

DDR & CHILDREN'S ISSUES: A BI-MONTHLY REVIEW

MARCH 2016

1. BACKGROUND

The DDR initiatives of the **Colombian Reintegration Agency (ACR)** aim to fulfill the following objectives: 1) Create conditions for demobilized ex-combatants to become independent citizens, 2) Strengthen socio-economic conditions in receptor communities, 3) Promote reconciliation.

Children and adolescents who disengage from illegal armed groups receive special attention through programs and policies led by the **Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF)**. The Specialized Assistance Program for disengaged children and adolescents aims to reestablish and guarantee rights, with special emphasis on protection, education and health.

USAID supports the International Organization for Migration (IOM) through the **Recruitment Prevention and Reintegration (RPP)** Program, which provides institutional strengthening for the Government of Colombia (GOC) to support legal, social and economic reintegration services to demobilized adults and disengaged children, as well as to prevent new recruitment.

CONTENT

1. Background	1
2. Key developments	1
3. Progress report	2
4. Peace Process	3
5. Diversity Issues	3
6. Institutional Advances	3
7. Further reading	4

2. KEY DEVELOPMENTS

I WILL NOT SIGN A BAD DEAL TO MEET A DEADLINE: SANTOS

The GOC and FARC explained delays in reaching a final peace accord by March 23, the deadline agreed upon previously by both parties. President Santos stated that the delay is due to lack of an agreement on disarmament. The GOC insists on the protection of all Colombians around the FARC concentration areas, and will not allow the FARC to take part in politics or move around Colombia before the disarmament process is complete.¹ FARC negotiating teams responded that delays are due to the absence of guarantees for their safety once they lay down their weapons. FARC leaders stated that agreement on a final ceasefire is 70% complete, but concerns still remain about 'neo-paramilitary' groups and measures for the group's safety.² The brother of President Santos, Enrique Santos, met separately with each negotiation team to overcome differences about areas where the guerrilla will be concentrated once a final ceasefire agreement is reached.³ He has been called in on various occasions to help the parties reach agreement in moments of crisis. US Secretary of State John Kerry also met separately with FARC leaders and the GOC. The US committed to support humanitarian demining and to help ensure the safety of demobilized FARC fighters.⁴

COLOMBIA FORMALIZES PEACE DIALOGUES WITH ELN

On March 30, at an event in Caracas, Venezuela, the GOC and the National Liberation Army (ELN) announced the start of a public phase of the peace process. This follows two years of exploratory talks with the guerrilla group in Ecuador.⁵ The six point agenda includes: 1) participation of civil society, 2) democracy for peace, 3) transformations for peace, 4) victims, 5) ending the conflict and 6) implementation. Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador and Venezuela will host the talks, and together with Norway, will serve as guarantor countries.⁶ President Santos emphasized that although this process with the ELN will be separate from the process with the FARC, they are part of one unified effort to end the Colombian armed conflict. Agreements already reached with the FARC regarding transitional justice, a final ceasefire and the UN verification mission will not be renegotiated with the ELN. President Santos stated that official negotiations will only begin after the ELN releases all hostages.⁷

