



USAID
DEL PUEBLO DE LOS ESTADOS
UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA



Atención a las Víctimas de Minas Anti-personales Afectadas por el Conflicto en Colombia

Landmine Activities for Victims of the Conflict in Colombia

Funding provided by the
United States Agency for International Development
Award No. 514-A-00-08-00311-00

**QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT
JANUARY 1, 2009 – MARCH 31, 2008**

Submitted by implementing agency:

MERCY CORPS

USAID/Colombia

Program Summary

Grant Amount: \$3,799,935

Program Period: Aug. 28, 2008 – Aug. 27, 2011

Geographic Coverage: 22 departments total of which six priority departments include Antioquia, Norte Santander, Nariño, Caquetá, Cauca, Meta

Number of Beneficiaries: 600 landmine survivors, 60,890 total including PWDs

Partner Organizations: Main Partner - Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas (CCCM); Other Partners and Cooperation Organizations - International Committee of the Red Cross; Corporación Paz y Democracia; Hospital Universitario de Nariño; Hospital Maria Inmaculada; Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje (SENA); Universidad Don Bosco (El Salvador)

This report was prepared with funds provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development. The opinions expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Agency for International Development

Executive Summary

During the period covered by this quarterly report, a major focus has been on the development of alliances in the field, thereby facilitating close coordination with landmine actors for providing assistance to new landmine accident survivors as well as guaranteeing access to services for survivors of previous accidents. In this sense, the USAID sponsored landmine program has facilitated assistance to 48 new landmine survivors in the six priority departments plus 26 additional survivors in 16 other departments.

In relation to the public policy strategic area, Mercy Corps and CCCM concentrated on carrying out an assessment regarding the effectiveness of the Departmental Action Against Landmine Committees in the six priority departments, as well as identifying opportunities for policy impact at the departmental and national level. In Addition, it is important to highlight Mercy Corps' coordination with the Presidential Program of Integrated Action Against Landmines which is evidenced by joint actions at the field level, especially in the departments of Nariño, Antioquia, and Caquetá.

Activities in the integrated rehabilitation strategic area for landmine survivors have advanced significantly, most notably in strengthening the national capacity for providing prosthetic and orthotic (P&O) services. In support of the SENA training center for prosthetic and orthotics specialists, Mercy Corps is sponsoring university training of three level 1 and level 2 professionals at the University of Don Bosco in El Salvador. These trained P&O specialists will be instructors in the SENA program. Another notable achievement in this area has been the set up and equipping of the Integrated Rehabilitation Center of Nariño with advanced technology equipment. This rehabilitation center will provide all-inclusive services of the highest quality standards to people injured by landmines, armed conflict and other people with disabilities in the department of Nariño and the southwestern region of Colombia. Likewise, progress has been made in monitoring processes for patient services in this center, which will be inaugurated in mid-April 2009. The strengthening of Mercy Corps' and CCCM's alliances with hospitals to provide rehabilitation services to landmine survivors in the departments of Antioquia, Cauca, Caquetá, Nariño, and Norte de Santander is also notable. These alliances have begun the process of forming inter-institutional working networks for the complete rehabilitation of landmine survivors.

In terms of socio-economic integration, Mercy Corps has formed alliances with the National Secretary of Pastoral Social and the Mi Sangre Foundation. Through these alliances, action groups have been established to formulate and monitor socio-economic integration strategies in the departments of Antioquia, Nariño, Cauca, and Meta. These strategies have been strengthened by the development of methodologies that frame activities for social well-being rather than in purely economic terms. This has been developed in Antioquia, where an inter-institutional group was formed between the main organizations working in this sector.

Mercy Corps has designed a cross-cutting monitoring and evaluation strategy which forms the basis for analyzing the effectiveness of the delivery of services and support to landmine victims and their families. Furthermore, the monitoring and evaluation system is integrated with other systems utilized by PAICMA (IMSMA) and iMMAP (OASIS) for a greater efficiency in gathering and analyzing information related to assistance to landmine victims. This information will be one of the important inputs in the formulation of public policies at both the departmental and national levels. The program is finishing up the process of carrying out a baseline study which will allow Mercy Corps and its partners to evaluate the impact of program interventions at various levels.

Lastly, through this USAID program, Mercy Corps and CCCM have been positioned the principal coordinators for attending landmine victims in the field. The multiple venues for dialogue and discussion organized and undertaken by Mercy Corps and CCCM in the departments of Antioquia, Nariño, Cauca, Caquetá, Meta, and Norte de Santander demonstrate the leadership role supported by USAID.

