

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

COLOMBIA
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The UNMAS Colombia Annual Report 2025 describes the activities and achievements made possible thanks to donor funding and funds received from the United Nations.

UNMAS Colombia thanks the **European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations Directorate (ECHO)**, the **United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Peace in Colombia (UN-MPTF)**, the **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)** and the **Republic of Korea** for their contributions in 2025.



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UNMAS Colombia

July 2026



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

• Acronyms and Glossary.....	4
• Executive Summary.....	5
• Humanitarian Situation 2025.....	6
• Main Results and Achievements.....	7
• Our Work in 2025.....	8
◦ Pillar 1: Consolidation of Total Peace, human security and social justice.....	8
◦ Pillar 3: Social protection and socioeconomic inclusion, with an emphasis on vulnerable populations, migrants, and refugees.....	11
◦ Pillar 5: Enablers of the Agenda 2030.....	16
• Strategic Priorities for 2026.....	18

ACRONYMS

- **AICMA Group:** National Mine Action Center
- **APM:** Antipersonnel Mines
- **DNP:** National Planning Department (by its acronym in Spanish)
- **ELC:** Local Coordination Team
- **EO:** Explosive Ordnance
- **EORE:** Explosive Ordnance Risk Education
- **ERW:** Explosive Remnants of War
- **FARC-EP:** Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia - People's Army
- **GATI-CO:** Group of Inter-American Technical Advisors in Colombia
- **HCT:** Humanitarian Country Team
- **HNRP:** Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan
- **ICBF:** Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (by its acronym in Spanish)
- **IDSN:** Nariño Departmental Health Institute (by its acronym in Spanish)
- **IED:** Improvised Explosive Devices
- **JEP:** Special Jurisdiction for Peace (by its acronym in Spanish)
- **MA:** Mine Action
- **MA AoR:** Mine Action Area of Responsibility
- **NDM-UN:** International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers
- **OCCP:** Office of the Counselor Commissioner for Peace
- **OCHA:** United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- **PiN:** People in Need
- **UAV:** Uncrewed Aircraft Vehicle
- **UN:** United Nations
- **UNMAS:** United Nations Mine Action Service
- **UNSDCF:** United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
- **UNVMC:** United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia
- **UXO:** Unexploded Ordnance
- **VA:** Victim Assistance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 2010, UNMAS has played a fundamental role in strengthening the capacities of government institutions in Colombia, including the national Mine Action Center, currently AICMA Group, under the Office of the Counselor Commissioner for Peace (OCCP), the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Planning Department, the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), and the Victims Unit, among others. This support has enhanced their technical and operational capacities in demining, National Mine Action Standards, and the inclusion of Mine Action in restorative measures, along with a deeper understanding of this unique and specialized sector. UNMAS has supported AICMA Group's capacity development in areas

such as planning, policy implementation for mine action, and preparation of technical documents for humanitarian demining. Technical assistance has included land release, Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE), Victim Assistance (VA), and support for implementing mine action elements of the 2016 Peace Agreement, including the provision of information about explosive devices by peace signatories.

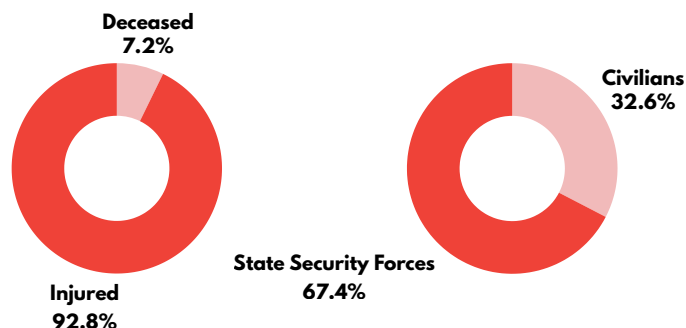
The UNMAS Colombia 2025 Report outlines progress across three main pillars out of five from the Colombia UNSDCF: Pillar 1 (Consolidation of Total Peace, Human Security, and Social Justice), Pillar 3 (Social Protection and Socioeconomic Inclusion), and Pillar 5 (Enablers of the 2030 Agenda).



Panel on humanitarian demining on the occasion of International Mine Action Awareness Day, 4th of April, 2025.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION 2025

Total number of victims of APM and UXO in 2025: 138



In 2025, the departments with the highest numbers of victims of anti-personnel mines (APM) and unexploded ordnance (UXO) were Antioquia (35), Nariño (26), Bolívar (20), Cauca (14), Norte de Santander (13), and Arauca (9).

