



# UNMAS

United Nations Mine Action Service  
Colombia



Photo: UNMAS.

## Newsletter

December 2025

### News highlights

#### Explosive Ordnance Situation in 2026

The Mine Action Area of Responsibility estimates an 18% increase of People in Need for 2026.

#### “Alliances for Peace” Award

UNMAS Colombia received the APC’s award recognizing its humanitarian coordination initiative in Colombia’s Pacific region.

#### 22nd Meeting of States Parties

Colombia was granted an extension for mine clearance until 31 December 2030.

#### Protecting Communities in Nariño

UNMAS strengthens local capacities in mine action, risk education, and victim assistance.

#### Implementing the Final Peace Agreement

UNMAS facilitates the collection of information on suspected mined areas.

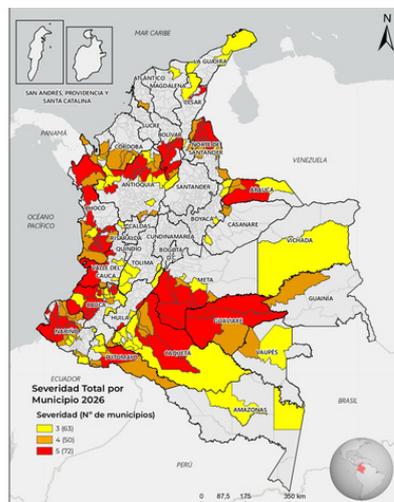
### Assessment of the Explosive Ordnance Situation in 2025 and Projections for 2026

Between January and December 2025, 136 people were victims of anti-personnel mines (APMs), unexploded ordnance (UXO) in Colombia, according to figures from the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OCCP). This represents a 24% increase compared to the same period in 2024, when 96 victims were recorded. Of the total reported in 2025, 32% were civilians.

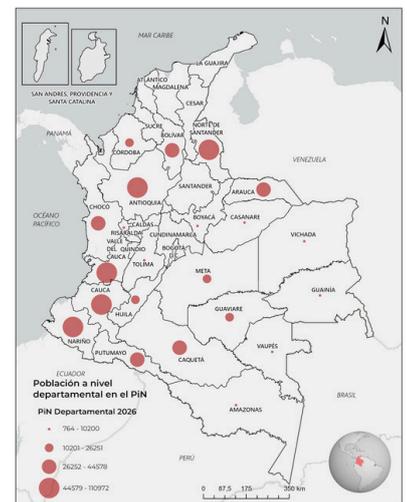
Of particular concern, 46 municipalities previously unaffected and 27 areas formerly declared mine-free reported new contamination or incidents, indicating a geographic expansion of risk into new territories.

Compounding this trend is the growing use of uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS/drones) to deploy explosives, a tactic that significantly heightens the risks faced by communities and humanitarian personnel operating in the field.

In this context, the Mine Action Area of Responsibility estimates that by 2026, 812,966 people across 183 municipalities (compared to 687,788 in 2025) could be at risk from APMs, UXO, and IEDs – an 18% increase over the 2025 estimate.



Estimated severity levels 2026 by municipalities. Source: Mine Action Area of Responsibility.



Estimated number of People in Need 2026 by departments. Source: Mine Action Area of Responsibility.

## UNMAS Colombia Receives the “Alliances for Peace” Award



The ceremony of the Alliances for Peace Award was attended by the Chief of Mine Action Programme of UNMAS, Antonio Armentano. Photo: APC.



UNMAS Colombia is honored to have received the “Alliances for Peace” award from the Colombian Presidential Agency for International Cooperation (APC) on 2 December, in recognition of the initiative “Territorial Strengthening and Humanitarian Coordination for the Prevention of and Response to Explosive Device Emergencies in the Colombian Pacific.”

This distinction highlights the strength of a multi-stakeholder partnership among the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OCCP) – AICMA Colombia Group,

the Barco Foundation, and UNMAS Colombia, demonstrating how effective humanitarian coordination and territorial engagement can translate into tangible results for community protection and peacebuilding.

We are deeply grateful to APC for this recognition, which reaffirms the value of “Partnerships with Results” and the importance of working collaboratively to save lives and strengthen the resilience of communities in the territories most affected by explosive devices.