Acronyms

Acción Social	Social Action Program of the Presidency of the Republic of Colombia
ACIN	Asociación de Cabildos del Norte del Cauca
CCCM	Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas
CIREC	Centro Integral de Rehabilitación de Colombia
CINAMAP	National Inter-Sector Commission on Antipersonnel Mine Action
COP	Colombian Pesos
EC	European Community
ELN	National Liberation Army
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
FARC	Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia
FENALCO	National Commerce Federation
FOSYGA	Social Solidarity and Guaranty Fund
GOC	Government of Colombia
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICBF	Colombian Family Welfare Institute
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IIAC	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IOM	International Organization on Migration
IMSMA	Information Management System for Mine Action
IPSO	International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics
JICA	Japanese International Cooperation Agency
MC	Mercy Corps
MRE	Mine Risk Education
OAS	Organization of American States
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OCHA	United Nations Organization for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OAS	Organization for American States
PAICMA	Presidential Program for Integrated Action against Antipersonnel Mines
P&O	Prosthetic and Orthotic
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
SENA	National Learning Service
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UXO	Unexploded Ordinance

1. Implementation of Program Activities

1.1. Coordination with Key Actors

During this period, Mercy Corps and CCCM have concentrated their efforts in establishing and strengthening alliances with national and departmental government entities. This responds to the need to coordinate activities carried out by the landmines program with other initiatives in the landmine sector that are underway in priority departments, within the framework of the Departmental Action Against Landmine Committees. The aim of these alliances is to strengthen local and regional government entities and above all, to harmonize efforts to achieve a greater impact for beneficiaries.

Likewise, coordination efforts have evolved within specific technical sectors and geographic areas, focusing on the objectives and priorities of the USAID landmines program and meeting the needs of landmine survivors, their families and communities. Specific coordination activities carried out by Mercy Corps, CCCM and other partners are detailed in the following table:

STRATEGIC AREA	DEPT.	ENTITY	COORDINATION INITIATIVES
General Program Coordination	National	Integrated Landmine Action Program PAICMA (Vice Presidency)	Presentation of activities and results by geographic and strategic area.
Public Policy	Antioquia	Departmental Action Against Landmines Committee (CDAICMA)	Strengthening the Committee in concepts, methodologies and tools for the socioeconomic integration of landmine survivors in the department. Mechanisms for improving the management of information regarding landmine survivors. Design of mechanisms for sharing information about program beneficiaries.
Public Policy	Caquetá	Departmental Action Against Landmines Committee (CDAICMA)	Support to the process of reactivating the (dormant) Departmental Action Against Landmines Committee in Caquetá.
Public Policy	Cauca	Departmental Action Against Landmines Committee (CDAICMA)	Initiative to reinvigorate the Committee and support for the design of planning tools for the Departmental Committee in terms of information and attention to landmine victims in Cauca.
Public Policy	Meta	Secretary of Departmental Government	Support for information sharing about landmine victims.

Public Policy	Nariño	Departmental Action Against Landmines Committee (CDAICMA)	Strengthening the departmental committee and its capacity to plan for health care, rehabilitation, and socioeconomic integration of landmine victims in Nariño. Support to information management on landmine victims and healthcare in Nariño.
		Departmental Health Institute of Nariño – ISDN	Design and implementation of mechanisms for information management on landmine patients through the Emergency Regulation Center–
Public Policy	Norte de Santander	Departmental Action Against Landmines Committee (CDAICMA)	Support to the planning process for assistance to landmine survivors in the department of Norte de Santander, and design of mechanisms for sharing information on landmine survivors.
		Integrated Early Warning System – SIAT	Support for the inclusion of landmines into the Integrated Early Warning System and the identification of and assistance to landmine survivors in communities affected by the conflict in the municipalities of Tibú and El Tarra.
Integrated Rehabilitation	National	National Learning Service– SENA	Negotiating a framework agreement for the development of a prosthetics and orthotics training program.
Integrated Rehabilitation	Antioquia	Alas de Nuevo Rehabilitation Center– Departmental Hospital San Vicente de Paul	Establishing an alliance to study the legal framework regarding assistance to landmine victims and the formation of a network of rehabilitation centers.
Integrated Rehabilitation	Caquetá	Departmental Hospital Maria Inmaculada	Establishing agreements regarding the location of the new integrated rehabilitation center in the department of Caquetá. Initiated the architectural design with technical assistance from the Regional Government.
Integrated Rehabilitation	Cauca	Hospital Susana López Valencia – Popayán	Identifying coordination mechanisms with the hospital’s new rehabilitation center. Establishing alliances for the study of the legal framework regarding assistance to landmine victims and the formation of a network of rehabilitation centers.
		Departmental Hospital San José	Agreement for information sharing regarding assistance to landmine victims in the department. Contact: Rodrigo Quiñones, Scientific Subdirector of the hospital.

