



USAID
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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 – FOURTH QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT
JULY 1, 2013 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2013
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Submitted by implementing agency:

MERCY CORPS

USAID/Colombia

Program Summary

Grant Amount: \$4,312,910

Program Period: Aug. 28, 2008 – December 31, 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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Acronyms

COP	Colombian Pesos
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

Throughout the five years of the Program for Integral Assistance to Mine Victims Affected by Armed Conflict, more than 193,000 people with disabilities have benefited from high quality services to improve their quality of life. More than 46,000 victims of armed conflict are closer to fully benefiting from the rights afforded to them through the Program in Health and Rehabilitation, Public Policy and Socioeconomic Inclusion. The program has directly impacted health institutions in six departments as well as in the design and implementation of policies to guarantee rights for people with disabilities at national, departmental and municipal levels.

Between July and September 2013, 1,597 people with disabilities were treated in 14 communities. Through the services provided by 35 prosthetists and orthotists (P&O) who are beneficiaries and allies of the Program, a wide range of people with different types of disabilities, such as lower and upper limb amputation, spinal cord pathologies, neurological injuries and sequels from polio have improved their quality of life and mobility.

Thanks to the Program's activities, Colombia will finally have a group of 22 highly qualified P&O students graduated from and recognized by education institutions both in Colombia and internationally. This is the first group of professionals that meet all due requirements of the national laws and normativity, and therefore state a historic milestone to the performance of this profession in Colombia. Eighteen students successfully finished their Prosthetics and Orthotics online studies and are ready to graduate as Technologist on Prosthetics and Orthotics. Four more will finish their studies in the coming reporting period.

Finally, during this reporting quarter, USAID agreed to a modification of one of the Program Indicators: *Number of P&O technicians trained and Category II ISPO (International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics) certified*. Therefore, the P&O students will not require a Category II certification, but they will graduate with all due requirements.

1. Indicators

1.1. Program Indicators for this quarter

Indicator No	Indicator Description	Target LoP	Achievements	Cumulative	% Cum./LoP Adj
			Quarter	Year	
			(QR4 Y13)	(2011 - 2013)	
1 Output	Number of P&O technicians trained and graduated at an internationally accredited institution	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	1,332	6,638	166%

1.2. Leahy Indicators this Quarter

Indicator	2009-2011	Achievements Q1Y'12	Achievements Q4Y'12	Cumm. 2012	2009-2012	Achievements Q1Y'13	Achievements Q2Y'13	Achievements Q3Y'13	Achievements Q4Y'13	Cumm. 2013	2009-2013
Number of persons trained	1,362	155	0	155	1,517	0	0	0	0	0	1,517
Number of persons served	186,620	189	1,748	1,937	188,557	1,088	1,229	1,241	1,332	4,890	193,447
Number of institutions strengthened	128	2	0	2	130	0	0	0	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	Q2 Yr13	Q3 Yr13	Q4 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%

Performance Indicators	LoP Goal	2011 (AWP target)	2008-2011 Cumm.	Q4 Yr12	Goal 2012	Cumm. 2012	Q1 Yr13	Q2 Yr13	Q3 Yr13	Q4 Yr13	Goal 2013	Cumm. 2013	2008-2013 Cumm.	% Cumm./LoP Adj
3. Health	38.209	0	184.140	1748	2500	1937	1088	1229	1241	1.332	1500	4.890	190967	499,80%
Beneficiaries with acces to health care	534	0	653	0	n/a	189	0	0	0		0	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	1.229	1.241	1.332	1.500	4.890	190.967	499,80%
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%

Performance Indicators	LoP Goal	2011 (AWP target)	2008-2011 Cumm.	Q4 Yr12	Goal 2012	Cumm. 2012	Q1 Yr13	Q2 Yr13	Q3 Yr13	Q4 Yr13	Goal 2013	Cumm. 2013	2008-2013 Cumm.	% Cumm./LoP Adj
5. other Indicators				0										
Private sector funds leveraged (US \$000)	-	-	\$ 108,00	\$ 0,00	n/a	\$ 0,00							\$ 108,00	n.a
Public Sector funds leveraged (US \$000)	-	-	296.9	\$ 0,00	n/a	\$ 0,00							296.9	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 July 1 through September 30, 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 online distance learning courses.

Final Evaluation of Students

The current reporting period marked the end of the Prosthetics and Orthotics studies for 20 of the 23 students that continued to be active in the Program. Thus, 20 students presented their module V (last training module) exams and three (3) more presented their exams for module IV. Of the 23 students, 22 will graduate the program.



Photo 1. P&O student and UDB professor evaluate the needs a little girl that serves as model to the Module V evaluation. Angelina Castro/Mercy Corps

The Module V evaluation (Spinal Cord pathologies) presented significant challenges for students. One such challenge, as reported in the previous period, was to find patients suitable for the evaluation. In order to overcome this barrier, Mercy Corps worked together with students and allies such as physiatrists and rehabilitation centers (including Arcángeles, the Kennedy Hospital and the Soacha Hospital) for such referrals. Thanks to this activity, 20 people with disabilities with spinal pathologies such as scoliosis, lordosis and kyphosis benefited by receiving high quality orthotic devices. Physiatrists and the University Don Bosco's faculty evaluated clinical cases in rehabilitation centers as well as before the initiation of the evaluation activities. These

activities included the taking of measurements to patients, production of casts, proof of initial orthotic apparatuses, evaluation of apparatuses by teaches and final delivery of orthotic apparatuses to patients. Patients were widely informed of the process before the initiation of the activity and signed consent agreements and for their participation.