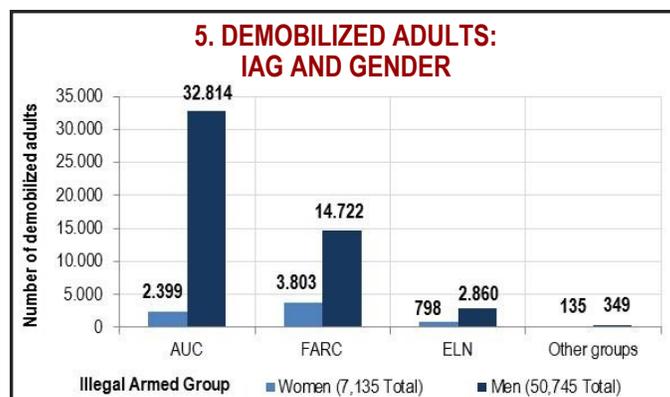
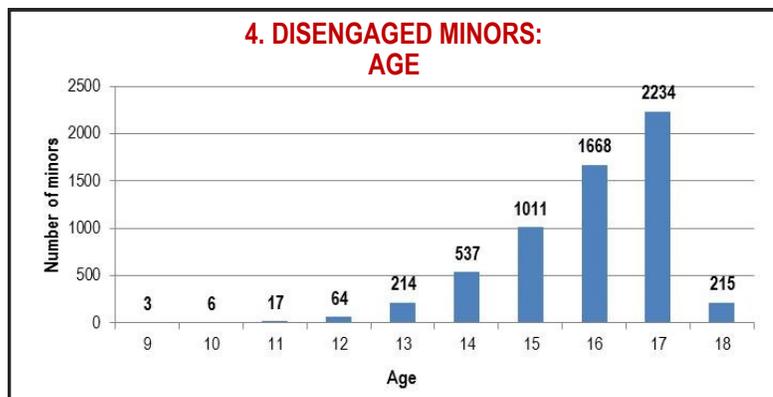
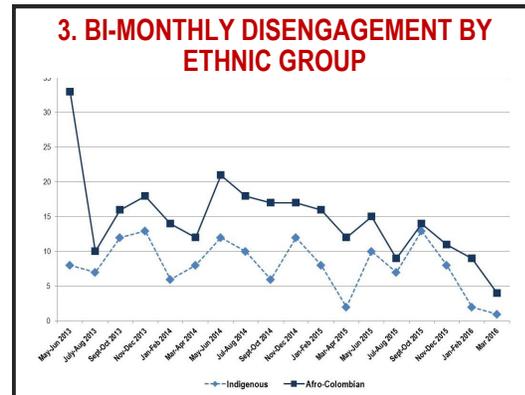
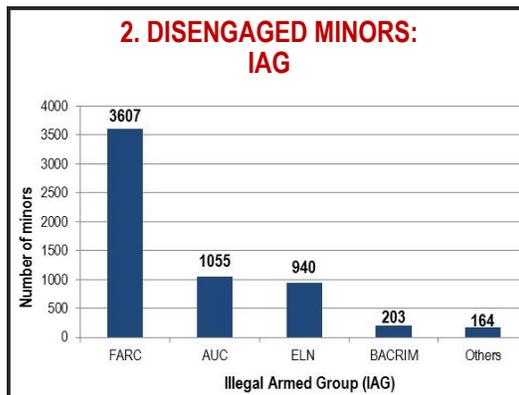
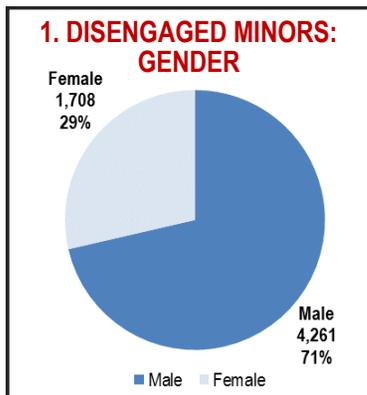
ELN RELEASES A HOSTAGE HELD FOR SIX MONTHS

An adviser of the Governor's Office of Norte de Santander, held hostage by the ELN since September 2015, was freed on March 23 and reunited with his family.⁸ The release was mediated by a committee of representatives of the International Red Cross and the Catholic Church. Santos stated that the release of hostages is a precondition for continuing the peace process with this guerrilla group.⁹

3. PROGRESS REPORT: DISENGAGED MINORS & DEMOBILIZED ADULTS*

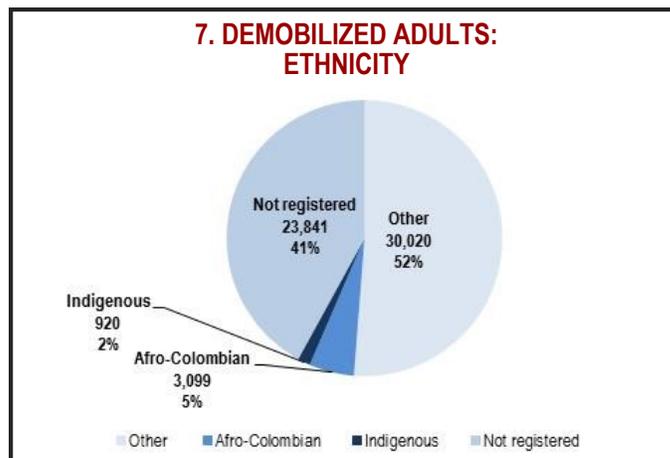
Total disengaged minors: 5,969

Total demobilized adults: XXXX



6. TOP 8 DEPARTMENT FOR ADULT RELOCATION

Department	Number	%
Antioquia	11,865	20.5
Bogotá D.C.	5,731	9.9
Córdoba	3,388	5.9
Meta	3,147	5.4
Cesar	3,068	5.3
Valle del Cauca	2,676	4.6
Santander	2,253	3.9
Magdalena	2,058	3.6



Data up to March 30, 2016

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 (RUI)

Figure 5: Total of number of male and female adults who demobilized from each IAG. The AUC had the lowest proportion of women.

Figure 6: The eight departments to which the highest numbers of ex-combatants relocate for their reintegration process.

Figure 7: Total number of demobilized adults by ethnicity.

