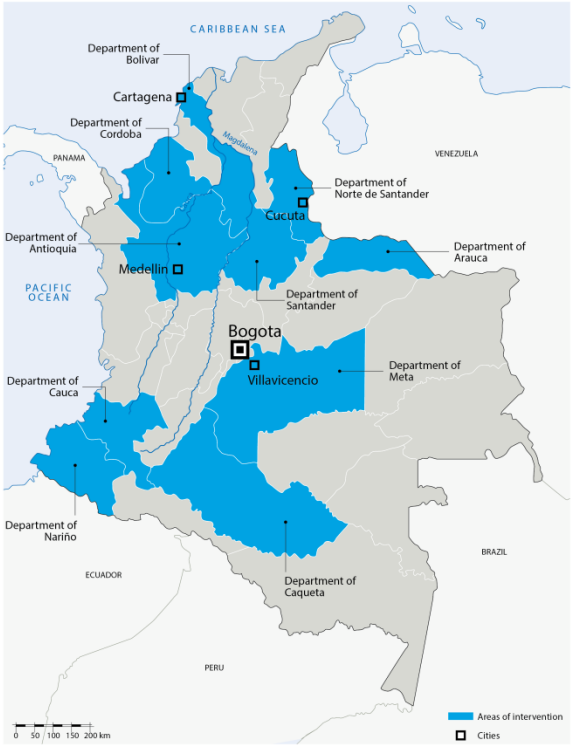
Colombia



MANDATE

In Colombia, Handicap International promotes the active participation of people with disabilities, including victims of internal armed conflict and their families in Colombian society. The organisation also works to ensure disability issues are taken into account in public policies. It aims, in addition, to raise the awareness of the community at large. HI also provides a support work for organizations of persons with disabilities.

SITUATION

Colombia is seriously affected by armed violence - the result of a conflict that has lasted for over 50 years. A peace brokered with one of the armed groups, the FARC-EP, is likely to come into effect in 2016, and negotiations have begun with the remaining insurgent group, the ELN[1]. However, violence is likely to remain a problem in the country due to drug trafficking, gold mining and armed crime, combined with acute inequalities which have widened the social divide in Colombia. Anti-personnel mines are also found across the conflict zones. According to official figures[2], there were 11,418 casualties of anti-personnel mines and explosive remnants of war between 1990 and April 2016 - the second highest rate in the world. According to a Handicap International study, 80% of survivors of armed violence have a disability[3], including a large number of civilians from the poorest social classes living in isolated areas without health centres or hospitals. The poorest have difficulty accessing medical services and people with disabilities are marginalised.

With peace agreements in prospect, it may now become possible to conduct mine clearance operations, and Handicap International was recently awarded official accreditation as a civil society organisation for humanitarian demining in Colombia. The organisation will now be able to conduct mine clearance, mine risk education, victim assistance and advocacy actions.

INITIAL ACTIONS

Handicap International initially intervened in the country in 1998 especially with the support of the Fundación para la Rehabilitación Integral, an organisation specialising in the rehabilitation of people with disabilities in Cartagena. This project was completed in 2002 and laid the foundations for the launch of other actions, including a community-based rehabilitation project[4] (2000), an anti-mine action project (2005) and lastly, from 2007, a project to support disabled people's organisations.

STAFF

- National staff members: 32
- Expatriate staff members: 2

KEY FACTS

Human development index (HDI)*	97th/188 classified countries
Life expectancy*	74 years
Gross National Income per capita *	12,040 PPA$ per annum
Population**	48,93 million inhabitants
Surface area**	1,141,750 sq. km

**Human Development Report 2015*
*** UNSD 2015*

Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities (CRPD)	Ratified: 10 May 2011
Convention on cluster munitions (Oslo)	Signed: 03 December 2008
Mine ban treaty (Ottawa)	Ratified: 06 September 2000

[1] National Liberation Army
[2] Programme for Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines, Presidency of the Republic of Colombia, 10,272 victims, consulted in April 2013.
[3] The impact of armed violence on civilian population, Handicap International, February 2013.
[4] Community based rehabilitation works on 5 domains : health promotion, prevention, cares, rehabilitation and support.

Current projects 2016

Functional rehabilitation

GOAL
Improving the quality and accessibility (at different levels) of functional rehabilitation and meeting the rehabilitation needs of people with disabilities and their families, and mostly of children and teenagers.

METHOD
Handicap International works at:

- Local level, in building capacities of rehabilitation staff and in conducting personalised support
- National level, in promoting national policies in rehabilitation, based on HI field experience

BENEFICIARIES

- People with disabilities and their families
- Public workers
- Students in the health sector
- The second and third level rehabilitation system

PARTNERS
Universidad del Valle, Cali, Fondation FEDAR[5], Fondation Ideal.

LOCATION

- Department of Nariño
- Department of Cauca

Support to organizations

GOAL
The goal of this project is to strengthen organizations of people with disabilities, so they can facilitate the development of policies and inclusive measures and make people with disabilities' rights respected. This project has two main aspects:

- Internal and organizational strengthening of networks
- Strengthening of awareness over people with disability and advocacy. The goal is to improve the participation of people with disability in their community, and the participation of organization of people with disability in decisions making.

