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**COLOMBIA**

# CONSOLIDATION AND ENHANCED LIVELIHOOD INITIATIVE – CENTRAL REGION (CELI-CENTRAL)

QUARTERLY REPORT 2 (JULY 2011 – SEPTEMBER 2011)



Prepared for the United States Agency for International Development, USAID Contract Number AID-514-C-11-00002, Consolidation and Enhanced Livelihood Initiative – Central Region (CELI-Central)

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**COVER PHOTO:**

The design of an activity that seeks to improve the road that stretches from Puerto Chorizo to the Alto Guaini *vereda* in the municipality of Vista Hermosa. Photo courtesy of CELI-Central Program.

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**DISCLAIMER**

The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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# ACRONYMS

C&G	Contracts & Grants
CELI-Central	Consolidated and Enhanced Livelihood Initiative – Central Band
CO	Contracts Office
COTR	Contracting Office’s Technical Representative
FARC	Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia
GOC	Government of Colombia
ICA	<i>Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario</i>
ICBF	<i>Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar</i>
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
PCIM	Integral Consolidation Plan for La Macarena
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
PNC	National Consolidation Plan
PNCT	National Territorial Consolidation Plan
RCC	Regional Coordination Center
REC	Revision and Evaluation Committee
RFA	Request for Approval
SENA	<i>Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje</i>
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

# I. SYNOPSIS OF REGIONAL SECURITY CONDITIONS

During the second quarter of CELI-Central, continuous military operations have been executed in Tolima to maintain relative control of regional territory. The military is seeking to break networks that support the security cordons of the FARC's General Commander, Alfonso Cano. Despite the increasing number of military confrontations in the area, the armed forces have been able to maintain stable security indicators, which even appear to be improving over time. For CELI-Central intervention, it will be crucial to monitor the risks of forced recruitment facing targeted municipalities in Tolima, especially within Planadas and Rioblanco.

Within Meta, the security situation has remained constant. Incidents of kidnappings, extortion and forced displacement continue to alarm local civilians. The presence of various groups pertaining to the FARC is extensive and their pressure is being felt by local candidates for this year's electoral cycle. Given CELI-Central's role in the pre- and post-electoral cycles, it is of paramount importance to closely observe and react to this situation.

Infractions against international humanitarian law and a clear breach of human rights have risen in the area of Caquetá due to the violent activities carried out by the FARC. Some of the consequences of armed violence in the region have been attacks against the civilian population, the launching of bombs and kidnappings of civilians working with petroleum companies. Oil companies have particularly suffered this quarter; semi-trucks transporting oil from San Vicente to Florencia have been prone to attacks. This has prompted the armed forces to militarize the roads in order to provide relative security to the oil transporters.

# II. CONTRACT HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THIS QUARTER

## CONTRACT MODIFICATIONS

As mentioned in the monthly reports for July and August of 2011, USAID and Tetra Tech ARD considered it necessary to amend a number of elements in contract number AID-514-C-11-00002. Those modifications were approved by USAID. An abbreviated version of the changes is as follows:

1. Modification to Section B.4 - Contract to reflect the addition of Caquetá as a geographical focus of program resources;
2. Modification to Section C.2.1.- Geographical Focus to include Caquetá as a targeted area of CELI-Central intervention and to stipulate that operations in Southern Tolima, Caquetá, Buenaventura and Chocó would not commence until directed by USAID;
3. Modification to Section C.4.1. - Follow-on Activities from Existing USAID/Colombia Activities to incorporate the funding of staff, logistical support including travel, and lodging, in addition to communication costs for the RCC in Caguán;
4. Modification to Section C.4.2 - Activities under CELI-Central (Follow-on and New) to eliminate and expand activities to be implemented by Tetra Tech ARD under the CELI-Central contract;
5. Modification to Section C.4.10 - Rapid Start-Up to account for changes in the established regional offices;
6. Modification to Section C – Description/Specifications/Performance Work Statement to remove the Start-Up Benchmarks Timeline in its entirety;
7. Modification to Section F.7 – Deliveries or Performance, Key Personnel to delete the Technical Director for Vulnerable Populations from the Key Personnel position list as well as to add five (5) additional Technical Directors.

