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

Landmine Activities for Victims of the Conflict in Colombia

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QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT
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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)

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The opinions expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the
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Acronyms

Acción Social	Social Action Program of the Presidency of the Republic of Colombia
ACIN	Association of Indigenous Cabildos of Northern Cauca (Asociación de Cabildos de Norte de Cauca)
CCCM	Colombian Campaign Against Mines (Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas)
COP	Colombian Pesos
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
EPS	Health Provider - Empresa Prestadora de Salud
FARC	Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia
FOSYGA	Social Solidarity Guarantee Fund
GOC	Government of Colombia
HUDN	University Hospital of Nariño
ICBF	Colombian Family Welfare Institute
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IDESAC	Departmental Health Institute of Caquetá - Instituto Departamental de Salud de Caquetá
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
INVIMA	National Institute for Drugs Surveillance - Instituto Nacional de Vigilancia de Medicamentos
ISPO	International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MC	Mercy Corps
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
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
UDB	Universidad Don Bosco
UN	United Nations
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UXO	Unexploded Ordinance

Executive Summary & Key Achievements

During this quarter, Mercy Corps, and partners - the Colombian Campaign Against Landmines (CCCM), the University Don Bosco and the Departmental Hospitals of Nariño and Caquetá, among others - served over 6,330 beneficiaries and strengthened 22 organizations in the departments of Antioquia, Cauca, Caquetá, Meta, Nariño and Norte de Santander.

Health and Rehabilitation Activities. More than 4,500 persons with disabilities accessed high quality rehabilitation services from the Rehabilitation Centers in Nariño and Caquetá, while 52 patients with lower limb amputations benefited from high quality prosthetic devices. The prosthetic limbs were provided by technicians who participated in the On-line Distance Training provided by the University Don Bosco. The project continued to increase the national pool of certified prosthetic and orthotic (P&O) providers. This quarter, 14 students successfully passed the P&O certification course, 27 students finished their first training module, and seven students failed to pass one or two subjects, while six failed to pass the module. Mercy Corps is closely monitoring and supporting students with lower academic performance to ensure their ultimate success in the program. Additionally, 26 P&O laboratories in 12 cities successfully registered with the National Institute for Drug Surveillance – INVIMA.

A total of 65 community members from the department of Nariño improved their abilities to respond to emergencies through community first aid training workshops. These training events increased the capacity of communities to respond to landmine and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) related emergencies.

Socio-Economic Integration. This component provided 50 beneficiaries access to seed capital in the departments of Cauca, Antioquia and Norte de Santander.

Public Policy Strengthening. Lastly, Mercy Corps supported the development of appropriate public policies and procedures that ensure high quality assistance to landmine survivors and other vulnerable populations in Nariño, Norte de Santander and Caquetá. Through this initiative, Mercy Corps and CCCM helped governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to identify the health needs of landmine survivors and measures that the government should take to ensure that those needs are fulfilled.

For example, Mercy Corps holds regular meetings at the departmental level with Mine Action Committees and Secretariats of Health, to help these institutions understand their role and responsibilities in ensuring the fulfillment of victim's rights to access basic services. As a result of these efforts in Norte de Santander, the departmental institute for health has funded a pilot project to launch an information system that tracks access to services by landmine survivors. Another success of the project's advocacy efforts includes the addition of landmine victims as a category of public health threat in Norte de Santander's Epidemiological Monitoring System (COVE - Comité de Vigilancia Epidemiológica). The inclusion of this category increases the visibility and support for landmine victims, and raises the profile of this threat as a public health issue.

Finally, Mercy Corps and CCCM have played an important role in the transfer of information between national and local levels regarding Resolution 1319, which outlines requirements for good practices for the manufacture, elaboration and adaptation of prosthetic and orthotic devices. The project is ensuring that local institutions such as institutes of health understand their responsibilities under this resolution and are able to contribute to the monitoring and improvement of P&O services.

