COLOMBIA

MINE ACTION REVIEW

CLEARING THE MINES 2025

KEY DATA

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 31 DECEMBER 2025

Not on track to meet deadline
Five-year interim extension to 31 December 2030 requested

AP MINE CONTAMINATION: 20KM²

Medium
(Mine Action Review estimate)

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024* (m²)	Release in 2023* (m²)
Clearance	1,398,340	1,731,607
Technical Survey	113	145,335
Non-Technical Survey	75,044	6,502

Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	2024	2023
AP Mines destroyed	193 (incl. 11 during spot tasks)	231 (incl. 27 during spot tasks)***

*Based on Article 7 report data. **Based on OCCP-AICMA Group data. ***The number of AP mines destroyed in 2023 was previously recorded in last year's report as 148, but has been adjusted to reflect the revised figures provided by Colombia in September 2024, after data verification.

MAIN AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE OPERATORS IN 2024:

- Humanitarian Demining Brigade (Brigada de Desminado Humanitario (BRDEH)
- Batallón de Desminado e Ingenieros Anfibios (BDIAN)
- Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas (CCCM)
- Corporación HUMANICEMOS DH (HUMANICEMOS DH)
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- Humanity & Inclusion (HI)
- The HALO Trust (HALO)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

In 2024, the use of munitions surged in Colombia, with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reporting an 89% increase in casualties from explosive ordnance, including remotely activated devices, compared to 2023. The security and humanitarian situation deteriorated significantly as armed groups fragmented, territorial disputes intensified, and hostilities with national security forces resumed following the end of several ceasefires. In response, the humanitarian mine action sector sought to adapt by adopting a new national standard based on a rapid-response approach to risk reduction (known as 4R), which is designed to facilitate operations in high-risk areas. According to the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA), survey and clearance outputs declined slightly in 2024 compared to the previous year.

Colombia prepared and submitted a new Article 5 deadline extension request for 2026 to the end of 2030, which was due to be considered at the Twenty-Second Meeting of States Parties (22MSP) in December 2025. The request, an interim one, recognised that Colombia will not meet its Article 5 obligations within the five-year extension period. It was accompanied by a detailed intermediate Operations Plan for 2025–27. The extension request showcased efforts by the NMAA to improve baseline contamination data, including municipalities with suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) whose size remains undetermined due to insecurity and lack of access. Colombia also informed States Parties that some municipalities have experienced new mine laying, including areas previously declared mine-free.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- **The demining sector should continue exploring strategies to reduce the amount of land cleared found to have no landmine contamination. Given that half of all mined areas cleared in 2024 were found to contain no AP mines, further discussion on this long-standing issue is urgently needed. In particular, the potential for technical survey (TS) to confirm contamination could be revisited.**
- **Colombia should ensure continuity of the Knowledge Management Platform established in 2024 as a means to unify the mine action sector and mainstream successes. It should also consider establishing a National Mine Action Platform to serve as a biannual forum for collective dialogue among all stakeholders—including donors and government branches—to monitor progress in Article 5 implementation.**
- **Colombia should ensure thorough evaluation of the recently adopted 4R approach. If successful, this approach could serve as a useful model for States Parties that face mine contamination during active armed conflicts and need to conduct operations in environments with unstable humanitarian access.**
- **Colombia needs a robust resource mobilisation plan to address anticipated funding cuts to demining in 2025 and navigate an increasingly competitive global funding landscape.**
- **Colombia should adopt national mine action standards (NMAS) on gender and diversity, as well as on environmental protection, in conformity with the revised International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) 07.13.**
- **Colombia should continue working to assume full responsibility for its Quality Management (QM) system, which is being transitioned from the Organization of American States (OAS) Comprehensive Mine Action Programme (OAS-AICMA) and scheduled for completion by the end of 2026.**

ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Criterion	Score (2024)	Score (2023)	Performance Commentary
UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION (20% of overall score)	6	6	While a nationwide survey remains unfeasible, the NMAA established a new baseline for AP mine contamination as part of its interim Article 5 deadline extension request. Municipalities were categorised in three groups: those with known baseline contamination identified through non-technical survey; those with suspected but unconfirmed contamination where insecurity prevents access; and those previously declared mine-free, where new contamination has been detected. By the end of 2024, 935 municipalities (83%) were declared mine-free, while 17% remain contaminated, with 84 municipalities receiving a mine action response and 102 awaiting an intervention.
NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (10% of overall score)	8	8	There is strong national ownership, with overall responsibility for the mine action programme sitting with the Counselling Office Commissioned for Peace (OCCP), which was renamed from the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (OACP) in April 2024. In March 2024, Nathalie Ochoa Niño was appointed head of the OCCP-AICMA Group, bringing fresh momentum and leadership in the sector before stepping down in March 2025. OAS-AICMA qualified the national authority's 2024 efforts as "unprecedented" and a "significant and extraordinary step toward national ownership". To further support technical dialogue among demining operators, a Knowledge Management Platform was launched with eight dedicated working groups.
GENDER AND DIVERSITY (10% of overall score)	8	8	While Colombia does not have a dedicated gender and diversity policy or action plan for mine action, gender and identity have been integrated as a cross-cutting elements in the 2023–2025 Operations Plan, aligned with the 2022–2026 National Development Plan. Colombia continues to have one of the highest rates of women's participation in the global mine action sector. All civilian demining operators have gender focal points, though their structure and responsibilities vary. Survey and community liaison teams across all operators include representatives from ethnic and minority groups to promote inclusivity and strengthen community trust. The Knowledge Management Platform, established in 2024, includes a technical group dedicated to cross-cutting approaches including gender and ethnicity, with the goal of promoting practical, inclusive approaches that address inequalities and reflect the diverse identities of affected populations.

Assessment of National Programme Performance Continued

Criterion	Score (2024)	Score (2023)	Performance Commentary
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION (10% of overall score)	6	6	Colombia does not have a specific NMAS on environmental management in mine action. A 2017 presidential decree remains in force, outlining the environmental measures that operators must follow when demining in national parks and other ecologically sensitive areas. All operators have standard operating procedures addressing environmental concerns, and in 2024, both national civilian operators (CCCM and HUMANICEMOS DH) adopted detailed environmental and climate policies.
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING (10% of overall score)	7	6	The NMAA worked with demining operators to improve the accuracy of "event" records in its Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) in 2024. These included field investigations and verification processes to ensure the database more accurately reflects the current contamination. The 2025–27 operations plan in Colombia's Article 5 deadline extension request outlines the transition from the current IMSMA system to IMSMA Core.
PLANNING AND TASKING (10% of overall score)	7	6	As part of its Article 5 deadline extension request for 2026–30, Colombia introduced a new operations plan for 2025–27. In 2024, Colombia also made significant changes to its prioritisation process for tackling AP mined area as well as on the allocation of municipalities among demining operators.
LAND RELEASE SYSTEM (10% of overall score)	7	7	In 2024, the AICMA-OCCP Group adopted the "National Standard for Humanitarian Demining in Areas with Security Instability and Response to Specific Incidents." Aligned with IMAS, this new standard equips the State and operators with technical and operational tools to conduct mine action operations in high-risk, unstable areas, enhancing Colombia's response capacity in complex contexts.
LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE (20% of overall score)	7	7	While Colombia met its clearance targets during the current extension period, it acknowledged that large mined areas remain, with their full extent still undetermined. Colombia will not meet its 31 December 2025 clearance deadline and has submitted a third interim extension request, seeking a new deadline of the end of 2030. Despite operating one of the world's largest demining programmes, progress remains slow—particularly in remote and conflict-affected areas—while funding continues to decline.
Average Score	**6.9**	**6.7**	**Overall Programme Performance: AVERAGE**

AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE CAPACITY

MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

- OCCP-AICMA: Colombia's Comprehensive Action Against Anti-Personnel Mines (Acción Integral contra las Minas Antipersonal, AICMA) under the Counselling Office Commissioned for Peace (Oficina Consejería Comisionada de Paz, OCCP)
- Intercollegiate Humanitarian Demining Body (Instancia Interinstitucional de Desminado Humanitario (IIDH)
- Intersectorial National Mine Action Commission (Comisión Intersectorial Nacional para la Acción contra las Minas Antipersonal (CINAMAP)

NATIONAL OPERATORS

- Humanitarian Demining Brigade (Brigada de Desminado Humanitario (BRDEH)
- Batallón de Desminado e Ingenieros Anfibios (BDIAN)
- Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas (CCCM)
- Corporación HUMANICEMOS DH (HUMANICEMOS DH)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATORS

- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- Humanity & Inclusion (HI)
- The HALO Trust (HALO)

OTHER ACTORS

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- Organization of American States (OAS) Comprehensive Mine Action Program (OAS-AICMA)
- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

UNDERSTANDING OF AP MINE CONTAMINATION

The precise extent of AP mined area in Colombia remains unknown, and current estimates based on survey data are only partial. The NMAA and international operators agree that the dynamics and complexities of the Colombian conflict, the size of the country, and remoteness of many of the mined areas preclude the conduct of a nationwide baseline survey.[1] In its latest Article 5 deadline extension request, Colombia stressed that establishing a comprehensive baseline of AP mine contamination is a major challenge, as ongoing conflict, the presence of multiple non-State armed groups (NSAGs), the lack of reliable data on the type and location of devices, access restrictions to remote or insecure areas, combined with the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) by NSAGs without technical patterns or formal records, all hinder the development of a reliable, up-to-date baseline.[2]

Nonetheless, during the preparation of its 2025 extension request, the NMAA made a notable effort to scope municipalities with AP contamination, divided into three groups:

- municipalities with suspected or confirmed contamination identified and marked through non-technical survey (NTS), the "known baseline contamination";
- municipalities with suspected contamination but no confirmed areas, where insecurity and access constraints prevent survey;
- municipalities previously declared mine-free where new evidence of contamination has emerged.

The first group, the "known baseline contamination", was estimated to cover just over 3km^2 at the end of 2024, down from 4.47km^2 in 2023. It includes 1.35km^2 of SHA across 281 areas and 1.71km^2 of confirmed hazardous areas (CHA) across 214 areas, as shown in Table 1 below.[3] This baseline contamination covers 495 hazardous areas across 54 accessible municipalities in 12 departments, where survey made it possible to determine the size of the contaminated areas. Colombia's extension request sets a target of clearing those 3km^2 by the end of 2027, contingent on operational conditions and current and projected capacity.[4]

Table 1: Known baseline AP mined area by department (at end 2024) (Article 7 report data)[5]

Department	Affected municipalities	CHAs	CHA (m²)*	SHAs	SHA (m²)*	Total area (m²)*
Antioquia	17	45	225,905	19	74,174	300,079
Bolívar	4	7	30,995	11	69,553	100,548
Caldas	1	0	0	4	9,287	9,287
Caquetá	5	18	93,408	29	360,398	453,806
Cauca	1	3	19,674	0	0	19,674
Huila	1	4	239,288	9	145,016	384,304
Meta	8	67	775,285	19	128,071	903,356
Putumayo	7	50	92,015	168	345,800	437,814
Santander	3	0	0	3	17,275	17,275
Tolima	3	6	148,722	8	122,334	271,056
Valle del Cauca	3	11	81,627	7	74,325	155,952
Vichada	1	3	1,902	4	3,820	5,722
Totals	**54**	**214**	**1,708,821**	**281**	**1,350,053**	**3,058,873**

*Figures rounded to the nearest square metre.

The second group corresponds to 102 identified municipalities with SHAs whose extent remains undetermined due to insecurity and lack of access. Colombia's 2025 Article 5 deadline extension request acknowledged the existence of extensive hazardous areas not included in the known baseline contamination. These municipalities were identified based on several factors, including recorded "events" and accidents (2022–24), military demining, impacts on educational facilities, early warning alerts, population return plans, and the presence of NSAGs.[6] The vast majority of these 102 municipalities are located in territories with ethnic minorities, particularly in indigenous reserves (resguardos) along the borders with Brazil and Peru, and in Afro-Colombian community councils (Consejos Comunitarios) along the Pacific coast.[7]

The third group consists of municipalities experiencing new instances of mine contamination, including some previously declared mine-free. However, in the absence of

1 Emails from Katherine Otálora Ibarra, Project and Monitoring Coordinator, CCCM, 5 May 2025; Oliver Ford, Programme Manager Colombia, HALO, 10 May 2025; Hernando Andrés Enríquez Ruiz, Colombia Country Director, HI, 15 April 2025.

2 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 31 July 2025, p. 33.

3 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), pp. 24–28.; and Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 31 July 2025, pp. 30–32.

4 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 32.

5 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), pp. 24–28.

6 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 33–35.

7 Ibid., illustration 6, p. 37.

a standardised national methodology to rigorously verify and assess the existence of this new contamination, these municipalities have not been officially re-categorised.[8]

Colombia has a total of 1,121 municipalities. Of these, 935 (83.4%) are classified as mine-free, 84 (7.5%) are currently under intervention, and 102 (9.1%) are awaiting intervention.[9] The mine-free municipalities largely correspond to areas that were accessible and easier to address. As a result, most of the remaining contamination is now concentrated in regions affected by insecurity linked to the presence of NSAGs, including volatile border areas with Venezuela and Ecuador.[10] Several of the 935 municipalities classified as mine-free have since reported new contamination, suggesting this figure may decrease in 2025.