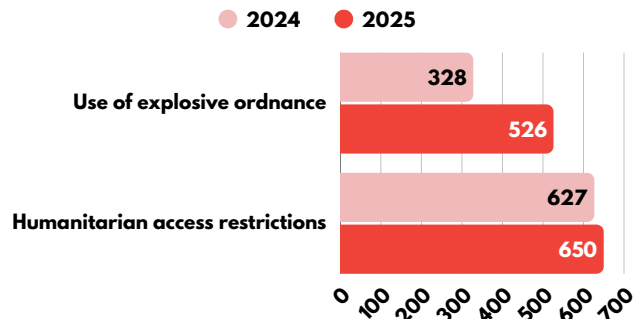
Source: AICMA Group, 2025.

New EO contamination:
46 municipalities

Recontamination with EO:
27 areas

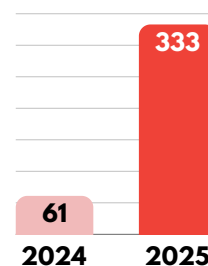
Source: MA AoR, 2024.

Increase in the use of explosive ordnance and humanitarian access restrictions



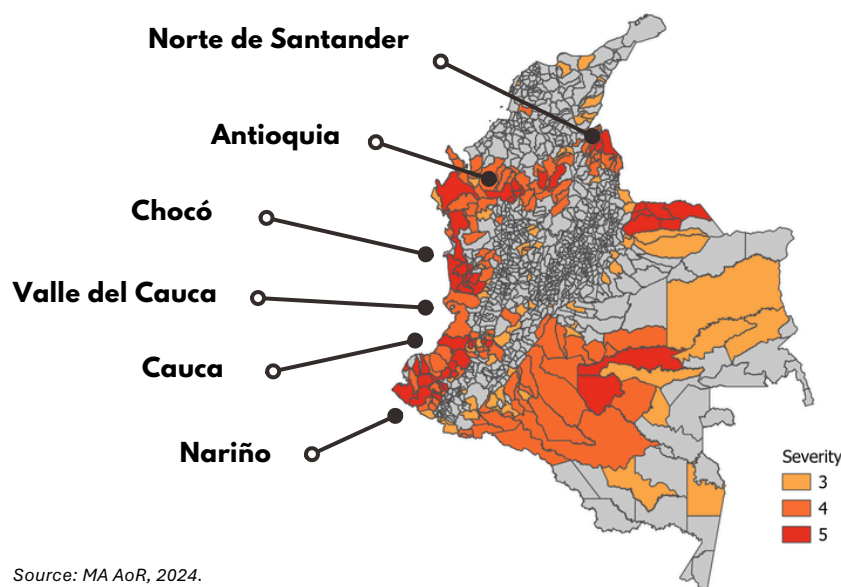
Source: OCHA Monitor.

445% increase in weaponized drone attacks between 2024 and 2025



Source: UNMAS Colombia, 2025.

13% increase in the estimated number of People in Need (PiN) in 2025 compared to 2024



Source: MA AoR, 2024.

Estimated number of PiN 2025:
687,788

Estimated most affected departments:

