

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 forced recruitment since 1999

› Total: **7,518**

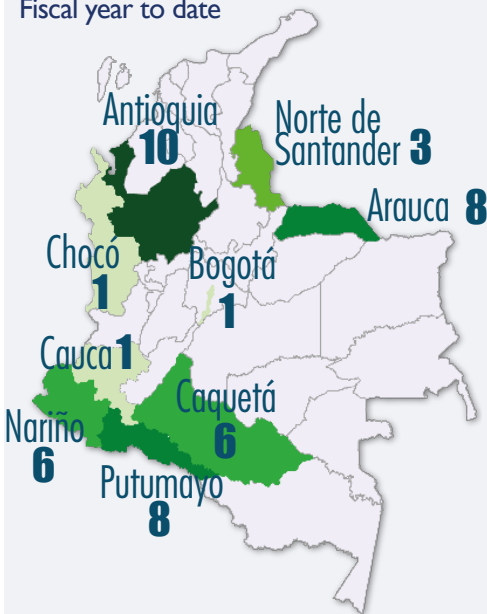
(1 September)

Total disengaged since 1999

- › Since 1999: **6,526**
- › Fiscal year to date: **115**
- › This month: **14**
- › Currently enrolled in program: **267**

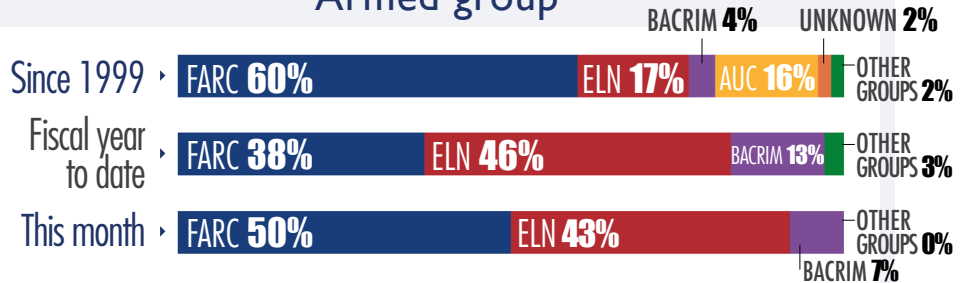
Disengagement by department

Fiscal year to date

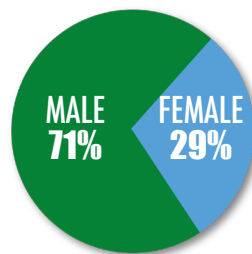


(of known locations)

Armed group



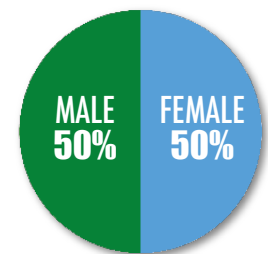
Since 1999



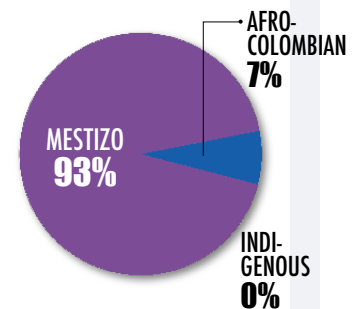
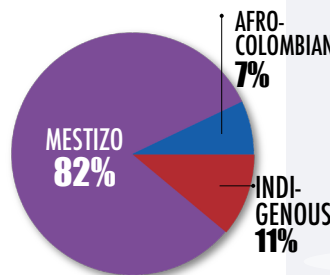
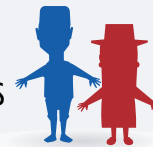
Gender



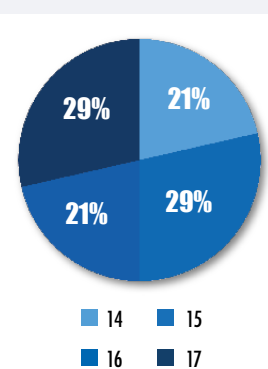
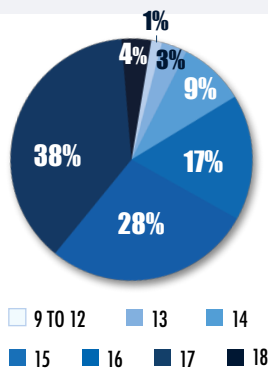
August 2018 (This month)



