

DDR AND CHILD SOLDIER ISSUES

A MONTHLY REVIEW
JULY 2017

USAID supports the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Colombia through the **Recruitment Prevention and Reintegration (RPR) Program**. The RPR Program 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.

The GOC supports demobilized adults through its **Agency for Reincorporation and Normalization (ARN)**. The DDR initiatives of the ARN aim to fulfill the following objectives: 1) Continue facilitating those already in the process of reintegration according to historically established policies, 2) Facilitate the reincorporation of the FARC according to the needs determined by the 2017 socioeconomic census and as mandated by the National Council for Reincorporation, and 3) Promote reconciliation.

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

This monthly review, produced by IOM, provides a summary of news related to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) in Colombia, along with statistics on ex-combatant adults and disengaged children.

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KEY DEVELOPMENTS

FARC socioeconomic census completed

The socioeconomic census of the FARC-EP in the transitional zones, which was a provision delineated in the final accord, was completed by the National University. The results were released during the first week in July, and ranged from basic statistics on demographic composition (10,015 total guerrillas, of which 7,748 are male), to levels of education, familial composition, race, past political participation in the legal domain, and post-demobilization plans. Additionally, 3,305 reported at least one form of physical limitation, among the most common of which are blindness, respiratory or cardiac problems, and problems with hearing and/or mobility.¹

Implementation of Point One in the Final Accord commences

Implementation of Point One of the accord (Rural Reform) began with the Development Plans with a Territorial Approach (PDET), initiated with a Presidential Visit to Morelia, Caquetá on Monday, July 24th. The goal of these PDET is to attend to areas of the country most dramatically affected by the armed conflict; additionally, they are designed to involve the communities in the design and definition of their own needs. An estimated 5,000 meetings over the next 6-7 months, covering 11,000 hamlets (summing to 170 municipalities and, ultimately, 16 sub-regions) will roll up to the final report, slated to be completed by April of 2018. Projects addressing the immediate needs of these communities have a budgeted \$30 billion COP (roughly \$10m USD) in projected backing.²

Second UN mission approved

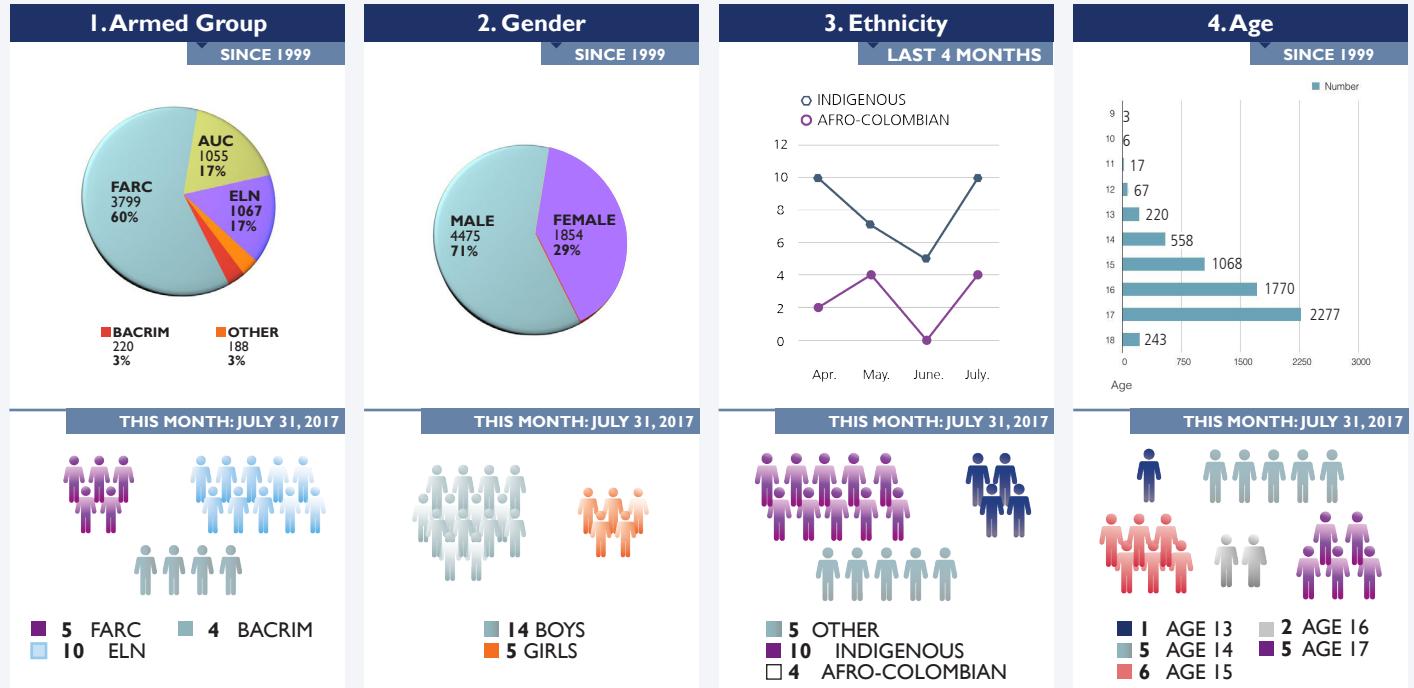
On Monday, July 10th, the United Nations approved a second verification mission in Colombia, charged with verifying several points of the final accord, with a focus on the political, economic, and social reincorporation of the FARC-EP and guarantees for their personal and collective security. It will begin September 26, 2017, immediately following the termination of the first MM&V, and last for 12 months.³

