

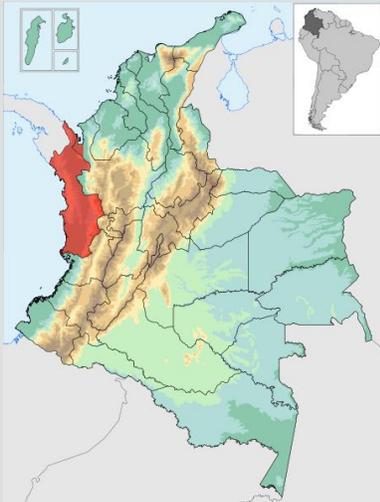


USAID CMM APS #M/OAA/DCHA/DOFDA-10-390

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

QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

July 1 – September 30, 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 Acandí |
| COCOMAUNGUÍA | Community Council of the Lower Atrato of Unguía |
| INCODER | Colombian Institute for Rural Development |

1. Executive Summary & Implementation



Photo No 1. Afro descendant head of household women receiving Rural Property Titles in the Municipality of Unguía, Choco

Mercy Corps has been implementing the project Resolution of Land and Natural Resources Conflicts in Colombia since June 2011. In partnership with the Afro Community Councils: COCOMAUNGUIA, COCOMASUR and COCOMACIA the project works in the municipalities of Unguía, Acandí, Quibdó, located in Choco, and the municipality of Turbo located in Antioquia. Following the successful outcomes obtained on access, regularization and formalization of land tenure, and the high participation of women and youth in improving the living conditions of Afro descendant communities with collective territories, USAID granted to Mercy Corps an additional \$500,000 from USAID's Office on Gender in June 2013. The new cost extension funds to June 2014 are to ensure continuity of the project, directing its action towards the promotion of the rights and participation of women in the processes of formalization and access to land, and in the use of methodologies and technical tools for the resolution of territorial disputes. This recognition extends the period of implementation of the initiative between June 2013 and August 2014.

This report highlights Mercy Corps' and its local partners' focus on delivering 310 State-owned vacant land titles, granted to Afro-Colombian and peasant families in the Municipality of Unguía, Choco, of which, 236 were financed by the Project. This activity is part of the partnership established between Mercy Corps and the Colombian Institute for Rural Development (INCODER), the mayor's office of Unguía and the

Community Council of the Lower Atrato (COCOMAUNGUIA). It should be noted that among the 224 beneficiaries of the funded titles, 61 were men and 163 women, of which 12 of them (8 women and 4 men) received additional titles, for a total of 236 titles provided.

Additionally, Mercy Corps designed and disseminated communication pieces in RedTierras in order to share the methodologies to ensure access to and formalization of the state-owned vacant lands. The opportunities brought up by these property rights to beneficiary families on access to financial credits and state subsidies were also explained. Land tenure is essential for progress towards solving the structural problems of the Colombian conflict and to overcome exclusion and discrimination against women in rural contexts.

During this period, progress was made on joint planning exercises between Mercy Corps and the community councils in order to develop training activities for women on resolution of territorial disputes. Objectives for training on women's leadership and new masculinities within community councils were also established. In fact, the methodological Guideline for the Resolution of Conflicts over Land and Natural Resources was published as a booklet together with a virtual training through RedTerras.

