

# 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

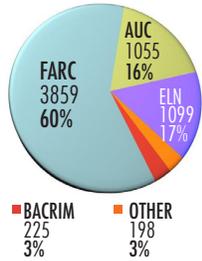
### Disengaged Children & Adolescents

TOTAL 6,436

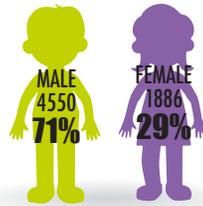
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE: 59

NEWTTHIS MONTH: 12

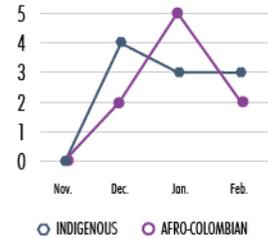
#### 1. Armed Group



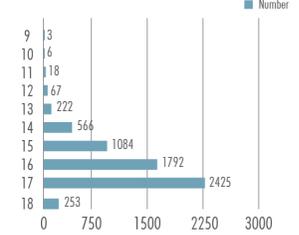
#### 2. Gender



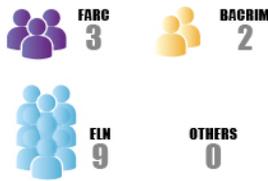
#### 3. Ethnicity



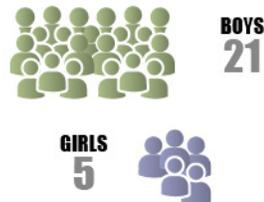
#### 4. Age



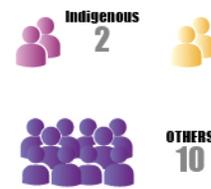
#### THIS MONTH: FEBRUARY 28, 2018



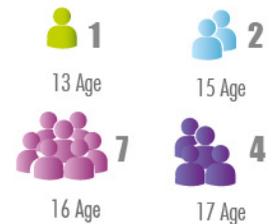
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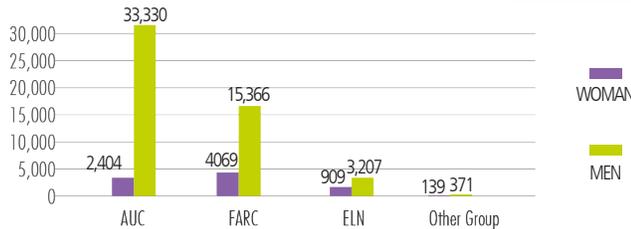


### Demobilized Adults

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE: 234

TOTAL 59,796

#### 5. Armed Group & Gender



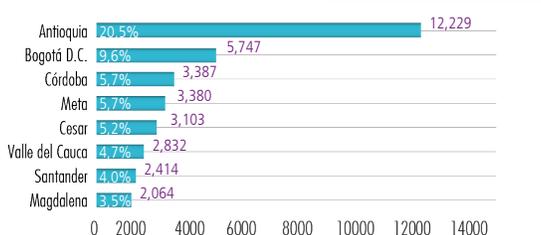
#### 6. Ethnicity



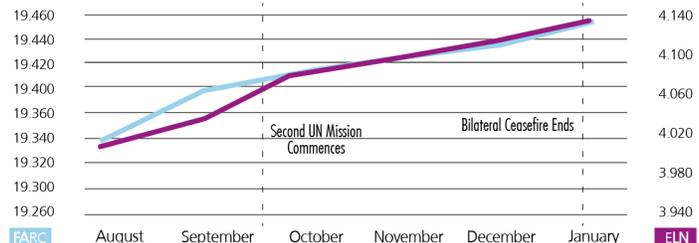
#### 7. ACR Participants



#### 8. Area of Relocation



#### 9. Accumulated Demobilization



Data up to February 28, 2018

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 (RUJ)

