

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: **6,545**

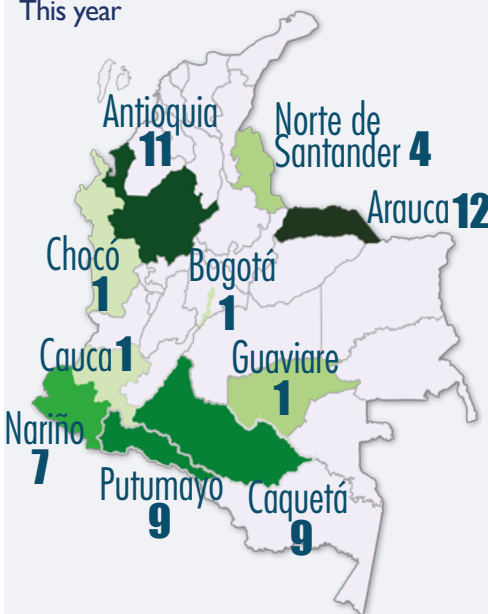
› This year: **134**

› This month: **19**

› Currently enrolled in program: **268**

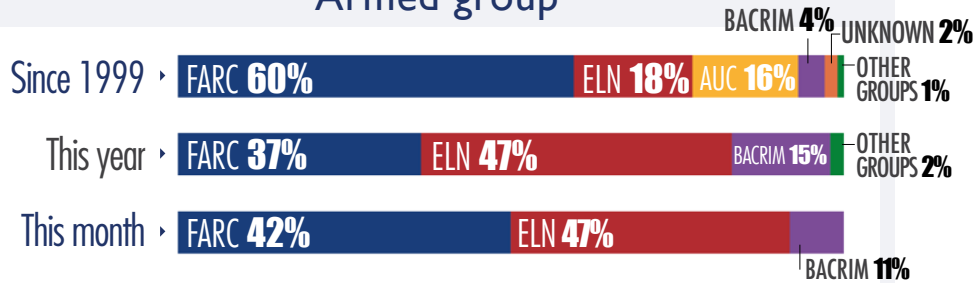
Disengagement by department

This year



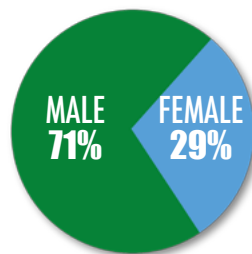
(of known locations)

Armed group

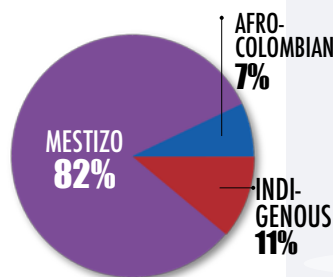
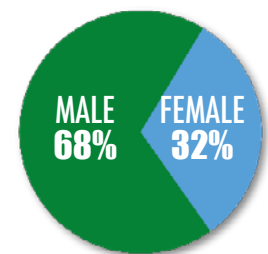


Since 1999

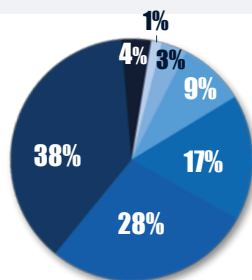
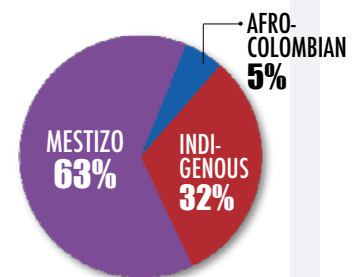
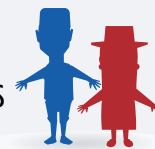
September 2018 (This month)



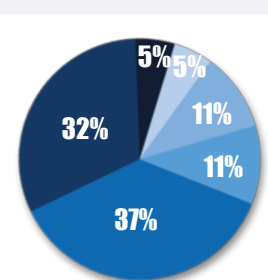
Gender



Ethnicity



Age



DEMOBILIZED ADULTS

Total currently in reintegration process:

› **7,402**

Total disengaged since 1999

› This month: **53**

› This year: **697**

› Since 1999: **60,248**

State of all participants

Since 1999

1,299 **2%** Not able to locate

5,469 **9%** Not yet part of program

7,402 **12%** In process

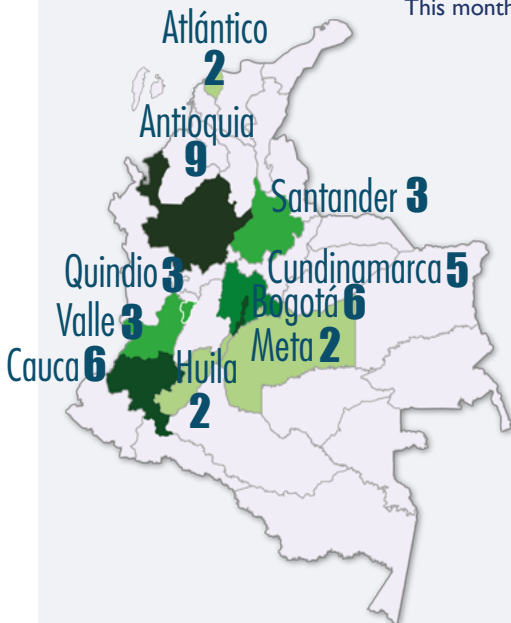
16,525 **27%** Formally removed

23,357 **39%** Successfully Completed

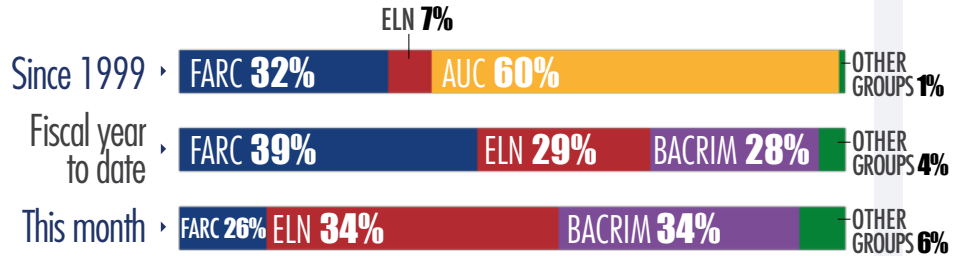
6,196 **10%** Deaths

Demobilization by department (top 8)

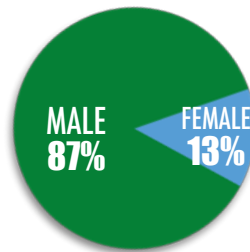
This month



Armed group



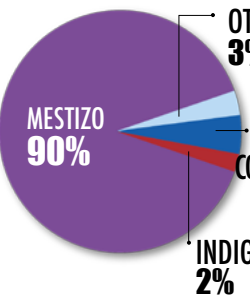
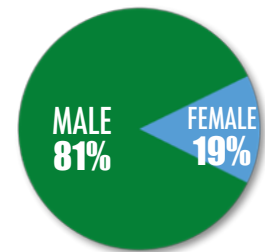
Since 1999



Gender



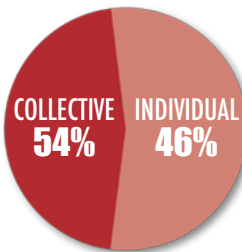
September 2018 (This month)



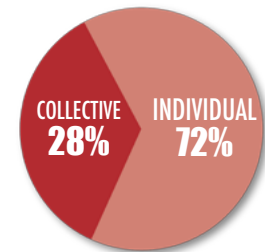
Ethnicity



NO DATA



Type of demobilization



Current occupation



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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Three Continental Gold geologists murdered in northern Antioquia

The murders raised concerns about the resurgence of violence in the region following the withdrawal of the FARC. The FARC dissident group led by alias “Cabuyo,”¹ but the Clan del Golfo, which also murdered a CG engineer in Buritacá, may also be vying for control over illegal coca crops and gold mines.² Armed confrontations between the “Caparrapos” and the Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia (AGC) have also affected civilians and land restitution in Bajo Cauca, Antioquia.³

Alias “David,” captured in Pacific region

“David” joined the FARC in 2004 and was one of the first to reject the peace process, instead taking on the leadership of the “United Guerrillas of the Pacific” in 2016. He is suspected of working with the Mexican cartel “New Generation,” and is held responsible for the displacement of more than 500 people and the kidnapping of 11 police officers working on the eradication of illicit crops in Nariño. Much of this violence took place in the context of an ongoing territorial war with Walter Patricio Arizala, alias “Guacho.” He will likely face extradition to the United States, along with several others captured for drug trafficking,⁴ although the Special Jurisdiction for Peace’s (JEP) Review Section will consider 46 extradition cases, the first being that of Jesús Santrich.⁵

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE ACCORDS

FARC-EP

One year after its formation, the FARC political leadership meet

Following their meeting, the FARC’s Council of the Commons again expressed its concerns with the new government, Peace Accord implementation, and the violent deaths of 75 former combatants since December 2016. The group also warned that party members who did not follow its directives would forfeit the party’s support.⁶ Only 82 of the Council’s 111 elected members attended the obligatory plenary session.⁷

Doubts over the FARC leadership’s commitment to the peace process

A report issued by the UN Verification Mission outlined concerns about six FARC leaders who have exited Territorial Training and Reincorporation Spaces (ETCR) and New Regrouping Points (NPR), leaving approximately 1,500 former combatants without proper leadership. In this, they have failed to fulfil their obligations to “actively contribute to the success of the reincorporation process.”⁸ The report prompted a response from Fabián Ramírez, once second-in-command of the FARC’s Southern Block, who reaffirmed his commitment.⁹ Those missing include Iván Márquez, Hernán Velásquez (alias “el Paisa”), and Henry Castellanos (alias “Romaña”),¹⁰ the former having declined to take up his seat in Congress in July.¹¹ At the end of the month, the UN Chief of Mission in Colombia called for FARC reincorporation to be strengthened and denounced the high levels of uncertainty surrounding the peace process,¹² particularly with regards legal guarantees.¹³