In May 2024, a National Standard for Humanitarian Demining in Areas with Security Instability and for the Response to Specific Incidents was issued. This standard provides guidance on assigning demining tasks in those unstable areas, offering an alternative approach to operate in regions with security challenges and to address incidents as they arise. Under this framework, parts of the 102 municipalities pending intervention may be addressed through punctual interventions.[11] The new standard removes the requirement for both full territorial release and a military-issued security assessment. It enables interventions in specific, high-priority locations that pose an immediate risk to community safety—such as roads, water sources, schools, or gathering places—based on a "favourable" assessment issued by local authorities and the affected communities.[12]

In Colombia, AP mines are predominantly of an improvised nature, with NSAGs making the devices with locally available materials, and adapting them to local conditions, including the particularities of the terrain. Devices typically employ homemade explosives—such as ANFO, pentolite, RDX, or TNT—encased in repurposed plastic containers and are triggered using pressure- or tension-sensitive mechanisms. As a result, they are difficult to detect and their deployment is not in consistent patterns. This contamination is commonly found in areas linked to illicit economies, including drug trafficking and illegal mining. In line with the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), Colombia treats improvised mines as it would conventionally produced mines, ensuring "full compliance with the Convention's principles and obligations".[13]

According to the authorities, the continued use of AP mines by armed groups is a consequence of the ongoing reconfiguration of Colombia's armed conflict following the 2016 Peace Agreement. As long as territorial control remains a key objective and underlying factors such as illegal mining and drug trafficking persist, landmine use is expected to continue. Notably, some armed groups that had not previously relied on landmines have now adopted them to secure strategic corridors.[14]

In 2024, civilians accounted for more than 60% of all victims, while the security forces comprised the remainder. Of particular concern is the increase in child casualties: the proportion of victims who are children and adolescents rose from 12% to 23% during the same period.[15] In 2024, mines killed or injured 108 people of whom 66 – almost two thirds – were civilian, indicating that considerable use was indiscriminate.[16] For the first time in eight years, casualties from explosive ordnance were also reported in Amazonas, signalling the spread of contamination to new areas.[17]

NEW CONTAMINATION

Colombia is also experiencing new instances of mine contamination, including in some municipalities previously declared mine-free, although no official record has been shared. Colombia indicated plan to develop a methodology to validate field data and, based on the evidence, reclassify municipalities in line with demining standards.[18] Operators reported discovering previously unrecorded AP mine contamination in 2024 (149 discovered areas covering 238,356m^2, see Table 9).[19] The HALO Trust (HALO) noted that many newly identified areas likely include both recently laid landmines (within the last two to three years) and older, legacy contamination (over five years old in post-conflict zones). This marks a major shift from previous years when HALO mostly marked legacy areas. Going forward, HALO will ensure that only areas without strategic value to NSAGs are marked and cleared, working closely with communities to safeguard its neutrality.[20]

OTHER EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE CONTAMINATION

Colombia is also contaminated with ERW, although the threat posed to communities is significantly less than that from landmines.

8 Ibid., p. 28.

9 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 22; and Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, illustration 4, p. 29.

10 Emails from Nathalie Ochoa Niño, Coordinator, OCCP-AICMA Group, 11 October 2024; and Oliver Ford, HALO, 12 August 2025.

11 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 23.

12 Email from Katherine Otálora Ibarra, CCCM, 5 May 2025.

13 Ibid., p. 34.

14 Online interview with Oliver Ford, HALO, 10 May 2025.

15 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 6.

16 Of particular concern was the increase in child casualties – the proportion rose from 12 per cent in 2023 to 23 per cent of the total in 2024. Article 7 Report (covering 2024), https://bit.ly/44zFjSD, p. 63; and Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 5 June 2025, http://bit.ly/4mybAk7, p. 4.

17 ICRC, "Humanitarian Challenges 2025, Colombia", April 2025, at: https://bit.ly/3GOMuxF, p. 5.

18 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 28–29.

19 Emails from Katherine Otálora Ibarra, CCCM, 5 May 2025; Paula Ximena Cadena, Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Disarmament Programme Coordinator, DRC Colombia, 8 April 2025; Oliver Ford, HALO, 10 May 2025; Hernando Andrés Enríquez Ruiz, HI, 15 April 2025.

20 Email from Oliver Ford, HALO, 10 May 2025.

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Since August 2022, the Colombian government has adopted what it calls a "Total Peace" agenda. As part of this approach, Presidential Decree 2647 issued in December 2022 restructured the Presidential Office and institutionalised the role in mine action of the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace (Oficina del Alto Comisionado para la Paz, OACP), assigning it responsibility for leading Colombia's AICMA programme.[21] Mine action had already been formally integrated into the Total Peace agenda through Law 2272 of 4 November 2022. Article 16 of the law mandates prioritisation of territorial and national demining plans and requires cooperation from armed groups to identify and clear contaminated areas. The law also extended Article 9 of Law 1421 of 2010, which allows civilian organisations to continue demining in Colombia for an additional four years.[22]

Within the OACP, AICMA became one of three official working groups. A new High Commissioner for Peace was appointed in December 2023, and a new head of the AICMA Group, Nathalie Ochoa Niño, took up her post in March 2024. In April 2024, responsibility for mine action was transferred to the Counselling Office Commissioned for Peace (Oficina del Consejero Comisionado de Paz, OCCP), following the re-structure of the OACP.[23] OCCP continue to oversee the planning, regulation, and supervision of demining, in coordination with the other institutions that make up the Inter-Institutional Humanitarian Demining Body (IIDH). It also leads efforts in risk education, victim assistance, and post-clearance activities.[24]

In 2024, the government drafted a decree to establish the Directorate for Comprehensive Action Against Anti-Personnel Mines (Dirección De Acción Integral Contra Minas Antipersonal, DAICMA) as a dedicated unit within the Office of the President. This measure aims to institutionalise and strengthen the work previously conducted by the OCCP-AICMA Group, granting it the status of a directorate with greater technical capacity, operational autonomy, and political visibility. The new DAICMA will lead the coordination and monitoring of the mine action public policy across all pillars.[25]

The IIDH, which was created in 2011, brings together representatives from the Ministry of National Defence, the General Inspectorate of the Military Forces, and OCCP-AICMA Group. It is responsible for recommending or suspending the certification of demining organisations to the Ministry of National Defence as well as for prioritising, at national level, areas, zones, and municipalities to be demined and then assigning specific demining tasks. Responsibility for drafting and adopting NMAS and overseeing their dissemination, implementation, and compliance had been already reassigned to the OACP under Presidential Decree 1784 of 2019.[26] The OACP (now OCCP) also serve as the Technical Secretariat of the National Intersectoral Commission for Mine Action (Comisión Intersectorial Nacional para la Acción contra las Minas Antipersonal, CINAMAP).[27] In 2024, Colombia drafted a decree to update CINAMAP's regulatory framework to enhance its coordination, decision-making, and operational efficiency.[28]

In August 2025, Mauricio Silva was appointed as the new Coordinator of the AICMA Group of the OCCP, following the resignation of Nathalie Ochoa Niño earlier in the year. He brings more than 20 years of mine action experience with organisations such as HALO Trust, Humanity & Inclusion (HI), and the Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas (CCCM). Most recently, he directed the External Monitoring Component of the OAS in Colombia.[29]

FUNDING FOR AP MINE SURVEY AND CLEARANCE

Colombia had estimated the total cost of the mine action programme for 2020–25 would be almost US$250 million, with 30% covered by the government and the remainder expected from international community. Of this, approximately US$183 million was allocated specifically for demining, including US$55 million from the Ministry of National Defence to support the Army's humanitarian demining brigades.[30] To cover the remaining costs, Colombia sought nearly US$128 million in international support for the strengthening of QM capacity within the national authority, supporting civilian operators, and maintaining or replacing military demining equipment.[31] Colombia reported receiving a total of US$242 million in international funding between 2021 and 2024, well above the initial requirements. This support enabled a substantial increase in clearance outputs, with 8.66km^2 cleared compared to the 3.33km^2 originally planned.[32] However, it was noted that international funding for mine action has sharply declined – from nearly US$150 million in 2021 to just US$37.5 million in 2023.[33] Colombia reported a reduced budget of US$1.6 million in 2024. However, this figure may not fully reflect the resources allocated, as most contracts are multi-year and operators have reported higher budgeted amounts.

21 Art. 23(17)–(18), Presidential Decree 2647, 30 December 2022, at: https://bit.ly/4nGTSvA.
22 Art. 16, Law 2272, 4 November 2022, at: https://bit.ly/4lnlRhc.
23 Arts. 1 and 4, Presidential Decree 438, 5 April 2024, at: https://tinyurl.com/2pcf88zh. This transformed the OACP into the OCCP.
24 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 12.
25 Ibid., p. 5.
26 OACP-AICMA Group "Instancia Interinstitucional de Desminado Humanitario – IIDH", undated but accessed 10 July 2025, at: https://bit.ly/4kEGwgM.
27 Art. 23(17)–(18), Presidential Decree 2647, 30 December 2022.
28 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 5.
29 Email from Mauricio Silva, Coordinator, OCCP-AICMA Group, 15 September 2025.
30 2020 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 86–87.
31 Ibid; and Article 7 Report (covering 2021), pp. 94–95.
32 Email from Mauricio Silva, OCCP-AICMA Group, 15 September 2025.
33 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, illustration 10, p. 51.

In 2024, Colombia allocated COP 6.04 billion (approx. US$1.57 million) to the AICMA-OCCP Group, along with COP182.9 million (US$47,561) from the national budget to support the Army's Humanitarian Demining Engineers Brigade (BRDEH).[34] An additional COP2.25 billion (approximately US$510,320) was allocated to strengthen mine risk prevention in ethnic communities.[35] In terms of international cooperation, Colombia secured US$2.5 million from the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Peace in 2024 to support AICMA initiatives. Despite a range of efforts to diversify funding, financial sustainability remains a major challenge due to reliance on international funding. This vulnerability is exacerbated by Colombia's reclassification as an upper-middle-income country, shrinking global post-pandemic funding, and shifting donor focus to other geopolitical crises.[36]

In January 2025, the US government funding suspension significantly reduced mine action capacity in Colombia, with some organisations reducing operations, such as DRC who stopped intervening in the departments of Bolivar and Caquetá, and others such as HALO, temporarily losing up to two-thirds of clearance teams and half of NTS teams. The suspension was lifted, or partially lifted, in March for certain organisations (HALO, HI, and the CCCM) allowing gradual recovery through careful management of remaining US funds and support from other donors. Funding levels for 2025 and beyond are still to be confirmed, though the US State Department indicated being committed to supporting demining efforts in Colombia. Operators across the sector are pursuing funding from new donors, including through the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund. Additional efforts focus on innovative financing through private and corporate foundations.[37] The OAS AICMA programme, which supports Colombia's mine action efforts, was also required to suspend its quality control operations in the country as of January 2025, with the US as its largest donor. The programme expected only limited capacity to gradually resume activities between June and July 2025 at best.[38]

As of August 2025, the funding situation for operators was as follows. CCCM's suspension was lifted for two projects in March, while two others ended during the suspension and were terminated. One of the projects concluded on 31 May, leaving CCCM with a single active project, which has received a cost-extension and expanded geographical coverage to sustain operations.[39] DRC halted its programmes in Caquetá (three municipalities) and Bolívar (four municipalities), but continues mine action in Tumaco, Nariño, with funding from the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund.[40] HALO was notified in July that it will continue to receive US support, though funds were to be available only in the 2025/26 fiscal year.[41] HI reported returning to full capacity, with funding secured until August 2026.[42] OAS-AICMA continued to support the Colombian Army's Battalion of Humanitarian Demining Engineers (BDIAN) through logistical and operational assistance, while also working closely with the government to plan an efficient and timely transfer of quality management responsibilities.[43]

NATIONAL PLATFORM AND COORDINATION

Colombia has not formally established a National Mine Action Platform to convene all stakeholders, as recommended in Action #42 of the Siem Reap–Angkor Action Plan under the APMBC. However, coordination mechanisms are in place, particularly among humanitarian demining organisations and the national authority. Operators noted that the sector now meets more frequently than it has in years.[44]

In 2024, the OCCP-AICMA Group brought together demining organisations to address key issues and seek to strengthen coordination among stakeholders. Discussions covered the development of the National Standard for Humanitarian Demining in Areas with Security Instability and Response to Specific Events (approved on 6 May 2024); tasks assignment and expressions of interest for operations in high-risk areas; presentation of the 2024 sector Operations Plan by OCCP-AICMA (serving as a management roadmap); and participation in the Knowledge Management Platform.[45] Organisations were also brought together to discuss the new extension request. In addition, director's meetings were held to ensure strategic and operational alignment.[46]

The launch of the Knowledge Management Platform stands out as a significant achievement in 2024. Designed to foster multi-stakeholder dialogue, it promotes the exchange of knowledge and best practices—potentially driving future innovation—on the following eight themes:[47] operational efficiency; explosive ordnance recognition; impact assessment methodology; local capacity development and localisation; methodology for measuring community impact; mine action cross-cutting approaches; technology and innovation; and the environment.

34 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 74.

