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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 – SECOND 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
views of the U.S. Agency for International Development

Acronyms

COP	Colombian Pesos
EPS	Health Provider - Empresa Prestadora de Salud
GOC	Government of Colombia
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
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 & Key Achievements

Since the beginning of the Program for Integral Assistance to Mine Victims Affected by Armed Conflict in August 2008, Mercy Corps and its partners have supported the development and implementation of comprehensive rehabilitation using social and economic integration models. The Program has strengthened local capacity and improved the quality of life of more than 190,000 victims of armed conflict and other People with Disabilities (PDW) in 14 departments of Colombia. By the establishment of strategic partnerships with local NGOs such as the *Colombian Campaign Against Mines* and *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 46,524 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 in different fields.

Between January and March 2013, 1,283 people with disabilities were treated in 13 municipalities. Through the services provided by 35 prosthetists and orthotists who are beneficiaries and allies of the Program, a wide range of people with different types of disabilities improved their quality of life and mobility. Besides the direct achievement of increasing the amount and qualification of professionals who assist war victims with disabilities, it is important to highlight the overall strengthening of comprehensive rehabilitation services at the field level. These services have been historically relegated, receiving little attention, poor funding and even less technical assistance. In this regard, strengthening eight prosthetics and orthotics laboratories and rehabilitation centers of Florencia in Caquetá, Pasto in Nariño and Popayán in Cauca has led to a visible improvement in access to rehabilitation services, not only for victims of armed conflict, but for more than 180,000 thousand people with disabilities in these cities¹.

¹ According to information systems in the Nariño's Departmental University Hospital – HUDN and the María Inmaculada Hospital in Florencia, more than 47,000 persons with disabilities have directly benefited from rehabilitation centers established with Mercy Corps' cooperation. Over 140,000 family members have been indirect beneficiaries of this program.

1. Indicators

1.1. Program Indicators for this quarter

Table 1. Program indicators, April 2013

No	Indicator Description	Target LoP	Achievements	Cumulative	% Cum./LoP Adj
			Quarter	Year	
			(QR2 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 receive services provided by prosthetics and orthotics students enrolled in the training program	4,000	1,283	4,119	103%

1.2. Leahy Indicators this Quarter

Table 2. Leahy indicators, April 2013

Indicator	2009-2011	Achievements Q1Y'12	Achievements Q4Y'12	Cumm. 2012	2009-2012	Achievements Q2Y'13	Cumm. 2013	2009-2013
Number of persons trained	1,362	155	-	155	1,517	-	0	1,517
Number of persons served	186,620	189	1,748	1,937	188,557	1,283	2,371	190,928
Number of institutions strengthened	128	2	-	2	130	-	0	130

1.3 Mission Indicators this Quarter

Table 3. Mission indicators, April 2013

Performance Indicators	LoP Goal	2011 (AWP target)	2008-2011 Cummm.	Q4 Yr12	Goal 2012	Cumm. 2012	Q2 Yr13	Goal 2013	Cumm. 2013	2008-2013 Cummm.	% 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	1,283	1,500	2,371	187,	490%
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	1,283	1,500	2,371	188,495	493%
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%

1. Progress Towards Objectives

Program Objectives are outlined below with progress made between January 1 through March 31, 2013 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.

Two important events regarding the online distance learning program took place during the reporting period. These events mark the beginning of the final stage of the Program, and can be considered as a success, not only in regards to the Program activities, but also impactful for the advance in the profession or prostheticians and orthoticians who participated in the training.

Module IV/III Evaluations:



Photo 1. A beneficiary who lost her arm as a consequence of a car accident and negligent treatment 23 years ago. This is the first prosthetic device she has received .

Between January 28 and February 9, 2013, the 23 students who remain active in the training program, successfully completed their evaluations and were promoted to the next module. Three students passed the module III (upper limb orthotics) and initiated module IV. Twenty students passed module IV (upper limb prosthetics) and started the fifth and final training module. The evaluations took place at the facilities of the National Apprentices' Services – SENA, with whom Mercy Corps has established and maintained a successful partnership

During the evaluation, 20 persons with disabilities participated as models, in order to facilitate the students' practical evaluations. All of these patients were upper limb amputees coming from vulnerable communities, who received high quality prosthetic devices after the evaluations were finished.

It is equally satisfying to report that this was the first period in which all students passed their courses and any student dropped out of the program. Mercy Corps believes these results demonstrate the effectiveness of the monitoring and follow-up mechanisms implemented at every stage of the training. The following table shows the courses taken by each student during the past academic period, as well as, the grades obtained in each of them.