1. Indicators

1.1. Leahy Fund Indicators for this quarter

Indicator	2009-2010 Cumulative	Achievements Q3Y'11	Cumulative 2011	Cumulative 2009-2011
Number of persons trained	712	372	698	1,410
Number of persons served	10,177	3,070	6,330	16,507
Number of institutions strengthened	58	0	52	110

1.2. Mission Indicators for this Quarter

Performance Indicators	LoP Goal	2011 Annual Work Plan (AWP) target	2009-2010 Cumulative	Q3FY'11	Q3 (AWP Target)	Q3/AWP Goal %	Cumulative 2011	2009-2011 Cumulative	% Cumulative /LoP Adj
1. Vulnerable persons benefited	17,160	5,259	11,901	4,938	0	n,a	20,420	32,321	188.4%
IDPs benefitted	-	-	303	24	0	n,a	284	587	n.a
Landmine survivors benefitted	600	0	904	22	0	n,a	107	1,011	168.5%
Other persons with disabilities	16,560	5,563	10,997	4,916	0	n,a	20,313	31,310	189.1%
Afro-Colombians assisted	18	0	60	25	0	n,a	46	106	588.9%
Indigenous assisted	18	0	74	20	0	n,a	122	196	1088.9%
2. Socio-Economic reintegration	370	174	196	856	0	n,a	1,079	1,276	344.8%
Jobs created	175	45	130	51	0	n,a	265	395	226.0%
Jobs strengthened	195	129	66	805	0	n,a	814	880	451.4%
Beneficiaries graduating from vocational training	33	27	6	0	0	n,a	8	14	42.4%
Beneficiaries with access to education	85	64	21	0	0	n,a	163	184	216.5%
3. Health	38,209	0	50,684	19,664	0	n,a	77,400	128,084	335.2%
Beneficiaries with access to health care	534	0	541	7	0	n,a	110	651	121.9%
Beneficiaries with access to rehabilitation services (survivors + family members + other persons with disabilities)**	38,209	0	50,684	19,664	0	n,a	77,400	128,084	335.2%
4. Public Policy	720	265	455	64	0	n,a	651	1,106	153.6%
Persons benefited from institutional strengthening	720	265	455	64	0	n,a	651	1,106	153.6%
5. Other Indicators							0		
Private sector funds leveraged (US \$000) ^{*(1)}	-	-	\$ 108,0	\$ 0,0	\$ 0,0	n,a	\$ 0,0	\$ 108,0	n.a
Public Sector funds leveraged (US \$000)	-	-	\$ 14,8	\$ 12,8	\$ 0,0	n,a	\$ 282,0	\$ 296,9	n.a
Women beneficiaries	2,768	564	2,204	1,216	0	n,a	2,126	4,330	156.4%
Men beneficiaries	10,397	0	14,379	0	0	n,a	0	14,379	138.3%
Children beneficiaries	2,768	1,654	1,114	772	0	n,a	824	1,938	70.0%
People trained	1,890	1,178	712	372	0	n,a	698	1,410	74.6%

*(1) TRM: 1,810

**The calculation of this indicator is the projection of direct beneficiaries (Rehabilitation Center), multiplied by the average family (4 people)

1.3. Program Indicators for this Quarter

Indicator	Description of Indicator	LoP Goal	Achievements Q3FY'11	Cumulative 2009-2011	% of Adjusted LoP
1	Number of persons from mine/armed conflict-affected communities that increase their capacity as first responders to mines/UXO and other ERW related emergencies.	630	0	658	104%
2	Number of landmine survivors, people with disabilities, and other victims of armed conflict who access rehabilitation services at the two new rehabilitation centers established in Caquetá and Nariño.	38,209	19,664	128,084	335%
3	Number of health care staff employed by the Hospital Maria Inmaculada and Hospital Universitario de Nariño rehabilitation centers that have been trained in specific needs of beneficiaries and that provide assistance.	30	0	39	130%
4	Number of Colombian P&O technicians trained and certified as Cat II technicians by ISPO.	30	0	30	100%
5	SENA has the technical capacity and suitable methodologies to train new P&O technicians that comply with International quality standards by ISPO.	3	0	3	100%
6	Number of socioeconomic working groups established and coordinating activities in order to strengthen socioeconomic initiatives with landmine survivors.	6	0	4	67%
7	Number of landmine survivors and their families that access income generation initiatives that improve their quality of life.	200	51	200	100%
8	Number of Departmental Committees for Integrated Mine Action that have defined work plans and information flowcharts for integrated assistance to landmine survivors and advocacy related to mine action public policies.	6	0	5	83%
9	Number of health care providers that improve management practices thereby increasing access to health care and rehabilitation services to landmine survivors, victims of armed conflict and other people with disabilities.	6	4	45	750%