35 Ibid., p. 55.

36 Ibid., p. 74.

37 Emails from Katherine Otálora Ibarra, CCCM, 26 August 2025; Paula Ximena Cadena, DRC Colombia, 22 August 2025; Oliver Ford, HALO, 12 August 2025; Hernando Andrés Enríquez Ruiz, HI, 25 August 2025.

38 Email from Lina Maria Castillo, Department of Public Security, OAS, 23 September 2025.

39 Email from Katherine Otálora Ibarra, CCCM, 26 August 2025.

40 Email from Paula Ximena Cadena, DRC, 22 August 2025.

41 Email from Oliver Ford, HALO, 12 August 2025.

42 Email from Hernando Andrés Enríquez Ruiz, HI, 25 August 2025.

43 Email from Lina Maria Castillo, Department of Public Security, OAS, 23 September 2025.

44 Email from Steven Griner, Director, Department of Public Security (DPS), OAS, 4 October 2024.

45 Email from Katherine Otálora Ibarra, CCCM, 5 May 2025.

46 Email from Mauricio Silva, OCCP-AICMA Group, 15 September 2025.

47 Email from Diana Marisol Peñalosa, Advisor, OACP-AICMA Group, 17 September 2024.

For each topic, a dedicated Working Group was established, most often led by operators from the sector. These groups were tasked with leading technical discussions on their respective topics. Each Working Group included one or more OCCP focal points, whose role was to support the discussions and facilitate decision-making.[48] OAS-AICMA played a leading role in designing and implementing the overall methodology behind the Platform's structure and outputs.[49] By the end of 2024, each Working Group had produced a summary report, which contributed to the development of Colombia's Article 5 deadline extension request and operations plan for 2025–27. Action points for 2025 were agreed upon during a final meeting. Since the 2025 leadership change at the NMAA, the platform has not been reconvened as at July 2025.[50]

The revised extension request, submitted on 31 July 2025, stated that the NMAA will work to maintain and strengthen the platform from 2025 to 2030, consolidating it as a sector-wide mechanism to enhance the impact, efficiency, and sustainability of operations. Its sustainability, however, will depend on the capacity and willingness of demining organisations to dedicate time, effort, and resources, and could be undermined by budgetary or logistical constraints. Colombia reaffirmed its commitment to the platform as an integral part of its Article 5 strategy, positioning it as a tool for technical governance, sector collaboration, and inter-institutional coordination.[51]

To improve coordination with national and international partners, the AICMA Group was considering establishing a formal and regular dialogue platform in 2025.[52] HALO continues to advocate for a more effective strategic-level dialogue between the OCCP-AICMA Group and its partners. Operators note that coordination efforts remain largely bilateral, either between operators and the NMAA or among operators within the Mine Action Area of Responsibility, and often without the involvement of the Demining Brigade and only occasional participation from the NMAA. Some donors, such as Norway and Switzerland, also convene joint meetings with the operators they fund.[53]

Colombia's 2025 extension request explained that inter-institutional coordination has been reinforced through established platforms such as the National Intersectoral Commission for Mine Action (CINAMAP), technical sub-commissions, thematic roundtables, and territorial committees. These bring together ministries, oversight bodies, international cooperation agencies, and civil society organisations, enabling mine action to align with key national programmes such as the Development Programmes with a Territorial Approach (PDET), the National Comprehensive Programme for the Substitution of Illicit Crops (PNIS), and sectoral policies in inclusion, health, education, and rural development. To further this integration, the AICMA Group has designed an inter-institutional management strategy that links mine action with Colombia's stabilization, development, and peacebuilding goals. The strategy also promotes the "Triple Nexus" approach—peace, humanitarian action, and development—recognising mine action as an enabling activity for territorial transformation.[54]

CAPACITY SUPPORT

The OAS provides technical and capacity support to OCCP-AICMA for humanitarian demining, through its AICMA programme (OAS-AICMA). It is responsible for external monitoring of all accredited humanitarian demining organisations in Colombia, including HUMANICEMOS DH. It also assesses demining personnel for accreditation, with additional support provided by the Group of Interamerican Monitors of the Interamerican Defense Board. In addition, OAS-AICMA monitors compliance with NMAS and operator standard operating procedures (SOPs) and inspects released land before handover to local authorities and communities.[55]

Since 2023, OAS-AICMA, under the Department of Public Security, has been working to gradually transfer responsibilities from its External Monitoring Component (CEM) to Colombian authorities. This process included refining the CEM's operational model and convening a joint data analysis workshop with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).[56] In 2024, efforts focused on strengthening national ownership of monitoring and quality assurance (QA) components within the two national civilian organisations.[57]

OAS-AICMA also provided international technical assistance to the OCCP-AICMA Group, particularly in strategic planning, to support Colombia's goal of assuming full ownership between 2026 and mid-2027. To facilitate this transition, OAS-AICMA seconded two officers to the OCCP-AICMA Group to provide direct technical and operational support, promote best practices, and strengthen understanding of the Colombian national authority's existing technical and operational capacities and needs.[58]

In 2025, the GICHD conducted an assessment of Colombia's NMAA and its institutional needs in relation to the country's Article 5 deadline extension request. The assessment provided recommendations on how to strengthen the national

48 AICMA Programme – OAS, Knowledge Management Platform, 2024, p. 3.

49 Email from Lina Maria Castillo, Department of Public Security, OAS, 23 September 2025.

50 Emails from Katherine Otálora Ibarra, CCCM, 5 May 2025; and Oliver Ford, HALO, 10 May 2025.

51 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 140.

52 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 76.

53 Emails from Oliver Ford, HALO, 10 May 2025; and Hernando Andrés Enríquez Ruiz, HI, 15 April 2025.

54 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 87–88.

55 Email from Lina Maria Castillo, Department of Public Security, OAS, 23 September 2025; and "Programa de Acción Integral contra Minas Antipersonal de la OEA (AICMA-OEA)", at: https://bit.ly/3RDT3TD.

56 Article 7 Report (covering 2023), pp. 79–80.

57 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 12; and email from Mauricio Silva, OCCP-AICMA Group, 15 September 2025.

58 Email from Lina Maria Castillo, Department of Public Security, OAS, 23 September 2025.

framework, evaluating the authority's key capacities in governance, planning, coordination, and regulation.[59]

In 2024, UNMAS supported Colombia's mine action sector, including the OCCP–AICMA Group, through technical assistance and capacity building. Its efforts focused on strengthening the NMAA's technical capacities, improving coordination among sector actors, and integrating mine action into local development plans. UNMAS also delivered risk education, supported victim referral pathways and medical access, and coordinated emergency responses. In parallel, it engaged in advocacy to highlight the worsening humanitarian situation and mobilise resources to address the growing use of explosive devices.[60]

MINE ACTION ENVIRONMENT

In 2024, operators did not report major changes to the environment for mine action. The most significant positive development in the sector was the appointment of a permanent National Coordinator of the OCCP-AICMA Group, following a prolonged period of interim leadership. The new coordinator, who brought substantial experience, has reinvigorated the sector, launched important processes, particularly around territory allocation and improved coordination among HMA operators.[61]

HALO noted that, as part of efforts to mitigate money laundering risks, financial oversight for all NGOs based in Bogota increased, demanding more detailed and frequent financial management reports to different authorities, in particular the Superintendency, in addition to the national tax authority (DIAN).[62]

GENDER AND DIVERSITY

Colombia does not have a specific gender and diversity policy for mine action, and the OCCP-AICMA Group currently lacks a gender specialist, which is ascribed to limited resources.[63] However, gender and identity have been integrated as a cross-cutting elements in the 2023–2025 Operations Plan, aligned with the 2022–2026 National Development Plan. In its 2025 extension request, Colombia committed to operationalising these frameworks by 2030.[64]

The approach is to be implemented as an inclusive and sustainable process through concrete actions across all pillars of mine action. Diagnostic and planning will collect data disaggregated by gender, age, and ethnicity to support territorial planning. Recruitment and training will apply equity criteria in selection, capacity building, and promotion, with the goal of increasing women's participation in technical and operational roles. Women and men from ethnic communities will be encouraged to participate in mine risk education, humanitarian demining teams, and territorial prioritisation, recognising their key role in the sustainability of interventions.[65] Monitoring and evaluation will use gender- and age-disaggregated indicators, combined with intersectional, ethnic, and cultural approaches to ensure meaningful inclusion of Afro-descendant, Indigenous, and rural populations. This is expected to strengthen legitimacy, local ownership, and operational performance, while promoting greater women's participation in strategic roles and contributing to more equitable and sustainable peacebuilding processes.[66]

Colombia's mine action programme incorporates gender and diversity considerations at various levels. According to Article 7 reports, this includes three main strategies: mainstreaming gender across all areas of intervention, strengthening advocacy and communication with a gender focus, and using disaggregated data to improve analysis and decision-making.[67] The inclusive approach has been reinforced by incorporating gender, age, disability, and survivor experiences into planning processes and information systems.[68] It addresses differences in vulnerability and impact between men and women; prioritises children and adolescents both as potential victims and as agents of reconstruction; promotes rehabilitation and inclusion for persons with disabilities; and incorporates ethno-cultural and "campesino" (peasant) perspectives, recognising their unique relationships with land and livelihoods.[69]

Colombia has a significant Indigenous and ethnic minority group population (13.7% of the total population), who are afforded constitutional protections and therefore require a specific approach during demining. Indigenous communities are said to have been disproportionately affected by AP mines. According to the OACP-AICMA Group, since the Final Agreement between the Colombian government and FARC in November 2016, the impact on the civilian population has increased and one third of the victims have been indigenous or Afro-descended persons.[70] Colombia's extension request emphasised that explosive ordnance has

59 Emails from Alice Spazian, Regional Focal Point, GICHD, 16 May and 23 September 2025.

60 Email from Mohammed Martinez, Programme Assistant, UNMAS Colombia, 23 September 2025; and UNMAS Annual Report, Colombia, 2024, at: https://bit.ly/4eNgUwG, p. 48.

61 Emails from Katherine Otálora Ibarra, CCCM, 5 May 2025; Paula Ximena Cadena, DRC, 8 April 2025; Oliver Ford, HALO, 10 May 2025; and Hernando Andrés Enríquez Ruiz, HI, 15 April 2025.

62 Email from Oliver Ford, HALO, 12 August 2025.

63 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 27.

64 Ibid., pp. 108–09.

65 Ibid.

66 Ibid., p. 110.

67 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 15.

68 Ibid., p. 33.

69 Ibid., p. 53.

70 Email from Nathalie Ochoa Niño, OCCP-AICMA Group, 11 October 2024.

a distinct impact on ethnic communities, affecting not only physical safety but also cultural identity, spirituality, and traditional ways of life. Contamination restricts access to sacred sites and subsistence areas, disrupts ancestral ties to land, and undermines autonomous governance, leading to forced displacement, loss of community cohesion, and erosion of intergenerational knowledge. Recognising these differentiated impacts, Colombia has begun integrating ethnic perspectives into mine action planning and implementation. This includes collecting ethnicity-disaggregated data, designing indicators that capture cultural dimensions of risk, and ensuring active community participation in decision-making. Such measures aim to make demining not only technically effective but also culturally relevant and socially sustainable.[71]

The OACP (now OCCP) and demining operators have developed annexes to the NMAS on NTS and territorial management in order to facilitate negotiation with ethnic communities on demining. The NTS Technical Note has a specific methodology for interacting and negotiating with Indigenous communities to guarantee meaningful participation throughout the land release cycle.[72] In 2024, the AICMA-OCCP Group invested COP 2.25 billion (approximately US$510,320) from the national budget to strengthen mine risk prevention in ethnic communities.[73]

The Knowledge Management Platform, established in 2024, includes a technical group dedicated to cross-cutting approaches including gender and ethnicity, with the goal of promoting practical, inclusive approaches that address inequalities and reflect the diverse identities of affected populations.[74]

WOMEN IN MINE ACTION

According to the latest Article 5 deadline extension request, the number of women involved in NTS, clearance, and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) has increased to 181 in 2024, up from 168 in 2023. However, despite the increase in absolute numbers, the proportion of women employed compared to men has dropped—from 7.9% in 2023 to 6.8% in 2024—due to a rise in overall staffing and the number of men hired. The total number of personnel, regardless of gender, grew from 2,115 in 2023 to 2,674 in 2024.[75] Colombia's Operations Plan for 2025–2027 plans to rely on the same workforce.[76]

The five civilian operators reported employing a total of 416 women out of 1,038 staff members in 2024 – approximately 40% (see Table 2 for details). This remains one of the highest rates of women participation in mine action globally.

Table 2: Gender composition of NMAA and operators in 2024 (as reported by demining operators and by OCCP-AICMA Group for BDIAN and BRDEH capacity)[77]

Operator	Total staff	Women staff	Total managerial and supervisory staff	Women managerial and supervisory staff	Total operational staff	Women operational staff
OCCP-AICMA Group	27	14 (52%)	1	1 (100%)	26	14 (54%)
BDIAN	89	0 (0%)	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
BRDEH	2,097	8 (0.4%)	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
CCCM	399	186 (47%)	94	45 (48%)	196	85 (43%)
DRC	103	32 (31%)	23	7 (30%)	82	28 (34%)
HALO	281	109 (39%)	98	35 (36%)	183	74 (40%)
HI	103	46 (45%)	35	18 (51%)	68	28 (41%)
HUMANICEMOS DH	152	43 (28%)	36	11 (31%)	115	32 (28%)
Totals	**3,251**	**438 (13%)**	**287**	**117 (41%)**	**670**	**261 (39%)**

71 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 110–11.