2. Indicators

Table No 1: Achievements to July - September 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 | Year 2 QR4 13 | Total Year 2 | Goal Year 2 | % Goal Achieve Y2 | Cumm. Year1 +Year2 | LoP Goal | % LoP Achieved | Gender Goal Since Jun 16 2013 | Gender % 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 | 0 | 37 | 40 | 93% | 170 | 120 | 141,7% | 40 | 0,0% | | | | |
| 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 | Hombre | 85 | 110 | 105% | 12 | 0 | 16 | 0 | 28 | 40 | 128% | 167 | 150 | 111,3% | 0 | n.a | | | | |
| | | | Mujer | 31 | | | 15 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 23 | | | | | | 40 | 0,0% | | | | |
| 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 | Hombre | 1.083 | 400 | 457% | 68 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 68 | 110 | 148% | 1.989 | 510 | 390,0% | 0 | n.a | | | | |
| | | | Mujer | 743 | | | 95 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 95 | | | | | | 220 | 0,0% | | | | |
| 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 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 100% | 3 | 3 | 100,0% | 2 | 0,0% | | | | |
| 5 | Number of households that have obtained property rights as a result of USG assistance. | MC | Beneficiarios | Hogares | 48 | 30 | 160% | 0 | 0 | 0 | 224 | 224 | 15 | 1493% | 272 | 45 | 604,4% | 100 | 224,0% | | | |
| | | | | Mujeres | 48 | n/a | n/a | 0 | 0 | 0 | 163 | 163 | n/a | n/a | 211 | n/a | n/a | 100 | 163,0% | | | |
| | | | Titulos | Hombres | | | | | | | 61 | | | | | | | | | n.a. | n.a. | |
| | | | | Mujeres | | | | | | | 171 | | | | | | | | | | n.a. | n.a. |
| | | | | Hombres | | | | | | | 65 | | | | | | | | | | n.a. | n.a. |
| 6 | # of peace building structures established or strengthened with USG assistance that engages conflict-affected citizens affected in peace and reconciliation processes | | | 4 | 4 | 100% | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% | 4 | 4 | 100,0% | 0 | n.a. | | | | |
| 7 | # of land and natural resource guides with a gender focus distributed to Afro-Colombian Community Councils | MC | | 0 | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0 | 0 | 171 | 171 | 137 | 125% | 171 | 137 | 124,8% | 0 | n.a. | | | | |
| 8 | # of users in the RedTierras disaggregated | MC | | 171 | 150 | 114% | 47 | 41 | 20 | 64 | 172 | 150 | 115% | 343 | 300 | 114,3% | 40 | 160,0% | | | | |
| 9 | # of local women participating in a substantive role or position in a peacebuilding process supported with USG assistance | CMM | Mujer | 0 | 0 | 0% | 33 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 33 | 15 | 220% | 33 | 15 | 220,0% | 40 | 0,0% | | | | |

Table No 2: Gender Indicators*

| Indicator | Indicator Description | Indicator type | Desagregation by sex | LoP Goal | Cumm. Year1 +Year2 Achieved (QR3 FY13) | % LoP Goal Achieved (QR3 FY13) | Gender Goal | Goal QR4FY13 | Goal QR1FY14 | Goal QR2FY14 | Goal QR3FY14 | Goal QR4FY14 | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----|--|
| 1 | Number of previously existing land and natural resources conflicts resolved in areas receiving USG assistance for mitigation of land conflicts. | CMM | | 120 | 170 | 141,7% | 40 | | | | 10 | 20 | 10 | |
| 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 | Hombre | 150 | 167 | 111,3% | 0 | | | | | | | |
| | | | Mujer | | | | 40 | | | 10 | 20 | 10 | | |
| 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 | Hombre | 510 | 1989 | 390,0% | 0 | | | | | | | |
| | | | Mujer | | | | 220 | | 60 | 80 | 80 | | | |
| 4 | # of regional exchanges concerning conflicts over land and natural resources between technical teams, staff members, and leaders of Colombia and Guatemala. | MC | | 3 | 3 | 100,0% | 2 | | 1 | | | 1 | | |
| 5 | Number of households that have obtained property rights as a result of USG assistance. | MC | Beneficiarios | Hogares | 45 | 48 | 106,7% | 100 | 100 | | | | | |
| | | | | Mujeres | n.a. | 48 | n/a | 100 | 100 | | | | | |
| | | | Titulos | Hombres | n.a. | | | n.a. | | | | | | |
| | | | | Mujeres | n.a. | | | n.a. | | | | | | |
| | | | | Hombres | n.a. | | | n.a. | | | | | | |
| 6 | # of peace building structures established or strengthened with USG assistance that engages conflict-affected citizens affected in peace and reconciliation processes | | | 4 | 4 | 100,0% | 0 | | | | | | | |
| 7 | # of land and natural resource guides with a gender focus distributed to Afro-Colombian Community Councils | MC | | 137 | 0 | 0,0% | 0 | | | | | | | |
| 8 | # of users in the RedTierras disaggregated | MC | | 300 | 279 | 93,0% | 40 | | | | | | | |
| 9 | # of local women participating in a substantive role or position in a peacebuilding process supported with USG assistance | CMM | Mujer | 15 | 33 | 220,0% | 40 | | | | 20 | 20 | | |

