



GICHD



THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES OF
MINE ACTION IN COLOMBIA

CONTRIBUTORS

GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING (GICHD)

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) works towards reducing risk to communities caused by explosive ordnance, with a focus on landmines, cluster munitions and ammunition stockpiles. The Centre helps develop and professionalise the sector for the benefits of its partners: national and regional organisations, non-governmental organisations, commercial companies and academia. It does so by combining four lines of service: field support focused on advice and training, multilateral work focused on norms and standards, research dialogue and cooperation.

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PEACE - Mine Action Group (OACP-AICMA, for its Spanish acronym)

The Office of the High Commissioner for Peace, as the national technical authority for mine action, coordinates the State entities in the three components of mine action (humanitarian demining, risk education, and victim assistance), and leads the areas of information management, territorial management, and international cooperation.

For the national government, mine action is understood as a key driver to achieve territorial peace in Colombia, which is why its functions were delegated to the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP) by Decree 1784 of October 4, 2019, ratifying the government's commitment to achieve peace with legality for all Colombians.

Mine action in Colombia is based on the need to intervene in a timely and effective manner in the most affected territories to achieve the greatest humanitarian impact and improve conditions for the affected populations in order to re-establish their rights and the effective enjoyment of their territories, as well as to strengthen citizen coexistence in the populations in a concerted manner with the communities and territorial authorities.

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In case of doubt or differences in interpretation, the original language – Spanish – of this publication shall prevail over its English translation.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AEDIM	Marine Corps Explosives and Demining Group *	DRC-HDP	Danish Refugee Council - Mine Action / Humanitarian Disarmament and Peacebuilding
AICMA	Mine Action Group *	ELN	National Liberation Army *
ANT	National Land Agency *	EO	Explosive ordnance
APM	Anti-personnel mine	EORE	Explosive ordnance risk education
BDCCH	Bilateral and definitive ceasefire and cessation of hostilities	EPL	People's Liberation Army *
BDIAN	Demining Battalion and Amphibious Engineers of the Colombian Navy (formerly AEDIM) *	ERW	Explosive remnants of war
BIDES	Humanitarian Demining Battalion *	FARC	Revolutionary Armed Forces Colombia *
BRDEH	Humanitarian Demining Engineers Brigade *	FSD	Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (French acronym)
CCCM	Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines *	GBV	Gender-based violence
CEPAZ	Training Centre for Peace Operations (formerly CENCOPAZ) *	GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
CINAMAP	National Intersectoral Commission on Mine Action *	HD	Humanitarian demining
DANE	National Administrative Department of Statistics *	HI	Humanity and Inclusion
DNP	National Planning Department *	HR	Human rights
		IED	Improvised explosive device
		IHL	International Humanitarian Law
		IMAS	International Mine Action Standards
		IMSMA	Information Management System for Mine Action

JEP	Special Jurisdiction for Peace *	SENA	National Learning Service *
LSCMAP	Free of suspicion of contamination by anti-personnel mines *	SHA/CHA	Suspected hazardous area/ Confirmed hazardous area
MA	Mine action	TS	Technical survey
MRE	Mine risk education	UN	United Nations
MVM	Monitoring and verification mechanism	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
NPA	Norwegian People's Aid	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
NTC-MA	Colombian Technical Standard–Mine Action	UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
NTS	Non-technical survey	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
OACP	Office of the High Commissioner for Peace *	UXO	Unexploded ordnance
OAG	Organised armed groups	VA	Victim assistance
OAS	Organization of American States		
OCDH	Civil humanitarian demining organisations *		
OD	Operational demining		
PDET	Development Plans with a Territorial Focus *		
PNIS	Comprehensive National Program for the same here Substitution of Illicit Crops *		
PNN	National natural park		
PWD	Persons with disabilities		
RUV	Sole Registry of Victims *		
SA	Surrendering of arms		
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals		

*Spanish acronym

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KEY FINDINGS

This study identifies the contributions of mine action (MA) in Colombia, using the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as an analytical framework, and analyses the impact of land release – humanitarian demining, victim assistance, explosive ordnance risk education, gender and ethnic diversity mainstreaming, as well as the results of partnerships and cooperation, in the medium and long term.

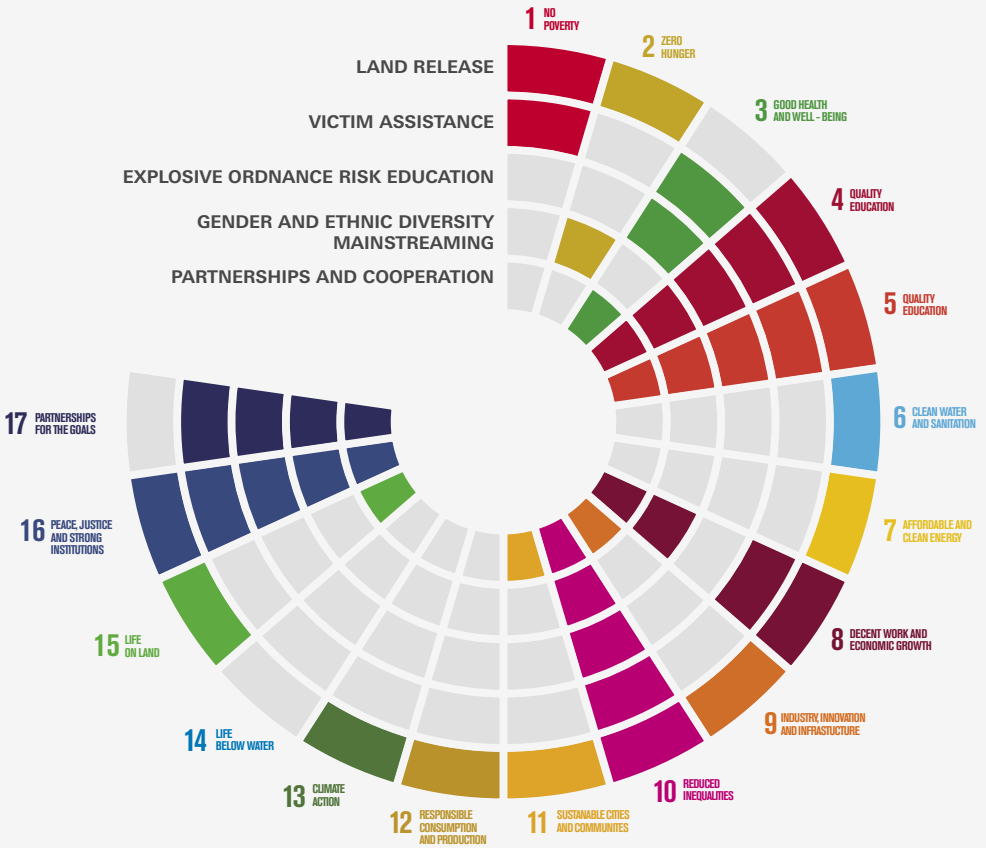
Thus, the study presents evidence of the transformative and multidimensional role of MA, identifying direct contributions to **16 SDGs** and at least **83 of their associated targets**. Hence, the mine action sector has clearly contributed to the five dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: partnership, peace, people, planet and prosperity.

This section presents only a summary of the findings, and the details of the analysis are included in the section Contribution of mine action to the SDGs in Colombia.

FIGURE 1 CONTRIBUTION OF MINE ACTION TO THE SDGs IN COLOMBIA



FIGURE 2 CONTRIBUTION OF MINE ACTION TO THE SDGs BY ACTIVITY IN COLOMBIA



LAND RELEASE



In addition to its direct contribution to SDG 16 and its target 16.1, on reducing all forms of violence, the study identifies the contribution of land release to 15 SDGs and 48 of its targets.

RETURN, PROPERTY RIGHTS AND LAND USE

Humanitarian demining and land release, by facilitating return, relocation, and restitution, contribute to **SDG 1** Ending poverty and its **targets 1.1**, on ending extreme poverty and **1.4**, which advocates for all people, especially the most vulnerable, to have the right to own and control land, goods, and economic resources. It also contributes to **SDG 2** Zero hunger and its **target 2.3**, which seeks to increase agricultural productivity and income by ensuring safe and equitable access to land.

By promoting return, relocation, and restitution of land regardless of gender, demining and land release contribute to **SDG 5** Gender equality and its **target 5.a**, dedicated to granting women's access to ownership and control of land and other assets and natural resources.

Demining and land release, as enablers and guarantors of return, relocation, and restitution processes, contribute to **SDG 10** Reducing inequalities and its **target 10.7** by ensuring safe, regulated, and responsible migration and mobility.

AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTIVE PROJECTS

By facilitating safe access to land, land release has contributed to **SDG 1** End poverty, and its **target 1.4**, by ensuring access to economic resources, including land ownership and control.

By expanding access to arable land and facilitating security and productivity in agricultural activities, land release contributes directly to **SDG 2** Zero hunger and its **targets 2.1**, focused on eradicating hunger through safe access to sufficient food; **2.3**, on agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, including indigenous people and family farmers; **2.4**, on resilient agricultural practices that increase production; and **2.a**, on increasing investment in rural infrastructure, including through cooperation.

Since agriculture and livestock are essential activities for economic livelihood and job creation in rural areas, land release and mine action interventions have contributed to **SDG 8** Decent work and economic growth and its **targets 8.2**, on improving productivity through diversification; **8.3**, on policies that support productive activities and formalisation of micro-enterprises; **8.4**, on efficient and environmentally sustainable production; **8.5**, on decent employment; and **8.9**, on sustainable tourism, in this case agrotourism. Likewise, by unlocking access to land and other natural resources.

resources linked to primary activities, land release has also contributed to **SDG 10** Reducing inequalities and its **target 10.1**, which aims to increase the income of the population with fewer resources.

TOURISM

By supporting local sustainable tourism initiatives, ensuring safe conditions through mine clearance, and providing support and training to strengthen community-led projects, land release has contributed to **SDG 8** Decent work and economic growth and its **targets 8.2** on improving productivity through diversification; **8.5** on creating decent employment; **8.6** on employment and youth training, and, mainly, its **target 8.9**, on promoting sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes culture and local products.

In this regard, there is also a contribution to **SDG 12** Responsible production and consumption and its **targets 12.a**, on instruments to monitor the effects of sustainable tourism on local development and **12.b** on sustainable tourism that promotes culture and local products.

IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE AND ACCESS TO SERVICES

By supporting access and sustainable water management, land release and demining have contributed to **SDG 6** Clean water and sanitation and its **targets 6.1**, dedicated to promoting equitable and affordable access to water; **6.2**, on access to sanitation services; **6.3**, on improving water quality; **6.4**, on efficient and sustainable water consumption; **6.5**, on integrated water management; **6.a**, on cooperation in water programmes; and **6.b**, on community participation in water management, as well as to **SDG 12** Sustainable consumption and production and its **target 12.2** on sustainable management and use of natural resources.

By facilitating the recovery of safe community spaces, land release and humanitarian demining have contributed to **SDG 11** Sustainable cities and communities and its **targets 11.1** on access to adequate basic services and **11.7** on access to safe and accessible public spaces.

By promoting access to electricity and telecommunications, land release and demining have contributed to **SDG 7** Sustainable and clean energy and its **target 7.1**, on access to dependable, affordable, and modern energy services, as well as **SDG 9** Industry, innovation and infrastructure and its **target 9.c**, on access to communications.

By contributing to the construction of resilient infrastructure, land release and demining have promoted **SDG 9** Industry, innovation and infrastructure and its **target 9.1**, on dependable, resilient, and quality infrastructure and **SDG 11** Sustainable cities and communities and its **target 11.2** on safe and sustainable transport systems.

ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION AND REFORESTATION

By linking demining with processes of restoration, reforestation, and preservation of ecosystems, as well as with awareness-raising efforts in these thematic areas, land release has contributed to **SDG 13** Climate action and its **targets 13.1**, which seeks to strengthen resilience with respect to climate-related risks and **13.3**, devoted to improving education, awareness, and training to mitigate climate change and its effects.

Considering initiatives aimed at reversing land degradation, promoting forest sustainability and protecting biodiversity, demining and land release have contributed to **SDG 15** Life on earth and its **targets 15.1** dedicated to the observation and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems — especially forests, wetlands and mountains — **15.2**, dedicated to promoting reforestation; **15.4**, dedicated to the conservation of mountain ecosystems and their biodiversity; **15.5**, on promoting biodiversity and protecting biodiversity threatened species, **15.a**, on

mobilising resources for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems; and **15.b**, dedicated to mobilising resources for forest management and reforestation.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Humanitarian demining, land release and other complementary mine action efforts — such as improved access to roads or educational infrastructures — contributed to **SDG 4** Quality education, promoting learning opportunities for all and its **targets 4.1**, on ensuring access of boys and girls to primary and secondary education; **4.2**, dedicated to ensuring their access also to pre-school education and early childhood care; **4.3**, dedicated to ensuring equal access to education for vulnerable people — including indigenous people and children in situations of vulnerability — and **4.6**, which pursues literacy for all.

In particular, all the efforts reported in this study make an important contribution to **target 4.a**, by adapting educational facilities that offer safe, non-violent, inclusive, and effective learning environments for all.

CASE STUDY – YACHAIKURY INDIGENOUS EDUCATION CENTRE

By ensuring safe access to the territory and its ancestral pedagogical practices, demining and land release have contributed to **SDG 4** Quality education and its **targets 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.6** and **4.a**. In the case of the Yachaikury school, direct contributions to two other goals are observed. On the one hand, to **target 4.5**, which is dedicated to ensuring equal access to all levels of education for, among others, indigenous people. There is also a contribution to **target 4.7**, which seeks to ensure that all students acquire theoretical and practical knowledge to promote sustainable development, with emphasis on cultural diversity.

Considering that its educational project seeks to rescue and strengthen Inga life and culture, demining and land release have contributed to **SDG 11**, Sustainable cities and communities, and its **target 11.4**, which seeks to safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE



By implementing social protection systems and measures, the Victim Assistance Comprehensive Pathway (RIAV),—has contributed to **SDG 1** End poverty and its **targets 1.3**, which seeks to achieve coverage for the most vulnerable; **1.4**, which seeks to ensure that the most vulnerable people have access to basic services; **1.5**, on building the resilience of people in vulnerable situations and **1.b**, on pro-poor policy frameworks.

By effectively implementing the first three stages – pre-hospital, emergency, and hospital care – as well as stage four, functional rehabilitation, victim assistance (VA) has contributed to **SDG 3** Health and well-being and its **targets 3.8**, on universal coverage and access to quality services, and **3.c**, on health financing and training of health personnel.

Because of its focus on disability, VA has contributed to **SDG 4** Quality education and its **targets 4.4**, on increasing technical skills, **4.5**, on eliminating disparities in access to training for vulnerable people, including persons with disabilities (PWD), and **4.a**, on adapting safe and inclusive educational spaces, including for PWD. It has also contributed to **targets**

4.1, 4.2 and **4.3** through equal access to technical training, although challenges remain for access to professional and higher education for victims of APM/UXO/IED.

Likewise, the victim assistance efforts and the strengthening of community leadership, of both men and women, have contributed to **SDG 5** Gender equality and its **targets 5.1**, on ending all discrimination against women and girls, **5.5** on effective participation and **5.a**, on equal access to economic resources.

By promoting the socio-economic inclusion of victims, as the last phase of the pathway, victim assistance has contributed to **SDG 8** Decent work and economic growth and its **target 8.5**, on decent work for PWD. Similarly, it has contributed to **SDG 10** Reducing inequalities and its **targets 10.1**, on increasing the income of the poorest; **10.2**, on promoting social, economic, and political inclusion, including persons with disabilities; **10.3**, on policies against discrimination, and **10.4**, on social protection policies.

Through the establishment of victims' boards and the promotion of associations, victim assistance has contributed to **SDG 16** Peace, justice and strong institutions and its targets **16.1**, on the elimination of all forms of violence and associated casualties; **16.6**, on effective and transparent institutions; **16.7**, on inclusive, participatory, and representative decisions that respond to the needs of all; **16.a**, on strengthening national institutions and **16.b**, on non-discriminatory laws and policies.

The role of mine action organisations together with other State bodies, local, national, and international organisations, has been fundamental to generate awareness on the pathway, promote the registration of victims and access the effective enjoyment of their rights recognised by the Colombian State. Thus, key actors in the sector have functioned as articulators between victims, the State, donors, and other relevant organisations to activate the pathway. This has contributed to **SDG 17**, Partnerships for the goals and its targets **17.9**, dedicated to increasing international support for capacity building, **17.17**, on promoting public, public-private, and civil society partnerships and **17.8**, dedicated to improving support for capacity-building.

EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION



By implementing its efforts with a differential approach to address the unique needs, roles, and situations of vulnerability, explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) has contributed to **SDG 4** Quality education and its **targets 4.5**, on equal access to training; **4.7**, on education for sustainable development, culture of peace and non-violence; and **4.a**, on promoting safe and inclusive learning environments. By ensuring non-discrimination in its approach, it also contributes to **SDG 5** Gender equality and its **target 5.1**, against all forms of discrimination against girls and women.

If the numbers of victims and beneficiaries of EORE are analysed, there is a link between the increase in beneficiaries and the reduction in victims for the entire recorded period. By leveraging safe behaviours, EORE has contributed to **SDG 16** Peace, justice and strong institutions and its **targets 16.1**, which seeks to reduce all forms of violence, **16.10**, on access to information and **16.a**, on strengthening national institutions. It also contributes to **SDG 3** Health and well-being and its **target 3.d**, on improving risk reduction capacity.

By reducing the risks of people involved in return and restitution processes, EORE has contributed to **SDG 10** Reduction of inequalities and its **target 10.7**, on migration and orderly, safe, regular, and responsible mobility.

Coordination between operators, government entities, donors, and local actors has been constant in the effective implementation of Mine risk education (MRE) in Colombia. This has contributed to **SDG 17** Partnerships for the goals and its **targets 17.17**, on promoting public, public-private, and civil society partnerships and **17.18**, on supporting capacity-building.

By ensuring the active and informed engagement of affected communities and promoting consultation, MRE also contributes to **targets 16.6**, on transparent institutions and **16.7**, on inclusive and participatory decision-making.

GENDER AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING



By promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls, there is a clear contribution to **SDG 5** Gender equality and its **targets 5.1**, on the elimination of discrimination; **5.2**, on the elimination of all forms of violence; **5.4**, on the promotion of shared responsibility at home; **5.5**, on full and effective participation, including leadership positions; **5.a**, dedicated to promoting equal access to economic resources; and **5.c**, on policies that promote equality and empowerment.

By promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth for all, the use of a differential approach in MA has contributed to **SDG 8** Decent work and economic growth and its **targets 8.3**, on policies that support productive activities and formalisation and **8.5**, on full employment for all.

Gender and ethnic diversity mainstreaming has also contributed to **SDG 10** Reduction of inequalities and its **targets 10.2**, on social, economic, and political inclusion, **10.3**, on equal opportunities and **10.4**, on adoption of social protection policies.

Considering efforts to promote non-discrimination based on gender or ethnicity, the differential approach has contributed to **SDG 16** Peace, justice and strong institutions and its **targets 16.1**, on the reduction of all forms of violence; **16.7**, on inclusive and participatory action; and **16.b**, on nondiscriminatory policies for sustainable development.

Thanks to the prioritisation of women and ethnic communities for obtaining resources to support productive initiatives, the differential approach has contributed to **SDG 2** Zero hunger and its **target 2.3**, by guaranteeing secure and equitable access to land and other resources for indigenous people and women. Along the same lines, and by guaranteeing access to training and education for women and indigenous people, the differential approach has contributed to **SDG 4** Quality education and its **targets 4.4**, on technical and professional skills and **4.5**, on equal access to training by women, persons with disabilities, indigenous people, and children in situations of vulnerability.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATION



By strengthening the means of implementation and establishing partnerships to promote sustainable development, mine action has contributed to **SDG 17 Partnerships for the goals** and its **targets 17.3**, to mobilise additional financial resources; **17.6**, dedicated to enhancing cooperation and increasing knowledge sharing; **17.7**, on promoting environmentally sound technologies; **17.9**, on capacity-building for sustainable development; **17.16**, on partnerships for knowledge-sharing in support of the SDGs; and **17.17**, dedicated to promoting public, public-private and civil society partnerships.

By strengthening institutions through articulated interventions, mine action has contributed to **SDG 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions** and its targets **16.1**, on reducing all forms of violence; **16.6**, dedicated to building effective institutions at all levels; **16.7**, on inclusive decision-making that responds to real needs; **16.10**, on access to information and protection of fundamental freedoms, **16.a**, on institutional strengthening to prevent violence and **16.b**, on non-discriminatory law enforcement.

Considering material assistance to improve access to essential services and formal training spaces, a contribution has been made to **SDG 3 Health and well-being**, and especially to its **target 3.d**, by strengthening capacities for the reduction and management of health risks. By supporting the improvement of educational infrastructure and promoting access to different levels of formal education, mine action has contributed to **SDG 4 Quality education** and, in particular, to its **targets 4.3**, on access to technical, vocational and higher training; **4.4**, on improving skills for access to

employment; **4.5**, on access to training for vulnerable persons, including PWD; **4.7**, dedicated to the acquisition of knowledge for sustainable development; and **4.a**, dedicated to the adaptation of educational facilities as safe learning environments.

By providing support for the adaptation of access roads and transport, contributions have been made to **SDG 9** Industrial innovation and infrastructure and **SDG 11** Sustainable cities and communities, and to its **targets 9.1**, on the development of reliable and resilient infrastructure; and **11.1**, on improving road safety.

Through its initiatives for the elimination of gender-based violence and the promotion of equal rights and opportunities for women and girls, it has contributed to **SDG 5** Gender equality and its **targets 5.1**, on the elimination of discrimination; **5.2**, on the elimination of violence; and **5.5**, on participation in leadership opportunities.

Support for productive projects and training has contributed to **SDG 8** Decent work and economic growth and its **targets 8.2**, on improving productivity through diversification; and **8.3**, on supporting productive activities, entrepreneurship, and formalisation of companies.

By promoting the arrival of non-core resources to the mine action beneficiary population, a contribution has been made to **SDG10** Reducing inequalities and its target **10.b**, on promoting development assistance.

METHODOLOGY

The objective of this study is to map and analyse the results of mine action in Colombia and, using the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as an analytical framework, to establish how its efforts contribute to sustainable development. Specifically, it seeks to document the direct contributions to the SDG targets, considering different humanitarian, social, economic, and environmental aspects.

Whilst the findings of this study are not meant to serve as an evaluation of the effectiveness and efficiency of mine action in Colombia, they reflect on the importance of considering and integrating sustainable development in the planning, implementation and reporting of mine action interventions, seeking to maximise the impact.

Traditionally, the outcome of mine action has been measured in relation to the square metres of land released, the variation in the number of casualties or the number of explosive ordnance disposed of. However, the relevance and impact of mine action, in the medium and long term, transcends other areas and can play a key role in facilitating and enhancing the complementarity of humanitarian, development and peacekeeping efforts, in line with the triple nexus approach.⁴

Therefore, this study does not analyse mine action as an isolated or sequenced process, but as a comprehensive and transformative effort, capable of enabling and strengthening other initiatives.

The methodology of this study is based on previous research and publications by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD):

- ***Leaving no one Behind: Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goals***⁵ (2017), a joint publication of the GICHD and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) that explores the links between mine action and the SDGs. This study identified that mine action has the potential to contribute directly to 12 SDGs and, indirectly, to four others.

- ***The Socio-economic Impact of Anti-vehicle Mines in Angola***⁶ (2019), a pilot study prepared by the GICHD, King's College London (KCL) and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) that uses the

SDGs as an analytical framework to illustrate the socio-economic impact of anti-vehicle mines in Angola and the benefits of clearance on sustainable development. The pilot study was able to identify the drastic impact that contamination has on agriculture, infrastructure, and access to essential services. In addition, the study emphasizes the benefits of clearance for the achievement of numerous SDG targets.

- ***The Sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in Jordan***⁷ (2021) is the first study to analyse the contributions of mine action activities and approaches to specific SDG targets. Specifically, the study identifies how i) land release; ii) explosive ordnance risk education; iii) victim assistance; iv) gender mainstreaming and v) partnerships and cooperation contributed to 63 SDG targets in Jordan.

Jordan's case study is the first in a series of publications that seek to analyse the impact of mine action in specific contexts, using the SDGs as an analytical framework to determine direct contributions to their global targets.

However, considering the differences existing in each of the contexts analysed, the methodology is adjusted on a case-by-case basis to respond adequately to different national contexts. For example, the quantity and quality of the available information, the type of contamination, the institutional nature of the processes or the existence of an active conflict or risk of recontamination mean that the approach and research tools used need to be different.

COLOMBIA CASE STUDY

THEMATIC APPROACH

In addition to analysing the specific contributions of mine action activities and approaches to the SDG targets included in other publications, this study also addresses thematic areas particularly relevant in the Colombian context, such as the role of mine action in the peace process, the dynamics observed between mine action and the existence of illicit coca crops, or land ownership and land use rights, among others.

Unlike previous publications in which only gender mainstreaming was analysed, this study examines the results of efforts in ethnic diversity mainstreaming.

SELECTION OF CASE STUDIES FOR THE LAND RELEASE SECTION

Since the land release process is intrinsically linked to the territory, and with the aim of providing practical examples and specific results, nine municipalities in six departments have been selected as case studies to analyse the impact of land release. Therefore, this is not an exhaustive study that maps the results of interventions conducted throughout the country, but rather presents evidence of relevant results of mine action linked to the SDG targets in the selected municipalities.

The selection process for these municipalities was conducted in close collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace – AICMA Group, (OACP-AICMA), with inputs from both national and international organisations, accredited in the country.

Among the criteria observed for the selection of municipalities and in order to present varied and illustrative examples, the study sought to include cases in which the public security situation allowed safe access, there were

policies, projects and programmes set in place at various levels that concur and were articulated with mine action, as well as areas that presented the following types of diversity:

- geographical or territorial
- operational (civil, military, national and international organisations)
- ethnic
- impact and progress in mine action

As a result of this process, nine municipalities located in six departments and assigned to five organisations were selected as case studies for the land release/humanitarian demining component.

TABLE 1 HUMANITARIAN DEMINING OPERATORS IN THE CASE STUDY AREAS

DEPARTMENT	MUNICIPALITY	HD* ORGANISATIONS
Antioquia	Granada	BRDEH
	San Carlos	BRDEH
	San Luis	BRDEH
Bolívar	El Carmen de Bolívar	BDIAN (formerly AEDIM)
Caquetá	Belén de los Andaquíes	DRC-ACM
	San José del Fragua,	DRC-ACM
Cauca	Cajibío	HI
Huila	Algeciras	CCCM
Sucre	Ovejas	BDIAN (formerly AEDIM)

*Note: Humanitarian demining

It is important to note that due to logistical reasons and security dynamics, the number of visits and inclusion of municipalities had to be limited. However, the humanitarian demining organisations The HALO Trust and Humanicemos DH, as well as the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD), and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) generously participated in the research process by offering documentary support. Regional and local authorities also provided support in the selected study areas.

The section that analyses the contributions of land release presents a selection of the most relevant results in each municipality in order to avoid repetition.

The sections on explosive ordnance risk education, victim assistance, gender and ethnic diversity mainstreaming, and partnerships and cooperation also include detailed examples, but they are not limited to specific geographical areas. Instead, they seek to present the theoretical framework and provide evidence of various developments and results achieved throughout the national territory.

RESEARCH TECHNIQUES AND TOOLS

Regarding research techniques and tools, the study combined documentary analysis, observation — field visits — and both semi-structured and unstructured interviews and focus groups.

Specifically, 36 interviews were conducted with institutions and organisations and more than 20 interviews and focus groups with direct beneficiaries of mine action, including community and associative leaders in the selected municipalities. The list of entities that participated in the research is detailed in Annex 1.

The research plan had to be modified and adapted to public safety conditions and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first field visit took place in May 2021. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions on mobility resulting from the pandemic and the protests associated with the national strike in Colombia, most visits had to be

cancelled unexpectedly at the last minute, except in the case of municipalities located in the departments of Antioquia and Caquetá, where, although there were certain limitations, the GICHD researcher was able to travel to the territory.

Although some of the interviews with mine action organisations, beneficiaries, departmental and municipal authorities could be conducted remotely through different platforms, it was not possible to organise discussion groups, conduct observation in the selected areas or photographic documentation.

To complement the preliminary findings, a second visit was conducted in November 2021, covering the selected municipalities in Huila, Cauca, Bolívar, and Sucre.

The primary information obtained through interviews was cross-referenced with statistics and information presented in official documents, as well as with accounts and reports from humanitarian demining organisations.

This information was cross-checked with the field visits and on-site photos that illustrate this report.

MINE ACTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Analytical Framework: 2030 Sustainable Development Goals¹

In 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as an action plan for people, the planet and prosperity, which is also intended to strengthen universal peace and access to justice.

The Agenda sets out 17 Sustainable Development Goals with 169 targets of a comprehensive and indivisible nature that cover the economic, social, and environmental spheres.

Considering the definition of “impact assessment” included in the International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) 14.10, the SDGs can serve as a useful tool for measuring the contributions of mine action in the medium and long term, as they allow for the integration of many of the external factors that can affect the scope of an intervention, by including aspects of a political, economic, social, and cultural nature, among others.¹⁴

This study has been developed based on lessons learnt from previous GICHD publications devoted to exploring the links between mine action and the SDGs.¹⁶ In particular, the methodology is a continuation and refinement of that used in the pilot study conducted in the case of Jordan.¹⁷

In Colombia, chapter XI of the National Development Plan 2018 – 2022 “Pact for Colombia, Pact for Equity”, titled the Peace Building Pact: Culture of legality, coexistence, stabilisation, and victims; mine action is recognised as a tool to achieve stabilisation in the territories, guaranteeing safe environments that allow the implementation of other strategies and policies for territorial peace.

Colombia has a National Interministerial Commission for the SDGs, and a Technical Secretariat, headed by the Department of National Planning (DNP). In addition, 161 indicators have been developed to measure progress on the SDGs at the national level.¹⁸

In July 2021, Colombia submitted the Third Voluntary Report that shows national progress as of December 2020.¹⁹ The National Report devotes a section to the eradication of anti-personnel mines as part of the implementation of SDG 16.²⁰

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

MINE ACTION IN COLOMBIA

Mine action in Colombia derives from the international commitment made following the signing of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (APMBC) in 1997, which entered into force in Colombia in 2001. In the Colombian legal framework, Law 759 of 2002 creates the institutions and instruments to fulfil the commitments made in the APMBC.²¹

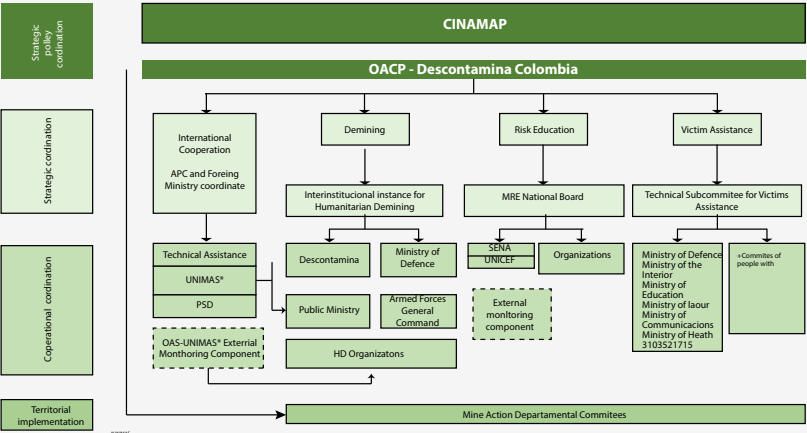
During the first 10 years of implementation of the APMBC, the Colombian State fulfilled the obligation to destroy the APMs stored by the military forces, eliminating 19,222 APMs. Since then, the biggest challenge for Colombia has been the lack of access to territories suspected of contamination, for reasons of public safety, and the development and installation of APMs and other improvised explosive devices (IEDs) by organised armed groups (OAG).

Since 2002, mine action in Colombia has had a changing institutional architecture with a series of collegiate bodies made up of national, international, civil, and military institutions that comprise, as a whole, the mine action sector (Figure 3).

SECTOR STRUCTURE

The mine action structure in Colombia is divided into three levels of coordination: strategic policy, strategic and operational. More details of this structure can be seen in Figure 3.

FIGURE 3 MINE ACTION SECTOR'S STRUCTURE



Source: Own elaboration (2021)

POLITICAL-STRATEGIC COORDINATION: CINAMAP

From 2002, the government created the first institutional architecture of mine action in Colombia: CINAMAP.²⁵ This multisectoral commission is a high-level political coordination body headed by the Vice-President of the Republic to monitor the country’s progress and promote the implementation of international commitments arising from the signing of the Convention.

