



**UNMAS**

**COLOMBIA**



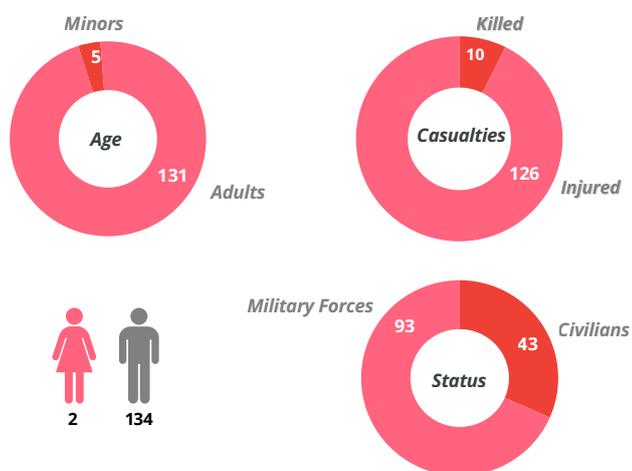
## HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT IN THE MINE ACTION SECTOR – DECEMBER 2025

Humanitarian demining operations by the Colombian Campaign Against Landmines. Photo: Juan Arredondo/UNMAS

Between January and December 2025, Colombia saw a notable deterioration in the humanitarian and security situation in several departments of the country. Incidents involving explosive ordnance (EO)<sup>1</sup> increased significantly: 478 in 2025, compared to 294 in 2024. Of particular concern is the increase in the use of improvised explosive devices (IED), which rose from 149 cases in 2024 to 374 in 2025.<sup>2</sup> Alarming, 46 previously unaffected municipalities and 27 areas previously declared mine-free have reported new contamination or incidents. Between January and December 2025, at least 136 people were injured or killed by the use of anti-personnel mines (APM) or unexploded ordnance (UXO), an increase of 24% compared to the same period in 2024.<sup>3</sup>

There has been an increase in the use of uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS/drones) by non-state armed groups (NSAGs) to transport, launch, and activate EO. This trend has dramatically altered the nature of explosive threats, particularly affecting civilian areas and areas previously considered safe. UAS/drones with EO allow for rapid, remote, and highly accurate deployment in densely populated or strategically important locations. This tactical evolution has increased the complexity and unpredictability of EO contamination. UAS/drones that are shot down, malfunction, or are operated improperly can fall in residential areas or near civilian infrastructure, causing injuries, property damage, and increased fear among affected populations. On several occasions, UAS/drones with EO fall without detonating, creating additional risks for the civilian population, especially in contexts where communities lack information and capabilities to respond safely.

### Characteristics of victims registered between January and December 2025

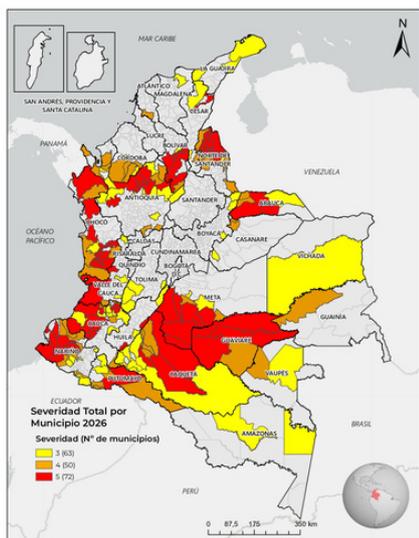


The increase in the use of EO has forced communities to abandon their lands and, in some cases, to confine themselves to their territories, severely impacting their access to essential livelihoods such as agriculture and fishing. EO have been strategically placed near vital civilian infrastructure such as schools, health centers, water sources, and rivers, exacerbating the risk to the population. The use of UAS continues to be a predominant tactic for exercising territorial and social control over these communities.

Source: AICMA Group - Office of the Peace Adviser Commissioner (OCCP), 2025.  
Between January and October 2025, the departments with the highest number of victims were Nariño (22), Bolívar (19), Antioquia (16), Cauca (13), and Norte de Santander (10). (Source: OCHA, 2025).

<sup>1</sup> EO is classified into two types: those that are activated by victims, such as anti-personnel mines (APMs) and explosive remnants of war; and those that are detonated in a controlled and targeted manner.  
<sup>2</sup> OCHA, 2025.  
<sup>3</sup> AICMA Group - Office of the Peace Adviser Commissioner (OCCP), 2025.