*This table shows the gender-specific indicators following the new Work Plan

3. Activities & Results

Objective 1: Empower Afro Colombian women to gain new skills in resolving conflicts of land and security of tenure.

Outcome 1: At least 40 conflicts over natural resources and land have been settled by Afro-Colombian women from 64 Local Councils, thereby increasing access and land use to 100 women.

Activity 1.1. Afro-Colombian women, leaders of the four Regional Councils - COCOMACIA, COCOMASUR, COCOMABOCAS, COCOMAUNGUIA, lead dispute mediation sessions over land and natural resources.

Mercy Corps and the Community Councils carried out the sessions to design the adjustments to the work plan for the period from June 2013 to August 2014. Local community councils were identified and prioritized in places with the highest rates of territorial conflict; an analysis of the categories and typologies of territorial conflict in the community councils was also carried out, and the schedule to address the cases was defined. Women in the reporting period socialized such schedules with the community council's boards, and progress was made towards the definition of the budget for the sessions on mediation and demarcation of land.

Activity 1.2. Build the capacities of Afro-Colombian women for using GPS units and GIS map interpretation for land tenure and planning of land use.

The community councils' boards requested Mercy Corps to initiate a process of strengthening the staff in charge of the GIS within each council. Mercy Corps will provide training on ArcGIS 10.0 to six women from the councils, who will be in charge of surveying and developing digital maps to settle disputes addressed from mediation centers. These women are trainers of trainers within the local councils. Each trainer expects to train an additional five women in ArcGIS over the course of the project but actual numbers will be determined once the initial five complete their training.

The Gender Commission of COCOMACIA and women groups from Darien community councils met in Quibdó to review the GIS and GPS training outline, and jointly with the Gender Coordinator of Mercy Corps defined the selection criteria for women who will participate in the training process that will begin in December.

Activity 1.3. Develop and disseminate methodological guidelines on land dispute resolution protocols with a focus on gender equality and Afro-Colombian women's leadership.

Mercy Corps completed the production of 1,000 copies of the guideline - booklet: "Resolution of Conflicts over Land and Natural Resources in Choco"¹ (Annex No 1). This publication was shared with 141 Local Community Councils from Choco and more than 15 territorial-level government institutions responsible for agricultural issues, including INCODER the Choco Government and Municipal Mayors from the project area.

¹ The booklet systematizes the methodology applied by the community councils to address territorial conflicts and presents emblematic cases resolved in the municipalities covered by the project. This publication is set up as an educational tool for mediators, community topographers and civil servants of the territorial level who will participate in the training process under this initiative. It will also be a reference document for government entities responsible for addressing agrarian issues in Colombia; as such, this publication will be socialized through RedTierras and it also has info-graphics describing its usefulness for the resolution of territorial conflicts at community level.

Activity 1.4. Conflict Resolution for Land and Natural Resources - Implementation of the case approaching roadmap.