## **QUARTERLY STRATEGIC REVIEW**

On August 22 and 23, 2011, in accordance with Section F.3a – Quarterly Strategy Reviews of the CELI-Central contract, Tetra Tech ARD, USAID, the Government of Colombia (GOC) and the Regional Coordination Centers (RCC) carried out the very first Quarterly Strategic Review in Bogotá. This forum provided the space for various actors to define and clarify objectives related to the National Consolidation Plan of Colombia as well as the respective roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in the implementation of consolidation activities. Some of the results of this event included the identification of characteristics and preliminary strategies for constructing alliances between communities and the State, ways to bring the Colombian State to local territories and potential activities to contribute to land formalization, restitution and rural development initiatives in CELI-Central areas. A series of risks related to the implementation of activities as well as forms of mitigating such risks were discussed and outlined in order to determine the best possible next steps.

On September 19, 2011, the Quarterly Strategic Review was convened in Villavicencio, Meta. The event was attended by USAID, the CELI-Central team from Bogotá, those working in Villavicencio, and the field officers working directing in the municipalities. Similar to the Quarterly Strategic Review held in Bogotá, this occasion allowed for the presentation of the National Consolidation Plan, CELI-Central's methodology for intervention, and a discussion pertaining to institutional coordination and local needs to successfully fulfill consolidation objectives.

## **ADMINISTRATION & HUMAN RESOURCES**

Start-up operations for CELI-Central have progressed relatively smoothly. The entire staff in Bogota is now located and accommodated in the central office (Calle 72 # 10 – 51), with the other (Calle 71 # 3 – 97) functioning as a meeting space.

The office in Villavicencio opened, became fully functional and was staffed during this quarter. The Field Officers in Puerto Rico, Vista Hermosa, Mesetas, Uribe and San Juan de Arama were also hired.

As for the Caquetá office, Tetra-Tech ARD identified and selected potential spaces, those of which were submitted to USAID for name-check. In September of 2011, USAID approval was received for an office in Caguán. This office will be organized and operational by the end of October. In terms of staff, two field officers were identified and selected for the Caguán region and the Regional Director, Wilson Gaitan, is expected to commence work in late October. Additional staffing will take place on a need-base.

A Request for Approval (RFA) was submitted to USAID on September 06, 2011 to fully commence operations in Southern Tolima. The RFA was approved by USAID's CO/TR on September 12<sup>th</sup> and by the CO on September 21<sup>st</sup>. The regional office selected in the *Federación de Cafeteros* in Ibagué also received a name-check from USAID. The office will be operating by the end of October 2011. Candidates have been identified and will be contracted according to specified needs.

For the quarter, a total of 37 events were executed, 159 trips were made by employees and consultants and 181 nights were reserved in hotels.

## **ANNUAL WORK PLAN**

The first version of CELI-Central's Annual Work Plan for October 2011 to September 2012 was submitted to USAID on August 01, 2011. At the request of USAID, Tetra Tech ARD has been revising and modifying the document to include additional key information. As such, the Technical Team for CELI-Central has committed substantial time during September defining methodologies and procedures required to identify, prioritize, formulate, select, implement and monitor potential activities to be included in the Plan. Moreover, by way of consultations with communities, the GOC, RCCs and departmental, territorial and local governments, the technical team has been developing a projection of possible activities to be implemented from October 2011 to September 2012, while also recognizing that activities will be reviewed on a quarterly basis. The second version of the Plan is scheduled to be submitted to USAID during the second week of October 2011.

## **PERFORMANCE MONITORING PLAN (PMP)**

In early August, 2011, we began formulating the first draft of the Performance Monitoring Plan. Various meetings with USAID and Tetra Tech ARD's Home Office were conducted to accomplish this. The draft was ultimately submitted to USAID on September 15, 2011 and will be included in the second version of the Annual Work Plan. The final PMP version will be submitted to USAID once feedback is provided.

Tetra Tech ARD also participated in numerous meetings held by USAID to develop the Monitoring and Evaluation System, *Monitor*, operated by DevTech Systems.

## **TRAININGS**

Numerous training sessions have taken place at the central and regional level. In both Bogotá and Villavicencio, the CELI-Central team received training from Tetra Tech ARD Senior Grant Manager, Indeok Oak to better understand the administration of the grants program. Central and regional staff has also been provided training with respect to administrative and security protocols.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL**

The first environmental requests for approval for the CELI-Central Program were submitted to USAID. These included ten categorical exclusions, which were obtained, and two environmental reviews, neither of which was approved this quarter.