Sources for figures 5-7: ICBF Database and ACR Reintegration Information System (SIR)

4. PEACE PROCESS

JEAN ARNAULT SELECTED TO HEAD THE UN VERIFICATION MISSION IN COLOMBIA

UN envoy Jean Arnault of France will coordinate the UN's political mission in Colombia to monitor and verify the ceasefire between the FARC and the GOC.¹⁰ Arnault has been preparing the deployment of the UN mission together with the negotiating teams of the GOC and FARC. The Secretary General of the UN revealed that the deployment of the mission involves three phases. In the first phase, which began on February 24, a national office will be established and the locations of 8 regional offices will be identified and prepared. In the second, operation of regional offices will be initiated together with representatives of the FARC and GOC. And the third phase involves the deployment of the UN observers, once peace accords are signed. Arnault previously led UN missions in Afghanistan, Burundi, Georgia and Guatemala.¹¹

FARC LEADERS VISIT CAUCA UNDER A NEW PROTOCOL FOR 'EDUCATIONAL VISITS'

The FARC negotiating team travelled to Cauca on March 3, to update their troops on progress in the peace talks, after establishing with the GOC a new protocol for these 'educational visits'.¹² The protocol does not allow any contact with the civilian population or the media, only with FARC units.¹³ The trips will be accompanied by the GOC, the guarantor countries, and the International Committee of the Red Cross, and dates and locations will not be revealed to the public.¹⁴ On the day of the visit to Cauca, the local Armed Forces suspended their operations but remained in the area to respond to any emergency, to protect citizens and ensure the security of FARC leaders.¹⁵ After the visit, the GOC declared that the guerrilla had respected the agreed-upon rules.¹⁶

UK TO CONTRIBUTE \$7.6 MILLION TO FUND PEACE EFFORTS

The United Kingdom will contribute \$5.9 million (£4.2 million) to the United Nations multi-donor fund and \$1.7 million (1.5 million euros) to the European Union peacebuilding fund, as announced by the UK Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Joyce Anne Anelay. An additional \$7.1 million (£5 million) will help fund two years of social projects to improve security and justice.¹⁷

5. DIVERSITY ISSUES

THE FUTURE OF THEIR LANDS: CONCERN AMONG AFROCOLOMBIANS AND INDIGENOUS GROUPS

Indigenous and afro-Colombian civil society organizations came together and created an Interethnic Commission on March 7, a joint platform with two main objectives. The first is to present proposals and concerns regarding the peace process agenda to GOC and FARC negotiation teams, and the second objective is to call on governments, political groups and international organizations to intercede before the negotiating table on behalf of ethnic communities. The Interethnic Commission requests that the areas for concentration and demobilization of the FARC are established in manner that respects their traditional rights and collective lands.¹⁸

6. INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCES

CONGRESS APPROVES THE FARC DEMOBILIZATION AREAS

On March 9, the Colombian Congress voted unanimously for the creation of the FARC concentration areas.¹⁹ The law allows the GOC to create 'special temporary zones' for disarmament and demobilization of FARC combatants and suspend capture orders against them. The law does not specify a particular number of concentration areas, but does prohibit their establishment in border areas, urban areas or areas with presence of illegal mining.²⁰ In a surprising move, the opposition party Centro Democrático led by senator and former President Álvaro Uribe supported the bill, stating that it facilitates the identification of FARC dissidents operating outside the concentration zones.²¹

6. FURTHER READING

HOLDING PATTERNS: FIRST STEPS FOR THE TRANSITION OF THE FARC

The Ideas for Peace Foundation (*Fundación Ideas para la Paz*) proposes the implementation of 'interim stabilization measures' or 'holding patterns' in order to maintain temporary cohesion of the group while the conditions for the reintegration of ex-combatants are created or improved, an approach intended to help prevent new violence.²²

FARC CONCENTRATION ZONES: MYTHS AND REALITIES

This analysis by the Ideas for Peace Foundation (*Fundación Ideas para la Paz*) clarifies some myths that have arisen around the creation of 'special zones' for the concentration of FARC fighters, highlights the operational advantages, and underlines the lessons and experiences from other disarmament and demobilization processes, in Guatemala, Nepal and Sierra Leone.²³

