

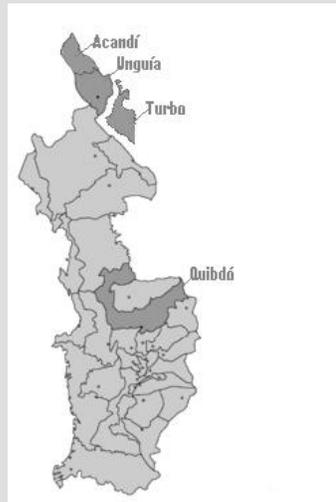
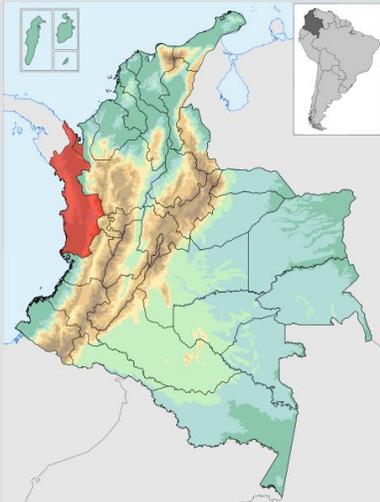


USAID CMM APS #M/OAA/DCHA/DOFDA-10-390

Project – “Resolution of Land and Natural Resources Conflicts in Colombia”

QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

January 1 – March 31, 2013



Submitted by

MERCY CORPS COLOMBIA (Primary Applicant)
in partnership with
FUNDACIÓN DARIÉN & COCOMACIA (Sub-grantees)

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Acronyms

CCL	Local Community Council
CMM	Conflict Management & Mitigation Office, USAID
COCOMABOCAS	Community Council of Bocas de Atrato & Leoncito
COCOMACIA	Community Council of the Integrated Farmers Association of the Atrato
COCOMASUR	Community Council of Tolo River, Southern Coastal Zone of Acandi
COCOMAUNGUIA	Community Council of the Lower Atrato of Unguia
INCODER	Colombian Institute for Rural Development

1. Executive Summary & Implementation



Picture No1. Aymará Indigenous and Young Leader of Cocomacia participating in the regional experiences workshop in Bolivia

This report consolidates information about the activities implemented during the January to March 2013 period. At the beginning of this period, the project's closing plan was made, and with it, a transitional phase is being prepared with Mercy Corps local partner, the Greater Communitarian Councils of Black Communities (COCOMACIA). The Communitarian Councils of the municipalities of Unguía and Acandí have installed capacities to carry out conflict mediation processes and community topography. These capacities allow the involved parties in dispute to have technical support and the methodological tools needed to achieve short term agreements, with lower costs and sustainability as long as the local agents will be the ones monitoring those agreements.

The same situation occurs in the municipality of Quibdó in which COCOMACIA's technical teams have the capacities to resolve land and natural resources conflicts. Likewise, they are moving forward with the land use planning processes of the local councils, allowing the ethnic authorities to have the management and control of their collective territories.