# III. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT DURING THIS QUARTER

This quarter has been characterized by a great deal of collaboration between Tetra Tech ARD, USAID, communities and various State entities at the national, departmental, territorial and local levels. With all the aforementioned actors, and as previously mentioned, our Central and Regional teams have been able to design the methodologies and procedures needed to prioritize, formulate, execute and monitor activities that seek to strengthen alliances between the Colombian State and local communities and concomitantly dismantle illegal armed groups operating throughout the country. Through a myriad of inter-institutional meetings, work sessions, and trips to targeted CELI-Central areas, these methodologies, as well as corresponding roles and responsibilities, have been adapted and refined in order to surmount the host of challenges underpinning the consolidation process.

The Technical Directors responsible for each program component of CELI-Central, through close coordination, have begun utilizing the established methodologies and procedures to identify and develop a projection of potential activities for Meta, Southern Tolima and Caquetá—to be incorporated in the second version of the Annual Work Plan.

The following is a summary of activities executed this quarter by program component to achieve those results:

## RAPID RESPONSE

### Bogotá

1. Meetings with *Corporación Infancia y Desarrollo* to discuss activities aimed at preventing infant maltreatment, forced recruitment of minors and school reinforcement initiatives.
2. Meetings with *Razón Pública* to review activities developed with PCIM for the framework of preventing forced recruitment.
3. Meetings with *Banco de Proyectos* to examine strategies to be used to prevent forced recruitment in the rural areas of CELI-Central
4. Meetings with *Acción Social* in order to coordinate actions related to preventing forced recruitment as well as victimization of the armed conflict.
5. Meetings with the *Alta Consejería para la Reintegración* to discuss collaborating on issues related to forced recruitment and victimization during armed conflicts.

6. Meetings with the *Comisión Intersectorial para la Prevención del Reclutamiento y Utilización de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes en el conflicto armado* to examine possibilities of working together on preventing forced recruitment in CELI-Central areas
7. Formulation of the Activity Specification Index for support to municipalities in Southern Tolima. The activity consists of pedagogic events for artistic formation to healthily occupy free time of children and adolescents that run a high risk of forced recruitment in townships found within the municipalities of Chaparral, Rioblanco, Ataco and Planadas

## INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Meta

1. National Territorial Consolidation Plan Appropriation Event with 59 participants, among them CELI-Central personnel, electoral candidates, *Acción Social*, *PCIM*, and representatives from San Juan de Arama, Vista Hermosa, Uribe, Puerto Rico, Mesetas and La Macarena. This was held at the Hotel del Llano in Villavicencio on September 20, 2010.
2. The Launching of the CELI-Central Program in the Hotel del Llano in Villavicencio on September 20, 2011. A total of 49 people participated in this event, including members of the CELI-Central team, the Agrarian Bank, *SENA*, *INCODER*, *Acción Social*, *PCIM*, *Cordepaaz* and the Mayors Offices.
3. Two (2) forums with candidates for the Municipal Mayors Offices, communities and local organizations. The first was carried out in Puerto Rico, Meta on September 05, 2011 and the second in Vista Hermosa, Meta on September 25, 2011. In Puerto Rico, 1,000 individuals attended the event, 5 of which were electoral candidates. In Vista Hermosa, 400 people were present for the forum, 3 of which were candidates.
4. Initiation of the contract titled, “Electoral Observation, 2011 Elections for Local Authorities” with *Corporación Lenguaje Ciudadano*. The advances include the design of the characterization and monitoring instruments for activities and visits to the municipalities, achieving recognition for the electoral observation exercise by local authorities within the municipal platform of electoral observers and the Electoral Observation Mission (MOE) in Meta. The visits were to Puerto Rico (August 23, 2011), San Juan de Arama (August 24, 2011), Vista Hermosa (August 25, 2011), Mesetas (August 25, 2011), Uribe (September 7, 2011), and La Macarena (September 13, 2011). In each trip, there was coordination with the Electoral Guarantee Committees and with social organizations.
5. Two (2) different forms of support to the *Registradurías Municipales* with computers, radios and transportation rentals. Support was provided in Southern Tolima and La Macarena, Meta.