1. Antioquia
2. Cauca
3. Norte de Santander
4. Nariño
5. Chocó
6. Valle del Cauca

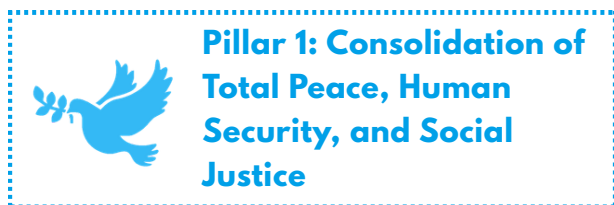
MAIN RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Support for the implementation of the peace agreement continued with the Project Closure Phase for Information Collection on the Location of Explosive Ordnance (EO). This key commitment from the 2016 Peace Agreement with the former FARC-EP involved gathering detailed information on the tactics, strategies, and use of EO. Furthermore, the initiative aimed to support restorative justice measures, notably a Judicial Order from the JEP within the framework of the ruling of macro-case 01, which prioritized Mine Action (MA) as a special sanction.
- As the provider of last resort, UNMAS Colombia conducted EORE workshops in seven municipalities in the department of Nariño, with 233 participants (including 155 women). This resulted in a 100% measurable increase in knowledge of safe behaviors regarding the risk posed by explosive ordnance contamination. Additionally, 32 people received guidance on the victim assistance pathway. The approach successfully fostered dialogue, strengthened community-level response capacity, and established locally adapted alert systems.
- Support the progress towards a care society through MA awareness workshops that were executed for public officials across six municipalities in Nariño, focusing on EORE and victim assistance. This action clarified and significantly improved the State's victim referral pathway for EO contamination, leading to a marked increase in governmental institutions' knowledge of their responsibilities toward communities living in areas affected by EO.
- Key MA coordination bodies in the Nariño Department, specifically the Local Coordination Team (ELC, by its Spanish acronym)'s MA Subgroup and the Departmental MA Committee, were formally reactivated, with UNMAS support, as part of the humanitarian response and coordination efforts. UNMAS significantly contributed to the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP), which projects an 18% increase in People in Need (PiN) for 2026, bringing the total number of people at risk to approximately 812,966 across 183 municipalities.
- Technical assistance was provided to the National Planning Department (DNP, by its acronym in Spanish) to strengthen the development of the national MA policy and to support Colombia's compliance reporting for the Ottawa Convention.
- Additionally, the UNMAS Colombia team has been monitoring and analyzing the accidents involving Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS/Drones) with explosive payloads, and has developed a paper aimed at informing decision-makers, donors, and the broader humanitarian community about the complex challenges and serious humanitarian risks posed by these emerging methods of warfare.
- Support was also given for the promotion and future implementation of the National Standard for Anti-Personnel Mines Victims Assistance, which establishes clear roles and coordination mechanisms for a robust system of care.

OUR WORK IN 2025

Pillar 1: Consolidation of Total Peace, Human Security, and Social Justice

In 2025, UNMAS Colombia contributed to three of the five strategic pillars of the UN Cooperation Framework for Sustainable Development 2024-2027:



Output 1.1.3. The development of strategies for the implementation of the comprehensive reintegration policy, the monitoring of the implementation of the 2016 Peace Agreement and other peace dialogue and conflict resolution processes with a territorial approach.

During 2025, UNMAS Colombia implemented the Project Closure Phase for the Information Collection on the Location of EO for peacebuilding in Colombia. The project aims to conclude the efforts in facilitating the fulfillment of the commitments established by the former FARC-EP in the Final Peace Agreement of 2016, related to the provision of information on the location of EO in Colombia. The project address to the fulfillment of section 3.1.7.1 regarding the provision of information, to the clearance of territories affected by anti-personnel mines (APM), improvised explosive devices (IED), and unexploded ordnance (UXO) or explosive remnants of war (ERW) and the section 5.1.3.2 regarding the FARC-EP commits to carry out actions contributing to reparation for the damages caused, which may include, among others, participation in infrastructure reconstruction works in the territories most affected by APM, IED, and UXO or ERW.

This project concludes the pre-pilot and pilot phases of collecting information on the location

of EO, which were conducted between 2021 and 2023. The final phase incorporates the gathering of detailed information on the tactics, strategies, uses, and characteristics of APM, as well as additional information on the location of EO in the departments of Meta, Guaviare and Nariño in areas not included in the previous phases. The objective is to provide inputs for the Government of Colombia to update the MA public policy, which expired in 2019, and technical national MA standards to facilitate humanitarian demining operations. A historical memorial document is expected to be finished in 2026; this will include the results and lessons learnt on the process of collecting EO-related information from former FARC-EP combatants during the implementation of the different phases of the project.

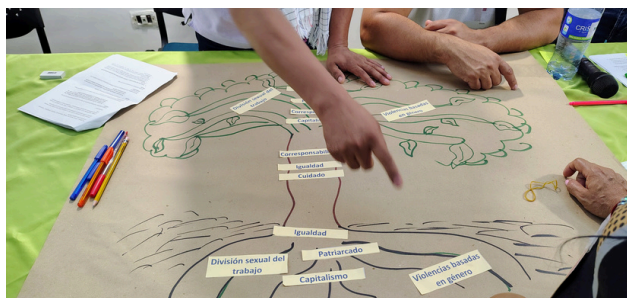
The project was conducted in the municipalities of Barrancabermeja (Santander), Cúcuta (Norte de Santander), Ibagué (Tolima), and Villavicencio (Meta). In the sessions, a total of 188 participants were registered globally for field activities during the awareness and information collection sessions. The sessions were accompanied by three top-level participants sanctioned by the JEP: Pastor Alape, Rodrigo Granda and Rodrigo Londoño.