72 Email from Yessika Morales, then Coordinator, OACP-AICMA Group, 20 July 2022.

73 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 55.

74 Ibid., p. 15.

75 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Table 7, p. 22.

76 Ibid., Table 12, p. 57.

77 Emails from Katherine Otálora Ibarra, CCCM, 5 May 2025; Paula Ximena Cadena, DRC, 8 April 2025; Oliver Ford, HALO, 10 May 2025; Hernando Andrés Enríquez Ruiz, HI, 15 April 2025; Juan David Arcila Collazos, Project Coordinator, HUMANICEMOS DH, 3 July 2025; and Mauricio Silva, OCCP-AICMA Group, 15 September 2025.

All civilian demining operators report having gender focal points.[78] CCCM stands out from the group with a dedicated gender "area", which consists of a director, a manager, two support staff, and a network of 33 gender focal points across the country, 14 of whom also serve as ethnic focal points, supporting an intersectional approach. These focal points are based at both headquarters and field offices, including in Cumaribo, Montelíbano, Putumayo, and Urabá. Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and HALO each have a designated gender focal point, with HALO assigning the role to its Chief of Staff. HI has a regional specialist focused on gender, age, and disability. HUMANICEMOS DH has trained and deployed 10 gender focal points across its intervention areas to support implementation at field level.

In 2024, all mine action operators reported implementing initiatives to strengthen the integration of gender and diversity in their programmes.[79] CCCM organised activities such as a workshop for Ethnic Gender Focal Points from Afro-descendant and Indigenous communities; a community garden project linking gender-based violence (GBV) prevention with land care; a cultural diversity bazaar in Puerto Asís (Putumayo); and a leadership meeting for women affected by armed conflict. DRC began incorporating ethnic and disability considerations into its risk education assessments to better address community needs. HALO launched a gender empowerment project focused on leadership and sexual and reproductive health and rights, including staff-wide workshops, the training of 12 trainers of trainers, and open discussions on Indigenous worldviews. It also evaluated and made specific recommendations on how to increase the number of women in leadership positions, based on assessments and working sessions with a sample of 29 women from all field offices. HI promoted inclusion through community dialogues, institutional training partnerships, use of a gender-age-disability marker in projects, and by adapting feedback mechanisms into Indigenous languages to ensure accessibility. HUMANICEMOS DH conducted 19 gender workshops for 479 participants.

The needs of ethnic and minority groups are integrated into the prioritisation and planning of survey and clearance.[80] CCCM applies a culturally sensitive, differential approach by involving local leaders, respecting traditions and languages, and employing community members in operational roles. DRC requires prior consultation and approval from Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities before operating in ancestral territories. HALO worked closely with Indigenous communities in Mesetas (Meta) in 2023 to resume demining operations suspended due to security concerns. This effort succeeded in 2024 with the deployment of three demining teams made up entirely of local Indigenous community members. HI held regular meetings with Indigenous leaders to support contamination mapping and prioritisation and follows formal, legally mandated "Ethnic Liaison" processes, which are documented and monitored nationally.

Survey and community liaison teams across all operators include representatives from ethnic and minority groups to promote inclusive participation and strengthen community trust.[81] CCCM uses territorial analyses and inclusive hiring practices, employing 399 staff in 2024, including 48 Indigenous, 39 Afro-Colombian individuals, and 311 Mestizos (mixed-heritage persons). DRC ensures each liaison and risk education team includes at least one local ethnic representative to reflect community diversity. HALO deployed its first all-Indigenous demining teams in Meta, a successful community-led model aimed at reducing security risks. HI primarily recruits local staff in ethnic areas, with community-selected liaison officers representing each ethnic group involved.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND ACTION

Colombia has not produced a specific NMAS on environmental management. Presidential Decree 1195 of 2017, issued by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, establishes the environmental conditions applicable to humanitarian demining activities across the national territory. The decree allows temporary use of renewable natural resources, provided that good environmental practices—such as waste and wastewater management, emission control, and biodiversity protection—are followed. Special approval is required for operations in protected areas while coordination with local environmental authorities is encouraged. The Decree also requires accredited humanitarian demining organisations to submit environmental management plans.[82] These plans must assess potential impacts, include mitigation and restoration measures, and are closely monitored by the AICMA Group, particularly in relation to protected areas. Operators must consult environmental authorities and local communities, and follow the principles of precaution, sustainability, and 'do no harm' throughout operations, reporting to the competent authority at their conclusion. In practice, accredited organisations minimise environmental impact by using manual, low-impact tools, engaging with communities, and complying with additional regulations such as the 2023 ban on single-use plastics in protected areas.[83]

The OCCP-AICMA Group expects significant progress to be made in the coming years towards a more detailed and specific regulation on the environment that will demand more detailed environmental management while contributing to the recovery of ecosystems affected by AP mines.[84] Colombia's latest Article 7 report (covering calendar year 2024) states that systematic

78 Emails from Katherine Otálora Ibarra, CCCM, 5 May 2025; Paula Ximena Cadena, DRC, 8 April 2025; Oliver Ford, HALO, 10 May 2025; Hernando Andrés Enríquez Ruiz, HI, 15 April 2025; and Juan David Arcila Collazos, HUMANICEMOS DH, 3 July 2025.

79 Ibid.

80 Ibid.

81 Ibid.

82 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 74–75; and Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 16.

83 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 75.

84 Email from Nathalie Ochoa Niño, OCCP-AICMA Group, 6 September 2024.

integration of environmental and climate-related criteria into the planning and prioritisation of interventions remains a pending challenge. This is, however, identified as a key area for future strengthening within mine action.[85] The OCCP-AICMA Group has emphasised the environmental impact of landmine contamination, particularly in Indigenous and Afro-Colombian territories, where it affects traditional relationships with the natural environment. This concern was raised internationally, including at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP16), reinforcing a commitment to sustainable development and the protection of affected communities.[86]

One of the working groups within the Knowledge Management Platform established in 2024 is responsible for addressing environmental issues. This group focused on developing a stronger conceptual and regulatory framework, first by conducting a bibliographic and documentary review and consulting stakeholders through surveys. Based on this diagnostic work, the groundwork has been laid for incorporating environmental and climate approaches across the programme, including developing a national environmental and climate management standard.[87] That said, there are no firm plans to issue a new NMAS yet.

Table 3: Environmental policies and action of NMAA and operators in 2024 (as reported by demining operators and by OCCP-AICMA Group for BDIAN and BRDEH capacity)[88]

Operator	Environmental policy in place	Environmental assessments to support planning and delivery of survey and clearance	Environmental focal point at country-programme level
OCCP - AICMA	Yes (not a NMAS but a Decree)	Not Applicable	Yes
BDIAN	Yes	Yes	Yes
BRDEH	Yes	Yes	Yes
CCCM	A national policy and a SOP	Yes	Yes (environmental advisor and internal team)
DRC	SOP	Yes	No
HALO	SOP	Yes	Yes, the capabilities manager
HI	SOP	Yes	A consultant
HUMANICEMOS DH	A national policy and a SOP	Yes	10 territorial FP (also gender)

CCCM updated its environmental policy in 2024, renaming it Environmental and Climate Policy and incorporating commitments and guidelines to address climate change, both to tackle operational challenges and to strengthen community resilience. A notable initiative that year was the planting of 1,180 trees in Zone 3 (now cleared) of the municipality of Urrao, assigned to CCCM for land release. The planting focused on key community spaces—such as schools, a park, and a property containing the water source for a community aqueduct—directly contributing to environmental conservation and the well-being of the local population. CCCM includes systematic environmental impact assessments, emissions reduction, waste management, resource efficiency, and climate adaptation measures. CCCM uses a dual-level evaluation system: macro-level assessments to identify protected areas and secure approvals, and field-level tools like the Quick Environmental Verification to guide operational decisions based on local risks and land use. An internal environmental team, guided by an environmental advisor, supports implementation and monitoring, while staff receive training on environmental procedures. Field operations also incorporate wastewater control, wildlife protection, vehicle use regulations, and vegetation preservation. Climate adaptation is supported through community engagement, terrain assessments, and operational pauses during extreme weather, in line with IMAS 07.13.[89]

DRC has a generic operating procedure and an SOP for health, safety, and environmental management, but no dedicated in-country environmental focal point. Environmental assessments are conducted to inform the planning and implementation of survey and clearance, addressing potential impacts such as wastewater generation, solid waste, tree felling, vegetation clearing, soil excavation, hazardous waste, and detonations. The environmental impact analysis considers demining activities, affected resources, and their potential consequences. Climate and environmental factors—such as seasonal droughts, floods, high temperatures, and disease risks—are also evaluated to inform both community and staff safety. This information is shared with the NMAA during follow-up meetings but does not influence initial tasking or zone assignment by the OCCP.[90]

HALO's "Capabilities Manager" acts as the environmental focal point for the programme. HALO's SOPs cover environmental considerations during clearance, including

85 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 33.

86 Ibid., p. 16.

87 Email from Katherine Otálora Ibarra, CCCM, 5 May 2025.

88 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 33; and emails from Katherine Otálora Ibarra, CCCM, 5 May 2025; Paula Ximena Cadena, DRC, 8 April 2025; Oliver Ford, HALO, 10 May 2025; Hernando Andrés Enríquez Ruiz, HI, 15 April 2025; Juan David Arcila Collazos, HUMANICEMOS DH, 3 July 2025; and Mauricio Silva, OCCP-AICMA Group, 15 September 2025.

89 Emails from Katherine Otálora Ibarra, CCCM, 5 May and 25 August 2025.

90 Email from Paula Ximena Cadena, DRC, 8 April 2025.

waste management, restrictions on cutting trees over 10cm in diameter, proper placement of septic tanks, and measures to reduce plastic use, fire risks, and potential spills. In 2023, HALO appointed a Global Environmental Manager who visited Colombia and met with key stakeholders—such as the Ministry of Environment, National Parks, and the Humboldt Institute—to explore future partnerships. HALO also considers climate and extreme weather risks during operational planning. In 2024, no significant climate-related incidents or flood-related movement of explosive devices were reported.[91]

HI has a global "environmental agenda" and a global environmental specialist. In Colombia, HI is supported by a consultant who advises on compliance and good practices in land release activities. In line with Decree 1195 of 2017, HI has developed its own SOP for environmental management, conducts environmental assessment in each operational area, obtains permits for work in protected areas, and integrates official recommendations into intervention plans. It also implements compensation measures such as tree planting, coordinated with local communities and authorities. HI calculates its carbon footprint and, after identifying major contributors like frequent flights and high meat consumption in 2023, took steps in 2024 to reduce emissions.[92]

HUMANICEMOS DH has an environmental management policy, outlined in its "Comprehensive Environmental Sustainability Policy" (Version 1.0 of 23 June 2024). The policy establishes principles such as environmental responsibility, sustainable practices, and regulatory compliance, with commitments to efficient resource use, carbon footprint reduction, and the application of clean technologies in demining. It also defines roles, responsibilities, and mechanisms for monitoring and accountability. To support implementation, 10 territorial environmental focal points have been trained in environmental management, gender, inclusion, and risk education.[93]

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Colombia's Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) is led by the AICMA-OCCP Group under Law 759 of 2002. It stores, updates, and verifies intervention data, with QA ensured through internal validation and external control by OAS-AICMA. The recording of new evidence of AP mine contamination is governed by the AICMA-OCCP Information Management Guide, which standardises data collection forms and requires the use of platforms such as IMSMA NG, ArcGIS, and Periférico (SharePoint). Each record undergoes validation for completeness, format, and consistency before being consolidated in the national database. All demining task data is recorded following a strict document verification process to ensure accuracy, accessibility, and reliability.[94]

Information products—datasets, dashboards, and reports—are subject to periodic review to identify gaps or inconsistencies and are updated as the integrated information management system advances. Statistical reporting is certified by the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), reinforcing system integrity and transparency. Colombia also maintains data-sharing agreements with institutions such as the Unit for Victims, Agustín Codazzi Institute, Ministry of Health, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the Crop Substitution Programme, and the Land Restitution Unit, improving interoperability and cross-sectoral analysis.[95]

Colombia's 2025–27 Operations Plan outlines a future transition from the existing IMSMA NG system to IMSMA Core. This upgrade aims to enhance information flow and coordination between humanitarian demining organisations and the NMAA. The migration involves designing the new system to meet sector needs and interoperability requirements, developing a detailed work plan, and creating supporting applications and data collection forms.[96]

Colombia's national database contains reports on explosive device incidents dating back to 1990 and serves as the baseline for identifying AP mine contamination. However, this baseline is still largely dependent on victim and incident data ("event"), which can be unreliable. Many records were initially collected without technical tools, resulting in inaccuracies such as cartographic errors or the misplacement of coordinates (often recorded in the nearest population centre than the actual incident location). As a result, there are often major discrepancies between database entries and the evidence found during NTS, leading to cancellation or discarding of many investigated IMSMA events.[97] Operators are nonetheless assigned municipalities and provided with a "municipal file", in which these events are presented for reference only. Each organisation then reviews this information and designs its operational plan and priorities.[98] The 2025 extension request acknowledged that inaccuracies have been detected in historical event data—sometimes leading to inappropriate tasking—and stated that a review of these records is being considered. Additionally, Colombia has implemented a tool based on ArcGIS Enterprise to strengthen quality control of "events" reported by primary

91 Email from Oliver Ford, HALO, 10 May 2025.

92 Email from Hernando Andrés Enríquez Ruiz, HI, 15 April 2025.

93 Email from Juan David Arcila Collazos, HUMANICEMOS DH, 3 July 2025.

94 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 85; and Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 18.