Integrated Rehabilitation		University of Cauca	Support for the training of rural doctors on the route of assistance for landmine victims as part of the mandatory training program for doctors, paramedics, nurses, and health personnel.
Integrated Rehabilitation	Meta	Departmental Hospital of Meta	Technical support for the design of the rehabilitation center that will be constructed by the Regional Government.
		International Committee of the Red Cross	Coordination for assistance to landmine victims regarding information and support for accessing rights and the route of attention for healthcare.
Integrated Rehabilitation	Nariño	Departmental University Hospital of Nariño	Support and technical assistance for the construction and operation of the Integrated Rehabilitation Center in Nariño. Equipping the Rehabilitation Center of Nariño with latest technology for physiotherapy, rehabilitation, and neurology.
		Departmental Health Institute of Nariño	Support for the training of rural doctors on the route of assistance for landmine victims as part of the mandatory training program for doctors, paramedics, nurses, and health personnel.
		International Committee of the Red Cross	Coordination for assistance to landmine victims regarding information and support for accessing rights and the route of attention for healthcare.
		Acción Social	Case-by-case information management for humanitarian assistance to new landmine victims.
Integrated Rehabilitation	Norte de Santander	Departmental Hospital Erasmo Meoz	Establishment of initial contacts for immediate medical assistance to new landmine victims through the hospital's emergency center.
		International Committee of the Red Cross	Coordination for assistance to landmine victims regarding information and support for accessing rights and the route of attention for healthcare. Colombia: Head of the ICRC Subdelegation.
		Cardio-neuro-muscular Rehabilitation Center	Technical support for the implementation of a protocol for integrated assistance for the physical rehabilitation of landmine victims.
Socioeconomic Integration	Antioquia	Departmental Action Against Landmines Committee (CDAICMA)	Establishing and providing technical leadership to the sub-committee for socioeconomic integration, composed of the Governor's Office of Antioquia (Government Secretariat, Office of Productivity and Competitiveness), SENA, Handicap International, PAICMA, Corporación Paz y Democracia, and Fundación Mi Sangre Foundation.

		Foundation Mi Sangre	Negotiating an agreement for support to 20 income generation initiatives in the municipality of Cocorná, department of Antioquia, in partnership with CCCM, Tejido Humano, and PAICMA.
Socioeconomic Integration	Caquetá	National Secretary of Pastoral Social	Negotiating agreements for information sharing regarding landmine survivors and for establishing methodologies and approaches for follow up assistance to beneficiaries of Pastoral Social's income-generation initiatives.
Socioeconomic Integration	Cauca	National Secretary of Pastoral Social	Negotiating agreements for information sharing regarding landmine survivors and for establishing methodologies and approaches for follow up assistance to beneficiaries of Pastoral Social's income-generation initiatives.
		Geneva Call	Establishment of an alliance to develop joint activities for socioeconomic integration with specific support in the area of psychosocial attention in the North Cauca sub-region.
		Departmental Association of Community Action Groups	Establishing an alliance to develop joint activities in socioeconomic integration through a network of community action groups
Socioeconomic Integration	Meta	National Secretariat of Pastoral Social	Negotiating agreements for information sharing regarding landmine survivors and for establishing methodologies and approaches for follow up assistance to beneficiaries of Pastoral Social's income-generation initiatives.
Socioeconomic Integration	Nariño	National Secretariat of Pastoral Social	Negotiating agreements for information sharing regarding landmine survivors and for establishing methodologies and approaches for follow up assistance to beneficiaries of Pastoral Social's income-generation initiatives.
Socioeconomic Integration	Norte de Santander	Departmental Action Against Landmines Committee (CDAICMA)	Support for the development of methodologies and concepts for the socioeconomic integration of landmine survivors in Norte de Santander.

2. Progress Towards Objectives

The two primary program objectives are outlined below. After each objective, the indicators and outputs are specified along with a statement on progress made to date.

Objective 1 *Increased access to and availability of quality assistance services for beneficiaries.*

R.1.1 Formulation of public policies that provide timely and quality emergency assistance, rehabilitation services and the social and economic integration of beneficiaries

Mercy Corps and CCCM identified different mechanisms for identifying best practices and steps required in order to formulate coherent public policies for assisting landmine victims at the departmental level.

Activities

1.1.2. **Strengthening Departmental Action Against Landmines Committees:** The following activities have been undertaken during the past quarter:

An assessment of the current status and capabilities of the Departmental Action Against Landmines Committees in each of the six priority department: The first step was to identify types of practices developed by the Committees, as well as their appropriateness and effectiveness. Depending upon the outcome of the assessments, priorities were established for the development of public policies taking into consideration the following three factors: 1) Landmine survivor needs for integrated assistance, 2) The level of participation of key actors in the Departmental Committees and the types of activities carried out and 3) Perceived importance of the Committee in addressing important landmine issues. Mercy Corps and CCCM worked with the Committees to identify priority measures to strengthen their capacity to analyze information on landmine activities and utilize it for developing public policies.

Identify appropriate mechanisms for institutional linkages at the departmental level: In reference to the assessment above, the Mercy Corps/CCCM team provided leadership and technical support in order to draw in support from a wide range of actors at the departmental level to become active members of the Committees. These actions are illustrated in the following table:

DEPT	LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT
Antioquia	<p>Appraisal: The CCCM and Mercy Corps advanced on their consultations with the technical secretariat of the Antioquia’s Departmental Action Against Landmines Committee. To date, one of the main conclusions is the need for to develop improved institutional linkages, concepts and practices for the socioeconomic integration of landmine survivors in Antioquia. These conclusions were drawn with the consensus of all Committee members, agreeing on the Socioeconomic Integration of Survivors as the priority strategic sector in 2009.</p> <p>The Antioquia Departmental Action Against Landmines Committee is the most advanced in terms of participation of important landmine actors in the department including landmine survivors, governmental entities at both the departmental and national levels, as well as national and international NGOs. This Committee may be characterized as a dynamic forum that takes a proactive role in decision-making processes for providing assistance to landmine survivors. The Committee counts on the support of the National and Departmental Government and assumes financial and technical commitments.</p> <p>The department has an Information Management System that is linked directly with PAICMA’s Information Management System for Mine Action – IMSMA. However, there is an evident need to develop stronger analytical skills and improve information management. Therefore, this will also be a priority area for assistance from Mercy Corps and CCCM.</p> <p>Institutional linkages: It is clear that Antioquia’s Departmental Action Against Landmines Committee has strong institutional linkages and is a strong coordination body. Consequently the strengthening of the Committee for advancing policy formulation is a priority for the USAID landmines program.</p> <p>Activities: Mercy Corps and the CCCM are now leading a subcommittee for the strategic area of socioeconomic integration of landmine survivors, in the framework of the Departmental Committee for Mine Action. The group has advances on the definition guidelines and criteria for the group’s</p>

work.

