

COLOMBIA

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

July 1 – September 30, 2011



**USAID Afro-Colombian and Indigenous Program
(ACIP)**

USAID AWARD No. 514-A-11-00004

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. BACKGROUND	3
2. HIGHLIGHTS	3
3. FORMULATION AND DESIGN OF WORK PLAN AND PROJECT ACTIVITIES	4
3.1. USAID technical areas.....	4
3.2. Government of Colombia institutional technical areas.....	5
4. LOOKING FORWARD – ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE FORTHCOMING QUARTER.....	7

THE USAID AFRO-COLOMBIAN AND INDIGENOUS PROGRAM

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT JULY 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

1. BACKGROUND

Through Cooperative Agreement No. AID-514-A-11-00004, dated August 30, 2011, ACDI/VOCA was awarded the Afro-Colombian and Indigenous Program (ACIP) with an effective life of project (LOP) from August 30, 2011 through August 28, 2016. While the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Colombia has been working with ethnic minorities for over a decade through its various sectoral programs, this is the first time that a stand-alone program is being developed for the sole purpose of improving the lives of Afro-Colombian and indigenous persons.

The purpose of this five-year \$61 million program is to improve the socio-economic status of Afro-Colombians and indigenous persons in target areas of Colombia. By the end of this program USAID - with the commitment of the Government of Colombia - expects to achieve the implementation of existing and supportive policies related to ethnic minorities; increased formal sector employment of ethnic minorities living in Bogota, Medellin, Cali, Quibdó, the San Andres archipelago and a Caribbean Coast cluster composed of Barranquilla, Santa Marta and Cartagena, and; improved governance in indigenous communities in La Guajira and targeted indigenous and Afro-Colombian territories in Cauca and Chocó; and, increased respect for cultural diversity and identity both among ethnic minorities as well as the general public.

This quarterly progress report covers the fourth quarter of the 2011 fiscal year, encompassing activities carried out from July 1 to September 30, 2011. **The effective date of the referenced cooperative agreement during this period was from August 28 to September 30, 2011.**

2. HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ USAID hosted a post-award conference at the US Embassy in Bogota on Monday, September 12, in order to review the referenced award with ACDI/VOCA and relevant US mission offices. In attendance representing ACDI/VOCA were Chief of Party (COP) Glenn Blumhorst, Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) Ricardo Amaya and Policy Component Manager Martha Chevarra; ACDI/VOCA Acquisitions and Assistance Specialist Gabriela Salazar participated by teleconference
- ✓ In mid-September, ACIP COP Glenn Blumhorst and Grants and Contracts Director Nicole Chao-Villegas permanently deployed to Bogota from the ACDI/VOCA home office. In addition, DCOP Ricardo Amaya was contracted as long-term local employee by ACDI/VOCA, thereby completing the placement of all three key personnel within three weeks of award
- ✓ Led by the ACIP Agreement Officer's Technical Representative (AOTR), ACIP senior management established and implemented a series of technical review and planning sessions with relevant USAID/Colombia Assistance Objective (AO) teams

- ✓ In coordination with the ACIP AOTR, ACIP senior management conducted a series of orientation and planning sessions with key ACIP stakeholders, including government of Colombia (GOC) and Afro-Colombian and indigenous organization representatives
- ✓ ACDI/VOCA commenced development of the ACIP Year One Work Plan, to be submitted to USAID on October 12, 2011, and the ACIP Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (PMEP), to be presented to USAID on November 12, 2011
- ✓ A two-month Letter of Authorization was negotiated and executed by ACDI/VOCA with Tetra Tech ARD in accordance with the approved ACIP program description in which the Policy Component (One) will be led by Tetra Tech ARD. A sub-agreement for the life of project (LOP) is currently being negotiated

