

VICTIMS ISSUES

A MONTHLY REVIEW

JANUARY 2017

1. BACKGROUND

On June 10, 2011, President Juan Manuel Santos signed into effect the Victims and Land Restitution Law (Law 1448). Over the next ten years, the Law will provide five reparation measures to victims of the internal conflict: (1) land restitution, (2) financial reparation, (3) rehabilitation, (4) satisfaction, and (5) guarantees of non-repetition. Three public institutions were created by the Law: (1) the Victims Unit, to provide services and reparations and coordinate the National Victims Assistance and Reparation System (SNARIV), (2) the National Center for Historical Memory (CNMH), to collect and develop historical memory of the conflict, and (3) the Land Restitution Unit, to implement the restitution component. As of December 2016, 8,320,874 victims were registered with the government of Colombia (GOC), primarily victims of internal displacement (79.9%).⁽¹⁾

CONTENT

1. Background	1
2. Key developments	1
3. Peacebuilding	2
4. A view from the field	2
5. Progress report	3
6. Inclusive approaches	4
7. In the spotlight	4
8. Institutional advances	4
9. Additional resources	4

2. KEY DEVELOPMENTS

ADDRESSING PROTRACTED DISPLACEMENT, HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGES KEY IN 2017

Already this year some communities have faced limitations on mobility, which according to OCHA increased 78% between 2015 and 2016.⁽²⁾ One recent example is the confinement of the Palestina Afro-Colombian community in Chocó in January because of possible IEDs planted in the area.⁽³⁾ Threats and attacks against social leaders, which OCHA says increased 31% between 2015 and 2016, have also continued into the new year. While Verdad Abierta recognizes that threats and attacks against social leaders have taken place consistently for the last decade (558 social leaders were killed between 2002 and 2016 including eight since the beginning of the accords' implementation),⁽⁴⁾ this issue has been on national and international organizations' radar as they begin to implement peace accords and efforts for *paz territorial*. This month GOC Minister of the Interior Juan Fernando Cristo said that the majority of these attacks are the result of drug-trafficking and illegal mining, which must be addressed head-on in the post-conflict.⁽⁵⁾

By the end of 2016, about 56 million people (over 85% of all displaced people globally) were in protracted displacement, which creates additional humanitarian concerns. IOM⁽⁶⁾ and other UN bodies have agreed to come together to reduce protracted displacement 50% by 2030.

HUMANITARIAN DEMINING IN MESETA, META COMPLETED

Following the completion of demining in Orejón, Antioquia last month, this month the process in Santa Helena, Meseta in the department of Meta was completed and the district was declared free of mines. The lessons learned in the two demining pilots will now be extended to the rest of the country. A total 20,874 square meters were cleared and 20 explosive devices were removed. In Meta, much work remains to be done: 25 of the department's 29 municipalities have mines. So far, FARC has played an important role identifying and locating mines for removal. Moving forward, members of the group will also certify themselves and participate directly in the mines' removal. Pastor Alape, a member of the FARC Secretariat, said that "we [the FARC] have millions of energies to dedicate to this effort."⁽⁷⁾

It was recently announced that FARC will form a 1,200 person demining team in transitional zones around the country called "Humanicémonos". The GOC goal is to completely demine Colombia by 2021.⁽⁸⁾

1. Victims Unit National Information Network, Jan. 1, 2016. <http://mi.unidadvictimas.gov.co/>.

2. "Boletín Humanitario Mensual - Número 56 | Enero 2017," OCHA, goo.gl/JXizQF.

3. "Flash Update No. 1: Confinamiento de la comunidad...," OCHA, <https://goo.gl/aRjuHb>.

4. "La continua tragedia de los...," Verdad Abierta, Jan. 30, 2017, <https://goo.gl/J6TtsK>.

5. "Narcotráfico y minería criminal...," El Espectador, Feb. 1, 2017, <https://goo.gl/8ckcP7>.

6. "The Progressive Resolution...," IOM, Dec. 2016, <https://goo.gl/T17zK4>.

7. "Farc tendrán una organización para...," El Espectador, Feb. 3, 2017, <https://goo.gl/xB69z7>.

