

Update

Mine Action Support Group Meeting

October 23, 2024

Colombia

Colombia continues to demonstrate strong national ownership of its mine action program, now overseen by the Counselling Office Commissioned for Peace, which replaced the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP). The country has made notable progress, particularly in surveying and clearing mine-affected areas that are safely accessible. This effort has been strengthened by the adoption of a new national mine action standard, finalized in 2024 and titled "Humanitarian Demining in Areas with Security Instability Factors and Response to Specific Events." This standard is a significant step forward in improving access to unstable regions, enabling humanitarian mine action interventions in some of the most heavily impacted communities, and addressing contamination in areas where little information is available.

Colombia is also advancing new initiatives, such as the creation of a Knowledge Management Platform to convene and unify the sector which the following priority topics have been identified: Operational Efficiency Indicators; Recognition of Explosive Devices; Impact Measurement Methodology; Development of Local Capacity and Localization; Methodology for Measuring Community Impact by Explosive Devices; Cross-Cutting Approaches in AICMA; and Technology and Innovation.

As you are aware, one of the main challenges, aside from the security situation and reports of new anti-personnel mine use by non-state armed groups (NSAG), is that almost two-thirds of the total mine clearance in 2023 did not uncover any explosive ordnance. This has been tackled since by the national authority with support of the OAS and operational efficiency standards are being thoroughly promoted and applied by all stakeholders in the country.

There is now increased engagement with donors locally, and Colombia's three-year operational plan through 2025 includes specific land release targets by municipality and clearly defined outputs for non-technical survey (NTS), technical survey (TS), and clearance operations.

Ecuador and Peru

The OAS continues to work with Ecuador and Peru to support both countries in their efforts to complete clearance of their shared border. Both countries are continuing to make progress, however, much needed resources to complete the work have not yet been

forthcoming. Some smaller initiatives to carry out assessments of remaining areas, and to find ways of speeding up this work have been carried out, but the necessary operational resources and equipment remains. This key partnership could allow the completion of this demining work, and two more States Parties to the AP Mine Ban Convention to meet their Convention obligations.