2. Indicators Table No 1: Achievements to January - March 2013

Indicator	Indicator Description	Indicator type	Disaggregation by sex	Year 1	Goal Year 1	% Goal Achieve Y1	Year 2 QR2 13	Goal Year 2	% Goal Achieve Y2	LoP Goal	% LoP Achieved
1	Number of previously existing land and natural resources conflicts resolved in areas receiving USG assistance for mitigation of land conflicts.	CMM		133	80	166%	37	40	93%	120	141.7%
2	# of people participating in USG –assisted reconciliation activities conducted and completed with the participation of two or more of the conflict parties. (Direct beneficiaries of resolved conflict cases)	CMM	Men	85	110	105%	12	40	68%	150	95.3%
			Women	31			15				
3	# of people participating in USG –assisted reconciliation activities conducted and completed with the participation of two or more of the conflict parties. (Participation in training, local exchanges)	CMM	Men	1,083	400	457%	68	110	148%	510	390.0%
			Women	743			95				
4	# of regional exchanges concerning conflicts over land and natural resources between technical teams, staff members, and leaders of Colombia and Guatemala.	MC		2	2	100%	1	1	100%	3	100%
5	Number of households that have obtained property rights as a result of USG assistance.	MC	Households	48	30	160%	37	15	246.6%	45	182.8%
			Women	48	n/a		0		n/a	n/a	
6	# of peace building structures established or strengthened with USG assistance that engages conflict-affected citizens in peace and reconciliation processes	CMM		4	4	100%	0	0	0%	4	100.0%
7	# of land and natural resource guides with a gender focus distributed to Afro-Colombian Community Councils	MC		0	0	0%	0	137	0%	137	0.0%
8	# of users in the RedTierras disaggregated	MC		171	150	114%	41	150	58.6%	300	86.3%
9	# of local women participating in a substantive role or position in a peacebuilding process supported with USG assistance	CMM	Women	0	0	0%	33	15	220%	15	220.0%

Quarterly Performance Report, Mercy Corps, January – March 2013
Award No. AID-514-A-11-00003

3. Activities & Results

Objective 1. Strengthen the capacity of Ethnic Afro-Colombian communities to manage conflicts peacefully within and between communities in the Darien and Quibdó, Choco regions of Colombia.

Result 1.1. Community leaders in Darien and Quibdó are implementing mediation techniques and principles of the Person to Person (PP) approach to solve the conflicts faced by the communities.

Activity 1.1. Train 550 community leaders in Alternative Conflict Resolution Methods (MARC, in Spanish) with a PP approach in order to solve land conflicts and promote good governance and reconciliation (USAID strategy Afro-Colombians 6.2.2).

During the timeframe of this report, a training process was conducted to understand the typologies of property informality with ten women of COCOMACIA's gender commission in Quibdó. The objective of this activity was to identify, with the Women of the Gender Commission of Cocomacia, the formalization routes in accordance with the type of property informality. By considering a case study, the following complementary activities were implemented: i) a dialogue with the project's legal assistant about women's specific cases, and ii) a field visit to the women's properties to analyze the relevance of the management routes already designed.

Result 1.2. Quibdó and Darien women have more equitable access to land.

Activity 1.2. Train Afro-Colombian women to use and interpret GPS data and other land measurement tools as a way of preventing and managing land and natural resource conflicts.

The indicator about GPS and Geo-reference Systems Information training was accomplished as per the workplan.

Activity 1.3. Women participate in land conflict mediation activities, which result in greater access to land and security of land rights

There were no mediation processes during this report's period as the activities in the workplan have been completed.

Activity 1.4: Working with INCODER and other government agencies on the resolution of land and natural resource conflicts, as well as on the design of the comprehensive characterization of the collective territories, victimizing actions and collective reparation to victims

On a technical level, Mercy Corps assisted Incoder Chocó in Quibdó and the local Government Office of Rents and Public Instruments in the identification of 165 titles to be formalized. In the Unguía municipality, 165 women and 96 men are the rightful title owners; and they will obtain financial support for their process expenses from the Ungia Mayor's office and from Mercy Corps. These titles are expected to be given in May 2013.

In addition to this, Mercy Corps conducted a field tour to in the localities of Unguía: Ticolé, Quebrada Bonita, Gilgal, Santamaria, Balboa and Titumate, to evaluate the advancements of the process, and to prepare the title delivery with the 165 women beneficiaries of the formalization strategy. Informative and orientation workshops

were conducted with these women orientate them to the formalization process of property in unoccupied Government territories.

Result 1.3. The attitudes of women and men toward gender, masculinity and women's rights in relation to the conflict have changed positively in the Darien and Quibdó regions.

