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USAID Public Policy E-Bulletin

Achieving the Goal for Rural Development: The Transformation of the INCODER



INCODER has titled and awarded more than 1,450,000 hectares since August 2010
Photo: INCODER

With a 2013 annual investment budget of close to US \$250M, more than 700 staff members, 1,500 direct contractors and 32 regional offices throughout the country, the Colombian Rural Development Institute (INCODER) plays a key role in the success of the agrarian reform and rural development policy undertaken by the Government of Colombia. Since the last quarter of 2012, USAID Public Policy Program experts are supporting the INCODER's strategic transformation process.

The Program led two workshops with the Institute's senior management and more than twenty meetings with each of its five technical sub-bureaus. As a result, the INCODER decided to realign its management model through the adoption of four major strategic criteria: 1) Implement activities from a comprehensive rural development approach; 2) Prioritize critical populations and territories; 3) Establish integrated service delivery models; and 4) Expand livelihoods opportunities and capabilities for rural residents.

In order to implement this model, the INCODER is applying mechanisms that will generate greater impact at the community level. Priority has been given to the coordination for the provision of public infrastructure and services, the improvement of land-use planning, and the development of income-generation opportunities for rural populations via Comprehensive Rural Development Programs with a Territorial Focus (PDRIET). Currently, USAID provides technical assistance to three ongoing PDRIET pilots in prioritized areas of the country.

The Program has strengthened INCODER operations to improve the identification of beneficiaries in order to provide services oriented to meet population-specific needs. These services will target victims of the internal armed conflict, peasant organizations, rural children and women, indigenous peoples, as well as Afro-Colombian communities. Similarly, the Program's technical assistance to implement territorial-focused services will enable the INCODER to deliver its efforts to the four geographical areas most affected by poverty: the Pacific, Southern Caribbean, Orinoquia and Amazonia regions; as well as the areas most affected by armed conflict which comprise 58 consolidation municipalities.

The USAID Public Policy Program is providing additional technical

support to INCODER in the following areas: effectively award land titles throughout priority areas and populations; regulate and transfer irrigation districts; provide comprehensive assistance for productive projects in accordance with territorial characteristics; and award titles for historically recognized ethnic territories. A final challenge includes integrating INCODER services with national and regional service provision in the areas of social inclusion, health and education; this will be achieved through participation in Contrato-Plan mechanisms.

The INCODER has redefined its goals, including strengthened social organizations, access to markets and information, proper water management, rural job-generating chains and sustainable rural territories. Ultimately this will result in a change in the future of the children, women, adolescents and families in the Colombian countryside.

Workshop for journalists: strengthening the role of the media in transitional justice processes:

With the support from the USAID Public Policy Program, the Instituto de Ciencia Política Hernán Echavarría Olózaga (ICP) will hold a workshop on February 16 and 17 for journalists on “The Media and Transitional Justice in Colombia.” The media plays a fundamental role in promoting awareness of processes for ending internal armed conflicts and transitioning towards the establishment of peace and social reconciliation. They have the capacity not only to inform, but also to marshal public opinion and participate actively in consensus building and the legitimization of agreements achieved by the parties to the conflict. Therefore, USAID and ICP are inviting a group of key national and international journalists who are responsible for covering issues of peace, justice, victims and public safety. Social communication and journalism professors and final-semester students will also participate. It is expected that approximately 35 national journalists and regional media representatives (who have offices in Bogotá) will attend the workshop.

The workshop will focus on sensitizing participants to the importance of the Victims’ Law, a comprehensive victims’ policy in the framework of the armed conflict, and the concrete problems and challenges that Colombian society will have to face in relation to the transitional justice system. It will consist of six segments on the following sub-topics: (1) General aspects of transitional justice in Colombia; (2) Transitional justice from the ground up; (3) Truth, memory, and forgiveness; (4) The economic and institutional impact of the implementation of transitional justice mechanisms; and (5) Communication measures and victims of the armed conflict.

Workshop speakers will include well-known lawyers, think tank leaders, experts and journalists, including: Camilo Sánchez (Coordinator, Transitional Justice, Center for Law, Justice and Society Studies - De Justicia), Clara Rojas (Director, País Libre), Gloria María Borrero (Executive Director, Corporación Excelencia en la Justicia), Jesús Abad Colorado (Simón Bolívar National Journalism Prize Winner for best news coverage, three years running), Juanita León (Director, La Silla Vacía), Diana Calderón (Director, Caracol Radio Information Service and Director, Hora20), Tatiana Rincón (Professor, Rosario University), and Adolfo Chaparro Amaya (Professor, Rosario University).

Place: Instituto de Ciencia Política Hernán Echavarría Olózaga (ICP)
Adress: Calle 70 No. 7A-29 Bogotá - Colombia

Date: February 16 (8am-5pm), and 17 (9am-12m)

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