### Southern Tolima

1. National Territorial Consolidation Plan Appropriation Event with the candidates for the Municipal Mayors Offices. This was held at the University of Ibagué on September 14, 2011. For this event, there were 33 attendees, ranging from councilors, electoral

candidates, community representatives, CELI-Central staff, members from *INCODER*, *vereduría*, the Controller's Office, Ibagué University and the Provincial Government.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Meta

1. Meetings with the Governmental and Agricultural Secretaries in the Department of Meta, *SENA*, House of Commerce, *ICA*, and the directors of Provincial Agro-Business Management Centers to socialize the CELI-Central Program and establish agreements and work mechanisms in the region.
2. Coordination meetings with communities in *PCIM* municipalities to socialize the CELI-Central Program and prioritize projects for the first year of the program's implementation.
3. Presentation of four (4) Productive Alliance Projects co-financed with CELI-Central resources to the REC
4. Presentation to the REC of productive projects for the *veredas* found in yellow zones, according to the security classification index. These include sugarcane in Uribe and coffee in Mesetas and Uribe.

### Southern Tolima

1. Meetings with the Governor and the Governmental and Agricultural Secretaries to present the CELI-Central Program and define immediate actions regarding electoral support
2. Meeting with departmental planning institutions (*SENA*, *ICA*, *Corpoica*, *Federación de Cafeteros*, *Federación de Cacaoteros*, *ICBF*, Cattle-ranching committee, House of Commerce) to provide an orientation to the CELI-Central Program and define coordination mechanisms to support the National Territorial Consolidation Plan in Southern Tolima.
3. Elaboration of the Activity Specification Index (*ficha*) for an activity to support the improvement of cocoa quality for producers in the municipality of Chaparral.

### Cross-cutting issues

1. Meetings with the Land and Rural Development Team from the Agricultural and Rural Development Ministry to identify support needs from CELI-Central to land formalization and restitution initiatives and implementation of Rural Development Areas.

## SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

### Tolima

1. *Vereda* visits, coordination and identification of particular social and productive infrastructure needs in the municipalities of Chaparral, Rioblanco, Planadas and Ataco.

### Caquetá

1. From July 10-14, 2011, visits were carried out to the municipalities of San Vicente del Caguán and Cartagena del Chairá, and to the township of La Unión Peneya in the municipality of La Montañita. These included meetings with community representatives and municipal administrations in order to identify needs.
2. A visit was made to the regional office in Florencia, Caquetá on September 12, 2011. During this visit, 20 Activity Specification Indices for social and productive infrastructure were elaborated. The field officers were also trained on the application of the methodology used for participative execution of activities.

### Bogotá

1. From September 25-27, 2011, training was held in Bogota for a field officer from Meta and a staff member from Villavicencio with respect to the methodologies and procedures for formulating and executing infrastructure activities.
2. Approval of the first five (5) Activity Specification Indices for social infrastructure activities in the Macarena region.
3. Elaboration of designs and budgets for five (5) social infrastructure activities.
4. Proposal for discussion on the Activity Specification Index for CELI-Central activities.

## IV. CONTRACTS & GRANTS

The following is a list of activities and their corresponding values carried out under the Contracts & Grants Office of CELI-Central:

RFA (COLP\$12.891.000) was approved by USAID to support the activity “Brigadas de Salud” that was held by the PCIM in the Municipality of Puerto Rico, Meta.	
ACTIVITY	VALUE COMMITTED COP\$
Health Brigade	12,891,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 12,891,000</b>

Support to the Pre -Electoral Process	
RFA (US \$90,000) was approved by USAID to finance several Pre-Electoral Activities	
ACTIVITY	VALUE COMMITTED COP\$
Logistical Support provided to the <i>Registradurias Municipales</i> of Chaparral, Ataco, Rioblanco and Planadas in the Department of Tolima	72,155,600
Logistical support to carry out the Appropriation Event for the Regional Consolidation Plan in Southern Tolima. This was geared towards candidates to the Municipal Mayor’s Office.	10,000,000
Logistical support provided to <i>Personerías Municipales</i> to carry out the activity: “Support to the municipality of Vista Hermosa in the development of Citizen Forums for 2011 local authority elections”	1,000,000
Logistical support to carry out the activity “Socialization of the National Consolidation Plan and the Presentation of CELI-Central to the candidates to the Mayor’s Office in the municipalities of Macarena, Mesetas, Puerto Rico, San Juan de Arama, Uribe and Vista Hermosa.”	10,000,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 93,155,600</b>