Activity 1.5. Facilitate workshops and campaigns to change attitudes on gender and masculinity issues, based on the results of focus groups that reveal the prejudices and barriers to women's participation

A workshop about the process to have household land rights inside the Collective Territory and land use planning was conducted with the Autonomy and Land Team, and Cocomacia's Gender Commission. A work plan was made for the elaboration of a video clip about the experiences of the women's commission and their land management role on the collective territory and the formalization of the properties in Quibdó.

Objective 2. Create sustainability and ensure local ownership of the mediation of land and natural resource conflicts.

Result 2.1. Two additional centers for conflict mediation are operating in the municipalities of Turbo and Quibdó.

Activity 2.1. The establishment of two new Mediation Centers for peaceful conflict resolution linked to the municipal governments of Quibdó and Turbo.

This goal was achieved.

Result 2.2. The existing mediation centers in Acandí and Unguía have been strengthened in terms of community acceptance, and technical and financial self-sustainability, in order to improve their sustainability and solve land and natural resource conflicts.

Activity 2.2. Provide technical support for and assessment of the existing mediation centers in Acandí and Unguía, according to their identified needs and sustainability plans.

A meeting was held for the Case 118-84 AID between Cocomanguía and the community of Tanela/Apartado's Dioceses, to follow up on the agreements made on December 2012 about the land occupation of the collective territory. In this manner, it was possible to plan the first recognition tour of the Hacienda Tanela, and verify its boundary coordinates on a property of 2,000 hectares. The tour was successfully made with the participation of three community delegates and with the completion of a cartographic map as a tool for conflict mediation.



Picture No 2. Topógrafos comunitarios en Tanela

Case 59 – 47 AID, between Cocomanguía and the Incoder; Case 61 - 48 AID, between Cocomabocas and the Incoder: A monitoring of Incoder’s advancements was made to revise and adjust the first draft about clarifying resolutions that were remitted by the councils to this institution during December 2012. The result was the elaboration by the legal office of the second draft of these councils’ clarifying resolutions that will be presented to the councils during the second week in March for their orientation.

In the department of El Chocó, INCODER gave more than 759 hectares to Unguía’s farmers through the Territorial Board of the department, and gave 72 adjudication titles of vacant land to farmers in the municipality of Unguía. These properties equal 759 hectares and 3,335 square meters of land, and they were adjudicated by the Territorial Director of the Incoder in Chocó, in coordination with Unguía’s Mayor’s Office, and Mercy Corps’ technical team.

Result 2.3. Best practices on resolution of land and natural resource conflicts are identified, assessed for efficacy and documented for future use in other areas of Colombia. Result 2.3.A. Documentation and Regional Exchanges

The project team presented to the communities an orientation package of the land rights use and land planning processes during the gatherings for zones seven, eight, and nine. The CCL were strengthened in this process because of their knowledge and the technical tools acquired to manage the problems experienced in the territory. Another topic discussed during the zonal gatherings was the topic of the previous consultation because of the increasing number of future projects to be implemented in the collective territory. From the above discussion, an action plan was proposed to get to know, in detail, the national government plans for extractive economies in the Middle Atrato River Zone.

Result 2.4. Methodologies for resolution of natural resource conflicts are defined and successfully applied in the mediation centers.

Activity 2.4: Development of the conflict management guide, incorporating best practices in Guatemala and experiences in Colombia.

Mercy Corps is in the process of publishing the conflict management guide of cross learning between Colombia and Guatemala. The guide illustrates methodologies, experiences, learned lessons, and action plans to manage the projects' topics (land use, land formalization, land conflict resolution, and gender equality). During this quarter, Mercy Corps selected the entity in charge of designing and printing this communication material. The publisher officially received the complete document, as well as, the pictures and videos that will be added to the DVD that compliments the conflict management guide. It should be highlighted that a graphic line of the guide is ready; it is expected that during the middle of April the text will be ready to be revised by the editor and approved by the project's team, in order to start the diagramming process. The guide is expected to be published in May 2013

Activity 2.4 B: Training and technical assistance to identify, classify and resolve land and natural resource conflicts using MARC.

