MAPP/OAS
39TH SEMIANNUAL REPORT
HIGHLIGHTS

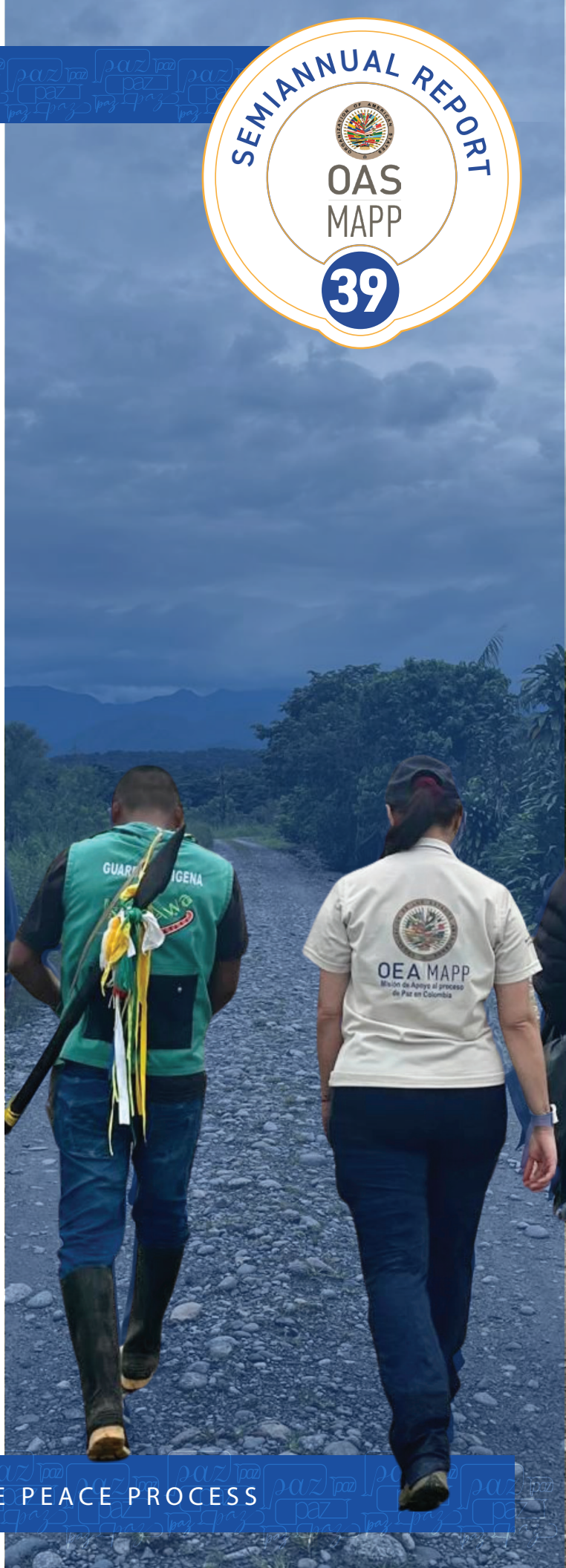
In the first half of 2025, the MAPP/OAS traveled across the country to support communities and local authorities. During that period, it completed 977 missions in 295 population centers, ranging from municipal capitals to villages, indigenous reserves, and community councils across 161 municipalities in 22 departments.

In total, the Mission covered over 133,000 kilometers by land and more than 1,400 kilometers by river, monitoring the territories and gathering testimonies from local communities. These efforts resulted in 22 recommendations addressed to 12 state entities. **Page 31**

1. Humanitarian crises and impacts on the civilian population:

Forced mass displacement and unlawful confinements caused by confrontations between armed groups persisted, generating humanitarian crises in Guaviare, Catatumbo, and southern Bolívar. Armed groups have labeled communities, peace signatories, institutions, as well as social and humanitarian organizations, as supporters of opposing armed groups. This has led to forced displacement, negative impacts on local economies, obstacles to access education, and the breakdown of the social fabric.

Communities and institutions warned that the actions of armed groups have deteriorated the mental health of the population in terms of sleep disorders, prolonged grief, anxiety, isolation, and learning and speech difficulties. Armed groups have also increased the imposition of economic contributions as a means of controlling population, employing new collection methods using, for example, QR codes. Page 7.



2. Impact on leaders:

Social leaders and their families continued to be victimized by armed groups in their areas of residence and even in the shelters where they had been forcibly displaced in search of protection. Community Action Boards (CABs) were also targeted, particularly female community leaders and their families who were threatened and pressured to withdraw from participation and leadership roles. During the period covered by this report, which marks the beginning of a pre-election year in Colombia, also witnessed cases of political violence, including the assassination of presidential pre-candidate Miguel Uribe Turbay. Page 8.

