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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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YEAR 5 – FIRST QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT
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MERCY CORPS

USAID/Colombia

Program Summary

Grant Amount: \$4,312,910

Program Period: Aug. 28, 2008 – April 30, 2013

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: 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

COP	Colombian Pesos
EPS	Health Provider - Empresa Prestadora de Salud
GOC	Government of Colombia
HUV	Hospital Universitario del Valle del Cauca
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
INVIMA	National Institute for Drug 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
P&O	Prosthetic and Orthotic
PWD	Persons With Disabilities
SENA	National Learning Service
UDB	University of Don Bosco
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

Executive Summary and Key Achievements

The Program for Integral Assistance to Mine Victims Affected by Armed Conflict has supported the development and implementation of comprehensive rehabilitation using social and economic integration models since its beginning in August 2008. The Program has strengthened local capacity and improved the quality of life of more than 185,000 victims of armed conflict and other People with Disabilities (PDW) in 14 departments across Colombia. By the establishment of strategic partnerships with local NGOs such as the Colombian Campaign Against Mines and the Peace and Democracy Corporation, academic institutions such as the Don Bosco University in El Salvador, and the National Learning Service (SENA), Mercy Corps has been able to make significant progress toward the overall Program objectives. Additionally, Mercy Corps has worked strategically with government bodies and public institutions at the national and departmental level. Over 46,335 vulnerable internally displaced persons (IDPs), victims of landmines or other explosive remnants of war, and other victims of armed conflict have gained access to health services and physical rehabilitation, income generation opportunities and basic vocational and technical training.

To address the health and rehabilitation needs of victims of armed conflict, the two rehabilitation centers which were established by the Program in the departments of Nariño (Hospital Universitario Departamental de Nariño - Pasto) and Caquetá (Hospital María Inmaculada - Florencia) have provided services to over 162,000 people from the departments of Nariño, Putumayo, Cauca, Huila, Caquetá from 2008 to 2012. After the Program is completed in April 2013, the rehabilitation centers will continue to provide access to these services to an estimated 250,000 citizens with disabilities over the course of five years. This achievement, coupled with the formal on-line trainings on prosthetics and orthotics located in 14 mid-level cities, has demonstrated the possibility of transferring high quality services and technical capacity closer to affected communities and vulnerable populations which will reduce the social and economic costs associated with accessing these services.

During this reporting period, twenty-three prosthetists and orthotists who are enrolled in the online trainings assisted more than 1,100 persons with disabilities and Mercy Corps continued its focus on supporting prosthetic and orthotic (P&O) students to ensure their successful start to the new academic semester. Although two students did not pass their examinations and had to withdraw from the Program, a total of 23 students continued their commitment to their studies. Efforts were also made to improve the capacity of students to better monitor their laboratory performance and keep track of patient records and services provided.

This quarter, a number of training opportunities were offered in which P&O students participated and provided feedback to the rehabilitation community. Eight students who completed the first course on Integral Rehabilitation Models had the opportunity to share and replicate their new knowledge with other rehabilitation professionals and institutions in Southeastern Colombia. This helped them develop new perspectives about rehabilitation and provided insight on how to provide the best possible care to their patients.

1. Program Indicators this Quarter

No	Indicator Description	Target LoP	Achievements	Cumulative	% Cum./LoP Adj
			Quarter	Year	
			(QR1 Y13)	(2011 - 2013)	
1 Output	Number of P&O technicians trained and Category II ISPO (International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics) certified	30	0	0	0%
2 Process	Number of P&O technicians registered in the P&O Category II ISPO (International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics) training program	30	0	35	117%
3	Number of persons who received services provided by prosthetics and orthotics students enrolled in the training program	4,000	1,088	2,836	70.9%

1.2 Leahy Indicators this Quarter

Indicator	2009-2011	Achievements Q1Y'12	Achievements Q4Y'12	Cumm. 2012	2009-2012	Achievements Q1Y'13	Cumm. 2013	2009-2013
Number of persons trained	1,362	155	0	155	1,517	0	0	1,517
Number of persons served	186,620	189	1,748	1,937	188,557	1,088	1,088	189,645
Number of institutions strengthened	128	2	0	2	130	0	0	130