Ethnicity



Age



DEMOBILIZED ADULTS

Total currently in reintegration process:

8,425

Total disengaged since 1999

This month: 48

Fiscal year to date: 639

Since 1999: 60,194

State of all participants

Since 1999

1,453 **2%** Not able to locate

5,467 **9%** Not yet part of program

8,425 **14%** In process

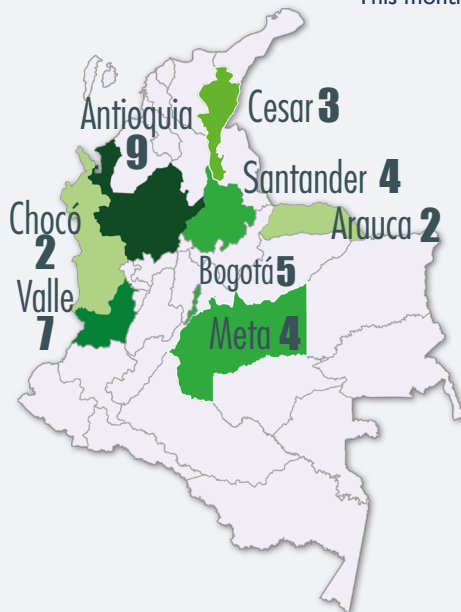
16,379 **27%** Formally removed

22,278 **37%** Successfully Completed

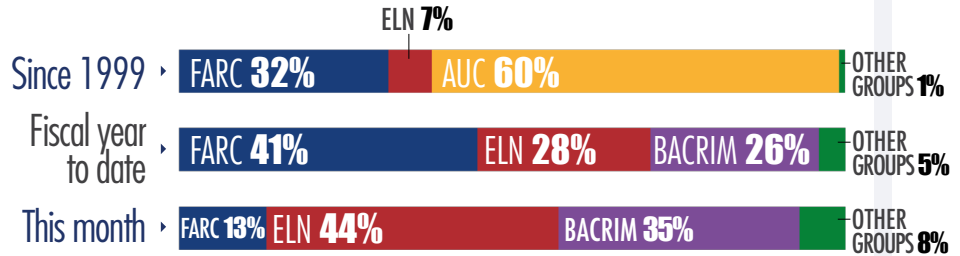
6,191 **10%** Deaths

Demobilization by department (top 8)

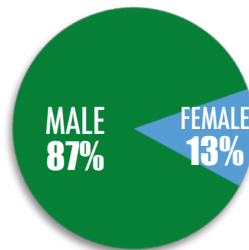
This month



Armed group



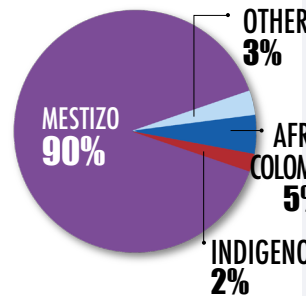
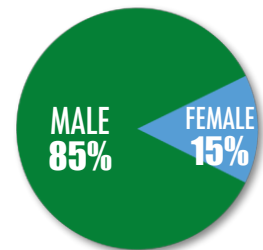
Since 1999



Gender



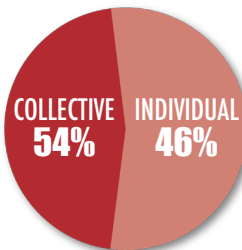
August 2018 (This month)