Caquetá **Appraisal:** Caquetá's Departmental Action Against Landmines Committee was created in 2005 by departmental decree. Unfortunately, it has existed in name only and has not been an effective mechanism for coordination on landmine issues. It met only twice during the past three years and no decisions or agreements were reached towards the improvement of the assistance of landmine survivors. Mine Action and Victims' Assistance organizations with a present in Caquetá meet on a one-to-one basis, but are not linked with a wider coordinating body. Due to this situation, it will be a program priority for Mercy Corps and the CCCM to reactivate the Departmental Committee. To accomplish this, the determined support of PAICMA is required.

Caquetá does not have any kind of Information Management System that could relate to other mechanisms. Information is scattered among organizations and there are few skills or tools for analysis.

Institutional Linkages: The lack of regular and inclusive institutional linkages in Caquetá underscores the urgency for the reactivation of the Departmental Committee. Nevertheless, given the immediate need to coordinate actions for the benefit of landmine survivors, additional steps need to be taken while the reactivation process is underway. Mercy Corps and the CCCM will lead training and capacity building processes as well as information sharing events, and at the same time encourage landmine actors to actively participate in the Departmental Committee.

Activities: Mercy Corps and the CCCM have led four meetings intended to share and link activities with local actors, including the Pastor Social, ICRC, SENA and the Departmental Hospital María Inmaculada. A first meeting of the Departmental Committee took place on March 20, 2009 where Mercy Corps and the CCCM presented the USAID Program to a unified audience.

Cauca **Appraisal:** Cauca's Departmental Action Against Landmines Committee may be characterized as a mechanism focused more on political interest rather than an integrated approach to landmine survivors and other landmine issues. However, departmental landmine actors agree that now is an opportune time to revive the Committee and recognize that it presents an appropriate institutional coordination mechanism for the department. In terms of information management, Cauca does not have any type of landmine information system.

Institutional Linkages: Although it is important to strengthen the Cauca's Departmental Action Against Land Mines Committee as well as to support its efforts, additional actions are required in order to promote the active participation of Cauca's indigenous population taking into account their principles of autonomy, life plans and justice system. Consequently, it is important not only to empower the Departmental Government but also include the indigenous and Afro-Colombian organizations in the region. Mercy Corps and CCCM will promote initiatives that are culturally appropriate and all inclusive and ensure that regional organizations representing minority groups are advanced in a participatory manner.

Activities: Mercy Corps and CCCM have led two meetings to link with local actors such as ACIN, Geneva Call, Pax Christi, the Asociación de Juntas de Acción Comunal, SENA, the Departmental Hospital San José and the Municipal Hospital Susana Lopez Valencia. Mercy Corps and the CCCM will organize at least one quarterly meeting during 2009. Community meetings shall also take place together with other project activities such as first aid training undertaken with the support of partner, Corporación Paz y Democracia.

Meta **Appraisal:** Meta's Departmental Action Against Landmines Committee meets sporadically and does not include the active participation of any governmental entities. The Committee is mainly composed of NGOs and the participation of the government is limited to the Office of the Secretary of Government. There are no specific plans of action regarding assistance to landmine survivors, though there is an approved departmental budget of nearly US\$750,000 for landmine activities.

A comprehensive information management system does not exist and the little information that is available is incomplete and primarily concentrated in military institutions that do not share neither analyze it from a humanitarian perspective.

Institutional Linkages: Mercy Corps' main goal for Meta is to position the issue of landmine survivors assistance from a humanitarian perspective, not only within humanitarian organizations and the departmental government but also within affected communities. In these sense, Mercy Corps and the CCCM will work to define and develop different training and capacity building scenarios in order to strength the local capacities and develop institutional linkages through a variety of mechanisms. An analysis of information form a humanitarian approach will also be a priority.

Activities: Mercy Corps and CCCM have developed cordial relationships with departmental representatives in charge of landmine action issues, as well as with other organizations present in Meta (ICRC, Foundation Mi Sangre, UNHCR and Social Pastoral. A meeting with all landmine action stakeholders is planned during the first week of June with an objective of coordinating and linking landmine action activities during the second semester of 2009.

Nariño

Appraisal: Nariño's Departmental Action Against Land Mines Committee is active and counts on the decisive support of the national and departmental governments particularly agencies such as the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF) in addition to national and international NGOs. Although there is a regular participation of governmental representatives, a more robust support of landmine action from a wider range of departmental government agencies is desirable.