¹ <http://www.semana.com/nacion/multimedia/censo-socioeconomico-de-las-farc-tras-la-dejacion-de-armas/532039>

² <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/en-caqueta-se-hizo-el-lanzamiento-de-los-pdet-articulo-704636>

FIGURES & TRENDS

* These data are estimates based on the information available

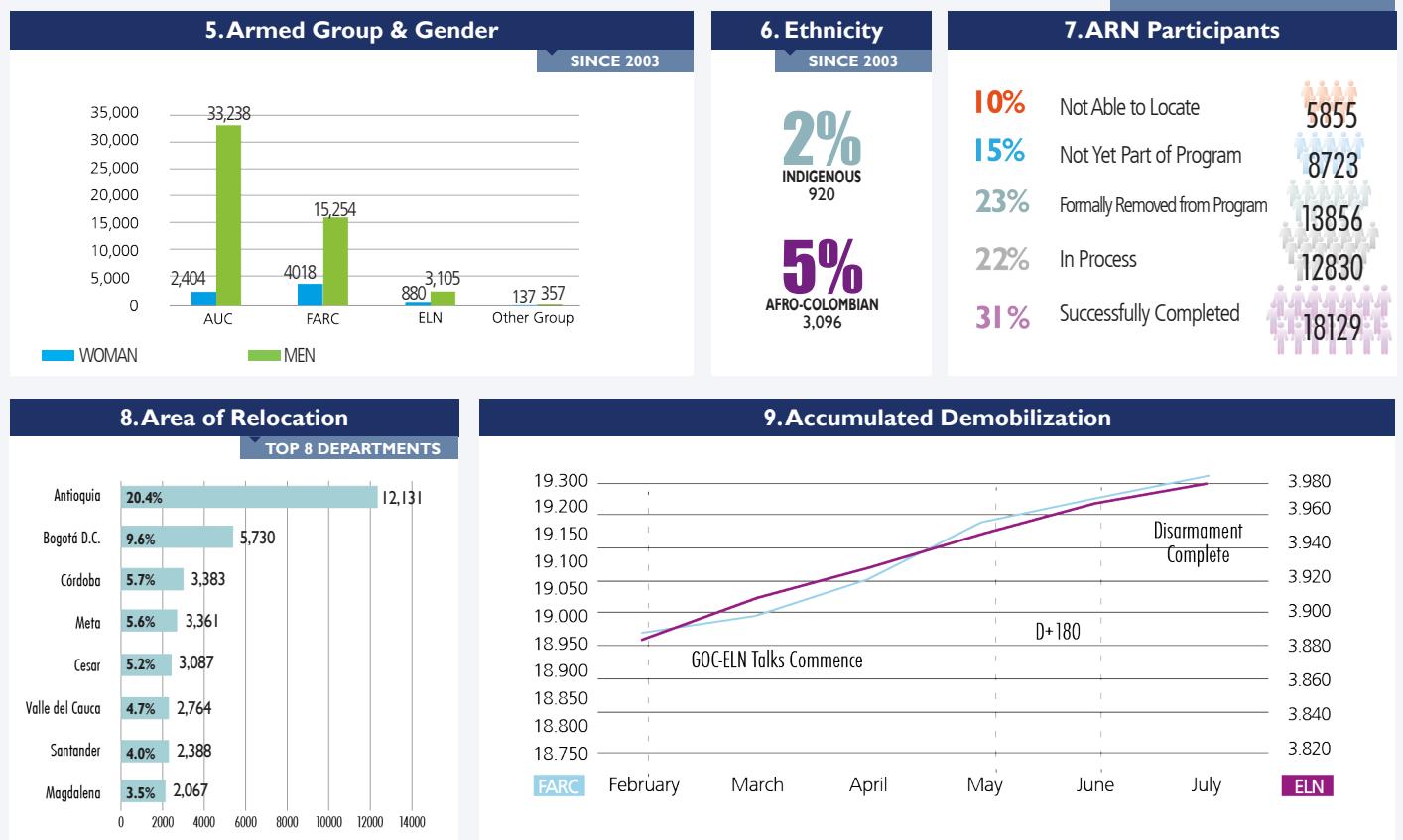


5: Victims of Forced Recruitment

▶ Total 8,155** / Month to month 57**

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

Demobilized Adults ▶ TOTAL 59,395



Data up to June 30, 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 (RUI)
- Figure 5: Total 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: 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

Arms extraction begins, weapons cache removal continues

On Monday, July 31st, the process of arms extraction from the transitional zones began along with the collection of the weapons caches. The process began in the transitional point of Monterredondo in Cauca, and was followed shortly after by the transitional zone in Betania, Nariño. These operations are anticipated to continue through August 15th, which is the scheduled date for the end of the disarmament process, the end of the bilateral ceasefire, and the end of the first MM&V (the tripartite verification mission comprising FARC, GoC, and U.N. representatives).^{4,5} As of Wednesday, July 26, the United Nations had extracted 304 weapons caches, with information on 779 in total.⁶

Congressional debates on CTEP continue advancing

On Tuesday, July 25th, the Senate approved the second of four debates on the current legal project for the creation of 16 Special Transitional Peace Constituencies (CTEP) that would result in 16 temporary seats in Congress over two terms (to be elected each term). The purpose of the CTEP is to ensure greater representation of victims and social organizations in the 167 municipalities of the country most affected by the armed conflict. Detractors fear that the CTEP are simply vehicles for FARC control in the same territories that they have historically dominated.⁷

First list of FARC assets handed in

