

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. Presented on the first two pages are a summary of statistics on former child soldiers and adults in the process of reintegration, with information provided by the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) and the Agency for Reincorporation and Normalization (ARN).



DISENGAGED CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

Reported cases of forced recruitment since 1999:

› Total: **7,593**

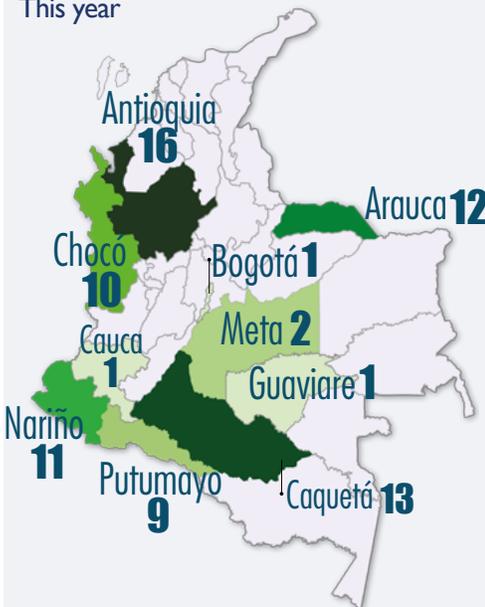
31 December

Total disengaged

- › Since 1999: **6,607**
- › This year: **196**
- › This month: **14**
- › Currently enrolled in program: **240**

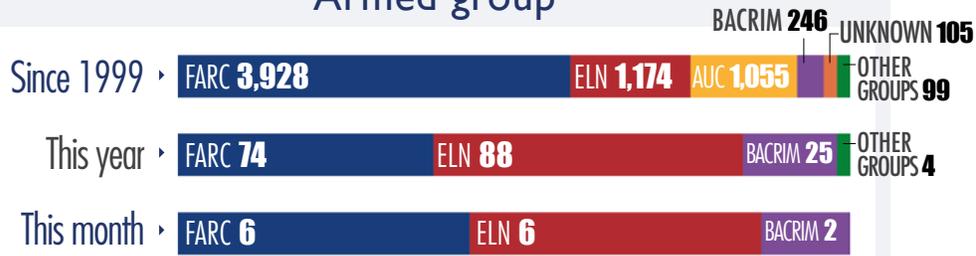
Disengagement by department

This year

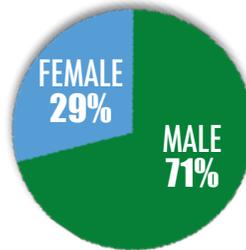


(of known locations)

Armed group



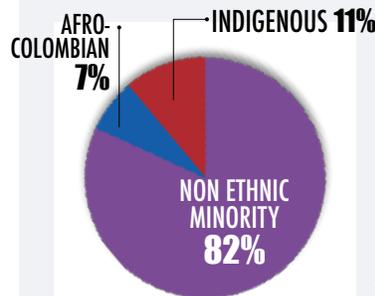
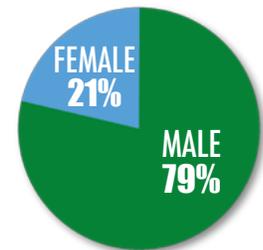
Since 1999



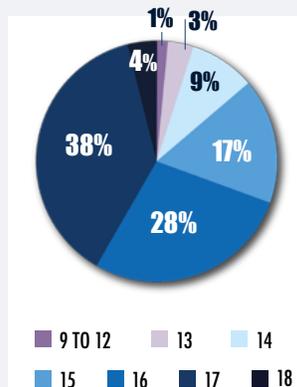
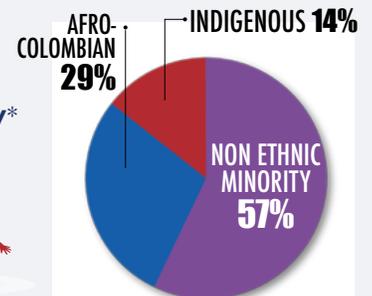
Sex



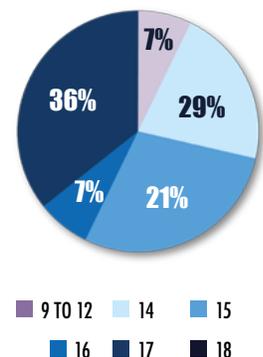
December 2018 (This month)



Ethnicity*



Age



*Note: The category of Afro-colombian has only been recorded since July 2008; thus, the proportion is expected to be higher than presented in the "Since 1999" graph.