In parallel with CINAMAP, the Antipersonnel Mine Observatory was created,²⁶ which did not play the role of national authority at first, but served rather as the technical secretariat of CINAMAP.²⁷ In 2007, the mine action programme was created, known today as Descontamina Colombia – (AICMA Group),

for Peace, which, as a national technical authority, leads the mine action sector in Colombia and since February 2019,²⁸ has been part of the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP).²⁹

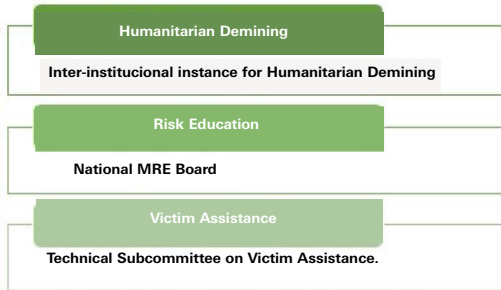
Initially, the lack of a national authority of a technical nature with financial and administrative autonomy³⁰ led to technical discussions within the political arena. In 2016, the Strategic Plan 2016 – 2022 was drawn up, in which the Colombian State created a strategy for the characterisation of the territory according to its impact and, in turn, lines of differential intervention were planned. Detailed information on the strategy for the characterisation of the territory is included in Annex 2.

Since 2019, Descontamina Colombia has assumed the role of national technical authority and leads the prioritisation of mine action components. Administrative and financial tasks continue to be part of the Administrative Department of the Presidency of the Republic (Dapre).

STRATEGIC COORDINATION: DESCONTAMINA COLOMBIA AND SECTORAL PORTFOLIOS

Descontamina Colombia, as a national technical authority, coordinates State entities in the three components of mine action (humanitarian demining, risk education and comprehensive victim assistance) and leads the international political and technical cooperation component. It also assumes the technical secretariat of the National Intersectoral Commission on Mine Action (CINAMAP). Each mine action component has a structure with different authorities (Figure 4).

FIGURE 4 MINE ACTION PILLARS



Source: Descontamina Colombia, own elaboration (2022)

The strategic orientation of the sector is documented in the Strategic Plan for Mine Action 2020 – 2025 “Towards a Colombia free of suspicion of antipersonnel mines for all Colombians.” This Strategic Plan is a proposal to promote the human, socio-economic and sustainable development of communities, particularly those most affected by APM contamination.

As part of the Colombia 2020 Extension Request, the Humanitarian Demining Operational Plan 2020 – 2025 provides that in this period all reasonable efforts will be made to develop the necessary humanitarian demining (HD) operations in the 156 assigned in 2020 and with task orders in force until 2023.³²

TERRITORIAL IMPLEMENTATION: MINE ACTION DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES

The three components are territorially translated into Mine Action Departmental Committees, which are territorial collegiate bodies that vary in denomination, seniority, and approaches.

It should be mentioned that the national technical authority only operates at the national level and has no regional offices.³³ Consequently, its impact on effective implementation depends on other entities at the national and territorial levels, and mine action's greatest challenge is inter-agency coordination.

The inclusion of mine action efforts in regional and/or municipal planning instruments is key to achieving greater coherence and effectiveness. In 2020, the mine action guidelines were incorporated into 61 municipal development plans 2020 – 2024, 48 municipal territorial action plans (TAPs), 52 municipal contingency plans and 30 municipal prevention, protection and guarantees of non-repetition plans.³⁴

In Sucre, for example, the current administration included a mine action component as well as the activity “MRE Project, communicative strategy and Comprehensive Assistance Route in eight municipalities of the department of Sucre”, in the rural development-infrastructure section of the Departmental Development Plan with a goal of 200 trained people in the period 2020-2021. Despite the limitations associated with the pandemic, they managed to train 2,000 people.

According to the human rights (HR) coordinator of the Government of Sucre, the most significant achievements in the mine action field are related to the prioritisation of the issue in territorial policy, the expansion of training in EORE and the coordination of territory actions with the Marine Corps Explosives and Demining Group (AEDIM), now known as BDIAN.³⁵

In contrast, when mine action has not been prioritised in the territorial agendas, the issue runs the risk of being side-lined and not receiving the necessary funding and institutional support.³⁶

FIGURE 5 KEY MILESTONES IN MINE ACTION IN COLOMBIA

- **1998:** Law 469, which approves the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects, and its four protocols.
- **2000:** Ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (APMBC).
- **2001:** The APMBC enters into force. Colombia is committed to achieving a national territory free of suspicion of mines in 2011.
- **2001:** The Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities enters into force.
- **2002:** Law 759 enters into force, which lays down regulations to comply with the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction and lays down provisions for the eradication of the use of anti-personnel mines in Colombia.
- **2002:** Creation of the Observatory of Antipersonnel Mines in the Council for Human Rights (HR) and International Humanitarian Law (IHL).
- **2002:** Donation by the GICHD of the IMSMA Information System to systematically monitor the impact, location, and intensity of APM/UXO/IED contamination in Colombia.³⁷
- **2003:** Law 083 of 2002 enters into force, with which the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict enters into the Colombian legal system.
- **2004:** In compliance with article 5 of the APMBC, 35 military bases protected by APM are demined, which were located in Bogota D.C. and 19 departments in the country.
- **2006:** Year with the highest number of victims in the country's history: 1.224: 434 civilian victims and 790 from law enforcement.
- **2009:** Issuance of CONPES 3567 that outlines National Policy for AICMA 2009-2019.
- **2010:** Filing of the first ten year extension request to fulfill the obligations established under Article 5.

- **2010:** UNMAS initiates technical assistance to the national authority and humanitarian demining organisations.
- **2011:** Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- **2011:** The directive on a differential approach to the effective enjoyment of the rights of displaced persons with disabilities in Colombia is issued.
- **2011:** Law 1448 of 2011, Law on Victims and Land Restitution and its regulatory decrees.
- **2012:** The Organization of American States (OAS) starts monitoring the external quality of humanitarian demining operations.
- **2012:** Is the year with the highest number of APM/UXO/IED events in the history of Colombia, with 3,245 events.
- **2012:** El Dorado (Meta) and San Carlos (Antioquia) are the first municipalities handed over as free of suspected mines in 2012 by the Humanitarian Demining Battalion.
- **2013:** The HALO Trust begins demining operations as the first accredited civilian humanitarian demining operator in Colombia.
- **2015:** Within the framework of the peace negotiations, the Government of Colombia and the FARC guerrillas establish the Agreement on the Clearing and Decontamination of the Territory from the Presence of Anti-Personnel Mines (APM) Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) or Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in general. Decree 1019 of 2015 establishes the conditions for implementation and develops two joint mine clearance pilots between the FARC and the Armed Forces in Briceño (Antioquia) and Mesetas (Meta).
- **2016:** Completion of peace negotiations and signing of the agreements for the definitive termination of the conflict.
- **2016:** After the peace process between the national government and the FARC, the civil humanitarian demining organisation is created, made up of former FARC combatants: Humanicemos DH.

- **2016:** The Strategic Plan 2016-2020 is elaborated, with a strategy of characterisation of territorial affectation that guides the differential intervention of the territory and gives opening to the entry to seven civil organisations of humanitarian demining (OCDH).
- **2016:** Several civilian humanitarian demining organisations start field operations.
- **2017:** Humanicemos DH was created as an organisation legally constituted before the Chamber of Commerce of Bogotá in May.
- **2018:** A total of 119 municipalities, 42% of the total number released as of December 2021, are declared free of suspicion of mines.
- **2018:** Humanicemos DH begins humanitarian demining work with 124 excombatants in Montañita (Caquetá).
- **2020:** Submission and approval of the second request for an extension of four years and 10 months to advance the fulfilment of the obligations set out in Article 5, until December 31, 2025.
- **2021:** Colombia receives the presidency of the APMBC at the close of the 19th meeting of States Parties, chaired by the Netherlands.
- **2021:** Law 2078/2021 extends for 10 years Law 1448 of 2011, the Law on Victims and Land Restitution and its regulatory decrees.
- **2020:** As of February 2022 there are 281 municipalities handed over as free of suspected mines, 185 free of suspected mine reports and 111 assigned to humanitarian demining organisations.

CONFLICT AND CONTAMINATION BY EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

The intensity and duration of the Colombian armed conflict reveals the complexity of the actors involved and the tactics used to dispute territories and protect assets of strategic value. In Colombia, the creation of revolutionary movements, since the 1960s, sets the context for understanding the use of anti-personnel mines APMs. In the 1960s, the Revolutionary Forces of Colombia (FARC) (1964),⁴⁰ the National Liberation Army (ELN) (1964)⁴¹ and the People's Liberation Army (EPL) (created in 1967 and demobilised in 1991) were formed.⁴² A decade later, the 19th of April Movement (M-19) was created (demobilised in 1990).⁴³

In the 1980s, military forces installed APMs around 35 military bases as a defence strategy against the increase in organised armed groups, which were cleared in compliance with the APMBC.⁴⁴ Although the first case of mine use is attributed to the ELN, when it installed mines in El Carmen and San Vicente de Chucurí, Santander (1974 – 1976),⁴⁵ the systematic use of APMs began in earnest in the late 1990s as part of guerrilla warfare tactics⁴⁶ to prevent the pursuit of the security forces, to protect strategic assets and corridors, to destroy critical infrastructure (bridges, power towers, oil pipelines, and roads) and to demoralise opponents. During the 1990s, guerrillas exchanged knowledge for the manufacture and use of APMs with Cuba and Vietnam⁴⁷ and with guerrillas such as the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) in El Salvador.⁴⁸

In the late 1990s, the FARC were militarily strengthened by the concession of a 42,129 km² demilitarised zone known as the clearance zone in the framework of the Peace Agreement between the FARC and the government of President Andrés Pastrana Arango.⁴⁹ The clearance zone is a historic milestone in the FARC's military capacity as evidenced by the beginning of the systematic use of APMs/IEDs. This is reflected in the increase of victims, which rose from 138 in 2000 to 631 in 2002, with a peak of 1,224 victims in 2006. Events follow the same trend with 232 in 2000 and 975 in 2002. However, the peak of APM/UXO/IED events was in 2012, with 3,425 events.⁵⁰

In the 1990s, the organised armed group United Self-Defence of Colombia (AUC) was formed as an illegal counterinsurgency group that entered into conflict with the FARC over illicit economies, taking advantage of their control over the population and territory.⁵¹

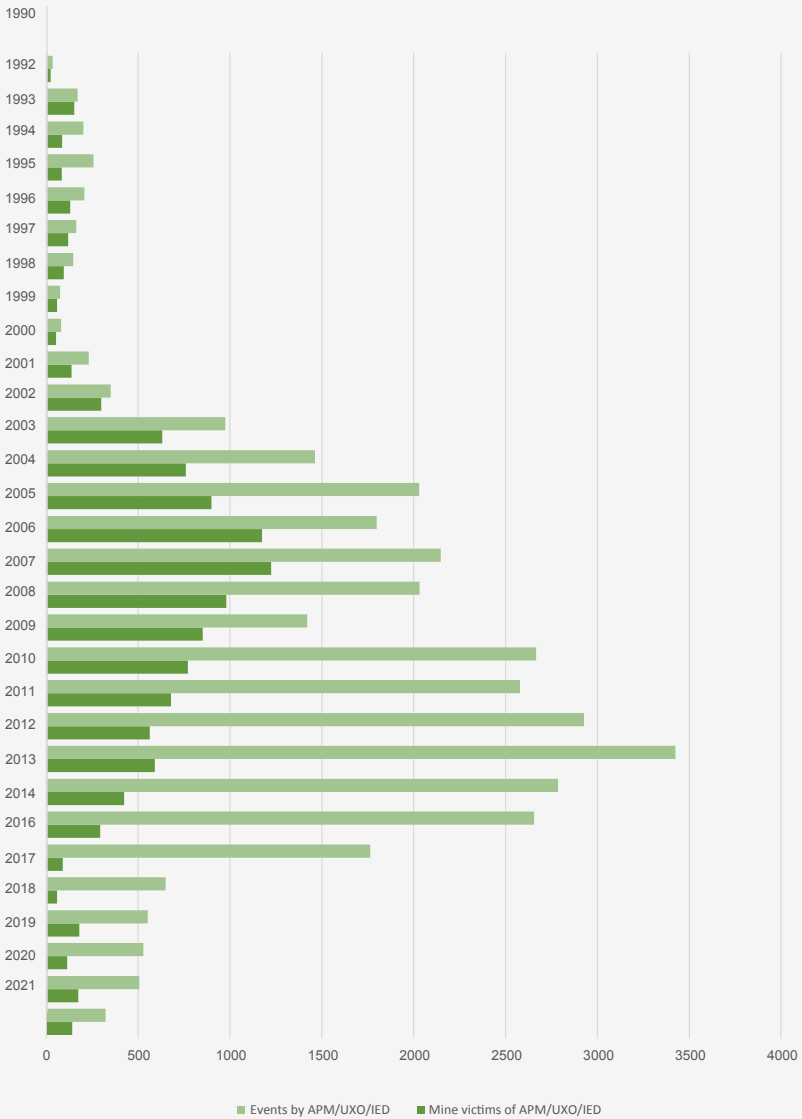
Although the AUC did not use APMs in the 1990s, members of these groups formed new structures of organised crime and began to use APM-IEDs after its demobilisation in 2005.⁵²

The 2000s marked a turning point in APM contamination in Colombia for two reasons. Firstly, Colombia reached 160,000 hectares of coca grown in 1999.⁵³ The economy of drug trafficking fuels the finances of organised armed groups (OAG) and is one of the reasons for the increased intensity of the use of APMs to protect drug trafficking assets (crops, laboratories, corridors). Secondly, the Democratic Security Policy, during the administration of President Álvaro Uribe Vélez, strengthened the military forces to expand territorial control of the State, fight drug trafficking and maintain deterrent capacity.⁵⁴ To the extent that the State's military offensive focuses on the FARC's historically strategic territories, the guerrilla response has been the systematic use of APMs as a way to hinder access to its areas of operation.

For example, the use of APMs to hinder the manual eradication of illicit coca crops strongly affects members of the security forces and civilian eradicators. As a result, the number of mine casualties increased from 299 in 2001 to 1,224 in 2006, with victims mostly (60 per cent) belonging to the armed forces.

The weakening of the FARC due to the military pressure from the State and the willingness of the guerrillas to negotiate created the conditions for the initiation of the Peace Agreement in Havana, Cuba, between the FARC and the national government in 2012. The negotiations translate into a drastic decrease in mine events, from 3,425 in that year to 507 in 2020.

FIGURE 6 APM/UXO/IED EVENTS AND VICTIMS 1990 – 2021



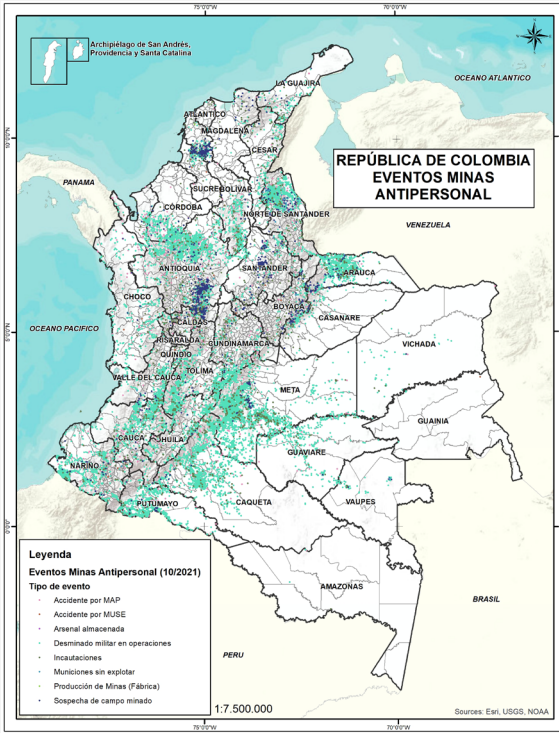
Source: Descontamina Colombia, victim database, cut-off date November 30, 2021.

The weakening of the FARC in the late 2000s led to its withdrawal into remote areas with legal restrictions — such as national natural parks (PNNs), forest reserve areas and collective territories of ethnic communities.

Currently, 27 out of the 32 departments are affected by APMs. The departments with the highest number of victims between 1990 – 2021 are Antioquia (2,627), Meta (1,142), Nariño (1,038), Norte de Santander (951) and Caquetá (947).⁵⁵ Although the presence of mines has spread in almost all departments of the country, there is a high concentration in the municipalities with the greatest impact. The municipality with the highest number of victims in the whole country is Vista Hermosa, Meta (370), one of the municipalities that made up the demilitarised zone, followed by Tumaco, Nariño (353), on the Pacific coast and Tame, Arauca (348), in the east.

During the periods of former President Juan Manuel Santos Calderón and current President Iván Duque Márquez, four departments (Atlántico, Amazonas, Magdalena and Quindío) have been declared free of suspected APM contamination (LSCMAP). However, there are still many challenges in Colombia. In the following map you can see the events caused by APM/UXO/IED.⁵⁶

FIGURE 7 APM/UXO/IED EVENTS MAP



Source: Descontamina Colombia, (2021)

It is worth noting that 67 per cent of the events in the database correspond to operational demining (24,915) from 1990 to 2021, followed by APM accidents (6,881) and confiscations (3,494).⁵⁷

CHARACTERISTICS OF CONTAMINATION BY EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE

Most of the anti-personnel mines (APMs) that organised armed groups (OAG) use in Colombia are improvised and adapted to suit particular purposes and local and environmental characteristics. In fact, the APMs neutralised in humanitarian demining operations, as well as in operational demining, all correspond to mines of an improvised nature.⁵⁸

Its content and form depend on the decisions of each group and, within these, on each structure and its available resources. These improvised APMs (such as IEDs detonated by the victim) are very varied in terms of initiation, activation mechanisms, explosive substances used, type of shrapnel, size, systems, and shape.⁵⁹

The FARC and ELN guerrillas developed manuals for explosives and trained their combatants in methods, types of mines, installation patterns, activation mechanisms, production of homemade explosive substances, making maps and cartography, as well as the creation of workshops for their improvised manufacture. The installation of mines served various purposes and location maps of explosive ordnance were rarely drawn up. Although some manuals indicate the instruction to install explosive ordnance in a zigzag, row, wedge, and triangle forms,⁶⁰ mine contamination in Colombia has been irregular and without a standardised pattern, making it considerably difficult to eliminate. For this reason, the analysis of the strategic purposes of contamination, the environmental characteristics of the area, the specificities of the military units involved, and training and marking by explosives experts could reduce the uncertainty regarding the variety of elements of mine contamination in Colombia.

As mentioned, despite the progress made, the Peace Agreement with the FARC has not meant the cessation of the use of APMs and IEDs on Colombian territory. The increase in illegal economies linked to drug trafficking, the technical knowledge of former FARC members who are

integrated into other structures outside the law, and the use of APMs and IEDs by the ELN are some of the existing challenges linked to the increased use of APMs and IEDs in Colombia.⁶¹

Currently, guerrillas are not the only ones who develop and use APMs or IEDs. Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) reports among the alleged responsible actors: “residual armed groups FARC, ELN, drug traffickers, Los Pelusos, Caparros and El Clan del Golfo,” among others.⁶² Today, part of the use of APMs is related to the protection of territories to control illegal economies.

CONTAMINATION BY EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE AND ILLICIT CROPS

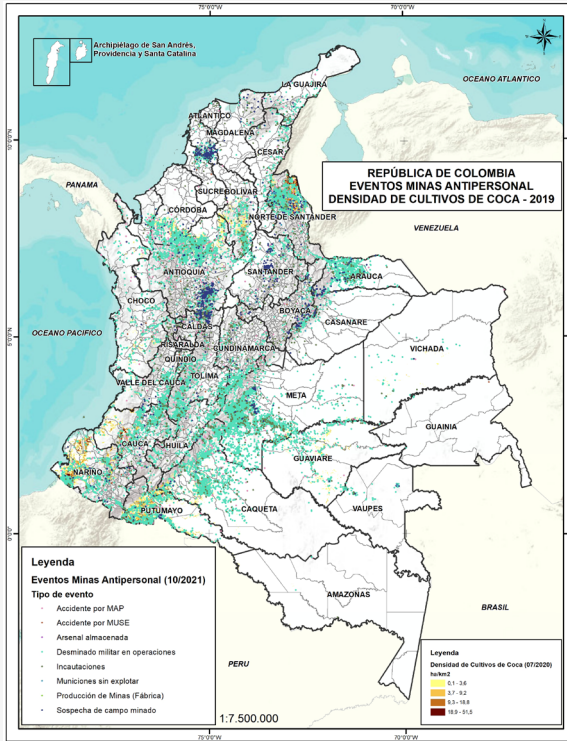
Considering the efforts being made by the Government of Colombia and other relevant actors, both in the area of eradicating crops for illicit use and mine clearance, this section analyses the relationship between the two, based on available statistical information.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Government of Colombia reported 143,000 hectares of coca grown in 2020,⁶³ while the United States Office of Anti-Drug Policy Control reported 245,000 hectares grown in the same year.⁶⁴

In Colombia, coca crops are mainly concentrated in territories with special regulations such as indigenous reserves, lands of Afro-Colombian communities, national natural parks, and forest reserve areas (48 per cent).⁶⁵

For example, in the Catatumbo-Bari, Paramillo, Nukak and Sierra de La Macarena parks, the largest number of crops are concentrated in parks (74 per cent). At the department level, 84 per cent of coca is concentrated in the departments of Norte de Santander, Nariño, Putumayo, Cauca, and Antioquia, three of which are also the most affected by APM, UXO and IED events: Antioquia (6,211 events), Nariño (2,478 events) and Norte de Santander (2,293 events).⁶⁶

FIGURE 8 MAP OF CURRENT AND HISTORICAL IMPACT OF COCA CROPS AND ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE EVENTS



Source: Descontamina Colombia, (2021)

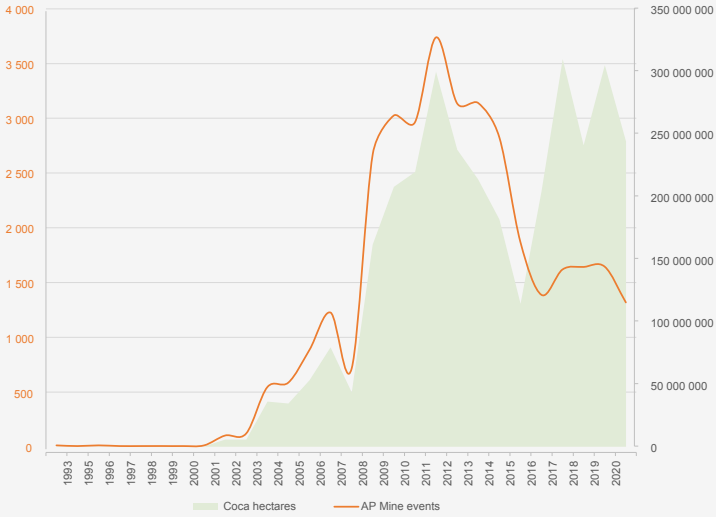
According to the OACP-Descontamina Colombia, 91.19 per cent of the land with coca crops registered in the country are concentrated in the 199 municipalities with high incidence of APMs, located in 24 departments, where 75.6 per cent of accidents caused by APMs, UXOs and IEDs occurred — between 1990 and 2015 — and where, in addition, 56.49 per cent of the restitution requests are concentrated.⁶⁷

Despite the decline in the number of mine casualties since the beginning of the peace process, coca crops have continued to increase, reaching an all-time high of 169,000 hectares cultivated in 2018. The projects and funds relating to the substitution of coca crops, as noted in the Peace Agreement, was a potential factor incentivising the plantation of new coca crops, alongside a power vacuum and the reconfiguration of organised armed groups (OAGs).⁶⁸

During the negotiation of the peace process in Havana,⁶⁹ the extent of coca-growing land increased from 6,148 hectares in 2013 to 24,973 in 2019, potentially as a result of the benefits that the substitution process would bring to coca growers. The aim of mine action in Colombia includes clearing territories with illicit crops where there are new dynamics of violence associated with the reconfiguration of territorial domains after the peace process.

The situation became much more complex after dissident factions of the FARC-EP, the ELN and groups dedicated to the generation of illicit activities such as the Gulf Clan, Mexican cartels (Sinaloa, Jalisco New Generation) and People's Liberation Army (PLA) factions, strengthened during the pandemic.⁷⁰ In this sense, the territories managing both the presence of coca crops and high contamination by APMs, UXOs and IEDs required not only land release but also EORE and victim assistance while the security conditions were consolidated in order for mine action operations to be advanced.

FIGURE 9 MINE EVENTS AND ILLICIT COCA CROPS 1993 – 2021



Source: Descontamina Colombia, events database as of November 31, 2021 and UNODC (2021) Coca Crops in Colombia

THE CONTRIBUTION OF MINE ACTION TO THE SDGs IN COLOMBIA

This study identifies direct contributions of mine action to sustainable development.

Specifically, the study analyses the results of the three mission pillars of mine action in Colombia: 1) land release - humanitarian demining,⁷¹ 2) victim assistance and 3) explosive ordnance risk education as well as the results of 4) gender and ethnic diversity mainstreaming, and 5) partnerships and cooperation, the latter considered as a key element for maximising the relevance and sustainability of results of mine action.

In addition, an introductory sub-section is included which addresses how the various components and efforts of mine action have contributed to the distinct phases of the peace process.

MINE ACTION AND SUSTAINING PEACE

After addressing the context of conflict and APM contamination in Colombia, it is relevant to study the role that mine action has played in efforts related to sustaining peace. This section, therefore, analyses the specific commitments and results, as well as the influence of mine action in the Havana peace process with the former FARC guerrillas that resulted in the signing of the Peace Agreement.

Both the SDGs and the resolutions on the UN peacebuilding architecture⁷³ require a move towards a more coherent and integrated approach, recognising that development, peace and security, and human rights are intricately linked and mutually reinforcing.⁷⁴

In addition, as UN Secretary-General António Guterres stated, “A peace without mine action is an incomplete peace.”⁷⁵

The final agreement contains interrelated elements that seek to ensure the possibility of ending the conflict and building a stable and lasting peace,⁷⁶ including various mine action efforts.

In order to analyse how mine action has contributed to peace in Colombia, this study analyses its role in the distinct phases of the process, defined as: the exploration phase, talks development phase and peace-building phase.⁷⁷

MINE ACTION IN THE EXPLORATION PHASE

In the exploration phase, rules, agenda, and procedures were established in order to conduct the talks expeditiously.⁷⁸ As a result of the exploratory meeting in 2012,⁷⁹ the signing of a framework agreement between the national government and the FARC-EP (FARC-People’s Army) was announced, as well as the intention to start a negotiation process,⁸⁰ which would last four years until the signing of the final agreement in 2016.

The General Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict and the Construction of a Stable and Lasting Peace marked the opening of formal dialogue and defined the principles of dialogue and agreed procedures, as well as the agenda items, coinciding with the points of the final agreement:

1. Comprehensive rural reform
2. Political participation: democratic opportunity to build peace
3. Agreement on the Bilateral and Definitive Ceasefire and Cessation of Hostilities and Laying down of Arms
4. Solution to the problem of illicit drugs
5. Victims
6. Implementation and verification mechanisms

This framework agreement does not specifically mention contamination by explosive ordnance (EO) or the need for progress in mine action. However, these are included in the preparatory documents for exploratory meeting II and exploratory meeting III,⁸² in relation to the victims' right to truth, justice and reparation and guarantees of non-repetition.

Specifically, humanitarian demining is mentioned as a measure of reparation to victims and the need for demining is expressed as part of humanitarian assistance programmes.⁸³

The government's preparatory documents also included public pressure on FARC's continued use of mines during the negotiations as one of the risks to the process.⁸⁴

Therefore, it can be concluded that the problem of mines was present in this exploratory phase, which laid down the concrete points to be discussed in the development phase of the talks.

MINE ACTION IN THE TALKS PHASE

During this phase, agreements were reached on specific items of the agenda.⁸⁵ Through Joint Agreement No. 52,⁸⁶ the government and FARC-EP committed themselves to concrete actions on clearing the territory from the presence of anti-personnel mines (APMs), improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and unexploded ordnance (UXO) and/or explosive remnants of war (ERW).⁸⁷

As a direct consequence, it was agreed to initiate two pilot humanitarian demining projects⁸⁸ known as, “*Gestures of Peace*,”: the first, in El Orejón (Briceño, Antioquia), followed by the vereda (locality) Santa Helena (Mesetas, Meta), which constituted the first time that FARC-EP provided detailed information about the location of anti-personnel mines in contaminated territories.⁸⁹

Both veredas were selected considering their high contamination and the exclusive territorial control of FARC-EP, in order to ensure the rigorous location of EO.⁹⁰

The project was coordinated by Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA) and involved the OACP-AICMA Group, the Military Forces Demining Battalion (BIDES)⁹¹ and, of course, the FARC.

Beyond the operational results, these joint efforts constituted a measure of confidence-building and de-escalation of the armed conflict, in which both sides showed their willingness to contribute to a favourable and positive climate within the framework of the peace dialogues.⁹² It is important to note that they not only fostered trust between the parties directly involved in the negotiations, but also with Colombian citizens. After more than four years of negotiations without a decrease in hostilities, there was some scepticism when it came to public opinion.⁹³

After more than 20 months of joint work, the areas involved were handed over and the results of rapid response projects were presented,⁹⁴ positively underlining the articulation and collaboration of all parties.⁹⁵

The “*Gestures of Peace*” initiative is an innovative and successful approach to the problem of contamination by EO, since joint implementation succeeded in safely intervening in complex territories, obtaining strategic information to advance the release, and handing over of land, while building confidence at various levels.

MINE ACTION IN THE PEACE AGREEMENT

Throughout the agreement, there are many references to EO and to the urgent need to move forward with the process of humanitarian demining. This includes, aspects related to mine action are included at the ceasefire and weapons disposal points (3), illicit crops (4), victims (5) and implementation and verification (6) which are detailed below.

Humanitarian demining is presented as a restorative measure aimed at ensuring non-repetition.

AGREEMENT ON THE BILATERAL AND DEFINITIVE CEASEFIRE AND CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AND LAYING DOWN OF ARMS

Contributing by various means to the process of clearance and decontamination, including the provision of information, is considered one of the modalities for implementing the process for the laying down of arms.⁹⁶

As part of the protocols for effective and safe peacebuilding processes, including Bilateral and Definitive Ceasefire and Cessation of Hostilities (BDCCH) and the laying down of arms (LA), it must be ensured that there is no suspicion of contamination on approach routes and in the locations for weapons destruction — during arms handling, stockpiling, transportation, and control processes.⁹⁷

CROPS USED FOR ILLICIT PURPOSES

Ensuring security conditions in territories affected by crops for illicit use is considered a necessity for the implementation of the Comprehensive National Programme for the Substitution of Illicit Crops (PNIS).⁹⁸

This includes the implementation of a demining programme to protect communities, guarantee the right to life and well-being of the rural population as a joint commitment, particularly in areas where the PNIS is advanced.⁹⁹

VICTIMS

EO clearance is included within the first order measures under point 5 of the Peace Agreement (victims).¹⁰⁰

The aim is to ensure that the sanctions applied in the Comprehensive System of Truth, Justice and Reparation have a reparative impact both for the victims and for the country in terms of development. That is, that those guilty who have admitted responsibility and provided true testimony serve their sentences through actions that contribute to the reparation for the victims, such as participating in humanitarian demining.

The agreement provides for the signing of measures and protocols to advance the clearance efforts in affected territories as a major measure in the framework of discussions on victims.¹⁰¹

Along the same lines, within the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), the clearance and eradication of EO is included as one of the possible sanctions¹⁰² of an eminently reparative, restorative nature, and guarantors of non-repetition imposed by the Chamber of Recognition of Truth, Responsibility and Determination of Facts and Conduct to those who recognize exhaustive and detailed truth.¹⁰³

Humanitarian demining in affected territories is also considered a concrete action to contribute to comprehensive reparation for the construction of peace,¹⁰⁴ as a part of efforts to reintegrate ex-combatants into civilian life and for the reparation of the damage caused.¹⁰⁵

With regard to inter-agency coordination to ensure return and relocation, mine action is among the plans and programmes that require coordination with other initiatives, such as the Development program with Territorial Focus (PDET) or land restitution processes, among others.¹⁰⁶

IMPLEMENTATION, VERIFICATION, AND ENDORSEMENT

The chapter on Ethnic Perspectives (6.2) recognises the need to implement the Demining and Clearing Programme in concert with ethnic peoples and their representative organisations and includes peoples requiring priority attention.¹⁰⁷

Information regarding contamination by EO and the importance of inputs provided by the FARC are considered key within the operational aspects that must be considered to guarantee the safety of the members of the monitoring and verification mechanism (MVM),¹⁰⁸ ensuring that safe and contamination-free routes are taken for travel.