Information Collection Workshop, Barrancabermeja, Santander, October 2025.

Our Work in 2025

Pillar 1: Consolidation of Total Peace, Human Security, and Social Justice



Gender awareness training, Cúcuta, October 2025.

During the awareness and information collection sessions, gender awareness training on non-hegemonic masculinities was conducted. The awareness sessions explored basic concepts related to gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation. The sessions included a collective construction of the characteristics traditionally assigned to the roles of men and women in society, the creation of a "tree of life" to illustrate a life-course approach before, during, and after participation in a Non-State Armed Group, and finally, a plenary analysis of the concepts of non-hegemonic gender and masculinities.

To support the implementation of the Peace Agreement, particularly in terms of restorative measures, UNMAS Colombia delivered workshops on the JEP, explaining the transitional justice system, the cases, special sanctions, and the special link between restorative measures/special sanctions and MA. UNMAS Colombia facilitated a workshop with the MA sector, in collaboration with the JEP, to explain the first ruling on sanctions issued against the last Secretariat of the FARC-EP under macro case 01, which investigates hostage-taking and severe deprivation of liberty committed by the former FARC-EP. Considering the restorative measures, UNMAS Colombia facilitated a space to share with MA Area of Responsibility (MA AoR) members the lessons learned from the joint Humanicemos DH - JEP's project "Opening Pathways to Reconciliation and Peace in the Territories through Humanitarian MA" a restorative-justice initiative.

Output 1.1.5: Implementation of actions and strategies for territorial transformation, strengthening justice systems, human security, including protection and management of antipersonnel mine risks, community resilience, and substitution/transformation of illegal economies.

As the provider of last resort, UNMAS Colombia conducted EORE workshops during the reporting period. These sessions were part of broader initiatives to strengthen local protection mechanisms and the management of risks related to APM and EO. The effort was carried out in support of the Mine Action Center (AICMA Group), which operates under the Office of the OCCP. The workshops successfully reached communities in seven municipalities within the Department of Nariño—specifically Samaniego, Los Andes Sotomayor, Pasto, Puerres, Ricaurte, Tumaco, and Túquerres—all of which are areas severely impacted by EO.

A total of 233 individuals participated, including 155 women and 78 men, and 100 per cent of beneficiaries demonstrated a measurable increase in knowledge of safe behaviours. By strengthening community awareness and promoting risk-informed decision-making, these workshops contributed to the implementation of concrete protection strategies, enhancing local capacities to prevent accidents and supporting safer, more resilient territorial development processes.

**233 total participants in
UNMAS EORE sessions**



155 Women



78 Men

Our Work in 2025

Pillar 1: Consolidation of Total Peace, Human Security, and Social Justice

Interpersonal approaches, particularly structured group discussions, were systematically integrated into the sessions to ensure that core EORE messages were not only delivered but meaningfully internalized by affected communities. By fostering dialogue rather than one-way communication, these methods created space for participants to reflect on their own experiences, ask questions, and collectively interpret risk in ways that were directly relevant to their daily realities.

Through these facilitated exchanges, community members strengthened their capacity to identify and assess threats. This included enhancing their understanding of risk identification—such as recognizing common types of explosive devices and distinguishing potentially hazardous environments—and reinforcing practical decision-making skills in situations of uncertainty. Emphasis was placed on promoting the consistent adoption of safe behaviors, including avoiding the handling of unknown objects and adhering to established safe routes. By anchoring these behaviors in locally grounded discussions, the sessions helped translate abstract safety messages into concrete, actionable practices.

Beyond individual awareness and education, the activities were specifically designed to contribute to a significant reinforcement of community-level response capacity and resilience. The approach moved beyond passive reception of information, actively encouraging participants to engage in a deeper consideration of collective responsibilities and shared protective measures that are essential when explosive devices are present within their residential or working territory.