Others	
In-Kind Grant to the Provincial Government of Meta to carry out the activity: “Development of the Electoral Process in the Department of Meta – 2011 Local Authority Elections.”	23,250,000
Subcontract with <i>Lenguaje Ciudadano</i> to carry out the activity: “Citizen Electoral Observations, 2011 Local Authority Elections in municipalities with risk in the Department of Meta.”	59,600,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 82,850,000</b>

RFA (COLP\$50.400) was approved by USAID to finance in-country travel for Alvaro Balcazar y Ana Milena Puerta, to cities that are not included in the CELI-Central authorized geographical zones

Follow-on Activities from Existing USAID /Colombia Activities	
As requested under the CELI-Central contract, we have funded through the Activity Fund the costs incurred by the RCC Coordinator, Infrastructure Coordinator and Communication Strategy Coordinator. Expenses incurred from July to September 30, 2011 are hereby shown:	<b>\$ 124,017,793</b>
<b>Total Expenses incurred under the Activity Fund</b>	<b>COP\$314,973,593</b>
	<b>US\$ 174,985</b>

## ACTIVITIES PRESENTED TO THE REVISION AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE (REC)

The following is a summary of activity proposals submitted to the Revision and Evaluation Committee (REC) for approval. During this quarter, four (4) REC committees have been held, in which sixteen (16) proposals were presented and approved. The summary of proposals is outlined per committee.

### REC No. 1 (17 August 2011)

ACTIVITY	TYPE OF ACTIVITY	COP\$
Support to <i>Registradurías</i>	Pre-electoral Cycle	\$72,155,600
PNC Appropriation Events		\$30,000,000
Citizen Electoral Observations, 2011 Local Authority Elections in municipalities with risk in the Department of Meta.		\$ 59,600,000

### REC No. 2 (19 August 2011)

ACTIVITY	TYPE OF ACTIVITY*	COP\$
Construction of a sanitary unit in the <i>Internado Bello Horizonte</i> within the <i>vereda</i> , Cristalina de Losada (La Macarena).	Infrastructure	\$78,000,000
Construction of housing for health center promoter in the Puerto Chispas <i>vereda</i> , municipality	Infrastructure	\$48,000,000

of Puerto Rico – Meta		
Improvement in the road that runs from Mata de Bambú until the Alto Guaní school with a stretch of 2.5km (Vista Hermosa)	Infrastructure	\$88,000,000
Improvement in the road from Payandesal to the Brumas <i>vereda</i> in the Municipality of Mesetas, Meta.	Infrastructure	\$175,500,000
Renovation and maintenance of 40 hectares of coffee in the <i>veredas</i> La Reforma and El Jazmín in the Municipality of Mesetas, Meta	Productive	\$160,000,000
Support to the improvement and production of milk for the ASOPROGUEJAR Association, nucleus Santo Domingo – Municipality Vista Hermosa	Productive	\$ 33,365.000
Extension of the area planted in sugarcane to eight (8) hectares and strengthening of the production and commercialization of <i>panela</i> in the Municipality of Uribe, Meta	Productive	\$ 47,555,000
Support to the Provincial Government of Meta in the “Development of the Electoral Process in the Department of Meta – 2011 Local Authority Elections”	Pre-electoral Cycle	\$23,250,000
Support to municipalities in La Macarena: Puerto Rico in the Development of Citizen Forms for 2011 Elections for Local Authorities	Pre-electoral Cycle	\$3,000,000

\*These infrastructure and productive projects are pending approval from USAID/COTR given that there is a need to define property rights since they are located on state owned lands (*baldíos*)

### REC No. 3 (02 September 2011)

ACTIVITY	TYPE OF ACTIVITY	COP\$
Establishment of 92 hectares of cocoa under an agro-forestry system for 46 families in the Municipality of Puerto Rico - Meta	Productive Alliances	\$23,459,640
Strengthening production and commercialization of natural rubber for small producing farmers in Aplagori, Municipality of Mesetas, Meta.	Productive Alliances	\$ 175,050,125

