

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 statistics on people in the process of reintegration and former child soldiers, with information provided by the Agency for Reincorporation and Normalization (ARN), and the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF).



DISENGAGED CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

Reported cases of force recruitment since 1999

› Total: **7,494**

(30 June)

Total disengaged since 1999

› Since 1999: **6,499**

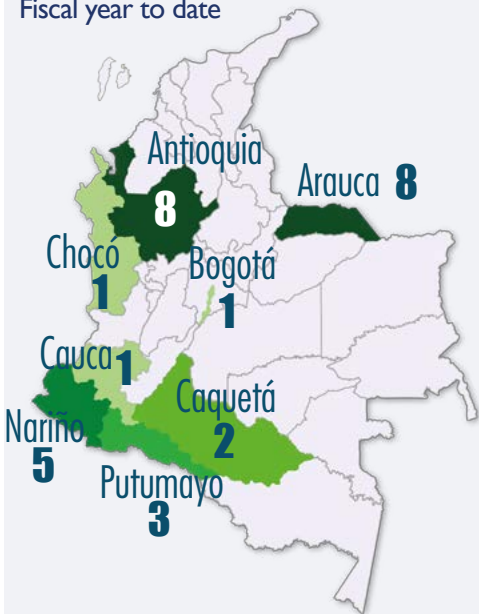
› Fiscal year to date: **88**

› This month: **13**

› Currently enrolled in program: **267**

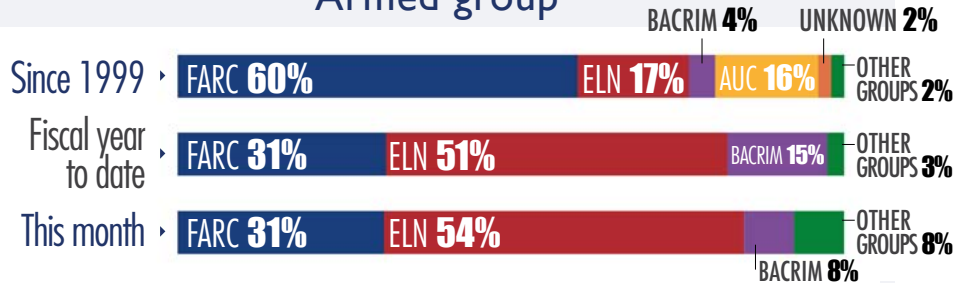
Disengagement by department

Fiscal year to date

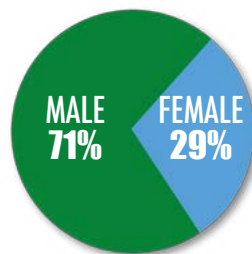


(of known locations)

Armed group



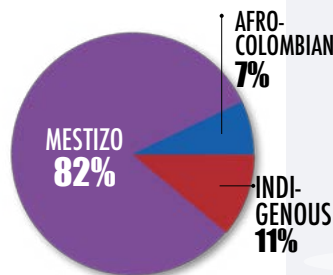
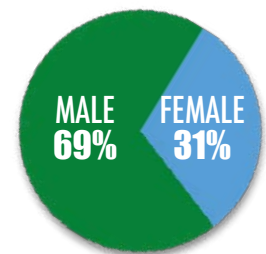
Since 1999



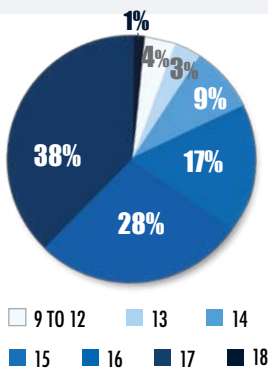
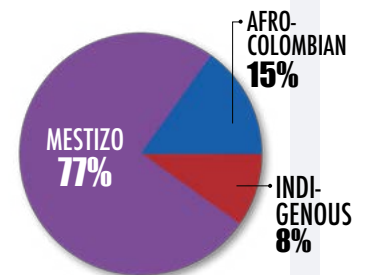
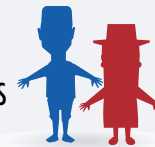
Gender



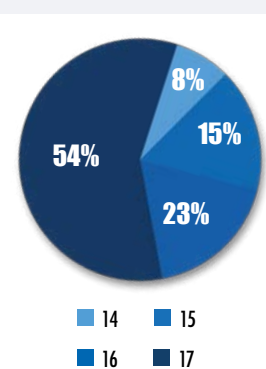
June 2018 (This month)



Ethnicity



Age



DEMOBILIZED ADULTS

Total currently in reintegration process:

▸ **8,620**

Total disengaged since 1999

▸ This month: **56**

▸ Fiscal year to date: **528**

▸ Since 1999: **60,086**

State of all participants

Since 1999

1,862 **3%** Not able to locate

5,517 **9%** Not yet part of program

8,620 **14%** In process

15,867 **26%** Formally removed

22,071 **37%** Successfully Completed

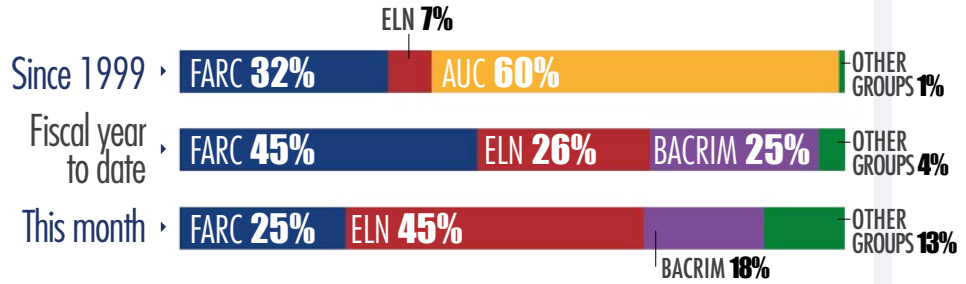
6,149 **10%** Deaths

Demobilization by department (top 6)

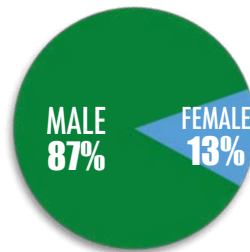
This month



Armed group



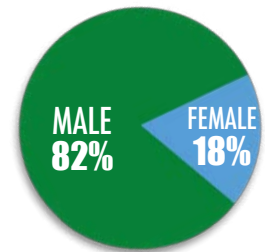
Since 1999



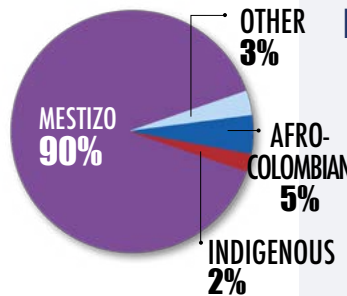
Gender



June 2018 (This month)

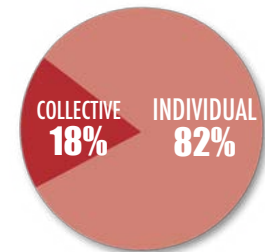
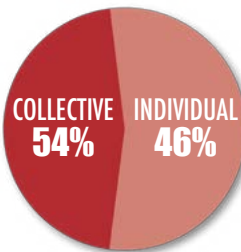


Ethnicity



NO DATA

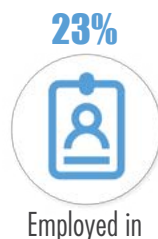
Type of demobilization



Current occupation



Unemployed



Employed in formal sector



Employed in informal sector



Economically inactive (for age, disability, etc)

* those who have died or who are without occupational registry are not included

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Centro Democrático party candidate Iván Duque wins presidential elections

Duque won 53.98% and a record 10,369,210 votes in the presidential elections on 17 June, while Colombia Humana candidate Gustavo Petro gained 41.81% of the total with 8,031,249 votes and wins along the Pacific coast, Vaupés, Sucre, Atlántico, and Bogotá. He also set a new record for the leftist candidate with the greatest number of votes in Colombia's history, and represents a strengthened opposition position.¹ The President-elect will enter office in August with a majority in Congress, which he will use to implement his proposed adjustments to the Peace Accord, and reforms in the political and judicial spheres and pension system.²

Coca cultivation in Colombia increased by 11% to reach a record 209,000ha

A report by the United States' Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) on 25 June also highlighted a 19% increase in the capacity for cocaine production over 2017. The report spurred further pressure on Colombia to increase forced eradication, and the Government of Colombia (GOC) responded by announcing the resumption of glyphosate aerial fumigation with the use of drones.³ The GOC is currently implementing an Integrated National Illicit Crop Substitution Plan (PNIS) based on voluntary substitution and alternative rural development, and claims renewed aerial fumigation will function as a complementary measure.⁴

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE ACCORD

FARC-EP

FARC denounces assassination of member in Ituango, Antioquia

The former FARC combatant, who was murdered on 3 June, was registered in the Santa Lucia Territorial Training and Reincorporation Space (ETCR), and the armed attack was carried out by individuals from Estiven Chica Chica armed group. The incident follows a series of assassinations in Cauca and Valle de Cauca, and brings the number of former combatants assassinated since the signing of the Peace Accord to over 40, according to GOC figures.⁵

Developments in legislation for FARC reintegration

The National Government issued a decree for the closure of two Territorial Training and Reintegration Spaces (ETCR) in Antioquia and Córdoba on 7 June, prompting the governor of Antioquia to ask for all ETCRs to be handed over to regional and local authorities for closure.⁶ The FARC, meanwhile, denounced the lack of consultation and the uncertainty the decree has generated amongst former combatants.⁷ Meanwhile, the High Commissioner for Peace (ACP) announced the creation of a CONPES that will define reincorporation for the next 10 years. The FARC reincorporation process falls under the responsibility of the National Reincorporation and Normalization Agency (ARN) and the Office of the ACP, which have for the first time agreed the nature of collective and individual reintegration with the FARC political party.⁸

