

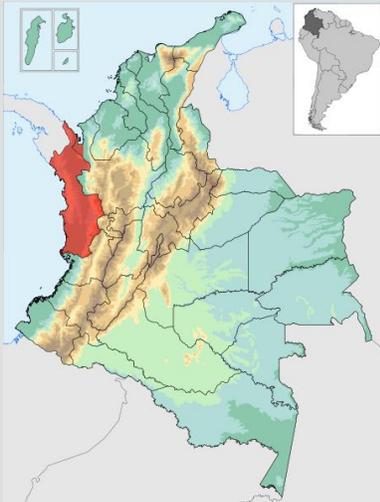


USAID CMM APS #M/OAA/DCHA/DOFDA-10-390

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

QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

01 April – 30 June, 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



Picture No1. Afro Colombian women receiving state land titles

Executive Summary & Implementation

For the reporting period of April-June 2013, activities focused primarily on presenting demarked land data from the Afro-Colombian Councils. Activities included technical correction of the collective title deeds, which involved approximately 50,000 hectares in Acandí, Chocó.

In June 2013, the USAID's Gender office provided a cost extension of \$500,000 to the original award. These additional resources allowed Mercy Corps to continue CMM activities that empower women to participate in the processes of land and natural resource conflict resolution, including access to lands through titling uncultivated lands of the State. This trimester, Mercy Corps and USAID developed a baseline terms of reference that will allow for the monitoring of the project's reach. In addition, agreements with women's groups and commissions were reached allowing for the development of an implementation plan that will launch July 2013.

Finally, the technical teams of Mercy Corps' land program in Colombia and Guatemala, along with the boards of High Councils, developed a preliminary agenda for the fourth regional exchange that will take place in Alta Verapaz, Guatemala this August. This exchange will focus on the dissemination of best practices influencing gender and land rights, supported by the technical knowledge needed for women to be able to access lands and participate in the definition of land use. In addition, women will develop linkage strategies between Afro-Colombian and Indigenous people to mobilize and exchange methodologies for community work with women through the Red Tierras' virtual social network.

1. Indicators

Table No 1: Achievements to April - June 2013

Indicator	Indicator Description	Indicator type	Desagregation by sex	Total Year 1	Goal Year 1	% Goal Achieve Y1	Year 2 QR1 13	Year 2 QR2 13	Year 2 QR3 13	Total Year 2	Goal Year 2	% Goal Achieve Y2	Cumm. Year 1 +Year2	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	0	0	37	40	93%	170	120	141,7%
2	# of people participating in USG --assisted reconciliation activities conducted and completed w ith the participation of two or more of the conflict parties. (Direct beneficiaries of resolved conflict cases)	CMM	Hombre	85	110	105%	12	0	16	28	40	128%	167	150	111,3%
			Mujer	31			15	0	8	23					
3	# of people participating in USG --assisted reconciliation activities conducted and completed w ith the participation of two or more of the conflict parties. (Participation in training, local exchanges)	CMM	Hombre	1.083	400	457%	68	0	0	68	110	148%	1.989	510	390,0%
			Mujer	743			95	0	0	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%	0	1	0	1	1	100%	3	3	100,0%
5	Number of households that have obtained property rights as a result of USG assistance.	MC	Hogares	48	30	160%	0	0	0	0	15	0%	48	45	106,7%
			Mujeres	48	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	48	n/a	n/a
6	# of peace building structures established or strengthened w ith USG assistance that engages conflict-affected citizens affected in peace and reconciliation processes			4	4	100%	0	0	0	0	0	0%	4	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	0	0	0	137	0%	0	137	0,0%
8	# of users in the RedTierras disaggregated	MC		171	150	114%	47	41	20	108	150	72%	279	300	93,0%
9	# of local w omen participating in a substantive role or position in a peacebuilding process supported w ith USG assistance	CMM	Mujer	0	0	0%	33	0	0	33	15	220%	33	15	220,0%

2. Activities and 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 1.1.1 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 Afrocolombianos 6.2.2).