There are no reports for this activity as the indicators have been met and activities completed in the workplan.

Result 2.5. The two local partners, the Darien Foundation and COCOMACIA, have the capacity to support beneficiaries of resolved land conflicts with economic development based on sustainable use of natural resources.

Activity 2.5. Strengthen the capacity of the partners to develop management plans for land and natural resources based in the communities, which take into account the aim of creating sustainable income generation and livelihoods.

The monthly work plan with Cocomaunguía was finalized. The activities were developed within the framework of the Tanela's Case: Meetings with the parties, recognition tours, and verification of the boundaries and coordinates.



Picture No 3. Campesinos cruzando el Rio Atrato

Objective 3: Increase the participation of Afro-Colombian and indigenous women in the development of policies that address the root causes of land and natural resource conflicts.

Result 3.1: Create a multi-sectorial network (Red Tierras) that includes the participation of women, Afro-Colombian, and indigenous people, that advocate for policies on land and natural resource conflicts in Colombia.

Activity 3.1: Organize and hold events to develop proposals for policy changes that mitigate land and natural resource conflicts.

Mercy Corps' Country Director, Washington DC Public Affairs team members and Afro-Colombian leader from the Choco – Darien Council of COCOMASUR participated in a high-level conference on agrarian development, land and peace. The conference was held in Washington DC at the United States Institute for Peace (USIP) and was co-organized by USIP, The U.S. Office on Colombia and sponsored by USAID, Mercy Corps and Lutheran World Relief, among others.

The event brought together influential leaders on land issues in Colombia including the Director of the United Nations Development Fund Colombia Human Development Report 2011, the Director of the Land Restitution Unit with the Colombian Government, a representative from USAID Colombia and the General Coordinator of COCOMASUR and Afro-Colombia leader on land tenure and property rights with this CMM project. The event served as an important platform for addressing land issues as well as for sharing Mercy Corps' Tierras model for mediating land conflict and formalizing land tenure and property rights with marginalized ethnic minorities.

Information on the conference and the webcast recording can be found at the following link: <http://www.usip.org/events/colombia-land-and-the-agenda-peace>.

In a separate Washington DC event the week of April 5th, Mercy Corps representatives from the headquarters, Colombia and Bolivia participated as panelists in the annual World Bank Land Conference—profiling the work of Red Tierras and the need to decentralize conflict management and land formalization process to community

actors—thus increasing sustainability of conflict mitigation while reducing costs and time in the tenure process as demonstrated by Mercy Corps' work in Bolivia.

Result 3.2: Links are established between networks in Colombia and Guatemala to address the land and natural resources conflict among ethnic groups taking into account gender equity.

41 new users during January to March 2013 enrolled in Red Tierras. This was accomplished by following the coordination strategy of the platform Red Tierras for the exchange of conflict resolution and land rights formalization experiences. At the same time, the number of visits to the Red Tierras website significantly increased from 151 to 191 users during the reporting period as Google Analytics monthly reports confirms. The participation of users in the promoted activities of the Red Tierras increased; such as in the virtual planner promoting regional exchange activities in Bolivia, in the commemoration of Women's International Day, and in the proposed actions to participate in World Water Day.

It is important to mention the great support offered by the project's intern who is in charge of implementing punctual tasks that have to be done weekly without fail. Among these are: sending messages to the members of the Red Tierras website, changes in the news banner, updating the social networks, welcoming greetings, and chat responses. These are actions that maintain the users involved generating accessing habits to the platform.

Activity 3.2. Regional exchanges and forums to share strategies to improve land and natural resources policies

The third experiences exchange took place during February 16-22, 2013, in La Paz, Bolivia. The goal was to teach the use of technology in land conflict resolution and land use planning as well as strengthen the training process at a community level that Mercy Corps and local partner technical teams in Colombia, Guatemala and Bolivia are developing.