MINE ACTION IN THE POST-AGREEMENT

More than five years after the signing of the Peace Agreement, this subsection analyses what have been the main milestones of mine action in this new framework at the institutional, operational, and participatory levels.

The inclusion of mine action in the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP)¹⁰⁹ represents an important change in positioning this issue at the presidential level as a tool for peace, within the framework of the dynamics of conflict, at the territorial level.¹¹⁰

The Office of the Attorney-General of the Nation requested the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) to open a macro-case on “use of illicit means and methods of warfare” in which criminal conduct related to the use of APMs and IEDs is investigated, which contributes to the clarification, reparation of victims and guarantees the non-repetition of such acts.¹¹¹

The establishment, in May 2017, of the Colombian Brigades Corporation of Ex-Combatants for Peace and Humanitarian Demining (Humanicemos DH) is a direct result of the signing of the Peace Agreement in 2016.¹¹² The last

renewal of the accreditation was carried out through the Inter-institutional Instance for Humanitarian Demining on August 30, 2021, and is in force for one year until August 30, 2022 according to the national mine action standards.

Colombia is not the first country in which ex-combatants have found opportunities in mine action for their reintegration process, contributing with their knowledge for the identification of areas where mines are located and to the deactivation of the different EO.¹¹³ However, the experience of Humanicemos DH, a civilian organisation formed and led by ex-combatants who signed a peace agreement, is considered unique.¹¹⁴

The initiative for the reintegration of former FARC-EP combatants through mine action is coordinated by the United Nations Mine Action service (UNMAS).¹¹⁵ In addition to the aspects highlighted in previous sections such as the reparative impact for victims or the benefit of access to information on EO contamination, this initiative supports ex-combatants to be reincorporated into civilian life through the creation of formal jobs, as well as literacy, training, and improvement of cohesion at the community level through mine action.¹¹⁶

In the first phase of the Humanicemos Reintegration Project, organisational and operational capacities were developed, while the second phase was divided into three phases: i) training, evaluation, and certification of personnel in the process of reinstatement; ii) advice and support in the deployment of humanitarian demining in La Montañita and (iii) consolidation of organisational autonomy.¹¹⁷

It is important to note that the experience of Humanicemos DH goes beyond mine action: it is a model for the social and economic reincorporation of its personnel into civilian life. This process contributes to a broader concept of reintegration and peace.¹¹⁸

In an interview, members of Humanicemos DH highlighted that they faced certain political difficulties to establish who could monitor their operations, but they used this time to train and generate greater resilience as for many, this was the first formal work experience of their lives, as they had never signed an employment contract.¹¹⁹

The Humanicemos DH project has been an opportunity for its members to study and train, seeking to transcend “beyond mine action”.¹²⁰ Thus, they received support to complete their secondary education studies and receive trainings on different fronts.¹²¹ Within the mine action field, they have been trained and certified in non-technical survey (NTS), explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), manual clearance and impact assessment. In order to maintain their motivation during the reintegration process and the generation of different skills and abilities, they have participated in different trainings, certificates, courses, diplomas, and workshops.¹²²

In 2020, following the agreement to designate UNMAS as the organisation responsible for conducting the external monitoring component,¹²³ formal training began,¹²⁴ the first ex-combatants were certified to develop non-technical survey (NTS)¹²⁵ and NTS teams were deployed.¹²⁶ As a result, they identified their first APM in La Montañita in 2021.¹²⁷

At the operational level, since February 2022, Humanicemos DH has been responsible for the humanitarian demining operations assigned in Zones 2 and 3 of the municipality of La Montañita, Zone 1 of the municipality of Cartagena del Chairá and the municipality of Solita, in the Department of Caquetá.

Two of the organisations representatives highlighted the commitment of its staff to a full reincorporation process, as well as the cordiality and respect that permeates their exchanges with the community.¹²⁸

In addition, it should be noted that 33 women (29.3 per cent) are part of the Humanicemos DH project, which is led by a woman.¹²⁹

For all of the above, this experience presents a process of reintegration, both individually and collectively, based on the reconstruction of the social fabric, decent work, and respectful coexistence between people in the process of reincorporation and the beneficiaries of mine action interventions, all of which pave the way to sustainable peace.

Mine action's efforts at various stages of the peace process have contributed significantly to **SDG 16** Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions and its targets **16.1** on reducing all forms of violence; **16.3**, on promoting the rule of law and access to justice; **16.4**, on combating all forms of organised crime and **16a**, on institutional strengthening.



Photo taken by the GICHD on a visit accompanied by BDIAN to an operation base in Bolivar.

1. LAND RELEASE

FIGURE 10 CONTRIBUTION OF LAND RELEASE TO THE SDG TARGETS IN COLOMBIA



- 1.1** End extreme poverty
- 1.4** Equal rights, access to economic resources and basic services
- 1.5** Improved resilience, reduced vulnerability



- 2.1** Access to food
- 2.3** Double agricultural productivity
- 2.4** Ensure sustainable food production
- 2.a** Investment to enhance agricultural capacity



- 4.1** Ensuring completion of primary and secondary education
- 4.2** Access to quality early childhood development
- 4.3** Increased number of skilled youth and adults
- 4.6** All youth achieve literacy and numeracy
- 4.a** Build safe, inclusive learning environments



- 5.a** Give women equal rights to economic resources



- 6.1** Access to safe and affordable drinking water
- 6.2** Access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene
- 6.3** Improve water quality
- 6.4** Increase water-use efficiency
- 6.5** Implement integrated water management
- 6.a** International cooperation and capacity-building for water and sanitation
- 6.b** Participation of local communities in water management



- 7.1** Access to modern energy



- 8.1** Economic growth
- 8.2** Increase economic productivity through innovation
- 8.3** Support productive activities and decent job creation
- 8.4** Improve resource efficiency in consumption and production
- 8.5** Full and productive employment and decent work
- 8.6** Reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training
- 8.9** Promote sustainable tourism



- 9.1 Equitable access to infrastructure
- 9.c. Access to information and communications technology, and the internet



- 10.1 Income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population
- 10.7 Safe migration and mobility



- 11.1 Access to adequate housing
- 11.2 Access to safe and sustainable transport systems
- 11.4 Safeguard of world heritage
- 11.7 Universal access to public spaces



- 12.2 Sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
- 12.a Strengthen capacity towards sustainable consumption
- 12.b Monitor sustainable tourism



- 13.1 Strengthen resilience to climate-related hazards and natural disasters
- 13.3 Education and capacity on climate change



- 15.1 Sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems
- 15.2 Sustainable management of forests and increase afforestation and reforestation
- 15.4 Ensure conservation of mountain ecosystems
- 15.5 Reduce degradation of natural habitats and prevent loss of biodiversity
- 15.a Increase financial resources to conserve biodiversity and ecosystems
- 15.b Finance sustainable forest management



- 16.1 Reduction of all forms of violence

In the context of mine action in Colombia, land release consists of applying all reasonable efforts to identify, define and eliminate contamination by anti-personnel mines (APMs), unexploded ordnance (UXO), and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) through non-technical survey (NTS), technical survey (TS) and/or clearance.¹³⁰

At the global level, this process concerns explosive ordnance,¹³¹ also including the following categories: cluster munitions, booby traps, abandoned explosive ordnance and other devices.¹³²

The Inter-Institutional Instance for Humanitarian Demining Body, chaired by the Deputy Minister of Defence, was created in 2011¹³³ to approve humanitarian demining standards and provide recommendations to the ministry on the certification of mine action organisations, determine the areas where land release will take place and assign mine action activities to organisations. As of 2019, OACP-Descontamina Colombia has been responsible for developing and adopting national standards for mine action activities and ensuring their dissemination, implementation, and compliance (Decree 1784 of 2019).¹³⁴

The military component is led by the Inspectorate of the General Command of the Military Forces.¹³⁵ Each of the different military branches plays a role in mine action. The Humanitarian Demining Brigade is one of the demining organisations. In the army,¹³⁶ the National Centre Against Improvised Explosive Devices and Mines (CENAM) of the School of Engineers is responsible for innovative projects aimed at eliminating IEDs, as well as consolidating information on the impact of contamination for the national authority, which is the official source of information on mine action.¹³⁷

The distinct phases (NTS, TS and clearance) and technical aspects (manual, mechanical and canine) of mine action operations are conducted in compliance with the Colombian Technical Standards (NTC-MA) and are subjected to the external quality monitoring process by the Organization of American States (OAS).¹³⁸ The OAS is responsible for monitoring operations to ensure compliance with NTC-MA and international standards, as well as inspecting cleared areas to ensure that they are safe for local authorities

and productive use.¹³⁹ Due to restrictions on the use of donor resources associated with the OAS External Monitoring Control tasks, the quality control operations for Humanicemos DH are executed by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS).

Mine action aims to release land contaminated from APMs to restore the safe use of land to victims, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and the community at large, so that they can move through these lands and/or make use of it with confidence.¹⁴⁰

In this regard, the study has identified direct contributions to **SDG 16** Peace, justice and strong institutions and its target **16.1** on reducing all forms of violence.

This section analyses the contributions of land release — humanitarian demining — to sustainable development in municipalities chosen according to the selection criteria set out in the methodology. In particular, the study identifies direct contributions in relation to the following thematic areas: i) return, property rights and land use; ii) agriculture and productive projects; iii) tourism; iv) improvement of infrastructure and access to services; v) preservation and reforestation; and vi) education and culture.

FIGURE 11 MAP OF MUNICIPALITIES INCLUDED IN THE STUDY



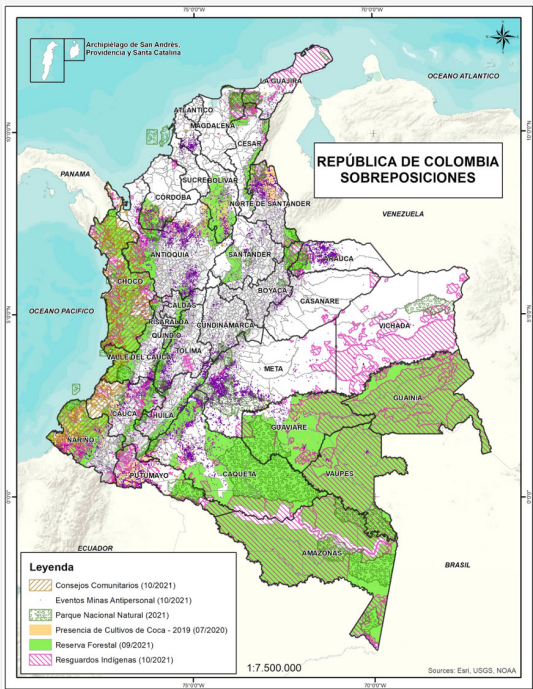
Source: Colombia ESRI-ArcGIS map, (2021)

RETURN, PROPERTY RIGHTS AND LAND USE

The informality¹⁴² of land ownership in Colombia is at 52.7 per cent.¹⁴³ The areas where the armed conflict has been concentrated are places of high informality with restrictions on the constitution of property rights, located in biodiverse forest reserve areas, national natural parks (PNNs) and collective territories of ethnic communities. They have been rearguards, corridors, and strategic areas for various organised armed groups. In these places, illegal economies such as illicit crops, marijuana and resource extraction are

the scenario in which most APM/UXO/IED contamination is concentrated. The following map shows the overlap of contamination with areas of PNNs, forest reserve areas, and collective territories of ethnic communities.

FIGURE 12 MAP OF THE PRESENCE OF APM/UXO/IED (EVENTS), COCA CROPS, PNNs FOREST RESERVE, INDIGENOUS RESERVES, AND COLLECTIVE TERRITORIES OF ETHNIC COMMUNITIES



Source: Descontamina Colombia with information from ANT, PNN, UNODC, (2022).¹⁴⁴

One of the great challenges facing the country is to advance the implementation of peace agreements in territories where there are conflicts linked to the control of illicit economies that finance organised armed groups (OAG). With regard to the ownership of land, the presence of APMs constitutes an impediment to the effective enjoyment of rights over the territory by restricting the use of available land. Likewise, the lack of property rights over land is a critical issue when it comes to mine action, as titled lands are valued, and have the potential to create conflict in communities.¹⁴⁵ Another challenge is the interest generated by cleared land and the high informality of ownership.

INFORMALITY OF PROPERTY

As noted, more than half of land ownership in Colombia is informal.¹⁴⁶ This has a marked impact on rural areas and becomes an obstacle to progress in consolidating sustainable development for the entire population. Given that the armed conflict has been concentrated in areas with high informality or where property rights cannot be constituted, this presents a close connection between the presence of APMs and the informality of land ownership.

Once the areas are prioritised and the land release process is completed, the land acquires an economic dimension that it did not have before. Mine action enhances the value of land and turns it into capital that can be sold.¹⁴⁷

For example, in Algeciras, the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines (CCCM) observed a high turnover of ownership upon contacting beneficiaries of clearance from previous years. Doing so revealed that many legal owners at the time had sold the cleared land.¹⁴⁸

However, the informality of land may cause disputes over ownership during land release. For that reason, coordination on land policies and mine action is critical.

RETURN AND RELOCATION OF DISPLACED PEOPLE

The Victims and Land Restitution Act, Law 1448 of 2011, which provides comprehensive care, assistance, and reparation measures to victims of the conflict,¹⁴⁹ addresses the issue of returns and relocations¹⁵⁰ as a measure

of reparation to victims. Specifically, it provides that the State must adopt a comprehensive programme that includes the return of the victims to their place of residence or the relocation and restitution of their real estate.¹⁵¹

The Victims Unit¹⁵² must also ensure that all persons who are victims of forced displacement are included in return and relocation processes.¹⁵³

Since return must be voluntary and under conditions of sustainability and safety, humanitarian demining and land release are, in this regard, essential to ensure non-repetition.¹⁵⁴

It is important to note that unlike restitution, it is difficult to measure return figures accurately, as many people return without a formal accompanying process.¹⁵⁵

LAND RESTITUTION

In 2012, the restitution policy was included as a priority for mine action in the National Intersectoral Commission on Mine Action (CINAMAP),¹⁵⁶ where 19 municipalities were prioritised in the macro-areas of Eastern Antioquia, Montes de María and Santander.¹⁵⁷ Law 1448 of 2011, as a post-conflict policy, allowed the coordination of restitution and land release, focusing State action on areas affected by the conflict.

One of the criteria for prioritising and assigning municipalities in mine action is the existence of restitution cases. As noted, after the land release process the land regains value and there is an interest in its purchase. In this regard, resolving disputes over land ownership within the framework of mine action processes has been a priority issue for the Colombian State. In areas where there are no valid titles or land registry information, the Land Restitution Unit (URT) must conduct extensive field work through different methodologies.

In 2012, Colombia's Land Restitution Unit (Unidad de Restitución de Tierras – URT) emerged as an autonomous special administrative unit, attached to the Ministry of Agriculture, but with administrative capacity to decide how to intervene in the territory.

Land restitution sits under the security component, provided by the security forces. The OACP-AICMA group and mine action organisations analyse the risks associated with contamination to prevent re-victimisation.¹⁵⁸

The restitution process is based on micro-targeting:¹⁵⁹ an area is defined that must have secure conditions, a significant volume of requests and the conditions for return to take place with dignity.¹⁶⁰ During micro-targeting, the causes, actors, and contexts in which dispossession or forced abandonment took place are identified.¹⁶¹

In priority setting for land release efforts, 756 (75 per cent) out of a total of 1007 municipalities were prioritised through the Land Restitution Policy.

In the areas included in the study, El Carmen de Bolívar is the municipality with the most requests for land restitution, followed by San Carlos and Granada in Antioquia.

TABLE 2 MUNICIPAL PRIORITISATION OF THE LAND RELEASE COMPONENT

DEPARTMENT	MUNICIPALITY	APPLICATIONS FOR LAND RESTITUTION
Bolívar	Carmen de Bolívar	2,444
Antioquia	San Carlos	1,835
Antioquia	Granada	1,228
Sucre	Ovejas	930
Cauca	Cajibío	404
Antioquia	San Luis	340
Huila	Algeciras	176
Caquetá	San José de Fragua	170
Caquetá	Belén de los Andaquíes	126
TOTAL APPLICATIONS IN SURVEY AREA		7,653

Source: Decontaminate Colombia, own elaboration (2021)

Law 373 of 2016¹⁶² emphasises the need to strengthen humanitarian demining efforts in municipalities with a high concentration of return and relocation processes.

Mine action is considered to be one of the main enabling factors for return and restitution in the departments of Sucre and Bolívar.¹⁶³ Land release, together with the security reports, allows for progress in the implementation of victim assistance law and initiates return processes, given that the presence of contamination and/or organised armed groups (OAGs) prevents a return plan from being approved or supported.

In the case of Carmen de Bolívar, outstanding efforts include consistent monitoring by representatives of the Victims Unit of the Municipal Return Plan of Carmen de Bolívar as well as initiatives related to El Salado, as a subject of collective reparation.¹⁶⁴

The need for proper coordination across different policies is considered essential for safe return, recovery of the social fabric and the development of communities.¹⁶⁵ For example, before, during and after demining and land release, communities need to interact and receive training about existing and residual risks. In this regard, mine action has been key to building confidence in both the return and use of land.¹⁶⁶

In the municipality of Granada, in Antioquia, they also point out that the importance of mine action has also been noted for ensuring safe return and restitution,¹⁶⁷ as it is estimated that nearly 90 per cent of the inhabitants suffered forced displacement during the conflict.¹⁶⁸ Although nearly 700 people in the municipality have been accompanied in their return and/or relocation, the persistent challenge is land tenure and ownership, as well as the lack of resources allocated after the processes of demining and land release.¹⁶⁹

In the municipality of San Carlos, Antioquia, mine action is also noted as a central part of the efforts of collective returns,¹⁷⁰ land restitution and titling,¹⁷¹ which were vital considering the high number of victims and the displacement of almost 80 per cent of its inhabitants during the conflict, which implied the abandonment of almost all the veredas (localities).¹⁷² They have also been able to document the surplus value of land following mine action.

The joint implementation of restitution policies and mine action has been considered successful. Proof of this is shown in the high number of applications both from beneficiaries who ask that their properties be evaluated — considering that being “cleared increases their value” — and by judges who want to ensure that there are no risks to restitution.¹⁷³ In addition, there is no record of any accidents following the restitution process and, in rare cases, only explosive residues have been found. Since there may be a residual risk, community liaison and EORE messages are particularly important.¹⁷⁴

By facilitating return, relocation, and restitution, humanitarian demining and land release contribute to **SDG 1** Ending poverty and its **targets 1.1**, on ending extreme poverty and **1.4**, which advocates for all people, especially the most vulnerable, to have the right to own and control land, goods, and economic resources. It also contributes to **SDG 2** Zero hunger and its **target 2.3**, which seeks to increase agricultural productivity and income by ensuring safe and equitable access to land.

By promoting equal return, relocation, and restitution regardless of gender, demining and land release contribute to **SDG 5** Gender equality and its **target 5.a**, dedicated to granting women's equal access to ownership and control of land and other assets and natural resources equally.

Mine action and land release, as enablers and guarantors of return, relocation, and restitution processes, contribute to **SDG 10** Reducing inequalities and its **target 10.7** by ensuring safe, regulated, and responsible migration.

AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, AND PRODUCTIVE PROJECTS

Considering Colombia's geographic location, climate diversity, natural and water resources, agriculture plays a significant role in the country's economic development and constitutes the main source of income in rural areas. In 2021, 1,000 municipalities producing food and raw materials reported more than 200 diverse types of crops.¹⁷⁵ According to the extent of cultivation areas nationwide, the main products are coffee, rice, palm oil, cane sugar, corn, bananas, cocoa, among others.¹⁷⁶

Colombia has more than 40 million hectares with agricultural potential, of which only 7 million are cultivated.¹⁷⁷ According to the Rural Agricultural Planning Unit (UPRA), more than 26.5 million hectares are suitable for agriculture aptitude, that is, more than 23 per cent of the national land.¹⁷⁸

The impact of contamination on agriculture and other productive projects associated with land use is drastic. According to records held by IMSMA, 99 per cent of EO incidents have occurred in rural areas.¹⁷⁹

The impact of land release on agriculture was reported in all municipalities included in the study, so only a few significant examples are presented.

In the vereda (locality) of Quebradón Sur village, in Algeciras, the community stopped cultivating its land for years due to mine contamination and other problems associated with the conflict that hindered access and transportation of production. Currently, all the land that was cleared is used, mainly for the cultivation of coffee. The land that is not used for crops is used as pasture for livestock.¹⁸⁰

In addition to freeing up land, the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines (CCCM) provided support with training to improve the coffee production chain, the analysis of land quality and suitability for different types of crops, and with financial aid to develop productive projects.¹⁸¹ Among these grants, the funding to the women's association Club de Amas de Casa (Housewives Club) La Nueva Integración of San José Alto y Sur stands out, as it enabled the consolidation of its coffee production project through the improvement of infrastructure and a community store, where the associates undertake the production and sale of local food.¹⁸²



Photo: Productive project with the women's association Club Amas de Casa La Nueva Integración de San José Alto y Sur in Algeciras, Huila. Courtesy of CCCM.

In addition, they recognise that with training and land analysis they feel better equipped. This has led to the gradual introduction of products that provide a greater profit margin, such as passion fruit or Hass avocado, into suitable land for cultivation. Through a soil analysis, the right nutrients are prepared, and a technical recommendation is given for the purchase of seeds and fertilisers.¹⁸³

As in the Quebradón Sur trail, members of the association consider that the main change was no longer having the feeling of fear they once had when they walked off the main roads. Mine action, according to them, has allowed them to cultivate and improve the commercialisation of coffee, as well as their community life.¹⁸⁴ At present, they claim that they move freely in areas impacted by mine action.¹⁸⁵

“One of the most significant changes is not feeling afraid when we walk close to narrow paths, go out for firewood or when cows graze in the mountains.”¹⁸⁶

The fear caused by the presence of mines and accidents has been a major obstacle not only to agricultural productivity, food security or the income of small producers, but also to the community's social fabric and cooperatives, which are essential for small-scale producers in rural areas.



Photo taken by the GICHHD during a visit accompanied by BRDEH to released areas in Granada, Antioquia.

In addition to impacts on agriculture, livestock farming was also affected. Many livestock, especially calves, were lost in the trails due to contamination.¹⁸⁷

To avoid accidents, they fenced safe areas with wire, which is expensive.¹⁸⁸ The beneficiaries reported that, as their stream was an area of “guerrilla influx” during the conflict, water fountains were installed and mines laid before the guerillas left the area.¹⁸⁹ Contamination was intricately linked to access to water, so many paddocks were not used and economic and time losses were generated, as well as psychological problems for affected families.¹⁹⁰

Another mine clearance beneficiary, who is dedicated to rearing cattle, claims that one of his paddocks was contaminated and was therefore no longer used. However, once the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines (CCCM) began clearance operations, and gave him confidence in the process, he bought another property to extend his

livestock activities, which has allowed him to increase his cattle by 10 per cent for the production of cheese and meat.¹⁹¹ In his words: “Demining builds trust and provides a good living.”¹⁹²

APM/UXO/IED contamination is linked to the existence of illicit crops, organised armed group (OAG) encampments and strategic corridors used by the parties of the conflict. Some of the beneficiaries report how the groups made trenches in the *panela trapiches* (a mill constructed from wooden rollers) and left them mined. In the rural settlement of La Meseta, in Cajibío, residents regretted that both livestock¹⁹³ and fishing, activities linked to ancestral customs,¹⁹⁴ were lost as a result of the loss of safe mobility. Their productive activity was limited to the use of some of their *ramadas* (straw roofs).

Unfortunately, many families were forced to sell or abandon their livestock when they moved. Despite it being part of their traditions and the subsequent release of land, livestock farming has not recovered in the community due to a lack of resources. However, after land release, the community has reactivated its *panela* and coffee making activities.¹⁹⁵

This study identifies integral mine action interventions that have tangibly improved living conditions in rural agricultural communities affected by conflict and APM contamination. The impact of these interventions has been maximised in cases where there have been initiatives to support productive projects such as training or the delivery of tools, wiring and fertilisers.¹⁹⁶

CCCM, in partnership with entities such as the National Learning Service (SENA), the Government of Huila¹⁹⁷ and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), has supported initiatives for the socio-economic stabilisation of affected communities. Beneficiaries of mine action in Quebradón, Algeciras — one of them a survivor of an APM — received aid to increase their livestock. The beneficiaries participated in the entire procurement process, and they made the final decision on how to invest the funds received according to their specific needs. For example, one survivor chose to purchase only two Normande cows — recognised for the excellent quality of their milk and meat — while a female beneficiary chose to purchase seven cows for the same price.¹⁹⁸



Miller with the cows of the CCCM production project in Quebradón Sur village, Algeciras (Huila), November 2021.

In addition to individual projects with victims,¹⁹⁹ a successful example in Cajibío consisted of support for the acquisition or maintenance of trapiches, which helped not only productivity, but also the strengthening of the community social fabric “by uniting the interests of the community towards a common goal.”²⁰⁰

In San Carlos, Antioquia, aid has been given to communities and associations of affected producers, ranchers, and beekeepers to strengthen their productive projects and reactivate strategic sectors for the development of veredas.²⁰¹ Among the productive partnerships, that of Campo Sostenible and the Ministry of Agriculture stands out. It seeks to maximise the existing wealth in biodiversity and the three thermal floors.¹ According to the beneficiaries, the area was limited to coffee, and now new strategic crops, such as rain-fed rice, have been included.²⁰²

[1] Thermal floors refer to mountainous strips that are defined by the altitude in a mountain range where temperature variations and other elements of the climate occur.



Photo: Agrobusiness Association ASOAGROPAT. Courtesy of BDIAN.

Differentiating Seal Initiative for products made in APM-free territories²⁰³

The Humanitarian Demining Engineers Brigade (BRDEH) created in 2019 the Differentiating Seal, which promotes and boosts the economy in the communities previously affected by the presence of APMs and that today enjoy their lands free of suspicion of contamination, thanks to mine action.

Therefore, communities place this Differentiating Seal on their products, highlighting that it is conducted on premises free of suspicion of APMs.

The Seal is endorsed by the Superintendency of Industry and Trade and is for the exclusive use of the national army in order to promote the assorted products generated by farmers. It is currently used in six products which are benefitting more than 350 people in the departments of Caquetá, Meta, Tolima, Antioquia, Valle del Cauca, and Huila.

Another clear example of the reconstruction of the social fabric and entrepreneurship linked to agriculture and tourism is found in the Sopetrán rural settlement, in San Luis (Antioquia). Their main source of income had been livestock farming, but bridges, roads and houses were mined, preventing the transport of products and causing many properties to be lost. The vereda was abandoned for almost five years.²⁰⁴ With the improvement of security conditions and land release, the population has been returning to the vereda and there is currently an initiative that is reactivating the trail and the municipality: the, “Ruta Dulce de la Panela,” (Sweet Route of Panela).

The Ruta Dulce de la Panela is an agrotourism experience that seeks to highlight and enhance the process of making panela, including visits to community trapiches, and getting to know panela-making families. This initiative, as well as the farmers’ market in the municipal square, has become an important tourist attraction.²⁰⁵

By facilitating safe access to land, land release has contributed to **SDG 1** End poverty, and its **target 1.4**, by ensuring access to economic resources, including land ownership and control.

By expanding access to arable land and facilitating security and productivity in agricultural activities, land release contributes directly to **SDG 2** Zero hunger and its **targets 2.1**, focused on eradicating hunger through safe access to sufficient food; **2.3**, on agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, including indigenous peoples and family farmers; **2.4**, on resilient agricultural practices that increase production; and **2.a**, on increasing investment in rural infrastructure, including through cooperation.

Given that agriculture and livestock are essential activities for economic livelihood and job creation in rural areas, land release and mine action interventions have contributed to **SDG 8** Decent work and economic growth and its **targets 8.2**, on improving productivity through diversification; **8.3**, on policies that support productive activities and formalisation of micro-enterprises; **8.4**, on efficient and environmentally sustainable production; **8.5**, on decent employment; and **8.9**, on sustainable tourism, in this case agrotourism. Likewise, by unlocking access to land and other natural resources linked to

primary activities, land release has also contributed to **SDG 10** Reducing inequalities and its **target 10.1**, which aims to increase the income of the population with fewer resources.

TOURISM

Rural tourism or agrotourism is seen as a wonderful opportunity for sustainable development in many of the municipalities included in the study. Many of these regions have high biodiversity and natural resources and consider sustainable and environmentally friendly tourism as key to improving the quality of life and making agriculture visible as an engine of rural development.²⁰⁶ As stated by a community member in one of the spaces, “There is no tourism without peace and security. Tourism can boost the municipality as a great destination, supporting farmers and working towards integration.”²⁰⁷

Land release has played an indisputable role in the emergence of local initiatives to promote agrotourism in municipalities that are highly affected by the presence of EO.

Improved security conditions and demining have led to an interest in local tourism as a revitalising activity in Algeciras. With the support of the National Learning Service (SENA), the municipality and the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines (CCCM), Asonatours was created in 2020 as a joint action initiated by young people from the municipality.²⁰⁸ The backbone of this project is the story of resilience to the effects of conflict, including APM contamination. In fact, the project arises from the advance of demining.²⁰⁹ Currently, they have different means of promoting agrotourism farms and local products such as coffee, cocoa, wine, or honey, and they collaborate directly with small producers or local associations.

Two initiatives led by Asonatours stand out. In 2020,²¹⁰ “Un café para la Paz” (A Coffee for Peace),²¹¹ designed as a tour with an experiential approach that included a visit to the CCCM base to share the progress of the demining process. In 2021,²¹² the, “Saborearte en Paz Festival,” (Savouring Peace Festival) took place, which sought to recover cultural identity through gastronomy, art, dance, and local music.²¹³



Photo taken by the GICHD on a visit to Algeciras, Huila, accompanied by Asonatours.

In addition to revitalising the municipality through tourism, this project seeks to end the stigmatisation that many Colombian towns, such as Algeciras, have suffered as a result of the armed conflict.²¹⁴

The stigmatisation suffered by municipalities that were heavily impacted by the armed conflict and APM contamination was reported in all locations included in this study. Many mentioned that demining and sustainable tourism initiatives are key to changing the perception and awareness of the development that these municipalities have experienced.²¹⁵ The mayor of San José del Fragua said: “The greatest impact of mine contamination is in tourism and destigmatisation. After demining, the future for us is linked to tourism. We have natural resources, but we need help to formulate projects.”²¹⁶

In addition, the inhabitants consider demining as the first step towards improving infrastructure and generating confidence to attract private investment²¹⁷ and have been working on new tourism development plans focused on agrotourism and landscape diversity.²¹⁸

By supporting local sustainable tourism initiatives through ensuring safe conditions with mine clearance and providing support and training to strengthen projects led by affected communities, land release has contributed to **SDG 8** Decent work and economic growth and its **targets 8.2**, on improving productivity through diversification; **8.5**, on creating decent jobs; **8.6**, on youth employment and training; and, mainly, **8.9**, on promoting sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes culture and local products.

In this regard, there is also a contribution to **SDG 12** Responsible production and consumption and its targets **12.a**, on instruments to monitor the effects of sustainable tourism on local development; and **12.b**, on tourism that promotes culture and local products.

IMPROVEMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND ACCESS TO SERVICES

During the most active periods of the conflict, diverse types of infrastructure such as roads, bridges, communal aqueducts, and power towers were mined. The blockade of essential infrastructure and the insecurity of daily displacements was one of the main reasons given for the displacement of the communities interviewed for this study.²¹⁹ With a domain over infrastructure and telecommunications, the OAGs thus exercised strong control over the populations forcing them to move and operate within specific areas.

Although challenges persist in the improvement, reconstruction, and adaptation of infrastructure in the municipalities studied, this section identifies cases in which land release is an enabling activity for the improvement of infrastructure, as well as examples in which the sector has played a leading role in improving infrastructure after land release.

AQUEDUCTS AND OTHER COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

As reported in the section on agriculture, areas with access to water were extremely attractive to OAGs.²²⁰ Although Colombia is rich in water resources, not everyone has access to safe drinking water and there is in particular a gap between the rural and urban population. In 2020, while 80 per cent of water was properly and safely managed in urban areas, only 40 per cent was managed in rural areas,²²¹ affecting the quality and quantity of accessible water.

In Cajibío, Cauca, Humanity & Inclusion (HI) implemented three projects linked to water resource management and aqueduct adaptation.²²² Lack of access to water had a drastic impact on community life, particularly livestock, agriculture, and education.²²³

In La Meseta rural settlement, the aqueduct and the community transformer were taken over by the OAG to convert them into a workshop where EO was produced. Before the displacement of about 95 per cent of the population, the OAG set rules for them to be able to turn on the transformer. The community stopped accessing it due to fear of repercussions. In addition to demining, HI assisted in transformer repair and pipeline installation.²²⁴

Before land release, the villagers had to go to the river to access water. Now a court ruling has granted restitution on the aqueduct which currently supplies 25 households directly, and progress is being made to reach some 83 families and different community infrastructures.²²⁵ Half of the families registered in the village supply themselves from the aqueduct²²⁶ and have access to both services: treated water for human consumption and untreated water for crops, mainly coffee.²²⁷ Those who do not have access to the aqueduct can obtain water by pumping.