2. Progress Towards Objectives

Program Objectives are outlined below with progress made between April 1st and June 31st, 2011 by Result and Activity.

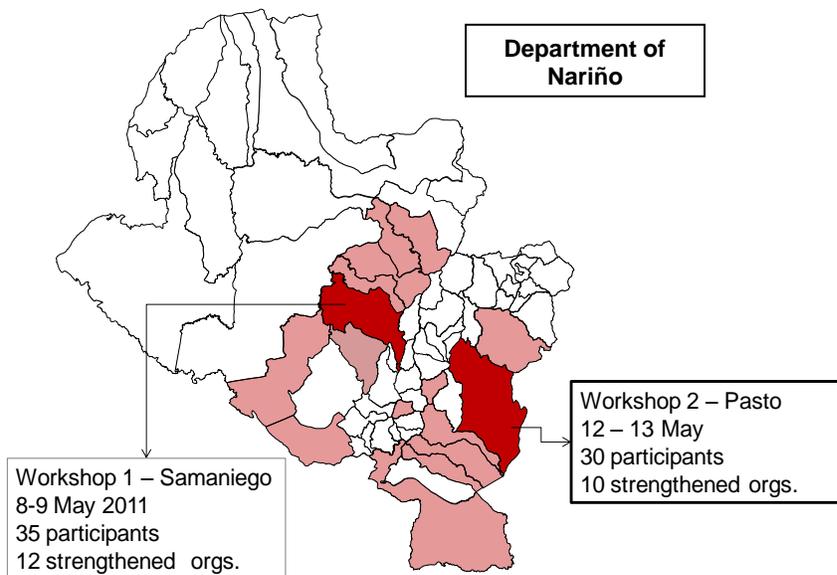
Objective 1: Landmine survivors, victims of armed conflict and other persons with disabilities in the departments of Antioquia, Caquetá, Cauca, Meta, Nariño and Norte de Santander have better quality and access to rehabilitation services by the end of the Program (Sept. 2011).

Result 1.1. 332 leaders from landmine and armed conflict-affected communities in Antioquia, Caquetá and Nariño, have an increased capacity as first responders to emergencies.

Activity 1.1.1. Improve the capacity to respond to emergencies caused by mines, IED (Improvised Explosive Devices), UXO (Un-Exploded Ordinance) and other explosive remnants of war, through first-aid participatory workshops with affected communities.

Between May 8th – 14th, 2011, Mercy Corps facilitated first aid workshops in the department of Nariño, following the design used for prior events. Coordination and information sharing activities with local health authorities in Nariño ensured that the goals for participation were successfully met. Sixty-five community members from 20 municipalities benefited from the two workshops, which covered the following agenda:

1. Mine action basic concepts
2. Design of local evacuation and assistance routes for landmine victims
3. First Aid basic knowledge
4. Landmine Accident simulations – evaluation practices, attitudes and knowledge
5. Simulation results evaluation
6. Development of Action Plan proposals



Nariño's Health Institute's high capacity and desire to coordinate first aid workshops made it possible to involve participants from

Map 1. First Aid Workshops in the Nariño Department – April – June 2011

humanitarian actors such as the Colombian Red Cross and the Civil Defense brigades, in addition to indigenous organizations such as the Camawari and Qullasingas – Pastos Indigenous Council and the Social Pastorate of Ipiales and health institutions from all mine-affected municipalities. Many workshop participants identified a systemic lack of emergency and pre-hospital medical services that these isolated workshops have a limited ability to respond to. However, the project works with communities to develop "route of attention" plans that enable communities to develop emergency response plans in the absence of more established and reliable emergency services. These plans identify key community members that can transport victims in emergencies, and take on other emergency care roles in the context of limited resources.