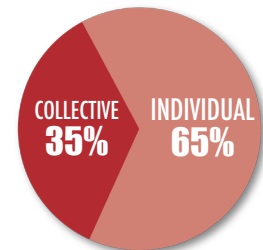
Ethnicity



NO DATA



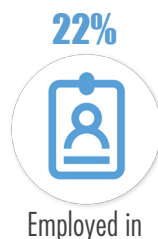
Type of demobilization



Current occupation



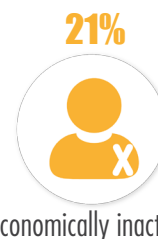
Unemployed



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

Ivan Duque President

The new President reached the Casa de Nariño with a record number of votes following an Uribe-backed campaign which proposed significant changes to the Peace Accord with the FARC. His rival Gustavo Petro also received a record number of votes for a leftist candidate, and will lead a strengthened opposition in favor of the Peace Accord. It is the first time a woman has become vice president.¹

People forcibly displaced this year reaches 20,000

The figure surpassed the 2017 total, with the situation becoming particularly critical in the Pacific coastal region, Catatumbo, and the Bajo Cauca of Antioquia, where there are intense confrontations between the ELN, EPL, FARC dissidents, and paramilitary groups. Despite comprising 90% of victims of the armed conflict, internally displaced persons (IDP) often go unrecognized, and many seek refuge in informal and marginalized settlements where they do not have access to basic rights and are prey to illegal armed groups.² Rodeemos la Paz has made recommendations to the Truth Commission on engaging refugees and exiles,³ given that Colombia is the Latin American country with the most citizens forcibly living abroad, totaling more than half a million refugees.⁴

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE ACCORDS

FARC-EP

Peace Accord implementation, FARC security and dissidents

The Kroc Institute's second report on the implementation of the Peace Accord found that 61% of its rulings are in implementation, and 21% have been completed, signifying an average level of implementation as compared with 34 other peace accords. The report highlights the lack of security guarantees and delays in the reintegration process as being of particular concern, and warns that the lack of integrated rural reform and crop substitution could undermine peace in the long term.⁵ Related reports found that 76 former FARC combatants have been killed since 2016,⁶ and that FARC deserters and dissidents now number 1,600 members, of which 520 are new recruits. Key factors in recidivism are cited as shortcomings in reintegration policy and widespread criminality.⁷

Constitutional Court approves JEP Statutory Law

The Court outlined several clarifications, including the three types of sentences available to the JEP (its own, alternative, and ordinary), the use of which will depend on defendants recognizing their responsibility and telling the truth, and will affect their political participation. The Court also confirmed the JEP's power to defer the extradition of former guerrillas and declared that sexual crimes will fall within its remit.⁸

JEP holds first public hearings regarding "false positive" cases

On 10 August, 14 members of the armed forces requested access to the JEP for 5 extrajudicial killings committed in Soacha, Cundinamarca.⁹ On 30 August, a hearing with 11 members of the armed forces accused of 13 cases of extrajudicial killings in Casanare was also held.¹⁰ Victims' organizations from Casanare had delivered their report on false positives on 16 August, sharing information on 20 extrajudicial killings committed by the Public Forces and the Administrative Department of Security (DAS) between 2005 and 2007.¹¹ In related cases, former congressmen David Char and Álvaro Ashton will be the first para-politics cases admitted to the JEP, which also accepted the case of a former DAS agent convicted of the abduction, torture, and murder of five members of the M-19 in 1994.¹²

GOC plans changes to the Peace Accord

The four changes cover the removal of the connection between rebellion, kidnapping, and drug trafficking; limiting the political participation of those convicted of crimes against humanity; removing benefits for those who continue trafficking weapons, laundering, and drug trafficking; and the obligatory eradication of illicit crops.¹³ These issues are unlikely to affect former FARC guerrillas, but will be relevant to the ELN.¹⁴

PEACE PROCESS-ELN

Nine people kidnapped by the ELN

In addition to the kidnapping of nine people in Antioquia/Chocó and Arauca,¹⁵ the recruitment of 24 children and adolescents in Chocó over the past six months was also confirmed.¹⁶ President Duque announced he will only continue negotiations with the ELN if the group ceases its kidnappings, extortions, assassinations, and attacks on oil infrastructure and security forces.¹⁷ The release of hostages is being negotiated separately from the Havana peace talks, which ended on 1 August and are currently being evaluated by President Duque's new government.¹⁸