8. Ibid.

3. PEACEBUILDING

THE LAST MARCH: FARC CONCENTRATION IN FULL MOTION

While the initial deadline for an estimated 6,000 to 7,000 FARC combatants to reach transitional zones was December 31, the logistics of setting up electricity, water, housing, and other services in remote set the process back. This month, GOC agencies responsible for setting up the zones hurried to pick up the pace to meet the new January 31 deadline. Yet despite rushed efforts, by the end of the month Fundación Paz y Reconciliación said that 23 of 26 camps were not 100% ready. Still, on January 28 combatants across the country began moving from the 45 points where they had been pre-grouped to the 26 transitional zones to disarm with UN supervision and verification (see Progress Report) under. When all FARC members are in transitional zones, disarming will formally begin.⁽⁶⁾

FARC was operating in 242 municipalities; now 90% of the territory they previously occupied will be free. According to the GOC, the timeline of 180 days for disarmament once the FARC have reached transitional zones will be maintained.⁽⁷⁾

CONGRESS ADVANCES LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE PEACE ACCORDS

Following Congressional ratification of accords in December, legislators got to work to pass the bills needed to get implementation off the ground. No fewer than 40 laws must be passed through a fast-track legislative process by June.⁽⁸⁾ While the amnesty law passed in December protects ex-combatants from prosecution, the law can only take effect once another has been passed: Special Jurisdiction for Peace legislation. Congress is currently debating the transitional justice legislation, including commanders' responsibility, and appears to have agreed not to change the points agreed upon in Havana. Meanwhile, steps are being taken to prepare to select special judges. Three of the five-member committee to select judges have been named.⁽⁹⁾

The GOC must also set up new institutions, including the Truth Commission (likely to begin its operations in 2018) and the Unit to Search for Disappeared Persons., which will directly benefit conflict victims.⁽¹⁰⁾

ELN RELEASES KEY HOSTAGE, PEACE TALKS REAPPEAR ON THE HORIZON

Following months of GOC demands that it do so, on February 2, the National Liberation Army (ELN) released kidnapped ex-congressperson Odín Sánchez (held since April 2016) to the Red Cross. The GOC agreed to simultaneously free two ELN guerrillas arrested on charges of rebellion who will participate in peace talks in Ecuador. These moves open the door for negotiations to finally begin.⁽¹¹⁾

With Sánchez released, GOC and ELN negotiations can get off the ground. The fourth point of the agenda is conflict victims.⁽¹²⁾

POST-CONFLICT FUNDS RECEIVE NEW CONTRIBUTIONS

In January the United Nations Fond for the Post-Conflict announced a new contribution worth USD 16.8 million from the U.K., Sweden, Germany, and Norway to finance projects to protect minors from recruitment and for crop substitution.⁽¹³⁾ Colombia will also receive a credit from the World Bank worth US 100 million under the Sustainable Colombia Fund. The GOC's goal is to receive US 500 million in five years.⁽¹⁴⁾

"Today we can say that the world believes in Colombia and peace," said Alejandro Gamboa, Director, Presidential Agency for International Development.⁽¹⁵⁾

4. A VIEW FROM THE FIELD

ILLEGAL CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM DEFINED

The GOC and FARC launched the National Comprehensive Program for Illicit Crop Substitution, which will be headed up by the High Counselor for the Post-Conflict, Human Rights and Security with the participation of the FARC. In 2017 the program will provide farmers with a series of stipends to encourage crop substitution (including US 300 monthly for substitution and one-time payments of US 600 and US 3,000 for subsistence projects and fishery and poultry farms, respectively). Additional investments are planned for 2018.⁽¹⁶⁾

The goal is to substitute 50,000 hectares during the first year. According the UN Comprehensive Monitoring System, in 2015 there were 96,000 hectares of illicit crops.⁽¹⁷⁾

6. "Last march of the Farc: Colombia's...", The Guardian, Feb. 3, 2017, <https://goo.gl/Nscc3v>.
7. Ibid.

8. "Lo que tiene que pasar...", La Silla Vacía, Jan. 10, 2017, <https://goo.gl/4pRW5c>.

9. "Justicia para la Paz: un debate...", El Espectador, Jan. 31, 2017, <https://goo.gl/0dNqxX>.