The three students that presented examination of Module IV (upper limb prosthesis) presented their patients/models directly to the UDB Faculty in order for their admission.

Two groups conducted examinations at the metrology laboratory facilities (prosthetics and orthotics) of the National Apprentices' Service (SENA). The first group of 12 students (including three students of Module IV) completed their evaluations from July 7-13, 2013 and the second, with 11 students, completed their evaluations from April 13 to July 20, 2013. Two professors from the Universidad Don Bosco evaluated both groups.

At the end of both assessments, Mercy Corps and the SENA and UDB's faculty met to discuss the partial results and review lessons learned.

Final grades were given by the University Don Bosco at the end of August.

Finally, Mercy Corps and the UDB recognize that all students made considerable personal, academic and professional efforts to improve their technical and theoretical knowledge. The requirements, however, of the International Society of Prosthetists and Orthotists (ISPO) certification exam are demanding and complex, and students will require additional training. UDB, therefore, has offered a reinforcement module at no cost to the Program or the students. The Module is specifically designed to cover the needs required to approve the ISPO certification exam. All active students will complete this between October and December of 2013.

2. Monitoring and Evaluation

During the reporting period, the University of Don Bosco announced that given the technical recommendations made by the Board of Reviewers of the ISPO, the University would be unable to perform the exam for Category II Certification in December 2013 as initially scheduled.

With this understanding Mercy Corps proposed the modification of indicator No. 1 "Number of Colombian Prosthetists/Orthotists trained and certified as Category II by the International Society of Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO)" to "Number of Colombian Prosthetists/Orthotists trained and graduated as Prosthetics and Orthotics Technicians at an internationally accredited institution". The proposal was accepted by USAID and indicator was successfully changed.

Regarding follow-up with students, Mercy Corps' Monitoring and Evaluation coordinator, together with the Health and Rehabilitation coordinator, have been following the students' academic performance through the following mechanisms:

1. **Follow-up on provision of assistance to people with disabilities:** According to the monthly analysis of reports provided by students, 1,597 persons with disabilities (1,332 new beneficiaries) were positively impacted by the P&O training and the improvement of quality aimed by the program. Reports have been reviewed by Mercy Corps' Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator and the Health and Rehabilitation Coordinator. Mercy Corps shared the results with students through Skype calls.
2. **Follow-up for the improvement of Monitoring and registry mechanisms:** Mercy Corps' Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator provided technical support regarding the records of patients' assistance and reporting mechanisms. All students corrected the errors identified and improved their reports.

3. Conclusion

Conclusion 1: Although spinal cord pathologies are frequent, physicians rarely prescribe orthotic devices to treat them. The lack of frequent contact and practice that students reported during the past semester had an evident influence on the quality of their performance at the evaluations. Once again, it is key to strengthening the capacity of students to work together with rehabilitation centers and specialized physicians, in order to gain access to such patients.

Conclusion 2: Although the processes of education and training to prostheticians and orthoticians are key to providing timely and quality services to conflict victims with disabilities, it is clear that more capacity is required for the adequate reference of patients to these services. As mentioned in previous reports, it is important to keep in mind that the prosthetic and orthotic services are just one link in the chain of comprehensive rehabilitation services, therefore is important to strengthen other services such as: 1) more efficient mechanisms for referral of patients and prosthetic and orthotic services; 2) building the capacities of physiatrists and orthopedicians for a better formulation of P&O devices and other mobility aids; and 3) improvement of infrastructure and diagnostic equipment such as biomechanics and walking laboratories.

Conclusion 3: As Mercy Corps approaches the end of the Program, results show that the quality of life of people with disabilities and war victims has improved. The capacity that has been installed by the Program at the local level in terms of prosthetics and orthotics quality services, physical rehabilitation services and processes and procedures for the better access of patients to such services, have all led to this improvement. With more than 190,000 people who have benefited from Mercy Corps' activities, is possible to conclude that the model developed by Mercy Corps and its local partners and beneficiaries is:

- a. *Replicable:* Activities have been successfully implemented in three departments (Cauca, Nariño and Caquetá) where rehabilitation units have been started and strengthened within public hospitals that provide a wide range of services such as audiology, occupational therapy, respiratory therapy, physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, ophthalmology, etc. In 14 cities of Colombia, Prosthetics and orthotics services have been started and improved and now provide quality mobility aid devices to people with disabilities.
- b. *Sustainable:* All services are active and depend solely on the sale of services. This is a cornerstone for the long term existence and sustainability of these services in intermediate and small cities, since, under normal and controlled conditions, they won't depend on cooperation or external injection of resources for their permanence and improvement.
- c. *Scalable:* The model has been implemented in complex conditions at a relatively small scale. Such is the case of the Rehabilitation Center in Popayán, Cauca, where very little investment was made, exclusively for training and administrative mechanisms improvement. In Florencia, Caquetá where the administrative and financial situation was critical, USAID's investment allowed the installation of a mid-sized rehabilitation unit that requires basic personnel and serves more than 10,000 persons with disabilities per year. Finally, in Pasto, Nariño, a comprehensive Rehabilitation unit that today employs 35 professionals, provides more than 26 services to over 40,000 persons with disabilities per year.