Nariño's Departmental Committee provides assistance to landmine victims based on needs aligned with technical criteria. Nonetheless, the capacity of the Department is overwhelmed due to the magnitude of the landmine problem. Unfortunately, the workload falls principally on one person that must oversee all activities related to landmine issues including planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Consequently, Mercy Corps needs to strength the capacity of the landmine actors in order for them to act in unison and support one another.

Institutional Linkages: Due to the high level of activity as well as the large number of landmine accidents in Nariño, the Committee performs an important function for coordinating actions within the Department. Mercy Corps and CCCM have focused its efforts on strengthening the Committee which follows Departmental priorities for international cooperation and humanitarian assistance. The Committee has initiated an information sharing process based on the agreement and commitment of all members. However, specific challenges remain in terms of organizing and analyzing information for the design and implementation of public policies related to landmines in Nariño.

Activities: Mercy Corps and CCCM are active members and participate regularly in the Departmental Committee meetings. Mercy Corps and CCCM have as one of its objectives to facilitate planning and analysis to enhance the skills of the individual members as well as the Departmental Committee itself. These activities include information management and analysis, monitoring, and policy formulation and will be carried out closely with PAICMA and other key actors starting in June 2009.

Norte de Santander

Appraisal: The Departmental Action Against Landmines Committee of Norte de Santander is one of the most active committees in the country. It is composed of departmental and national government entities, national and international NGOs and it is clearly oriented to improve the effectiveness of assistance to landmine survivors through joint planning and monitoring. It is important, however, to continue developing mechanisms for sharing information and coordination. A more rigorous analysis of the situation of landmine survivors is needed as well as greater integration with other variables related to the humanitarian crisis in the department.

Institutional Linkages: The Committee has provided an excellent forum where all organizations share information and coordinate activities. Mercy Corps and the CCCM are committed to

continue participating in this Committee and utilizing it as an example with other departmental committees.

Activities: Mercy Corps and the CCCM actively participated of the planning activities and over the past quarter have been the main facilitators for the formulation and implementation of socioeconomic integration strategies that are now being implemented through local Cardio-Neuro-Muscular Rehabilitation Center and SENA, with the technical assistance of the Mercy Corps/CCCM Program Coordinator in the department.

R1.2. Expanded coverage of emergency services for beneficiaries in high risk areas (Nariño, Caquetá, Antioquia, Norte de Santander, Cauca and Meta)

Activities

As mentioned in last Quarter's report, Cauca and Nariño have been prioritized as the departments where First Aid workshops will take place during the first year of the Program. During this quarter, the following coordination activities have been undertaken in Cauca, where the first training activities are being carried out:

1. **Design of appropriate materials for training:** Two training manuals were developed. The first one is a Mine Risk Education Community Support Manual, intended to provide basic guidance to participants in methods to reduce risk and accidents caused by landmines, unexploded ordnance and/or other explosive remnants of war. The second one is a specific Community First Aid Manual that has been designed to provide an overview of life saving techniques in order to reduce injury and improve the likelihood of a better mobility after recovering from the accident. Both materials shall be distributed to all of workshop participants.
2. **Identification of beneficiary communities:** For the department of Cauca, seven workshops have been programmed and will take place in five of the six sub-regions. Selected areas and municipalities are:
 - a. **Popayán:** 20 community leaders, including 6 first aid trained professionals will attend a first workshop intended to train community multipliers. The persons trained in this workshop will provide assistance for the follow-on sessions and as trainers of trainers, will constitute a valuable asset for increasing first-aid response capacity in the departmental.
 - b. **Northern Subregion:** Caloto will be the lead, or focus municipality for workshops that will provide training to 50 community leaders of the municipalities of Buenos Aires, Caloto, Corinto, Guachené, Miranda, Padilla, Puerto Tejada, Suárez and Villa Rica.
 - c. **Central Subregion:** Cajibío will be the lead municipality for workshops that will provide training to 50 community leaders of the municipalities of Cajibío, El Tambo, La Sierra, Morales, Piendamó, Popayán, Rosas and Timbío.
 - d. **Southern Subregion:** Argelia will be the lead municipality for workshops that will provide training to 50 community leaders of the municipalities of Almaguer, Argelia, Balboa, Bolívar, Florencia, La Vega, Mercaderes, Patía, Piamonte, San Sebastián, Santa Rosa and Sucre.
 - e. **Oriental Subregion:** Sotaró will be the lead municipality for workshops that will provide training to 50 community leaders of the municipalities of Caldono, Inzá, Jambaló, Páez, Puracé, Silvia, Toribío, Sotaró and Totoró.
 - f. **Pueblos Indígenas del Norte del Cauca:** Given the specific procedures and processes adopted by indigenous communities in the department of Cauca, and taking into consideration the evident need for a culturally sensitive approach, Mercy Corps, CCCM and implementing partner Corporación Paz y Democracia have designed two

specific workshops for the Governors of indigenous *cabildos* in the municipalities of Jambaló, Toribío, Caldon and Inzá.

Workshops have been already set to take place between May 25 and June 14 2009.