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

### Concern over continued civilian toll of armed confrontations and assassinations

The Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (MAPP) joined the numerous voices articulating their concern over forced displacements and threats against the civilian population in Bajo Cauca this month. Confrontations have caused the displacement of almost 1,500 people from Cáceres, and 50 from Tarazá, Antioquia, since mid-January, and Human Rights violations were also recorded in southern Córdoba.<sup>1</sup> This denouncement comes as the number of social leaders assassinated since the Peace Accords began implementation reached 77, with the assassination of a social leader from Catatumbo, Norte de Santander on 17 February.<sup>2</sup> Farming, Afro-Colombian, and indigenous communities have been particularly affected, and the MAPP highlighted the humanitarian and social emergency experienced by displaced people, and reiterated their call for the GoC to provide effective prevention and non-repetition guarantees. The International Red Cross also called for firm humanitarian agreements that will have a real impact on the civilian population's quality of life.<sup>3</sup>

### Electoral process continues with threats against candidates

The Minister of the Interior was obliged to call for Mayor's Offices across the country to allow political events in their jurisdictions' public spaces on 22 February, following Gustavo Petro's denouncement of the Mayor of Medellín for impeding an event he had planned in the city.<sup>4</sup> The GoC added that the State must work with electoral and control organizations to ensure an effective response to the needs and challenges that have arisen since the signing of the Peace Accord, and also that political parties and movements, civil groups, and candidates enjoy the necessary guarantees come election day.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE ACCORD

FARC-EP

### Security challenges to the reintegration and participation of the FARC

The political reintegration of the FARC suffered significant setbacks this month, as the party announced a temporary suspension of party leader Rodrigo Londoño's presidential campaign on 9 February, citing ongoing attacks and a reported lack of security guarantees from the government.<sup>5</sup> The campaign was restarted, despite ongoing security challenges, on 18 February,<sup>6</sup> but the planned press conference for FARC Senate candidate Iván Márquez was cancelled due to threats in the city of Barranquilla later the same day. The payment of 8,800 million pesos (US\$3 million) for the FARC campaign was approved by the National Electoral Council at the beginning of February, following difficulties opening the party's bank account.<sup>7</sup>

### Seizures of FARC assets raised doubts about the group's compliance with the Peace Accord

Authorities seized assets valued at more than US\$234 million (70% of the FARC's declared wealth)<sup>8</sup>, and arrested several individuals suspected of laundering money through a chain of small supermarkets tied to the former guerrilla group. The Peace Accord with the FARC requires that they make an inventory of their assets in order to fund the reparation of victims of the armed conflict, and the legal benefits they enjoy are dependent on their providing this information.<sup>9</sup> The seizure and arrests could undermine the demobilized guerrillas' political party, the Common Alternative Revolutionary Force (FARC), during the upcoming elections.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mapp-oea.org/category/comunicados/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://pacifista.co/lideres-sociales-asesinados-inicio-implementacion/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.icrc.org/es/document/desaparecidos-conflicto-y-carceles-lo-que-nos-preocupa-en-colombia>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.elcolombiano.com/elecciones-2018-colombia/ministerio-del-interior-pide-que-candidatos-puedan-hacer-eventos-politicos-en-espacios-publicos-JH8238874>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.elcolombiano.com/colombia/politica/campana-politica-de-la-farc-es-suspendida-GE8161787>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.elespectador.com/elecciones-2018/noticias/politica/farc-planea-reanudar-su-campana-electoral-articulo-739879>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.elcolombiano.com/colombia/politica/el-cne-aprobo-el-desembolso-para-el-partido-farc-FY8155610>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/colombia-asset-seizures-raise-doubts-farc-peace-deal-compliance>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/investigacion/procurador-advierte-que-beneficios-para-las-farc-depende-de-entrega-de-bienes-187258>