10. "Lo que tiene que pasar...", La Silla Vacía, Jan. 10, 2017, <https://goo.gl/4pRW5c>.

11. "Odin Sanchez freed: Colombia's...", BBC, Feb. 2, 2017, <https://goo.gl/y06gfv>.

12. Ibid.

13. "Posconflicto recibió nueva...", RCN Radio, Jan. 18, 2017, <https://goo.gl/4uOxnZ>.

14. "Colombia recibirá crédito...", Dinero, Feb. 14, 2017, <https://goo.gl/z7oUz6>.

15. "Posconflicto recibió nueva...", RCN Radio, Jan. 18, 2017, <https://goo.gl/4uOxnZ>.

16. "Gobierno y Farc ponen...", Semana, Jan. 27, 2017, goo.gl/kVhECY.

17. Ibid.

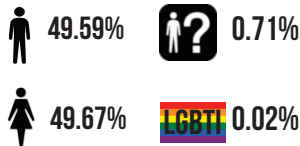
5. PROGRESS REPORT*

8,320,874

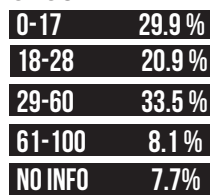
REGISTERED VICTIMS

6,371,695
VICTIMS SUBJECT TO REPARATION

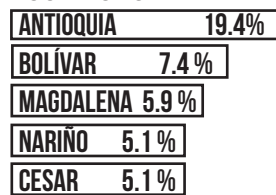
BY GENDER OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION



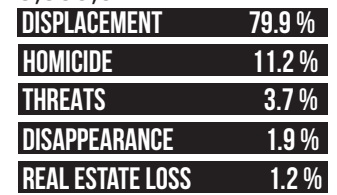
BY AGE GROUP



TOP 5 VICTIMS LOCATIONS



TOP VICTIMIZING ACTS: 8,856,622



WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE TRANSITIONAL ZONES?

26 LOCATIONS
19 TRANSITIONAL HAMLET ZONES FOR NORMALIZATION
7 TRANSITIONAL NORMALIZATION POINTS

***DESIGNED FOR THE FARC TO COMPLY WITH THE BILATERAL CEASEFIRE WHILE THEY DISARM 6 MONTHS**

GOC Unit for Risk Management is responsible for setting them up; Monitoring & Verification System (with GOC, FARC & UN) will manage them, and the government will pay (total cost unknown)

Preparations started late because of logistical problems; through the end of January, 23 OF 26 CAMPS WERE NOT 100% READY.

OBSTACLES
NO FOOD STORAGE
LACK OF INFRASTRUCTURE
LACK OF RUNNING WATER AND LIGHT
PRESENCE OF ARMED FORCES OR CRIMINAL GROUPS

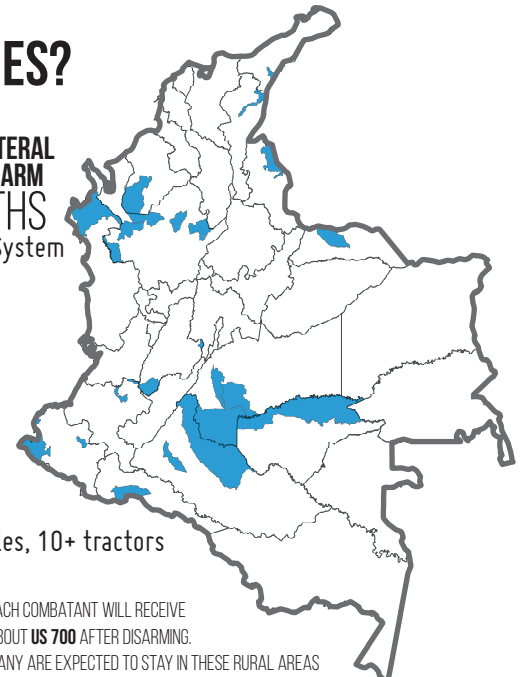
APPROXIMATELY 6,300 GUERRILLAS HAVE ARRIVED TO TRANSITIONAL ZONES
For combatants to arrive