**REC No. 4 (30 September 2011)**

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>TYPE OF ACTIVITY</b>	<b>COP\$</b>
Strengthening the economic dynamic of La Macarena through institutional and organizational support for the production and commercialization of cattle-ranching for small producers from ASOPEPRO	Productive Alliances	\$ 198,889,200
Support to the economic dynamic of La Macarena through organizational, business and institutional strengthening for the milk chain in the Municipality of Puerto Rico-Meta.	Productive Alliances	\$ 121,554,000

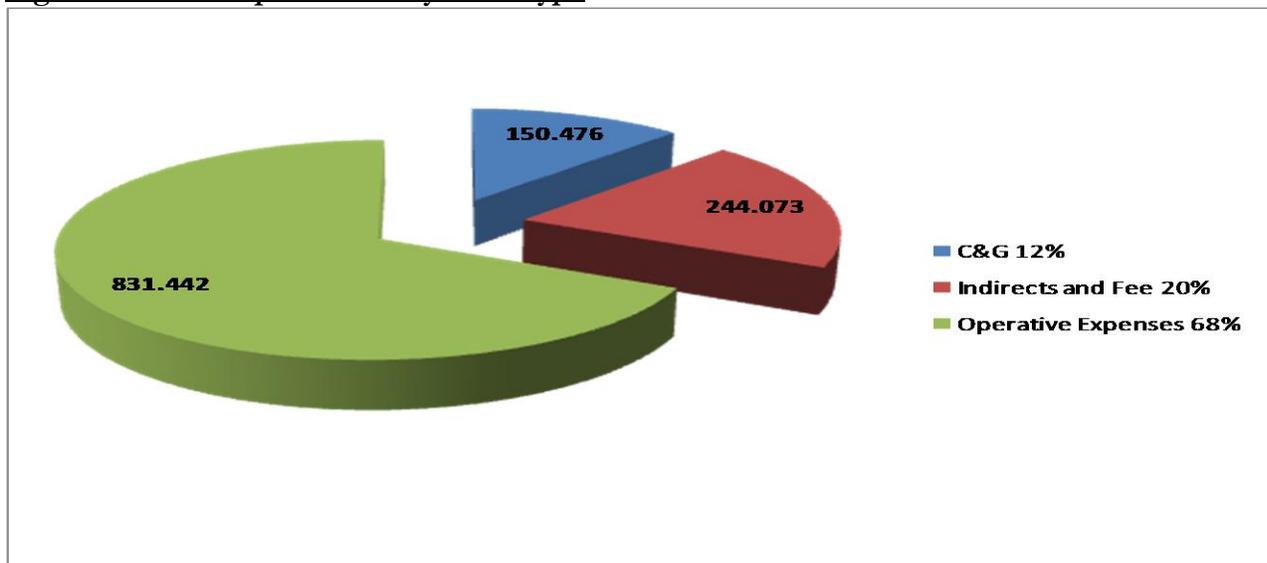
# V. FINANCIAL REPORT

## TOTAL CELI SPENDING

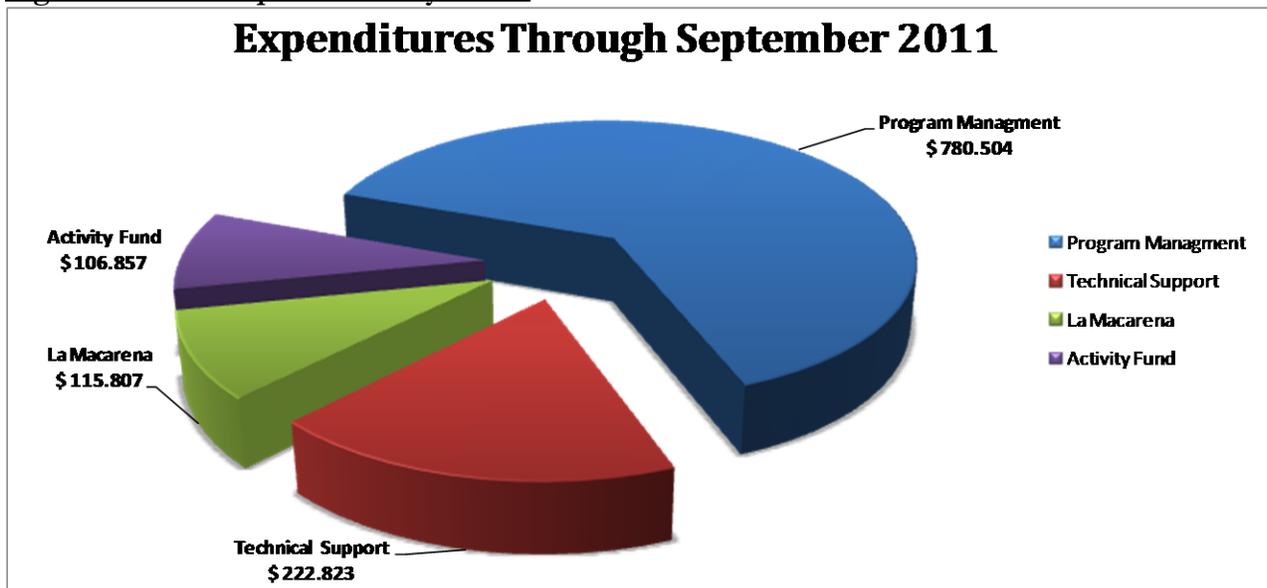
Through September 2011, CELI has spent \$1,225,989, of its total current obligated amount of \$19,000,000. The following quarter has a budget of \$ 4,146,124.40.

Of the \$1,225,989 spent through September 2011, twelve per cent (12%) has been spent in Contracts and Grants/ Activity Fund and eighty eight per cent (88%) in Operational Costs—as shown below:

**Figure 1: CELI Expenditures by Cost Type**



**Figure 2: CELI Expenditures by CLIN**

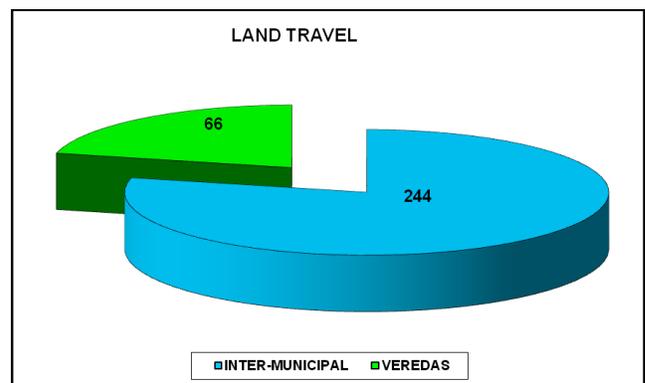
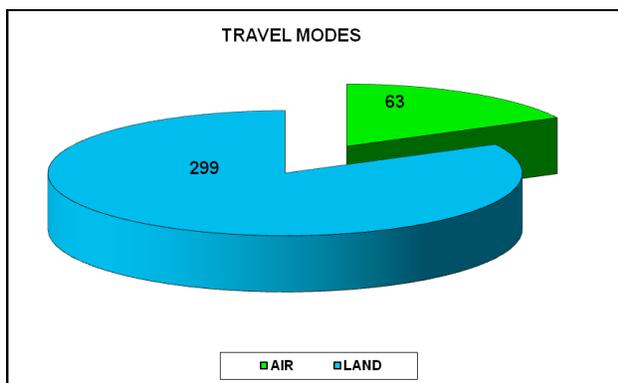


# VI. SECURITY

The following is a brief summary of activities carried out by the Risk Manager of Tetra Tech ARD during the Second Quarter of the CELI-Central contract:

- Possible offices were visited in the city of Florencia, Caquetá—one of which was selected as the ARD regional office.
- The electronic security of the Villavicencio office was designed, contracted and its installation was supervised. The security protocols were also reviewed for that office, and passwords and responsibilities were assigned.
- Two training sessions were held for ten employees from the Villavicencio Regional Office and one session was held for five employees in the Central Bogotá Office.
- A field visit to the municipality of La Macarena was conducted, in which work conditions were determined for the local field officer. Contact was also established with local policy and military authorities (Brigade No. 9 and 3).
- A field visit to the municipality of Vista Hermosa was conducted, in which work conditions were determined for the local field officer. Contact was established with local military authorities (Brigade No. 2).
- With the Security Advisor for CELI-Central, visits were made to military units to support PCIM's security classification process (*semaforización*) in Meta and Tolima.
- Geo-referencing was carried out, maps were elaborated and the results of the security classification were disseminated.