## PEACE PROCESS-ELN

### Peace process increasingly troubled as ELN attacks and confrontations with the GOC continue

True to the erratic nature of the peace process with the ELN, the guerrillas announced their sense of urgency with regards to restarting the peace talks despite mobilizing a national armed strike in the first full week of February (10-13).<sup>10</sup> In response, the Attorney General issued 21 arrest warrants against the guerrilla group, including five members of their Central Command (COCE).<sup>11</sup> Authorities also issued arrest warrants for 10 members of the COCE in relation to the forced recruitment of 45 minors in the Chocó.<sup>12</sup> In addition, the group was judged as responsible for the deaths of three former FARC members, who had been missing since 25 January, resulting in the issuing of two further arrest warrants<sup>13</sup>. Separately, the United Nations concluded in their verification report, released on 9 February, that the ELN had violated International Humanitarian Law when they attacked a police station in Barranquilla last month, leaving eight police officers dead and 40 individuals injured.<sup>14</sup> An ELN attack on a military convoy in Norte de Santander left 5 soldiers dead and 10 injured on 27 February.<sup>15</sup> In response, President Santos reiterated his call for coherence from the ELN, whilst also announcing an intensification of military operations against them.<sup>16</sup>

### ELN announces ceasefire over legislative election period

In a show of respect for those wishing to vote in the legislative elections, on 26 February the ELN announced a ceasefire which will take place over the election period from 9 to 13 March. The group also reiterated their commitment to the peace process, calling on the GoC to set a date for the resumption of the 5th Round of talks in Quito, which has been suspended since 29 January following the group's attack on a police station in Barranquilla. The talks, they state, should form a "Great National Dialogue," and a forum in which to set the terms of a new bilateral ceasefire. President Santos responded with a commitment to study their requests,<sup>17</sup> but the governmental delegation remained in Colombia.

## INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

### Calls for deeper involvement and control by the international community

The International Verification Commission on Human Rights in Colombia has expressed concern regarding European companies and other countries with interests in Colombia, suggesting that they have all too often generated violence and exploitation, rather than reduced it. The Commission called on European governments to take on the responsibility of overseeing the social and environmental impacts of their respective enterprises. The report also states that political and financial support for Colombian social and human rights organizations, communities, and NGOs may deteriorate if they do not receive the necessary support from the international community.<sup>18</sup>

## INSTITUTIONAL PROGRESS

### The GOC consolidated its crop substitution program with Decree 896.

The Integrated National Program for Voluntary Crop Substitution (PNIS), an important element in the fulfillment of Points 1 (integrated rural reform) and 4 (solution to the problem of illicit drugs) of the Final Accord between the FARC and the GOC, had reached 15 of the 21 departments identified as having coca crops by the end of February, with 54,500 families in 1,107 veredas (hamlets) committing to voluntarily substituting their crops. On February 28, the GOC established Decree 896, outlining the composition and functions of organizations responsible for the Program's implementation and ensuring the active participation of farming and community organizations. The High Commission for Post Conflict also called for the articulation of the Program with the authorities responsible for guarantees and security for communities and territories affected by illegal crop production, with the Integrated Action against Anti-Personnel Mines Directive, and with Territorial Advisory Councils in order to create the Integrated Municipal Plans for Substitution and Alternative Development (PISDA), and the formation of the Municipal Participative Planning Commissions and Municipal Evaluation and Oversight Councils agreed to in the Final Accord.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/en-medio-del-paro-armado-eln-dice-estar-dispuesto-reanudar-dialogos-articulo-738682>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/orden-de-captura-contr-el-comando-central-del-eln-por-paro-armado-181970>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.elcolombiano.com/colombia/paz-y-derechos-humanos/lideres-del-eln-con-orden-de-captura-por-reclutamiento-de-menores-DN8179577>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/orden-de-captura-contr-cupula-del-eln-por-asesinato-de-3-ex-farc-183906>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/onu-senala-que-el-eln-violo-el-dih-con-ataques-en-barranquilla-y-bolivar-181016>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/atentado-del-eln-que-costo-las-vidas-de-5-soldados-187954>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/gobierno/dilema-de-santos-por-dialogos-con-el-eln-188190>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/santos-sobre-tregua-del-eln-es-el-tipo-de-gestos-que-estabamos-pidiendo-articulo-741236>

<sup>18</sup> <http://pacifista.co/solo-se-ha-cumplido-el-185-del-acuerdo-de-paz-con-las-farc/>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.posconflicto.gov.co/sala-prensa/noticias/2018/Paginas/20180228-Gobierno-nacional-consolida-el-programa-de-sustitucion-de-cultivos-ilicitos.aspx>

## Colombia makes progress in Integrated Action against Antipersonnel Mines

The GOC has announced progress towards fulfilling the Ottawa Convention and declaring the country free from landmines in 2021. Sergio Bueno, the Director of Descontamina Colombia, presented results to the 20th International Meeting of Mine Action National Program Directors and United Nations Advisors in Geneva, Switzerland, stating that since the signing of the Peace Accord with the FARC, the land cleared of landmines had risen from 2.6 million meters squared to more than 5.2 million in just over a year, with the operative capacity of the sector rising from 1,650 to almost 6,000 people accredited for mine clearance by the Organization of American States. He explained that 188 municipalities are now confirmed as free from mines, progress which is illustrated by the dramatic decrease in the number of victims of landmines and unexploded remnants of war in 2017, which registered 50 victims, 70 percent fewer than in 2016.<sup>20</sup>

## DIVERSITY ISSUES

### Recommendations for a differential gender approach to public policy for the return process

Almost half of the victims of the armed conflict in Colombia are women, and of the 7.2 million people displaced by the war, almost 3.7 million are also women. With this in mind, Fundación Ideas para la Paz has published a report on the return of women to rural areas, as an opportunity to think about the priorities and particular situations facing displaced women wishing to return to their territories in the design and implementation of public policy within the framework of the Victims' Law and the Final Accord. The report's key recommendations are: 1) Plan, implement and evaluate bearing in mind that the return process happens in territorial contexts where there are inequalities and gender-based violence; 2) Remember the relationships between the return principles (voluntariness, security, and dignity) and a gender approach; 3) Women and family do not always go together; 4) Understand the integrality of the gender approach in the Peace Accord as an opportunity to ensure the sustainability of returns processes; 5) Making gender a cross-cutting issue implies additional institutional efforts, political will is only a first step which needs to be sustained.<sup>21</sup>

## FURTHER READING

### “A War without Age” report on child recruitment in the Colombian armed conflict

The National Center of Historical Memory (NCHM) released its “A War without Age” report this month, in an effort to clarify the historical dynamics and tendencies in the recruitment and use of children and adolescents by armed groups in the Colombian armed conflict from 1958 to 2015. The report brings together a diverse range of information and sources in order to show the correlation between historical, social, and territorial factors and the dynamics of the armed conflict; concluding that recruitment has not been uniform or static, but rather depends on the relationship between the territory, the people that inhabit it, different moments in the war, as well as the internal politics of each armed group. The report also discusses the experiences of children and adolescents, contributing to our understanding of causes, consequences, and impacts before, during, and after recruitment from the perspective of the recruits themselves, as well as State support institutions and civil society.<sup>22</sup> In general figures, the report found 16,879 cases of recruitment and use of children and adolescents, 69 percent of which were by guerrilla groups<sup>23</sup>, 71 percent were boys and adolescent men, and the areas with the highest levels of recruitment are those which have also felt the presence and control of armed groups most intensely, particularly Ariari Guayabero, Magdalena Medio, and Florencia.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.posconflicto.gov.co/sala-prensa/noticias/2018/Paginas/20180214-El-pais-avanza-satisfactoriamente-en-la-Accion-Integral-contra-Minas-Antipersonal.aspx>

<sup>21</sup> <http://cdn.ideaspaz.org/media/website/document/5a7c707baadaa.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/los-ninos-ninas-y-adolescentes-no-son-vistos-como-sujetos-historicos-en-el-conflicto-articulo-739409>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.centrodehistoriahistorica.gov.co/informes/informes-2018/una-guerra-sin-edad>

<sup>24</sup> <https://colombia2020.elespectador.com/pais/el-reclutamiento-forzado-de-menores-en-cifras>