TABLE 4. Grades of students enrolled in P&O online training - modules III and IV

N°	MODULE	ANATOMY IV	PATHOLOGY IV	BIOMECHANICS IV	INTEGRAL REHABILITATION	PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IV
1	IV	6.54	7.23	7.51	6.12	7.24
2	IV	7.98	8.24	8.20	7.57	7.28
3	IV	7.04	7.54	7.74	6.38	6.81
4	IV	7.56	7.81	9.03	7.36	8.92
5	IV	7.89	8.89	8.12	7.66	7.59
6	IV	8.74	9.39	9.10	6.74	8.14
7	IV	8.61	8.88	9.18	8.49	8.52
8	IV	6.95	7.12	8.32	6.91	7.32
9	IV	6.04	6.87	7.13	6.93	7.29
10	IV	6.36	6.55	6.94	6.46	7.52
11	IV	5.42	7.77	6.34	4.51	6.35
12	IV	8.69	8.73	8.07	7.14	7.16
13	IV	8.28	8.77	7.75	7.29	7.53
14	IV	7.95	7.15	8.33	6.07	7.90
15	IV	8.33	8.55	8.05	6.47	6.18
16	IV	6.22	6.35	7.52	7.04	7.61
17	IV	7.52	7.24	7.50	7.53	6.88
18	IV	8.09	7.45	7.65	8.40	6.96
19	IV	8.54	9.23	8.74	7.17	6.37
20	IV	7.04	6.92	7.73	8.13	6.99
		ANATOMY III	PATHOLOGY III	BIOMECHANICS III	ACCOUNTING	PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE III
21	III	5.20	6.02	7.16	6.63	7.15
22	III	5.40	6.96	6.81	6.21	6.71
23	III	7.92	7.14	6.32	6.66	6.85

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

Initiation of V/IV module of training:

The 23 students started their preparation for their final evaluations, as well as the International Society of Prostheticians and Orthoticians - ISPO evaluation, which is a requirement to obtain their Level II ISPO Certification. For this purpose, and taking into consideration the important efforts that all students have made over the past 2.5 years, Mercy Corps and the University Don Bosco have agreed on providing a "Reinforcement Module" that will refresh students' knowledge and tools in order to have the best possible preparation for their examinations. The University will provide this module free of charge, and will implement a methodology aimed to enhance the students' capacity to respond to typical ISPO questions and activities.

Mercy Corps has discussed this opportunity with USAID's Agreement Officer Representative who understands the value of the proposal, as well as the implications in terms of time and effort to Mercy Corps. A No Cost Extension has been requested in this regard.

2. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Monitoring and Evaluation coordinator, together with the Health and Rehabilitation coordinator have been virtually following the students' academic performance through the following mechanisms:

1. **Periodical analysis of students' use of the UDB's online platform:** Mercy Corps and the UDB assess students' performance, based on the amount of time each student spends visiting the platform, consulting bibliographic material and interacting with teachers and other students.
2. **Follow-up of students performance and early identification of academic and/or logistic difficulties:** through monthly Skype calls, the Mercy Corps team identifies the students' special needs regarding their academic performance and in terms of preparation for their evaluations.
3. **Follow-up on provision of assistance to people with disabilities:** by the monthly analysis of reports provided by students, Mercy Corps identifies the impact of the training towards the broader community. In this sense, the digital platform designed by Mercy Corps has enabled the laboratories to report the quantity, type, and periodicity of assistance they provide to each of their patients. Students provide the reports on a monthly basis to Mercy Corps team. Information is consolidated and analyzed and results are shared with students through Skype calls.

3. Conclusions

Conclusion 1: Students enrolled at the prosthetics and orthotics online distance learning program have made significant efforts to thrive at their studies. Among the most significant challenges in this regard have been the acquisition of efficient study habits and the availability of cases and/or patients for the development of hands-on practice. It is important that USAID takes this into account for future similar programs and understand that these efforts play a determinant role for the impact and success of these kinds of activities. Mercy Corps therefor recommends USAID to encourage the inclusion of clear cooperation agreements between prosthetics and orthotics laboratories and rehabilitation centers in order to guarantee better access of prosthetics and orthotics to patients. It is also recommended that future programs build within their implementation plans and budgets follow-up mechanisms to monitor students' performance including challenges and difficulties.

Regarding practice with patients, Mercy Corps is convinced that building networks and relations at the local level is the most powerful tool, not only for allowing prostheticians and orthoticians to access patients, but to develop real integrated rehabilitation capacity. In this sense, it is important to consider the allocation of time and financial resources to strengthen inter-institutional capacity at the field level as well as to promote coordination and efficient interaction between prosthetics and orthotics laboratories including health insurance companies (EPS) and rehabilitation centers in each department.