Workshop No. 1 – Samaniego

A total of 35 community members from the municipalities of Samaniego, Santa Cruz de Guachavez, Policarpa, Cumbitara, Los Andes, Rosario, Cumbal, Ricaurte, La Llanada, Leiva and El Tambo attended the two-day workshop, held on May 8th and 9th at the Hospital of Samaniego. A significant number of participant communities included those heavily affected by the presence of mines and UXO, such as El Decio, Las Cochas and El Sande reservation.

Workshop No. 2 – Pasto

Thirty community members from the municipalities of Pasto, San Lorenzo, Buesaco, Tuquerres, Ipiales Puerres, Córdoba, Imues and Iles participated in the first aid workshop held in the city of Pasto, held on May 12th and 13th. The workshop included the participation of health personnel with extensive experience assisting victims of war. Through the implementation of the workshop, Mercy Corps and CCCM identified that poor hospital conditions and lack of training for pre-hospital assistance as a problem. Moreover, rural doctors who attended the training lack the specialized knowledge and skills to properly treat landmine and other conflict victims.

Additional needs identified by workshop participants included:

- All participants recognized the importance of the workshops but emphasized a need for follow-up training to continue strengthening the knowledge and skills acquired.
- Participants believe it is important to have additional people trained at the community-level on landmine, UXO and combat injury first aid. Many requested more events like the workshops so that new community members can participate.
- Participants expressed a need for added time to the two-day workshop to clarify and reinforce the extensive information provided.

While the Pasto workshop participants revealed many needs that require more than short-term workshops, the participants were encouraged to develop community-level “routes of attention”. These plans help communities plan for emergencies in the context of scarce resources, which provide an immediate way to reduce the risks of landmine injuries and other public health threats.

Workshops in Antioquia: Mercy Corps carried out an assessment with other organizations in the field to assess the need for first aid workshops in the department of Antioquia. Activities included conducting interviews and holding conversations with local health authorities. The Antioquia department Health Secretariat, with funding from the EU and the Colombian Government, has carried out 24 first aid workshops and will implement 15 more in mine-affected municipalities. Given that Mercy Corps has already reached the goals for this activity (630 beneficiaries), Mercy Corps requested permission to forgo workshops in Antioquia considering that current community needs are already being met.



Result 1.3. Increased national capacity to provide quality prosthetic and orthotic (P&O) services, according to international standards.

Activity 1.3.1. Training of 30 P&O technicians from the departments of Antioquia, Caquetá, Cauca, Meta, Nariño and Norte de Santander through on-line distance learning courses.

As emphasized in prior reports, training P&O technicians is crucial for strengthening local capacity to provide quality prosthetic and orthotic devices. In response to this need, Mercy Corps has expanded training themes to include laboratory strengthening and health authority and institutional capacity improvement to ensure provision of integral rehabilitation services. The following section provides further detail on these developments.

Online P&O training - Evaluation Module 1

The first evaluation of the P&O training module facilitated by Universidad Don Bosco (San Salvador, Salvador) took place in Bogotá, between April 3rd and 7th, at the National Learning Service (SENA). It was conducted by Professors who flew from San Salvador to Bogotá exclusively for this purpose. Technical support was provided by GTI (German Cooperation) – SENA. All Professors have ISPO I Certifications. It is important to mention that one week before the initiation of the Evaluation Sessions, a student from Cartagena announced that, due to a difficult health condition he was forced to discontinue the training.

The first evaluation session took place from April 4th to 9th with 13 students. The second session was held April 11th to 16th with 14 participants.

To facilitate the evaluation process and generate greater impacts for this activity, Mercy Corps helped identify and refer 52 patients in need of a change of prosthesis. Each patient was provided with transportation, food and accommodation in Bogotá. Given the fact that this activity was not initially budgeted for the Program, it was made possible by the financial support from international agencies and institutions such as UNICEF, the Health Institutes, P&O technicians and individual donors. Approximately \$28,730 USD in funding was leveraged from multiple sources for this activity.