Resolution of land conflicts by women acting as mediators and community demarcation officials will be carried out at Mediation Centers in the municipalities of Quibdó and Unguía, Choco. This decision was agreed upon as part of the planning process conducted by Mercy Corps and the community councils' boards participating in the project. The project will address intra-community conflicts related primarily to the organizational process of local councils, access to family usufruct, access to and rational use of natural resources. These conflicts will be addressed through technical teams established at the mediation centers and will have the support from the Mercy Corps' lands program team. The technical teams from the mediation centers will count with a methodological tool, the aforementioned guidelines in the activity 1.3. At the same time, strengthening processes on the use of GPS and GIS will be carried out between November and January with the community topographers responsible for the demarcation and delimitation fieldwork, documenting the country portfolios, construction of social and digital cartography for the mediation sessions and signing of agreements between the parties in dispute.

Activity 1.5. Restore the land use rights of at least 100 Afro-Colombian women through land use documents and / or legal certainty-titles.

In the context of the partnership with ethnic and community participation established in the Municipality of Unguía, 310 Afro-Colombians and peasant community families were granted state vacant land titles from the municipality in September 2013. Of the 224 people benefitting from the titles, 61 were for men and 163 were for female-headed households. The process was supported by INCODER, COCOMAUNGUÍA, the Municipality of Unguía, USAID and Mercy Corps Colombia.



The most important thing is that now these 224 land owners have a title duly registered in the office of public instruments, which guarantees legal certainty of ownership of the land and opens the opportunity for these families to access to financial credits and government subsidies in the areas of agricultural production and home improvement.

Objective 2: Strengthen the Gender Commissions of the Afro-Colombian Community Councils and women's groups through the exchange of experiences of lessons learned in Colombia, Guatemala and Bolivia on gender equality and resolution of conflicts on land and tenure.

Outcome 2: Experience sharing activities in resolution of conflicts on land and land rights held, using regional visits and the virtual network RedTierras, resulting in strengthening both the gender commission of COCOMACIA and three Afro-Colombian women's groups of the Atrato Bajo.

Activity 2.1 Exchanging technical information and experiences of Afro-Colombian women and other women, regarding land tenure, conflict resolution, land rights and ethno-territorial land through cross-visits and the virtual network RedTierras (www.redtierras.org).

During the reporting period, in RedTierras, and with the facilitation of an intern from the Santo Tomas University, the group for the implementation of the first online training on resolution over territorial conflicts was created on the platform <http://www.redtierras.org/group/capacitaciones-red-tierras>.

In RedTierras, Mercy Corps and the Gender Commission of COCOMACIA, promoted campaigns on climate change. A case that exemplifies this type of tool was the World Water Day campaign. In this context, Mercy Corps implemented a virtual mobilization strategy that included the production of a co-created video with users from Guatemala, Bolivia and Colombia, as well as the construction of a web page within the group "Natural Resources" to explain in depth the reasons for the commemoration of this day, and to propose an active participation through a special forum, dialogues on linked social networks and dissemination of the materials proposed by the UN.

Three videos about the state vacant land titles granted in the municipality of Unguía were also made, Links: <http://www.redtierras.org/video/entrega-de-t-tulos-de-bald-os-en-ungu-a-choc>
<http://www.redtierras.org/video/incoder-entrego-titulos-de-tierra-a-310-familias-en-unguia-choco>
<http://www.redtierras.org/video/mujeres-por-la-tierra-en-ungu-a>



Activity 2.2. Regional experience exchanges with Guatemala

Mercy Corps' gender coordinator, women from the COCOMACIA Gender Commission and groups of women from the Darien boards, scheduled the third regional exchange with indigenous women in Guatemala in October. The exchange was carried out in October and details will be provided in the following quarterly report. In this event, a technical exchange of experiences and best practices around mediation strategies and use of technology for the resolution of land disputes will be developed. Additionally, between October and November, the participatory agendas for cross-visits between COCOMACIA and the Darien boards will be developed. Mercy Corps will aim to establish a common agenda with medium-term objectives, allowing the establishment of capabilities and strengthening women's leadership in agricultural dialogue within local councils and defining a roadmap to include the right to access to land for women through family land use, within the collective titles.

