



# Improving Lives for Communities affected by Anti-Personnel Mines: Why It Matters?

Mine action stands as a crucial pillar in post-conflict recovery and community rehabilitation. The Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, through its Department of Public Security, recognizes the far-reaching impact of demining efforts on affected regions. Demining extends far beyond the immediate safety concerns, playing a vital role in fostering peace, bolstering security, and catalyzing socioeconomic development in affected regions. As communities free themselves from the constant threat of hidden explosives, they can begin to rebuild.

*As countries free themselves from the constant threat of hidden explosives, they can begin to rebuild their communities and the lives of their citizens*



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## OVER 30 YEARS SUPPORTING MEMBER STATES TO CLEAR THE HEMISPHERE OF MINES

In 1991, following years of internal conflict, Central American countries invited the Organization of American States (OAS) to create a program supporting mine eradication efforts. In response, the OAS established the Mine Action Program (AICMA), which became one of the organization's flagship initiatives.

The program aims to provide Member States with logistical, administrative, technical, and financial support for humanitarian demining.

Through this initiative, the OAS has assisted Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru, and Suriname.

## OUR WORK IN COLOMBIA

The role of AICMA-OAS in Colombia has evolved over the past 20 years. In 2024, its main purpose is to assist the Government in implementing an external Quality Management system for Humanitarian Demining, ensuring continuous improvement in the land release process. AICMA-OAS seeks to maximize safety, efficiency, and effectiveness, while also installing a sustainable national capacity.

Apart from its primary focus on quality management in the land release process, AICMA-OAS in Colombia also executes Explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) and Community Liaison projects, as well as Victim Assistance initiatives.

Since 2022, it has been advising the Government on technical aspects to improve the sector's operational efficiency, strengthen capacities, and reinforce the technical framework.

## 1 Accreditation: Ensuring Safety in Mine Action

Accreditation is the crucial first step in ensuring that demining operations are carried out by qualified organizations and individuals. This process helps maintain high standards of safety and effectiveness in mine clearance activities.

### OUR MISSION

To guarantee mine action accreditation processes meet international and national standards.

### WHAT WE OFFER

- Documentary evaluations of standard operational procedures.
- Monitoring of personnel training.
- Assessments of operational capacity within the accreditation process of humanitarian demining organizations.
- Verification of compliance with national and international mine action standards.
- Recommendations for improvement in demining practices.

## 2 Quality Assurance and Control: Rigorous Demining Standards

Quality management in mine action is a cornerstone of peace-building, ensuring both safety and efficiency in land release. In Colombia, where decades of armed conflict have left extensive areas contaminated by anti-personnel mines, this work is particularly vital. Beyond preventing accidents and saving lives, it cultivates trust and stability in formerly conflict-ridden regions.

### OUR MISSION

To ensure the highest standards of safety and effectiveness in mine action operations by implementing comprehensive Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Control (QC) protocols, systematically verifying that all activities meet international and national standards.

### WHAT WE OFFER

- Implement rigorous quality assurance and control measures for humanitarian demining operations.
- Ensure strict adherence to national and international standards.
- Conduct comprehensive QC procedures throughout the land release process.
- Provide expert guidance on best practices in quality management.



### 3 Empowering Communities: Mine Risk Education and Community Liaison

In partnership with civil and military demining organizations, we spearhead vital educational initiatives to equip local populations with life-saving knowledge about safe behavior in mine-affected areas. Our comprehensive approach combines community outreach, targeted awareness campaigns, and rapid response education to create a safer environment for all.

#### OUR MISSION

To enhance community safety and resilience by providing targeted mine risk education, fostering informed behaviors, and establishing effective communication channels with local communities.

#### WHAT WE OFFER

- Strong community partnerships to enhance local resilience.
- Awareness sessions for civilians in affected areas.
- Mine risk education teams during emergencies.



### 4 Rebuilding Lives: Comprehensive Support for Mine Victims

Our holistic approach addresses both the physical and psychological needs of survivors while paving the way for their economic independence. By combining rehabilitation services with entrepreneurial support, we aim to empower victims to reclaim their lives and become active, contributing members of their communities.

#### OUR MISSION

To support survivors and victims of anti-personnel mines through targeted physical rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration, while also facilitating access to vocational training and community integration programs.

#### WHAT WE OFFER

- Comprehensive physical rehabilitation for survivors.
- Technical and financial assistance for victim-initiated business ventures.





## OUR IMPACT

Supported **10** Member States in mine action initiatives.

Achieved antipersonnel mine-free status in **5** countries.

Facilitated complete stockpile destruction in **7** nations.

Destroyed **1 million** stockpiled mines.

Cleared **200,000** active mines.

## PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES SO FAR

Through this initiative, the OAS has assisted

-  Argentina,  Chile,
-  Colombia,  Costa Rica,
-  Ecuador,  Guatemala,
-  Honduras,  Nicaragua,
-  Peru, and  Suriname.



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