Another relevant example is found in the El Porvenir trail, where there are 83 families benefitting from the use of the local aqueduct. Members of the association have a fixed monthly fee²²⁸, are equipped with water flow meters, and have created a system for people to contribute. This initiative for rural settlements promotes an efficient and sustainable use of water that contributes to environmental protection.²²⁹ After this first initiative led by HI, residents report that they are thinking about solar panels and other renewable energies in the next phases.²³⁰



Photo: Meter for efficient and sustainable use of water in Cajibío, Cauca.
Photo taken by the GICHD during the visit accompanied by HI.

By promoting access to and sustainable water management, land release has contributed to **SDG 6** Clean water and sanitation and its **targets 6.1**, which is dedicated to promoting equitable and affordable access to water; **6.2**, on access to sanitation; **6.3**, on improving water quality; **6.4** on efficient and sustainable water consumption; **6.5**, on integrated water management; **6.a**, on cooperation in water programmes; and **6.b**, on community participation in water management. It has also contributed to **SDG 12** on sustainable consumption and production and its target **12.2** on sustainable management and use of natural resources.

In addition to aqueducts and schools, fields, communal huts, and productive infrastructure were mined in Cajibío, which were no longer utilised after this period.²³¹ In Algeciras, the CCCM intervened in two aqueducts in the vereda of El Pomo and in the vereda of Termopilas. In El Pomo, mines blocked access to the aqueduct which then needed improvements for 20 years after. In the second phase, the water service was not interrupted, but it was not possible to make upgrades due to contamination. As reported in the section analysing the impact on agriculture, the lack of safe access to water prior to demining also led to unusable paddocks and large economic losses.

Contamination of community infrastructure such as sports fields, social centres or schools had a great psychological impact on the community. In Las Perlas, they asked to adapt the old school and turn it into a space for community meetings. This process was one of the first CCCM interventions in the territory and served to gain the trust of the beneficiary communities.²³²

By promoting the recovery of safe community spaces, land release and humanitarian demining have contributed to **SDG 11** Sustainable cities and communities and its **targets 11.1**, on access to adequate basic services, and **11.7**, on access to safe and accessible public spaces.

ELECTRICAL AND TELECOMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

The use of mines in critical infrastructure was one of the characteristics of mine contamination in some of the study areas, such as Sucre and Bolívar. In 2015, in the upper part of the vereda of Bajo Grande trail, the electric intercom tower was mined.

One of the guerrilla strategies was to install the mines and ambush the security forces when they arrived. In this case, military demining was carried out in situ in that year. In light of the assignment of the municipality of El Carmen de Bolívar to the Marine Corps Explosives and Demining Group (AEDIM, now Demining Battalion and Amphibious Engineers of the Colombian Navy or BDIAN), this area was included in the process of demining and the

State repaired the electrical and telecommunications infrastructure as a result. The following photo shows the new electric tower located in the cleared area.



New electric tower rebuilt in the place where AEDIM (now BDIAN) underwent the clearance process (crossing in Montes de María), November 12, 2021.

A feature of areas in which the conflict was strongly present is the limited coverage of the telecommunications network; this was fundamental to the OAG's control over the territory during the conflict.

While the infrastructure in Cajibío has not been improved to date, HI provided radios to mine action beneficiaries in the vereda, which can be used to keep communication lines open in the event of an emergency. Radios and relays have been essential to improving community safety and communication.

By promoting access to electricity and telecommunications, land release and demining have contributed to **SDG 7** Sustainable and clean energy and its **target 7.1**, on access to dependable, affordable, and modern energy services, as well as **SDG 9** Industry, innovation and infrastructure and its **target 9.c**, on access to communications.

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure challenges related to access to veredas and the quality of the road network remain a challenge in the municipalities included in the study. The clearance of these areas has allowed for the use of infrastructure previously abandoned by the presence of EO. However, the challenge is to consolidate and expand the effective enjoyment of rights for the entire population.

Montes de María was one of the priority areas for the consolidation of security since the end of the first decade of the 2000s,²³³ also through the provision of goods and services. This is one of the reasons why El Carmen de Bolívar and Ovejas, as part of the Montes de María, were municipalities prioritised by the Development Program with Territorial Focus (PDET) in Bolívar and Sucre. The improvement of the access road has been one of the main changes, particularly in places like El Salado.

In Algeciras, the communities benefitting from mine action interventions noted the precariousness of the roads but say that the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines (CCCM) has helped a lot with the repair of roads and reconstruction of bridges.²³⁴ In the vereda of Quebradón Sur, which is connected by unpaved tertiary roads without drainage, avalanches destroyed the access bridges to the village in the last year and they have not been repaired, forcing people to cross the rivers in order to reach the vereda. CCCM has promoted efforts with donors to repair infrastructure.²³⁵

Lack of access due to the state of roads and infrastructure was also reported by operators as one of the main challenges, along with safety. For example, contamination in El Carmen de Bolívar is irregular and there is no fixed pattern for georeferencing. As a result, the mobility of the demining unit is limited and requires a very well-coordinated partnership with the Ministry of Defence to address entry conditions.²³⁶

Contamination has undoubtedly been an obstacle to any improvement. In 2006, the Government of Cauca began to expand the highway near La Meseta and during the work two explosive devices were found, so the works were suspended.²³⁷

In Belén de los Andaquíes, roads were reportedly in a bad condition. However, as a result of the targeted interventions of mine action, stretches of footprint plates (*placahuellas*) have been installed in critical places over the last five years.²³⁸

By contributing to the construction of resilient infrastructure, land release and demining promoted **SDG 9** Industry, innovation and infrastructure and its **target 9.1**, on dependable, resilient, and quality infrastructures and **SDG 11** Sustainable cities and communities and its **target 11.2** on safe and sustainable transport systems.

ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION AND REFORESTATION

Colombia is considered one of the most biodiverse and megadiverse² countries in the world,²³⁹ and natural resources constitute a pillar of national economic development.²⁴⁰ However, rates of deforestation began to grow rapidly starting in 2015, following the announcement of the FARC ceasefire.²⁴¹

Overall, deforestation in the country increased by at least 44 per cent and after the peace process a loss of 178,597 hectares was reported in 2016.²⁴² While some progress was seen in sectors of the Amazon in 2021,²⁴³ the advance of livestock deforestation, the construction of improvised road infrastructure and land grabbing²⁴⁴ pose a serious threat to ecosystems, security, and stability in Colombia.²⁴⁵

In this context, there are several efforts aimed at the conservation, reforestation, protection, and sustainable management of forest areas in Colombia.²⁴⁶ In the areas studied, different initiatives implemented by mine action organisations, both civil and military, were identified, aimed at linking demining and reforestation processes.

In Antioquia, the Engineering Brigade of Humanitarian Demining Engineers (BRDEH) has led the, “Desminando el Presente, Sembrando el Futuro,” (Demining the Present, Sowing the Future) strategy, which seeks to mitigate climate change and ensure the survival of wild species and native plants

[2] A country is considered 'megadiverse' where it houses some of the largest indices of biodiversity, including a large number of endemic species.

that harbour strategic ecosystems.²⁴⁷ Its environmental initiatives include the creation of forest nurseries, planting, the cleaning of water sources and the transformation of organic waste into fertilisers, avoiding the use of chemical fertilisers and other pollutants.²⁴⁸

As a result of its environmental initiatives in its assigned departments that suffer from deforestation, BRDEH reported the planting of more than 113,000 trees, equivalent to some 204 hectares of natural forest.²⁴⁹

In interviews conducted in Granada, San Carlos, and San Luis, in Antioquia, both municipal authorities and community leaders stated that these initiatives, in addition to delivering tangible results, contribute to the training and awareness of the population regarding the importance of preserving their natural resources, which translates into greater appropriation of the territory. In addition, they stressed the importance of coordination between BRDEH, environmental and local authorities and communities.²⁵⁰



Photo: Interview with the mayor, his team, community leaders and BRDEH in San Luis, Antioquia.

In San Luis, tree planting is considered a comprehensive strategy that not only contributes to the recovery of ecosystems and protection of water sources but is also a key element for the promotion of the municipal sustainable tourism project.²⁵¹

In San Carlos, they also reported that these demining and environmental initiatives directly contribute to the tourism potential of the municipality and strengthen public policies aimed at developing sustainable tourism with an update of the territorial planning scheme.²⁵² In Granada, they stressed that the Bosque de Paz initiative is part of the holistic humanitarian work that demining has promoted in the municipality.²⁵³

The first, “Bosque de Paz”, (Forest of Peace)²⁵⁴ is located in Santa Ana, Granada, where BRDEH began demining operations in 2011, and it currently has more than 1,500 trees planted with different native species, such as ceibas and guayacanes.²⁵⁵ These forests are a living monument to peace and reconciliation and a catalyst for community ownership, since communities are left in charge of their care. In addition, it implies recognition of the victims of the conflict.

It should be noted that, at the inauguration of the, “Bosque de Paz,” programme in Granada, former President Juan Manuel Santos expressly thanked the Humanitarian Demining Battalion for their magnificent work.²⁵⁶

Also, in San Luis, a Forest of Peace was inaugurated in 2019.²⁵⁷ In April 2021, the creation of the Reconciliation and Peace Forest in San Luis was announced, in support of the national strategy and in compliance with its National Development Plan. The plan stipulates that the ‘natural monument’ will be developed jointly by the community and BRDEH, in honour of the victims of APMs.²⁵⁸

In San José del Fragua, in the department of Caquetá, results were also identified that link mine action interventions with efforts for reforestation and preservation of the territory. Specifically, in the Camino de Monserrate area, released to the community in December 2021, 96 native trees were planted to mitigate the impact of clearance in the area

and contribute to the preservation of native species.²⁵⁹ These efforts were implemented by Danish Refugee Council – Mine Action / Humanitarian Disarmament and Peacebuilding (DRC-HDP) in direct coordination with the Yurayaco Indigenous Reserve and PNN Indi Wasi Alto Fragua.



Photo: Reforestation in San José del Fragua, Caquetá. Courtesy of DRC-ACM.

By linking mine action with processes of restoration, reforestation, and preservation of ecosystems, as well as to awareness-raising efforts in these thematic areas, land release has contributed to **SDG 13** Climate action and its **targets 13.1**, which seeks to strengthen resilience with respect to climate-related risks and **13.3**, devoted to improving education, awareness, and training to mitigate climate change and its effects.

Considering initiatives aimed at reversing land degradation, promoting forest sustainability and protecting biodiversity, demining and land release have contributed to **SDG 15** Life on earth and its **targets 15.1**, dedicated to the observation and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater

ecosystems — especially forests, wetlands and mountains — **15.2**, dedicated to promoting reforestation; **15.4**, dedicated to the conservation of mountain ecosystems and their biodiversity; **15.5**, dedicated to promoting biodiversity and protecting biodiversity threatened species; **15.a**, dedicated to mobilising resources for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems; and **15.b**, dedicated to mobilising resources for forest management and reforestation.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

In most municipalities studied, it was reported that the conflict and the presence of EO directly impacted access to education for both children and adolescents living in affected areas.

For example, in San Luis, they stated that OAG first arrived at schools and then to houses where people were living. This has a significant impact on communities and in San Luis it resulted in the abandonment of some veredas, such as Sopetrán, located just 7 km from the town centre, for about five years.²⁶⁰ Demining not only freed up roads, infrastructure, and farms, but was key to ensuring full access to educational infrastructure. For example, in San Luis they reported how BRDEH not only cleared and released the land, but also cleared the entire area around the school by machete, since vegetation had invaded it after the abandonment of its inhabitants. For the community, land release and the clearing of the school was of the utmost importance and is still remembered as one of the greatest contributions of demining in the municipality.²⁶¹

In the centre of El Chocó, in the municipality of San Carlos, Antioquia, they also highlighted the importance of demining conducted on the way to school. Land release is a fundamental support to the, “Familias en su Tierra”, (Families on Their Land) project, which seeks to bring people back to the veredas by ensuring safe access to basic services, such as education.²⁶²

Six educational institutions in Carmen de Bolívar and one in Ovejas were prioritised in Marine Corps Explosives and Demining Group's (AEDIM) demining intervention plans. For example, the surroundings of the Capaca educational institution were mined and this posed a danger to students who sometimes shortened their path through the surrounding premises, where contamination also existed. After the area was cleared, the school was rehabilitated and the infrastructure improved.



Photo: Capaca educational institution Capa, Carmen de Bolívar. GICHD, November 12, 2021.

Also, in the vereda of La Meseta in the municipality of Cajibío, Cauca, the use of the municipal aqueduct by OAGs blocked access to the school. Following HI's access to the vereda to release the aqueduct and contribute to its reactivation, safe access to the school as well as its water supply was ensured.²⁶³

During the conflict, many families with school-age children and adolescents had to leave the territory and only a few returned.²⁶⁴ The demining and reactivation of the aqueduct allowed the school to supply water. This had a very important impact on the students, who previously had to travel

distances of more than 4 or 5 km in order to carry gallons of water for consumption, leaving them exhausted upon arrival to class and affecting academic performance.²⁶⁵

In Algeciras, both Colombian Campaign to ban Landmines (CCCM) and direct beneficiaries of demining and land release reported cases of impaired access to education in the municipality. A beneficiary and community leader in Las Perlas sector said that many parents stopped taking their children to schools in the area, because there was an incident in which two children found an artifact when they left school and it exploded.²⁶⁶ For this reason, children were either accompanied by their parents or simply did not go to school.

Representatives of the CCCM also reported that one of the first areas they worked in was an area remarkably close to a school in the vereda of Tierra y Libertad in the same municipality. In this case, the community reported two incidents — involving a cow and a dog — and, although no EO were ultimately found, the impact of suspected contamination did have an undoubted effect on the community and access to education for children and adolescents in the area.²⁶⁷

As documented in previous examples, the lack of safe access and the fear of possible accidents due to existing contamination also represented obstacles to access education in the municipality of Belén de los Andaquíes, Caquetá. The mayor of the municipality reported several examples of contamination near or within educational facilities, such as the case of areas near the school in the upper part of Alto Zarabando and the San Luis educational institution. In both cases, the presence of contamination meant the suspension of classes.²⁶⁸

It follows that the dynamics associated with the conflict, including contamination by EO, prevented safe access to educational facilities in the affected areas and thus posed a direct obstacle to effective access to quality education.

Land release and other complementary mine action efforts — such as improved access to roads or educational infrastructures — contributed to **SDG 4** Quality education, promoting learning opportunities for all and its **targets 4.1**, on ensuring access of boys and girls to primary

and secondary education; **4.2**, dedicated to ensuring their access also to pre-school education and early childhood care; **4.3**, dedicated to ensuring equal access to education for vulnerable people — including indigenous peoples and children in situations of vulnerability — and **4.6**, which pursues literacy for all.

In particular, all the efforts reported in this study make an important contribution to **target 4.a**, by adapting educational facilities that offer safe, non-violent, inclusive, and effective learning environments for all.

YACHAIKURY INDIGENOUS EDUCATION CENTRE

The Yachaikury School of Ethno-education is located within the²⁶⁹ Yurayaco Indigenous reservation, in the municipality of San José del Fragua, Caquetá, which was heavily affected by the conflict, since it had a communications antenna that was fought over by different forces in an effort to control the hill.²⁷⁰ The Inga authorities²⁷¹ reported that “the conflict was a very difficult life experience for everyone, as ammunition constantly fell within its enclosure given that it was a strategic site, and prevented them from accessing sites important to the community.”²⁷²

The Yachaikury school presents an interesting case study in which mine action and land release, in addition to contributing to safe access to education, have allowed the preservation of ancestral cultural traditions of the Inga people deeply rooted in the territory, agriculture, spirituality and traditional medicine.²⁷³ The school has its own curriculum with its own organisational formula, English teachers and general guidelines to promote education in the territory, environmental protection and the Inga language.²⁷⁴

Because of contamination, many pedagogical practices traditionally viewed as essential were limited in space, including livestock projects and the use of ancestral medicinal plants and herbs. This “had an immense spiritual and psychological effect due to the impact of the territory. From the educational point of view, this has been an immense limitation.”²⁷⁵ Also, the impact on antennas and transmitters prevented their communication with other communities.

Danish Refugee Council – Humanitarian Disarmament and Peacebuilding (DRC- HDP) began its work in the area in January 2019 and is scheduled to end in March 2022.²⁷⁶ In addition to mine action efforts, DRC-ACM also facilitated other initiatives that are detailed in the section on cooperation and partnerships.

By ensuring safe access to the territory and its ancestral pedagogical practices, demining and land release have contributed to **SDG 4**, Quality education, and its targets **4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.6** and **4.a**.²⁷⁷ In the case of the Yachaikury school, direct contributions to two other goals are observed. On the one hand, to **target 4.5**, which is dedicated to ensuring equal access to all levels of education for, among others, indigenous people. There is also a contribution to **target 4.7**, which seeks to ensure that all students acquire theoretical and practical knowledge to promote sustainable development, with emphasis on cultural diversity.

Considering that its educational project seeks to rescue and strengthen Inga life and culture, demining and land release have contributed to **SDG 11**, Sustainable cities and communities, and its **target 11.4**, which seeks to safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.



Photo: 5K race, organised during the Cartagena Review Conference in 2009. Courtesy of APMBC-ISU.

2. VICTIM ASSISTANCE

FIGURE 13 CONTRIBUTION OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE TO SDG TARGETS IN COLOMBIA



- 1.3** Social protection systems and measures
- 1.4** Equal rights, access to economic resources and basic services
- 1.5** Improved resilience, reduced vulnerability
- 1.b** Create poor policy frameworks



- 5.1** End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls
- 5.5** Women's full and effective participation
- 5.a** Give women equal rights to economic resources



- 3.8** Access to essential health-care services
- 3.c** Increase health financing and health workforce



- 8.5** Full and productive employment and decent work



- 4.1** Access for boys and girls to primary and secondary school
- 4.2** Access to preschool education and early childhood care
- 4.3** Equal access to technical, vocational and tertiary education
- 4.4** Increased number of skilled youth and adults
- 4.5** Equal access to education
- 4.a** Build safe, inclusive learning environments



- 10.1** Increase the income of the least advantaged.
- 10.2** Social, economic, political inclusion
- 10.3** Equal opportunities, reduction of inequalities
- 10.4** Adopt social protection policies



-
- 16.1** Reduction of all forms of violence
 - 16.6** Develop accountable institutions
 - 16.7** Inclusive, participatory, representative decision-making
 - 16.10** Access to information and protection of fundamental freedoms
 - 16.a** Strengthen national institutions, including through international cooperation
 - 16.b** Non discriminatory laws and policies



-
- 17.9** Enhance international support for capacity-building in developing
 - 17.17** Effective public, public-private, civil society partnerships
 - 17.18** Capacity-building support to improve data

Victim assistance refers to the set of activities which address the needs and rights of EO victims that include emergency care, medical care, psychological rehabilitation, psycho-social support, socio-economic inclusion, as well as the collection of data, laws, and policies.²⁷⁸

In Colombia, these policies are framed by the country's accession to legal instruments that have allowed the promotion of victim assistance and, especially, to groups most vulnerable to victimisation, such as women, girls, and boys.

- **1982:** The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women is ratified.
- **1991:** The Convention on the Rights of the Child is ratified.
- **2005:** The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict is ratified.
- **2007:** The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was signed and in 2011 the convention was ratified, which entered the Colombian legal system through Law 1145 of 2007, through which the National Disability System was organised.²⁷⁹
- **2002:** Colombia accedes to the Inter - American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities, which enters the Colombian legal framework with Law 762 of 2002.

- Currently, Statutory Law 1618 of 2013 seeks to guarantee the full rights of persons with disabilities.
- **2011:** Law 1448 of 2011, which issues comprehensive care, assistance, and reparation measures to victims of the internal armed conflict and dictates other provisions, extended by 10 years by Law 2078 of 2021.
- **2013:** Law 1618 of 2013, which guarantees the full exercise of the rights of persons with disabilities.
- **2015:** Law 1752 of 2015, which criminally punishes acts of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, political or philosophical ideology, sex or sexual orientation, disability, and other grounds of discrimination.

Victims include individuals or groups who have suffered physical, emotional, and psychological harm, economic loss, or substantial difficulties in their fundamental rights due to actions or omissions related to the use of EO. Victims include individuals directly impacted (direct victims), as well as their families, and communities affected by EO (indirect victims).²⁸⁰

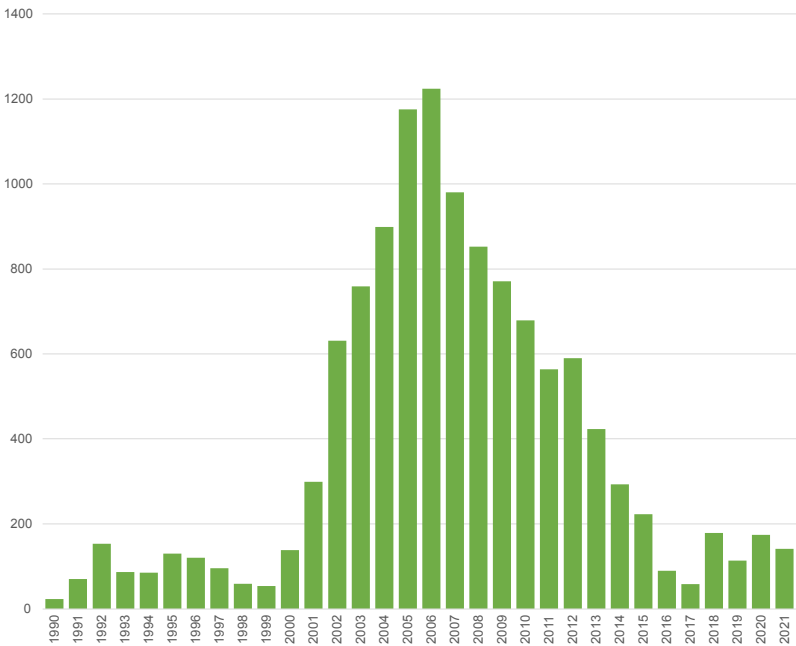
Survivors refer to men, women, girls, and boys who have been wounded and possibly impaired as a result of an EO accident.²⁸¹

Persons with disabilities (PWD) include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.²⁸²

From 1990 to January 2022, 12,152 people were victims of APM/ UXO/IED, 60 per cent (7,286) of whom were members of the security forces and 40 per cent (4,866) civilians. 94.3 per cent of the victims were men (11,463), 5.34 per cent women (649) and for 0.32 per cent (40) no disaggregated information was available. 9 per cent (1,266) of the victims were minors and 4 per cent (531) were part of ethnic communities.

2006 was the year with the highest number of victims in the country’s history (1,224). Since that time, a decline in the number of victims began, until 2017, when 58 were reported.

FIGURE 14. TOTAL MINE VICTIMS IN COLOMBIA 1990-2021



Source: Descontamina Colombia, victim database, November 30, 2021 own elaboration (2022)

Following the signing of the Havana peace agreement, the reorganisation of new armed groups and the increase in the cultivation of illicit crops in the trend has changed. As of 2016, the largest number of victims has been civilians, surpassing the number of victims in the security forces.

FIGURE 15 TYPES OF MINE VICTIMS IN COLOMBIA 1990-2021



Source: Descontamina Colombia, victim database, November 30, 2021 (2022)

TABLE 3 TYPES OF MINE VICTIMS IN COLOMBIA 1990-2021

VICTIM TYPE	2016*	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Civilian	38	41	94	65	110	88
Security Forces	52	17	85	49	64	53

* In 2016, the Peace Agreement was signed.

Source: Descontamina Colombia, victim database, November 2021(2022)

By its nature, victim assistance requires a multisectoral approach as it is intricately linked to broader national policy frameworks, including health, human rights, poverty reduction, social protection, and education, among others.

In the context of the APMBC, victim assistance comprises six elements: i) data collection; ii) emergency and medical care; iii) rehabilitation; iv) psychological and psychosocial support; v) socio-economic inclusion; vi) laws and public policies.²⁸³

In Colombia, victim assistance is part of comprehensive health and rehabilitation measures, the disability policy, and the policy of victims of the armed conflict.²⁸⁴ In addition, victim assistance includes all measures aimed at restoring the effective realisation of victims' rights, providing them with the conditions to lead a dignified life and ensuring their full reintegration.²⁸⁵

This framework is part of the victim assistance policy²⁸⁶ which has a general route to assist victims of APM/UXO/IED, as well as a victim assistance route for children and adolescent victims of APM/UXO/IED.²⁸⁷

In the area of assistance, mine action is composed of a multisectoral effort that is divided into the following five stages of intervention:

FIGURE 16 VICTIM ASSISTANCE COMPREHENSIVE PATHWAY (RIAV)



Source: Descontamina Colombia, Victim Assistance Comprehensive Pathway for Victims of APM/UXO

Coordination of this process requires significant cooperation between various entities at the national and territorial levels. The diversity of entities and levels needed to access the pathway is one of the great challenges of victim assistance.²⁸⁸

However, significant progress was made in terms of access to comprehensive health care and functional rehabilitation, as well as increased awareness of it at the local level, in order to ensure that all victims receive specialised, priority and direct care.²⁸⁹

From the victims' perspective, one of the biggest challenges has to do with socio-economic integration and psychosocial support.²⁹⁰ When an accident occurs, the psychological and socio-economic impact on the victim and his/her family members is immense.

The OACP-AICMA Group has focused its efforts on supporting survivors and their associations through its victim assistance (VA) component to promote an exercise of rights, empowerment, participation, leadership, political advocacy, and socio-economic inclusion, seeking to dignify the condition of victims and build peaceful solutions through social dialogue.²⁹¹

This process has been developed through a peer-to-peer work scheme, in which the building of trust that is fostered allows for the acceptance of partnerships in hard-to-reach places in the country.

This process of prioritisation of work with the surviving APM community has been carried out through the allocation of investment resources since 2018, through direct contracting with APM/UXO survivor associations²⁹² in the Departments of Arauca (ASODIGPAZ), Caquetá (UNIDOS POR LA VIDA), Cauca (ASODESAM), Huila (AHVIMPES), Meta (CAMINEMOS META), Nariño (ASOVABADES) and Norte de Santander (ASOVIVIR), this year (2022), work will begin with the associations of Chocó (COLECTIVO CIMARRONAJE) and Bolívar (ASOVISPAZ).

In addition to the above, and in order to create spaces for national and international advocacy, the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP) has promoted the creation of the National Network of Survivors Associations, which aims to strengthen organisational,

associative, administrative, technical, and operational aspects. This network began in 2020 with 11 survivor associations and in 2021 it was possible to include four more survivor associations.

The significant role that associations play in ensuring empowerment and access to rights was highlighted in the municipalities studied. In Cauca, Humanity & Inclusion (HI) and the Tierra de Paz Foundation help victims access appropriate prosthetics. As part of their curriculum, they develop the strategy of peer support through which one victim advises and assists another in their emotional recovery process, as well as in the handling of and adaptation to their prostheses.

A fundamental aspect of this peer-to-peer work scheme has been to inform survivors about how to manage general medical care so that they can be referred to a psychiatric specialist. This has allowed them to exchange knowledge with victims who now understand the procedures for receiving or repairing prostheses.²⁹³ The survivors interviewed highlight the importance of HI and the Tierra de Paz Foundation as key actors in their acquisition of the relevant knowledge of the route of victim assistance and effective access to their rights, as was greatly emphasised in Cauca.

An example is ASODESAM, which began its work in 2003 and was legalised in 2006, becoming the first association of survivors and victims to establish an agreement with the OACP-AICMA Group to work in EORE in 2007. Currently, they are mine action delegates and they work to strengthen leadership and create a network of survivors nationwide. As a result of a partnership process with HI and Tierra de Paz, the participating organisations have been trained in a wide variety of topics²⁹⁴ and have accessed training from the National Learning Service (SENA). Among the productive projects that have been advanced, the area of dairy processing stands out.²⁹⁵

Another example that demonstrates the support from mine action organisations in the associative process of victims is that of the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines (CCCM) and the Huilense Association of APM/UXO/IED Survivors AHVIMPEX, in the department of Huila, who are being certified in the EORE process.

An interviewed survivor and active member of the association states that for them the CCCM has been a school of leadership and that there have been great advances in the last ten years, although the great challenge remains the identification of victims in the territory and getting access to the fifth and last stage of the pathway: socio-economic integration.²⁹⁶ Hence, the role of associations in identifying and socialising the pathway is fundamental.

Among the achievements reported in Huila are: access to humanitarian benefits²⁹⁷ — two survivors are already receiving their pension and three others are in progress — the re-evaluation of those with a disability of 48- 49 per cent, so that they can access aid and reparation²⁹⁸ — there are only four members left for this — as well as access to productive projects, especially for the cultivation of coffee. Among the projects that have continued is also a patisserie established by a survivor in 2015.²⁹⁹

The following are the experiences and challenges of some survivors who participated in the study.

TESTIMONY OF FABIO, FORMER MARINE, VICTIM OF AN ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE IN MONTES DE MARÍA

60 per cent of APM/UXO/IED victims in Colombia are members of the military. This former marine was the victim of an APM in Montes de Maria. The consolidation of security in this area had a high human cost on the military forces: 197 soldiers were killed and 365 wounded.³⁰⁰



Fabio at his home in Corozal (Sucre).

On October 29, 2001, Fabio became a victim after being assigned with his unit to the Aromeras sector. Mines were used as a form of territorial protection and an alarm to warn entry into the territory.³⁰¹

Fabio recalls that it had been days of long walks in the Lomas de la Sierra del Valguero when he activated the mine. His companion died on the spot, and he only remembers the arrival of the helicopter. The accident left him with a double amputation.

Helicopter support and immediate access to Navy medical care are the advantages that members of the military have due to the nature of their mission.

Later he received psychological care that allowed him to overcome and accept his condition. Fabio received a prosthesis. Limited knowledge about the Victim Assistance Comprehensive Pathway (RIAV) and the lack of reporting on victims of APM/UXO/IED presents a challenge for victims to follow the pathway of administrative procedures and receive the necessary assistance and compensation. According to the National Planning Department (DNP), in 2009, only 32 per cent of victims knew that they must have a certification of the accident.³⁰²

“As victims, we are not just looking for technical courses: I had to go into debt to overcome my situation.”

Fabio studied law after his accident. He rode a motorcycle every day to class and had to pay for his studies with a loan that he paid with his own income.

His knowledge in law has allowed him to strengthen the representation of victims in the municipality of Corozal. He is active on the the boards and created the Foundation of Displaced and Mine Victims (Fundevivir), with which he has been able to manage the assistance for access to prostheses.³⁰³

However, finding work as a lawyer with a disability has not been easy for him. For that reason, he sought postgraduate degrees, but the possibilities offered to victims of APM/UXO/IED in Colombia are limited exclusively to technical training. The reparation that Fabio would like to receive in studies from the State is access to a specialisation or master’s degree at a university and he wonders: “Why are technical studies the only option for victims?”

MILLER, MINE VICTIM IN ALGECIRAS (HUILA)

Miller was the victim of a mine on his land located in the vereda of Quebradón Sur in Algeciras (Huila).³⁰⁴ Accessibility to the vereda is poor, and there is no frequent transport or mobile phone signal. This situation meant that they were unable to transport him and provide immediate attention after the accident. It took 8 hours to get to the hospital and the health promoting entity (EPS)³⁰⁵ took care of everything. Miller suffered an amputation and had access to a prosthesis, but he has never been given compensation or reparation for being victim of an APM.³⁰⁶ Indeed, as the National Planning Department (DNP) points out, 80 per cent of the victims of APM/UXO/IED in Colombia “consider that the processes have been difficult and unclear.”³⁰⁷ Miller states that when he had the accident he didn’t know about the Victim Assistance Comprehensive Pathway (RIAV).

Miller and other mine victims say they have improved their knowledge of their rights and processes thanks to the presence of the Civil Humanitarian Demining Organisations (OCDH), in this case the CCCM.

In addition to the above, Miller is currently accompanying the work of the AHVIMPES Survivors Association, a space that has allowed victims to empower themselves for the enforceability of their rights.



Photo: Miller on his property; in the background the accident site, Quebradón Sur vereda, Algeciras (Huila).

WILLIAM, MINE VICTIM IN CAJIBÍO, CAUCA

William in Cajibío, Cauca was also unaware of victim assistance. William suffered his accident on April 10, 2000. Given the conditions of the armed conflict on the vereda at that time, any evacuation had to be coordinated with the military forces. He was transferred to Bogotá. After the medical intervention, he was in a state of depression for two months, until he began to accept his condition and learn about the available prostheses.