3. Recruitment, use, and exploitation of children and adolescents:

Armed groups continued to promote narratives that normalize the recruitment of children and adolescents as combatants, incorporating them into their ranks and undermining the State's capacity to ensure their safety within their family, educational and personal development environments. Humanitarian crises in Arauca and Chocó, in regions such as Catatumbo and southern Bolívar, as well as in municipalities like Jamundí, Valle del Cauca, have exacerbated the risk of child recruitment in rural areas.

Armed groups have resumed practices such as the violent abduction of persons under 18 from their homes, schools, parks, and roads in Antioquia, Arauca, Cauca, Caquetá, Chocó, Guaviare, Norte de Santander, Valle del Cauca, as well as in regions such as southern Bolívar and southern Tolima. These practices included the presence of armed group members in classrooms and the use of lists to identify adolescents over the age of 14. In Arauca, Cauca, Nariño, and Valle del Cauca, armed groups spread messages on radio broadcasts, QR codes, songs, and games as tactics to reach this population. Page 9.

● Presence of recruitment practices such as the violent removal of individuals under 18 from their homes, educational institutions, parks, and public roads.

4. Impact of explosive devices, Anti-personnel Mines (APM), Unexploded Ordnance (UXO), and Booby Traps (BT):

Bolívar, Cauca, Chocó, Guaviare, Nariño, Norte de Santander, and Valle del Cauca, armed groups continued to use drones to carry out attacks against security forces. Explosive devices have also been adapted for use on pack animals and concealed within everyday objects, creating an increased risk for communities.

In Antioquia, Arauca, Bolívar, Cauca, Chocó, Guaviare, Meta, Norte de Santander, Putumayo, and Valle del Cauca, the frequent occurrence of incidents involving the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) has reinforced civilians' perception of increased contamination in formerly cleared territories, food production zones, transit routes, and locations where cultural activities take place.

The lack of delimitation of dangerous areas continued to hinder the implementation of military strategies, the delivery of humanitarian aid, the recovery of bodies, and the return of forcibly displaced populations to their territories. Furthermore, the civilian population refrained from informing the authorities about the existence of dangerous areas out of fear of reprisals from armed groups. In northern Antioquia, southern Meta, the Cordillera and the Pacific coast of Nariño, the entry of humanitarian demining teams was also restricted by armed groups due to threats of BT attacks. Page 10.

5. Progress in peace initiatives, talks, and dialogues:

During the period covered by this report, the National Government advanced various peace initiatives. Notably, it introduced a bill aimed at establishing differentiated criminal treatment for the dismantling and surrender to justice of illegal organizations. Progress has also been made in the surrender of war material and the establishment of Temporary Location Zones (Zonas de Ubicación Temporal – ZUT, by its acronym in Spanish) and Peace Regions. Page 11.

- In Norte de Santander, the Peace Dialogue Table between the National Government and the General Staff of the Blocs and Fronts (EMBF, by its acronym in Spanish) Commander Jorge Suárez Briceño, Magdalena Medio, Commander Gentil Duarte, and the Raúl Reyes Front, activated a contingency management commission that led to the signing of the Catatumbo Agreement and the creation of a ZUT for the EMBF's 33rd Front. Education about the ZUT focused on socializing the Catatumbo Agreement; however, communities noted the need for more information regarding the concept and its impact on the territory.

- As for the Table for the Co-construction of Territorial Peace in Nariño between the National Government and Comuneros del Sur, the parties signed six agreements aimed at dignifying victims, developing humanitarian initiatives, implementing conflict de-escalation measures, creating a ZUT, reintegrating members of Comuneros del Sur into civilian life, strengthening democracy, replacing illicit crops, and protecting children and adolescents. The MAPP/OAS observed and verified the destruction of 462 weapons, including anti-personnel mines, mortars, and grenades in Samaniego, Nariño.

- In the Socio-Legal Conversation Forums (ECSJ, by its Spanish acronym), held in Buenaventura, Quibdó, Medellín, and Valle de Aburrá, involving urban armed structures, mechanisms for dialogue between the parties were strengthened, and actions aimed to reduce violence and protecting the rights of the population were agreed upon. In Buenaventura, the Agreement to End the Recruitment, Use, and Exploitation of Children was ratified. Meanwhile, in the ECSJ held in Medellín and Valle de Aburrá, spokespersons provided information to the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF, by its acronym in Spanish) on places where children and adolescents are sexually exploited, with a view to advancing their protection. Finally, in Quibdó, the ECSJ did not meet regularly due to changes in the members of the National Government's delegation, jeopardizing the renewal of the truce between Los Locos Yam, RPS, and Los Mexicanos, which ended in March.

