,275 explosive devices installed during the conflict in Colombia



This project is supported by:



Noruega en Colombia
Real Embajada de Noruega en Bogotá

Representatives of the Norwegian Embassy, the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP), the Peace Agreement Implementation Unit, the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), the CNR Comunes, the UN Verification Mission in Colombia (UNVMC), UNMAS and mine action organizations participated in the activity. Photo: UNMAS.

On 20 April 2023, information on the possible locations of 4,275 explosive devices installed by former FARC-EP combatants in four departments of Colombia in the framework of the armed conflict, was officially delivered to the OACP, in compliance with what was agreed in the 2016 Peace Agreement.

The information was collected during 2022 among peace signatories and delivered by the National Council for Reintegration of the Comunes Party (CNR Comunes, in Spanish) in an event held in the community Tierra Grata, in Manaure, Cesar department. This information

gathered will facilitate the deployment of humanitarian demining works to decontaminate territories impacted by explosive devices.

UNMAS developed the methodology for the collection of information, trained the peace signatories that collected the data and provides permanent technical assistance to the Tripartite Mechanism formed by the Government of Colombia, CNR Comunes and the United Nations. The plan is to extend this project to collect more information from peace signatories on mined areas in other departments of Colombia.

Director Ilene Cohn visited Colombia to strategically engage with Government counterparts and mine action partners



Director Ilene Cohn (in black) at a meeting with mine action donors in Bogota. She also met with the High Commissioner for Peace, Danilo Rueda, and representatives of the National Planning Department, Ministry of Defense, OACP AICMA, UNVMC, the UN Resident Coordinator and mine action organizations. Photo: UNMAS.

UNMAS Global Director, Ilene Cohn, visited Colombia from 17-19 April to meet with key mine action partners, donors and government institutions with which UNMAS collaborates. During the three-day visit, Cohn learned in depth about the work being carried out by UNMAS in Colombia, and **made available to the Government of Colombia the capacities**

of the programme to advance in its Total Peace initiatives, in which mine action will play a key role.

Director Cohn reiterated her support for the projects that UNMAS intends to continue developing, especially those related to the peace processes in Colombia.

UNMAS continues to strengthen the capacities of humanitarian and mine action organizations



The workshops provided by UNMAS are part of the technical assistance provided to mine action sector. Photo: UNMAS.

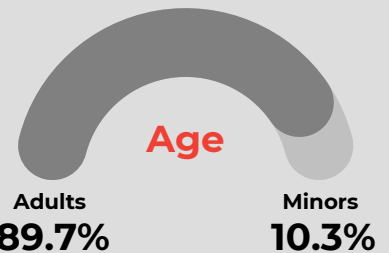
Fulfilling our mission to strengthen the capacities of key actors in the mine action sector, the **UNMAS operations team provided eight workshops between January and April to 82 people, including 21 women**, personnel from the Ministry of Defense, the Brigade of Humanitarian Demining Engineers (BRDEH) of the Colombian Army, the UN Verification Mission in Colombia (UNVMC), HUMANICEMOS DH and the Danish

Refugee Council on different topics such as: International Humanitarian Law, Quality Management of demining operations, Animal Detection Technique, Non-Technical Survey and Gender and Diversity issues. With these workshops **UNMAS strengthens the capacities of public officials, humanitarian actors and personnel of mine action organizations** to enhance the impact of their work in the communities.

The Impact of Anti-personnel Mines in Colombia

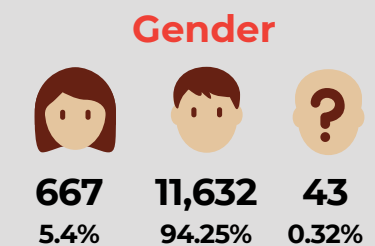
 **12,342 victims**

registered from 1990 to 31 March 2023.

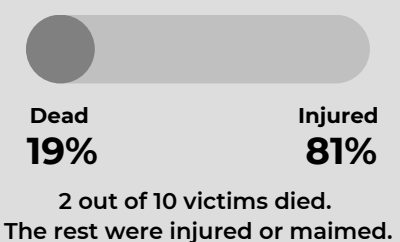


 **609 victims**

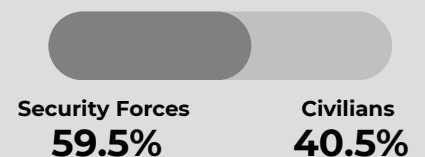
belonged to indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities.



Status of victims



Status



Although the accumulated data since 1990 shows a greater affectation among agents of the security forces, since 2019 around 60% of the victims each year have been civilians.

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education was delivered to 148 humanitarian workers operating in conflict-affected areas



In case of requesting EORE sessions, please write to: proteccioncontraminas@salahumanitaria.co

148 people who are part of humanitarian organizations that serve at-risk populations in departments affected by the conflict in Colombia have received Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) sessions from the organizations that make up the Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR) in 2023. The eight workshops were coordinated by UNMAS and were held in Vigía del Fuerte (Antioquia); Barbacoas, Ipiales, Tumaco and Pasto (Nariño); Cali (Valle del Cauca);

and Bogotá. With these workshops given by Corporación Paz y Democracia and UNICEF, Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines, Colombian Red Cross, The HALO Trust and Pastoral Social, humanitarian personnel from Doctors Without Borders, Doctors of the World and the UN Verification Mission, **now know safe behaviors to avoid accidents in case of finding explosive devices in their fields visits.**

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; and the **Governments of Denmark, the Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of Korea**, to whom we are grateful for their contributions in 2023.



FONDO MULTIDONANTE DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL SOSTENIMIENTO DE LA PAZ



The UNMAS Colombia team



Catalina Velásquez
Programme Associate

Catalina is a lawyer from Universidad del Rosario with a Master's degree in International Human Rights Law from the University of Tilburg, The Netherlands.

She has worked with the Government of Colombia on land adjudication and restitution, and with the Victims Unit on ethnic collective reparations. In 2018 she provided technical assistance to OACP on legal issues and international cooperation.

In November 2020 she joined the UNMAS team as Programme Associate, a role from which **she works on the formulation, implementation and monitoring of projects, which includes reporting to donors and key partners on the impact of our work.**

Since January 2022, she is also the leader of the Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR) on behalf of UNMAS, a humanitarian coordination space made up of the sector's organizations.

 unmas.org/colombia