1. "Santos exigió a las Farc una fecha clara para la dejación de armas". *El Colombiano*, March 28 2016, <http://www.elcolombiano.com/colombia/paz/-derechos-humanos/proceso-de-paz-santos-explico-las-razones-por-las-que-no-se-cumplio-la-fecha-AI3820013>
2. "Falta de garantías para la seguridad de las Farc frenó la firma del acuerdo". *El Heraldo*, March 28 2016, <http://www.elheraldo.co/politica/falta-de-garantias-para-la-seguridad-de-las-farc-freno-la-firma-del-acuerdo-250977>
3. "'Reunión con Enrique Santos fue muy constructiva': Farc". *El Espectador*, March 16 2016, <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/reunion-enrique-santos-fue-muy-constructiva-farc-articulo-622455>
4. "EEUU brindará apoyo en seguridad para desmovilizados y desminado". *El Heraldo*, March 21 2016, <http://www.elheraldo.co/politica/eeuu-brindara-apoyo-en-seguridad-para-desmovilizados-y-desminado-250047>
5. "Cronología: los acercamientos del Gobierno para iniciar el proceso de paz con el ELN." *El País*. March 30 2016. <http://www.elpais.com.co/elpais/colombia/proceso-paz/noticias/cronologia-acercamientos-gobierno-para-iniciar-proceso-paz-con-eln>
6. "Conozca los seis puntos de la agenda acordada entre el Gobierno y el Eln." *El Universal*. March 30 2016. <http://www.eluniversal.com.co/colombia/conozca-los-seis-puntos-de-la-agenda-acordada-entre-el-gobierno-y-el-eln-222657>
7. "Instalación de mesa de diálogo será cuando liberen a los secuestrados." *El Tiempo*. March 31 2016. <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/proceso-de-paz-con-el-eln-condiciones-de-santos/16550455>
8. "Eln liberó a Ramón Cabrales". *El Espectador*, March 23 2016, <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/eln-libero-ramon-cabrales-articulo-623745>
9. "ELN libera a Ramón Cabrales en Ocaña, secuestrado hace seis meses". *El Heraldo*, March 23 2016, <http://www.elheraldo.co/nacional/eln-libera-ramon-cabrales-en-ocana-secuestrado-hace-seis-meses-250459>
10. "Jean Arnault dirigirá misión de la ONU en Colombia". *El Espectador*, March 9 2016, <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/jean-arnault-dirigira-mision-de-onu-colombia-articulo-621150>
11. "Verificación de cese del fuego bilateral por la ONU será en tres fases". *El Tiempo*, March 9 2016, <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/plan-de-verificacion-del-cese-del-fuego-por-parte-de-onu-para-proceso-de-paz/16532760>
12. "Vía libre a vista de jefes de las Farc para hacer pedagogía de paz". *El Espectador*, March 3 2016, <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/via-libre-vista-de-jefes-de-farc-hacer-pedagogia-de-paz-articulo-620049>
13. "Farc en pedagogía no tendrán contacto ni con la población civil ni con los medios: Mininterior". *El Espectador*, March 3 2016, <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/farc-pedagogia-no-tendran-contacto-ni-poblacion-civil-n-articulo-620062>
14. "Estos son los nuevos protocolos para la pedagogía de paz de las Farc". *El Tiempo*, March 3 2016, <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/nuevos-protocolos-para-pedagogia-de-paz-de-las-farc/16526700>
15. "Suspenderán operaciones de FF. MM. en dos zonas para pedagogía de Farc". *El Tiempo*, March 3 2016, <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/justicia/visita-de-jefes-guerrilleros-al-cauca-sera-sin-despeje/16526998>
16. "Gobierno no aceptará "abuso de mala fe" de Farc en pedagogía de paz". *El Espectador*, March 5 2016, <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/gobierno-no-aceptara-abuso-de-mala-fe-de-farc-pedagogia-articulo-620488>
17. "El Reino Unido anuncia millonarios recursos para el posconflicto". *El Tiempo*, March 15 2016, <http://www.eltiempo.com/mundo/europa/reino-unido-anuncia-millonarios-recursos-para-el-posconflicto/16536978>
18. "Indígenas y afros, unidos en la paz". *El Espectador*, March 6 2016, <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/indigenas-y-afros-unidos-paz-articulo-620621>
19. "Por primera vez uribistas y santistas logran acuerdo clave por la paz". *El Tiempo*, March 9 2016, <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/aprueban-ley-de-orden-publico-para-zonas-de-concentracion-de-farc/16532799>
20. "Aprueban por unanimidad reforma de la ley de orden público". *El Tiempo*, March 9 2016, <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/partidos-politicos/aprueban-ley-de-orden-publico-del-gobierno/16532512>
21. "Uribe apoya parte de la ley de orden público del Gobierno". *El Tiempo*, March 9 2016, <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/partidos-politicos/apoyo-de-alvaro-uribe-a-reforma-de-ley-de-orden-publico/16532419>
22. "Primeros pasos para la transición de las FARC". *Fundación Ideas para la Paz*, March 2016, <http://www.ideaspaz.org/publications/posts/1300>
23. "Mitos y realidades de las zonas de ubicación para las FARC". *Fundación Ideas para la Paz*, March 2016, <http://www.ideaspaz.org/publications/posts/1305>