95 Ibid.

96 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Table 20, p. 86.

97 Emails from Francisco Moreno, then Projects and Monitoring Director, HALO, 28 June 2024; Arturo Bureo, HI, 17 June 2024; Paula Ximena Cadena, DRC, 12 June 2024; and Hernando Andrés Enríquez Ruiz, HI, 15 April 2025.

98 Email from Mauricio Silva, OCCP-AICMA Group, 15 September 2025.

sources in the IMSMA database. This platform incorporates validation routines to check the completeness of mandatory fields, coordinate formats, and internal consistency of records, while automatically detecting duplicates and overlaps between events.[99]

In 2024, the NMAA worked with demining operators to improve the accuracy of event records in IMSMA. These included field investigations and verification processes to ensure the database more accurately reflects the current state of contamination.[100] Additionally, regular coordination meetings and systematic updates to municipal case files, drawing on new data from FULE reports (Formulario de Ubicación y Localización de Eventos) and direct inputs from local authorities and community sources, support more effective decision-making.[101]

Operators have adequate access to the database, with data on events and intervention areas provided to support planning and implementation. This information is regularly updated.[102] Once areas are assigned, sufficient data is available; however, it often requires verification with communities, as discrepancies can emerge between the database records and the findings from NTS, as explained earlier. For peripheral reporting, teams maintain communication with the NMAA, and the process of assigning passwords and access is said to be efficient.[103] However, delays can occur in creating new users, as this process involves multiple offices within the Presidency.[104] Each organisation is responsible for submitting timely and complete information to the NMAA based on validated field reports, using an approved flat .xls template. This format supports quarterly progress tracking but has limitations for data consultation, as the large content volume makes it difficult to efficiently filter by ranges, domains, or time intervals.[105]

While current data collection forms are useful for tracking progress and outcomes, there is a recognised need to improve them by adding variables that more effectively capture the impact of interventions on affected communities and territories.[106] For example, HI has pointed out that the NTS forms do not currently require the collection of disability-related data, limiting the ability to assess how interventions address the needs of people with disabilities.[107] DRC suggested expanding the forms to include data on broader territorial needs (such as disaster risk or displacement) to support a more integrated response.[108]

Colombia's reporting under the APMBC is timely and consistent. Article 7 reports are structured using the Oslo—and now Siem Reap-Angkor—Action Plan. Discrepancies between operator data reported to Mine Action Review and figures reported by the national authority are said to be largely unavoidable due to the fact that the OCCP only reports on land release after completion of tasks and the CEM has certified the process. Meanwhile, delays in information processing, by both operators and the CEM, continued to be reported and likely point to systemic challenges in information reconciliation.

PLANNING AND TASKING

PLANNING

Throughout 2024, Colombia continued to implement its national mine action strategy, guided by three key technical frameworks: the 2020–2025 Strategic Plan, the 2023–2025 Humanitarian Demining Operational Plan, and the earlier Article 5 deadline extension request.[109] In 2024, Colombia prepared a new interim Article 5 deadline extension request to cover 2026 to 2030. An initial, incomplete version was submitted on 31 March 2025. Uncertainties in the request stemmed from US funding announcements and their impact on the clearance capacity of humanitarian organisations made the agreed projections unreliable. A complete version was eventually submitted on 5 June 2025, accompanied by an intermediate Operations Plan for 2025–27.[110] Despite financial constraints and worsening security conditions, Colombia has set ambitious targets for the period through to 2027, including:

- Declaring 42 municipalities free of contamination (of 84 municipalities currently undergoing operations), averaging 14 municipalities per year;
- Clearing 495 hazardous areas totalling more than 3.05km^2 across 54 municipalities, with annual clearance targets of 0.8km^2 in 2025; 1.64km^2 in 2026; and 0.6km^2 in 2027 (see Table 4).
- Implementing the 4R approach, in line with the new NMAS, across 66 municipalities with a high factor of instability.[111]

On 31 July 2025, Colombia submitted a revised version, which projecting that by 2027, around 977 municipalities will be free from suspected contamination by AP mines, representing 87% of the national territory. Of the remaining 144 municipalities, at least 40 are expected to be under

99 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 85–86.
100 Emails from Katherine Otálora Ibarra, CCCM, 5 May 2025; and Oliver Ford, HALO, 10 May 2025.
101 Email from Katherine Otálora Ibarra, CCCM, 5 May 2025.
102 Email from Katherine Otálora Ibarra, CCCM, 5 May 2025.
103 Email from Hernando Andrés Enríquez Ruiz, HI, 15 April 2025.
104 Email from Oliver Ford, HALO, 10 May 2025.
105 Email from Paula Ximena Cadena, DRC, 8 April 2025.
106 Email from Katherine Otálora Ibarra, CCCM, 5 May 2025.
107 Email from Hernando Andrés Enríquez Ruiz, HI, 15 April 2025.
108 Email from Paula Ximena Cadena, DRC, 8 April 2025.
109 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 29.
110 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, 5 June 2025, Operations Plan for 2025–27, presented on pp. 37–50.
111 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Table 14, pp. 65–66.

active intervention, provided the necessary conditions for humanitarian demining are maintained.[112]

While the extension request set clearance target of 3.05km^2 by 2027 (corresponding to the Known Baseline Estimate presented in Table 1), Colombia's 2025 Article 7 report includes a table projecting slightly different targets in terms of number of areas and total surface to be cleared between 2025 and 2027, amounting to less than 2.6km^2.[113] OCCP-AICMA explained that the difference stems from an updated calculation that temporarily excludes projected intervention areas where operational conditions for clearance are not yet in place (as at early 2025). These areas, however, remain recognized as zones with confirmed contamination. OCCP-AICMA advised using the extension request targets, which reflect Colombia's commitment.[114]

Table 4: Planned mine clearance by year in 2025–27 (data from 2025 Article 5 extension request)[115]

Year	Area (m²)
2025	821,786
2026	1,643,571
2027	593,515
Total	**3,058,872**

To develop a costed, context-specific plan with clear targets, each demining organisation was asked to submit intervention projections, including estimated costs and timelines.[116] The projected operational capacity for 2025–27 is based on a total workforce of 2,674 deminers from seven organisations as at the end of 2024, and assumes stable funding throughout the three-year period of the plan.[117] This marks an increase from the 2,225 deminers at the end of 2023.[118] Notably, 82% of the projected capacity comes from two national entities: the Humanitarian Demining Engineers Brigade (BRDEH) and the Amphibious Engineers Battalion (BDIAN).[119] Colombia's operational capacity also includes 15 accredited dog-handler teams and 24 mine clearance machines.[120]

Colombia presented a US$158 million budget for 2025–27, with 59% planned to come through the national budget for national military demining units.[121] Colombia provided annual cost breakdowns by team type—NTS, clearance, risk education, community liaison, EOD, and multi-task teams—highlighting both secured funding and gaps. For 2025, US$39.87 million was secured, with 59% going to BRDEH and BDIAN, leaving a US$9.14 million gap. In 2026, US$30 million is secured (78% to BRDEH and BDIAN), with a US$24.86 million gap. By 2027, US$23.36 million is secured, entirely for BRDEH and BDIAN, with the gap rising to US$30.71 million.[122] Colombia thus estimates needing almost US$65 million in international funding to implement its three-year operations plan.[123] The plan's success will certainly depend on the ability to secure international resources, with a dedicated mobilisation strategy set to be developed in 2025.[124] Demining organisations based their projections on the assumption that current capacity could be sustained or even expanded, which will ultimately depend on their securing the required funding.[125]

TASKING

Municipal prioritisation is based on criteria such as early warnings from the Ombudsman's Office, contamination density, and municipal file data. Once assigned, each organisation develops an Operational Plan in three phases: addressing priorities set by authorities and the task order, targeting historically contaminated sectors, and covering remaining areas for closure. Municipality assignments are made based on proposals voluntarily submitted by each organisation to the IIDH.[126]

In 2024, Colombia introduced significant changes to its prioritisation process for tackling mined areas, as well as to the allocation of municipalities among demining operators. These changes, outlined in the 2025 Article 5 deadline extension request, are based on lessons learned from the 2020–25 extension period and form the foundation for a revised methodology to be applied from now on.[127]

The existing prioritisation system, based on municipal typologies, has proven insufficient for addressing the evolving dynamics of the territory and the challenge of operating in municipalities most affected by AP mines and insecurity. A shift toward a more comprehensive approach was needed to incorporate security conditions, humanitarian needs, and sustainable development. This includes using impact analysis tools that combine data from multiple sources to better identify and prioritise high-risk areas, while integrating human security criteria such as livelihoods, access to basic services, and social cohesion.[128] Based on this lesson, a joint planning process involving the AICMA-OCCP

112 Ibid., p. 10.
113 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Table 3, p. 30.
114 Email from Mauricio Silva, OCCP-AICMA Group, 15 September 2025.
115 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Table 14, pp. 65–66.
116 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 33.
117 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Table 12, p. 57.
118 Ibid., Table 5, p. 20.
119 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 58.
120 Ibid., p. 57.
121 Ibid., p. 74.
122 Ibid., pp. 70–74.
123 Ibid., p. 74.
124 Ibid., p. 52.
125 Ibid., p. 70.
126 Email from Mauricio Silva, OCCP-AICMA Group, 15 September 2025.
127 Ibid., Annex V, Lessons Learnt 2020-2025, pp. 122–40.
128 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 132.

Group and accredited operators was carried out in 2024 to define the so-called "micro-zones" and prioritise nine affected zones/municipalities using criteria such as contamination level, security conditions, the presence of ethnic communities, and protected areas.[129]

To complement this process—and in response to instability in certain regions—a refined zoning approach was also implemented, called "micro-targeting strategy". This approach allowed previously prioritised municipalities to be divided into smaller, more homogeneous operational areas, making verification, planning, and eventual tasking more efficient and secure.[130] Previously, entire municipalities were assigned to a single organisation. Now, they are subdivided into operational zones based on accessibility, with the national authority using the zone as the unit of measurement when assigning a municipality or part of it.[131]

This granular approach enables the certification of specific zones as "free from suspected contamination" even when full municipal access remains impossible.[132] The improved allocation system allows demining operators to express interest in specific areas based on their capacity, though actual assignments remain dependent on available funding, meaning plans may be disrupted if donor funding to humanitarian operators reduces.[133]

Task orders are a key part of the area assignment process. When an operator is allocated to working in a particular territory, the NMAA, together with the operator, local authorities, and communities, collaborates to define and propose the task order, which is then signed with the NMAA and becomes the official contractual document for the intervention. The NMAA delivers the final task order to the operator, facilitates coordination with local authorities, and provides the corresponding municipal data file ("Expediente Municipal").[134] While task orders are generally issued on time, delays can occur, particularly when local authorities provide incomplete or unclear geographic information. In such cases, maps must often be created manually, using community input or historical records. Inconsistencies between national and local data—such as differences in village names or boundaries—can further complicate the process.[135]

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

NATIONAL MINE ACTION STANDARDS

According to Article 23(17) of Decree 2647 of 2022, the OCCP-AICMA Group is responsible for drafting, adopting, disseminating, and enforcing technical regulations for mine action in Colombia. This mandate is key to regulating and supervising demining operations nationwide, ensuring they comply fully with established technical standards.[136]

The Colombian Technical Standards for Comprehensive Action Against Antipersonnel Mines (NTC-AICMA) are a set of 17 NMAS formally issued in 2021. Colombia has taken steps to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of AP mine survey and clearance in line with IMAS. In 2024, the annexes of the NTC-AICMA were updated, incorporating input from demining organisations and enabling a significant reduction of non-conformities during demining operations.[137]

In 2024, OAS-AICMA supported progress in the national authority's transition to updated national standards. This included sustained assistance to the OCCP-AICMA Group in finalising the legal process to phase out ICONTEC technical standards in Colombia and in launching the revision and amendment process. OAS-AICMA also defined the next steps for 2025, identifying priorities such as community liaison, documenting evidence on contaminated areas, task assignment, and clarifying the State's legal responsibilities. Further opportunities for improvement were highlighted in residual risk management, application of the "all reasonable effort" principle, technical survey procedures, and territorial management, as well as competencies in improvised explosive device disposal (IEDD), risk management, impact assessment, and land release indicators.[138]

Colombia's 2025 Article 5 deadline extension request confirmed the need to update the NTC-AICMA to better reflect evolving field conditions, particularly in insecure and unstable areas. This requires a shift from rigid ISO-based norms to more adaptable national standards that integrate lessons learned, best practices, and recent technical advancements. The objective is to improve operational effectiveness while still ensuring staff safety. In 2025, Colombia planned to review and revise the NTC annexes by identifying those that remain relevant, those needing updates, and those to be removed or replaced. Where documentation gaps exist, new annexes will be proposed.[139] Operators noted that current technical norms can only be modified through annexes, and formalising them as national standards would improve operational efficiency.[140]

129 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 22.
130 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 22.
131 Email from Mauricio Silva, OCCP-AICMA Group, 15 September 2025.
132 Email from Katherine Otálora Ibarra, CCCM, 5 May 2025.
133 Email from Hernando Andrés Enríquez Ruiz, HI, 15 April 2025.
134 Ibid.
135 Emails from Oliver Ford, HALO, 10 May 2025; and Hernando Andrés Enríquez Ruiz, HI, 15 April 2025.
136 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 14.
137 Ibid., p. 49.
138 Email from Lina Maria Castillo, Department of Public Security, OAS, 23 September 2025.
139 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 137.
140 Email from Paula Ximena Cadena, DRC, 8 April 2025.