This participatory engagement fulfilled several essential functions. It significantly reinforced a tangible sense of mutual accountability among community members, reframing the safety challenge from an individual concern into a shared responsibility. Community discussions frequently resulted in the identification of “safe zones” or designated community focal points, and the establishment of locally adapted alert systems that are culturally appropriate and accessible to diverse demographic groups.

By cultivating collective ownership, these measures are not only clearly understood but consistently applied and sustained well beyond the conclusion of the initial training sessions. The overarching objective is to nurture self-reliant communities that can proactively identify, manage, and mitigate the risks associated with EO contamination.



EORE workshop with community in Carrizal, Nariño, September 2025.

Pillar 3: Social Protection and Socioeconomic Inclusion, with an Emphasis on Vulnerable Populations, Migrants, and Refugees



Pillar 3: Social protection and socioeconomic inclusion, with an emphasis on vulnerable populations, migrants, and refugees.

Output 3.1.4 Support in the implementation of the national care system, the offering of solutions and strategies that allow progress towards a care society.

Strengthening the strategies and effectiveness of the National Care System at the local level was a central objective of UNMAS Colombia's interventions throughout 2025. To this end, a series of MA awareness workshops were implemented for public officials across six municipalities in the Department of Nariño — Los Andes, Sotomayor, Túquerres, Tumaco, Samaniego, Ricaurte, and Barbacoas — selected due to their vulnerability and high exposure to EO contamination.



EORE session with representatives of the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF) in Tumaco, Nariño, September 2025.

The workshops focused on two key pillars of MA: EORE and victim assistance. Participants included representatives from local Mayor's Offices, the regional and municipal branches of the Ombudsman's Office, the Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar (ICBF), and municipal

inspectors, ensuring broad institutional representation. This inter-institutional approach strengthened coordination mechanisms and promoted a holistic response to EO-related risks.

By clarifying institutional roles and standardizing the State's victim referral pathway, the sessions enhanced the capacity of local authorities to deliver timely, coordinated, and survivor-centered assistance. Through detailed technical guidance and practical tools, the workshops significantly improved departmental and municipal referral mechanisms, reinforcing the operational implementation of the National Care System within these territories.

This increased clarity led to a marked rise in knowledge among governmental institutions regarding their specific responsibilities to provide timely and comprehensive victim assistance. The officials are now better equipped to guide and support affected individuals, ensuring that victims of EO accidents can quickly access necessary medical, psychosocial, and economic support services through the clearly delineated institutional channels. The ultimate impact of this initiative is a more robust, responsible, and effective government response to the humanitarian consequences of EO in the Nariño Department.



EORE session with community in Samaniego, Nariño, October 2025.

Our Work in 2025

Pillar 3: Social Protection and Socioeconomic Inclusion, with an Emphasis on Vulnerable Populations, Migrants, and Refugees

In support of progress toward a care society, UNMAS community-level MA interventions strengthened local protection and assistance mechanisms by promoting shared responsibility for prevention, risk reduction, and victim support. These efforts reached diverse populations affected by EO, including ethnic communities such as the Camawari indigenous community, ensuring that culturally sensitive approaches reinforced inclusive, community-based care structures.

By equipping community members with the knowledge to recognize, avoid, and safely report EO, and by clearly outlining referral pathways for victims, the initiative enhanced access to assistance and strengthened local response capacities. These measures align with the objectives of a care society by ensuring that vulnerable individuals are not only protected from harm but also informed about available support mechanisms.

At the community level, the active engagement of women was pivotal in advancing holistic, care-centered approaches, marking a clear step toward a more inclusive and protective society. Their participation in protection discussions not only brought unique perspectives but also ensured that the differentiated risks and specific vulnerabilities faced by women and girls in EO-affected communities were explicitly recognized and addressed.

These engagement sessions, sometimes led by women leaders, were designed to go beyond simple information sharing, fostering deeper awareness and understanding of local threats. With the women's leadership, the sessions cultivated shared accountability for protection and a collective sense of responsibility that extended from families to the wider community. This approach set a new standard for dialogue, encouraging open conversations on sensitive safety issues and reinforcing the community's progress toward a care-oriented society where everyone's well-being is prioritized.



EORE workshop with representatives of the Camawari indigenous community in Ricaurte, Nariño, September 2025.

Output 3.1.5 Support in capacity strengthening in humanitarian crisis response situations.