At the Peace Dialogue Table between the National Government and the National Coordinator of the Bolivarian Army (CNEB, by its acronym in Spanish), it was agreed to replace 30,000 hectares of coca leaf crops in Nariño and Putumayo. The agreement also included the establishment of two Comprehensive Training and Temporary Location Zones for CNEB members in these departments. Furthermore, an agreement was signed for the handover, verification, and progressive destruction of approximately 14 tons of war material.

- Finally, the ECSJ between the National Government and the Sierra Nevada Conquerors Self-Defense Forces (ACSN, by its Spanish acronym) progress was made to reduce violence and its impact on children and adolescents. The communities stated their expectations regarding this forum, especially in terms of territorial transformation. However, they remained concerned about the conflict between armed groups and the State's capacity to protect the territory and the civilian population.

6. Implementation of the final peace agreement:

The National System for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (RRI, by its Spanish acronym) signed the Pact for Land, Water, Territory, and Life between the National Government and social organizations. However, land dispossession, restrictions on citizen participation, and the consolidation of areas under the control of armed groups posed the greatest challenges for the RRI. In Arauca, Bolívar, Cauca, Caquetá, Córdoba, Meta, and Guaviare, armed groups hindered the entry to entities responsible for implementing the reform.

The Directorate of Illicit Crop Substitution began implementing the RenHacemos program in Cauca, Chocó, Nariño, Norte de Santander, and Putumayo to eradicate coca leaf crops, replace the income generated by this economy, and strengthen sustainable productive alternatives and their value chains.

The search for missing persons continued to face challenges related to strengthening institutional coordination around the National Search System, finalizing the Comprehensive Public Search Policy, and carrying out work in the field. The Search Unit for Missing Persons (UBPD, by its Spanish acronym) has faced restrictions on access to territory by armed groups.

Lastly, the Chamber for the Acknowledgment of Truth, Responsibility, and Determination of Facts and Conducts within the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP, by its Spanish acronym) completed its investigation of cases 01 and 03 and referred them to the Acknowledgment Section for the issuance of the first rulings. The Absence of Truth Acknowledgment Section completed its first transitional adversarial trial. Page 17.

7. Environmental peace:

Armed groups enforced rules for carrying out deforestation activities in environmentally protected areas of Antioquia, Córdoba, Chocó, Cauca, Guaviare, Nariño, Meta, Putumayo, and Valle del Cauca, aiming to construct illegal roads and expand mining, agricultural, and extensive livestock farming areas. On some occasions, they ordered logging in areas near roads to improve visibility and prevent state action and attacks by other armed groups.

Armed groups also restricted, either partially or totally, the access of environmental authorities to the National Natural Parks of La Paya, Tinigua, Cordillera de los Picachos, Sierra de la Macarena, and Serranía del Chiribiquete. In the latter area, an armed group promoted the construction of an illegal road crossing the protected area, endangering biological and water connectivity between the Amazon and the Andes, as well as the physical and cultural survival of the indigenous communities in voluntary isolation inhabiting the area. Page 23.

8. Women, peace, and security agenda:

The National Government, with the support of the MAPP/OAS and other international organizations, advanced in the territorial implementation of the National Action Plan in Resolution 1325 of 2000. It also advanced the establishment of the Monitoring and Follow-up Committee for its implementation, and the definition of educational strategies for its adoption.

The Congress of the Republic issued Law 2453 of 2025 to prevent and punish violence against women in politics, promote the exercise of their political and electoral rights, and ensure their participation on equal and parity-based terms. In Community Action Boards, Territorial Victims' Committees, Territorial Councils for Peace, Reconciliation, and Coexistence (CTPRC, by its Spanish acronym), and the pre-electoral process of the Special Transitional Peace Constituencies (CITREP, by its Spanish acronym), the challenge of overcoming gender stereotypes and discrimination against women persisted, along with barriers to their effective participation and advocacy. Page 25.

9. Border scenarios:

Armed groups maintained their presence and control in Colombia's border areas, using them as rear bases for the illicit activities and to evade institutional control. In Nariño, Norte de Santander, and Putumayo, the establishment of extortion checkpoints was identified, along with efforts to promote the expansion of coca leaf cultivation and the illegal extraction of mineral deposits.

On the Colombia–Venezuela border, anti-personnel mine (APM) contamination has restricted the movement of the binational Indigenous peoples Wayúu, Yukpa, and Barí. Additionally, two unofficial bridges on the Colombia–Ecuador border were destroyed by Ecuadorian authorities, who claimed they were being used for activities related to the illegal extraction of mineral deposits and the collection of extortion payments. The destruction of this infrastructure impacted access to education, healthcare services, as well as the ability of binational Indigenous communities to carry out commercial activities. Page 26.

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