1.3 Mission Indicators this Quarter

Performance Indicators	LoP Goal	2011 (AWP target)	2008-2011 Cumm.	Q4 Yr12	Goal 2012	Cumm. 2012	Q1 Yr13	Goal 2013	Cumm. 2013	2008-2013 Cumm.	% Cumm./ LoP Adj
1. Vulnerable persons benefited	17,160	5,259	46,335	0	n/a	189				46,524	271.4%
IDPs benefited	-	-	587	0	n/a	0				587	n/a
Landmine survivors benefited	600	0	1,011	0	n/a	0				1,011	168.5%
Other persons with disabilities	16,560	5,563	45,324	0	n/a	189				45,513	274.8%
Afro-Colombians assisted	18	0	107	0	n/a	0				107	594.4%
Indigenous assisted	18	0	196	0	n/a	50				246	1366.7%
2. Socio-Economic Reintegration	370	174	1,362	0	n/a	1				1,364	369.7%
Jobs created	175	45	436	0	n/a	1				437	249.7%
Jobs strengthened	195	129	927	0	n/a	0				927	475.4%
Beneficiaries graduating from vocational training*	33	27	15	0	0	5				20	60.6%
Beneficiaries with access to education	85	64	184	0	n/a	0				184	216.5%
3. Health	38,209	0	184,140	1,748	2,500	1,937	1,088	1,500	1,088	186,077	487%
Beneficiaries with access to health care	534	0	653	0	n/a	189	0			842	158%
Beneficiaries with access to rehabilitation services (survivors + family members + other persons with disabilities Yr 1-3) Yr 4-5 only indirect beneficiaries accounting for students served by P & O)**	38,209	0	184,140	1,748	2,500	1,937	1,088	1,500	1,088	187,165	489.84%
4. Public Policy	720	265	1,106	0	n/a	0				1,106	153.6%
Persons benefited from institutional strengthening	720	265	1,106	0	n/a	0				1,106	153.6%
5. Other Indicators											
Private sector funds leveraged (US \$000)***	-	-	\$ 108,00	\$ 0.00	n/a	\$ 0.00				\$ 108,00	n/a
Public Sector funds leveraged (US \$000)	-	-	\$296.90	\$ 0.00	n/a	\$ 0.00				\$296.90	n/a
Women beneficiaries	2,768	564	5,166	0	n/a	0				5,166	186.6%
Men beneficiaries	10,397	0	14,379	0	n/a	0				14,379	138.3%
Children beneficiaries	2,768	1,654	2,161	0	n/a	0				2,161	78.1%
People trained	1,890	1,178	1,345	0	n/a	155				1,500	79.4%

*Refers to students undergoing Prosthetics and Orthotics Technologist Program with University Don Bosco and SENA

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

***TRM: 1,810

1. Progress Towards Objectives

Program objectives are outlined below with progress made between October 1 and December 31, 2012 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.

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.

Twenty-three students, out of the 35 who have registered to Prosthetic and Orthotic on-line training during the life of the program, are still actively enrolled. As stated in previous reports, twelve students have left the course due to different reasons such as health conditions, low academic performance and personal situations leading to lack of capacity to continue their studies. Two students left during this reporting period due to the following reasons:

1. Unfortunately, a student from the ALCA orthopedic laboratory in the city of Cúcuta had a relapse of health complications due to prostate cancer. Because of this, he did not pass Module II which he was already taking a second time. Based on Program policies and his grave health situation, it was decided that he could no longer continue the Program.
2. Another student, from the San José orthopedic Laboratory, also located in Cúcuta, did not pass module II which he was already taking a second time. As outlines in the Program policies, he was dismissed from the Program.

As reported in the last period, University Don Bosco (UDB) posted student academic results and evaluations. Overall, results demonstrate improvements in academic development and student strengthening of technical and theoretical knowledge. The following table summarizes the academic results by student. The original reports are on file in the Bogotá Mercy Corps country office.

TABLE 1. Grades of students enrolled in P&O online training - modules III and IV¹

N°	MODULE	ANATOMY III	PATHOLOGY III	BIOMECHANICS III	ACCOUNTING	PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE III
1	III	7.67	6.74	8.54	6.52	7.35
2	III	8.29	8.27	8.47	8.48	7.44
3	III	8.91	8.21	9.70	9.26	7.56
4	III	8.80	8.12	8.51	8.83	8.33
5	III	8.74	8.77	7.92	6.98	7.73
6	III	9.61	9.23	9.41	9.95	8.52
7	III	8.84	9.07	9.15	8.20	8.82
8	III	7.75	7.75	8.35	8.76	8.19
9	III	5.30	6.84	6.50	6.73	7.71
10	III	8.70	6.11	7.50	8.15	7.81
11	III	7.24	6.41	6.34	6.01	8.09
12	III	6.42	6.24	6.73	5.96	6.76

¹ The rating scale of the UDB is 0 to 10, with 0 being the lowest score and 10 the highest.

13		III	8.65	9.25	9.25	8.80	7.35
14		III	9.04	8.55	9.37	8.02	8.17
15		III	7.28	7.95	8.13	8.08	7.40
16		III	6.48	6.35	8.06	7.75	7.66
17		III	7.49	8.40	9.28	8.13	7.32
18		III	8.09	9.07	9.53	8.96	8.34
19		III	8.58	8.70	9.48	9.03	8.24
20		III	9.08	8.53	8.22	9.50	6.54
21		III	5.43	5.67	6.33	4.60	6.77
22		II	5.55	6.01	6.53	7.23	6.01
23		II	7.93	8.51	7.70	8.03	6.98
24		II	7.98	7.65	7.60	7.42	7.92
25		II	5.75	6.91	6.23	7.99	4.94

Source: University Don Bosco, School of Rehabilitation Sciences, Distance Learning Department, October 21, 2012

During the academic period that began on August 27, students who started Modules IV (20 students) will focus their practice on upper limb prosthetic devices and those who are registered at Module III (3 students) will be trained on upper limb orthotics, Mercy Corps' Program team continued to follow-up and support activities to improve student performance. As part of regular follow-up, the Program's Health and Rehabilitation Coordinator made periodic phone calls and organized Skype conference calls with the students. Each student was contacted and follow-up support was provided three times during the quarter in order to assess their academic needs, difficulties, and to identify solutions and additional support (materials, tutoring, follow-up from UDB professors, etc.).