Two government authorities participated in this exchange: Unguía's Municipal Mayor, and the Director of the Afro-descendant, *Raizal*, and *Palenqueras* Communities of the Victims' Integral Attention Unit. Two leaders of the COCOMACIA and two staff members of Mercy Corps Red Tierras program also participated in the exchange.

Result 3.3. The best practices on land and natural resource conflict resolution that promote the participation of marginalized groups are shared.

Activity 3.3. Seminars and other events to introduce and share best practices in solving land and natural resource conflicts.

There are no reports for this activity. As per the workplan, a Victim's Law seminary is planned in April with COCOMAUNGUIA and COCOMACIA.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation

This quarter, the Mercy Corps Design, Monitoring and Evaluation (DM&E) team provided technical support to the Mercy Corps and partner field teams, including COCOMACIA. Technical support focused on data quality and consolidating monthly indicator reports in Project databases and the oversight of data collection during the

implementation of activities, including the Colombia – Bolivia exchange, Red Tierras webcast and tracking new users of the online platform.

The M&E team and the COP also held planning meetings with the USAID AOR and DevTech representatives to provide inputs for the logistics needed for a women’s leadership component, as well as for monitoring field visits. They also reviewed the TOR for performance baseline scheduled for execution with the start of the Women’s Leadership Initiative cost extension. Meetings were also held during this quarter to review indicator information and update the monitoring system. Exchange activity information was also updated in TraiNet on the participants from Colombia. Lastly, the M&E team received special recognition from the AOR and the USAID Mission this quarter for high data quality levels.

4. Annex 1. Success Story

Third Regional Exchange in La Paz, Bolivia:

The third regional ethnic communities' experiences exchange took place in La Paz, Bolivia during February 16 to 22, 2013, as part of the framework of the Land and Natural Resources Conflict Resolution Project supported by USAID. The goal was to educate individuals on technology usage in land conflict resolution and land use processes of the ethnic communities' collective territories, and the execution of training processes on ethnic and gender land rights on a communitarian level for Afro descendants and indigenous in Colombia, Guatemala and Bolivia.



During the first activity in this event, the participants completed a workshop on effective communication and information management with the goal to create a sense of belonging and ownership of the Platform Red Tierras, and to facilitate the communication and exchange of valuable information of the experiences and good practices Through the Red Tierra platform.

The participants from the three countries learned of prior experiences implementing the technologies of the land formalization processes in Bolivia, at the same time, they shared successful cases, learned lessons, and the difficulties faced in the peaceful resolution of land conflicts. The participants were: male and female leaders of the Afro-Colombian Community Councils, municipal authorities, one representative from the Victims Unit, the Mercy Corps team, and an academic researcher.

Sessions also included the exchange of experiences between the three countries regarding land and natural resources conflict resolution and formalization processes of land rights and internal restructuring (*saneamiento interno*).

One of the most successful and important moments during the week was the panel discussion that took place during the second working day. The Aymará indigenous leaders of High Plateau of Bolivia and participants of the Mercy Corps Red Tierras Bolivia project and the local partner Fundación Tierra assisted on this day. Their valuable participation allowed enriching dialogues and discussed educational experiences by Fundación Tierra from Bolivia and the representatives of the Afro-Colombian Community Councils of Colombia that were present in the event, such as: COCOMAUNGUIA, COCOMACIA, COCOMASUR and the Mercy Corps Tierras' teams of Colombia and Guatemala.

By the end of the day, the participants achieved the following: i) identification of the differences among the legal frameworks for the property rights formalization processes; ii) understanding the role of the Afro Colombian youth in the process of generational renewal/succession in the regularization and internal restructuring of the collective territories; iii) verification of the women and men's contributions in the promotion of women's participation as individuals with rights; and iv) the importance of guaranteeing land use and access as a sustainable strategy of land tenancy. It is important to mention that the average age of the black communities' leaders of Colombia on the event was 26 years, and the average age of the Aymará leaders was 62. This generational exchange allowed new learning that motivated the Bolivian leaders to involve youth in their communities to manage the land formalization process.

