

DDR AND CHILD SOLDIER ISSUES

This monthly review, produced by IOM, provides a summary of news related to the implementation of the peace accord in Colombia, including disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) processes. Also included are statics on people in the process of reintegration and former child soldiers, the former of which are sourced from the Agency for Reincorporation and Normalization (ARN), and the latter from the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF).



FIGURES & TRENDS

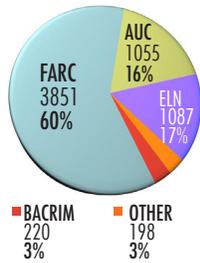
Disengaged Children & Adolescents

TOTAL 6,411

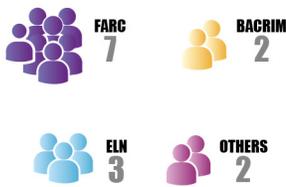
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE: 20

NEW THIS MONTH: 14

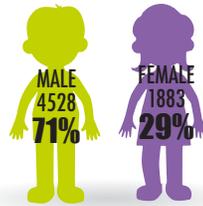
1. Armed Group



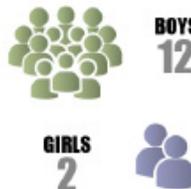
THIS MONTH: DECEMBER 31, 2017



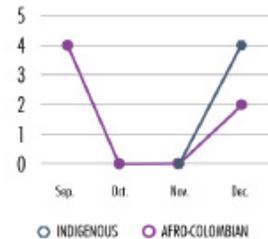
2. Gender



THIS MONTH: DECEMBER 31, 2017



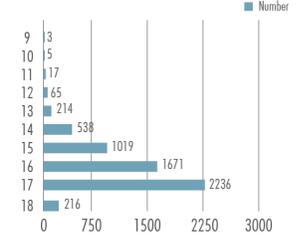
3. Ethnicity



THIS MONTH: DECEMBER 31, 2017



4. Age



THIS MONTH: DECEMBER 31, 2017



5: Victims of Forced Recruitment

Total 8,551** / Month to month 63**

** Number of cases of child recruitment reported to the Victims Unit.

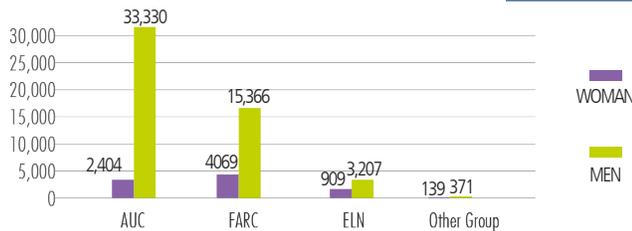
Demobilized Adults

TOTAL 59,796

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE: 234

NEW THIS MONTH: 103

5. Armed Group & Gender



6. Ethnicity



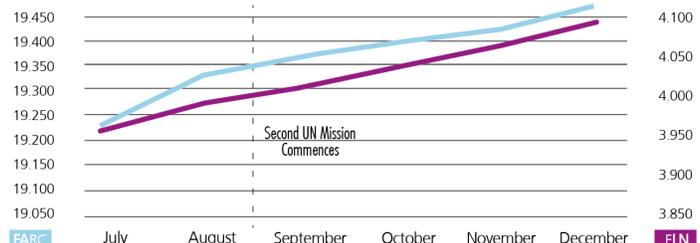
7. ACR Participants



8. Area of Relocation



9. Accumulated Demobilization



Data up to december* 31, 2017

Figure 1: Total number of disengaged minors grouped by gender. Boys have historically been more frequently recruited than girls.

Figure 2: Numbers of minors who disengaged from each IAG. Most disengaged children were recruited by the FARC.

Figure 3: Total number of disengaged minors by ethnicity. Indigenous

groups are disproportionately affected by recruitment.

Figure 4: Numbers of disengaged minors in each age group. The average age of recruitment is between 15 and 18 years old. Sources for figures 1-4: ICBF Database, Unified Beneficiary Registry (RU)

Figure 5: Total number of male and female adults who demobilized from each IAG.

Figure 6: The eight departments to which the highest numbers of ex-combatants

Figure 7: Demobilized Adults

Figure 8: Total number of demobilized adults by ethnicity. Sources for figures 5-7: ICBF Database and ACR Reintegration Information System (SIR)

Figure 9: Accumulated Demobilization

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

90% of amnesty petitions resolved by end of 2017

Eight months after the first amnesties and freedoms granted to members of the FARC under the Havana agreement, the Executive Secretariat of the JEP affirmed that by the end of the year it had resolved the situation of 93% of the demobilized guerrillas and 91% of the members of the Public Forces that asked to be included in the transitional justice system. Of the 3,779 acts signed by the members of the FARC, in which they assumed their commitment to lay down their arms and benefit from the Special Peace Jurisdiction, 3,239 have already received some type of benefit as part of the application of Law 1820 of 2016. Likewise, of the 1,944 uniformed soldiers that were included in the Ministry of Defense's lists to be part of the JEP, 1,180 have already received some type of benefit.¹