UNMAS Colombia undertook significant efforts to strengthen the institutional coordination architecture for MA in the Nariño Department to respond to emergencies. Specifically, UNMAS Colombia successfully facilitated the formal reactivation of two key coordination bodies: the Nariño ELC's MA Subgroup in October 2025 and the broader Nariño Departmental MA Committee in September 2025. These reactivations are key steps in supporting the AICMA Group and improving local capacity for coordinated emergency MA efforts.

The successful reactivation of these bodies achieved several critical objectives. It consolidated a stable and functional inter-institutional coordination structure essential for the effective implementation of MA activities. The restored framework also enabled more rigorous and timely monitoring of new EO incidents and accidents across the department, while strengthening centralized information management and improving data analysis related to contamination and clearance progress. Most importantly, the renewed structures provide a solid foundation for cohesive and strategic inter-institutional, inter-organizational, and inter-agency planning. This enhanced institutional stability is fundamental to ensuring the continuity, effectiveness, and long-term sustainability of MA efforts in Nariño.

In addition to these coordination efforts, UNMAS supported local authorities in including MA in contingency plans, as well as in the updating and development of departmental, municipal, and community victim assistance routes, thus ensuring a more comprehensive and localized approach to addressing the risks and consequences of EO contamination.



Nariño Departmental Mine Action Committee, September 2025.

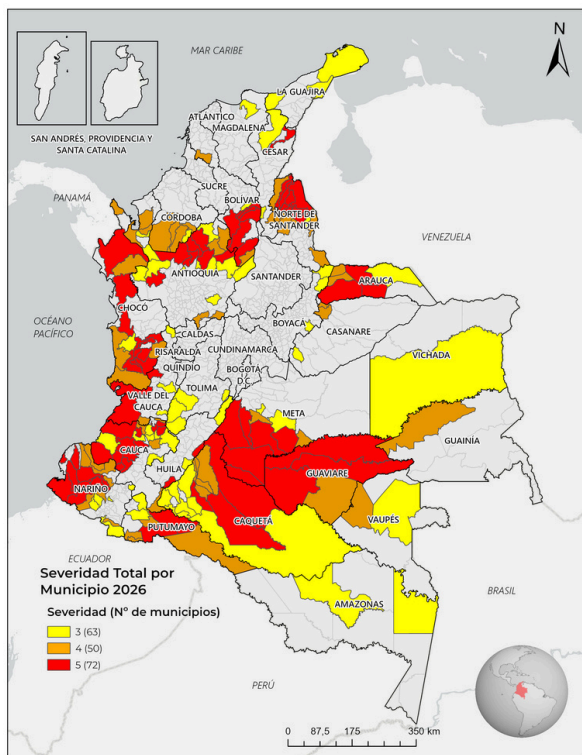
This integrated approach helps to build local capacity and ownership for long-term safety and risk mitigation.

UNMAS Colombia, in its critical role as the lead of the MA AoR, has significantly bolstered humanitarian response capacities to emergencies. This support was integrated across the entire humanitarian programming cycle—from planning and coordination to implementation and monitoring—thereby ensuring that interventions are needs-based, evidence-driven, and fully accountable to the affected populations.

A core output of this work was the substantive contribution to the development of the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP). Through rigorous analysis and data validation, UNMAS Colombia identified a severe and growing risk profile for the upcoming year. The MA AoR projects that in 2026, approximately 812,966 people across 183 municipalities could be at direct risk of suffering an accident involving EO or facing the secondary impacts of confinement and/or displacement due to EO contamination. Alarmingly, this figure represents an 18% increase in the People in Need (PiN) compared to the preceding year, 2025.

Our Work in 2025

Pillar 3: Social Protection and Socioeconomic Inclusion, with an Emphasis on Vulnerable Populations, Migrants, and Refugees



People in Need 2026. Source: MA AoR.

The most critical concentration of this humanitarian need is found in six key departments, which collectively account for 61% of the total PiN for 2026: Norte de Santander, Antioquia, Cauca, Nariño, Valle del Cauca, and Chocó. This geographic prioritization is essential for focused and effective resource allocation.

UNMAS Colombia provided crucial technical assistance to territorial coordination mechanisms, ensuring the integration of the MA approach into broader humanitarian response activities and community protection strategies. This integration was particularly vital in zones experiencing high levels of displacement and confinement, such as the municipalities of Francisco Pizarro, Olaya Herrera, Puerres, and Córdoba in Nariño Department.