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru call for support for Venezuelan migrants

An extraordinary meeting between the three Andean Community (CAN) countries resulted in their continued commitment to an 'open door policy' for Venezuelan migrants, but also in a call for international assistance for public services attending to Venezuelans arriving in these South American countries. In addition, the three countries' migration authorities called for the Venezuelan State to facilitate the issuing of passports for their citizens.¹⁹ At the end of July, Colombia extended its Special Stay Permit (PEP) in order to regularize 442,462 Venezuelans in Colombia who registered during the Administrative Registration of Venezuelan Migrants (RAMV), as well as announcing additional measures to support Colombians returning from Venezuela.²⁰

INSTITUTIONAL PROGRESS

First Action Plans for Regional Transformation signed

The three Plans, which are part of the Development Program with a Territorial Approach (PDET) outlined in the first point of the Peace Accord addressing integrated rural reform, make southern Bolívar, Arauca, and southern Córdoba²¹ the first of 16 regions to successfully construct a regional development roadmap.²²

Anticorruption consultation falls short

Although the consultation did not reach the required number of votes for a legally binding mandate, the almost 11.7 million votes in favor will likely be recognized by the GOC. Those at the head of the process will present five projects for debate in the legislature, covering five of the consultation's seven points, with two further projects already having been filed.²³

DIVERSITY ISSUES

JEP receives reports on sexual violence and violence against indigenous communities

The Center for Historic Memory began this month by delivering 10 reports documenting 353,531 acts of violence committed since 1958.²⁴ The Network of Women Victims and Professionals and other groups also delivered reports on 2,000 cases of sexual violence,²⁵ and the Attorney General's Office delivered a report focused on gender-based violence perpetrated by FARC and State agents. Meanwhile, the ONIC delivered a report on the impacts of the armed conflict on indigenous peoples, detailing 231,144 acts of violence between 1926 and 2017, including 219,501 displacements, 2,954 leaders assassinated, and 1,884 actions which upset the harmony of indigenous territories. The ONIC seeks to highlight the systematic and continuous nature of violence against indigenous peoples.²⁶

Ethnic community recovers 54,000 ha in historical restitution

The Yurumanquí River Watershed Community Council is made up of 13 *veredas* in Valle del Cauca, whose Afro-Colombian inhabitants have been disproportionately affected by the armed conflict. The Supreme Court of Cali issued a sentence to reconstitute this community's territorial rights over 54,776 ha at the beginning of February this year, a judgement which was upheld in a protocol issued by the Land Restitution Unit at the end of August. This historical restitution is the twelfth in the country, the second involving Afro-Colombian communities, and the first issued to an ethnic community in Valle del Cauca.²⁷ The judgement, which coincides with the 15th anniversary of Law 70 on Afro-Colombian communities' collective land rights, cultural identity, and economic and social development to guarantee equal opportunities,²⁸ not only restitutes community lands, but also aims to provide State help in the recuperation of cultural practices which were lost during the conflict.

FURTHER READING

Border insecurity, violence, and illegal economies

In this report, *Fundación Ideas para la Paz* identifies the key security challenges facing Iván Duque's new Government, including those presented by the presence, alliances, and disputes between illegal armed groups converging on Colombia's borders. The report not only covers the issue of 'cross-border contagion' but also the effects that the internal dynamics of each country could have on Colombia, and civilian and migrant populations.²⁹ To see an interactive map of Colombia's borders click [here](#).

Legal truth, economic actors, and armed conflict in Colombia

The key premise of this piece of research is that civilian third parties should also be required to give evidence before the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP). The authors argue that individual economic actors should be considered within this transitional justice mechanism not simply to punish them, but rather to involve them in collective peacebuilding through the sharing of the full truth and reparations in return for reduced or alternative sentences. They base this argument on an analysis of the legal fragmentation caused by the omission of these third parties from the Justice and Peace Law created to facilitate the demobilization of paramilitary groups after 2005, which in turn caused gaps in victims' right to the truth and reparations. They also make particular reference to experiences of para-politics and land restitution processes in Colombia.³⁰