



UNMAS

Newsletter

Colombia

June 2021

United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in Colombia newsletter informs about the main technical assistance activities carried out through the projects implemented in the country to strengthen the mine action sector, in conjunction with the **Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP, in Spanish)** - **Descontamina Colombia**.

Colombia becomes the first UNMAS programme led by national personnel



After more than four years, my period as Programme Manager of UNMAS Colombia concludes, a change in which we have been working for the last year and that becomes the final step of a process of nationalization of the programme that must be a source of pride for the staff and for our donors.

On July 1, my Colombian colleague Pablo Parra will take over as Programme Manager and from that day on he will maintain the relationship with the key partners and lead the joint initiatives that are being developed. This change is a strategic milestone, not only for UNMAS Colombia but also for UNMAS global, since it will become the first programme

*to achieve this goal set out in the **The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness**, which invites to “developing national capacities in development strategies and continuing their implementation through country-led development strategies”.*

This achievement is also an investment in the sustainability of the programme, as it demonstrates the strength, robustness and self-management capacity that has been achieved, supported by the inclusion, diversity, gender and the capacity building policies of the United Nations that we implement.

UNMAS's mission is to strengthen national capacities, and this is a great step in that direction.

I finish my period as Programme Manager satisfied with the work done by this unique, committed and flexible team in the current context of pandemic. I appreciate the support of our donors and our partners in the mine action sector, under the leadership of the Government of Colombia. UNMAS Colombia is prepared to continue working to improve the living conditions of communities affected by anti-personnel mines without leaving anyone behind.

Jan Philip Klever

Programme Manager of UNMAS Colombia



Reference photo: UNMAS Colombia

Officials of humanitarian organizations operating in regions affected by anti-personnel mines receive EORE workshop

Within the framework of the joint work plan between the Mine Action Subgroup and the Child Protection Subgroup, UNMAS in collaboration with UNICEF, organized a Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) session addressed to 20 representatives of humanitarian organizations who work in territories affected by the presence of anti-personnel mines. The purpose of this session was to disseminate prevention messages among officials of organizations such as **Save the Children, the Norwegian Council for Refugees and Terre des Hommes**, to contribute to their protection and that of the beneficiary populations of their interventions. Through actions like this one, the two subgroups, which are part of the Protection Cluster, will strengthen the capacities of the organizations and the coordination of their humanitarian interventions.



ArcGIS viewer with data from Colombia

UNMAS Colombia uses new information management platform

The Information Management (IM) team of UNMAS Colombia recently completed the transfer of all the information of the projects that are implemented in the country to the new ArcGIS Enterprise system that will be managed by UNMAS global. The programme in Colombia has already used this platform locally for three years to collect information on its activities and maintain data visualization tools that serve the sector. This is an important step, since from now on all the data of the activities that are implemented in Colombia will be collected, analyzed and presented on this global platform, which **will allow for more in-depth analysis of operations throughout the planet**. The process of unifying all UNMAS programs in the world started 2 years ago and has been led by the IM global team in New York and Geneva.

Our results, in numbers

Photo: Javier Taborda / HUMANICEMOS DH

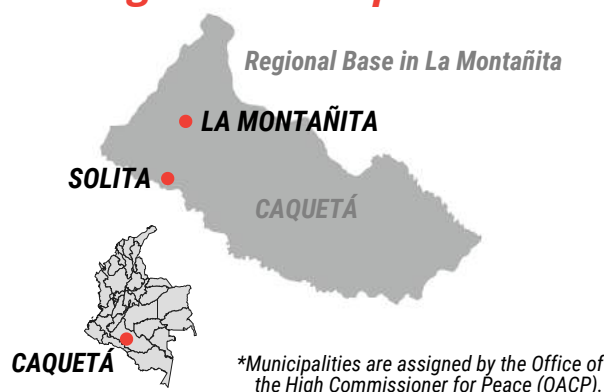


On June 30, UNMAS officially ends the technical assistance process for **HUMANICEMOS DH**, mine action organization that emerged after the 2016 Peace Agreement. From July 1, HUMANICEMOS DH will operate with complete autonomy and with its capacity installed, like the rest of the mine action civil organizations in Colombia. Since 2018 UNMAS has implemented the **Humanicemos Project** with the objective of developing and then strengthening the organizational and operational capacity of the aforementioned organization, through training for ex-combatants members of HUMANICEMOS DH. After more than three years, the job is done.

Main results

- **HUMANICEMOS DH employs 94 ex-combatants in the process of reintegration in managerial, administrative and operational tasks.**
- **UNMAS trained 76 ex-combatants in humanitarian demining tasks, which were certified by the OACP.**
- **HUMANICEMOS DH was assigned mine action tasks in two municipalities: La Montañita and Solita, Caquetá.**

Assigned municipalities*



*Municipalities are assigned by the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP).

UNMAS and Descontamina Colombia hold a joint workshop for FARC-EP ex-combatants with the purpose of engaging them in mine action

MARCH 2017

Phase 1 of the Project begins, implemented by UNMAS and financed by the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund (UN-MPTF)

MAY 2017

HUMANICEMOS DH is officially established as a mine action civil organization

After conducting the first operational evaluations, the OAS informs that it cannot be the External Monitoring Component (EMC) of ex-combatants of the FARC-EP

FEBRUARY 2018

UNMAS provides grants to HUMANICEMOS DH, The HALO Trust and Norwegian Popular Aid (APN) to these organizations to train 124 ex-combatants

APRIL 2018

The Government of Colombia and the UN sign the Memorandum of Understanding that designates UNMAS as the EMC in charge of monitoring HUMANICEMOS DH

MARCH 2020

Phase 1 of the Humanicemos Project, funded by the MPTF, ends

FEBRUARY 2020

Phase 2 of the Project begins, financed by the European Trust Fund for Peace

JANUARY 2020

The United Nations begins negotiations with the Government of Colombia to define a new EMC for HUMANICEMOS DH

JULY 2018

Launch of the HUMANICEMOS DH Regional Base in Aguabonita II, Caquetá. Participation of the Government, UN, local authorities and national and international NGOs

MAY 2018

UNMAS begins formal training in humanitarian demining work, after a pause by the Covid-19 pandemic, so that staff can be certified by the OACP

JUNE 2020

27 members of HUMANICEMOS DH pass the evaluations in Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Level 1, and as medical support, personnel necessary to deploy NTS teams in the communities

AUGUST 2020

The first 17 ex-combatants pass the evaluations of UNMAS, which allowed them to be certified by the OACP in Non-Technical Survey (NTS) work, the first step of humanitarian demining

SEPTEMBER 2020

HUMANICEMOS DH deploys the first NTS teams in La Montañita, Caquetá, to identify areas with contamination by explosive ordnance. The first two Confirmed Hazardous Areas (CHA) were identified in the municipality

OCTOBER 2020

JUNE 2021

HUMANICEMOS DH completes humanitarian demining work in the Embera Chamí Indigenous Reservation of La Montañita, the first area to be handed over free of mines by ex-combatants

MARCH 2021

HUMANICEMOS DH deploys its first Manual Clearance teams in La Montañita. A week later they identify the first anti-personnel mine and proceed to neutralize it

Photos: HUMANICEMOS DH and UNMAS Colombia



FEBRUARY 2018
Signing of the agreement with the UN-MPTF for Phase 1



JULY 2018
Launch of the HUMANICEMOS DH Regional Base



MARCH 2020
Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding



AUGUST 2020
First staff accredited by the OACP



DECEMBER 2020
First teams of Manual Clearance (MC)



MARCH 2021
First anti-personnel mine identified by MC teams