3. FORMULATION AND DESIGN OF WORK PLAN AND PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Following the post-award conference with USAID, ACIP's management team focused efforts on elaboration of the Year One Annual Work Plan (to be submitted October 12), through a consultative process to confirm and clarify the interests of key stakeholder institutions for coordination and collaboration purposes. This exercise enabled greater definition of the program priorities and activities that ACDI/VOCA will plan, launch and implement in each ACIP component. In addition, meetings were held with representatives of the USAID program and support teams and other units responsible for the coordination of other programs. The main themes identified during the series of meetings were:

3.1. USAID technical areas

Environment

The main aspects of the new mission-funded environmental program, BIO-REDD+, were outlined and potential areas of program interfacing were identified, based on ACIP's rural target areas of Cauca, La Guajira and Choco. In La Guajira, ACIP will explore possible complementarities with the biodiversity strategy; in the department of Chocó, where there are 37 collective territories identified to advance specific initiatives, ACIP will seek to coordinate activities with the conservation strategy. Specifically, it is foreseen that there are potential scenarios where ACIP can support strengthening components for *cabildos* and *consejos comunitarios* entering the conservation program.

Land

The main instruments for data collection that the Land Unit uses were presented to the ACIP team. These instruments are expected to be used by ACIP in information management for activities developed in the process of "*formalizacion*" and land restitution. However, given that activities that take place in collective territories involve different procedures, it was agreed that the instruments for data collection will be reviewed and possibly revised as adjustments may be merited.

It was also recommended to take into account the Rural Development Law and the Rural Development Areas that the GOC is defining in order to coordinate regional efforts and allow Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities to be a part of this strategy.

3.2. Government of Colombia institutional technical areas

Ministry of the Interior

Jointly with representatives of the Dirección para Afrocolombianos e Indígenas (Directorate for Afro-Colombian and Indigenous Persons) and the Dirección para Consulta Previa (Directorate for Prior Consultation), the following priorities were identified:

- Support the legislative agenda, especially the new law of participation and representation. ACIP proposes to support “*socialización*” (awareness) activities and, once regulated, support local processes to achieve greater representation and legitimacy in the new instances that are defined for the dialogue between Afro-Colombian communities and the GOC.
- Follow-up of the Plan de Desarrollo, supporting the Ministry of Interior to implement proposed data collection instruments for SISMEG.
- Assist in the purging of indicators of the GOC institutions and strengthening the ability to track indicators that reflect better service to ethnic communities
- A mutually-agreed organizational strengthening approach, emphasizing common methodological focus and strengthening of the *consejos comunitarios*, given the established goal of strengthening 500 *consejos comunitarios* in Year One. Also noted as a priority was to provide support in the formulation of safeguarding plans
- Support for raizal organizational strengthening as well as enhancing opportunities for dialogue between raizales and the GOC
- Support the systematization of work methodologies for the prior consultation process and systematization training
- Implementation of activities within a context of “guaranteed rights” which gives a more accurate dimension to the activities to be developed and a more appropriate recognition of the work done with ethnic communities

Programa Presidencial para Comunidades Indígenas (Presidential Programs for Indigenous Communities)

Jointly with representatives of this entity, the following priorities were identified:

- Regarding the consultative process, it is proposed that a more academic dimension be taken, supporting national debates with the participation of universities and other sectors and generating knowledge in Colombia of successful international experiences
- A high priority is to support the development of a food security plan for all indigenous peoples
- A mutual agreement that the ACIP approach involve a comprehensive strengthening of governance in indigenous territories, coupled with activities to strengthen security, improve negotiation skills, self-help initiatives and effective management of government resource transfers

- The implementation of the differential approach, especially at the level of local and regional governmental entities
- Interculturalism, as related to ACIP Component Four - program officials identified as priority to establish processes of dialogue and cultural exchange for enhanced knowledge of indigenous cultures by Colombian society
- Support for indigenous youth, particularly at the rural level, for the prevention of illicit recruitment and the generation of productive activities and employment for young professionals. Priority was also given to support indigenous people settled in urban areas, especially in Medellin, Cali and Bogota, for the implementation and development of activities related to their traditions and customs
- For the territories in the departments in which ACIP will be present, key priorities are the following: supporting the implementation of agreements on land commitments in Cauca; accompanying the working group that the Ministry of Interior established with the Wayuu communities in Guajira; and supporting the three indigenous associations in Chocó, with emphasis on food security programs