METHOD

- Training, assistance and direct support to the organizations, in link with the strengthening of the internal structure
- Strengthening representation capacities, with communication activities, improving of databases and empowerment of member organizations.
- Establishment of visibility mechanisms, including the promotion of consultation space and evaluation joint reports of the implementation of the International convention of people with disabilities.

BENEFICIARIES
6 Colombian networks

PARTNERS
Colombian associations, Programa de Acción por la Igualdad y la Inclusión Social (PAIIS), Federación Nacional de Colombia Sordos (Fenascol), Asociación colombiana de síndrome de down (Asdown), Surcoe (asociación colombiana de sordociegos), Red Colombiana de Redes de personas con discapacidad – REDESCOL and el Nodo Comunitario de salud mental y convivencia.

LOCATION
Colombia at national level

[5]Fundacion para la estimulacion en el desarollo y los artes

Socio-economic inclusion

GOAL
Preparing and promoting the inclusive employment of people with disabilities in three municipalities of Colombia (departments of Meta and Antioquia). To achieve this, the organisation aims to support independent entrepreneurs, whenever necessary and possible.

METHOD
- Creation of occupational training facilities and the improvement of existing facilities
- Capacity-building for institutions and disabled people's organisations (DPOs) to promote inclusive employment.
- Training and supporting DPOs to promote self-employment

BENEFICIARIES
Direct:
- Disabled people
- Training Centres
- Pole jobs

Indirect:
- Disabled people organization

PARTNERS
Amigos con Calor Humano, Servicia Nacional de Aprendizaje, Ministry of Labour and three Colombian associations

LOCATION
2 departments (Meta and Antioquia)

Assistance to civilian victims of anti-personnel mines

GOAL
Handicap International aims to:
- Improve the living conditions of civilian victims of anti-personnel mines
- Advance their right to medical and psychological care and treatment
- Ensure victims are autonomous at each stage of their treatment and care.

METHOD
- Building the capacities of public institutions to improve service provision,
- Helping mine victims access aid, as provided for under the law.

BENEFICIARIES
- Civilian victims of mine accidents
- The anti-mine action coordination network
- Communities of municipalities affected by mines and unexploded munitions.

PARTNERS
- Pastoral Social,
- Fundación Social Valle de Puvenza,
- Hospital Universitario de Santader,
- Hospital Universitario San Vicente,
- Fundación REI para la Rehabilitación Integral,
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- Campaña Colombiana contra Minas (CCCM)
- Dirección de la Acción contra Minas (DAICMA)

LOCATION
Ten departments:
- Antioquia: Caucasia, Dabeiba, Apartadó, Medellín, Granada
- Cordoba: Montería
- Meta Villavicencio: Vista Hermosa, San juan de Arama, Granada
- Caqueta: Florencia
- Norte de Santander: Ocana, Cúcuta
- Santander: San Vicente de Chucurí, San Pablo, Santa Rosa
- Arauca: Nariño : Samaniego, Policarpa, Pasto
- Bolivar: Zambrano, Carmen de Bolivar, San Jacinto, Magangué, Cartagena
- Cauca: Caloto, Tambo.

Mine risk education

GOAL
Handicap International aims to:
- Reduce the impact of armed violence on people living in conflict zones
- Prevent risks from anti-personnel mines for people living in these zones

METHOD
- Train teachers and children living in conflict-affected areas on mine risks
- Produce accessible awareness-raising teaching aids adapted to the culture of the people benefiting from this support

BENEFICIARIES
- Mine casualties and their families
- Mine action coordination network
- People living in municipalities affected by mines and explosive remnants of war

PARTNERS
- Pastoral Social de Pasto
- Tierra de Paz, Cauca
- Campaña Colombiana contra Minas (CCCM)
- Dirección para la Acción contra Minas (DAICMA)

LOCATION
Ten Colombian departments:
- Cordoba: Montería
- Arauca: Nariño : Samaniego, Policarpa, Pasto
- Cauca: Caloto, Tambo
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Humanitarian demining

GOAL
Handicap International works to promote the social and economic development of people living in conflict zones and their safety.

METHOD
- Train local humanitarian mine clearance actors in humanitarian principles and national standards
- Build the capacities of public institutions to supply the best services
- Implement national mine clearance activities in areas allocated to HI, in coordination with DAICMA

BENEFICIARIES
- People living in mined areas
- Public workers from the mine action department
- Municipalities affected by mines and explosive remnants of war

PARTNERS
- Dirección de la Acción contra Minas (DAICMA)

LOCATION
- Awaiting assignment

MAIN FUNDING BODIES

Canadian International Development Agency Global Affairs Canada / Affaires mondiales Canada	**Belgian Development Cooperation** Avec le soutien de LA COOPÉRATION BELGE AU DÉVELOPPEMENT .be	**Swiss Development Cooperation – COSUDE** Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confédération suisse Confederazione Svizzera Confederaziun svizra Agencia Suiza para el Desarrollo y la Cooperación COSUDE
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT INTERNATIONAL	**Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg** THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs	