

FACTSHEET**Colombia**

May 2013

Scope of the problem

The precise extent of Colombia's mine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) problem remains very unclear. Since 2007, PAICMA has recorded more than 17,000 events¹ of which more than 14,000 remain unverified. Some of the country still remains inaccessible, making surveying impossible. Since 2010, Colombia reports all incidents as involving Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) rather than landmines.

Land release

Although Colombia passed legislation in 2011 to allow NGOs to clear mines as of May 2013, currently only the army conducts clearance operations and is responsible for all 1.14km² cleared since 2008.

Summary of clearance 2008-2012

Year	Area cleared (m ²)	AP mines found	IEDs found	UXO found
2012	266,865	0	175	15
2011	333,006	0	194	11
2010	249,039	388	131	50
2009	170,218	1,779	114	94
2008	122,235	333	114	21
Total	1,141,363	2,500	728	191

NGO Accreditation

After a 10-month process, on 5 April 2013, the *Instancia*² approved HALO Trust's accreditation to conduct clearance, followed by assigning HALO tasks in the Narino and San Rafael municipalities in Antioquia Department. However, clearance operations have been further delayed until the government amends an earlier decree on insurance requirements for demining teams. The government has set no timetable to resolve the issue.

Compliance with Article 5 of the Mine Ban Treaty

Under Article 5 of the Mine Ban Treaty (and in accordance with the 10-year extension granted in 2010), Colombia is required to destroy all antipersonnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control by 1 March 2021.

Mine action in Colombia is heavily mired in legalities and interpretations of legislation that prevent NGOs from beginning clearance operations. As a result, Colombia is behind its schedule on increasing clearance capacity. PAICMA had planned for the equivalent of 13 NGO demining teams in 2013. As of May 2013, no NGOs were conducting mine clearance and the government lawyers were still determining what the law required regarding insurance and liability.

¹ PAICMA defines an event as a previously reported suspect area, a mine accident, or a single landmine encountered and destroyed by the army.

² The *Instancia Interinstitucional de Desminado Humanitario* is the government of Colombia's decision-making body for humanitarian demining and responsible for accreditation of NGOs in Colombia.