The technical support included several key activities: Technical assistance was provided to the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia (UNVMC), guiding risk analysis in the field and the inclusion of MA criteria in their operations, which improved the safety and effectiveness of their humanitarian deployments.

Furthermore, vital information was delivered to communities in prioritized areas to mitigate immediate risk through EORE.

A significant and strategic undertaking was the capacity-strengthening effort designed to fundamentally elevate the national framework for victim assistance. The primary focus was the promotion and subsequent future implementation of the National Standard for APM Victims Assistance. This pivotal effort went beyond simple policy drafting; it involved a comprehensive process of:

- Clearly defining roles and responsibilities: Establishing precise mandates for all relevant governmental institutions and non-governmental partners.
- Articulating coordination mechanisms: Creating a framework to move beyond fragmented service delivery and establish a clear, robust, comprehensive, and articulated system of care.



Technical assistance and EORE workshop with the UNVMC in Pasto, Nariño, October 2025.

Our Work in 2025

Pillar 3: Social Protection and Socioeconomic Inclusion, with an Emphasis on Vulnerable Populations, Migrants, and Refugees

The objective is to ensure that services—including medical rehabilitation, psychosocial support, economic inclusion, and the realization of victims' rights—are provided in an efficient, non-discriminatory, and sustainable manner to all EO victims. This comprehensive and structured approach was supported through the MA AoR framework, ensuring alignment with national priorities and international obligations, particularly under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. The MA AoR framework was instrumental in maximizing inter-agency collaboration and resource mobilization, leading to a more cohesive national response.

Finally, the programme provided essential and strategic support to the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) during the humanitarian transition phase, which was necessitated by global funding dynamics and shifts. This intervention

was instrumental in maintaining a needs-based and coherent response, directly addressing identified gaps and priorities within affected regions. This reorientation address to:

- Optimized resource allocation: Ensuring that finite resources were directed where the need was greatest.
- Strengthened effectiveness and long-term sustainability: Embedding practices that will ensure lasting impact.
- Prepared local partners: Ensuring the transition leads to sustained action by local stakeholders.

UNMAS continues to play a multifaceted role—including capacity building, risk education, and clearance operations—all of which are essential components in achieving a lasting peace, facilitating early recovery, and establishing resilience in EO-affected territories.



EORE session with representatives of the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF) in Tumaco, Nariño, September 2025.

Pillar 5: Enablers of the Agenda 2030



Pillar 5: Enablers of the Agenda 2030.

Output 5.1.3 Strengthening capacities to close gaps and implement a population, differential, intersectional, and human rights approach, with special attention to people with disabilities, ethnic groups, Afro-descendant, Raizal, Rom, and Palenquero communities, peasantry and rural inhabitants, victims, people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, and age groups.

UNMAS has played a pivotal role in strengthening capacities to close gaps and implement a population-based, differential, and human-rights approach to MA in Colombia. By delivering targeted EORE and Victim Assistance workshops to municipal officials, the Ombudsman's Office, the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF by its acronym in Spanish), and Municipal Public Ministry Representatives across Los Andes Sotomayor, Túquerres, Tumaco, Samaniego, Ricaurte, and Barbacoas, UNMAS enhanced institutional knowledge, coordination, and response mechanisms.



UNMAS Colombia accompanied the Colombian Delegation to the International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers (NDM-UN28) in Geneva, Switzerland, April 2025.



Meeting with new AICMA Coordinator, August 2025.

These efforts improved the ability of local authorities to manage EO incidents more effectively and fostered resilience within communities, ensuring timely protection and assistance for those most affected. Importantly, these actions serve as enablers of the 2030 Agenda, directly contributing to goals related to peace, justice, strong institutions, and reduced inequalities.

Building on this local-level work, UNMAS provided specialized technical assistance to the DNP during the diagnostic phase of national MA policy. By contributing evidence-based inputs and expert analysis through the DNP and the Mine Action Center – AICMA Group, which is under the OCCP, UNMAS enabled more informed decision-making, resulting in a stronger, well-founded foundation for the future national strategy. This support directly enhanced the government's capacity to design policies that respond to real needs and improve protection and assistance for affected populations, aligning with the 2030 Agenda's emphasis on inclusive governance and sustainable development.