## People in Need - Mine Action



Source: Mine Action Area of Responsibility

The Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MAoR), led by UNMAS, estimates that by 2026 approximately 812,966 people living across 25 of the country's 32 departments, encompassing 183 municipalities, will be at risk of injury from explosive ordnance or may be confined or displaced due to its presence. The departments of Norte de Santander, Antioquia, Cauca, Nariño, Valle del Cauca, and Chocó together account for 61% of the population in need.



25 departments  
183 municipalities



812,966 people in need



33,936 people in imminent danger of death or harm in 72 municipalities

## OUR WORK IN 2025



### Support for the Implementation of the 2016 Peace Agreement:

UNMAS continued to provide technical assistance to support the implementation of the 2016 Peace Agreement. The project focused on collecting information on anti-personnel mines and explosive ordnance (AE) from former FARC-EP combatants is currently in its closing phase, which includes finalizing data collection and systematizing information on the tactics, strategies, and use of anti-personnel mines during the conflict. This information will inform the updating of public policy and AICMA technical standards. In addition, plans are underway to produce a historical memory document that captures progress achieved and lessons learned from a gender-differentiated perspective. This work contributes to reintegration and peace consolidation, while also supporting truth-seeking processes.



**Technical Assistance to the AICMA Sector:** Support was provided in responding to comments from the Ottawa Convention Article 5 Implementation Committee regarding the request for an extension for the 2025–2030 period. In addition, UNMAS provided technical assistance to the National Planning Department in the development of a diagnostic assessment of the public policy on Mine Action.



### Strengthening Comprehensive Assistance to Victims of MAP/MSE/AEI:

At the national level, technical assistance was provided to support the development of the National Standard for Comprehensive Victim Assistance, with the objective of clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of each entity involved in the care of survivors and their families. At the subnational level, critical information gaps regarding EO victims in the department of Nariño, where records were fragmented and outdated, were addressed. UNMAS coordinated with Pastoral Social of Pasto and the AICMA Subgroup of Nariño to consolidate data, enabling the identification of active cases, the updating of records, and the accompaniment of individuals who had previously been excluded from the comprehensive victim assistance pathway.



**Development of Restorative Measures – Mine Action:** Support was provided to the planning process for the early implementation of sanctions related to the Mine Action component, in accordance with Order TP-SeRVR-RC-AS-CASA No. 028-2025 issued by the JEP, and in response to the first ruling on sanctions against the FARC-EP in Macro-Case 01.



**Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE):** UNMAS strengthened knowledge and promoted safe behaviors in the presence of EO through EORE training for local authorities in Nariño and humanitarian personnel, including the entire OCHA Colombia team, as well as through inter-agency missions that facilitated community access to rights and increased awareness of safe behaviors. UNMAS also actively contributed to humanitarian coordination efforts in response to emergencies resulting from mass displacement, conducting joint missions to identify needs in affected communities. These missions supported the identification of priority areas for future demining operations and other mine action activities.



### Strengthening humanitarian, inter-agency, donor, and NGO coordination:

Through its leadership of the Mine Action Area of Responsibility, UNMAS provided technical assistance across all phases of the humanitarian programme cycle. Advocacy efforts were sustained and expanded within key humanitarian coordination fora, including the Humanitarian Country Team, local coordination and protection teams, Mine Action sector roundtables (Victima Assistance Roundtable, EORE Roundtable, and CINAMAP), as well as donor coordination groups, thereby strengthening collaboration among key stakeholders. UNMAS also provided technical assistance to the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) in the review of mine action project proposals and funding calls. At the subnational level, in Nariño, UNMAS reactivated the Mine Action Subgroup, co-leading the effort with HI, which strengthened coordination among mine action operators and ensured the systematic exchange of information on operational progress, humanitarian access constraints, and territorial security conditions. Collectively, these actions promoted the integration of mine action strategies, enabling a more coordinated, effective, and efficient response to the management and mitigation of risks associated with EO.

### For more information:

- **Antonio Armentano**, Representative UNMAS Colombia, antonio.armentano@un.org, +57 320 4950370
- **Catalina Velásquez**, Head of Project Unit - Lead MAoR, Catalinavm@unops.org, +57 313 2259809