By Monday, July 31st, the FARC had handed in an initial list of all of their assets; the final list will not be ready until after August 15th, when the implementation commission finishes its first phase of work. The assets will be used towards victims' reparations initiatives and will ostensibly contribute to the reincorporation of these individuals into civilian life.⁸

FARC advance in determining political agenda, formalizing party

The FARC began their six-day conference on Thursday, July 27th, in order to determine the name, vision, and regulations for their emerging political party.⁹ Group leader Iván Márquez announced that the FARC political party name will be released on September 1st of this year.¹⁰

Special Instance selected for ensuring implementation of tailored approach to gender

On Friday, July 21st, CSIVI selected the eight women who would form the Special Instance responsible for ensuring the implementation of the Gender Approach included in the Final Accord between the GoC and the FARC. Three women from the following organizations will comprise the territorial representation: Union of (Female) Colombian Citizens (Antioquia), Araucan Women Workers Association (Arauca), and Andino-Amazonian Women (Putumayo). The Commission of Indigenous Women, and Women for Peace will have two representatives serving at the national level. Diverse Colombia has a representative who focuses on the LGBTI sectors, and Narrar para Vivir has a representative for female victims. The formal launch of this Special Instance occurs on July 28th.¹¹

FARC and ex-paramilitary leaders meet in Bogotá

On Wednesday, July 19th, FARC and former paramilitary leaders met in Bogotá to discuss shared contributions to the historic truth of the armed conflict. Three representatives from each group gathered along with the Secretary of the CSIVI for more than three hours to discuss how they might contribute to reconciliation, and determined that the priority should be in supporting a collective truth of what has occurred. The meeting of these two historically tenacious enemy groups is significant, and has been named by experts as an "entry way to true national reconciliation."^{12,13}