He became an expert in repairing, cleaning, and fitting them. This knowledge has allowed him to help several mine victims who see him as an example. He is currently part of the Tierra de Paz Foundation, which works in partnership with Humanity & Inclusion (HI) in Cauca.



Meeting of APM victims with HI, Fundación Tierra y Paz and the GICHD in Cajibío (Cauca), GICHD Popayán, Cauca, November 10, 2021.

“When you meet with the association you realise that ‘you’re not alone.’”

In Sucre, Huila and Cauca, victims’ associations and mine action organisations have a direct and positive impact on victims’ knowledge of their rights. In all cases, the associations manage prosthetics. For example, Fabio recounts how a friend took him to a meeting where the United States government donated high-quality prosthetics.

In the case of Miguel, through the association they hold prosthesis repair workshops and exchange or donate parts or prostheses and wheelchairs that they do not use.

This space helps them to realise that they are not alone in their rehabilitation process.

The existence of mine action organisations in these three cases—the Demining Battalion and Amphibious Engineers of the Colombian Navy (BDIAN) in the case of Fabio, the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines (CCCM) in the case of Miller and HI in the case of William—have been instrumental in improving knowledge and gaining access to the enjoyment of rights as survivors in Colombia.

Actions to make victims of anti-personnel mines visible

Before the formal existence of mine action in Colombia, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was already conducting humanitarian action with victims of the conflict in the country.

In relation to mine action, the Colombian State, through the territorial authorities, is responsible for issuing certificates to victims.³⁰⁸ This effort involves organisations such as the ICRC, which provides assistance, support, and guidance to all victims, in order to facilitate access to the different available care services. Generally, a lack of awareness of the Victim Assistance Comprehensive Pathway (RIAV) is the main barrier to the enforceability of rights. Specifically, the lack of a certificate of the accident’s occurrence issued by the local authorities is the main impediment to entering the pathway. For this reason, the State, the ICRC and mine action organisations are the providers of information on victims of APM/UXO/IED, ensuring greater accessibility to the

Single Register of Victims (RUV) and with this, demand their rights.³⁰⁹

In fact, the National Economic and Social Policy Council (CONPES) pointed out that the main problems for care were based on the fact that victims do not have timely and complete access to the services established by law for their comprehensive rehabilitation. There is a lack of integration of State service capacities with those of public non-State organisations regarding the needs of victims. The psychosocial and socio-economic inclusion aspects of the assistance model are not fully developed or implemented.³¹⁰ As mine action requires joint action by the State, the private sector, academia and international cooperation, the following will showcase actions that have increased the visibility of victims of APMs.

Fragments and Footprints: Reconstructing Bodies and Territories from a Museum Proposal

The Prolongar Foundation, in its work for the development of communities in Colombia, has applied innovative methodologies based on art and communication. An example of this is the Fragments and Footprints project: Reconstructing Bodies and Territories from a Museum Proposal.³¹¹ This exercise involved the application of individualised methodologies for the collective construction of the traveling museum of memory on APMs in Colombia with 20 survivors of APMs from Vista Hermosa (Meta). This work was supported by the National Centre for Historical Memory and the Ministry of Culture.³¹²

Report, “La Guerra Escondida”, (The Hidden War)

Likewise, the Prolongar Foundation is recognised for the preparation of the report, “La guerra escondida. Minas antipersonal y remanentes explosivos en Colombia.” (The hidden war. Anti-personnel mines and explosive ordnance in Colombia). This document reconstructed for the first time in the country the memories of the victims of these attacks through methodologies that portrayed the body as a place of memory. The report included the alliance of the National Centre for Historical Memory, the Saldarriaga Concha Foundation, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Descontamina Colombia, the CCCM and the Tierra de Paz Foundation.³¹³

Sitting volleyball

In addition to art for memory initiatives, sport has become the hope of many victims of APMs. Sitting volleyball is a space to reconnect with their peers, giving meaning to their lives again.³¹⁴ This sport has contributed to physical, emotional, and psychological rehabilitation by supporting victims to feel integrated and valued for their individual abilities in a competitive group. Some of the participants represent the country as part of the Paralympic team.³¹⁵ In Colombia, this sport is sponsored by the Colombian Volleyball Federation and the Ministry of Defence.

Presta tu Pierna 11km (Lend your leg)

The Presta tu Pierna 11km race³¹⁶ is another example that links the visibility of survivors, victims, and sports. To commemorate the International Day for Awareness against Antipersonnel Mines (April 4), the race is organised by the Archangels Foundation, Descontamina Colombia, APC-Colombia, the U.S. Embassy, and trade partners.³¹⁷ Under the theme, “No more antipersonnel mines”, this event is attended by military and civilian APM victims, representatives of the international community, State entities, non-governmental organisations persons with disabilities (PWDs), artists and civil society.

By implementing social protection systems and measures, victim assistance has contributed to **SDG 1** End poverty and its targets **1.3**, which seeks to achieve coverage for the most vulnerable; **1.4**, which seeks to ensure that the most vulnerable people have access to basic services; **1.5**, on building the resilience of people in vulnerable situations; and **1.b**, on pro-poor policy frameworks.

By effectively implementing the first three stages – pre-hospital, emergency, and hospital care – as well as stage four, functional rehabilitation, of the Victim Assistance Comprehensive Pathway (RIAV), victim assistance has contributed to **SDG 3** Health and well-being and its **targets 3.8**, on universal coverage and access to quality services, and **3.c**, on health financing and training of health personnel.

Because of its focus on disability, victim assistance has contributed to **SDG 4** Quality education and its **targets 4.4** on increasing technical skills; **4.5**, on eliminating disparities in access to training for vulnerable people, including PWD; and **4.a**, on adapting safe and inclusive educational spaces, including for people with disabilities. It has also contributed to targets **4.1**, **4.2** and **4.3** through equal access to technical training, although challenges remain for access to professional and higher education for victims of EO.

Likewise, the victim assistance efforts and the strengthening of community leadership by men and women have contributed to **SDG 5** Gender equality and its targets **5.1** on ending all discrimination against women and girls; **5.5** on effective participation; and **5.a** on equal access to economic resources.

By promoting the socio-economic inclusion of victims, as the last phase of the pathway, victim assistance has contributed to **SDG 8** Decent work and economic growth and its **target 8.5**, on decent work for people with disabilities. Similarly, it has contributed to **SDG 10** Reducing inequalities and its **targets 10.1**, on increasing the income of the poorest; **10.2**, on promoting social, economic, and political inclusion, including persons with disabilities; **10.3**, on policies against discrimination; and **10.4** on social protection policies.

Through the establishment of victims' boards and the promotion of associations, victim assistance has contributed to **SDG 16** Peace, justice and strong institutions and its targets **16.1** on the elimination of all forms of violence and associated casualties; **16.6**, on effective and transparent institutions; **16.7**, on inclusive, participatory, and representative decisions that respond to the needs of all; **16.a**, on strengthening national institutions; and **16.b** on non-discriminatory laws and policies.

The role of mine action organisations along with other State entities, local, national, and international organisations³¹⁸ has been fundamental in publicising the pathway, initiating registrations of EO victims, and supporting victims' access to their rights, as recognised by the Colombian State. Thus, key actors in the sector have functioned as mediators between victims, the State, donors, and other relevant organisations to activate the pathway. This has contributed to **SDG 17** Partnerships for the goals and targets **17.9**, dedicated to increasing

international support for capacity building; **17.17**, on promoting public, public-private, and civil society partnerships; and **17.8**, dedicated to improving support for capacity-building.



Leader of humanitarian demining and facilitator of MRE providing information on safe behaviours to the inhabitants of Alejandria, Antioquia – Colombia. Courtesy of OACP - Descontamina Colombia.

3. EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE RISK EDUCATION

FIGURE 17 CONTRIBUTION OF EORE TO THE SDG TARGETS IN COLOMBIA



3.d Strengthen the capacity for risk reduction



10.7 Safe migration and mobility



- 4.5** Equal access to education
- 4.7** Ensure universal knowledge to promote sustainable development
- 4.a** Build safe, inclusive learning environments



- 16.1** Reduction of all forms of violence
- 16.6** Develop accountable institutions
- 16.7** Inclusive, participatory, representative decision-making
- 16.10** Access to information and protection of fundamental freedoms
- 16.a** Strengthen national institutions, including through international cooperation



5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls



- 17.17** Effective public, public-private, civil society partnerships
- 17.18** Capacity-building support to improve data

At the global level, explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) has seen considerable progress in recent years, particularly through the development of international standards with the adoption of the first edition of IMAS 12.10 in 2009 and its subsequent updates — the most recent in September of 2020.³¹⁹ In 2018, a major conceptual and terminological shift occurred by replacing the concept of mine risk education (MRE) with EORE.³²⁰

Explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) refers to activities which seek to reduce the risk of injury from EO by raising awareness of women, girls, boys and men in accordance with their different vulnerabilities, roles and needs, and promoting behavioural change. Core activities include public information dissemination, education, and training.³²¹

In Colombia, MRE is defined as the set of processes that seek to raise awareness and promote a culture of safe behaviour among the civilian population, with the aim of reducing the risk to a level where people and communities can live safely, free of the limitations caused by explosive devices.³²²

MRE should ensure that women and men, girls and boys from all affected ethnic groups are aware of the associated risks, while promoting safe behaviour that reduces risks for the people, their property, and the environment.^{323 324}

Among the regulatory advances of the sector in relation to EORE, it is worth highlighting the adoption of the Colombian Technical Standard for Mine Risk Education NTC 648 which establishes the guiding principles for risk education of APMs, UXO and booby traps, as well as requirements and guidelines for needs assessment, planning, implementation, management, monitoring, and evaluation of EORE. This pillar is composed of the dissemination of public information, education and training, and community risk management.³²⁵ Prior to the adoption of this technical standard, the national MRE³²⁶ standard laid the foundations for the principles, approaches, and methodological lines for MRE: (1) in emergency situations (ES); 2) in the field of education (EA) and 3) in humanitarian demining (HD).³²⁷ The process of establishing the national standard led by Descontamina Colombia, with the support of UNICEF, allowed the participation of all the organisations that make up the National MRE Board. This Board convenes at least three times a year bringing together all the actors involved and serving as the main platform for coordination and exchange, which also served to design the National MRE Plan.³²⁸

EORE in Colombia is implemented through three components: 1) dissemination of public information, 2) education and training and 3) community risk management which is also a cross-cutting component to 1 and 2.³²⁹

According to the National Technical Standard, mine action organisations must conduct EORE and all their activities without any discrimination and in accordance with do-no-harm, gender, and diversity mainstreaming, rights-based, and conflict sensitivity approaches.³³⁰

By implementing a differential approach and targeting women, girls, boys, and men in accordance with their different vulnerabilities, roles and needs in promotion of safer behaviours, EORE in Colombia has contributed to **SDG 4**

Quality education and its **targets 4.5** on equal access to education and vocational trainings; **4.7**, on promoting education for sustainable development, culture of peace and non-violence; and **4.a**, on enhancing safe and inclusive learning environments. By ensuring non-discrimination in its approach, it also contributes to **SDG 5** Gender equality and its **target 5.1**, on ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls.



Photo: EORE activity in Murindó, Antioquia. Courtesy of CCCM.

Mine action organisations are accredited to conduct EORE based on their expertise for each of the three MRE components. Accreditation seeks to ensure quality³³¹ and alignment with the national EORE standard, and is valid for two years, following a cycle of continuous improvement, with processes dedicated to the implementation and evaluation of an improvement plan.³³²

There is also a dedicated process for the certification of competencies in EORE being held annually. This process has currently served to evaluate and certify the EORE competencies of 913 people in Colombia.³³³

In addition to accredited organisations and the national authority, the National Learning Service (SENA)³³⁴ played a key role in enhancing EORE, for example, through mobile classrooms to ensure that key messages to promote safe behaviours reach rural communities far from population centres and with difficult access to services.³³⁵ This initiative highlighted the need to strengthen their approach and to advance mobile classrooms to ensure national coverage. Of its 140 mobile classrooms, two are specialised in APM themes. However, since 2017, the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP) – Descontamina states that SENA does not report MRE activities to the OACP, so there is no record of MRE activities conducted in the territory by the mobile classrooms since then. Currently, SENA’s main support for EORE in Colombia is based on the process of people certification in the Sectoral Standard of Labour Competence (NSCL).³³⁶ SENA is also a key player in connecting community leaders through the generation of trust.³³⁷

One of the main challenges of EORE in Colombia continues to be access and coverage, as well as the revision of the EORE materials to adopt a differential which responds to the different multicultural realities of Colombia.³³⁸ In 2020, Humanity & Inclusion (HI), in partnership with the OACP and with funding from the Government of Canada, worked on the, “Design and implementation of the guide to interaction in mine risk education (MRE) with an ethnic-indigenous approach”, alongside indigenous delegates from the Barí, Embera Eyábida, Wounan, Nasa, Awá and Siona peoples.³³⁹

Demining and EORE are complementary efforts. When considering the current context, where the dynamics of armed conflict and post-conflict intermingle, EORE is crucial in highly affected areas – both in those where mine action is taking place and in those where security conditions do not allow it. In areas with lack of access and security conditions for clearance activities, EORE becomes the only immediate protection available to affected communities.

This was emphasised by mine action organisations during field visits conducted by the research team. For example, in Cauca, HI had to suspend its clearance operations in Caloto and Corinto due to public security issues, but efforts were enhanced to ensure that EORE reached the most affected communities in the territory by collaborating with the village and indigenous patrols from a prevention perspective.³⁴⁰

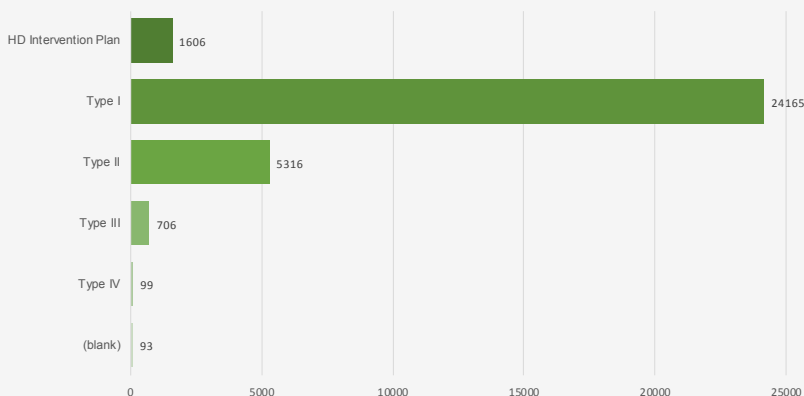
For HI and Tierra de Paz, it has been quite successful to involve the community in the creation of participatory cartography done by hand in which they themselves identify and locate suspected hazardous areas (SHA) and keep the records up to date. Both organisations also managed to train 1,720 community leaders and public officials in EORE, as well as to validate municipal contingency plans through community liaison.³⁴¹

Another example of successful EORE implementation was evidenced in Sucre, where the Demining Battalion and Amphibious Engineers of the Colombian Navy (BDIAN), formerly AEDIM, has trained local mayors on EORE. The Sucre development plan also included specific EORE indicators, allowing for greater outreach and awareness.³⁴² Similarly, EORE was successfully integrated in land restitution processes during which people receive EORE before returning to the countryside.

A total of 31,985 EORE activities have been conducted in Colombia since 2010,³⁴³ which have mainly focused on areas with security challenges that hinder the progress of mine action.³⁴⁴

This translates into a greater emphasis on EORE in areas with typology 1, which are the areas with the greatest impact from mines, where there are more victims and security conditions remain a challenge. In these areas, 76 per cent of the activities (24,165) were conducted having benefitted 539,981 people.

FIGURE 18 EORE ACTIVITIES BY TYPE OF MUNICIPALITY



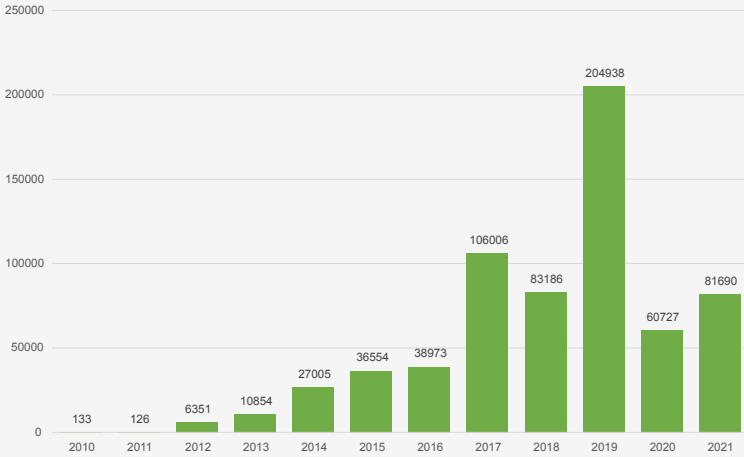
* The category “blank” appears in the database without explanation about the typology.
Source: Descontamina Colombia, events database (November, 2021). (2022)

This indicates that EORE activities constitute a crucial form of prevention and awareness raising for communities living in areas with the presence of APM/UXO/IED.

In 2010, in Colombia there were 679 victims and only 6 EORE activities were conducted. Since 2010, the number of victims fell to 58 in 2017. As of 2016, it is evident that a greater number of EORE activities has resulted in fewer APM victims, with a maximum of 8,658 EORE activities in 2021.³⁴⁵

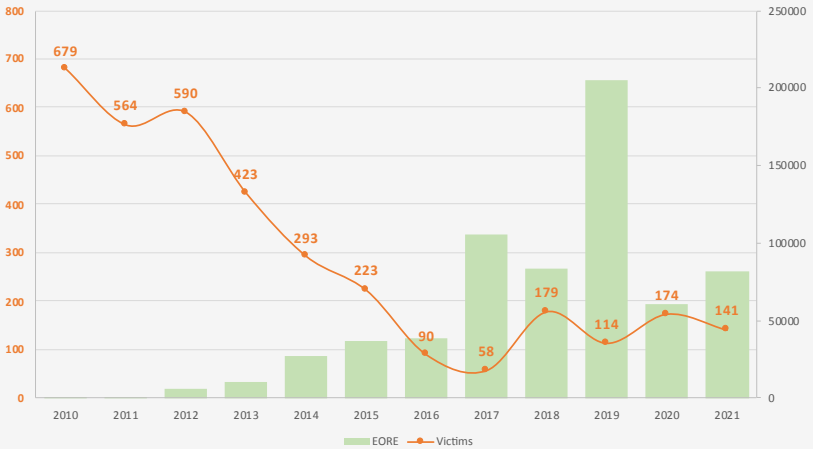
Looking at historical data, it is important to note that since 2010 there has been a steady increase in the number of people who have received EORE, with the exception of 2018 and 2020 during which there was a decrease in the number of EORE beneficiaries and a spike in the number of victims.

FIGURE 19 PEOPLE TRAINED IN EORE 2010 – 2021



Source: Descontamina Colombia, events database, (November, 2021). Own elaboration (2022)

FIGURE 20 PEOPLE TRAINED IN EORE AND MINE VICTIMS 2010 – 2021



Source: Descontamina Colombia, events database, November, 2021. Own elaboration (2022)

According to the national standard,³⁴⁶ EORE in Colombia must impact beneficiaries in a differential way. According to the EORE database,³⁴⁷ 75.6 per cent of the population benefitted from EORE has been identified as mestizo, 12.3 per cent as Afro-Colombian and 12 per cent as belonging to indigenous communities.

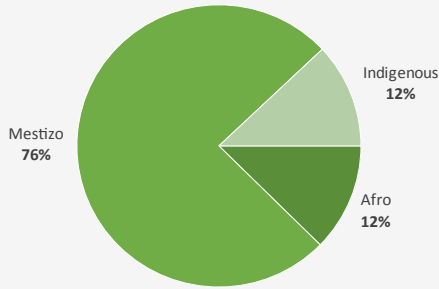
The database does not show other groups such as the Roma,³⁴⁸ although they are among the identified EO victims in the country.³⁴⁹ It cannot be established whether this is due to a lack of participation by Roma communities or if this information has not been collected or categorised.³⁵⁰ It is important to note that, in the last National Population and Housing Census 2018, only 2,649 people were self-recognised as from the Roma population.³⁵¹

TABLE 4 BENEFICIARIES OF EORE AND BELONGING TO ETHNIC COMMUNITIES

AGE	INDIGENOUS*	AFRO	MESTIZO
2010	0	0	133
2011	54	0	72
2012	12	0	6339
2013	555	0	10299
2014	0	29	26976
2015	0	0	36554
2016	65	35	38873
2017	10362	11864	83780
2018	11785	14865	56536
2019	24881	27935	152122
2020	14642	10635	35450
2021	16551	15815	49324
GRAND TOTAL	GRAND TOTAL	GRAND TOTAL	GRAND TOTAL

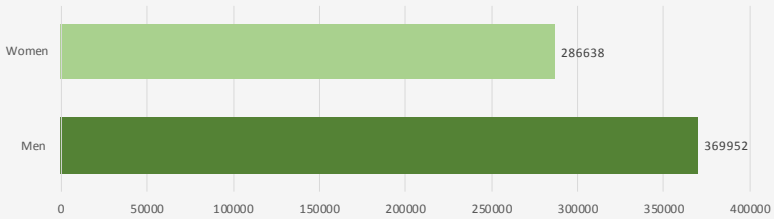
Source: Descontamina Colombia, EORE database, November, 2021. Own elaboration (2022).³⁵²

FIGURE 21 BENEFICIARIES OF EORE AND BELONGING TO ETHNIC COMMUNITIES



Source: Descontamina Colombia, EORE database November, 2021. (2022)

FIGURE 22 BENEFICIARIES OF EORE BY GENDER



*Gender categories used by Descontamina Colombia in the EORE database.
Source: Descontamina Colombia, EORE database, November, 2021. (2022).³⁵³

When it comes to age and gender of the EORE beneficiaries, 43.6 per cent are women (286,638) and 56.34 per cent are men (369,952).

Among them, 19.19 per cent girls (127,257) and 19.38 per cent boys (126,047).

"I never thought that would happen to me. EORE is especially important for people to understand the dangers and to avoid passing through them. Above all, for children."³⁵⁴

There is a link between the increase in EORE beneficiaries and the reduction in victims for the entire recorded period. By promoting safe behaviours, EORE has contributed to **SDG 16** Peace, justice and strong institutions and its **targets 16.1**, on significantly reducing all forms of violence and related deaths; **16.10**, on ensuring access to information; and **16.a**, on strengthening national institutions. It has also contributed to **SDG 3** Health and well-being and its **target 3.d**, on improving risk reduction capacity.

By reducing the risks of people during return and restitution processes, EORE has contributed to **SDG 10** Reduction of inequalities and its **target 10.7** on migration and orderly, safe, regular, and responsible mobility.

Joint efforts and approaches between operators, government entities, donors, and local actors have been constant in the effective implementation of EORE in Colombia. This has contributed to **SDG 17** Partnerships for the goals and **targets 17.17**, on promoting public, public-private, and civil society partnerships and **17.18** on supporting capacity-building. By ensuring the active and informed engagement of affected communities and promoting dialogue, EORE also contributes to **targets 16.6**, on transparent institutions and **16.7**, on inclusive and participatory decision-making.



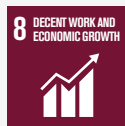
Photo: EORE intervention with Guna Dule women. Courtesy of CCCM.

4. GENDER AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING

FIGURE 23 CONTRIBUTION OF GENDER AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING TO THE SDG TARGETS IN COLOMBIA



2.3 Double agricultural productivity



8.3 Support productive activities and decent job creation

8.5 Full and productive employment and decent work



4.4 Increased number of skilled youth and adults

4.5 Equal access to education



10.2 Social, economic, political inclusion

10.3 Equal opportunities, reduction of inequalities

10.4 Adopt social protection policies



5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls

5.2 Elimination of violence against women and girls

5.4 Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work

5.5 Women's full and effective participation

5.a Give women equal rights to economic resources

5.c Policies and legislation for gender equality



16.1 Reduction of all forms of violence

16.7 Inclusive, participatory, representative decision-making

16.b Non discriminatory laws and policies



17.9 Enhance international support for capacity-building in developing countries

Although there is no unified concept of a differential approach, the National Planning Department (DNP) defines it as “a way of analysing, acting, valuing and guaranteeing the development of a population, based on its differential characteristics from a perspective of equity and diversity.”³⁵⁵

Gender and Ethnic Diversity Mainstreaming policies in Colombia seek to promote actions that respect gender diversity, age, disability, and ethnicity, adapting to the characteristics and needs of the population.³⁵⁶ In addition to these four considerations, the National Law 1448 adds sexual orientation as another consideration,³⁵⁷ and the DNP notes the importance of also considering the status of victims of the armed conflict.³⁵⁸

Thus, mine action considers the differential approach in the design of all policies, plans, programmes, and projects derived from the Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025 and considers a gender mainstreaming approach as cross-cutting among other mainstreaming approaches.³⁵⁹

Gender and ethnic diversity mainstreaming aims to identify the characteristics, conditions and needs of different individuals and/or a set of individuals in order to facilitate their care and to ensure that interventions are effective and appropriate.³⁶⁰ In this regard, such interventions should be adapted for the specific conditions of certain groups of people, who, consequently, require differential protection and care such as internally displaced people and/or refugees, as well as children and adolescents, elders, women and men, PWD and ethnic minorities.³⁶¹

To identify and address these differentiated characteristics, it is necessary to have disaggregated data and quality information. In Colombia, relevant data on mine action is recorded in the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA).³⁶² Statistical information is available publicly and is updated monthly with data disaggregated by status (civilian, armed forces), sex (male, female), condition (wounded, deceased), age range (older or younger than 18), ethnic group affiliation (Afro-descendant or indigenous people), among others.

This section of the study focuses on the direct contributions of gender and ethnic mainstreaming in mine action to the SDGs. However, it should be noted that, in order to ensure that the overarching principle of leaving no one behind is upheld, gender mainstreaming needs to be implemented and monitored as a cross-cutting approach in all mine action programmes, projects, and activities.

For example, EORE using the differential approach should consider the diverse characteristics of the communities served when conducting needs assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.³⁶³ In seeking to promote a gender - also responsive approach and greater equity, the national standard requires gender balance in teams responsible for needs assessment.³⁶⁴

DIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING: ETHNIC DIFFERENTIAL APPROACH

The ethnic differential approach is based on the Colombian Constitution, which recognises the country as multi-ethnic and multicultural, and which enshrines in different articles the fundamental rights related to cultural³⁶⁵ and linguistic³⁶⁶ diversity, identity, participation, and autonomy of ethnic groups.^{367,368}

The ethnic groups recognised include: 1) Afro-Colombian, Raizal and Palenquera Communities (NARP), 2) Indigenous Peoples, and 3) Roma or Romani people. In addition, the National Land Agency (ANT) identifies 749 legally established indigenous reserves, of which 21 per cent have a record of EO contamination.³⁶⁹

For its part, the national Victims Act (1448/2011) recognises that there are populations with particular characteristics in terms of their age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and disability status. The General Population Census of the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) 2018 recognises 9.34 per cent of the national population as an ethnic population.

In terms of prevention, the differential approach is considered in the EORE National Standard³⁷⁰ indicating that: “interventions must start from a differentiation of the specific conditions of certain groups of people, who, consequently, require differential protection and care.” These groups also include ethnic minorities.

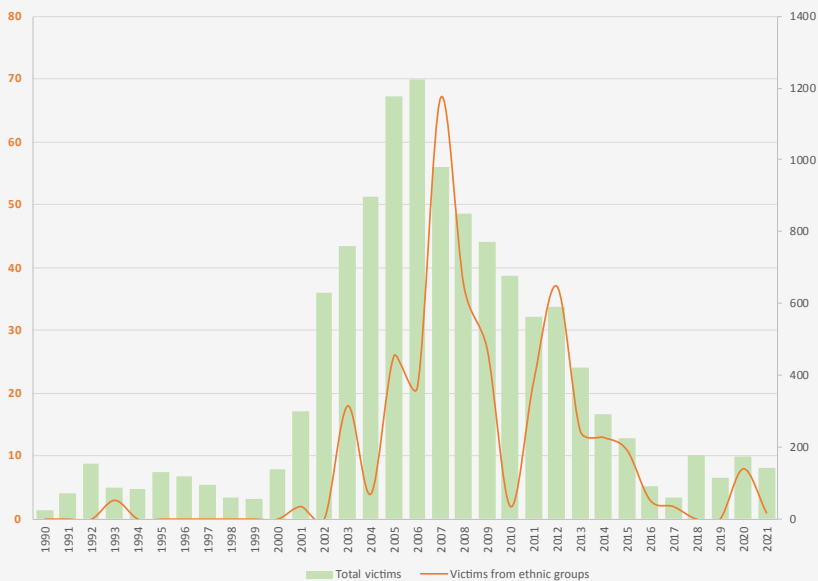
In addition, as presented in the previous sections, the Descontamina Colombia EORE database shows that 20.1 per cent of the EORE beneficiary population identifies as Afro-Colombian and 19.5% belongs to an indigenous community. Regarding victims, ethnic communities constitute 4 per cent of the total number of registered victims. Between 2018 and 2021, there was an increase in civilian casualties among indigenous and Afro-Colombian populations.³⁷¹ In fact, many of the accidents occurred during clearance attempts, when the community members themselves were removing EO and burning them. Therefore, promoting safe behaviour and initiating humanitarian demining has been a much-needed process.³⁷²

APM FROM THE DIFFERENTIAL MAINSTREAMING APPROACH

According to Descontamina Colombia, between 1990 and 2021, there were 274 victims of APM/UXO/IED belonging to 93 ethnic territories.³⁷³ The communities most affected in the period 2006 – 2021 were the Awa (128), Nasa (46), Pastos (25), Jiw (21) and Embera Katío (15) ethnic communities.³⁷⁴

In the Descontamina Colombia database, victims of ethnic groups were first reported in 1993 in Orito (Putumayo): 3 victims³⁷⁵ belonging to the Los Pastos ethnic group. From 2006 onwards, more victims began to be reported from these communities, with a peak of 67 victims belonging to ethnic communities in 2007, when there was a total of 980 victims, as shown in the following figure.³⁷⁶

FIGURE 24 TOTAL VICTIMS AND VICTIMS BY ETHNIC GROUPS



Source: Descontamina Colombia, victim database, November, 2021. Own elaboration (2022)

The EO impact on culture and the loss of ancestral customs affect each community differently. The list of those affected groups does not include one of the last semi-nomadic communities in Colombia: the Nukak Makú, located in the Amazon, primarily in the department of Guaviare. The presence of mines has changed their daily patterns of feeding, hunting, fishing, and mobility through ancestral territory. In this sense, data related to EO affected ethnic groups may be under-documented, as it is in the case of this community.³⁷⁷

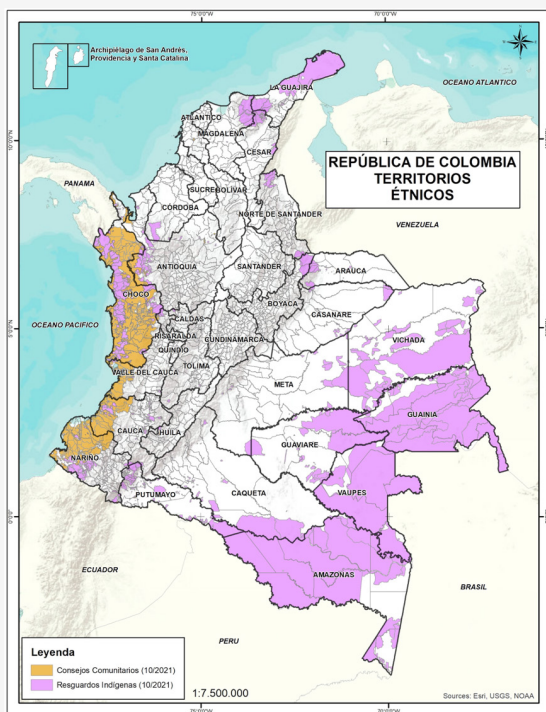
FIGURE 25 APM/UXO/IED CONTAMINATION IN ETHNIC TERRITORIES

PRESENCE OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES IN LEGALLY CONSTITUTED TERRITORIES

INDIGENOUS RESERVES³⁷⁸

PRESENCE OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES IN LEGALLY CONSTITUTED TERRITORIES

COMMUNITY COUNCILS³⁷⁹



- There is a record of EO contamination in 21.5 per cent of the legally constituted reserves (169 out of 786 reserves).
- The 169 reserves recorded 1015 events due to the presence or suspicion of the presence of anti - personnel mines.
- The intervention is aimed at 21 per cent of the indigenous reserves.