Activity 2.3. Exchange of experiences between COCOMACIA and Darien Community Councils.

This activity is not reported because the implementation is scheduled for the first quarter of 2014

Activity 2.4. Conduct participatory sessions with Afro-Colombian women to develop exchange agendas, testing methodologies and document lessons learned

This activity is not reported because the regional exchange is taking place in October.

Objective 3: Strengthen the role of women in relation to Afro-Colombian ethnic territory and land planning of the local councils.

Outcome 3: 220 Afro-Colombian women incorporate land tenure, conflict resolution and land use in the ethnic and municipal development plans, using gender equity and leadership approaches.

Activity 3.1. Build capacity for gender equity and new masculinities and leadership of women for ethnic territorial planning, including participation of men and youth leaders.

This activity is not reported because the training processes will begin in November 2013.

Activity 3.2. Increase participation and the number of leadership positions of women Afro-Colombian in regional and local councils, regarding to gender equity and tenure and land use.

This activity is not reported because the training processes will be initiated in November 2013 and the results assessment will be held in the second quarter of 2014.

Activity 3.4. Ethnic institutional dialogue round tables between the Boards and their respective Local Authorities to strengthen Afro-Colombian women leadership activities so that they are included in the programs and projects within the development plans of their municipalities.

This activity is not reported because the dialogue round tables will be activated the first two months of 2014.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation

In the reporting period the Mercy Corps' technical team and the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit of USAID worked together in designing the terms of reference for the project performance assessment. As a result, the variables, techniques and data collection instruments were defined, as was the field information gathering plan, which will be implemented in November 2013.

Additionally, Mercy Corps developed a participatory planning exercise on the gender component with the Community Councils, which responds to the budget addition to the project and consequently, adjustments to the work plan for the period June 2013 - August 2014 that were made.

4. Annex 1: Success Story

WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE RECEIVED LAND TITLES IN CHOCÓ - Press Release No 78 of INCODER-

INCODER handed over 310 titles to Afro-descent and peasant families of Unguía. In the context of the resolution of land and natural resources in Colombia, funded by USAID and implemented by Mercy Corps with its local partner, the greater community council of Lower Atrato Unguía - COCOMAUNGUÍA.

"This is building peace scenarios, we solve land conflicts. This is how we are promoting rural development in Choco. In this case, the public-private partnerships we entered into in order to grant the land and the possibility to deliver collective and individual titles to community members were fundamental" the Director General of INCODER, Miriam Villegas, said in the ceremony.

The official highlighted the intention of Mercy Corps and the Community Councils to protect the mangroves of the Department, as well as providing training for young people on how to handle GPS to locate and manage information of their territory.

Nelly Machado Mosquera, COCOMAUNGUÍA Community Council leader, celebrated that now they have "the right to own the land". *"If we have land we can have many benefits and development for the people, a community and a family,"* she said.



Photo No 2. Mercy Corps Country Director delivers a property title to an Afro descendent woman

This process to issue land titles was supported by the Mayor of Unguía, USAID Colombia and Mercy Corps.

The Mayor of Unguía, Víctor Manuel Gómez Cortés said that the area "has been implementing a model for rural development...we harvest the fruit of our work to give 310 families the property titles to their land."

Hugo Gomez, National Land Manager at Mercy Corps, said that the alliance "has had a high participation of communities. We have implemented strategies to regularize collective titling and resolve territorial conflicts to reach sustainable agreements."

Gomez explained that "Approximately 60% of the beneficiaries of this titling are women heads of households that were affected by violence in Colombia. In the future the aim is that they can access credit, technical assistance and government subsidies to improve their land and thus boost the development of the area".

Photo No 3. INCODER General Manager, Miriam Villegas delivers Deed Title to Woman from Choco