The 4R approach and the National Standard for Humanitarian Demining in Areas with Security Instability and Response to Specific Incidents action

In 2024, the OCCP-AICMA Group made progress in fulfilling this mandate, most notably through the adoption of the "National Standard for Humanitarian Demining in Areas with Security Instability and Response to Specific Incidents". This new instrument provides the State with technical and operational tools to conduct demining in prioritised territories with high levels of security instability, thereby strengthening the national response capacity in complex contexts.[141]

The new standard was introduced because the existing NTC-AICMA framework limited interventions to traditional land release approaches and only in municipalities deemed secure by the military through a formal security assessment. These assessments determined which municipalities or areas could be assigned through task orders. However, many of the remaining areas in Colombia face unstable security conditions, marked by the presence of multiple NSAGs with strong levels of territorial control. As a result, the Colombia Armed Forces were unable to issue the necessary assessments, effectively halting new task orders. The new standard removes the requirement for both full territorial release and a military-issued security assessment. Instead, it enables interventions in specific, high-priority locations that pose an immediate risk to community safety—such as roads, water sources, schools, or gathering places—based on a "favourable" assessment issued by local authorities and the affected communities. These interventions are only possible when NSAGs in the area have no strategic interest in the targeted sites – an essential condition to safeguard both civilian populations and the demining teams.[142]

The adoption of the new standard marked the integration of the 4R approach into the AICMA regulatory framework, ensuring methodological and operational consistency. The 4R approach was developed to address territories with high levels of explosive ordnance contamination and unstable security conditions, as recorded in the IMSMA. As traditional land release methodologies cannot be applied in such areas, 4R adopts a humanitarian demining approach tailored to instability, aiming to provide immediate relief and reduce risks to communities. This includes strengthening preparatory work before interventions, such as community engagement, coordination with local and ethnic authorities and other stakeholders, and the delineation and management of humanitarian spaces. This allows demining to be context-specific, prioritise the protection of civilians, and contribute effectively to risk reduction.[143]

Another distinctive feature of 4R is its capacity to quickly assign spot tasks for destroying explosive devices without the formal declaration of a SHA. This flexibility has been reported to shorten response times to incidents affecting civilians and to enhance the effectiveness of interventions.[144] In the middle of 2024, HI amended its SOP on this and has since conducted 19 tasks under this framework.[145]

Colombia indicated that the 4R approach will be implemented by the seven accredited humanitarian demining organisations, combining civilian operators and state capacities represented by BDIAN and BRDEH. Its deployment will be accompanied by technical and political support from the OCCP, in close coordination with the AICMA Group. During 2025, Colombia stated that operations using the 4R approach will be conducted in departments such as Nariño, financed by the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Peace in Colombia. These pilot operations will also feature a continuous monitoring system to assess effectiveness and impact, designed to track outcomes on the safety and well-being of affected communities.[146]

Within this framework, CCCM reported being assigned areas in the departments of Nariño and Córdoba, where it was awaiting the necessary funding to begin operations at the time of writing. Additionally, this standard has enabled the resumption of interventions in areas that had previously been assigned for land release but where operations had to be suspended due to a deterioration in the security situation. Since those areas required a favourable security assessment from the Armed Forces, it was not possible to resume operations. Under the new standard, however, it is now possible to resume operations in specific locations within those territories based on a "favourable" concept issued by the community and local authorities. This has been the case in Puerto Leguízamo (Putumayo), where CCCM was able to resume operations after being suspended years ago due to worsening security.[147]

HALO received its first two assignments under the new standard in Sardinata (Norte de Santander) and Cáceres (Zone 2, Antioquia). The organisation has also coordinated with the national authority to identify a new set of municipalities affected by active conflict where it aims to expand operations, particularly in the Catatumbo region. With the updated framework in place, HALO has begun the necessary community liaison processes to initiate activities.[148]

LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

A key issue affecting land release efficiency—regularly flagged by Mine Action Review based on operators' annual results—is the high number of mined areas cleared where no AP mines are found, revealing persistent challenges in survey. In 2023,

141 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 14.

142 Email from Katherine Otálora Ibarra, CCCM, 5 May 2025.

143 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 63.

144 Ibid., p. 65.

145 Email from Hernando Andrés Enríquez Ruiz, HI, 25 August 2025.

146 Ibid.

147 Email from Katherine Otálora Ibarra, CCCM, 5 May 2025.

148 Email from Oliver Ford, HALO, 10 May 2025.

nearly two-thirds of all mine clearance operations yielded no explosive ordnance. In 2024, this proportion decreased slightly, with several operators still reporting significant clearance of areas that ultimately contained no AP mines. A total of 153,749m^2 was cleared without finding any AP mines from a total of 309,885m^2 of AP mine clearance operations in 2024, equivalent to a staggering 49.6% of all clearance (See Table 5).

Table 5: Civilian demining clearance with no AP mines found (operators data)[149]

Operator	No of SHA	Area cleared (m²) with no AP mine found	Percentage of total clearance
CCCM	66	69,117	52%
DRC	2	2,907	16%
HALO	23	28,866	28%
HI	11	28,672	100%
HUMANICEMOS	15	24,187	100%
Totals	**117**	**153,749**	**49.6%**

Note: this table refers specifically to AP mines; the percentages would differ if all types of explosive ordnance were included.

While there is no straightforward solution, the demining sector should continue exploring strategies to reduce the amount of land cleared found to have no landmine contamination. Not all the NTC-AICMA have yet been fully operationalised, in particular due to continuing debate on the TS standard. The key issue is whether areas reduced through TS can be considered free of contamination, as improvised AP mine laying does not follow a regular pattern.[150] The absence of patterns in Colombia's mined areas is a fact upon which all operators agree.[151] With half of all CHAs and SHAs cleared in 2024 found to contain no AP mines, there is a strong need to further discuss the suitability and potential use of TS in the Colombian context and adopting more flexible clearance approaches that reflect the actual threat posed by devices as they rapidly degrade over time and their potential lethality decreases.[152]

The 2025 extension request planned 495 areas, covering 3.05km^2, to be addressed through NTS and full clearance by the end of 2027. It clarified that TS is not foreseen for these areas, as experience has shown that "the small size of the plots and the improvised nature of the explosive devices make it impossible to obtain reliable characterisation through conventional technical methodologies". It further explained that this decision is based on planning assumptions and past experience: "applying full clearance ensures definitive land release and minimises the risk of gaps that could result from inadequate TS. In addition, concentrating resources on full clearance operations optimises the use of specialised personnel and equipment in a context of improvised mine contamination".[153]

Another recurring issue relates to the way demining organisations investigate "events" recorded in the IMSMA database and the municipal file, which—as detailed in the information management and tasking sections—remains a generally unreliable source. Many of these "events" are erroneous or unrelated to mine action or credible evidence of contamination, but operators are still required to investigate 100% of IMSMA-listed events. In contrast, newly identified areas recorded by operators during NTS are typically more accurate and can be directly classified as mined areas.[154]

In 2024, the NMAA worked in coordination with the operators to improve the accuracy of event records in IMSMA. These included field investigations and verification processes to ensure the database more accurately reflects the current state of contamination.[155] As detailed in the section below, "survey outputs", there is also a difference in methodology between operators with respect to "cancelling" mined area after investigating IMSMA events versus only cancelling mined area previously identified through NTS and which is already recorded in the database.[156] However, OCCP-AICMA clarified that the investigation of IMSMA events "has nothing to do with the cancellation process under the IMAS and NMAS, which specifically aims to cancel or confirm areas, or parts of these".[157]

In 2024, the OAS-AICMA programme continued revising and simplifying the "non-conformity" matrix used to assess mine action operators. Monitoring visits conducted during the year showed a general decline in non-conformities among implementing organisations. Nonetheless, some recurring issues persisted, particularly the need to strengthen NTS. TS also remained underused, "sparking renewed interest among humanitarian stakeholders in reassessing its role to improve operational efficiency". The monitoring approach followed the revised model introduced earlier in the year, focusing

149 Emails from Katherine Otálora, CCCM, 25 August 2025; Paula Ximena Cadena, DRC, 27 August 2025; Oliver Ford, HALO, 10 May 2025; Hernando Andrés Enríquez Ruiz, HI, 15 April 2025; and Juan David Arcila Collazos, HUMANICEMOS DH, 3 July 2025.

150 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 34.

151 Emails from Francisco Moreno, CCCM, 6 June 2023; Marie-Josée Hamel, then Programmes Manager, DRC, 24 May 2023; Oliver Ford, HALO 16 June 2023; Arturo Bureo, then Operations Manager, HI, 26 May 2023; and Maria Sanz, then Resources Mobilisation Manager, HUMANICEMOS DH, 8 June 2023.

152 Email from Oliver Ford, HALO 16 June 2023.

153 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 69.

154 Email from Nathalie Ochoa Niño, OCCP-AICMA Group, 6 September 2024.

155 Emails from Katherine Otálora Ibarra, CCCM, 5 May 2025; and Oliver Ford, HALO, 10 May 2025.

156 Email and telephone interview with Maicol Velázquez, Lead of Information Management component, OACP-AICMA Group, 4 and 5 August 2023, respectively; and telephone interview with Tammy Hall, OAS, 5 August 2023.

157 Email from Mauricio Silva, OCCP-AICMA Group, 15 September 2025.

on fewer but more strategically targeted visits. A new monitoring system is planned for early 2025 to better identify institutional and operational areas requiring improvement.[158]

A dedicated working group within the Knowledge Management Platform assessed operational inefficiencies in Colombia, identifying issues related to the nature of contamination, logistical challenges, regulatory shortcomings, and poor practices. The group delivered two foundational documents: one defining land release indicators and another outlining identified inefficiencies in Colombia's humanitarian demining operations. Both will serve as inputs for future updates to the National Mine Action Standards (NMAS).[159] Another technical working group focused on impact measurement, advancing the identification of 11 preliminary impact indicators. OAS-AICMA is supporting OCCP-AICMA in developing a methodology and documentation to guide impact measurement.[160]

OPERATORS AND OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Colombia has a large operational clearance capacity at its disposal with seven operators accredited for demining: two military operators and five civilian ones. By far the largest clearance operator is the National Army's Humanitarian Demining Brigade (BRDEH), although its capacity has decreased over time – from 3,760 deminers in 2020 to 2,105 in 2024.[161] BDIAN (previously known as the Marine Corps Explosives and Demining Association, AEDIM), a smaller military operator, clears and destroys AP mines and ERW in areas under the jurisdiction of the National Navy. Demining is also conducted by civilian organisations: two national (the CCCM and HUMANICEMOS DH) and three international (DRC, HALO, and HI).

A successful experience arising from the 2016 Peace Agreement with the FARC-EP is the national demining and risk education organisation, HUMANICEMOS DH. Comprising personnel that signed the Peace Agreement with the government, and who are in the process of being reintegrated economically and socially into civilian life, HUMANICEMOS DH was first accredited in August 2017. In 2020, HUMANICEMOS DH began survey and clearance in La Montañita, Caquetá.[162] Since then, it has conducted operations in various territories affected by AP mines and ERW, aligning its efforts with rural development, land restitution, and territorial peacebuilding initiatives.[163] In its latest bulletin, HUMANICEMOS DH emphasises that it has developed a unique and replicable model for reintegration. With seven years of experience on the path of reconciliation and commitment to non-repetition, the organisation positions itself as a valuable resource for the government's peacebuilding efforts.[164]

UNMAS was initially responsible for external QM and monitoring of HUMANICEMOS DH due to US funding restrictions that prevented direct OAS involvement.[165] In April 2023, the OAS's CEM component assumed this role, supported by Swiss funding that was later extended through 2024, to integrate HUMANICEMOS DH into the national monitoring framework.[166] HUMANICEMOS DH noted that delays in CEM certification had caused planning issues.[167] However, since implementing an improvement plan in November 2023, external QM by CEM has shifted positively into a process which encourages operational efficiency across different organisations and entities, rather than creating delays on operations as had been reported to be the case previously.

According to Colombia's 2025 Article 5 deadline extension request, the annual operational capacity of demining organisations has significantly declined between 2020 and 2024, with a 55% reduction in NTS capacity and a 40% decrease in the number of deminers. Colombia indicated that this reduction correlates directly with the drop in operational output observed in 2023 and 2024.[168] Despite this decline, capacity for the 2023–25 period has remained partially stable, reflecting the sector's progressive adaptation to financial constraints. Colombia's 2025–27 work plan is based on 2,194 BDIAN and BRDEH personnel for survey, demining and EOD tasks, representing a slight increase from 2024.[169]

Regarding survey capacity during 2024, the operators recorded an increase compared to 2023, up from 179 survey personnel to 336 (see Table 6).