## The 22nd Meeting of States Parties Grants Colombia an Extension for Mine Clearance



The exhibit “Forward, Not Fragmented,” organized by UNMAS, supported the Secretary-General’s campaign on humanitarian disarmament and mine action and was held in conjunction with the International Day of Persons with Disabilities and the Meetings of States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention. Photos: UNMAS.



At the 22nd Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), held from 1 to 5 December 2025, the States Parties unanimously approved Colombia’s request to extend its Article 5 deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas, granting a new deadline of 31 December 2030.

The Meeting acknowledged the significant progress achieved by Colombia since the decision of the 18th Meeting, particularly in advancing

Non-Technical Survey and clearance operations, as well as in improving its understanding of the remaining contamination. While recognizing that Colombia does not expect to fully meet its Article 5 obligations by the new deadline due to persistent challenges – including restricted access, the continued use of anti-personnel mines by illegal armed groups, and reduced international funding – the States Parties underscored Colombia’s commitment to making substantial progress toward compliance throughout this extension period.

## The Impact of Anti-personnel Mines in Colombia

 **136 victims**

registered between January and December 2025, according to OCCP.



**5 children**

are among the registered victims in 2025.

**2 victims**

belong to the Afro-Colombian community.

**Gender**



**2**  
1.5%



**134**  
98.5%

Source: OCCP AICMA.

## UNMAS Strengthens Local Capacities to Protect Communities in Nariño



UNMAS Humanitarian Coordinator provided explosive ordnance risk education to affected communities in the department of Nariño. Photos: UNMAS.

The department of Nariño remains a top priority for the mine action sector and for UNMAS due to its alarming level of impact from explosive devices. Between 2022 and 2025, 110 victims were recorded, 86% of whom were civilians, making Nariño the most affected territory in Colombia over the past three years.

The persistence of risk is linked to ongoing disputes among illegal armed groups, the systematic use of explosive devices, and restricted access resulting from the region's complex geography. These factors disproportionately affect the AWA indigenous people and Afro-descendant communities in the Southern Pacific.

Thanks to the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), ECHO, and the Republic of Korea, UNMAS Colombia deployed a Humanitarian Coordinator to Nariño to strengthen local capacities in humanitarian demining, explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), and comprehensive victim assistance. This presence enabled the reactivation of the mine action sub-group in Nariño, co-led with Humanity & Inclusion,



enhancing coordination among organizations engaged in mine action and improving the exchange of critical information to support territorial response.

During September and October, EORE activities were conducted with community leaders from Samaniego, the El Llano community, and leaders of the Camawari community of the AWA indigenous people, reinforcing the importance of community safety and risk awareness.

At the same time, progress was made in strengthening victim assistance and addressing the presence of explosive devices in the territory through capacity-building activities for the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF) and the Ombudsman's Office, as well as field missions to facilitate community access to assistance and referral pathways.

These advances consolidate a coordinated, multisectoral effort to reduce the impact of explosive devices and to strengthen protection and comprehensive assistance for affected communities.



UNMAS strengthens victim assistance and addresses explosive devices contamination through targeted capacity-building activities. Photos: UNMAS.

### Casualties



7 out of every 100 victims die, while others suffer injuries or permanent disabilities.

### Status



This marks a reversal of the pattern observed over the previous seven years, when civilians accounted for most victims.

Source: OCCP AICMA, 2025.

## UNMAS Continues to Support the Implementation of the Final Peace Agreement



Peace signatories providing information on the location of suspected mined areas during a workshop facilitated by UNMAS and UNVMC. Photos: UNMAS/UNVMC.

During 2025, UNMAS Colombia and the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (UNVMC), through a tripartite mechanism established with the national government and the peace signatories, continued to support the collection of information on suspected mined areas, contributing to the implementation of the

measures set out in the 2016 Final Peace Agreement. The Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) recognized that mine action plays a highly significant restorative role and that, in 2026, it will be instrumental in supporting the implementation of the restorative sanctions proposed in the first ruling issued.

## About UNMAS Colombia

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

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



FONDO MULTIDONANTE  
DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS  
PARA LA PAZ



Ayuda Humanitaria



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Embajada de Suiza en Colombia  
Ayuda Humanitaria (COSUDE)



[unmas.org/colombia](https://unmas.org/colombia)