- There is a record of EO contamination in 41 per cent of the country's Community Councils (87 out of 210 Community Councils).
- 87 Community Councils recorded 1311 events due to the presence or suspicion of the presence of anti - personnel mines.
- The intervention is aimed at 21 per cent of affected Community Councils.

For example, according to Humanity & Inclusion's (HI) land release experience in demining in ethnic communities, it is essential to clarify with affected communities from the beginning that there are no economic or political motivations behind the interventions, but rather the goal of humanitarian and socio-economic development.³⁸⁰

When communities participate effectively in mine action processes, local capacities are built, risks are reduced and results multiply.³⁸¹ In addition, as part of their interventions, ethnic communities raise awareness and align their activities with municipal plans and programmes. For its part, the OACP-AICMA Group stated that one of the main challenges in recent years has been the recruitment of grassroots organisations,³⁸² so that they can facilitate EORE and victim assistance in their territories. The involvement of grassroots organisations allowed them to achieve efficient geographical and population coverage and, thanks to successful leadership in the territory, men and women have become aware of mine action and the key role it plays. In addition, such local participation is essential for the promotion of safe behaviour when the conditions for land release do not exist.

From the experience of Descontamina Colombia, it has been identified that preventive work must be adapted to the cultural, social, and political needs of organisations, strengthening their capacities to manage and reduce risk. "The way of doing prevention is different for the indigenous population, basically because their interests, understanding of the world and ways of communicating, are different." This approach also includes the training of indigenous leaders to manage risks and disseminate knowledge among their own communities.

In 2021, 19 contracts with an ethnic differential approach were established, nine contracts directly with indigenous communities that supported the implementation of mine action in the territory through associations or reserves, and seven contracts with Afro-Colombian and Black communities. In addition, between 2019 and 2022, 32 per cent of the investment budget of the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP) in mine action was allocated to hire ethnic organisations for the implementation of mixed prevention and victim assistance programmes aimed at ethnic communities.³⁸³

One of the great lessons learned in the consultation processes is to include social intervention models: the community liaison, as well as a methodology to determine priorities and define implementation.³⁸⁴ The community liaison is elected in assembly by the community and, generally, they are young people with experience who are part of the indigenous guards and have

the trust of the members of their community. Depending on the needs, the number of meetings is determined, but this is a lengthy process, lasting at least six months, and the community is who decides.³⁸⁵

According to the community liaison of the Caloto reserve in Cauca, it is necessary for this process to exist among the communities, as discussion about mines and contamination initially generates fear and distrust in the face of a new external intervention that could put them at risk.³⁸⁶ For this reason, building trust is the main challenge for advancing mine action tasks.

In addition, given that indigenous, Afro-Colombian, and farming communities are deeply rooted to the land and their customs, it is essential that all mine action interventions are undertaken with respect and recognition, including processes of harmonisation or spirituality when required, since in some cases land release takes place in sacred places for the community.³⁸⁷

It is important that the community liaison has an understanding of the ethnic group involved, including its history, its spirituality, sacred places, and ancestral particularities. In order to achieve a shared understanding of the risks of APMs, it is necessary to envisage a communication strategy to understand whether Spanish is understood sufficiently well by the community and if there are translators available to accompany the entire process. This is particularly important because in Colombia there are more than 65 living indigenous languages classified into 13 different language families. Through direct contact with communities, their leaders and spokespersons, baseline information is compared with the reality expressed by the community and regional authorities.³⁸⁸

The ethnic differential approach is essential to ensure the relevance of interventions. While advocacy is made, it gives visibility to the specific needs of indigenous, Afro-Colombian and farming communities, guaranteeing access to rights for vulnerable populations.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING APPROACH

Although 94 per cent of victims are young men and adults (11,441 male victims),³⁸⁹ it is considered that EO has a gendered impact, as women and girls tend to have greater responsibilities for caring for relatives after an accident and see their freedom of movement particularly restricted when there is contamination.³⁹⁰

As emphasised by UN Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, there is a need for all parties to ensure that mine clearance and mine awareness programmes consider the special needs of women and girls.³⁹¹ Consequently, mine action works to improve the impact of interventions on affected women, girls, boys and men from diverse groups.³⁹²

For this reason, the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP) promoted the development of guidelines³⁹³ for a gender mainstreaming perspective from each missionary pillar and cross-cutting component. A participatory methodology was utilised for the guidelines which included various actors in the sector, as well as women's organisations and government bodies.³⁹⁴ The guidelines include different affirmative actions and the responsible entities in order to: i) ensure a gendered perspective is present in mine action; ii) provide the political advocacy of mine action and its communications with a gendered perspective; and iii) have disaggregated information systems in place to ensure adequate attention is paid to the specific needs of each group.

Beyond the gender mainstreaming approach in mine action, EORE, and VA efforts, accredited organisations in Colombia have implemented various actions aimed at promoting gender equality and non-discrimination.

In Cajibío, Cauca, Humanity & Inclusion (HI) supports the women-led organisational process for better community organisation.³⁹⁵ In addition, support for female victims of APMs is prioritised,³⁹⁶ as they have experienced differences in the support network they have after the accident. In some cases, they are abandoned with their children when affected by disability.³⁹⁷

These efforts are also undertaken by associations such as ASODESAM,³⁹⁸ which prioritises female heads of household for access to training and education and whose board of directors is headed by two men and two women.⁴

In the vereda of La Meseta, in Cajibío, beneficiaries report that one of the positive changes of the mine action intervention has been the empowerment of women and the reduction of machismo³ in everyday life; along with the possibility of traveling on roads and accessing community infrastructure³⁹⁹ without the need for shortcuts or alternative routes, which can be risky for women.⁴⁰⁰

In Algeciras, Huila, the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines (CCCM) functions as a liaison with institutions such as the National Learning Service (SENA) to provide training and entrepreneurship spaces, especially for women. Currently, they are supporting an association of women coffee growers, heads of household, who are looking for alliances to export their product. Other examples of aid to female-led productive projects include egg production or delivery of livestock.⁴⁰¹

The artistic works “Cuadra por la no violencia de género” (Block for gender non-violence) and the mural of the pathway of care for victims of gender-based violence (GBV) were also included in Algeciras as part of the municipality’s delivery activities. They have also included innovative contests, such as cooking competitions for men and mixed football championships.⁴⁰²

The Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines (CCCM) includes in its organisational structure a gender area for i) the creation of GBV-free spaces; ii) mainstreaming of a gender approach in its interventions; iii) promotion of women in leadership positions;⁴⁰³ iv) work on masculinity and diversity; v) innovation; vi) training; vii) prevention; and viii) gender policies. In addition, they have created a volunteer team of gender focal points in the field and relevant materials⁴⁰⁴ to raise awareness about different ways to obtain care in cases of gender-based violence.⁴⁰⁵

Regarding the participation of women in mine action, CCCM has 42 per cent women in its workforce and Humanicemos DH has 29.2 per cent.⁴⁰⁶ In addition, two of the accredited organisations, Humanicemos DH and FSD, as well as the AICMA Group of the OACP, are headed by women. In fact, Colombia is the only state that has a woman as director of the National Mine Action Programme (OACP-AICMA Group).⁴⁰⁷

[3] Machismo refers to exaggerated male behaviour that is strong and forceful, and based on highly traditional ideas about how men and women should behave.

Although there is no disaggregated data available from all organisations accredited in Colombia, women represent 63 per cent of the staff dedicated to MA,⁴⁰⁸ while the overall participation rate was at around 19 per cent in 2019.⁴⁰⁹

The available evidence shows that women are actively involved in the implementation of the various mine action policies — especially among civil organisations and the national authority, well above the global average. With respect to active and trained personnel for demining in the sector, there are 220 women, which constitutes 4.11 per cent of the total.⁴¹⁰



Photo: Female deminer in Algeciras, Huila, currently working as a clearance paramedic in Urrao, Antioquia. Author: Juan Arredondo. Courtesy of CCCM and OACP-Descontamina Colombia.

By implementing its three mission pillars and observing the characteristics and needs of different individuals and groups (considering their gender, age, ethnic community affiliation and disability status), mine action, through its gender and ethnic diversity mainstreaming approach, has contributed to different SDGs.

By promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls, there is a clear contribution to **SDG 5** Gender equality and its **targets 5.1**, on the elimination of discrimination; **5.2**, on the elimination of all forms of violence; **5.4**, on the promotion of shared responsibility at home; **5.5**, on full and effective participation, including leadership positions; **5.a**, dedicated to promoting equal access to economic resources; and **5.c**, on policies that promote equality and empowerment.

By promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth for all, mine action has contributed to **SDG 8** Decent work and economic growth and its **targets 8.3**, on policies that support productive activities and formalisation of companies and **8.5**, on full employment for all.

The differential, approach has also contributed to **SDG10** reduction of inequalities and its **targets 10.2**, on social, economic, and political inclusion; **10.3**, on equal opportunities; and **10.4**, on adoption of social protection policies.

Considering efforts to promote non-discrimination based on gender or ethnicity, the differential approach has contributed to **SDG 16** Peace, justice and strong institutions and its **targets 16.1**, on the reduction of all forms of violence; **16.7**, on inclusive action and participatory decision making; and **16.b**, on non-discriminatory policies for sustainable development.

Due to the prioritisation of women and ethnic communities for obtaining resources to support productive initiatives, the gender and ethnic diversity mainstreaming approach has contributed to **SDG 2** Zero hunger and its **target 2.3**, by guaranteeing secure and equitable access to land and other resources for indigenous people and women. Along the same lines, and by guaranteeing access to training and education for women and indigenous peoples, the mainstreaming approach has contributed to **SDG 4** Quality education and its **targets 4.4**, on technical and professional skills and **4.5**, on equal access to training by women, persons with disabilities, indigenous people, and children in vulnerable situations.



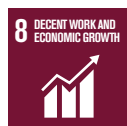
Demonstration against APMs during the Cartagena Review Conference in 2009. Courtesy of APMBC-ISU.

5. PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATION

FIGURE 26 CONTRIBUTION OF PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATION TO THE SDG TARGETS IN COLOMBIA



3.d Strengthen the capacity for risk reduction



8.2 Increase economic productivity through innovation
8.3 Support productive activities and decent job creation



4.3 Equal access to technical, vocational and tertiary education
4.4 Increased number of skilled youth and adults
4.5 Equal access to education
4.7 Ensure universal knowledge to promote sustainable development
4.a Build safe, inclusive learning environments



9.1 Equitable access to infrastructure



10.b Financial flows to States where need is greatest



5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls
5.2 Elimination of all forms of violence
5.5 Women's full and effective participation



11.1 Access to adequate housing



-
- 15.9** Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into planning



-
- 16.1** Reduction of all forms of violence
16.6 Develop accountable institutions
16.7 Inclusive, participatory, representative decision-making
16.10 Access to information and protection of fundamental freedoms
16.a Strengthen national institutions, including through international cooperation
16.b Non discriminatory laws and policies



-
- 17.3** Mobilise resources for developing countries
17.6 Access to resources through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation
17.7 Promote ecologically-friendly technology
17.9 Enhance international support for capacity-building in developing countries
17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development
17.17 Effective public, public-private, civil society partnerships

As recognised by UN Security Council Resolution 2365, partnerships, and cooperation, particularly between national authorities, the United Nations, regional organisations, civil society, and the private sector, are central to the success of mine action.⁴¹¹

Partnerships are voluntary and are based on collaborative relationships in which the parties agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or to conduct a specific mutually agreed task.⁴¹²

Colombia has implemented mechanisms to ensure policy coordination with both actors and donors. Currently, the European Union Fund to Promote Peace Development in Colombia and the United Nations Multi-Donor Fund for the Post-Conflict are two of the mechanisms that have supported the work of mine action in Colombia in compliance with the Peace Agreement.

At the bilateral and alliance levels, the cooperation of the United States Department of State has accounted for more than a quarter (26 per cent) of the total resources received from the mine action sector between 2016 – 2019, followed by the Howard Buffet Foundation of the United States (18.7 per cent), the Government of Norway (12.7 per cent), Japan (7.9 per cent) and Brazil (6.8 per cent).⁴¹³

For the period 2016 – 2019, the top five operators receiving funding were Humanitarian Demining Brigade (32 per cent), The HALO Trust (19 per cent), Norwegian People's Aid - NPA (12 per cent), Humanity and Inclusion - HI (9 per cent) and the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines CCCM (4.4 per cent).⁴¹⁴

Through the multi-donor fund, the European Union, particularly Norway, was instrumental in the implementation of DH by funding the first two phases of the project.⁴¹⁵ In addition, UNMAS Colombia initially trained Humanicemos with the support of Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), The HALO Trust and the CCCM so that Humanicemos could become accredited as an operator and begin mine clearance work in Montañita (Caquetá).⁴¹⁶



Photo: Training prior to the start of HD operations. Montañita, Caqueta. Courtesy of OACP- mine action group.

Other examples of mine action technical partnerships can be observed between the Government of Brazil and the Colombian government. In 2014, the national navy created a demining programme independent of the army and in 2015 it activated the Marine Corps Explosives and Demining Group (AEDIM) with the mission of directing demining operations within the scope of the national navy. To that end, it asked the Brazilian navy for the support of instructing officers who are experts in humanitarian demining. Since then, the *Corpo de Fuzileiros Navais* and AEDIM developed the Training Centre for Peace Operations -CEPAZ (formerly CENCOPAZ), located at the Marine Corps training base in Coveñas (Sucre) under international and national standards. To date, they have conducted 21 courses where 403 people have been trained. The courses include basic training, leadership training and humanitarian demining supervisor training.

In terms of alliances between mine action operators and the private sector, the National Army's Demining Brigade and The HALO Trust have entered into collaboration agreements with Grupo Energía Bogotá (GEB). The result has been the removal of mines in nearly 200 kilometres of power transmission

lines across 11 municipalities, 89 veredas and five ethnic groups where the Tesalia-Alfárez electricity transmission project passes through.⁴¹⁷ This allowed the release of 423 sites in areas surrounding the power towers, which were heavily affected during the conflict. Within the framework of this alliance, 8 explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) activities involving 528 people have also been developed. As a result of this initiative, other initiatives have been conducted such as, “Forests of Peace,” which works on the restoration of ecological corridors as well as the promotion of local economies, improvements in the training of beneficiaries, and linkages with employment opportunities offered in the area of project implementation.⁴¹⁸ In addition to partnerships with the private sector, alliances have been established with some of their foundations, such as Danish Refugee Council - Mine Action / Humanitarian Disarmament and Peacebuilding (DRC-HDP) and AP-Moller, a foundation belonging to Maersk, which provided financial support at the start of its operations.⁴¹⁹

Cooperation and partnerships were similarly important over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. Humanity & Inclusion (HI), in partnership with local organisations, such as Tierra de Paz, The Water and Comprehensive Sanitation Project in Rural Areas Project (ASIR-SABA) and the Asociación de Cabildos Indígenas del Norte del Cauca, “Cxhab Wala Kiwe,” (ACIN) in Cauca and the Social Ministry in Nariño, received a grant from the Swiss government to strengthen the overall humanitarian response. Resources were also available to the CCCM in Algeciras (Huila).⁴²⁰ The Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD), in partnership with the NGO Sembradores de Luz y Recolectores de Esperanza,⁴²¹ launched a project to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic on vulnerable communities through the delivery of hot meals, hygiene kits, face masks and toiletries to indigenous communities, children, Venezuelan refugees, the elderly population and families without resources living in Bogotá.⁴²² Also, DRC-HDP and the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), in coordination with the municipalities, delivered emergency kits to more than 300 families in San José del Fragua and Belén de los Andaquíes, Caquetá, in June and July 2020.⁴²³

There are many examples of industry partnerships with embassies, local and international organisations, and the private sector to make mine action efforts visible or to invigorate and maximise benefits for affected communities. For example, the CaMina Award recognises the resilience of APM victims through partnership work and has become a support for their

recovery, with COP 10,000,000 (equivalent to approximately USD 2450) awarded to the selected association and CCCM technical assistance. The resources of this initiative have been provided by the embassies of Canada and the Kingdom of Belgium, Gran Tierra Energy and the CCCM in order to create a mechanism for the visibility of mine victims in Colombia.⁴²⁴

In addition, and as reflected in previous sections, civil and military organisations have been highly active in assisting communities in efforts that go beyond the mission pillars of mine action, conducting comprehensive interventions that seek to ensure that communities can return safely and access services.

In the municipality of San Luis, Antioquia, for example, it was reported that the support of the Humanitarian Demining Engineers Brigade (BRDEH) in setting up schools, roads, paths, and electrical infrastructure meant that mine action was always viewed very favourably, and the community was grateful for the work undertaken.⁴²⁵ Similar support was reported in San José del Fragua, Caquetá, where DRC-HDP supported the repair and improvement of access roads,⁴²⁶ wiring around hazardous areas⁴²⁷ or the development of educational institutions.⁴²⁸ Both operators also promoted reforestation in the assigned municipalities.⁴²⁹



Photograph: Initiative for the repair and improvement of access roads in San José del Fragua, Caquetá, courtesy of DRC-ACM.

With an ecological approach, CCCM provided training for proper waste management and installed sanitary batteries in compliance with all environmental measures, among other initiatives.⁴³⁰

In order to improve their resilience and response capacity in medical emergencies, DRC-HDP provided first aid courses to the mine action beneficiaries in the Yurayaco Indigenous Reserve, as well as two first aid kits and basic education kits, in partnership with the HOPE Foundation.⁴³¹ Although the Inga population uses ancestral techniques of traditional medicine, they considered it important to acquire complementary knowledge of Western medicine.⁴³²

In Cajibío, Cauca, HI has also spearheaded initiatives for the recovery of spaces, and to ensure the physical and psychosocial rehabilitation or socio-economic inclusion of people with disabilities with a dual focus – victim and disability – in partnership with Tierra de Paz, their local implementing partner.⁴³³

Another relevant example of institutional partnerships occurred in Cauca, where 120 people were trained – officials and victims – in a two-month training cycle on the rights and duties of victims, with the main objective of empowering them, avoiding discrimination and improving the quality of care.⁴³⁴ Other outstanding examples of education, training and certification – at different levels – have been identified in the experience of UNMAS and Humanicemos HD.⁴³⁵ In addition, DRC-ACM established an agreement with the national natural parks (PNN) authority to provide basic EORE training to park rangers of PNN Indi Wasi Alto Fragua.⁴³⁶

The support of organisations in the formulation of proposals and exchange with donors was also highlighted by mine action beneficiaries in the municipalities studied.⁴³⁷ They highlighted successful cases such as the coordination of CCCM with the National Learning Service (SENA) in Algeciras to promote productive projects or access to the Entrepreneurship Fund, which provided training and certification.

In the case of Algeciras, the CCCM also established a partnership with the Universidad Surcolombiana for the implementation of a diploma programme in leadership and issues of peace and human rights for the community and its staff. During the field visit, the beneficiaries regretted the closure

of CCCM operations, as its base had become a space for community learning, although they considered that capacity had been built within the community.⁴³⁸ Standing out in particular are initiatives for the empowerment of women and the prevention of gender-based violence.⁴³⁹

Partnerships and cooperation have been a critical factor in Colombia for generating greater synergy between the mine action sector and strategic partners, including multilateral agencies, governments, and local and international organisations. Successful mine action can become one of the pillars that contributes to the improvement of the quality of life of affected communities and progress towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

By strengthening the means of implementation and establishing partnerships to promote sustainable development, mine action has contributed to **SDG 17** Partnerships for the Goals and its targets **17.3**, to mobilise additional financial resources; **17.6**, dedicated to enhancing cooperation and increasing knowledge sharing; **17.7**, to promote environmentally sound technologies; **17.9**, to enhance international support for implementing capacity-building for sustainable development; **17.16**, on partnerships for knowledge-sharing in support of the SDGs; and **17.17**, to encourage and promote public, public-private and civil society partnerships.

By strengthening institutions through articulated interventions, mine action has contributed to **SDG 16** Peace, Justice and strong institutions and its **targets 16.1** on reducing all forms of violence; **16.6**, dedicated to building effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels; **16.7** on inclusive and responsive decision-making; **16.10**, on access to information and protection of fundamental freedoms; **16.a**, on institutional strengthening to prevent violence; and **16.b**, on implementation of non-discriminatory laws and policies.

Considering material assistance to improve access to essential services and formal training spaces, a contribution has been made to **SDG 3** Health and well-being, and especially to its **target 3.d**, by strengthening capacities for the reduction and management of health risks. By supporting the improvement of educational infrastructure and promoting access to different levels of formal education, mine action has contributed to **SDG 4** Quality

education and, in particular, to its **targets 4.3**, on ensuring equal access to technical, vocational and tertiary education; **4.4**, on improving skills for access to employment; **4.5**, on access to training for vulnerable persons, including persons with disabilities; **4.7**, dedicated to the acquisition of knowledge for sustainable development; and **4.a**, dedicated to the adaptation of educational facilities as safe learning environments.

By providing support for the adaptation of access roads and transport, contributions have been made to **SDG 9** Industrial innovation and infrastructure and **SDG 11** Sustainable cities and communities, and to their **targets 9.1**, on the development of reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, and **11.1**, on ensuring access for adequate, safe and affordable housing.

Through its initiatives for the elimination of gender-based violence and promotion of rights and opportunities for women, mine action has contributed to **SDG 5** Gender equality, and its **targets 5.1**, on the elimination of discrimination; **5.2**, on the elimination of violence; and **5.5**, on participation in leadership opportunities.

Support for productive projects and training has contributed to **SDG 8** Decent work and economic growth and its **targets 8.2**, on achieving higher productivity through diversification, and **8.3**, on supporting productive activities, entrepreneurship, and formalisation of companies.

By promoting the arrival of non-core resources to the mine action beneficiary population, a contribution has been made to **SDG 10** Reducing inequalities and its target **10.b**, on promoting development assistance.

CONCLUSIONS

The Colombia case study provides evidence on the multidimensional impact of mine action and its effect on the promotion of sustainable development of affected populations, by reducing the risk of explosive ordnance (EO).

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as the analytical framework for this research, allow us to identify direct contributions to 16 SDGs and 83 of their associated targets, driving economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection in the geographic and thematic areas studied.

The study's findings show that mine action has fostered progress in the five priority areas of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: partnerships, peace, people, planet, and prosperity.

Although challenges remain with respect to security conditions and access to affected territories, mine action is key to facilitating coordinated interventions and maximising the results of humanitarian, development, and peacekeeping efforts, in line with the triple nexus.

A crucial aspect of mine action in Colombia has been its importance in the Peace Process, highlighting its role in the generation of trust – through joint interventions and information exchange – as well as reparations to victims, the laying down of arms, the eradication of illicit crops, and the protection of the most vulnerable populations. In addition, as part of the efforts to implement the Peace Agreement, mine action has enabled the reincorporation of former FARC-EP combatants into civilian life. Through the creation of Humanicemos DH, personnel in the process of reincorporation have gained access to formal employment and training, strengthening social cohesion, and reducing the risks caused by EO at the community level.

Mine action acts as an enabler and, at times, a prerequisite for other State entities and civil organisations to access the territory and implement policies for the reestablishment of fundamental rights and access to opportunities – through return, relocation, and land restitution policies, among others. In addition, in areas where public safety conditions make humanitarian demining impossible, explosive ordnance risk education becomes an immediate protective measure for affected communities.

It is also noted that the linking of mine action policies with other strategic plans and national policies has been essential to prioritising these efforts, avoiding isolated interventions and maximising their effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability. This linkage contributes to ensuring the relevance of mine action policy interventions in the medium and long term.

Therefore, using the SDGs as an analytical framework to design, monitor, and measure the impact of interventions from mine action can help to improve results, visibility and funding opportunities by highlighting the role of mine action in humanitarian, development, and peacekeeping interventions, strengthening the triple nexus.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANISATIONS

- National Land Agency
- Belén de los Andaquíes Municipal Mayor's Office
- Granada Municipal Mayor's Office
- San Carlos Municipal Mayor's Office
- Ovejas Municipal Mayor's Office
- San José del Fragua Municipal Mayor's Office
- San Luis Municipal Mayor's Office
- Departmental Association of Survivors of Accidents by Anti-personnel Mines and Unexploded Munitions of Cauca – ASODESAM Cauca
- Huilense Association of Survivors of APM/UXO/IEDAHVIMPEX Huila (Neiva)
- Association of Survivors Victims of Antipersonnel Mines and Unexploded Ordnance – ASOVIVIR Norte de Santander (Cúcuta)
- Asonatours
- BDIAN Demining Battalion and Amphibious Engineers of the Colombian Navy (formerly AEDIM)
- Humanitarian Demining Engineers Brigade No. 1 (BRDEH)
- Colombian Campaign Against Mines (CCCM)
- Training and Capacity Building Centre for Peace Operations – CE PAZ (formerly CENCOPAZ)
- Yachaikuri Indigenous Education Centre
- DRC-HDP Danish Refugee Council - Mine Action/
Danish Refugee Council - Humanitarian Disarmament and Peacebuilding
- National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE)

- Administrative Department for Social Prosperity (DPS)
- National Planning Department (DNP)
- Descontamina Colombia
- Fondation Suisse de Déminage (FSD)
- Tierra de Paz Foundation
- Sucre Governorate
- Humanity & Inclusion (HI)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- Office of the High Commissioner for Peace
- United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator
- Indi Wasi National Natural Park
- National Natural Parks of Colombia
- Yurayaco Indigenous Reserve
- National Learning Service (SENA) – Directorate of Employment and Labour – Directorate-General
- The HALO Trust
- Land Restitution Unit

ANNEX 2: CHARACTERISATION OF THE TERRITORY

The consolidation of the tools for the analysis of priorities and opportunities allowed us to move forward with the definition of variables and the collection of information necessary to characterise the impact of municipalities and prioritise intervention. For the period 2011 – 2020 the prioritisation model was created that includes several variables, as indicated in the Colombia 2020 Extension Request.

In 2016, within the framework of the Strategic Plan 2016-2021 and in alignment with the methodological strategy for the creation of municipal and departmental typologies proposed by the National Planning Department (DNP), a methodology was developed for the creation of municipal and departmental typologies in order to facilitate more timely interventions and focused on the level of risk and contamination of municipalities. This methodology allowed the categorisation of the 1,122 municipalities of Colombia into four (4) municipal typologies of involvement, as shown in the graph below.

According to the categorisation of municipalities by type of impact designed in 2016, of the 1,122 municipalities that make up the national territory, 407 municipalities (36.2 per cent) were not affected by anti-personnel mines, and 715 of them suspected the presence of anti-personnel mines. This categorisation, updated at the end of 2021, shows that 405 municipalities (36.09 per cent) were not affected by anti-personnel mines, and 717 (63.9 per cent) of them suspected the presence of anti-personnel mines.

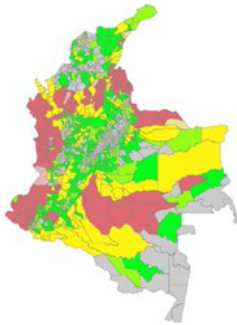
In addition to the categorisation by type of affectation, Descontamina Colombia has a municipal classification by state of municipal intervention which allows periodic monitoring of Humanitarian Demining (HD) interventions. As of December 2021, 111 municipalities are assigned to an accredited operator to conduct Humanitarian Demining (HD) operations, 9 municipalities are prioritised for allocation and 131 municipalities are pending prioritisation, for not having security conditions to develop mine action operations, as shown in the following table:

TABLE 5 STATES OF INTERVENTION AND NUMBER OF MUNICIPALITIES BY 2020

STATE OF INTERVENTION 2020	NUMBER OF MUNICIPALITIES
No record of affectation	405
Verification/Qualification of information	185
Municipalities free from suspicion	281
Municipalities assigned to a humanitarian demining operator	111
Prioritised municipalities	9
Municipalities to be prioritised	131
Total municipalities	1,122

Source: MA (Mine Action)-OACP Group. January 2022

TABLE 6 STATE OF INTERVENTION AT MUNICIPAL LEVEL 2016, 2019 AND 2021⁴⁴⁴



2016 INTERVENTION	2019 INTERVENTION	2021 INTERVENTION
429	407	405
0	181	185
4	212	281
20	156	111
	1	9
669	166	131
1,122	1,122	1,122

Source: Office of the High Commissioner for Peace, 2021

ANNEX 3: MUNICIPALITIES SELECTED FOR THE LAND RELEASE COMPONENT – HUMANITARIAN DEMINING

ANTIOQUIA: GRANADA, SAN CARLOS, AND SAN LUIS

GRANADA

Granada is a strategic and intermediate point between the forests, reserves and valley zones of San Nicolás or Altiplano areas. It is bordered to the north by El Peñol and Guatapé; to the east by San Carlos and San Luis; to the south by Cocorná, and, to the west, by Cocorná and El Santuario. It has a wide variety of thermal floors (between 950 and 2,500 m above sea level).⁴⁴⁰ The main economic activities are agriculture (coffee, potatoes, vegetables, sugar, cane, and blackberries), as well as livestock, both pigs and cattle.⁴⁴¹

It has 51 veredas⁴⁴² and 10,117 inhabitants: 5,541 people (54.77 per cent) in the main town and 4,576 people (45.23 per cent) in the dispersed rural area and the population centre.⁴⁴³

In Granada, 164 suspected hazardous areas/confirmed hazardous areas (SHAs/CHAs) were identified. According to the accounts of the beneficiaries, during the 2000s armed groups had encampments and mobility routes in some of the veredas of the municipality. La Gaviota, for example, was considered an area of strategic value because it connected Granada with the neighbouring municipality of San Carlos. In this area some of the APMs were found on the road travelled by the town.

SAN CARLOS

It is bordered to the north by the municipalities of San Rafael and San Roque; to the south by San Luis; to the east by Caracolí and Puerto Nare, and to the west by Guatapé and Granada. The most important economic activity and source of employment is agricultural exploitation (coffee, corn, cassava, beans, sugar, cane, banana, and fruit trees), livestock, pig and poultry farming, logging, forestry, fish farming and mining.⁴⁴⁴

It has 74 veredas and a population of 16,247 inhabitants, of which 7,362 are in the capital and 8,885 in the dispersed rural area and the populated centre.⁴⁴⁵

In San Carlos, 60 SHAs/CHAs were identified. The contamination is explained by the use of some veredas — such as El Vergel, San Blas, La Mirandita, Juanes and Juan XXIII — as encampments and mobility corridors or roads to the military base in the area. The greatest contamination has occurred since 2001.⁴⁴⁶

SAN LUIS

It is known as the, “Perla Verde”, (Green Pearl) for its great biodiversity, natural pools, and waterfalls around the Dormilón River.⁴⁴⁷

It is bordered to the north by the municipalities of San Carlos and Puerto Nare; to the east, by the municipality of Puerto Triunfo; to the south, by the municipality of San Francisco, and to the west, by the municipalities of Cocorná and Granada.

It has 48 veredas and a population of 12,995 inhabitants, distributed mainly in its capital (7,408).⁴⁴⁸

In San Luis, 41 SHAs/CHAs were identified. According to the beneficiaries’ accounts, contamination is related to mobility corridors such as Minarrica, which connect veredas such as Santa Barbara and El Popal. The stories are associated with accidents involving soldiers who fell into minefields, after

which the population stopped using the land. Other accounts point out that, during the time of confrontation, the groups warned not to transit certain areas because they had installed mines.⁴⁴⁹

CONTAMINATION CONTEXT: VICTIMS, EVENTS, AND PROGRESS OF OPERATIONS

Between 1990 and 2021, in just these three municipalities in eastern Antioquia there were reports of 330 APM/UXO victims, 287 of whom were wounded and 43 who died. Most of the victims are members of the security forces (189); 42.7 per cent were civilian victims (141), of whom 24 were children and adolescents. The number of child victims (boys, girls, and adolescents) are particularly high in Granada and San Luis — 11 victims in each municipality.

The highest number of accidents occurred between 2002 and 2006 with 2005 being the year with the highest number of civilian casualties (39). In terms of the number of events per APM/UXO/IED, municipalities in eastern Antioquia are the most affected by accidents and incidents in all the areas prioritised in this study with 893 events: 687 incidents and 206 accidents. 2004 and 2005 were the years with the highest number of events (260 in 2004 and 240 in 2005).

Also in 2004, the largest number of clearance operations was conducted, with 153 operations between the three municipalities. These municipalities were assigned to the Humanitarian Demining Engineers Brigade. San Carlos and Granada were declared as municipalities free of suspicion of contamination by anti-personnel mines (LSCMAP) on

March 13, 2012 and April 19, 2018, respectively. At this time, interventions are framed in terms of residual risks. San Luis was assigned to start humanitarian demining operations and work is expected to be completed on May 30, 2022.