ADULTS IN REINTEGRATION PROCESS

Total currently active in reintegration process:

› **7,359**

Total entered into ARN reintegration route

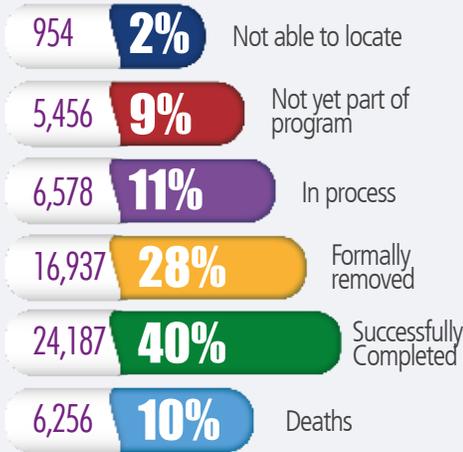
› This month: **43**

› This year: **853**

› Since 1999: **60,368**

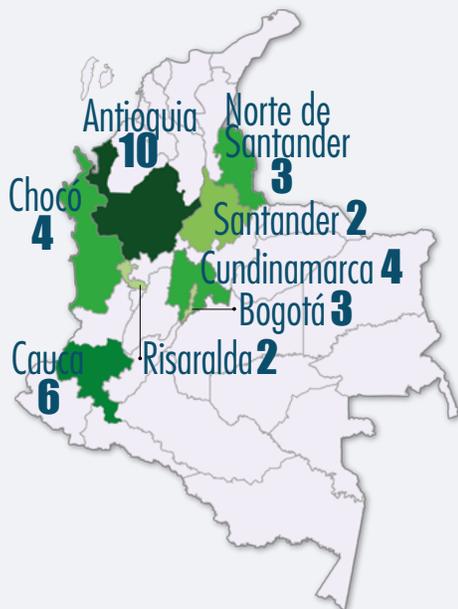
State of all participants

Since 1999

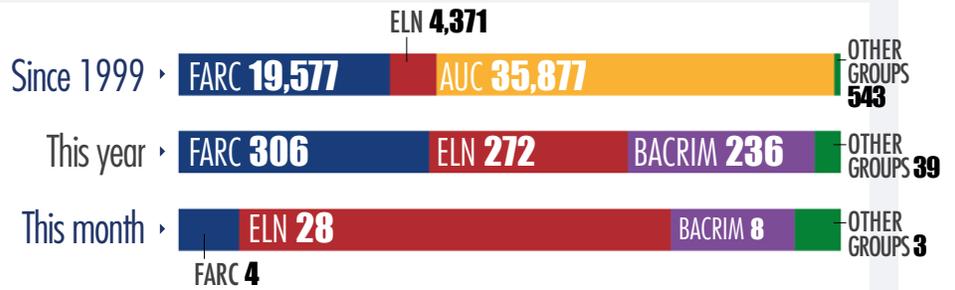


Demobilization by Department (top 8)