R1.3. Access to rehabilitation services for beneficiaries is increased in the departments of Nariño and Caquetá

Activities

Significant progress was made towards the achievement of this result during this reporting period. The most important advances were made in the department of Nariño, where the Integrated Rehabilitation Center has rallied landmine actors around a clear and tangible goal for the Department as a whole. In addition, agreements were negotiated with SENA and signed with University Don Bosco to strengthen Colombia's P&O capacity to serve landmine survivors, victims of the armed conflict and people with disabilities (PWD). The activities carried out in this strategic area are highlighted below:

1. Support to the development of regional capacities for integrated rehabilitation: During the reporting period, Mercy Corps focused its attention first and foremost in Nariño, and secondly in Caquetá.

Negotiating and signing an agreement for technical cooperation and financial support with the Hospital Universitario de Nariño. Mercy Corps and CCCM signed an agreement for US\$ 1,311,800 of which approximately 80% of the financial support is contributed by the Hospital from its own resources. The agreement includes the construction of the Rehabilitation Center premises, purchase and donation of medical equipment, technical assistance and training, and information management design and implementation. The main objective of this agreement is to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities, including landmine survivors and other victims of the armed conflict in the south-western region of Colombia.

Design of models for integrated rehabilitation to people with disabilities, particularly landmine survivors and other victims of the armed conflict in Nariño and Caquetá with the potential for replication in other regions of Colombia. Mercy Corps, CCCM and the Hospital Universitario of Nariño defined key criteria for the integrated assistance to patients within the context of a bio-psycho-social approach taking into account the different emotional, physical and cultural traits of the beneficiaries. Hospital personnel linked to the Rehabilitation Center have initiated training processes that include the issue of landmines survivors' rights and needs. Moreover, agreements were reached to establish the minimum requirements for personnel for the Rehabilitation Centers in Nariño and Caquetá. In Nariño, the Rehabilitation Center has 15 hospital staff members in various medical specialties such as physiatrist, otorhinolaryngology, ophthalmology, physiotherapy, speech therapy, social work, occupational therapy, psychology and nursing.

Physical premises construction where the infrastructure for the operation of the Rehabilitation Center was successfully completed by the end of March. The Center consists of 450m² with a hydrotherapy area, a mechanotherapy area, and respiratory therapy room, a speech and audiometry cabin/room and an ophthalmology room.

The acquisition of high technology medical equipment where Mercy Corps organized a tender to purchase equipment that will be donated to the Hospital Universitario de Nariño. Mercy Corps rehabilitation and procurement coordinators selected the most advanced equipment available in Colombia with the latest technology in neurology, ophthalmology, mecanotherapy and hydrotherapy. The equipment was shipped to the hospital in Nariño and will be installed next

quarter. Hospital personnel will be trained in its use upon installation. The equipment selected has been carefully balanced to maintain equilibrium between human care and technological advance which is critical for an integrated approach to rehabilitation.

Although the Integrated Rehabilitation Center has not yet begun to function, it is already recognized as one of the most advanced of its nature in the country and is rapidly becoming a reference center for the region. The US Ambassador plans to inaugurate the center in April with the participation of high level dignitaries from Bogotá and the region.

In Caquetá, Mercy Corps and the CCCM continue to negotiate an agreement and administrative arrangements that guarantee funds from the departmental budget to construct the physical infrastructure within the Hospital María Inmaculada.

2. Support to the development of national capacities in P&O services: According to the agreements reached in November 2008, and after successfully selecting the three candidates for the Level 1 P&O Training in San Salvador, the first academic period initiated in January 4, 2009. Specific agreements were signed with each of the students as well as with University Don Bosco.

Monitoring the students' well-being and education process has been maintained through regular phone meetings and a visit has been programmed during the next quarter.

3. Support to the development of departmental capacities in P&O services: The Program team has started an inventory of P&O services and practitioners in each one of the priority departments. This research has been undertaken by each departmental coordinator in association with Rehabilitation Centers and Health Institutes. A finalized list will be consolidated in mid June.

R.1.4. Community leaders ensure that beneficiaries and their families are socially and economically integrated into their communities

Activities

1.4.1 Evaluation of 50 productive programs introduced by CCCM during 2007: The 50 beneficiary families of the income generation initiatives undertaken with CCCM support are located in the departments of Antioquia, Cauca and Santander. A first approach to evaluate the effectiveness of the income generation activities has already been developed. This information will serve as a departure point for a more comprehensive psychosocial and economic evaluation.

The first stage which includes the definition of methodologies and concepts for the evaluation has been defined. The evaluation will be impact oriented taking into account cultural, environmental and social factors at the community level utilizing a participatory approach, thereby taking a holistic approach to evaluating the socio-economic integration of landmine survivors and their families. The results of these evaluations will be utilized to tailor the second set of assistance for these beneficiaries, and designing an effective program of social and economic integration for new families.

Mercy Corps and CCCM selected a group of independent consultants to design and apply tools to perform the evaluation. The group includes a sociologist, psychologist and an economist that will start the evaluation during the first week of June.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation

Primary monitoring and evaluation activities undertaken this quarter focused on team core M&E capacity-building, refining key Landmine Program M&E tools (work and indicator plans) as well as baseline preparation and field implementation in the 6 priority departments.