Main results of this activity include:

- ✓ 27 P&O technicians from 10 departments and 13 different cities took their practical and written examinations for the First Module of the training.
- ✓ 14 P&O technicians successfully passed their First Module of Training (50%).
- ✓ 7 students failed one or two courses (26%).
- ✓ 6 students failed to pass the first module of training (24%).
- ✓ 52 persons with disabilities with lower limb amputations benefitted from new prosthetic devices adapted by the students, with close supervision from instructors.
- ✓ The SENA program representatives presented the positive results of the P&O Program to national authorities, such as the Presidential Program for Integral Mine Action, the Ministry of Social Protection and the Ministry of Government and Justice.



P&O On-line distance training – Module 1 Evaluation, April 2011

Main Challenges:

- Two students decided not to continue their studies after failing the first academic module. In total, five students, or 17% of technicians have not continued the training process. This situation highlights the difficulties for carrying out capacity-building at a departmental level to meet Program goals and benchmarks.
- The four students who failed to pass the module but will continue with the training process have learning challenges caused by lack of study skills and economic hardships. These students will need closer follow-

up and support. Mercy Corps has worked with each student to identify the problems that impede their academic performance and to design personalized improvement plans.

- All students reported difficulties understanding biomechanics and anatomy. In general, there is need for greater support for these topics using more interactive teaching materials.

Training Process – accompaniment and follow-up with online P&O students: As reported in the previous quarter, Mercy Corps has continued follow-up support to students enrolled in the activity through regular field meetings and online with Skype.

During the meetings Mercy Corps followed up with 27 P&O students regarding laboratory registration status and to clarify questions regarding the courses. The first follow-up meeting with students from Nariño took place at the Nariño Health Institute on May 13, 2011. Four technicians from Pasto and one from Ipiales and Tumaco participated in the following activities:

Provision of prosthesis to beneficiaries: Students provided 12 lower limb prosthesis to 11 patients in Nariño who served as models for the evaluation activity. The activity included the participation of department health officials, Nariño Government Secretariat, departmental and municipal hospitals (Hospital Universitario de Nariño, Los Angeles Children’s Hospital and San José Hospital) and relatives of the beneficiaries.

Feedback on the evaluation process: Mercy Corps’ staff members utilized a participatory process to analyze student academic performance and needs for improvement. All students have agreed to design and execute improvement plans with support from the Mercy Corps and CCCM teams.

Meetings were held in all Program departments. Results are summarized in the following chart:

DEPARTMENT	No. TECHNICIANS	RESULTS	NOTES
Antioquia 17 May 2011	2 (Medellín)	2 students passed Module 1. Delivery of four prosthetic devices to beneficiaries. Dirección Seccional de Salud (Health Authority), Rehabilitation Committee and Hospital San Vicente, Corporación Paz y Democracia and Fundación Mi Sangre are familiar with the training process and its results.	Regarding academic performance, both students passed, however, they acknowledged difficulties understanding anatomy. The students recognized the important role of their fellow colleagues in overcoming these difficulties through peer support.
Norte de Santander 24 May 2011	3 (Cúcuta)	2 students failed their first academic module. 1 student failed two courses. 6 beneficiaries received their prosthetic devices at an event with the Health Institute of Norte de Santander, local organizations and health providers.	The 2 students who failed will repeat the course. All students agreed to design improvement plans and to have study sessions twice a week.

following laboratory registration. It was apparent during these meetings that neither the Ministry nor INVIMA have a clear action plan or knowledge needed to certify quality of assistance and laboratory registration under Resolution 1319. Mercy Corps and CCCM have played an important role in the transfer of information between national and local levels regarding Resolution 1319, which outlines requirements for good practices for the manufacture, elaboration and adaptation of prosthetic and orthotic devices. The project is ensuring that local institutions such as institutes of health understand their responsibilities under this resolution and are able to contribute to the monitoring and improvement of P&O services.