Fate of Special Transitional Peace Constituencies uncertain

A contentious voting outcome for the Special Transitional Peace Constituencies has left the legal project's fate uncertain. On November 30th, 50 Colombian senators voted in favor of the project, which is one vote shy of what Directive Committee of the Senate argues are the 51 votes required for the initiative to pass. However, the Santos Government argues that two Constitutional Court precedents support a vote in favor with only 50 votes, and thus, the initiative was approved at the end of November. One primary tension regarding this initiative is that the deadline for candidates for congress is December 11th; as such, in the likely absence of clear resolution of the voting question, these Special Transitional Peace Constituencies will not be possible until the 2022 elections.²

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE ACCORD

FARC-EP

Suspended arrest warrants extended for cooperating FARC

On December 18th, President Juan Manuel Santos signed Decree 2125, which established the process to extend the suspension of arrest warrants for FARC members participating in the peace process. These suspensions will hold as long as the former guerrillas submit to the procedures established by the JEP transitional justice mechanism. The Decree is intended to create an incentive for participants in the peace process to remain in legality and is a response to the reported recidivism taking place and active recruitment by other illegal armed groups.³

85 former guerrillas attain high school degrees

In the Territorial Space for Training and Reincorporation (ETCR) Martín Villa, Arauca, 85 former guerrillas and 20 members of the communities surrounding the transitional zone attained their high school diplomas, marking the largest graduation ceremony to date in any of the ETCR. The multi-sector collaboration was named as illustrative of the priority that education holds in the implementation process, and officials stated that this would be just the first of many waves of former combatants and community members to attain their high school degree.⁴

16 former FARC leaders prepare for the 2018 electoral process

On Friday, December 1st, 16 former leaders of the FARC guerrillas signed commitments to present themselves before the transitional justice mechanism – the JEP – in any and all instances in which they are called in order to render themselves eligible to run for office in the coming electoral processes in 2018. According to the Final Accord, the FARC political party will have 5 guaranteed seats each in the House of Representatives and the Senate over the next two election cycles. FARC candidates will have suspended sentences while they are presenting within the JEP.⁵

¹ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/solicitudes-de-libertad-por-jep-han-sido-resueltas-en-un-90-por-ciento-165476>

² <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/que-puede-hacer-el-gobierno-para-salvar-las-curules-de-paz-159906>

³ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/suspension-de-penas-a-exfarc-estara-vigente-hasta-el-final-del-proceso-en-la-jep/551223>

⁴ <http://www.semana.com/educacion/articulo/desmovilizados-de-las-farc-se-graduan-de-bachiller/551078>

⁵ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/candidatos-del-partido-farc-al-congreso-se-acogen-a-la-jep-157694>

PEACE PROCESS-ELN

Key changes to the ELN-GoC negotiating teams

During December, both Chief GoC negotiator in the ELN peace dialogues in Quito, Ecuador, Juan Camilo Restrepo, and Major General Herrera, who has been involved in the GoC-ELN peace talks since the first day, resigned from the negotiating team. Following, on Tuesday, December 19th, President Juan Manuel Santos named Gustavo Bell head of the GoC negotiating team for negotiations with the ELN guerrilla group. His first order of business will be to negotiate the extension of the current bilateral ceasefire in place with the ELN, set to expire on January 9th, 2018.⁷

ELN claims responsibility for death of 10 persons in Magüi Payán

The ELN has taken responsibility for the death of ten people on November 27th, which resulted, according to the guerrilla group, from an attack on them by the United Guerrillas of the Pacific (GUP). Other versions of the encounter have suggested that the ELN is responsible for 13 deaths, and that individuals who were killed were social leaders and regular civilians. Local government officials have reported that the clash was between the ELN and the criminal group “Resistencia Campesina” in a dispute over control of former FARC territory. Investigations continue.⁸

ELN willing to continue bilateral ceasefire

The ELN guerrilla group announced via Twitter that it would be willing to consider continuing the current bilateral ceasefire, which is scheduled to end on January 9th.⁹ To date, the General Secretary of the UN in Colombia, Antonio Guterres, says that the Mission has verified 27 incidents, although 35 cases have been presented for consideration. In all instances, the outcome has been positive in terms of the ceasefire – i.e., the ELN has not engaged in confrontations with the armed forces of Colombia. Overall, Guterres noted, violence has reduced and humanitarian conditions have improved. The departments of Chocó and Arauca reported the greatest number of incidents.¹⁰

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

First E.U. Fiduciary Trust project launched in Caquetá

The first initiative drawing from the European Union’s Fiduciary Trust for peace in Colombia has been signed, dedicating \$14 billion COP (\$4.8 million USD) to benefitting 2,500 farmers in Caquetá through agricultural and agro-industrial initiatives, with nearly 50% women among the beneficiaries. The European Union has committed to strengthening territorial level community institutions, and looks to contribute its expertise gained over 30 years of experience implementing comprehensive rural development in tropical and post-conflict countries.¹¹

U.K. pledges additional £7 million to peace process

U.K. Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister for the Americas, Sir Alan Duncan, announced an additional £7 million in support for the Colombian peace process. This total includes a £5 million contribution to the U.N. Trust Fund, dedicated to the reintegration of former combatants and recovery in postconflict areas. Total support from the United Kingdom to date totals £12 million. Duncan reiterated the country’s commitment to a swift implementation of the Peace Agreement.¹²