Table 6: Survey capacities in 2024 (as reported by demining operators and by OCCP-AICMA Group for BDIAN and BRDEH capacity)[170]

Operator	NTS teams	NTS personnel	TS teams	TS personnel
BDIAN	5	12	0	0
BRDEH	43	184	0	0

158 Email from Lina Maria Castillo, Department of Public Security, OAS, 23 September 2025.

159 Emails from Katherine Otálora, CCCM, 5 May 2025; and Lina Maria Castillo, Department of Public Security, OAS, 23 September 2025.

160 Email from Lina Maria Castillo, Department of Public Security, OAS, 23 September 2025.

161 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Table 6, p. 21.

162 Emails from Maria Sanz, HUMANICEMOS DH, 8 June 2023 and 19 July 2022; and HUMANICEMOS DH, "Boletín Externo No. 2", 14 February 2023.

163 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, p. 99.

164 HUMANICEMOS DH, "Boletín Informativo No. 2", 11 September 2024, at: https://bit.ly/4lWtV9x.

165 Email from Pablo Parra, Chief Mine Action Programme, UNMAS Colombia, 22 August 2023.

166 Email from Tammy Hall, OAS Mine Action Programme, 31 August 2023; and Article 7 Report (covering 2023) p. 77.

167 Emails from Matia Sanz, HUMANICEMOS DH, 8 June and 8 September 2023.

168 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Table 7, p. 22.

169 Ibid., Table 13, p. 58.

170 Emails from Katherine Otálora Ibarra, CCCM, 5 May 2025; Paula Ximena Cadena, DRC, 8 April 2025; Oliver Ford, HALO, 10 May 2025; Hernando Andrés Enríquez Ruiz, HI, 15 April 2025; Juan David Arcila Collazos, HUMANICEMOS DH, 3 July 2025; and Mauricio Silva, OCCP-AICMA Group, 15 September 2025.

Table 6 Continued

Operator	NTS teams	NTS personnel	TS teams	TS personnel
CCCM	21	42	0	0
DRC	9	27	0	0
HALO	6	18	0	0
HI	9	33	0	0
HUMANICEMOS	4	20	0	0
Totals	**97**	**336**	**0**	**0**

With regard to clearance capacities during 2024, civilian operators reported a total of 238 manual deminers (see Table 7), a slight decrease from the total of 243 in 2023. Civilian operators are moving towards using multitask teams (MTTs), which can conduct both NTS and clearance.[171]

Table 7: Clearance capacities deployed in 2024 (monthly averages reported by operators and by OCCP-AICMA Group for BDIAN and BRDEH capacity)[172]

Operator	Manual teams	Total deminers	Comments
BDIAN	3	61	Reduced from 20 teams and 98 deminers in 2023.
BRDEH	121	1,855	Reduced from 396 teams and 1,980 deminers in 2023. In addition, the BRDEH had 15 mine detection dogs and handers, and 24 mechanical assets in 2024.
CCCM	20	72	Increased from 15 teams and 60 deminers in 2023. In addition to these personnel, CCCM has 6 MTT leaders, 15 clearance team leaders, 14 MTT supervisors, and 4 clearance supervisors who, depending on operational needs, also provide direct support to clearance. Likewise, most paramedics are accredited as MTT members and frequently shift roles to support clearance.
DRC	7	35	Increased from 5 teams and 30 deminers in 2023.
HALO	17	68	Reduced from 19 teams and 82 people in 2023. Each clearance team is made up of one supervisor and four deminers. The supervisor is not counted in the figure.
HI	6	31	Reduced from 10 teams and 47 people in 2023. The total number of deminers does not include supervisors and team leaders. As in 2023, a ground-preparation machine (GCS-100) was used to assist clearance operations together with a mechanical team (4 operators, 1 team leader, and 1 supervisor).
HUMANICEMOS DH	4	32	Increased from 3 teams of 24 deminers in 2023. The teams are multi-task.
Totals 2024	**178**	**2,154**	

CCCM reduced its NTS personnel by 13% compared to 2023, while increasing clearance personnel by 33%. The decrease in NTS capacity is attributed to the successful completion of NTS in most assigned sectors. Many of the affected personnel, accredited as multi-task teams, have been reassigned to clearance operations.[173] DRC decreased

171 Emails from Katherine Otálora Ibarra, CCCM, 5 May 2025; and Juan David Arcila Collazos, HUMANICEMOS DH, 3 July 2025.

172 Emails from Katherine Otálora Ibarra, CCCM, 5 May 2025; Paula Ximena Cadena, DRC, 8 April 2025; Oliver Ford, HALO, 10 May 2025; Hernando Andrés Enríquez Ruiz, HI, 15 April 2025; Juan David Arcila Collazos, HUMANICEMOS DH, 3 July 2025; and Mauricio Silva, OCCP-AICMA Group, 15 September 2025.

173 Email from Katherine Otálora Ibarra, CCCM, 5 May 2025.

personnel in the department of Caquetá compared to 2023, due to the worsening security conditions, which led to the suspension of operations and the reduction of personnel. It slightly increased clearance staff in the department of Bolívar to support existing teams.[174]

HALO deployed an average of 17 clearance teams per month, two fewer than in 2023. Although clearance resumed in Meta after an 18-month suspension, a continued decline in funding limited the overall number of deminers deployed. Meanwhile, NTS capacity remained consistent with 2023 levels.[175] HI increased its NTS teams compared to 2023 due to two key developments: the launch of activities in newly assigned territories, such as Tierralta (Córdoba) and the Abades subregion, and the implementation of the new methodology for responding to events in Cauca where HI had two MTTs dedicated to EOD spot tasks in parts of territories not assigned for full territorial release.[176] HUMANICEMOS DH did not experience any significant increases or decreases in the number of survey or clearance personnel deployed in 2024 compared to 2023.[177]

The OCCP-AICMA Group noted that demining organisations have employed a range of tools, including drones, to support NTS, and noted that this initiative was in an experimental phase. Results were expected to be gathered to assess the feasibility of including these technologies in their standard procedures.[178] HUMANICEMOS DH has received official authorisation from the OAS CEM to use thermite in disposing of explosive devices. Thermite, a pyrotechnic compound that produces extremely high temperatures, is a specialised tool used to neutralise explosive ordnance, particularly when conventional detonation methods pose higher risks to personnel or surrounding communities. This authorisation has been described as a "significant milestone" in the organisation's operational capabilities, enabling it to apply internationally recognised technical standards for the safe destruction of ERW.[179]

Aside from HI, which is accredited to deploy a land preparation machine, BRDEH is the only entity with mine detection dog (MDD) capacity and with the logistical capability to deploy and use machines across the entire national territory.[180]

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS AND ARTICLE 5 COMPLIANCE

LAND RELEASE OUTPUTS IN 2024

Colombia reported clearing 1.47km^2 of mined area in 2024 in 27 municipalities across 14 departments, down from the 1.73km^2 achieved the previous year, along with cancellation of 0.075km^2 through NTS and a tiny amount of reduction through TS. In 2024, all five civilian operators again reported clearing substantial areas of land without finding AP mines, estimated at half of all their mine clearance by Mine Action Review based on the data provided by operators (see Table 5 above).

Table 8: Mined area release in 2024 (based on Article 7 data)[181]

Release of AP mined area	Release in 2024 (m^2)
Clearance	1,398,340
TS	113
NTS	75,044
Destruction of AP mines during clearance, survey, and spot tasks	**2024**
AP mines destroyed	193

According to OCCP-AICMA data, a total of 119 previously unrecorded mined areas, covering 319,458m^2, were identified through NTS in 2024. This included one area of 1,897m^2 discovered by BDIAN and eleven areas totalling 89,395m^2 discovered by BRDEH. The remaining 107 areas (228,166m^2) were reportedly discovered by the five civilian operators.[182]

Figures reported directly to Mine Action Review by civilian operators in 2024 were higher. HUMANICEMOS DH reported no new areas (see Table 9).

174 Emails from Paula Ximena Cadena, DRC, 8 April and 22 August 2025.
175 Email from Oliver Ford, HALO, 10 May 2025.
176 Email from Hernando Andrés Enríquez Ruiz, HI, 25 August 2025.
177 Email from Juan David Arcila Collazos, HUMANICEMOS DH, 3 July 2025.
178 Email from Diana Marisol Peñalosa, OCCP-AICMA Group, 17 September 2024.
179 HUMANICEMOS DH, "Boletín Informativo No. 2", 11 September 2024.
180 Emails from Diana Marisol Peñalosa, OCCP-AICMA Group, 17 September 2024; and Mauricio Silva, OCCP-AICMA Group, 15 September 2025.
181 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 41.
182 Email from Mauricio Silva, OCCP-AICMA Group, 15 September 2025.

Table 9: Newly discovered SHAs thought to contain AP mines in 2024 (civilian operator reports)[183]

Operator	Department	Number of SHAs	SHA (m²)
CCCM	Antioquia	19	48,815
CCCM	Putumayo	60	71,819
CCCM	Vichada	4	6,242
Subtotals		**83**	**126,876**
DRC	Bolivar	5	9,992
DRC	Caquetá	1	8,197
Subtotals		**6**	**18,189**
HALO	Antioquia	28	24,700
HALO	Casanare	1	708
HALO	Cauca	5	8,902
HALO	Meta	4	10,176
HALO	Tolima	1	653
HALO	Valle del Cauca	11	29,373
Subtotals		**50**	**74,512**
HI	Antioquia	8	16,802
HI	Meta	2	1,977
Subtotals		**10**	**18,779**
Totals 2024		**149**	**238,356**

SURVEY IN 2024

In 2024, demining operators conducting NTS cancelled a total of 75,044m² according to Colombia's Article 7 report (see Table 10). Last year, OCCP-AICMA Group indicated to Mine Action Review that the actual area cancelled through NTS in 2023 was 6,502m² (contradicting the information provided earlier through its Article 7 report). This means that the area cancelled in 2024 was nearly twelve times higher than in 2023.

Table 10: Release of mined area through NTS in 2024 (Article 7 data)[184]

Department	Area cancelled (m²)
Antioquia	22,626
Caldas	1,561
Caquetá	4,615
Putumayo	1,423
Santander	11,685
Tolima	13,472
Valle del Cauca	19,662
Total	**75,044**

Different figures for cancellation have been provided to Mine Action Review by NGO operators, as set out in Table 11. This is a decrease, compared to cancellation of 126,787m² reported by operators for 2023. HUMANICEMOS DH did not report cancellation of mined area through NTS for a second consecutive year, although it had released area through cancellation in 2022.[185]

There is a difference in methodology between operators with respect to "cancelling" mined area after investigating IMSMA events versus only cancelling mined area previously identified through NTS and which is already recorded in the database.[186] One operator indicated to Mine Action Review using different average sizes for IMSMA events within each municipality. However, OCCP-AICMA clarified that the national authority does not establish an average sizes per IMSMA event in each municipality. The information contained in the municipal files is provided solely as contextual reference. Within the framework of event investigation, it is the operator who—based on technical criteria, NTS, and field evidence—determines the size of hazardous areas. NTS teams must rigorously evaluate available evidence to establish whether it constitutes one or more hazardous areas. This process is intended to precisely delineate the threat, avoid overestimation, and optimize

183 Emails from Katherine Otálora Ibarra, CCCM, 5 May 2025; Paula Ximena Cadena, DRC, 8 April 2025; Oliver Ford, HALO, 12 August 2025; Hernando Andrés Enríquez Ruiz, HI, 25 August 2025; and Juan David Arcila Collazos, HUMANICEMOS DH, 3 July 2025.

184 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Table 6, pp. 42-48.

185 Email from Juan David Arcila Collazos, HUMANICEMOS DH, 3 July 2025.

186 Email and telephone interview with Maicol Velázquez, OACP-AICMA Group, 4 and 5 August 2023, respectively; and telephone interview with Tammy Hall, OAS, 5 August 2023.

the use of technical means and available resources. This methodology is supposed to uniformly apply to all accredited operators, civilian and military, ensuring technical consistency in the estimation and cancellation of IMSMA events.[187]

Table 11: Release of mined area through NTS in 2024 (civilian demining operator data)[188]

Department	Operator	Areas cancelled	Area cancelled (m²)
Antioquia	HI	18	17,920
Antioquia	HALO	2	1,050
Caquetá	DRC	1	4,020
Cauca	HI	5	10,203
Nariño	HI	2	3,248
Putumayo	CCCM	1	814
Totals		**29**	**37,255**

Reduced area through TS in 2024 amounted to 113m^2 according to data from Colombia's Article 7 report (see Table 12). This is hugely reduced compared to the 145,335m^2 reported by the OCCP-AICMA Group in 2023 or the 160,389m^2 reported in its Article 7 report covering 2023.