Objective 2: Landmine survivors and their families in the departments of Antioquia, Caquetá, Cauca, Meta, Nariño and Norte de Santander have socio-economic integration alternatives according to their community context and capacities by the end of the Program (September 2011).

Result 2.2. 200 landmine survivors and their families accessed income generation initiatives that improved their quality of life.

Activity 2.2.1. Promote the access of 157 landmine survivors and their families to income generation initiatives.

Following medical evaluations and entrepreneurship trainings, Mercy Corps supported beneficiaries with small business design and investment plans in the departments of Antioquia, Cauca and Norte de Santander. A total of 50 seed capital funds were distributed as follows:

DEPARTMENT	MUNICIPALITY	SEED CAPITAL	NO. DIRECT BENEFICIARIES
Norte de Santander	Cúcuta	2	2
Cauca	Toribío	22	22
Antioquia	Medellín	6	10
	San Carlos	8	8
	Montebello	5	5
	La Unión	3	3
	Carmen de Viboral	4	4

Cauca

Mercy Corps and the CCCM prioritized indigenous communities affected by mines and armed conflict as beneficiaries of income generation initiatives. As stated in prior reports, Cauca's indigenous communities are reluctant to increasing the inclusion of people with disabilities. Therefore, before starting activities, the team carried out awareness-raising activities on disability issues and combat victims. One of the most important outcomes of this process has been the visibility and integration of people severely affected by explosive devices. As expressed by indigenous authorities:

"Exclusion is a reality that shames us ... we never take into account disabled people, since we believe they are a punishment to our community ... now that we have seen them, visited them in their homes and talked with them we now know they are not a punishment and that they are as good and valuable as the other members of the community ..."

From May 5th to the 7th, Mercy Corps and CCCM teams worked at Nasa Project headquarters in the municipality of Toribio where a training event was held for 14 beneficiaries covering topics of business plan design and equipment price quotes. The Cabildo Indígena de Toribío, Indigenous authorities, the mayor and Nasa Project representatives

Santander, Caquetá, Nariño and Cauca. At each meeting, Mercy Corps highlighted relevant problems regarding information management and assistance for victims of mines. Specifically, in all four departments, Mercy Corps drew attention to the lack of technical criteria for the definition of monitoring processes and support to survivors, especially those provided by the Presidential Program for Mine Action. Mercy Corps also highlighted the situation with PAICMA, and has planned technical meetings regarding these issues with representatives.

Finally, Mercy Corps continued to work with health authorities to establish health working-groups that can generate comprehensive care strategies for patients affected by explosive devices in the context of armed conflict. Mercy Corps held meetings with the Health Institute of Norte de Santander and shared its strategy with Health Department representatives of Cauca, Nariño and Caquetá. An important achievement this quarter was the establishment of coordination with Norte Santander Departmental Mental Health Program representatives. The open dialogue between the representatives will help to ensure the provision services to mine victims. The Program team also began developing a strategy for Information, Communication and Education for risk management and processes for patient care.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation

During the reporting period, the M&E Specialist visited the departments of Norte de Santander, Meta and Nariño, in order to continue monitoring activities. The following is a list of results and achievements:

1. Archive and documentation
 - a. Local Coordinators of the three departments visited have up-to date, complete physical and electronic files.
 - b. All Coordinators have designed and understand the Program close-out process.
 - c. All Coordinators have successfully posted photographic archives to on-line Picasa Albums.
2. Socio-Economic Integration activities
 - a. M&E specialist, Socio-Economic Integration Coordinator and local coordinators visited 21 beneficiaries, selected through a random sample.
 - b. All visits are fully documented with audio, photographic and documentation.
 - c. One Success Story was documented for each department.
3. Health and Rehabilitation
 - a. Nine P&O technicians were visited and interviewed. These visits were fully documented.

In order to establish and support the storage and archiving processes, the Mercy Corps M&E Specialist also visited the Colombian Campaign Against Landmines office to review information management and storage. Mercy Corps' support to CCCM will help ensure that Program information is properly documented and preserved.