With the objective of training women of COCOMACIA's Gender Commission in Quibdo on land ownership and land rights, the third module of female leadership training focused on alternative technical skills for conflict resolution, land rights, women's rights and land allocation through the family's land use provisions. Mercy Corps conducted an analysis on the violation of women's rights in order to mobilize communities around land ownership, specifically focusing on the negative impact for women who have suffered from mining activities on the collective territory. The analysis was presented to the Council of Higher Councils, initiating a dialogue with public authorities, which resulted in effective institutional responses. During the workshop, the main issues related to gender-based violence faced by the community were identified, guidelines were set in place and a policy delineating actions to reduce gender-based violence started to be developed. This proposal will be presented to the assembly to be approved and included in the bylaws of each CCL. This is a good example of citizen action that has taken place as a result of the tools and methodologies that Mercy Corps has brought to the women's land rights committees.

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.

Activity 1.3.1 Women participate in land conflict mediation activities, which result in greater access to land and security of land rights

This goal was achieved and detailed in previous reports.

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

INCODER, in collaboration with Mercy Corps, launched the process of the titling of 50,000 hectares of ancestral lands in eight of the local community councils that are part of COCOMASUR. In May, INCODER prioritized the Unguía region and visited the project to verify that appropriate land coordinates were established within the limits of the collective title. For this project, Mercy Corps will support COCOMASUR in the process of developing a socio-economical diagnosis that will help to identify the social and family characteristics of those who are applying for the titling of collective lands. This activity will be led by women of the local community councils already trained in mediation and GPS demarcation.

Mercy Corps and the local community councils will conduct demarcation exercises which will be later validated by INCODER's technical teams. This process will last approximately 12 months.

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

Activities were completed.

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.

Activities were completed.

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.

Activities were completed.

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

Activities were completed.

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

During the April-June 2013 reporting period, Mercy Corps and the participating community councils developed an education brochure entitled *Solving Land and Natural Resource Conflicts in Choco*. The brochure presented the

methodology currently used to approach land conflicts, explored the various types of conflicts that became relevant in the implementation of the project and communicated the processes related to the formalization of uncultivated State lands. The material focused on efforts involving INCODER, community councils and Mercy Corps, whose beneficiaries were Afro-Colombian women and female heads of family in Unguía, Choco. The brochure is expected to be printed in July and distributed to councils, public and private institutions and relevant stakeholders. Using the Red Tierras platform, Mercy Corps will emphasize that the methodology presented in the brochure can be implemented in other contexts and regions of Colombia and Latin America as a whole.

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

No activities to report this period and the indicators have been met.

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.

Nothing to report for this activity.

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.

In May, a meeting was held in Bogota between the legal representatives of COCOMAUNGIA, COCOMACIA, COCOMASUR and the director of INCODER to follow up on agreements about the technical correction of boundaries and titling processes for the community councils in the area of Darien. As a result, INCODER sent a review of COCOMAUNGIA and COCOMABOCAS' collective title boundary coordinates and included a clause ensuring that the Afro-Colombian communities will be the only ones in charge of the management and use of the 5,000 hectares of mangroves that are within the collective titles. This clarification of exclusive use is crucial for the established families on Rio Atrato's estuary to be able to live in and manage those territories.

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.

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

In June, the land program management teams of Mercy Corps Colombia and Guatemala offices collaborated with the local community councils to develop a preliminary agenda for the fourth regional exchange that will take place

in Guatemala this August. The event will explore the following themes: i) access, inclusion and participation of women in rural development, ii) discussions and proposals around mechanisms and technological tools to guarantee the access to and the use of land for women, ii) gender perspectives, differential foci and applicability on the territory, iv) acknowledging local or national government programs that promote rural women participation and v) drafting a regional strategy for Red Tierras based on lessons learned and successful practices by rural women. In July, further participation is planned with the community councils, commissions and women groups.

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.

No activities to report this period as the indicators have been met.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation

During the reporting period M&E efforts focused on reviewing reports pertaining to QR2FY13, to ensure that our information matched the COCOMACIA database. The M&E team also reviewed the Red Tierras' user database as well as the indicator report sent by COCOMACIA in April 2013, and generated the QR3FY13 table accordingly.