In preparation for the upcoming evaluation of students in January 2013, Mercy Corps facilitated the identification of upper-limb prosthetic device users and PWDs who will serve as models for the evaluations. Mercy Corps worked directly with the University and the students on the basic criteria for the selection of users.

In addition to personal educational benefits of training for P&O students, activity impacts have improved quality of prosthetic devices in community laboratories where students work. These impacts have been made possible by the commitment of the students, the UDB staff and Mercy Corps. This quarter, P&O students provided integrated services in their respective laboratories to a total of 1,088 patients.

In order to ensure the best results from each and students, the University has extended study periods and integrated the academic requirements of the International Society of Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO) which in turn resulted in the extension of the Program. Therefore, the students who have passed each module and who will start Module V in January 2013, will not be able to graduate before July 2013. Mercy Corps will work with the UDB, SENA and UDB to ensure that this will not affect their ability to graduate and complete their certification. As of December 31, 2012, 2,836 people including people with disabilities have benefited from prosthetic and orthotic services provided by the students.

- **Participation in the First National Integral Rehabilitation Model Course**

As part of the Ministry of Health's dissemination activities under the National Rehabilitation Model, the first official course was given to present the guidelines for endorsement of the new National Integral Rehabilitation Model. The course was given in the cities of Popayán (Cauca) and Pasto (Nariño) where Mercy Corps has been supporting the strengthening and establishment of rehabilitation capacities over the past four years with USAID support. The main objective of the training was to develop integrated, interdisciplinary team work skills with health and rehabilitation professionals in order to improve the implementation of the Activities of Daily Life (ADL) approach in their respective rehabilitation units. The training program was designed and led by the University Hospital of Valle del Cauca (HUV) and the Foundation IDEAL. The total training time was 137 hours and participants earned a certification by the HUV, the Foundation IDEAL and the Ministry of Health.

Five prosthetist/orthotists who are beneficiaries of the Program were invited by the Ministry of Health as key participants of the trainings and were the only P&Os present in both cities. As stated in the closing speech by a representative from the Ministry of Health, “The quality, dedication and participation of the prosthetic specialist that Mercy Corps sent was crucial for the success of the trainings. They provided an essential view of their work and its relation to the whole rehabilitation process.”

Training themes of the course included:

- Unit 1 Disability and functional models
- Unit 2 Legal context of integral rehabilitation in Colombia
- Unit 3 Rights and duties of people with disabilities
- Unit 4 Integral rehabilitation model and its components
- Unit 5 Conceptualization of the Activities of Daily Living (ADL) approach in functional rehabilitation
- Unit 6 Integral Rehabilitation Approach for amputees
- Unit 7 Screening of people with visual disabilities and basic orientation for their mobility and self-care

Five students participated in all of the training sessions in Pasto, while three students participated in Popayán. The latter group was accompanied by Mercy Corps’ Health and Rehabilitation Coordinator who also was certified.

2. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, together with the Health and Rehabilitation Coordinator, have been virtually following student academic performance and patient assistance through the following activities:

1. **Periodic analysis of student use of the UDB online platform:** Mercy Corps and the UDB assess student performance based on the amount of time each student spends visiting the platform, consulting bibliographic material and interacting with teachers and other students virtually.
2. **Follow-up on student performance and early identification of needs for support:** Through monthly Skype calls, the Mercy Corps team identifies the special needs of students regarding their academic performance and their evaluation preparations.
3. **Follow-up on provision of assistance to people with disabilities:** Mercy Corps identifies training outcomes and new P&O services provided by analyzing student patient tracking reports. The digital platform designed by Mercy Corps has enabled the students and their laboratories to report the quantity, type and frequency of assistance they provide to each of their patients. Students provide these reports on a monthly basis to Mercy Corps’ Rehabilitation Coordinator and the M&E Coordinator. Information is consolidated and analyzed and results are shared with students during follow-up Skype calls.

3. Conclusions

Conclusion 1: The Government of Colombia has been making noticeable efforts to improve the quality of rehabilitation services and to implement integral models that will eventually benefit all users of the health system. These efforts will require the best possible training and preparation, not only for health providers such as prosthetists and orthotists, but also by institution representatives, public health authorities and health insurance companies. With this in mind, Mercy Corps recommends an in-depth analysis of how USAID can better contribute in terms of strengthening rehabilitation capacities that are aligned with the Ministry of Health’s objectives and models.