INSTITUTIONAL PROGRESS

President Santos ensures funds for FARC reincorporation

President Juan Manuel Santos issued a Presidential Directive addressed to all national entities that receive resources from the National General Budget to prioritize activities that facilitate the reincorporation of the FARC. This Directive (03, December 20, 2017) calls on the institutions to prioritize reincorporation in their Annual Investment Operating Plans for 2018. Institutions named in the Directive will receive a dedicated planning tool from the National Planning Department, and a criterion was established that the private sector be involved in the reincorporation process as well.¹³

⁶ http://caracol.com.co/radio/2017/12/06/politica/1512528552_982186.html

⁷ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/gustavo-bell-pasa-de-jugador-de-la-paz-en-la-sombra-a-encabezar-dialogo-con-eln-163448>

⁸ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/eln-habla-sobre-masacre-en-maguel-payan-narino-159846>

⁹ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/eln-propone-un-nuevo-cese-al-fuego-bilateral-162556>

¹⁰ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/se-han-presentado-35-incidentes-en-cese-del-fuego-con-el-eln-guterres-161602>

¹¹ <http://www.posconflicto.gov.co/sala-prensa/noticias/2017/Paginas/20171211-Firman-hoy-primer-proyecto-del-Fondo-Fiduciario-de-la-UE-para-la-paz-de-Colombia-que-beneficia-al-Caqueta.aspx>

¹² <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/minister-alan-duncan-announces-an-additional-7m-in-funding-for-the-colombian-peace-process>

¹³ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/santos-ordena-priorizar-inversion-en-la-reincorporacion-de-los-ex-de-las-farc/551390>

Legislative activities for implementation to continue in March

Minister of the Interior, Guillermo Rivera, announced that the GoC plans to continue processing legal projects related to the peace accord using normal legislative procedures beginning in March of 2018, when the congresspersons return to their responsibilities amidst the electoral campaign season. This announcement was made in light of the fact that the fast track mechanism expired on November 30th.¹⁴

DIVERSITY ISSUES

Gendered analysis of rural development

The joint UNDP-FAO Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans Program engaged 47 participants from government institutions, community, social, and women's organizations, and universities and rural farmers' organizations in learning tools for conducting a gender analysis of rural development. The goal of the program is to identify and integrate climate adaptation measures for the agricultural sectors into relevant national planning and budgeting processes.

Afro-Colombian communities struggle for gains in land titling

The Afro-Colombian communities in Colombia are represented through 271 community councils, and have been petitioning for titling for the lands that they have historically occupied for more than 25 years. The Peace Accord raised hopes for more expedient processing, but a year into the implementation they have seen little in the way of gains. To add to these frustrations, there is the new risk that their lands will be re-classified as vacant due to this lack of titling, and redistributed to other populations through the implementation of Point 1: Rural Reform of the accord. In 36 of the 170 populations prioritized for post-conflict, there are 180 Community Councils who are claiming collective titling for their lands. As such, titling of these lands represent an important national concern in the post-accord period.¹⁵

FURTHER READING

2018 presidential elections bring uncertainty to the implementation process

In April of 2017, the FARC political party was guaranteed 10 seats in Colombia's Congress over the next two election cycles (Starting in 2018). Detractors fear the influence of former insurgent leaders in positions of formal political power. For their part, the FARC also face a steep learning curve with regards to peaceful participation in democratic politics. The upcoming 2018 presidential elections will likely disrupt the implementation of the peace accord to some degree, and result in even greater politicization of some already contested elements of that accord. Analysts at Global Risk Insights suggest left- versus right-wing victories in the elections could result in significant shift in regional political and economic dynamics, and that in either case, the new administrations will need to ensure rapid and effective reintegration of former FARC fighters.¹⁶

Kroc Institute publishes state of the implementation report

On December 12th, the Kroc Institute – academic collaborator to the Government of Colombia for the implementation of the Peace Accord – published its one year review of the implementation process. The mixed-methods analysis examines the state of the implementation of the 558 initiatives created by the Final Accord, noting that 17% of these have been completely implemented, while 55% had not yet begun by the time of the report. The transversal tailored approach to gender delineated in the Accord showed weaker gains in the first year, with only 6% of the initiatives completely implemented, and 59% not yet initiated. The report analyzes in depth elements of implementation over the short, mid, and long term, and concludes by comparing the Colombian process with others, noting that in the Colombian case, implementation over the first nine months in many domains is far more advanced than other comparable cases in the world, though it does lag in a few key indicators.¹⁷

¹⁴ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/gobierno/gobierno-plantea-seguir-en-marzo-tramite-de-proyecto-de-implementacion-de-acuerdo-de-paz-160926>

¹⁵ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/titulacion-de-tierras-de-las-comunidades-afrodescendientes-161808>

¹⁶ <https://globalriskinsights.com/2017/12/farc-official-party-in-colombia/>

¹⁷ https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/informe_kroc_sobre_implementacion_del_acuerdo_de_paz.pdf