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Advancing Peace Through Dialogue and Collaboration

From 2–3 February, UNMAS facilitated an expert workshop that brought together peacebuilding and mine action specialists, representatives of the former FARC-EP Secretariat, the Government of Colombia, the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, and UNMAS.

Participants reflected on the strategic use of explosive devices during the

armed conflict by the former FARC-EP, including technical aspects, humanitarian and social impacts, and public policy recommendations related to mine action. The workshop was part of a UNMPTF-funded initiative supporting the 2016 Peace Agreement's provisions on the supply of information on the location of explosive devices.



Strengthening Local Response Capacities in the Department of Chocó

Continued clashes between non-state armed groups and the presence of explosive ordnance continue to affect communities in the department of Chocó, which has recorded the highest number of people confined in Colombia in 2025.

In this context, from 9–13 February, UNMAS Colombia, with the support of ECHO, engaged with departmental and

local authorities in Quibdó, Tadó, and Istmina to identify priority needs and strengthen local response capacities related to explosive device threats. UNMAS conducted a victim assistance workshop in Quibdó with the Victims Unit, strengthening the institutional capacity to respond to victim's needs.



Women Leading Safer Communities

On 28 February, as part of an ECHO-funded project, UNMAS delivered Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) to 40 women community leaders in Ricaurte, Nariño, an area heavily affected by explosive ordnance contamination.

Through these sessions, participants strengthened their capacity to promote safe behaviors and share life-saving knowledge within their families, schools, and communities, highlighting the important role of women in contributing to safer environments.



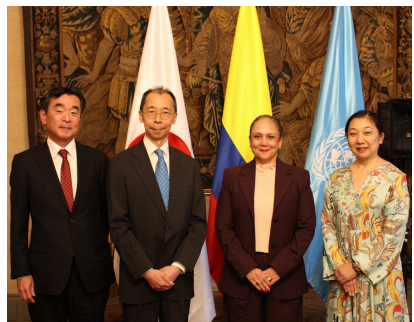
Strengthening Partnerships for Mine Action and Peacebuilding

Between 9–13 February and 4–6 March, UNMAS Colombia hosted two missions from UNMAS Headquarters in New York, including a visit by the newly appointed UNMAS Director Ms. Kazumi Ogawa. The missions provided an opportunity to strengthen engagement with national authorities, donors, international partners, and stakeholders across the mine action and peacebuilding sectors, including discussions on the role of mine action within Colombia’s peace process and restorative justice system.

During the Director’s visit, UNMAS Colombia also convened dedicated exchanges with mine action organizations and representatives of the

international community to discuss current operational and funding challenges, evolving conflict dynamics, and the importance of sustaining support for mine action in Colombia.

A key highlight of the visit was the signing of a new project financed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which will support communities affected by explosive hazards in some of the most heavily contaminated areas of the country. Furthermore, the project will provide technical assistance to the Government of Colombia to strengthen national capacity across the technical, operational, and managerial aspects of mine action.



The Impact of Anti-personnel Mines in Colombia

 **54 victims**

registered between 1 January and 30 June 2026.



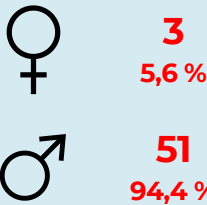
8 children

are among the registered victims.

8 victims

belong to indigenous communities.

Gender



Source: AICMA Group, 2026.

Marking International Mine Action Awareness Day

On 10 April, UNMAS Colombia and the AICMA Group convened mine action stakeholders to commemorate the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, observed annually on 4 April.

Through a dynamic panel and interactive exhibition, organizations shared how the sector is responding to complex contexts through innovative approaches – from adapting standards in areas affected by instability, to

initiatives in explosive ordnance risk education, hazard marking in school environments, and enhanced solutions for victim rehabilitation.

Later in the month, on 17 April, the AICMA Group, Foundation CIREC, and UNMAS hosted the exhibition "Restaurar para Sanar" (restore to heal), honoring survivors' resilience through photography, community art, a demining experience, and a prosthetics museum.