This month

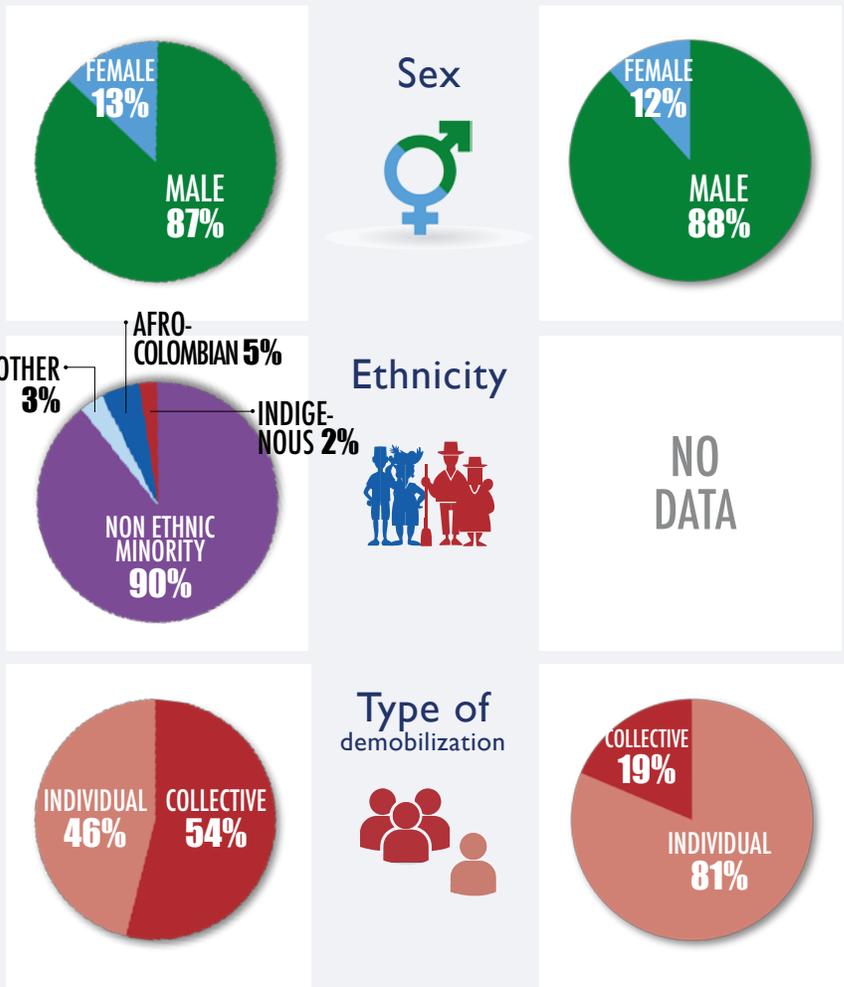


Armed group

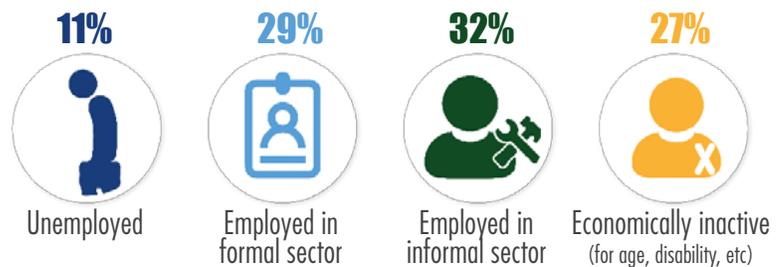


Since 1999

December 2018 (This month)



Current occupation*



*Note: Those who have died or who are without occupational registry are not included.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Civil society denounces impunity in the assassinations of social leaders

The organizations demanded the results of investigations be shared, called on the Attorney General's Office to focus on sentencing and revealing the networks behind these crimes, and insisted on a protection policy that goes beyond militarization at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.¹ The UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights, Michel Forst, also delivered a report after a two-week visit on 4 December, highlighting the convergence of assassinations of human rights defenders with illegal economies, poverty, limited State presence, and delays in the implementation of the Peace Accord in territories contested by illegal armed groups.² Since the signing of the Peace Accord, attacks against social leaders and human rights defenders has increased and is repetitive, methodical, and systematic. There is a high level of impunity, with only 41.24% of cases having an identified perpetrator, and only 8.6% of cases ending in conviction.³ In related news, a psychologist for the Reincorporation and Normalization Agency (ARN) who accompanied former FARC combatants in their reincorporation process, and another local leader were found dead in Caquetá on 20 December.⁴

FARC dissident alias “Guacho” killed in Nariño

Alias “Guacho,” head of the dissident Óliver Sinisterra front of the FARC, was killed in Nariño in an operation by Public Forces in Tumaco, Nariño, on 21 December. Guacho was responsible for the kidnapping and later murder of three Ecuadorian journalists in April 2018, which led to a diplomatic crisis and subsequent withdrawal of Ecuador's support as guarantor of the peace talks with the ELN.⁵ According to the Ministry of Defense, the ranks of FARC dissident groups have swollen to 1,749.⁶

Internal displacement more than three times higher than last year

The UNHCR reported that more than 30,500 Colombians were internally displaced between January and November 2018; 9,075 were registered in the same period last year. The majority of those displaced hailed from three regions: Catatumbo, Bajo Cauca, and the Pacific, with 95% from the corresponding departments of Norte de Santander, Antioquia, Chocó and Nariño.⁷

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE ACCORDS

FARC-EP

Assessment of women's rights in the implementation of Peace Accord delivered

The National Summit of Women and Peace assessment highlighted the inclusion of women (though without statistics) in educational, economic, social, and cultural programs in Territorial Training and Reincorporation Spaces (ETCR). Positive results cited include the 1,615 land titles for women (47.5% of the total) delivered by the National Land Agency (ANT) thanks to preferential access criteria for women in rural areas, victims, and heads of household; women's leadership in 50% of Development Plans with a Territorial Focus (PDET);⁸ and the 53% of Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) magistrates and 45% of Truth Commissioners who are women.⁹