JEP ultimatum to FARC, false positives, and social leaders assassinated

The JEP gave the 31 former FARC combatants involved in the illegal retentions case (001) 10 working days to report on their reintegration and contributions to the truth and the search for missing persons. Failure to do so may result in the loss of transitional justice benefits.¹⁴ The “Mothers of Soacha” report to the JEP details 19 cases of extrajudicial killings.¹⁵ General Montoya Uribe appeared before the JEP for cases including false positives, but reiterated his innocence with regards extrajudicial killings.¹⁶ The JEP opened case 004 on violence in Antioquia.¹⁷ On 29 September, Somos Defensores issued a report on 609 assassinations, 2,646 threats, and 328 attacks against social leaders since 2010, with peaks after peace negotiations began, and after the signing of the Peace Accord. Somos Defensores also highlights the high level of impunity,¹⁸ with only 48 sentences having been issued in almost a decade.¹⁹

Rodrigo Londoño calls for reactivation of Verification, insufficient peace funds

President Duque responded to the FARC leader’s request within one day, naming the delegates for the Commission for Monitoring, Promotion, and Verification (of Peace Accord implementation), as Nancy Patricia Gutiérrez, Miguel Ceballos (High Commissioner for Peace), and Emilio José Archila (High Commissioner for Postconflict).²⁰ The UN Verification Mission was also renewed until 25 September 2019.²¹ However, the Comptroller’s Office announced insufficient funds and lack of institutional capacity for the implementation of the Peace Accord with the FARC.²²

PEACE PROCESS-ELN

ELN peace negotiations still in deadlock

During September, the guerrilla group released the nine hostages kidnapped in Arauca and Chocó in early August,²³ but the GOC insists they still hold 10 hostages.²⁴ Differences in objectives have led to an impasse since 1 August, with the GOC focusing on the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration,²⁵ and the ELN continuing to assert its position as an insurgent, rather than criminal, movement.

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

French Embassy in Colombia supports reintegration of the FARC

An agreement for 116,000 euros was signed with the French Embassy to support the United Nations Verification Mission's work on the economic and social reincorporation of former combatants in six strategic areas of Antioquia, Cauca, and Meta. The Sustainable Peace project, which is also supported by the UN Development Program (UNDP), includes six productive projects and the participation of 500 former combatants and their families.²⁶

INSTITUTIONAL PROGRESS

Centro Democrático plans to reform Law 1448 and judiciary

The Victims' Law project ignited a debate over the scope of land restitution, with criticism of the reform focusing on its relegation of victims' rights to the needs of current occupants of lands which were forcefully abandoned or dispossessed, and highlights the need to distinguish between vulnerable populations and those taking advantage of violence to buy or expropriate lands.²⁷ The GOC has also presented a judicial reform project,²⁸ leaving the structure of the Judicial Branch unchanged, but limiting the use of tutela (protective actions); altering the election of senior state officials; and limiting magistrates' powers to make personnel recommendations.²⁹

DIVERSITY ISSUES

More than 600 PDET community members participate in construction of action plan

Fifteen indigenous populations in Putumayo actively participated in the construction of an Action Plan for Regional Transformation (PATR), using this to request assistance from central government in providing for their basic needs, and in responding to the growth of illegal activities in the department. Those who participated in this phase were delegates selected from the 9,081 PDET participants from nine municipalities.³⁰

Rise in suicides amongst indigenous groups in Vaupés

The Ministry of Health shows that over 2017, the national average for attempted suicide was 52 per 100,000 inhabitants, while in Vaupés it was 128; the departmental Health Secretariat has documented 74 cases of young indigenous people attempting suicide only in the municipality of Mitú so far in 2018. This tendency is thought to be connected to displacement and associated culture shock, particularly amongst indigenous men. The Victims' Unit shows that 8,934 indigenous people were displaced by the conflict within Mitú between 1996 and 2018, and displacements in the department rose 300% between 2003 and 2005.³¹

FURTHER READING

Security Guarantees: A local perspective

One of the main challenges in the implementation of the Peace Accord has been the protection of communities, social leaders, and former combatants and their families. From high expectations regarding potential changes in the regions most affected by the conflict, there has been a growth in distrust and fear concerning the reactivation of violence. Security guarantees, which cover not only those who laid down their arms, but also their families and territories, have been insufficient in halting violence and threats. What are the factors that explain the deterioration of security in these territories? How can we contribute to the implementation of security guarantees? This report from the Fundación Ideas para la Paz (FIP) addresses these questions.³²