⁶ <http://es.presidencia.gov.co/noticia/170728-Fin-de-la-dejacion-de-armas-de-las-zonas-veredales-y-del-cease-al-fuego-bilateral-y-definitivo>

⁷ <http://nacionesunidas.org.co/blog/2017/07/31/comunicado-de-prensa-de-la-mision-de-la-onu-en-colombia-sobre-proceso-de-extraccion-armamento-de-los-campamentos/>

⁸ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/onu-responde-al-gobernador-de-antioquia-113280>

⁹ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/congreso/camara-de-representantes-aprueba-creacion-de-curules-especiales-de-zonas-de-conflicto-112890>

¹⁰ <http://www.elspectador.com/noticias/politica/farc-entregaron-un-listado-inicial-de-bienes-articulo-705773>

¹¹ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/farc-invitan-a-candidatos-presidenciales-a-su-congreso-en-agosto-113888>

¹² <http://www.elspectador.com/noticias/paz/farc-y-exjefes-paramilitares-se-reunieron-en-bogota-articulo-704424>

¹³ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/las-farc-y-las-auc-se-sentaron-a-hablar-de-paz-111702>

Amnesty procedures slowly advance for FARC

On Monday, July 11th, President Juan Manuel Santos signed a decree granting amnesty to 3,252 former FARC members currently in the transitional zones. The total number of ex-guerrillas who have received amnesty is now 7,400. The total amnestied by decree is 6,005 (decrees apply to those in the transitional zones), and by judicial order, 1,400 (applies to political prisoners). Roughly 1,000 former guerrillas still await their amnesty in the transitional zones, and another 1,700 in the prisons.¹⁴

Six wounded in explosives attack by FARC-EP dissidents

PEACE PROCESSES

Third round of GoC-ELN talks begin with hopes for eventual ceasefire

ELN

At least six persons – two soldiers and four civilians – were injured in an explosives attack attributed to FARC-EP dissidents in the department of San Jose de Guaviare on Sunday, July 9th. The explosive device was planted among trash in a rural sector of the El Capricho locality, and was detonated remotely.¹⁵

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

Warren Buffett's son donates USD \$32.1 million to demining and other initiatives

Howard Buffett, son of Warren Buffett, donated \$32.1 million to Colombia to fund demining (\$16.1 million) and other initiatives. The remaining initiatives will be “productive development” projects related to agriculture. While in the country, Buffett visited both Tolima and Putumayo to learn about the sorts of projects that his donation would support.¹⁶

FAO establishes two-year alliance with the European Union to support implementation

In the second half of the reporting period, FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva announced USD \$8.8 million in new joint work initiatives with the Territory Renewal Agency and a two-year alliance with the European Union to support the implementation of the Final Accord. FAO, along with the European Union, UNDO, and Vía Campesina are the primary organizations charged with the implementation of the first point of the accord. FAO and the EU will carry out their work within the framework of the Impact on Food and Nutrition Security, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation program (FIRST), a jointly-managed assistance facility active in more than 30 countries.¹⁷

INSTITUTIONAL PROGRESS

Application of Amnesty Law to FARC prisoners lackluster

By mid-July, only 1,700 of 3,421 FARC prisoners – not even 50% - had received the benefits of the Amnesty Law, which was passed at the end of last year. The delay led to a 25-day hunger strike by FARC leader alias Jesus Santrich and other guerrilla prisoners, and a formal call by the United Nations to the Government of Colombia to step up efforts to release the remaining prisoners. The slow application of the mechanism has been attributed to slow processing time on the part of the GoC for managing prisoner releases at this scale, differences between the FARC and the GoC lists of eligible individuals, and faulty sentencing by judges regarding some of the individuals’ crimes.¹⁸ However, on Wednesday, July 19th, Decree 1252 passed was issued in order to facilitate the release of incarcerated FARC beneficiaries of the Amnesty Law. The Decree limits the wait time for release to 10 days after the initiation of the request by the prisoner.¹⁹

¹⁴ <http://www.eltiempo.com/politica/proceso-de-paz/presidente-santos-avala-amnistia-para-3-600-guerrilleros-107514>

¹⁵ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/politica/dos-soldados-y-cuatro-civiles-heridos-en-supuesto-ataque-de-disidencia-de-farc-articulo-702204>

¹⁶ <http://www.financiacolombia.com/howard-buffett-makes-32-million-donation-to-colombia-peace-process/>