Programa Presidencial para Comunidades Afrocolombianas (Presidential Programs for Afro-Colombian Communities)

The following activities were prioritized:

- Support for regional dissemination events and workshops for a better understanding of policies and programs to improve the levels of information and accessibility of Afro-Colombian communities
- Support for the identification of value chains that have significant potential for generating business and employment opportunities for Afro-Colombians
- Support for the regulation of the chapters that are pending regulation of Law 70 and support in the processing of the Law of Opportunities.
- Support in the process of improving the areas of Afro-Colombian representation
- Support for follow-up on the implementation of public policies by governmental departments for Afro-Colombian communities
- Support a national meeting of the *consejos comunitarios* to address the issue of mining and generate proposals from communities for dealing with the issue

Acción Social

ACIP management identified priorities jointly with the Ethnic Communities Advisor, including support and monitoring of the diversity policy of entities that have commitments in the CONPES 3660 and the implementation of a plan for differential approach and Do-No-Harm activities. Accion Social will also require ACIP support for the implementation phase of the Auto 005 once its elaboration is completed, and support for the development of the safeguarding plans of Auto 004. It was agreed that a formal meeting be held with the executive director of Accion Social as well as managers of key areas in order to determine common priorities and geographical areas. NB: Accion Social is in the process of organizational restructuring and re-defining priorities to be addressed in 2012.

Consejería para la Equidad de Género (CEG)

Jointly with the CEG, a collaborative process was established in order to support and establish a national policy of gender equity that the GOC plans to file in a CONPES

document requiring approval by March 2012. Toward this end, the CEG has been conducting regional and thematic workshops throughout the country with different women's groups to determine their priorities. As for Afro-Colombian and indigenous women, two national events will be held in November 2011 in order to capture priorities and characteristics of these communities. It was agreed that ACIP will support the methodological design and implementation of workshops for which technical meetings will be held in October and additional logistic support required will be determined.

Instituto Colombiano de Desarrollo Rural (INCODER)

Several priority areas of support were identified with INCODER. There is a need to systematize, on a national level, the collective title information which is responsibility of the directorate of ethnic communities. Due to the lack of filing systems, digitalization technology, accessibility and routine follow up, existing information documenting the support of processes is at risk; improvement and systematization will contribute to a more efficient and agile response. Likewise, information was obtained for the departments of Cauca, Chocó and Guajira in the pending process of formalization and restitution of collective lands of indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities; this information will allow ACIP to prioritize support on the issue of land for Year One of the Work Plan.

4. LOOKING FORWARD – ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE FORTHCOMING QUARTER

- Completion and submission to USAID of the ACIP Year One Annual Work Plan (WP)
- Elaboration and submission to USAID of the ACIP Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (PMEP)
- Complete execution of the ACIP start-up action plan, staffing plan, and procurement plan
- Establishment of the ACIP security plan
- Establishment and operation of ACIP offices in Bogota, Barranquilla, Cali, and Quibdo
- In accordance with an agenda to be established by USAID, conduct meetings to formally present the program to the main GOC entities such as Accion Social, the Alta Consejería para la Prosperidad Social, Departamento Nacional de Planeación (DNP), the Ministry of the Interior, Presidential Program for Afro-Colombian Communities, Presidential Program for Indigenous Communities, the Ministry of Agriculture-INCODER, and the Ministry of Culture
- In accordance with an agenda to be established by USAID, presentation of the program in cities and departments of the target area to the outgoing and incoming local governmental administrations
- Initiate component activities defined in the first quarter of the Year One Work Plan. A priority will be to work with local municipal and departmental governments elected on October 30 so that they can include in their Development Plans the priorities of Life and Ethno development Plans that *cabildos* and *consejos comunitarios* lead.