Legal guarantees for former FARC combatants remain uncertain

Lifting the suspension of arrest warrants against former FARC combatants was approved as part of the Public Order Law on 11 December, contradicting the Peace Accord and sparking debate.¹⁰ In response, the UN Secretary General called for legal guarantees for former combatants, denouncing the uncertainty surrounding their reincorporation.¹¹ Similarly, former combatants who were conditionally released from prison as a result of the Peace Accord have not been able to participate in collective or individual reincorporation processes, as they still have criminal records and valid arrest warrants against them. Their release is conditional, and they await decisions from the JEP's Amnesty and Pardon Chamber which processes amnesty cases individually.¹²

Thirty-four productive projects approved for funding

It is expected that 279 former FARC combatants will benefit from these projects, which will receive a total of US\$ 870,000 for productive activities including raising livestock, fish farming, agriculture, and access to communications. Prior to this, only two projects had been financed.¹³

Alias “El Paisa” remains unlocated, prompting Duque to announce possible detainment

President Duque announced that Hernán Darío Velásquez, alias “El Paisa,” former commander of the FARC, will be detained if he has returned to criminality. The JEP began proceedings against him in October for not reporting on his reincorporation and the search for the remains of victims of kidnapping and disappearance (Case 001) along with 30 other former FARC leaders. On 6 December the JEP requested information on his whereabouts,¹⁴ which have been unknown since he departed the Miravalle Territorial Training and Reincorporation Space (ETCR) in Caquetá several months ago, citing the lack of

security and legal guarantees.¹⁵ In an open letter on 11 December, Rodrigo Londoño, leader of the FARC political party, wrote to El Paisa, inviting him to participate in the party's leadership summit. He also warned of the consequences of not complying with JEP requirements for Case 001.¹⁶

Provision of ETCR basic services until 15 August 2019

The GOC has extended the provision of food and other basic services for approximately 4,000 former FARC combatants and their families residing in 22 ETCRs and surrounding areas. The extension was in response to a call made by the head of the UN Verification Mission, Raúl Rosende, who highlighted delays in beginning former combatants' productive projects.¹⁷

PEACE PROCESS-ELN

ELN begins 12-day Christmas truce

The 12-day unilateral ceasefire is a sign of the ELN's commitment to peace negotiations with the GOC, which have been suspended since Duque took office on 7 August. However, the High Commissioner for Peace, Miguel Ceballos, expressed his regret that the ELN had not included the release of hostages within their truce, a condition the GOC has declared a prerequisite for the resumption of talks.¹⁸ During this period, the ELN liberated an engineer who was kidnapped while working for Ecopetrol in Arauca in January 2018,¹⁹ but a member of the National Army's Rapid Deployment Task Force was killed in confrontations in Norte de Santander on 29 December.²⁰ The Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia (or the Clan del Golfo) armed group also announced a unilateral ceasefire to cover the Christmas period.²¹

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

Phase two of Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Colombia to receive funds

The GOC, donor countries, and the UN have agreed to continue the Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Colombia (MPTF), with a further US\$28.5 million for the consolidation of peace. In its second phase, which will last until December 2022, the MPTF will support projects in the 16 regions with an Action Plan for Regional Transformation, made up of 170 PDET municipalities.²²

INSTITUTIONAL PROGRESS

Timely Action Plan (PAO) to protect social leaders in operation

During the PAO's first Intersectoral Commission, the Minister of the Interior, Nancy Patricia Gutiérrez, recognized the need to synchronize territorial responses and directly collect information on security conditions across the country before the end of the year. She also suggested that those regions with the most actions against social leaders were those with the highest levels of illegal activity (drug trafficking and mining) and conflicts over land.²³

DIVERSITY ISSUES

Being young in rural Córdoba: Other ways of feeling and thinking about territory

This report, the result of a collaboration between the CINEP and the Group for the Defense of the Land and Territory of Córdoba, details the various challenges faced by young people in rural Córdoba, as well as some of the situations in which their rights are made vulnerable and require immediate State intervention. Its authors also recognize the opportunities identified by young people, sharing their voices and ideas as elements that should be supported and made visible in decision-making processes.²⁴

FURTHER READING

What are the patterns? Assassinations of social leaders in post conflict

This report is compiled from archives and information on human rights violations against social leaders and human rights defenders provided by Oxfam, the Embassy of the Netherlands, and the Spanish International Development Agency (AECID). It aims to identify patterns in the crimes, as well as their correlation with other variables, and covers violations of social leaders' right to life and integrity, perpetrators, spatial correlations, State responses, and military plans and the risks they present for social leaders.²⁵