BOLÍVAR: EL CARMEN DE BOLÍVAR

Located in the Montes de María region, El Carmen de Bolívar concentrates the largest population and economic activity in the sub-region. Its main economic activities are agriculture, commerce (in the municipal seat), livestock and beekeeping, and it is considered the agricultural and food pantry of the department of Bolívar.⁴⁵⁰ Its main products include yams, avocados, bananas, cassava, sesame, tobacco, and cocoa, among others.⁴⁵¹

The Montes de María region, both in Bolívar and Sucre, has been used by armed groups as a strategic corridor for the development of illicit economies, resulting in widespread use of mines during the conflict.

El Carmen de Bolívar connects the Colombian Caribbean with the Santanderes through the Ruta del Sol. It also connects the western part of the country with the ports of Barranquilla and Cartagena by the western trunk road; and, through the transverse Montes de María, it connects this important national highway artery with the Gulf of Morrosquillo.

CONTAMINATION CONTEXT: VICTIMS, EVENTS, AND PROGRESS OF OPERATIONS

El Carmen de Bolívar was one of the municipalities most affected by the conflict, with 121 accidents caused by APMs (88 victims from the security forces and 33 civilians). The intensity of the confrontation was evident in veredas such as El Aceituno (6 victims of the security forces) and El Salado (4 victims of the security forces).⁴⁵² Some beneficiaries of mine clearance report that during the years 2012 – 2013 the FARC Caribbean Bloc warned them not to transit areas inside their farms.⁴⁵³ Many of the inhabitants of El Carmen de Bolívar report not using the territory since that time.

The guerrillas installed APMs to control the territory. Contamination is evident in strategic corridors, highways, water sources, educational institutions, entrances to buildings and electrical and telecommunications infrastructure. The main interest was to prevent the advance of the security forces and other armed groups. The irregularity of the mine laying and the use of devices such as ball bombs led to a high impact on members of the security forces, but also civilians. In El Carmen de Bolívar, there were 544 events (68 accidents, 476 incidents).

Between 2004 and 2013 there was a high intensity of confrontation between the parties in conflict (peaks in 2004, 2005 and 2012) and there were almost as many events as military demining operations. In El Carmen de Bolívar alone, 544 operational demining operations were conducted, and 1,917 artifacts were destroyed. This reflects the intensity of the use of APM/UXO/IED in the Montes de María region.

In El Carmen de Bolívar there were a total of 121 victims, 88 from the security forces and 33 civilians. Civilian casualties included 9 children and adolescents (8 wounded, 1 killed). The impact on minors is related to the use of improvised explosive devices disguised as balls in this area.

CAUCA: CAJIBÍO

Located between the western and central mountain ranges, the territory of this municipality is mainly rocky and mountainous, although there is a hillside area with not very pronounced geographic features⁴⁵⁴. It borders the municipalities of Morales, El Tambo, Piendamó, Totoro and Popayán.

It has great ecological diversity and abundant water resources, so some ecological sanctuaries are being implemented on local farms.⁴⁵⁵ It has 42,014 inhabitants⁴⁵⁶ and is the fifth most populous municipality in Cauca.⁴⁵⁷ Its main economic activities are agriculture, livestock production and forestry. Among its agricultural products, coffee, sugar cane and bananas stand out, among others.⁴⁵⁸

CONTAMINATION CONTEXT: VICTIMS, EVENTS, AND PROGRESS OF OPERATIONS

In Cajibío there have been 49 events (8 accidents, 41 incidents) that have left 26 victims, 8 of whom were children and adolescents. The most affected vereda was El Cairo, with 3 civilian casualties. However, the veredas with the highest number of reported casualties are San Carlos, with 3 victims from the security forces, and El Cairo, with 3 civilian casualties. In addition to humanitarian demining, in Cajibío the army conducted 49 operational demining (OD) interventions, where it neutralised 242 explosive devices, with peaks in 2004, 2005 and 2012.⁴⁵⁹

CAQUETÁ: SAN JOSE DEL FRAGUA AND BELÉN DE LOS ANDAQUÍES

Belén de los Andaquíes and San José del Fragua are located in the southwest of Caquetá, bordering the departments of Huila and Cauca. This area of Caquetá connects the south-eastern part of the country with the Pacific coast through the department of Cauca.

San José del Fragua is bordered to the north by the department of Huila; to the east, by Belén de los Andaquíes and Albania; to the south by Curillo and, to the west, by Piamonte (Cauca). About 30 per cent of the municipal area has mountain range landscape (900 m above sea level) and belongs to the Amazon Forest Reserve.⁴⁶⁰ 50 per cent of the municipality is located in the Alto Fragua Indi Wasi National Natural Park. Also in the municipality are the indigenous reserves El Portal, Las Brisas, San Antonio del Fragua, San Miguel and Yurayaco.⁴⁶¹

The main economic activities are agriculture and livestock production.

CONTAMINATION CONTEXT: VICTIMS, EVENTS, AND PROGRESS OF OPERATIONS

In the municipalities of San José del Fragua and Belén de los Andaquíes there are 26 victims of APMs (8 civilians, 18 from the security forces). In these two municipalities alone, 91 military demining operations have been conducted, especially in 2004 and 2005, in which 289 artifacts were neutralised.

In San José del Fragua there are 6 indigenous reserves and 3 protected areas. According to the latest UNODC report, there are 1,410 hectares of coca cultivation. Mines have been used to protect strategic assets of armed groups, including encampments, corridors, illicit crop areas and areas with good communications.⁴⁶² The urban area of the Yurayaco inspection, for example, was the only area with a mobile phone signal and was a place of high value for the parties in conflict.

In San José del Fragua, 67 APM-related incidents took place: 11 accidents and 56 incidents that have left 7 civilian casualties and 12 victims from the security forces. In San José del Fragua, 19 AP/APCs have been identified that are in the process of intervention by DDG and the BRDEH, organisations that have been assigned the tasks of land clearance.

Some inhabitants state that since 2002 the armed groups warned them not to enter some areas. The beneficiaries of mine clearance state that before the installation of mines they had forestry and livestock operations. After 2002, the land has been rendered useless.

In Belén de los Andaquíes, there have been 24 events, 18 incidents and 4 accidents involving 1 civilian and 18 members of the security forces. In Belén de los Andaquíes there are 2 protected areas and two reserves. Although the Colombian authority collects disaggregated ethnic population data, the information is not available to the public.

Four SHAs/CHAS have been identified in Belén de los Andaquíes. According to some accounts, there was an encampment in this area that was protected with EO. Likewise, within the San Luis educational institution, in this municipality, an artifact was identified in 2015.

Belén de los Andaquíes was handed over as a municipality free of suspected mines, while San José del Fragua is in the process of intervention by the two operators.

HUILA: ALGECIRAS

Algeciras is located between the eastern mountain range and a branch of the same mountain range.⁴⁶³

Its main economic activity is agriculture, which represents 30 per cent of the municipal value added.⁴⁶⁴ For this reason, the municipality is considered the agricultural pantry of Huila. The cultivation of coffee, sugar cane (panelera), pepper, cacao, guava and lulo, among others, stand out.⁴⁶⁵ It has strategic ecosystem areas, such as the paramos area, which covers 9.47 per cent.⁴⁶⁶ With regard to its population, it has 22,760 inhabitants,⁴⁶⁷ of which 20.21 per cent are in situations of unmet basic needs.⁴⁶⁸ With respect to their distribution in the territory, 63.7 per cent live in the capital city and 36.3 per cent in the rural areas.⁴⁶⁹

CONTAMINATION CONTEXT: VICTIMS, EVENTS, AND PROGRESS OF OPERATIONS

According to information from Descontamina Colombia, 180 events (40 accidents, 140 incidents) have occurred in Algeciras (Huila) since the 1990s. The most affected years were 2004 and 2005, although the year with the most accidents was 2012 (35 accidents).

These events have left 69 victims from APMs, UXOs and IEDs in the municipality of Algeciras, 47 of whom were members of the security forces and 22 were civilians, 9 of whom were girls, boys and adolescents. In Algeciras, a total of 45 SHAs/CHAs were identified as part of the demining process. The veredas where casualties have been most reported are La Primavera, Aguas Negras, Termópilas and Quebradón, where the FARC protected the strategic corridors and their encampments with APMs and IEDs.⁴⁷⁰

SUCRE: OVEJAS

Located in the north of the department, 99.2 per cent of the area of Ovejas corresponds to rural areas; most of the rural land (approximately 60 per cent) is dedicated to small and medium-sized agricultural crops.⁴⁷¹ Its main crops include cassava, corn, yams, bananas, tobacco, and avocados, among others. On the other hand, livestock production systems are mainly oriented to dual purpose, with 90 per cent of the production.⁴⁷²

It is made up of 11 veredas, 23 rural settlements and 14 hamlets.⁴⁷³ It has 20,846 inhabitants, of which 57.84 per cent are urban and 42.16 per cent are rural.⁴⁷⁴ The Montes de María region, in both Bolívar and Sucre, has been used by armed groups as a strategic corridor for the development of illicit economies, resulting in widespread use of APM during the conflict.

CONTAMINATION CONTEXT: VICTIMS, EVENTS, AND PROGRESS OF OPERATIONS

In Ovejas, 14 APM victims were reported (9 victims from the security forces and 5 civilians). 80 events have been recorded (9 accidents, 71 incidents). Between 2004 and 2013 there was a high intensity of confrontation between the parties to the conflict (peaks in 2004, 2005 and 2012) and it can be seen that there were almost as many events as clearance operations.

In Ovejas, 80 operations were conducted, and 341 artifacts were destroyed. This reflects the intensity of the use of APM/UXO/IED in the Montes de María.

ENDNOTES

1. The targets are detailed in the previous section.
2. Hereinafter, this study refers to “Mine Action” in the information related to Colombia, following the terminology used at the national level. When references to global studies or efforts are included, this publication uses ‘mine action’ as equivalent to the term mine action.
3. The study identifies direct contributions, but does not establish correlations, since in many cases the results cannot be attributed exclusively to mine action, but respond to the combination of varied factors.
4. “Nexus” refers to the interrelationships between humanitarian action for development and peace and is aimed at strengthening collaboration, coherence, and complementarity. .
5. GICHD and UNDP (2017). *Leaving no one Behind: Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goals*.
6. GICHD, KCL and SIPRI (2019). *The Socio-Economic Impact of Anti-Vehicle Mines in Angola*.
7. GICHD (2021). *The Sustainable Development Goals of Mine Action in Jordan*.
8. At the time of writing this study, similar studies have been conducted simultaneously in Cambodia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ukraine.
9. Algeciras (Huila); Belén de los Andaquíes and San José de Fragua (Caqueta); Cajibío and Purace (Cauca); El Carmen de Bolívar (Bolívar); Ovejas (Sucre); Granada, San Carlos, and San Luis (Antioquia).
10. Specifically, the articulation with the following programs was observed: Development Programs with a Territorial Focus (PDET), Comprehensive National Program for the Substitution of Illicit Crops (PNIS), Comprehensive Strategic Intervention Zones (ZEII), Return and Relocation of Displaced Population, Land Restitution, System of National Natural Parks of Colombia (PNN) and ethnic reserves.
11. More detailed information on the context and progress of MA mine action in these municipalities can be found in Annex 2.
12. As detailed in the annex, a surviving leader belonging to the Association of Survivors Victims of Antipersonnel Mines and Unexploded Ordnance (Asovivir) from Norte de Santander (Cúcuta) also participated in the comprehensive victim assistance component, although Cúcuta is not included in the case studies.
13. The protests began on April 28, 2021.
14. United Nations. The General Assembly adopts the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Published September 25, 2015 in UN News. Retrieved October 21, 2021.
15. IMAS 14.10, first edition (amendment 3, June 2013). *Guide for the Evaluation of Mine Action Interventions*.
16. *Leaving no one Behind: Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goals* (2017), *The Socio-Economic Impact of Anti-Vehicle Mines in Angola* (2019) and *The Sustainable Development Goals of Mine Action in Jordan* (2021).
17. GICHD (2021). *The Sustainable Development Goals of Mine Action in Jordan*.
18. National Planning Department. *The 2030 Agenda in Colombia*. Retrieved February 28, 2022.
19. Voluntary National Report, available on the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. Retrieved February 28, 2022.
20. National Voluntary Report: Accelerate implementation for sustainable recovery, e.g., 59.
21. AP Ban Mine Action. Available at: <http://https://new.apminebanconvention.org/en/statesparties/colombia>.
22. These anti-explosives groups are the precedent of the EXDE and MARTE groups for military demining.

23. National Planning Department (2009). National Policy for Mine Action Anti-personnel (AP), Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) (National Economic and Social Policy Council CONPES documents), p. 11 Article 7 Report, Colombia, 2006.
24. National Intersectoral Commission on Mine Action was a collegiate body chaired by
25. the vice-president where the portfolios of interior, foreign affairs, defence, health and the national planning departments and human rights were located. Permanent guests included the High Commissioner for Peace, the Ombudsman, the Attorney-General, the Commander-General of the Military Forces and the Director of the National Police. Law 759 of 2002. Article 5. Establishment and formation of the national intersectoral commission for mine action.
26. The Anti-Personnel Mine Observatory was created as part of the Directorate for Human Rights and IHL to collect, systematize, centralize, and update information on anti-personnel mine contamination. Law 759 of 2002. Article 13. Antipersonnel Mine Observatory.
27. The commission was composed of a technical secretariat, the Intersectoral Technical Subcommittee on Victim Assistance, and the Intersectoral Technical Subcommittee on Comprehensive Prevention, Marking, Mapping and Humanitarian Demining. Law 759 of 2002. Article 7. Bodies of the National Intersectoral Commission on Mine Action.
28. Since 2019, through Decree 179 of February 2019, Mine Action has been incorporated into the tasks of the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace. This guideline was confirmed by Decree 1784 of October 2019.
29. Decree 3445 of 2010 creates high councils in the Administrative Department of the Presidency of the Republic. Available at: <https://www.suin-juriscol.gov.co/viewDocument.asp?ruta=Decretos/1782524>. For an analysis of developments in the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace see: Descontamina. Available at: <http://www.altocomisionadoparalapaz.gov.co/quienessomos/Paginas/oficina.aspx>.
30. In 2021, the administrative procedures of the national authority must continue to be approved by the Administrative Department of the Presidency (Dapre), which includes 20 more State entities. The consequence is that the process for, for example, the request for a satellite image can take weeks. See structure of Dapre in Decree 1784 of 2019, which modifies the structure of the Administrative Department of the Presidency of the Republic.
31. Available at: <http://www.accioncontraminas.gov.co/Documents/Resoluci%C3%B3n%20005%20del%202021.pdf>.
32. new.apminebanconvention.org/en/membership/colombia/. Although they do have territorial managers who participate in the departmental tables.
33. Although they do have territorial managers who participate in the departmental tables.
34. Information provided by OACP - MA mine actionGroup.
35. Sucre has been assigned to AEDIM, now BDIAN.
36. Interview with Mónica Serpa, coordinator of DD. HH and Humanitarian Demining, Government of Sucre, December 3, 2021.
37. The MA mine action information system in Colombia was developed within the framework of a technical cooperation agreement between GICHD and the Government of Colombia.
38. Ministry of Social Protection and UNHCR (2011). Guideline on a differential approach to the effective enjoyment of the rights of persons in situations of displacement with disabilities in Colombia. Available at: <https://www.minsalud.gov.co/sites/rid/Lists/BibliotecaDigital/RIDE/DE/PS/directriz-desplazamiento-pcd.pdf> .

39. In July 2012, the “Cooperation and Technical Assistance Agreement between the Administrative Department of the Presidency of the Republic of Colombia, the Ministry of National Defence and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States on the National Plan of Mine Action,” entered into force. Colombia.” This Cooperation and Technical Assistance Agreement includes a variety of cooperation issues where the issue of Quality Management of Humanitarian Demining (HD) is one point among eight (8) in total.
40. To analyse the armed conflict in Colombia in relation to the impact of anti-personnel mines, this study takes the sixties with the birth of the first guerrillas. However, studies of violence in Colombia mark the first milestone in the period known as La Violencia (1946-1958), characterized by violent bipartisan confrontations that ceased in 1958 with the National Front; then they place the agreement on political alternation between the two traditional parties (liberal and conservatives) that gives way to a period (1958-1963) of formal stability, but of lack of political space for different ideological choices, which is used as the cause of the creation of guerrilla movements of different affiliations. See National Centre for Historical Memory (2013), *Guerrilla and Civilian Population. History of the FARC 1949-2013*. On the subject of mines, specifically, see: National Centre for Historical Memory (2017). *The hidden war: Antipersonnel Mines and Explosive Remnants in Colombia*.
41. Until the mid-1970s, the ELN had greater military strength until its near-military defeat in 1973. See Medina Gallego, C. (2007). *National Liberation Army. Notes for a history of political ideas*.
42. This guerrilla was born as the armed arm of the Clandestine Communist Party (PCC-ML).
43. Villamizar, D. (1995). That “19” will be: A history of the M-19, of its men and their deeds. A story between war, negotiation, and peace.
44. In an area of 158,830.86 m² that was cleared and where 3,562 artifacts were destroyed in follow-up to the APBM. Descontamina (s. f.). History of mining and demining in military bases in Colombia. Available at: <http://www.accioncontraminas.gov.co/AICMA/desminado/historiadel-minado-y-desminado-en-bases-militares-de-colombia>. Retrieved October 26, 2021.
45. “The ELN used the APMs to protect their camps during the registration and control operations of the National Army, and then began using them to slow the advance of regular troops. Years later they began to plant them on horseshoe paths, trails, fields, and crops.” *Cambio Magazine* (April 12 to 19, 2004). “Futuro minado,” p. 46 A military strategy in which groups of combatants use small-scale mobile attacks
46. against a larger and less versatile enemy with the aim of weakening or defeating them through a war of attrition, in which direct confrontation with the enemy is avoided, generally by attacking imprecisely by stealth
47. Taylor, L. (2020). Case Analysis: The FARC in Colombia. *Small Wars Journal*. Available at: <https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/case-analysis-farc-colombia>. Retrieved October 22, 2021 and Moreno, Ó. y Duica, L. (unpublished). “Learning by legacy and creating guerrilla warfare tradition in Latin America: from Vietcong to FARC.”.
48. Spencer, D. E. and Moroni Bracamonte, J. A. (1995). *Strategy and Tactics of the Salvadoran FMLN Guerrillas. Last battle of the Cold War, Blueprint for future Conflicts*
49. The military clearance and the entire presence of the State takes place in five municipalities of Meta and Caquetá: La Uribe, Mesetas, La Macarena, Vistahermosa in Meta, and San Vicente del Caguan. Vice-Presidency of the Republic of Colombia (2002). *Observatory of the Presidential Programme on Human Rights and IHL*.

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53. UNODC. Census of Coca Crops in Colombia 2005, p. 7. Available at: https://www.unodc.org/pdf/andean/Colombia_coca_survey_es.pdf. Retrieved October 22, 2021.
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56. Descontamina, Event Database, cut-off date November 30, 2021
57. Descontamina, Event Database, cut-off date November 30, 2021.
58. Updated information provided pursuant to article 7, paragraph 2, of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. Filed on April 30, 2021 and corresponding to the period from 1. or January and 31 December 2020.
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83. Office of the High Commissioner for Peace. Start of the Peace Process: The exploratory phase and the path to general agreement. Library of the Peace Process with the FARC-EP, volume 1, from August 7 to October 17, 2012, p. 263.
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86. Agreement on clearing and decontaminating the territory from the presence of anti-personnel mines, improvised explosive devices and unexploded ordnance and/ or explosive remnants of war in general
87. Agreement n. or 52 of March 7, 2015, which, together with the Roadmap for the Implementation of the Agreement and Decree 1019 of May 19, 2015, provides the legal and conceptual framework for the implementation of the pilot project.

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90. García Baquero, C. (2017). Humanitarian demining and territorial changes in the villages of El Orejón (Briceño, Antioquia) and Santa Helena (Mesetas, Meta) (1964-2016). Master's thesis. National University of Colombia, p. 126.
91. The Directorate of MA mine action and BIDES as delegated entities of the National Government.
92. García Baquero, C. (2017). Humanitarian demining and territorial changes in the villages of El Orejón (Briceño, Antioquia) and Santa Helena (Mesetas, Meta) (1964-2016). Master's thesis. National University of Colombia, p. 126.
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94. Social development and infrastructure projects were identified by communities and developed by the Government with financial support from the international community.
95. García Baquero, C. (2017). Humanitarian demining and territorial changes in the villages of El Orejón (Briceño, Antioquia) and Santa Helena (Mesetas, Meta) (1964-2016). Master's thesis. National University of Colombia, p. 144
96. Final Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict and the Construction of a Stable and Lasting Peace. 12 November 2016, p. 66.
97. Final Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict and the Construction of a Stable and Lasting Peace. 12 November 2016, p. 66.
98. Final Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict and the Construction of a Stable and Lasting Peace. 12 November 2016, p. 106..
99. Final Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict and the Construction of a Stable and Lasting Peace. 12 November 2016, p. 107.
100. The final agreement explicitly refers to anti-personnel mines (APMs), improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and unexploded ordnance (UXO), or explosive remnants of war (ERW).
101. Final Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict and the Construction of a Stable and Lasting Peace. 12 November 2016, p. 126.
102. Final Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict and the Construction of a Stable and Lasting Peace. 12 November 2016, p. 171.
103. Final Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict and the Construction of a Stable and Lasting Peace. 12 November 2016, p. 174.
104. Final Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict and the Construction of a Stable and Lasting Peace. 12 November 2016, p. 178.
105. Final Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict and the Construction of a Stable and Lasting Peace. 12 November 2016, p. 179.
106. Final Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict and the Construction of a Stable and Lasting Peace. 12 November 2016, p. 183
107. Final Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict and the Construction of a Stable and Lasting Peace. 12 November 2016, p. 207
108. Final Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict and the Construction of a Stable and Lasting Peace. 12 November 2016, p. 66
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111. Republic of Colombia, updated information provided in accordance with article 7, paragraph 2, of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. Filed on April 30, 2021 and corresponding to the period from January 1 to December 31, 2020, p. 13. Available at: [Annex II \(apminebanconvention.org\)](#).
112. UNMAS (2021). Early Effects Assessment. Humanicemos Reincorporation Project, p. 9
113. Erthal, A. and Druelle, L. (2018). Incorporation of Former Combatants in Humanitarian Demining: lessons from Colombia, Somaliland & Southern Somalia. Igarape Institute. CP Innovative International. Available at: <https://igarape.org.br/en/incorporation-of-excombatants-in-humanitarian-demining/>.
114. UNMAS (2021). Early Effects Assessment. Humanicemos Reincorporation Project, p. 7.
115. UNMAS (2021). Early Effects Assessment. Humanicemos Reincorporation Project, p. 4.
116. UNMAS (2021). Early Effects Assessment. Humanicemos Reincorporation Project, p. 7.
117. UNMAS (2021). Early Effects Assessment. Humanicemos Reincorporation Project, p. 7.
118. Interview with Humanicemos DH, May 14, 2021.
119. Interview with Humanicemos DH, May 14, 2021.
120. Interview with Humanicemos DH, May 14, 2021.
121. As can be seen from the Early Effects Assessment published by UNMAS in 2021, staff have also had access to formal studies in management and business, human sciences, systems, courses from the major polytechnic and health and exact sciences, among others..
122. At the managerial, technical/care, operational and internal knowledge management levels.
123. March 2020.
124. June 2020.
125. In August 2020, 17 ex-combatants receive the first certifications to perform NTS.
126. October 2020.
127. Identified by a manual clearance team in the Unión Cordillera de la Montaña trail
128. Interview with Humanicemos DH, May 14, 2021.
129. Interview with Humanicemos DH, May 14, 2021.
130. General National Glossary of Terms of Mine Action Version 1.0 Date of entry into force: August 15, 2017z.
131. IMAS 04.10 Glossary of mine action terms, definitions, and abbreviations, second edition (January 1, 2003). Amendment of February 10, 2019.
132. Other ordnances as defined in the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons APII.
133. Decree 3750 of 2011.
134. According to Decree 1784 of 2019, the role of the OACP, among others, is: (...) 22. Formulate and lead the Mine Action (MA) strategy at the national level and contribute to the development of Public Policy in this area, elaborating and adopting national standards for activities related to Mine Action and ensuring their dissemination, implementation, and compliance (...)” is the responsibility of the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace.

- The latest approval was given by OACP Resolution No. 005 of 2021 adopting national standards for activities related to Mine Action
<http://www.accioncontraminas.gov.co/Documents/Resoluci%C3%B3n%20005%20del%202021.pdf>
135. National Police. The National Police has the Anti-Explosive Anti-Terrorism Group. Available at: <https://www.policia.gov.co/especializados/antiexplosivos>. Retrieved December 28, 2021.
 136. There are also the military demining groups EXDE and MARTE, which are not part of MA mine action because they conduct missionary tasks in the defence sector.
 137. The Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP) is assigned the function of being an official source of information on Mine Action in Colombia (Article 18, Paragraph 25)
<http://es.presidencia.gov.co/normativa/normativa/DECRETO%20179%20DEL%2008%20DE%20FEBRERO%20DE%202019.pdf>
 138. OACP MA. Humanitarian Demining in Colombia. Available at: Humanitarian Demining in Colombia (accioncontraminas.gov.co). Retrieved February 2022
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 140. OACP MA. Humanitarian Demining in Colombia. Available at: [Humanitarian Demining in Colombia \(accioncontraminas.gov.co\)](http://HumanitarianDemininginColombia(accioncontraminas.gov.co)). Retrieved February 2022..
 141. Detailed information about the municipalities included in the study is available in Annex 3.
 142. An informal property is one that does not have the real estate registration register identifying that it is the owner of the property. According to UPRA, an informal property is one that has no interrelation between the cadastre and the registry, does not have a real estate registration in the cadastral database, lacks tradition in the registry of public instruments or is part of the inventory of wastelands of the UPRA nation (2019). Informality of land tenure in Colombia. Available at: https://www.upra.gov.co/documents/10184/104284/01_informalidad_tenencias_tierras. UPRA (2019). Informality of land tenure in Colombia. Available at:
 143. https://www.upra.gov.co/documents/10184/104284/01_informalidad_tenencias_tierras.
 144. Descontamina, Anti-Personnel Mine Events, Court November 31, 2021. Available at: <http://www.accioncontraminas.gov.co/Estadisticas/datos-abiertos> UNODC, Presence of Coca Crops 2020. Available at: <https://www.datos.gov.co/Justicia-yDerecho/Densidad-de-Cultivos-de-Coca-2019-Subdirecci-n-Est/5ang-c2iw>
 National Land Agency, Community Councils of Afro-Colombian Communities Court 2021. Available at: <https://data-agenciadetierras.opendata.arcgis.com/search?tags=Consejos%20Comunitarios%20Negros>
 National Natural Parks (2021) National Natural Park of Colombia. Available at: <https://mapas.parquesnacionales.gov.co/>
 SIAC (2021) Forest Reserves. Available at: <http://www.siac.gov.co/catalogo-de-mapas>
 National Land Agency (2021) Indigenous Reserves. Available at: <https://data-agenciadetierras.opendata.arcgis.com/search?tags=Resguardos%20Indigenas>.

146. See Naidoo, S., Pardo, C., and Jensen, C. T. (2013). Mine Action and Land Issues in Colombia Camilo Pardo, International Organisation for Migration (IOM). 41(0), 1-39. In Naidoo et al. (2013).
147. UPRA. (2019). Informality of land tenure in Colombia. According to UPRA, 52.7% is informal.
148. For the analysis of property rights, democracy, and market, see Demarest (1998, 2003), Powelson (1987), Stanfield, Brick, Safar, and Salam (2013) and Unruh, J. D., and Williams (2013).
149. Communication with the CCCM, 25 February 2022.
150. Law 1448 of 2011 (June 10). Regulated by National Decree 4800 of 2011, regulated by National Decree 3011 of 2013, “By which measures of care, assistance and comprehensive reparation are issued to victims of the internal armed conflict and other provisions are issued”.
151. Regulated by National Decree 2569 of 2014.
153. In accordance with article 70 of the Act, through the National Plan for Comprehensive Care and Reparation for Victims
Special Administrative Unit for Comprehensive Care and Reparation to Victims
153. Article 6, Paragraph 2: “(...) shall regulate the procedure for ensuring that persons who are victims of forced displacement who are outside the national territory on the occasion of violations referred to in article 3 of this Law, are included in return and relocation programs
(...)”.
155. Article 73.2 of Law 1448/2011
156. Argelia, Carmen de Viboral, Cocorná, Granada, La Unión, Nariño, San Francisco, San Luis,
San Rafael and Sonsón, in Antioquia; Carmen de Bolívar, Córdoba, San Jacinto, San Juan Nepomuceno and Zambrano, in Bolívar; Barrancabermeja, Carmen de Chucurí, Sabana de Torres and San Vicente de Chucurí, in Santander.
157. Sixth Regular Session of 2012.
158. Argelia, Carmen de Viboral, Cocorná, Granada, La Unión, Nariño, San Francisco, San Luis,
San Rafael and Sonsón, in Antioquia; Carmen de Bolívar, Córdoba, San Jacinto, San Juan Nepomuceno and Zambrano, in Bolívar; Barrancabermeja, Carmen de Chucurí, Sabana de Torres and San Vicente de Chucurí, in Santander.
159. Meeting with the Land Restitution Unit, April 27, 2021
160. Micro-targeting has been particularly useful, since, in the past, even events without geolocation could disable the intervention of the URT. Also, many events were tied to the municipal capitals because there was no more information.
161. Interview with the Land Restitution Unit, April 27, 2021.
162. Interview with the Land Restitution Unit, April 27, 2021
163. Order 373 of 2016 of the Constitutional Court, Special Monitoring Chamber, Judgment T-025 of 2004.
164. Interview with AEDIM, territorial liaison MA, Government of Sucre, and Mayor’s Office of Ovejas, on May 10, 2021.
165. Interview with AEDIM, territorial liaison MA, Government of Sucre, and Mayor’s Office of Ovejas, on May 10, 2021.
166. Interview with Mayor’s Office of San Luis, May 3, 2021.
167. Interview with Mayor’s Office of San Luis, May 3, 2021.
168. Restitution began in 2003.
169. Interview with the Mayor’s Office of Granada, May 4, 2021.
170. In the interview, the fact that Granada is not a PDET municipality is evidenced with regret and there is a risk that the municipality will become a township due to lack of resources.

171. According to the Victims Unit, the accompaniment of return refers to the actions conducted by the entities of the National System of Comprehensive Care and Reparation for Victims, aimed at the population victims of forced displacement. The accompaniment routes include community routes that are accessible to groups of persons consisting of ten (10) or more households or fifty (50) or more persons included in the Single Register of Victims - RUV as victims of forced displacement and who have expressed their intention to share the same territory, either by returning, relocating, or integrating locally. Victims Unit, Return Route, and Relocations. Available at: <https://www.unidadvictimas.gov.co/es/ruta-de-retornos-reubicaciones/282>.
172. In the interview, they stated that land titling had benefited 83 people..
173. Interview with the Mayor's Office of San Carlos, on May 3, 2021.
174. Interview with the Land Restitution Unit, April 27, 2021.
175. Interview with the Land Restitution Unit, April 27, 2021. The Residual Risk methodology is a technical annex of the Colombian Technical Standard (NTC) 6469 on Land Release available at: [http://www.accioncontraminas.gov.co/Documents/NTC_6469\(1\)%20Liberaci%C3%B3n%20de%20Tierras.pdf](http://www.accioncontraminas.gov.co/Documents/NTC_6469(1)%20Liberaci%C3%B3n%20de%20Tierras.pdf)
176. Government of Colombia. (2022). National Government rejects publication by FAO and WFP and requests exclusion of Colombia from this report. Available at: Gobierno Nacional rechaza publicación de la FAO y del PMA y solicita exclusión de Colombia en este informe | Cancillería (cancilleria.gov.co). Consulted on February 9, 2022.
177. FAO. FAOSTAT. Consulted on February 9, 2022.
178. Ministry of Agriculture. Government defines the national agricultural frontier at 40 million hectares. Available at: [Gobierno define la frontera agrícola nacional en 40 millones de hectáreas \(agronet.gov.co\)](https://www.agronet.gov.co). Consulted on February 9, 2022.
179. UPRA. Colombia: 26.5 million hectares with agricultural aptitude. Available at: UPRA. Consulted on February 9, 2022.
180. Office of the High Commissioner for Peace. (2020). Strategic Plan 2020-2025 "Towards a Colombia Free of Suspicion of Antipersonnel Mines for All Colombians", p. 17. Available at: [PLAN ESTRATÉGICO 2020 – 2025 "HACIA UNA COLOMBIA LIBRE DE SOSPECHA DE MINAS ANTIPERSONAL PARA TODOS LOS COLOMBIANOS" \(apminebanconvention.org\)](https://www.apminebanconvention.org).
181. Interview with beneficiaries in Algeciras, November 11, 2021.
182. Interview with beneficiaries in Algeciras, November 11, 2021.
183. Focus Group Club Amas de Casa La Nueva Integración, November 11, 2021.
184. Interview with CCCM, November 11, 2021.
185. Focus Group Club Amas de Casa La Nueva Integración, November 11, 2021.
186. Focus Group Club Amas de Casa La Nueva Integración, November 11, 2021.
187. Interview with beneficiaries of HR and productive projects in Algeciras, November 12, 2021.
188. Interview with beneficiaries of HR and productive projects in Algeciras, November 12, 2021.
189. Interview with beneficiaries of HR and productive projects in Algeciras, November 12, 2021.
190. Interview with beneficiaries of HR and productive projects in Algeciras, November 12, 2021.
191. Telephone interview with beneficiary of Algeciras, May 7, 2021.
192. Telephone interview with beneficiary of Algeciras, May 7, 2021.
193. Telephone interview with beneficiary of Algeciras, May 7, 2021.
194. Before the displacement they had livestock for the production of meat, milk, and cheeses.