360 KM OF HIGHWAYS HAD TO BE BUILT
And transportation required: 600+ Trucks, 200+ TVs, 60+buses, 80+ boats, 35+ mules, 10+ tractors

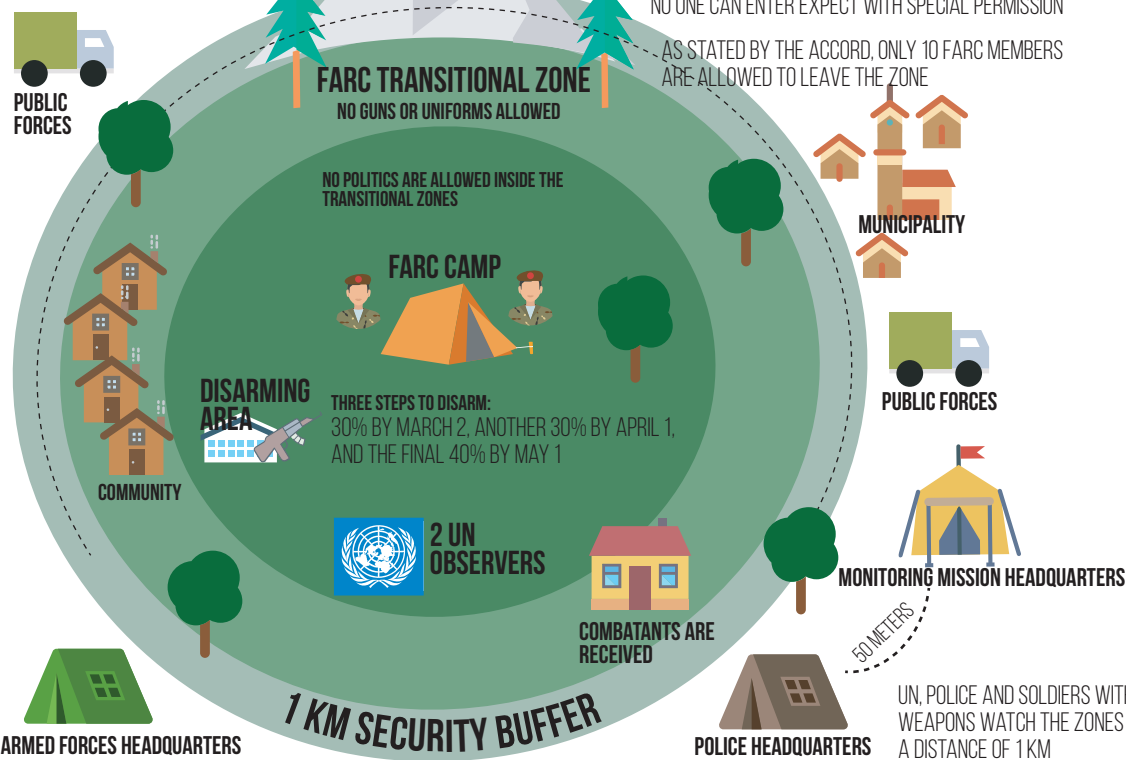
WHAT WILL HAPPEN HERE?



EACH COMBATANT WILL RECEIVE ABOUT **US 700** AFTER DISARMING. MANY ARE EXPECTED TO STAY IN THESE RURAL AREAS AFTER COMPLETING THE PROCESS



HOW ARE THE ZONES STRUCTURED?



Municipality	Department
Dabeiba	
Ituango	Antioquia
Remedios	
Anorí	
Vigía del Fuerte	
Araucquita	Arauca
La Montañita	Caquetá
San Vicente del Caguán	
Buenos Aires	
Caldono	Cauca
Miranda	
La Paz	Cesar
Riosucio	Choco
Tierralta	Córdoba
San José del Guaviare	Guaviare
Fonseca	La Guajira
Mesetas	
La Macarena	Meta
Vistahermosa	
Policarpa	Nariño
San Andrés de Tumaco	
Tibú	N. Santander
Puerto Asís	Putumayo
Planadas	
Icononzo	Tolima

*National Information Network, Victims Unit, through December 2016. <http://rni.unidadvictimas.gov.co/>. "Lo que sabemos de las zonas de concentración," La Silla Vacía, Feb. 1, 2017, <https://goo.gl/kHnkWb>.