UNMAS also strengthened strategic sector processes by supporting Colombia's response to comments from the Article 5 Implementation Committee of the Ottawa Convention regarding the 2025–2030 extension request. This assistance clarified technical aspects and

ensured compliance with international obligations, contributing to the country's credibility and reinforcing its capacity to manage and report on MA commitments effectively.

In addition, UNMAS Colombia has developed a forthcoming analytical paper titled “Uncrewed Aircraft Systems with Explosive Payloads: Emerging Threats and Challenges for Colombia.” This study assesses evolving conflict dynamics and their implications for civilian protection. Coordinated efforts with the Ministry of Defense and the United Nations Department of Safety and Security ensure that the analysis will inform both policy and operational responses, thereby strengthening preparedness for emerging threats.

To address gaps in victim data, UNMAS Colombia coordinated with Pastoral Social of Pasto and the MA Subgroup to consolidate and update scattered and outdated records. This initiative led to the identification of active cases, updated victim registries, and follow-up support for individuals previously excluded from

Victim Assistance pathways. Furthermore, technical dialogue with the Nariño Departmental Health Institute (IDSN) improved care pathways, resolved administrative barriers, and implemented differentiated approaches that considered mobility, security, and accessibility in rural and ethnic communities.

Through these coordinated actions, UNMAS Colombia strengthened institutional capacities to close operational and information gaps while implementing a population-based, differential, intersectional, and human-rights approach. Authorities are now better prepared to address the specific needs of diverse groups, including persons with disabilities, ethnic communities, and rural inhabitants. The consolidation of data, the enhancement of referral systems, and the promotion of inclusive policymaking have resulted in more effective, equitable, and accountable MA responses. In doing so, UNMAS ensures that marginalized and conflict-affected populations are recognized, protected, and supported, while simultaneously advancing Colombia's progress toward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



UNMAS Colombia organized the panel discussion “Clearing the Path to Peace: Humanitarian Demining in Peace Agreements” during Geneva Peace Week, May 2025.



Visit of UNMAS Global Director to Colombia. Meeting with the Mine Action Sector, May 2025.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2026

Building on progress achieved during 2025, UNMAS Colombia will focus on three strategic priorities, designed to maximize its impact and relevance in the Colombian context, while strengthening its contribution to the UNSDCF outcomes:

1. **Strengthening the mine action sector in response to the increasing use of explosive devices:**

The growing use of explosive devices in Colombia, including emerging threats such as the use of drones with Explosive Payloads, requires a more adaptive and coordinated sectoral response. In this context, UNMAS aims, by 2026, to consolidate the sector's capacities by providing targeted technical assistance at both local and national levels, focused on mitigating the risks associated with these devices. Furthermore, support to policy and standards development, and enhanced coordination mechanisms, contributing to a more coherent, evidence-based, and forward-looking mine action response.

2. **Enhancing preparedness and response capacities in prioritized territories:**

Given the current deterioration of the humanitarian situation, as well as the context of the presidential electoral process, communities, local authorities, and humanitarian actors must have the necessary tools to prevent and respond to explosive threats in their territories. Interventions will focus on high-risk departments, including Cauca, Chocó, Guaviare, Meta, Nariño, Norte de Santander, and Putumayo, with an emphasis on strengthening EORE and victims' assistance capacities, and the consolidation of local coordination and referral mechanisms. These efforts aim to reinforce community resilience and improve timely, context-sensitive responses.



Panel discussion about the impact and humanitarian challenges generated by EO at University Javeriana during the International Peace Week in Bogotá, Colombia, September 2025.

3. **Advancing advocacy and positioning mine action as an enabler of sustainable development and peacebuilding:**

UNMAS will continue to strengthen advocacy efforts to position mine action as a critical enabler of sustainable development and peacebuilding in the country. To achieve this, it is essential to further highlight humanitarian mine action as an enabler of access to rights and essential services, particularly in communities affected by explosive hazards. In parallel, UNMAS will support efforts to consolidate mechanisms for assessing the impact of humanitarian demining operations, contributing to a better understanding of their socioeconomic and protection outcomes, including improved access to land, livelihoods, and public services.

Through strengthened engagement with government counterparts, donors, and international partners, UNMAS will continue to support resource mobilization, policy dialogue, and sustained commitment to addressing explosive threats in Colombia, while reinforcing the positioning of mine action within broader human rights, territorial stabilization, and development agendas.



United Nations Mine Action Service



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Bogotá, Colombia. July 2026.