3.1. M&E Capacity-Building: The Mercy Corps DM&E Coordinator, with the important support and input from the Mercy Corps and CCCM technical teams, organized and facilitated an integrated M&E workshop in Bogotá from March 2nd-6th. Eleven departmental coordinators from the six priority departments (Antioquia, Nariño, Caquetá, Cauca, Norte de Santander and Meta) and representatives from the Hospital Universitario de Nariño and Hospital Maria Imaculada from Caquetá participated in the workshop which covered key material including:

- Review of the three Program Strategic Lines (Public Policies, Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Integration) and components with time for clarification of questions and concerns.
- Presentations and participatory activities regarding the eight important considerations for program design and constructing a common language and key terms for effective M&E during the life of the Program.
- The importance of monitoring for effective Program implementation and maximize positive impacts on the lives of beneficiaries; plus a Program feedback loop to resolve problems and facilitate improvement, transparency and accountability to Landmine survivors, their families, as well as with USAID and other contributing donors.
- Review of the importance and logical sequence of key M&E tools and their components (e.g. the log frame, work plan, indicator plan, baseline data, progress reports, evaluations), as well as assessment of current M&E methods used by the department Coordinators, CCCM and Mercy Corps including the identification of solutions and how to incorporate monitoring into the Program workplan.
- Group work between the department Coordinators and the CCCM and Mercy Corps core Program teams to develop detailed department-level workplans and timelines based on the three strategic lines and that include key M&E activities.
- Participatory construction and refinement of the consolidated indicator plan using primary Program indicators approved by USAID based on the following format:

Objective: Increased beneficiary access and availability to quality assistance services					
Result: Formulation of public policies for beneficiary emergency assistance, rehabilitation services and socio-economic integration					
Indicator	Definition of key terms and utility for program Management	Baseline data, process indicators, targets	Data collection, sources, methods	Frequency of data collection	Person(s) responsible

- Orientation on key concepts, components and the importance of the baseline study for M&E during the life of the Program, including Terms of Reference and baseline design development that encompass key question construction based on program indicators, data collection and analysis methods, and Landmine Program baseline report development and dissemination to key stakeholders.
- The USAID CTO visited the Workshops when it was in progress.

After the M&E Workshops, subsequent meetings were held with USAID Program CTO and M&E representative to refine the Work Plan and select key indicators for USAID mission strategic objectives for incorporation into the Program indicator plan and the M&E system for impact measurement and Program reporting.

3.2. Baseline Preparation and Implementation: In preparation for the baseline implementation, the DM&E Coordinator worked with the CCCM technical and local partner Fundación Paz y Democracia teams in Medellín, Antioquia to define three primary information sources for baseline data collection: 1) survivors and their families, 2) rehabilitation centers/hospitals, and 3) landmine information systems – e.g. PAICMA and CCCM.

Having identified the three primary baseline data sources, the team constructed a pilot survey to apply to landmine survivors and their families. The survey was developed utilizing key questions that referred to the indicator plan developed during the M&E workshop with the departmental coordinators and Nariño and Caquetá hospital staff. During this process, the team was able to share with Andres Davila of PAICMA the key steps and methodologies Mercy Corps and CCCM are using for the baseline process and construction of the M&E system to ensure close collaboration and the development of compatible methodologies with PAICMA.

On March 20th, the M&E coordinator, CCCM and Paz y Democracia teams implemented a test of the survey draft with seven landmine survivors in Cocorná. The activity focused on determining the effectiveness of the survey in terms of form, content, appropriateness and effectiveness for capturing baseline data on integrated survivor assistance. Time was also taken to hold a focus group and plenary with the survivors and their families to hear their perspectives, comments and recommendations for modifications to the survey. Following the field test in Cocorná, the COP, M&E, Rehabilitation, Socio-Economic Integration and CCCM Coordinators made final revisions to the survey in preparation for roll-out to the six priority departments.

Baseline implementation was initiated with the survey and selection of samples (20%) by department according to number of landmine survivors reported by PAICMA between 2003 and 2008 in the six priority departments (please refer to table below).

Department	Civilian landmine victims registered 2003-2008 (PAICMA)	Sample by department (20%)
Antioquia	359	72
Nariño	214	43
Meta	210	40
Cauca	71	15
Caquetá	56	11
N. Santander	71	15
Total	981	196

The CCCM department coordinators received copies of the detailed terms of reference¹ with an explanation of their respective samples and survey implementation instructions. Each of the six department coordinators developed a detailed budget, timeline and logistical plan for the survey field implementation for review and approval. The COP, M&E and CCCM technical coordinators provided further orientation and technical support by telephone, email and through field visits with the department coordination for the implementation of the surveys. Currently a tool is being developed to analyze baseline data collected with the surveys.

¹ Including baseline objectives, key program dates, existing data sources, key questions, primary methods and tools, the data collection and analysis plan, definition of team composition/roles and responsibilities, timeline and budget.

During the course of the survey development and implementation, the Mercy Corps and CCCM team identified key questions, information sources, methods and tool development. Special attention and planning were paid to capturing additional baseline information on landmine public policies, landmine survivor rehabilitation and socio-economic integration from the information sources – namely the rehabilitation centers and information systems (PAICMA, CCCM), respectively. The remaining baseline activities for these other information sources are planned for the following quarter, during which time all baseline data will be analyzed, reported and utilized to develop the Program M&E system for measuring impacts and disseminating strategic information for landmine survivor assistance policy advocacy.