Addressing Emerging Threats to Civilian Protection

UNMAS Colombia launched the technical paper "Uncrewed Aircraft Systems with Explosive Payloads: Emerging Threats and Challenges for Colombia," examining the humanitarian impact of explosive devices and emerging technologies in conflict settings.

During the launch event held on 15 April, representatives from government institutions, the United Nations, and partner organizations exchanged perspectives on current challenges, coordination efforts, and victim-centered approaches to strengthening civilian protection in the face of evolving threats posed by weaponized

drones. The paper was developed with contributions and support from the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), the United Nations Department of Peace Operations (UNDPO), the Improvised Explosive Device Threat Mitigation Advisory Team (TMAT-UNMAS), the Ministry of Defense of Colombia, the Mine Action Area of Responsibility, and UNOPS.

Read the technical paper:

<https://unmas.org/en/document-library/uncrewed-aircraft-systems-with-explosive-payloads-emerging-threats-and>



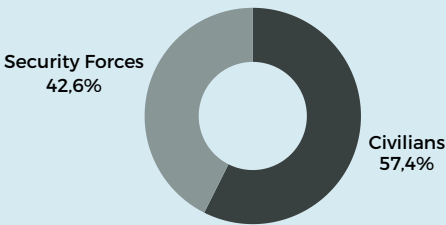
The Impact of Anti-personnel Mines in Colombia

Casualties



All recorded victims survived their accidents involving anti-personnel mines and other unexploded ordnance; however, all sustained injuries or permanent disabilities.

Status



More than half of the victims are civilians.

Source: AICMA Group, 2026.

Showcasing Colombia's Mine Action Experience at NDM-UN29

From 22–24 April, the Country Representative of UNMAS Colombia, Antonio Armentano, accompanied the AICMA Group as part of the national delegation to the 29th International Meeting of Mine Action National Directors and United Nations Advisers (NDM-UN29) in Geneva, one of the leading global forums for mine action cooperation and exchange.

During the event, UNMAS Colombia co-hosted the panel "Mine Action as a Peacebuilding Tool" together with the GICHD, the AICMA Group, the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), and

Interpeace. The panel highlighted Colombia's experience in integrating mine action into the 2016 Final Peace Agreement and its contribution to reconciliation, trust-building, and the socioeconomic reintegration of former combatants.

The discussions also provided an opportunity to exchange perspectives on emerging humanitarian and security challenges, including the growing threats posed by the use of weaponized drones in conflict settings.

Watch the recording of the discussion:
<https://youtu.be/Sb89Uf4jQsc>



New Flash Update: Drone Attacks on the Rise in Colombia

On 25 June, UNMAS Colombia has published its latest Flash Update "Attacks with Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS) Carrying Explosive Devices in Colombia: 146% Increase and Geographic Expansion". The report examines the growing use of explosive-laden drones by non-state armed groups between January and May 2026, documenting a sustained rise in attacks, geographic expansion into new departments, and a significant civilian impact, with civilians accounting for 32% of those affected.

NUMBER OF WEAPONIZED DRONE ATTACKS
January – May 2026


121

WOUNDED*

145

including 3 minors

KILLED*

21

including 1 minor

This growing concern was also covered by Catherine Ellis in Latin America Reports, who spoke with Antonio Armentano about the evolving use of drones in Colombia's conflict.

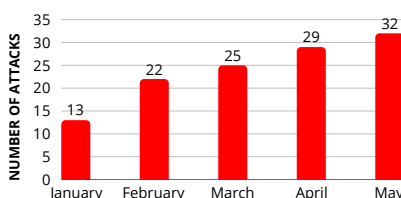
Read the full article:

<https://latinamericareports.com/colombia-top-military-commander-says-army-facing-increasingly-sophisticated-drones/14616/>

Read the full flash update:

<https://unmas.org/en/document-library/flash-update-drones-june-2026-english>

WEAPONIZED DRONE ATTACKS BY MONTH



About UNMAS Colombia

Since 2010, UNMAS has provided technical assistance to Colombia's national mine action center, the AICMA Group of the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OCCP), 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 **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**, **UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Peace (UN-MPTF)**, and the **Governments of South Korea, Spain, and Switzerland** to whom we are grateful for their contributions.



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