Table 12: Release of mined area through TS in 2024 (Article 7 report data)[189]

Department	Area reduced (m²)
Putumayo	113
Total	**113**

TS is only implemented by the national military operators. Civilian operators are not using TS in Colombia due to several problems: first, a lack of clarity on the required procedure for TS which they feel would either duplicate efforts or delay the land release process in some cases; and second, the dynamics of the Colombian conflict, which mean that devices do not reflect predictable patterns.[190] HI noted that given the nature of contamination in Colombia, and based on the evidence found in the field by NTS teams, the average size of areas reported are often up to 4,000m^2. Because NTC-AICMA requires a 25-metre safety distance between deminers, it is rarely possible to deploy more than six deminers per task, making area reduction through TS almost impossible in practice. In TS, a lane usually has to be opened from a safe area to the evidence point, after which clearance can only be carried out within a defined distance of the explosive ordnance found. This means that, at the start of TS, only one deminer can normally be deployed. In clearance, by contrast, operations can begin from any point along the perimeter, allowing the deployment of more than one deminer—though rarely more than six, given the relatively small average size of SHAs.[191]

CLEARANCE IN 2024

Clearance output reported by the authorities in Colombia's Article 7 report for 2024 showed a slight decrease compared to 2023, with nearly 1.4km^2 cleared manually by demining operators and the destruction of 193 AP mines and 148 other items of explosive ordnance.[192] For 2023, Colombia revised its previously reported clearance figures following data verification, updating the total to 1.73km^2—just below the 1.84km^2 cleared in 2022.[193] This downward trend in clearance output continued in 2024.

Table 13: Mine clearance in 2024 (Article 7 report data)[194]

Department	Area cleared (m²)	AP mines destroyed*	UXO destroyed during mine clearance
Antioquia	243,831	65	18
Bolivar	6,253	0	7
Caldas	77,406	27	5
Caqueta	194,244	2	23
Cauca	16,433	15	8

187 Email from Mauricio Silva, OCCP-AICMA Group, 15 September 2025.

188 Emails from Katherine Otálora Ibarra, CCCM, 5 May 2025; Paula Ximena Cadena, DRC, 22 August 2025; Oliver Ford, HALO, 10 May 2025; and Hernando Andrés Enríquez Ruiz, HI, 15 April 2025.

189 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Table 6, pp. 42–48.

190 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 34; and emails from Francisco Moreno, CCCM, 6 June 2023; Paola Paula Ximena Cadena, DRC, 3 August 2023; Oliver Ford, HALO, 3 August 2023; Arturo Bureo, HI, 26 May 2023; Maria Sanz, HUMANICEMOS DH, 8 June 2023.

191 Emails from Arturo Bureo, HI, 26 May 2023; and Hernando Andrés Enríquez Ruiz, HI, 25 August 2025.

192 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Table 6, pp. 42–48.

193 Email from Nathalie Ochoa Niño, OCCP-AICMA Group, 6 September 2024.

194 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), Table 6, pp. 42–48.

Table 13 Continued

Department	Area cleared (m²)	AP mines destroyed*	UXO destroyed during mine clearance
Cesar	18,544	0	7
Huila	129,821	19	1
Meta	142,705	3	24
Norte de Santander	0	0	1
Putumayo	153,459	49	7
Santander	185,590	5	8
Sucre	0	0	3
Tolima	127,203	4	1
Valle Del Cauca	101,710	4	2
Vichada	1,141	0	33
Totals	**1,398,340**	**193**	**148**

*The numbers of AP mines destroyed by civilian operators and reported to the NMAA were not consistently reflected in the data in the Article 7 report (for example, six AP mines destroyed by HALO in Meta; 11 by DRC in Bolivar were not included).

Clearance figures reported directly to Mine Action Review by civilian demining operators are presented in Table 14. In 2024, reported clearance outputs by civilian demining operators presented a small increase from 295,892m² cleared and 188 AP mines destroyed in 2023, to 309,885m² cleared and 171 AP mines destroyed. Notably, half of the area cleared in 2024 contained no AP mines.

Some of the areas reported as cleared by the OCCP-AICMA Group are not reflected in the NGO data, as the NMAA also includes clearance by the military brigades (almost 80% of clearance). In addition, OCCP-AICMA only reports land release once tasks are completed and certified by the CEM, which creates discrepancies between operator data reported to Mine Action Review and figures reported by the national authority.

Table 14: Mine clearance in 2024 (civilian demining operator data)[195]

Department	Operator	Number of SHA or CHA	Area cleared (m²)	AP mines destroyed	AP mines destroyed in spot tasks
Antioquia	CCCM	75	113,640	2	0
Putumayo	CCCM	18	18,545	47	0
Vichada	CCCM	3	1,746	0	0
Subtotals	**CCCM**	**96**	**133,932**	**49**	**0**
Bolivar	DRC	6	18,602	11	4
Subtotals	**DRC**	**6**	**18,602**	**11**	**4**
Antioquia	HALO	41	62,552	58	5
Cauca	HALO	11	19,093	4	0
Meta	HALO	2	7,041	6	0
Valle del Cauca	HALO	2	15,806	32	2
Subtotals	**HALO**	**56**	**104,492**	**100**	**7**

195 Emails from Katherine Otálora Ibarra, CCCM, 5 May and 25 August 2025; Paula Ximena Cadena, DRC, 8 April and 22 August 2025; Oliver Ford, HALO, 10 May 2025; Hernando Andrés Enríquez Ruiz, HI, 15 April 2025; and Juan David Arcila Collazos, HUMANICEMOS DH, 3 July 2025.

Table 14 Continued

Department	Operator	Number of SHA or CHA	Area cleared (m²)	AP mines destroyed	AP mines destroyed in spot tasks
Antioquia	HI	7	22,582	0	0
Cauca	HI	1	361	0	0
Meta	HI	1	2,331	0	0
Tolima	HI	2	3,398	0	0
Subtotals	**HI**	**11**	**28,672**	**0**	**0**
Antioquia	HUMANICEMOS DH	N/R	14,155	0	0
Caquetá	HUMANICEMOS DH	N/R	10,032	0	0
Subtotals	**HUMANICEMOS DH**	**15**	**24,187**	**0**	**0**
Totals 2024		**184**	**309,885**	**160**	**11**

Note: This table does not include the operational progress of the military demining brigades (BRDEH and BDIAN). BRDEH, which has the highest operational capacity, conducts almost 80% of clearance operations nationwide.

In addition to destroying AP mines, operators also reported destroying remote-controlled IEDs and items of unexploded ordnance (UXO) during clearance operations and/or EOD spot tasks. CCCM destroyed six IEDs in Putumayo and one item of UXO in Antioquia, both during clearance operations.[196] HALO destroyed three IEDs during clearance in Valle del Cauca, two IEDs during EOD spot tasks in Antioquia and Meta, three UXO items during clearance in Antioquia and Cauca, and five additional UXO items during EOD spot tasks across all four departments where it is intervening, plus one in Norte de Santander.[197] HI destroyed six IEDs during clearance in Antioquia, four IEDs during EOD spot tasks in Antioquia and Cauca, and 11 items of UXO in Antioquia, Cauca, and Meta.[198] HUMANICEMOS destroyed two IEDs and two items of UXO during clearance in Antioquia.[199]

Among demining operators, CCCM cleared the greatest areas in 2024, with 133,932m² cleared compared to 108,511m² in 2023. HALO cleared 104,492m² in 2024, similar to the previous year (103,838m² in 2023). HI more than doubled output, from 11,843m² in 2023 to 28,672m² in 2024, although HI did not find AP mines, but destroyed 10 remote-controlled IED and 11 item of UXOs. In contrast, DRC saw an 18% decrease, from 22,777m² to 18,602m². HUMANICEMOS DH reported a 51% reduction—from 48,923m² to 24,187m²—mainly due to the suspension of operations in Solita, Caquetá caused by increased activity of NSAGs and worsening conflict. Security guarantees were not restored, and operations remain suspended through the end of 2024 and into 2025.[200]

ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE AND COMPLIANCE

APMBC ENTRY INTO FORCE FOR COLOMBIA: 1 MARCH 2001

↓

ORIGINAL ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE: 1 MARCH 2011

↓

FIRST EXTENDED DEADLINE (10 YEARS): 1 MARCH 2021

↓

SECOND EXTENDED DEADLINE (4 YEARS, 9 MONTHS): 31 DECEMBER 2025

↓

THIRD EXTENDED DEADLINE REQUESTED (5 YEARS, INTERIM): 31 DECEMBER 2030

NOT ON TRACK TO MEET ARTICLE 5 DEADLINE (INTERIM EXTENSION REQUESTED)

196 Email from Katherine Otálora, CCCM, 5 May 2025.
197 Email from Oliver Ford, HALO, 10 May 2025.
198 Email from Hernando Andrés Enríquez Ruiz, HI, 15 April 2025.
199 Email from Juan David Arcila Collazos, HUMANICEMOS DH, 3 July 2025.
200 Ibid.

Under Article 5 of the APMBC, and in accordance with the four-year and nine-month extension granted by States Parties in 2020, Colombia is required to destroy all AP mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 31 December 2025. Colombia will not meet this deadline and has requested a five-year interim extension to 31 December 2030 (its third extension request). The request was due to be considered at the Twenty-Second Meeting of States Parties in December 2025.

Colombia became a State Party on 1 March 2001. In 2010, it submitted its first extension request, which was granted at the Tenth Meeting of States Parties (10MSP), setting a new 10-year deadline. A second extension request was submitted in 2020 and approved at the Eighteenth Meeting of States Parties (18MSP), establishing the current deadline of 31 December 2025.

While Colombia largely met its clearance targets between 2020 and 2024 —clearing 8.66km^2 against a projected 3.33km^2 of clearance[201]—it acknowledged the presence of large contaminated areas whose full extent remains undetermined. Several factors continue to constrain Colombia's ability to meet its Article 5 obligations, including widespread and continued contamination caused by 35 years of AP mine use by armed groups, with insecurity limiting access to many contaminated areas. National authorities report that the reconfiguration of armed groups not covered by the 2016 Peace Agreement has contributed to new contamination in 2024, including in municipalities previously declared mine-free. By the end of 2024, Colombia reported that 935 municipalities (83% of the country) were mine-free, while 17% of the territory remains contaminated. This includes 84 municipalities (7.5%) under active intervention and 102 municipalities (9.1%) pending intervention, many of which are located in areas still affected by ongoing conflict.

Despite having one of the world's largest demining programmes, Colombia's operational progress remains slow, particularly in remote and hard-to-reach areas. The government noted that the country's operational capacity for implementing its operations plan has declined by approximately 41% compared to 2020.[202] This reduction is attributed to a combination of factors, including decreased external funding and worsening security conditions. In 2024, the sector took important steps to adapt to the complex security environment. This included the adoption of the new national standard for demining in insecure areas. At the same time, the prioritisation system for demining and the tasking process using a micro-targeting approach were improved. However, the pace of operations remained slow. A freeze in US funding at the start of 2025 nearly brought operations to a halt for several months, with some operators forced to cease operations in certain municipalities.[203]

By 2030, Colombia will have to request another extension to its mine clearance deadline, as the country remains far from fulfilling Article 5. In its 2025 extension request, Colombia clearly stated it will not be able to meet its Article 5 obligations within the proposed five-year extension period.[204]

Table 15: Five-year summary of AP mine clearance[205]

Year	Area cleared (km²)
2024	1.40
2023	1.73
2022	1.84
2021	1.27
2020	1.08
Total	**7.32**

PLANNING FOR MANAGEMENT OF RESIDUAL CONTAMINATION

Colombia has established a sustainable national capacity to implement the APMBC and effectively respond to the emergence of previously unknown or newly contaminated mined areas, even after the declaration of mine-free zones. Its Article 7 report covering 2024 indicated that a methodology for addressing residual risk has been adopted, in line with its NTC-AICMA. Residual risk is currently managed by State capacity with funding from the national budget and international cooperation. Civilian organisations are only permitted to intervene for a maximum of six months after clearance operations are completed.

By the end of 2024, 14 CHAs were under intervention using this methodology, covering an estimated 87,306m^2 across several municipalities.[206] Its operations plan for 2025–27 includes the development and implementation of a methodology for analysing new contamination and monitoring residual risk, ensuring that annual work plans include monitoring actions. In 2025, Colombia plans to establish inter-institutional technical working groups to define the scope and criteria of the methodology; in 2026, to advance the design, pilot testing, and validation of analytical tools; and in 2027, to begin operational implementation in selected territories, supported by a monitoring and feedback system to adjust the methodology as residual risk evolves. The aim is to build a coherent, context-specific approach for Colombia, with a clear protocol for data collection, assessment of new findings, and mitigation measures against residual risk.

Colombia acknowledges that re-contamination poses both operational and methodological challenges, particularly in areas affected by ongoing conflict dynamics or the presence of NSAGs. To address this, specific procedures have been introduced for the identification, documentation, and evaluation of such events, ensuring that reported information accurately reflects the real status of territory regarding the presence or suspicion of AP mines.[207]

201 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, Table 1, p. 12.

202 Ibid., p. 20.

203 Email from Paula Ximena Cadena, DRC, 22 August 2025.

204 Revised 2025 deadline Extension Request, pp. 10–11.

205 Data extracted from Mine Action Review's previous reports, based on exchanges with the NMAA and operators. Clearance figures reported in Article 7 reports or Article 5 deadline extension requests are not always consistent. According to the NMAA, a total of 8.66km^2 was cleared between 2020 and 2024 (as reported in the Revised 2025 deadline Extension Request, Table 1, p. 12).

206 Article 7 Report (covering 2024), p. 36.

207 Revised 2025 Article 5 deadline Extension Request, pp. 41–42.