Also included in the sessions were the gender strategy, new masculinities, and land as transversal factors on the regional projects. Within the strategies and the spaces designed to promote a dialogue, a panel was created to talk about the gender and territory aspects. In this session, the participants had the opportunity to discuss the current problems of each context that they were representing. At the same time, they discussed the management of actions proposed to guarantee gender equality in the use and access to the land, and the construction of new masculinities in rural and ethnic contexts.

Criteria for unification for the regional strategy of Red Tierras:

The spaces for interaction and dialogue focused on a South-South cooperation which was encouraged shared learning. What was found was that organizations, as well as, communities can start common agendas to work collaboratively in the interrelated local and regional themes of: land access and use, responsible and sustainable use of the natural resources, political promotion of land rights and the preservation of traditions and culture, and technology application to facilitate the management of the topics already mentioned.

These linked strategies will be promoted on the Red Tierras site in order to consolidate a regional vision of the land issues in Latin America.

Live broadcasting, virtual participation:

As part of the exchange dynamics, three live broadcasts were made of key workday discussions with the goal to involve Red Tierras users on virtual dialogues that will enrich their experiences.

The following are the preceding activities that had to be done to transmit the workdays

- Massive information emailing about the dates and links for the broadcast.
- Opening of an account in Ustream and many usage trials previous to the gathering
- "Live" page modifications with the new broadcast code
- Purchasing of a Web camera to guarantee an adequate audio and video quality.

The live broadcasts took place on:

- Tuesday, February 19th. Topic: Experiences of panel tierras´ projects. Number of visits: 148 at the end of the day. Number of people in the Red Tierras´ Chat: 13 on average.
- Wednesday, February 20th. Topic: Socialization of the Red Tierras Bolivia project. Number of visits: 206 at the beginning of the day, 338 at the end of the workday; Total; 132. Number of people in the Red Tierras Chat: 19 on average.
- Friday, February 22nd. Topic: Gender equality. Number of visualizations: 385 at the beginning of the day, 467 at the end of the workday; Total: 82 people. Number of people in the Red Tierras´ Chat: 12 on average.

Results:

- Active participation of the users of great value for the project: participation on line by the Mercy Corps Headquarters US and Europe teams, Mercy Corps´ Guatemala and Colombia staff members, functionaries of the Registry of Cadastral Information –RIC (Guatemala Ally), Unguía´s Mayor´s Office Team, and members of the Communitarian Councils of Cocomanguia, Cocomasur and Cocomacia.
- Dialogues using the Red spaces: 15 commentaries on the page “Live”, questions and continuous commentaries in the chat room of the platform, and interaction among the associated social networks.
- In some opportunities three to five people were registered as watching the broadcast from a same team, for that reason, the number of visits by individuals is larger than what was registered by the Red Tierras system.
- An increase in the number of registries on the platform (22 during the month).
- An increase in the number of visits to the platform (350 more visits than the past month).
- Recordings of the interventions in order to be replicated after the “Live” experience.

Google Analytics figures:

During the month of February, 730 users visited the Red Tierras platform, for a total of 1,405 visits during the month. The 45.62% of this number are new visitors or platform users, with a 45.55% of value for the new visits and a rebound effect of 51.17%.

The increased number of visitors of the red during this month becomes more evident when revising January´s 2013 figures:

730 usuarios han visitado este sitio.



Translation of the above data:

- 730 users have visited this place
- Visits 1,405
- Number of visited pages 6,417
- Mean duration (*duración media*) of the visit 00: 07:00
- % of new visits 45.55%
- Single visitors (*visitantes únicos*) 730
- Pages/Visit 4.57
- Rebound percentage 51.17%

Indeed, during February 18, 20, and 22, the visits overcame the value of 150, a number very much associated with the live broadcast sessions during the Bolivia Exchange. During the other days, the activity was less with an average of 40 visits, considering that during these days the agenda did not show big updates on the other activities.