¹⁷ <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1025602icode/>

¹⁸ <https://www.arcoris.com.co/2017/07/los-cuellos-de-botella-para-la-ley-de-amnistia/>

¹⁹ <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/paz/listo-decreto-que-agiliza-amnistias-e-indultos-para-guerrilleros-de-las-farc-articulo-704203>

Constitutional Court reviews constitutionality of Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP)

In July, the Colombian Constitutional Court heard public testimonies and concerns regarding the JEP in its ongoing review of the constitutionality of the legislative project that creates the Comprehensive System for Truth, Justice, Reparation, and Non-repetition (SIVJRNR), within which resides the JEP. The core orienting principal of these justice mechanisms is to address the needs of the victims of the armed conflict. While a great deal of public support was offered, some gray areas remain. For example, Attorney General Néstor Humberto Martínez argued that the JEP indeed guarantees against impunity for the representative cases, but was unclear as to whether or not crimes such as money laundering and narcotrafficking, once attributed to the FARC, would be tried within the JEP or through ordinary justice. The Court's review process is ongoing.²⁰

DIVERSITY ISSUES

Council of Human Rights advances work on policy for prevention of use and recruitment of minors

The Presidential Council of Human Rights led an effort during the month of July for data collection that will contribute to a new policy document of the prevention of the recruitment and use of children, scheduled for completion at the end of this year. Separate work sessions occurred in the departments of Arauca, Bolívar, Córdoba, Meta, Nariño, Santander, and Tolima. Within these workshops, which included representatives from the Mayors' Offices of the cities in which they were held, and concluding interviews with various municipal mayors, also provided a space for the affiliated government agencies to raise awareness on existing attention routes and related services. The Presidential Council of Human Rights is a member of the 23-entity Intersectorial Commission for the Prevention of the Recruitment, Use, and Sexual Violence against Minors (CIPRUNA). Similar workshops are planned in 12 other departments heading into August.²¹

FURTHER READING

FIP releases in-depth analysis of organized crime and armed groups in times of transition

Bogotá-based think tank, Fundación Ideas para la Paz, released an in-depth analysis of the armed actors that threaten to sabotage the peace accord implementation process. In addition to delving into the dynamics of the major groups and their increasing use of a contracting model in the territories where smaller illegal armed groups (GAO) may be appropriated for their use, the detailed report also traces the various epochs of organized violence in Colombia, beginning with the major cartels, continuing into the mini-cartels and counterparts to the guerrilla movements, and extending into the "democratization" and diversification of armed violence that is the hallmark of contemporary Colombian GAO. Among the principal drivers of the persistence of the GAO are the still lucrative narcotrafficking national and international economies that convene in the Colombian territory; their presence is dictated by the key illicit crop regions and trafficking transport routes in the country. Among other findings, the report concludes that there has been a general strengthening of organized crime activities and networks at the local level.²²

Humanitarian demining as a post-accord priority in Colombia

Weekly news source, Semana, published an in-depth special analysis of the work of humanitarian demining in post-accord Colombia. It first distinguished between military demining, which is the removal of unexploded munitions in a specific location for operational purposes, and humanitarian mining - the clearing of larger swathes of land from the general threat posed by these residual war artefacts. While the narrative focused on work in the department of Meta, the piece noted that the only one of Colombia's 32 departments that did not have antipersonnel mines present was that of the two islands off the Caribbean coast of the country. In all, official statistics record 11,479 victims of mines, 4,451 of which are civilians. The three departments with the highest concentration of these risks are Antioquia, Meta, and Caquetá. Nonetheless, antipersonnel mine victims have steadily decreased over the last eight years, with 680 registered victims in 2010, and only eight thus far in 2017. Currently, eight military and civilian operators are working to identify, extract, and destroy the remaining unexploded artefacts in Colombia.²³

²⁰ <http://www.elcolombiano.com/colombia/paz-y-derechos-humanos/justicia-especial-para-la-paz-tuvo-respaldo-pero-con-condiciones-XL6850088>

²¹ <http://www.derechoshumanos.gov.co/Prensa/2017/170712-Consejeria-Presidencial-Derechos-Humanos-trabaja-entidades-locales-prevencion-uso-ninos-ninas.aspx>

²² <http://www.ideaspaz.org/publications/posts/1539>

²³ <http://especiales.semana.com/minas-antipersonales/index.html>