Congress study of the JEP's procedural law passed with significant adjustments

Another hurdle for the transitional justice system was put forward by Iván Duque's Centro Democrático party on 18 June, when they delayed the Congress' study of its procedural law and requested a ruling by the Constitutional Court, and the review of the proposal by the President-elect. The Constitutional Court later issued its ruling allowing the Congress to continue its work,⁹ and agreements were reached on an adjusted law. The GOC, however, claims that the articles pertaining to extradition and the creation of special courtrooms for the military would require an alteration to the Peace Accord's judicial protections, and will therefore refer the law to the Constitutional Court.¹⁰

PEACE PROCESS-ELN

ELN ceasefire and the end of 5th round of talks

The ELN implemented a ceasefire over the electoral period from 15 to 19 June, beginning the same day that the 5th Round of talks with the GOC ended without an agreement on a definitive ceasefire having been reached. The 6th Round of talks which began on 25 June will focus on a ceasefire and a framework agreement to oblige the new government to continue the conversations beyond 7 August.¹¹ However, President-elect Iván Duque has expressed his intentions to alter the Accord signed with the FARC, and to impose prison sentences on ELN members.¹²

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

European Union provides further peace funds

The European Union (EU) High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy has announced that the EU will contribute an additional 15 million euros to its Trust Fund for the Colombian peace process. The funds are designated for reincorporation of former FARC combatants. The EU has already contributed 96.4 euros to supporting the implementation of the peace process.⁴

INSTITUTIONAL PROGRESS

Popular anticorruption consultation unanimously approved by Senate

The Green Party's consultation, which was approved by the Senate on 5 June, will give Colombians the opportunity to vote yes or no to their seven proposals, which include a reduction in salaries, prison terms for corruption, and obligatory accountability sessions for all members of Congress.¹³ The consultation will take place across the country on 26 August.¹⁴

DIVERSITY ISSUES

Work on the National Accessibility Plan progresses

The Ministry of the Interior's Democracy, Citizen Participation, and Community Action Directorate organized the sixth session of the Sectorial Liaison Group on 7 June, bringing together different ministries and civil organizations of people with disabilities to work on the formulation of a National Accessibility Plan, which will then be reviewed by the National Council on Disability. The session responded to 2013 CONPES 166, which defines the national public policy on disability, including guidelines, strategies, and recommendations for its implementation.¹⁵

Four Afro-Colombian social leaders reported dead in Valle del Cauca

The four murdered leaders were from El Naya, the area most affected by conflict in Valle, and had been kidnapped by FARC dissidents at the end of April.¹⁶ The high rates of assassinations of human rights defenders has prompted 73 members of the United States Congress to urge the U.S. Secretary of State and the Trump Administration to protect Colombian social leaders through increased assistance.¹⁷

Armed confrontations on the Venezuela border and the Pacific coast continue

Two community leaders were confirmed dead in Catatumbo on 23 June, one of whom had been kidnapped with his wife by the ELN the day before.¹⁸ Members of the EPL also burned a private vehicle on the Ocaña-Cúcuta road, implementing their prohibition on the transport of beer.¹⁹ On the Pacific coast, over 1,500 people from six Embera indigenous communities were trapped in Nuquí, Chocó department, due to violent confrontations between former paramilitary groups, drug traffickers, the ELN, and FARC dissidents. OCHA warned of threats, unexploded munitions, and the risk of youth recruitment into armed groups.²⁰

FURTHER READING

Participation in the implementation of the Peace Accords: Development Programs with a Territorial Approach

In this report, the Fundación Ideas para la Paz (FIP) examines the implementation of the Peace Accord with the FARC terms of citizen participation in order to make technical, realistic proposals for its improvement. The FIP and its partners implemented their "Siriri" methodology in 12 vereda-level participative meetings for the creation of Development Programs with a Territorial Approach (PDET) in four sub-regions of the country. They found that, although the participative exercises present an important step in the right direction, urgent changes need to be made if the process is to be effective. Specific weaknesses include their limited capacity to define concrete inputs, the lack of articulation with other initiatives, and the excessive hermeticism in their implementation, all of which affect their central objective. This report includes six recommendations for the improvement of this process, which could and should be a key instrument in deepening democracy in the country.²¹

Risky Business: The Duque government's approach to peace in Colombia

Iván Duque, from the Centro Democrático party, won Colombia's presidential election and assumes office on 7 August 2018. His party and his political mentor, former President Álvaro Uribe, campaigned against the 2016 Peace Accord with the FARC, and he has promised to "modify" it once in power. This report by the International Crisis Group looks at what this pledge means for the Accord in practice, offers a warning against a hardline approach toward the deal, as well as recommendations for continuing work alongside the FARC; to properly fund agencies responsible for the Accord's rural development provisions; to honor agreements with rural communities on coca crop substitution; to continue promoting laws to demobilize illegal armed groups, including transitional justice mechanisms; and reducing the preconditions on negotiations with the ELN.²²