195. Interview with beneficiaries in Cajibío, November 10, 2021.
196. Interview with HI, November 10, 2021.
197. Interview with beneficiaries of HR and productive projects in Algeciras, November 12, 2021
198. In 2015-2016, the Government of Huila assigned 11 productive projects to 11 survivors. There are pastry and bakery projects (in Silvania) and coffee farming projects in Algeciras.
199. Interview with beneficiaries of HR and productive projects in Algeciras, November 12, 2021.
200. Five individual projects related to coffee, cattle for milk production, a shop and internet were awarded.
201. Podcast Building Trust Through The Involvement of Indigenous, Afro-Colombian & Minority Groups in Mine Action, February 4, 2022.
202. Interview with the Mayor's Office of San Carlos, May 3, 2021.
203. Interview with beneficiaries and Mayor's Office of San Carlos, May 3, 2021.
204. Information reported by BRDEH on March 1, 2022.
205. Interview with beneficiaries and Mayor's Office of San Luis, May 3, 2021.
206. Interview with Mayor's Office of San Luis, May 3, 2021.
207. They manifested themselves in this regard in the municipalities of Algeciras, San Luis, San Carlos, San José del Fragua, Belén de los Andaquíes and in the department of Sucre, mainly..
208. Interview with Mayor's Office of San Luis, May 3, 2021.
209. According to Turislab, "15 entrepreneurs were linked to this training, seven of them belonging to these insurgent armed groups, in order to give value to all these natural and cultural resources of the municipality of Algeciras".
210. Telephone interview with Asonatours, 7 May 2021..
211. Officially launched in December 2020.
212. Designed and operated by the tour operator Turislab Zomac S. A. S., takes different trails through the agrotourism farms of the region to observe the process of growing coffee beans and culminate with a tasting of the best coffee in Huila, a product that already has a designation of origin.
213. First edition held on December 11 and 12, 2021.
214. Entrevista con Asonatours, 12 de noviembre de 2021.
215. Telephone interview with Asonatours, 7 May 2021.
216. They manifested themselves in this regard in the municipalities of Algeciras, San Luis, San Carlos, San José del Fragua, Belén de los Andaquíes and in the department of Sucre, mainly.
217. Interview with the mayor of San José del Fragua, May 12, 2021.
218. Interview with the Mayor's Office of San Carlos, May 3, 2021; telephone interview with mayor of Belén de los Andaquíes, May 13, 2021.
219. With the help of the Territory Regeneration Agency and other initiatives that support seed capital.
220. Mainly, in interviews with beneficiaries of Algeciras, Cajibío, Ovejas and El Carmen de Bolívar.
221. Interview with beneficiaries in Algeciras, November 12, 2021.
222. Unicef Data. JMP-WASH. Available at: [Access to drinking water - UNICEF DATA](#). Retrieved February, 2021..
223. Telephone interview with HI, November 10, 2021.
224. The impact on education due to lack of access to water at school is detailed in section vi "Education and Culture."
225. Since electricity is expensive, water is transmitted by pumping through the transformer or "motor pump."

226. Interview with beneficiaries of La Meseta, November 10, 2021.
227. According to community leaders in the interview, of 70 families registered in the village, 30 are now covered by the aqueduct. The altitude makes it difficult for water to reach other paths.
228. Interview with HI and Tierra de Paz Foundation, November 11, 2021.
229. 1500 pesos (USD 0.40).
230. According to reports, without meters people would let water go to waste.
231. Interview in El Porvenir Township, November 10, 2021.
232. In places like La Laguna and Buenavista, it is told how armed groups set up explosive ordnance factories (2000). In Buenavista, the factory was installed near the aqueduct and mines were installed in schools such as the La Capilla agricultural educational establishment, prioritized by the intervention plan of HI, the organization to which the national authority assigned the municipality of Cajibío.
233. Interview with beneficiaries of Algeciras, November 12, 2021.
234. The departmental government shows that great achievements are currently having a solid institutional framework, the consolidation of security conditions so that acts of violence do not recur and that the victims are organized in spaces of participation.
235. Interview with beneficiaries of Algeciras, November 12, 2021.
236. Interview with beneficiaries of Algeciras, November 12, 2021.
237. Interview with AEDIM (currently BDIAN), November 12, 2021.
238. Reported by La Meseta beneficiaries, November 10, 2021.
239. Telephone interview with the mayor of Belén de los Andaquíes, May 13, 2021.
240. Megadiversity was born as a concept from the environmental organization Conservation International (CI) in order to designate those countries or regions that have an enormous diversity of ecosystems and species, both animals and plants, in their territory. These regions comprise about 70% of the planet's diversity in just 10% of the total earth's surface, making them key points for life on Earth.
241. International Crisis Group (November 4, 2021). Fallen forests: deforestation and conflict in Colombia. Latin America Report No 91, p. 7.
242. International Crisis Group (November 4, 2021). Fallen forests: deforestation and conflict in Colombia Report on Latin America n. or 91, p. 7.
243. Minambiente, Ideam (2017), and SIAC (2017), in Linares, M. (2019). 2019-ii Main environmental consequences of the peace process for Colombia [epub].
244. Ministry of the Environment. 34% reduction in the context of deforestation in the Amazon during the first half of 2021. Available at: minambiente.gov.co.
245. Foundation for Conservation and Sustainable Development (FCDS) (2021). "Results, Scope and Challenges of Protecting Strategic Ecosystems in Colombia" within the framework of the Conference Perspectives and Experiences for the Conservation of Strategic Ecosystems in Colombia held by UNODC-Colombia, Government of the United Kingdom, and USAID. [min. 6:00:00 et seq.] Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KwrXTLriW5w&t=24235s>. Retrieved February 7, 2021.
246. International Crisis Group (November 4, 2021). Fallen Forests: Deforestation and Conflict in Colombia Report on Latin America No. 91, p. 8.
247. Including the Comprehensive Strategy for the Control of Deforestation and Sustainable Forest Management or National Economic and Social Policy Council (CONPES) document 4021 of December 2020 "National Policy for the Control of Deforestation and Sustainable Forest Management", as well as the implementation of natural conservation contracts in forest reserve areas for normalizing the use of land, improving family livelihoods, and helping to preserve the environment. Agency for the renewal of the territory. Natural conservation contracts are an alternative for the development of peasants in the PDET municipalities.

- Available at: https://portal.renovacionterritorio.gov.co/Publicaciones/los_contratos_de_conservacin_natural_son_una_alternativa_para_el_desarrollo_de_los_campesinos_en_los_municipios_pdet. Retrieved February 7, 2022
248. Deminers receive Honourable Mention for good environmental practices. Available at: <https://www.cgfm.mil.co/es/blog/desminadores-reciben-mencion-de-honor-por-buenaspracticcas-ambientales>. Retrieved February, 2022.
249. Deminers receive Honourable Mention for good environmental practices <https://www.cgfm.mil.co/es/blog/desminadores-reciben-mencion-de-honor-por-buenaspracticcas-ambientales>. Retrieved February, 2022.
250. Deminers receive Honourable Mention for good environmental practices <https://www.cgfm.mil.co/es/blog/desminadores-reciben-mencion-de-honor-por-buenaspracticcas-ambientales>. Retrieved February, 2022.
251. Interviews conducted on May 3 and 4, 2021 with representatives of municipal mayors and community leaders in San Carlos, San Luis, and Granada.
252. Interview with Mayor's Office of San Luis, May 3, 2021.
253. Interview with the Mayor's Office of San Carlos, May 3, 2021.
254. Interview with the Mayor's Office of Granada, May 4, 2021.
255. Program led by the Government of Colombia.
256. Interview with BIDH, May 3, 2021.
257. Statement by President Juan Manuel Santos at the inauguration of the "Bosque de Paz" (Forest of Peace) program in Granada, Antioquia. Available at: es.presidencia.gov.co/sitios/busqueda/discursos/170410-Declaracion-del-Presidente-Juan-Manuel-Santos-en-lainauguracion-del-programa-Bosques-de-Paz-en-Granada-Antioquia/Discursos
258. Interadministrative agreement n. o 578-2017 "Restoration of fragmented ecosystems in the Forests of Peace framework", implemented by the Regional Autonomous Corporation of the Negro and Nare River Basins (Cornare) and the More Forests Corporation, in addition to the Ministry of Environment, the Municipal Administration "San Luis Somos Todos" and its Secretariat of Agriculture, Environment and Tourism.
259. Interview with Mayor's Office San Luis and BRDEH, May 3, 2021..
260. Interviews with DDG, May 2021 and January 2022.
261. Interview with Mayor's Office of San Luis, May 3, 2021.
262. Interview at the San Luis City Hall with community leaders, May 3, 2021.
263. Interview with the Mayor's Office of San Carlos, May 3, 2021.
264. Interview with HI, 5 May 2021.
265. Interview with HI, 5 May 2021.
266. Meeting with HI, May 5, 2021.
267. Interview with community leader and area beneficiary of the Las Perlas sector, Algeciras, May 7, 2021.
268. Interview with CCCM, May 7, 2021..
269. Interview with the mayor of Belén de los Andaquíes, May 12, 2021.
270. Territory legally recognized to an organized Indigenous community.
271. Interview with DDG, April 27, 2021.
272. The Inga people come from pre-Hispanic communities of the Inca empire that fulfilled the function of military advance and border protection to prevent the uprising of those peoples who were subjected to the empire.
273. Interview with leaders of the Yurayaco Indigenous Reserve, May 12, 2021.
274. Interview with leaders of the Yurayaco Indigenous Reserve, May 12, 2021.
275. Interview with leaders of the Yurayaco Indigenous Reserve, May 12, 2021.
276. Interview with leaders of the Yurayaco Indigenous Reserve, May 12, 2021.
277. Reported by DRC-ACM, February 25, 2022.

278. The goals are detailed in the previous section.
279. GICHD (2021). The Sustainable Development Outcomes of Mine Action in Cambodia.
280. Disability Colombia, Legislation. Available at: <https://discapacidadcolombia.com/index.php/legislacion>. Retrieved on January 28, 2022
281. IMAS 13.10, first edition (October, 2021), Victim Assistance in Mine Action, p. 8. Own translation.
282. IMAS 13.10, first edition (October, 2021), Victim Assistance in Mine Action, p. 8.
283. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 1.
284. APMBC. Assisting the Victims. Available at: <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/status-ofthe-convention/assisting-the-victims/>. Retrieved January 20, 2022.
285. Statutory Act 1618 of 2013. For a review of the legal framework related to the Comprehensive Health and Rehabilitation Policy, see Ministry of Health, Comprehensive Health, and Rehabilitation. Available at: <https://www.minsalud.gov.co/proteccionsocial/promocion-social/Discapacidad/Paginas/salud-integral-y-rehabilitacion.aspx>
286. MA. Victim Assistance of Anti-Personnel Mines (APM) and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO). Available at [Asistencia a Víctimas \(accioncontraminas.gov.co\)](http://Asistencia a Víctimas (accioncontraminas.gov.co)). Retrieved December, 2021.
287. Law 1448 of 2011, “By which measures of care, assistance and comprehensive reparation are issued to victims of the internal armed conflict and other provisions are issued”. Available at: <https://www.funcionpublica.gov.co/eva/gestornormativo/norma.php?i=43043>
288. MA. Victims Assistance of Anti-Personnel Mines (APM) and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO). Available at: [Asistencia a Víctimas \(accioncontraminas.gov.co\)](http://Asistencia a Víctimas (accioncontraminas.gov.co)). Retrieved December, 2021.
289. Colombia Rehabilitation Committee (2016). Comprehensive Route of Health Care and Functional Rehabilitation for APM/UXO Victims. Available at: <http://www.accioncontraminas.gov.co/AICMA/Documents/170303-Cartilla-Ruta-Salud.pdf>. Consultado: enero 22, 2022 (the 2016 booklet is the booklet available in Decontamination).
290. Communication with MA mine actionGroup, 18 February 2022.
291. Interviews with APM/UXO/IED victims, GICHD, May, 2021.
292. Communication with MA mine actionGroup, 18 February 2022.
293. Between 2019 and 2022, 25% of the OACP investment budget in MA mine action has been invested in the hiring within Victim Associations to strengthen their role as regional leadership and advising new victims. Another 25% has been invested in prevention programs and 32% in mixed prevention and VA programs aimed at ethnic communities (Afro-descendants and Indigenous people).
294. Interviews with APM/UXO/IED victims and HI, May 2021.
295. First aid, MRE, psychosocial support, among others.
296. Interview with Representative of Asodesam, May 2021.
297. Interview with Huila survivor, May 2021.
298. According to the survivor’s testimony, “At this time, within the 5th stage a significant effort has been made, with the support of the Campaign, to enable them to access Decree 600 and humanitarian assistance.”
299. In relation to the victimizing event of APM/UXO.
300. Interview with Huila survivor, May 2021.
301. Colombian National Navy (2019). Tribute to the military victims of the armed conflict in Corozal, National Navy. Available at: <https://www.armada.mil.co/es/content/homenaje-lasvictimas-militares-del-conflicto-armado-en-corozal>

302. Interview with Marine, Corozal, Sucre, November 12, 2021.
303. National Planning Department (2009). National Policy for Mine Action Anti-personnel (AP), Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) (National Economic and Social Policy Council CONPES documents), p. 25.
304. It is a kind of stocking that protects the skin from the rigid part of the prosthesis.
305. Mainly, through the National Learning Service (SENA), an entity of the Colombian State that provides free technical, technological, and complementary training in various economic areas to improve the country's competitiveness. Available at: <https://www.sena.edu.co/es-co/sena/Paginas/quienesSomos.aspx>
306. The details of Camilo's case are explained in the section on humanitarian demining.
307. Health promoting companies (EPS) are responsible for affiliating the Colombian population to the General System of Social Security in Health (SGSSS). All Colombians are affiliated with these companies by contributory regime (compulsory contributions from workers) or by solidarity regime (when they do not have sufficient income to contribute).
308. Corresponding to 30-35 legal minimum wages in force (SMLV)
309. The details of Miller's case are explained in the section on humanitarian demining.
310. Since 2020, the Office of the Attorney General of the Nation promulgated Directive 013 of 2020 so that the National Government had guidelines for preventive monitoring and compliance with MA. Available at: <https://www.procuraduria.gov.co/portaal/media/file/Directiva%20nro%2013%20AICMA.pdf> Consulted February 19, 2021.
311. ICRC - Colombia Delegation (2021). Speaking points Intervention ICRC HoD. National Stakeholder Dialogue in Colombia: "Strengthening the Participation and Inclusion of Victims of Mines and Unexploded Munitions", February 22, 2021. Available at: https://www.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/user_upload/EUCD-2017-2021/Colombia/10-Speaking_points_intervencion_CICR_HoD_Lorenzo_Caraffi_22.02.2021.pdf. Retrieved February 2, 2022.
312. National Economic and Social Policy Council (CONPES) (2009) National Policy for Mine Action (APM), Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in DNP (2016) Institutional and Outcome Evaluation of the National Policy for Mine Action (APM), Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and Improvised Explosive Ordnance (IED)), in relation to its structure and the effects it has on its direct beneficiaries. Output 4. Results report. SEI S. A and Econometrics.
313. Grants for research and production of museum projects on historical memory and armed conflict.
314. Prolongar Foundation. Fragments and footprints: reconstructing bodies and territories from a museum proposal. Available at: <https://fundacionprolongar.org/experiencias/fragmentos-yhuellas/>. Retrieved February 2, 2022.
315. Prolongar Foundation. The hidden war. National Historical Memory Report on Antipersonnel Mines." Available at: <https://fundacionprolongar.org/experiencias/la-guerra-escondida/>. Retrieved February 2, 2022.
316. Muñoz Galíndez, E. and Montes Mora, S. (2017). "Sitting volleyball: a sport that gives meaning to life." *Physical Education and Science*, 19 (1), e019. <https://doi.org/10.24215/23142561e019>.
317. El Nuevo Siglo "Volleyball, hope for mine victims." Available at: <https://www.elnuevosiglo.com.co/articulos/5-2015-voleibol-esperanza-para-victimas-de-minas>
318. APC Colombia. Presta tu Pierna Race 11k. Available at: <https://www.apccolombia.gov.co/node/649>. Retrieved on 2 February 2022.

319. Gran Estación Shopping Centre, Schrader Camargo, 4-72, Powerade, Olímpica warehouses, Qué Buena Compra and The El Tiempo Publishing House.
320. Like the ICRC.
321. IMAS 12.10 has been comprehensively reviewed and updated by an IMAS-mandated technical working group led by the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education Advisory Group (EORE AG). The revised IMAS 12.10 replaces and supersedes all previous IMAS on MRE and serves as a basic framework for EORE operations globally
322. As Colombia continues to use the MRE concept, this section will retain references to the abbreviation MRE when addressing specific interventions or efforts.
323. IMAS 12.10, Second Edition (Amendment 3, September 2020), Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE).
324. OACP- MA mine actionGroup. Strategic Plan 2020-2025 “Towards a Colombia free of suspicion of antipersonnel mines for all Colombians”. February 2020, p. 23.
325. 3.9 National Standard for Risk Education for Anti-personnel Mines, Unexploded Ordnance and Explosive Ordnance, p. 8.
326. The Directorate Descontamina Colombia shall convene civil society organizations, international organizations, cooperation agencies with competence in prevention by APM/ UXO/BT and government entities of the national and/or local order.
327. ICONTEC, Colombian Technical Standard-NTC 6481 (2021) Mine Action Education on Risks from mines, unexploded ordnance, and booby traps (MRE). Available at: http://www.accioncontraminas.gov.co/Documents/NTC_6481%201%29%29%20Educación%20en%20el%20riesgo%20de%20minas%20antipersonal%20C%20municipaciones%20sin%20explosionar%20y%20trampas%20explosivas%20%28ERM%29.pdf?TSPD_101_
328. National Standard for Mine Risk Education, Unexploded Ordnance and Improvised Explosive Artifacts, Version 3.9 with amendments as of January 2017, 2019. Available at: <190109-ENERM.pdf> ([accioncontraminas.gov.co](http://www.accioncontraminas.gov.co)).
329. OACP-MA Group. Strategic Plan 2020-2025 “Towards a Colombia free of suspicion of anti-personnel mines for all Colombians”. February 2020, p. 24. National Standard for Mine Risk Education, Unexploded Ordnance and Improvised Explosive Artifacts, Version 1.0 with amendments as of January 9, 2019. 30.
331. ICONTEC, Colombian Technical Standard-NTC 6481 (2021) Comprehensive action against anti-personnel mines. Education on Mine Risk, unexploded ordnance, and booby traps (ERM).
332. ICONTEC, Colombian Technical Standard-NTC 6481 (2021) Mine Action Education on the risk of anti-personnel mines, unexploded ordnance, and booby traps (ERM).P. 7
333. Any organization that develops this methodology, regardless of its size or composition, must conduct its actions in this area with the following quality criteria: adequacy, efficiency, effectiveness, connectivity, coverage, coherence, coordination, and harmless action.
334. In accordance with section 13 of National Standard 3.9, which addresses monitoring and evaluation in MRE.
335. The process is accompanied by the OACP, Unicef and the SENA, the latter being the one who issues the MRE certificates in the Technical Standard of Labour Competence in MRE to facilitators. MA mine actionsource figure
336. SENA covers about 95% of the national territory and reaches targeted populations subject to special protection, such as ethnic communities and victims, where they promote employment-oriented training and certification.
337. Interview with the SENA, April 28, 2021.
338. Interview with the SENA, April 28, 2021

340. The Differential Approach section addresses specific efforts to ensure a gender and ethnic approach in MA mine action interventions.
341. <http://www.accioncontraminas.gov.co/prensa/pueblos-indigenas-seis-departamentosproyecto-educacion-en-riesgo-de-minas-antipersonal-para-evitar-nuevas-victimas>
342. Interview with HI staff, November 2021.
343. Interview with HI community liaison, May 2021.
344. Interview with AEDIM, May 10, 2021.
345. Descontamina Colombia, database updated in November 2021.
346. The departments with the most MRE activities have been Nariño, Antioquia, Caquetá, Chocó, Norte de Santander, and Cauca). The municipalities with the most MRE activities have been Tumaco, Nariño (1,212); Florence, Caquetá (942); Riosucio, Chocó (620); Vistahermosa, Meta (557); Guamuez Valley, Putumayo (488); Fortul, Arauca (479); Leiva, Nariño (462), and Montañita, Caquetá (9,453)
347. Descontamina MRE database, cut-off date November 31, 2021.
348. 3.9 National Standard for Risk Education for Anti-personnel Mines, Unexploded Ordnance and Explosive Ordnance, p. 8.
349. Descontamina, November 2021.
350. Rom or Romani communities are nomadic communities with their own language, social organization, authorities, and institutions, “(Rromenge-heads of the family, the Kriss or tribunal made up of the most prestigious sera Rromenge and Krisnitorya who preside) [...] a legal system of its own called Kriss Rromani or Rromaniya,” among other features. Constitutional Court of Colombia. Judgment C-359/13. Available at: <https://www.corteconstitucional.gov.co/relatoria/2013/C-359-13.htm>. Retrieved January 17, 2022.
351. See Descontamina, Victim Base. Cut-off date November 31 2021. Available at: <http://www.accioncontraminas.gov.co/Estadisticas/datos-abiertos>
352. Since the Roma community does not have recognized territories, many no longer have nomadic customs and have settled in urban centres.
353. Between the 2005 General Census and the CNPV 2018, the Rrom population registered decreased by 45.5%.
354. Cut-off date November 30, 2021.
355. Cut-off date November 30, 2021. 356 Testimony of Jair, victim of APM.
357. Directorate of Sustainable Territorial Development. Guidelines for the Implementation of the Rights Approach and Preferential Care for Ethnic Groups in the Management of Territorial Entities, p. 7. 2016. Available at: [Final Ethnic Differential Approach Guidelines vPublicable 260216.pdf \(dnp.gov.co\)](#)
358. Directorate of Sustainable Territorial Development. Guidelines for the Implementation of the Rights Approach and Preferential Care for Ethnic Groups in the Management of Territorial Entities, p. 8, 2016. Available at: [Guidelines Ethnic Differential Approach V Final Publishable 260216.pdf \(dnp.gov.co\)](#).
359. In accordance with the provisions of Law 1448 of 2011, in its article 13, “The principle of differential approach recognizes that there are populations with particular characteristics based on their age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and disability status”.
360. Directorate of Sustainable Territorial Development. Guidelines for the Implementation of the Rights Approach and Preferential Care for Ethnic Groups in the Management of Territorial Entities, p. 8 2016. Available at: [Ethnic Differential Approach Guidelines V Final Publishable 260216.pdf \(dnp.gov.co\)](#)

361. Strategic Plan 2020-2025 “Towards a Colombia Free of Suspicion of Antipersonnel Mines for All Colombians”, p. 37. Available at: [Strategic Plan 2020-2025 “Towards a Colombia free of suspicion of anti-personnel mines for all Colombians” \(apminebanconvention.org\) https://new.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/_APMBC-DOCUMENTS/StatePlans-policies/ Colombia-strategic-plan-mine-action-2020-2025.pdf](https://new.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/_APMBC-DOCUMENTS/StatePlans-policies/Colombia-strategic-plan-mine-action-2020-2025.pdf)
362. 3.9 National Standard for Risk Education for Anti-personnel Mines, Unexploded Ordnance and Explosive Ordnance, p. 8.
363. 3.9 National Standard for Risk Education for Anti-personnel Mines, Unexploded Ordnance and Explosive Ordnance, p. 8.
364. As part of the process of optimizing the information management processes agreed in the first Extension Request (2010), in 2012, the Colombian State built the Peripheral Information System as a shared space between the National Authority, the External Monitoring Component (CEM) and the actors involved in the development of Humanitarian Demining (HD) operations. Antipersonnel Mine Risk Education (MRE), Comprehensive Assistance to Victims (AIV) and Territorial Management. In this regard, the National Department of Statistics (DANE) evaluated and certified in 2019 the Administrative Department of the Presidency in the statistical quality standard NTC PE 1000, declaring the entity as an official source of information on the results of Humanitarian Demining Operations in Colombia.
365. 3.9 National Standard for Risk Education for Anti-personnel Mines, Unexploded Ordnance and Explosive Ordnance, p. 8.
366. 3.9 National Standard for Risk Education for Anti-personnel Mines, Unexploded Ordnance and Explosive Ordnance, p. 15.
367. Article 7 of the Constitution: “The State recognizes and protects the ethnic and cultural diversity of the Colombian nation.”
368. Article 68 of the Constitution: “[...] Members of ethnic groups shall have the right to training that respects and promotes their cultural identity.”
369. Article 10 of the Constitution: “Spanish is the official language of Colombia. The languages and dialects of ethnic groups are also official in their territories. Teaching provided in communities with their own linguistic traditions shall be bilingual.”
370. Article 176 of the Constitution: “[...] The law may establish a special constituency to ensure the participation in the House of Representatives of ethnic groups and political minorities and Colombians residing abroad.”
371. Updated information provided pursuant to article 7, paragraph 2, of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. Filed on April 30, 2021 and corresponding to the period from January 1 to December 31, 2020, p. 35. Available at: <https://www.apminebanconvention.org/fileadmin/APMBC/Article7-Reports/2021-Colombia-Article7Report.pdf>.
372. National Standard for Mine Risk Education, the most recent version of which came into force in September 2017.
373. Communication with MA mine actionGroup, February 18, 2021.
374. Interview with HI, May 8, 2021.
375. Descontamina Victim base, cut to November 2021.
376. Descontamina, Colombia, 2021.
377. 1 adult male, 1 female and 1 child.
378. In that year, 2 victims were reported belonging to the awa community of the Magüí reservation (Nariño); in 2007, 1 victim from the jiw community in the Barranco-Ceibalaguna-Araguato reservation (Guaviare) and 1 victim from the awa community in the Unipa reservation.

379. Mongabay, Colombia: The Nukak Maku struggle to return to their lands in the Guaviare so as not to disappear. Available at: <https://es.mongabay.com/2016/12/colombia-nukak-makuvideo/>. Retrieved December 28, 2021.
380. According to article 21 of Decree 2164 of 1995 and the Jurisprudence of the Honourable Constitutional Court on the subject, the safeguards are a legal and socio-political institution of a special nature, made up of one or more indigenous communities, which, with a title of collective property that enjoys the guarantees of private property, possess their territory and are governed for the management of the territory and its internal life by an autonomous organization protected by indigenous jurisdiction and its own regulatory system. Indigenous reserves are the collective property of Indigenous communities and have the character of inalienable, imprescriptible and unattachable. More information available at: <https://colaboracion.dnp.gov.co/CDT/Desarrollo%20Territorial/Lineamientos%20Enfoque%20Diferencial%20C3%89TNICO%20VPublicable%20FINAL%20260216.pdf>
381. The Community Council is an administrative unit that can manage a designated area, in Colombia typically at the local level. The most generic form is the Community Council of Lands of Black Communities. Article 5 of Law 70 of 1993 establishes as functions of the Community Councils: i) to delimit and assign areas within the adjudicated lands; ii) to ensure the conservation and protection of collective property rights, the preservation of cultural identity, the use and conservation of natural resources; iii) to choose the legal representative of the respective community as a legal entity and iv) to act as amiable composers in internal conciliation conflicts.
382. GICHD, Building Trust Through The Involvement of Indigenous, Afro-Colombian & Minority Groups in Mine Action, published on February 4, 2022.
383. Interview with HI, May 8, 2021.
384. For all the documentary requirements that are required for contracting with the State.
385. According to the MA mine actionGroup, the training includes group exercises for self-referencing and comparison of moments such as hunting animals, for the understanding of the threat caused by APM.
386. Communication with the Mine Action Grupo, February 18, 2022.
387. Interview with HI, May 8, 2021.
388. Interview with HI, May 8, 2021.
389. GICHD (2022). Building Trust Through The Involvement of Indigenous, Afro-Colombian & Minority Groups in Mine Action.
390. GICHD (2022). Building Trust Through The Involvement of Indigenous, Afro-Colombian & Minority Groups in Mine Action.
391. Communication with the Mine Action Group, February 18, 2022.
392. Descontamina Victim base, court date 30, 2021.
393. Strategic Plan 2020-2025 “Towards a Colombia Free of Suspicion of Anti-personnel Mines for All Colombians”, p. 38. Available at: [STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025 “TOWARDS A COLOMBIA FREE OF SUSPICION OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES FOR ALL COLOMBIANS”](https://apminebanconvention.org/) (apminebanconvention.org).
394. 4 UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). Adopted by the Security Council at its 4213rd meeting, 31 October 2000.
395. Gender and Mine Action Programme website, accessed 20 November 2020, <https://www.gmap.ch/>
396. Annex 6. Guidelines for mainstreaming the gender approach in the territorialization of the MA mine actionPolicy of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 “Towards a Colombia Free of Suspected Antipersonnel Mines for All Colombians”.

397. Annex 6. Guideline for the mainstreaming of the Gender Approach in the territorialization of the MA mine action Policy of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 “Towards a Colombia Free of Suspicion of Anti-personnel Mines for All Colombians”, p. 137. Available at: [STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025 “TOWARDS A COLOMBIA FREE OF SUSPICION OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES FOR ALL COLOMBIANS”](https://www.apminebanconvention.org/) (apminebanconvention.org).
398. Interview with beneficiary and community leader of Cajibío, May 8, 2021.
399. They refer to the case of a female victim who was abandoned with her 5 children and is now participating in initiatives with the Sena.
400. Interview with Tierra de Paz, May 8, 2021.
401. Departmental Association of Survivors of Accidents by Anti-personnel Mines and Unexploded Ordnance of Cauca (ASODESAM Cauca).
402. Interview with ASODESAM, May 6, 2021.
403. At the time of the events, many of the people, especially women, had to go down to nearby or distant streams to collect water at significant risk, including sexual violence.
404. Interview with beneficiary and community leader of Cajibío, May 8, 2021.
405. This information is detailed in the section dedicated to the impact of land release on agriculture.
406. CCCM, Management Report 2020.
407. Interview with CCCM, November 9, 2021. CCCM has promoted women to occupy well-paid leadership positions and all those in charge of locations nationwide are women.
408. Materials such as banners, caps, infographics, social media materials and community murals, addressing the increase in cases of GBV and femicide during the pandemic period nationwide.
409. CCCM, Management Report 2020.
410. Values reported in 2020 and 2021, respectively.
411. <http://www.altocomisionadoparalapaz.gov.co/quienessomos/Paginas/Estructura-Interna.aspx>
412. Mine Action Review, [Reporting on Clearance of Mines & Cluster Munition Remnants | Mine Action Review](#), p.
413. Mine Action Canada, Gender & Employment by the Numbers, 2019.
414. Colombia’s Article 7 Transparency Report for the year 2021.
415. UN Security Council Resolution 2365 (2017). Adopted by the Security Council at its meeting 7992 30 June 2017.
416. UN General Assembly. Resolutions 68/234, 66/223, 64/223, 62/211, 60/215, 58/129, 56/76.
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430. Repair of the access road to El Palmar rural settlement, in San José del Fragua — in November 2021, DRC teams, together with the community, repaired the access road to the El Palmar rural settlement, near the Camino Monserrate area.
431. Improvement of the access road to the Yurayako Indigenous reserve in San José del Fragua — in January 2022, a community support day was held to improve the road and build a wire fence around the confirmed Alto de la Cruz hazardous area.
432. Repair of the infrastructure of the Fortunato Really educational institution in the Coemani Indigenous community of the Puerto Sábalo Los Monos Indigenous Reserve, Solano. In November, the DRC teams, in coordination with the chancellor of the institution and with the support of teachers, conducted the renovation of the school, including the dormitories, lounges and green spaces.
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436. Interview with leaders of the Yurayaco Indigenous Reserve, May 12, 2021.
437. Interview with Tierra de Paz, May 5, 2021.
438. Interview with Tierra de Paz, May 5, 2021.
439. More detailed information in the section that addresses the role of MA mine action after the peace agreement.
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