3.3. Other Important M&E Activities: The Mercy Corps and CCCM teams are working together to streamline communication protocols and information management for M&E and Program reporting from the departmental to central levels. Drafts of reporting formats were developed and are being tested based on Program objectives, results, activities and key indicators to facilitate this synchronization process.

4. Challenges Influencing the Implementation of the Program

The Program has had a high level of acceptance in all the departments where activities are taking place. The different departmental coordinators in Antioquia, Caquetá, Cauca, Meta, Nariño and Norte de Santander are coordinating well with all stakeholders.

One of the major challenges is the difficulty to have a clear picture of the magnitude of problems that landmines survivors face in terms of medical assistance, psychosocial support and social and economical integration. The lack of coherent information makes a comprehensive analysis of the needs of landmine victims difficult. This situation, however, has been addressed through the development of the baseline process. Mercy Corps and the CCCM consider this to be a pioneering analytical approach that will provide a greater understanding of the situation of landmine survivors in Colombia.

Another important challenge is the lack of qualified personnel at the departmental level. The lack of institutional and technical capacity in the departments limits the attention and time that government and non-governmental entities can give towards landmine issues and attending to survivor needs. In addition, despite the clearly identified needs of landmines survivors, plus the determination of local actors, the USAID Landmine Program activities in the departments of Meta, Caquetá and Cauca have not progressed as much as in Nariño, Antioquia and Norte de Santander primarily due to government attitudes that result in the lack of political will towards issues related to landmines survivors. In the end, the responsibility clearly lies with the Departmental governments to attend to victim needs.

In the department of Caquetá, this situation has generated substantial delays in the initiation of the construction of the Integrated Rehabilitation Center in Florencia. The regional government and its health departments have not met the technical and financial commitments and therefore limited advances were reported during this quarter. Moreover, Hospital María Inmaculada has not assisted landmine survivors with the attention required, and charging for services performed. Mercy Corps and the CCCM have specified a deadline with Governor's Office and the Caquetá's health department in conjunction with Hospital María Inmaculada to finalize and sign the agreement by May 1st, 2009.

5. Next Quarter Activities

In terms of the formulation of public policies for Integrated Assistance of Landmine Victims, the following activities have been scheduled:

1. Design training and capacity building plans with Departmental Action Against Landmine Committees in Antioquia, Nariño and Norte de Santander.

2. Identify information flowcharts (routes of attention) regarding victim assistance in the departments of Nariño, Cauca, Meta, Caquetá, Norte de Santander and Antioquia.
3. Awareness and training workshop towards the integrated assistance and rights of landmine victims in the department of Caquetá.

Regarding the expanded coverage of emergency services for beneficiaries in high risk areas, first aid workshops will be carried out in the departments of Cauca and Nariño, reaching no less than 430 persons from the most affected municipalities and communities.

For the achievement of result 1.3, access to rehabilitation services for beneficiaries, the following activities will take place in the departments of Nariño and Caquetá during the next quarter:

1. Inauguration and the initiation of operations of the Integrated Rehabilitation Center in Nariño. Staff will be trained and monitoring mechanisms will be designed and implemented with Hospital personnel and landmine survivors.
2. Signing Cooperation Agreements with Caquetá's Governor's Office and Hospital María Inmaculada.
3. Completion of the first academic cycle of the future P&O instructors with SENA's training center at the Universidad Don Bosco and the initiation of the first cycle of on-line distance courses for 15 P&O practitioners in the departments of Antioquia, Cauca, Caquetá, Meta, Nariño and Norte de Santander with the same institution.

Regarding socioeconomic integration, the completion of the evaluation of the 50 income generation initiatives is anticipated. The evaluation will allow Mercy Corps and CCCM to design strategies toward the strengthening and/or reformulation of more effective and high impact socioeconomic integration initiatives.

In reference to monitoring and evaluation, priority activities for the following quarter will focus on providing support and technical assistance to the CCCM departmental coordinators for information management and analysis of the baseline data captured with the landmine survivor baseline survey. In early May, a tool for information management of the baseline survey will be finalized and distributed to the six departmental coordinators (Antioquia, Nariño, Meta, Norte de Santander, Cauca and Caquetá) to enter survey data.

The remaining baseline tools will be finalized and implemented for other information sources with the rehabilitation centers and PAICMA's information systems, respectively, to capture the remaining baseline data focused on landmines and integrated survivor assistance.

Once the consolidated baseline information has been collected, verified and analyzed in early June 2009, a comprehensive report will be developed and disseminated. The baseline report and findings report will be shared with USAID, Mercy Corps and CCCM technical teams, as well as summaries of key data and findings to the CCCM departmental coordinators and when appropriate, with landmine survivors and their families who are Program beneficiaries.

The baseline information, final work and indicator plans and collaboration between the Mercy Corps, CCCM, IMAPP and PAICMA teams will contribute towards the creation of the Program M&E plan, and overall expanded information system for tracking integrated assistance to landmine survivors and the creation of public policies at the national level in Colombia.

-end-