The following trips including air and ground travel were approved and monitored:



\*Security Related Incidents: Military authorities closed airspace in the Municipality of La Uribe (Meta) on Friday, September 23, 2010 due to combat in the area. This delayed the return of a Field Officer visiting the area.

# VII. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

The principal obstacle that the CELI-Central Team faced this quarter has been the formulation of the Annual Work Plan. As stated, Tetra Tech ARD submitted the first version to USAID on August 01, 2011. It was requested by USAID that changes be made to the existing material. Thus, the team has concentrated its efforts on producing a plan that clearly and sufficiently explains the nature and strategy of the program, the geographical focus, the program's components and methodologies as well as the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the implementation of consolidation activities. This initiative has required substantial amount of time, and we expect to have this issue resolved by the end of October with the presentation and approval of a final version.

There have been three obstacles regarding start-up preparation, with the first related to personnel. We realized that there is a need to hire additional staff to cover the extensive scope of work required to jump-start and maintain the CELI-Central Program. Tetra Tech ARD has been assessing these gaps at both the central and regional levels and discussing this with the COTR. The other setback to start-up operations involves the delay in name-checks received from the US Embassy. Tetra Tech ARD requested approval for office spaces in Florencia, Caquetá on August 8, 2011 and finally obtained the name-check approval on September 28, 2011. As for the office in Ibagué, Tolima, the information was submitted to USAID on August 25, 2011 and was also approved on September 28, 2011. The final difficulty in CELI-Central implementation has been the change in Tetra Tech ARD's Chief of Party (COP) in Bogotá. The transition from the former COP, Eduardo Fernandez to the Acting COP, Del Hegarty has taken place during a critical moment of the program's design and execution. To mitigate the difficulties associated with this transition, there has been an increase in teamwork and responsiveness among those within Tetra Tech ARD.

Since the second half of 2010, USAID has been working with the M&E Contract (DEVTECH) to produce an information system. This information system, MONITOR, was supposed to be available for USAID's partners as of August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011; but, some delays and problems postponed the original date—first to September and then to October 2011. These holdups caused some difficulties with environmental issues due to the fact that the old system was no longer working and the new one was yet to begin, forcing programs to adopt provisional mechanisms to request environmental approvals, which accounted for some problems. MONITOR has been confirmed to begin running in October and, although it has been tested and enhanced, it is very possible that, at first, some difficulties will be encountered and some improvements will have to be made to complete a full transition.

# VIII. ACTIVITIES EXPECTED TO BE CARRIED OUT

The following quarter will be a busy month for CELI-Central. Some of the anticipated activities include renovating and equipping the regional offices in Florencia and Ibagué, hiring additional staff members in Bogotá, Meta, Caquetá and Tolima, and completing the PMP and Annual Work Plan. Once both items have been approved by USAID, training on the PMP, M&E tools and the MONITOR System will be provided to the central and regional teams, and the Annual Work Plan will be presented to the RCCs.

Tetra Tech ARD will continue to move forward to provide pre-electoral support. On October 21, 2011, the PNCT Appropriation Event with elected mayors and councilors will be held in San Vicente de Caguán, Cartagena del Chairá and La Montañita. On the same day but in the municipalities of La Macarena, San Juan de Arama and Mesetas, forums will be organized between candidates to the Mayor's Offices, communities and local organizations. These forums will also take place in San Vicente de Caguán on October 12<sup>th</sup>, in Cartagena del Chairá on October 13<sup>th</sup>, in La Montañita on October 15<sup>th</sup>, in Rioblanco and Planadas on October 7<sup>th</sup> and in Chaparral and Ataco on October 8<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to pre-electoral support, CELI-Central will continue to support Consolidation Assemblies and carry out meetings with the germane actors to identify, formulate and implement activities to support rapid response, institutional and economic development and social infrastructure all within the framework of national consolidation.