6. INCLUSIVE APPROACHES

MORE MINORS WILL SOON LEAVE FARC'S RANKS

The National Reincorporation Council announced that FARC will begin turning over information on children and adolescents in its ranks in the framework of its move to transitional zones to prepare for their disengagement. Initially the children and adolescents will be turned over to the Red Cross, which will bring them to shelters organized by UNICEF and the Presidential Counselor for Human Rights with support from the International Organization for Migration. An undetermined number of children are expected to disengage in the coming days, starting in Antioquia and Norte de Santander.⁽¹⁴⁾

“There is an agreement and it must be met. Minors must leave the FARC’s ranks,” said High Commissioner for Peace Sergio Jaramillo, adding, “Minors haven’t left because the FARC hasn’t wanted to.”⁽¹⁵⁾

7. IN THE SPOTLIGHT

2018 PRESIDENTIAL AND SENATE ELECTIONS EDGE CLOSER

Colombia is already preparing for next year’s presidential and senate elections as current President Juan Manuel Santos completes his second and final term. Questions remain about how the next administration will approach peacebuilding and the implementation of the peace accords. Current members of the government who will run for office, including Vice President Germán Vargas Lleras, must resign in coming months to begin campaigning. In 2018, the political party that will be formed by demobilized members of the FARC will have 10 guaranteed seats in Congress.⁽¹⁶⁾ Timochenko, the leader of the group, has said that the group will not launch a presidential candidate for 2018.⁽¹⁷⁾

8. INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCES

WORLD SUMMIT OF NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATES HELD IN BOGOTÁ

From February 2 to 5, 20 Nobel Peace Prize laureates came together in Bogotá at the summit, the first of its kind in Latin America. Participants discussed experiences and ideas for peacebuilding and reconciliation in Colombia. *Victus*, theatre for reconciliation led by theatrical company Casa Ensamble with former soldiers, demobilized paramilitaries, demobilized guerrilla members, and victims, which was first supported by USAID and IOM last year, was presented as part of the event’s inauguration.

Embassy of Sweden and El Tiempo

STORYTELLING FOR PEACEBUILDING WORKSHOPS AROUND THE COUNTRY

The Embassy of Sweden and El Tiempo, with support from IOM, are hosting storytelling workshops around the country to teach regional journalists about reporting on peace and post-conflict narratives. The workshops are replicating skills and knowledge learned by a group of Colombian journalists who travelled to Sweden last year.

National Center for Historical Memory

“VOICES FROM EXILE” DIGITAL SPECIAL LAUNCHED

The CNMH launched videos systematizing different memory projects supported in La Guajira, Nariño, and the Urabá region of Antioquia. Videos of systematized historical memory processes can be accessed on the CNMH website by clicking on this link: <http://bit.ly/2hzB5jP>.

9. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



NEW CRISIS GROUP REPORT

“In the Shadow of “No”: Peace after Colombia’s Plebiscite,” available to download by clicking here: <http://bit.ly/2kvj2xY>, explores the current process to implement peace accords in Colombia following the revision and ratification of the original peace accord rejected by voters in October 2016.



SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THE ARMED CONFLICT

Elisabeth Wood’s academic article “Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and the Policy Implications” reviews existing literature and theories on how sexual violence is deployed in conflict, offering suggestions to direct policies. The article is available in Spanish by clicking here: <http://www.scielo.org.co/pdf/esju/v18n2/v18n2a01.pdf>.

14. “Consejo Nacional de Reincorporación recopila información sobre niños de las Farc,” El Espectador, Feb. 8, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2lw0XQE>.

15. “Menores no han salido porque las Farc no han querido: Sergio Jaramillo,” El Espectador, Jan. 26, 2017, <https://goo.gl/DUazsl>.

16. “Farc tendrán 10 curules en el Congreso, pero a partir de 2018,” El Tiempo, Aug. 25, 2016, <http://bit.ly/2bPvIB3>.

17. ““Las Farc no tendrá candidato presidencial en el 2018”, Timochenko,” Las 2 Orillas, Jan. 10, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2l8sAPV>.