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FY14 Q3 Report: April 1st-June 30th, 2014

**Program: Stabilizing Vulnerable Communities in the Central Africa Republic
through the Promotion of Intercommunity Dialogue and Economic
Cooperation (SVC)**

Submitted July 28, 2014

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A. Executive Summary

The goal of the program “Stabilizing Vulnerable Communities in the Central African Republic through the Promotion of Interfaith Dialogue and Economic Cooperation” (SVC) is to address the accelerating violence in CAR by providing mechanisms for peaceful resolution of inter-community conflicts together with longer-term activities to rebuild trust and cooperation between affected communities.

During the reporting period, Bangui experienced a period of increased violence. Following the killing and mutilation of 3 young Muslims on May 25th and the killing of 15 people on May 28th, violence erupted throughout the city and staff had to go into hibernation on the 29th and 30th. Since that time, the security situation in Bangui and Bouar has been calmer than the previous period, yet tensions remain extremely high. This context demonstrates the continued importance of the SVC project, especially in strengthening the capacity of local communities to manage conflict and insecurity and in promoting attitudes of tolerance and non-violence.

This quarter, SVC has conducted several activities with the aim of strengthening local community capacity to peacefully manage conflict. These activities include:

- The recruitment and orientation of all SVC staff on the SVC program, and USAID and Mercy Corps procedures.
- Mercy Corps program staff and partner representatives received Interest Based Negotiation (IBN) TOT training.
- SVC program staff continued to liaise with local authorities, religious leaders, and local civil society organizations (CSOs). In addition, staff met with members of the Working Group on Social Cohesion to avoid duplication of efforts. As a result of this dialogue, SVC selected its intervention areas in Bangui and Bouar in coordination with the working group on social cohesion.
- Mercy Corps developed and shared the rigorous selection criteria with communities and started selecting program participants including: 75 community leaders, 23 Intercommunity Peace Committees members (IC-PCM) and the group of 147 peer educators (PEs).
- Mercy Corps is currently developing its communication strategy to develop and disseminate peace messages and has entered discussions with radio station partners and theater groups in Bangui and Bouar.
- The SVC program supported a youth group initiative to inform communities about social cohesion and peace.
- Mercy Corps continued to attend the social cohesion working group meetings in order to avoid duplication and enhance activity coordination.

It is also important to note that SVC has coordinated its activities in Bangui with another Mercy Corps project, funded by DFID.

B. Program Overview

In spite of delays in the start-up of the program due to the challenging operational context, SVC has put into action key activities that will guide program implementation. This includes ensuring that the program successfully reaches vulnerable groups and incorporates a strong coordination approach and rebuilds trust and cooperation between affected communities. More specifically, the following progress towards the program objective has been achieved:

- Mercy Corps selected target communities for program implementation in close coordination with the Working Group on Social Cohesion (thus far composed of Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Search for Common Ground (SFCG) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS)), community leaders and local authorities.
- All local staff including 2 Program Assistants, 4 Facilitators, 5 Community Supervisors, and 2 Monitoring and Evaluation Officers have been recruited for both Bangui and Bouar. In June, a kick-off meeting was held to officially launch the SVC program. Mercy Corps used this opportunity to orient all staff on the objectives, strategy and approach of the SVC program.
- In collaboration with CRS, Mercy Corps supported the religious leader platform in organizing a “Reflection Day on Peacebuilding”. Focusing on how to keep peace in Bouar and surrounding villages, the event was attended by local authorities, representatives from MINUSCA¹, CRS, the World Food Program (WFP), *Maison de la Société*, MISCA and Sangaris forces, representatives of groups involved in the conflict, and community leaders.
- From May 16th to 22nd, Mercy Corps and CRS visited Bouar to jointly launch their respective programs to local authorities. The launch was attended by local youth and women civil society organizations, local school authorities, Christian and Muslim religious leaders, the Nana-Mambéré Youth Council leaders and youth Muslim and Christian organizations, INGOs as well as representatives from MINUSCA and the World Food Program.
- From May 27th to 29th an Interest Based Negotiation (IBN) expert from Mercy Corps’ Nigeria team provided a 3-day training on IBN for program staff and a few participants from SFCG and DRC, partner organizations of the Working Group on Social Cohesion.
- 23 Inter-Community Peace Committees consisting of 136 community members (68 women and 70 men) have been established by nominated community leaders with Mercy Corps support. These Inter-Community Peace Committees members in Bangui and Bouar have selected 147 peer educators (70 women and 77 men).
- Using rigorous selection criteria, a total of 75 community leaders (35 women and 40 men), were nominated as SVC program community leaders in Bangui (50 leaders) and Bouar (25 leaders).
- The program team conducted the community baseline survey in Bangui between June, 25th and 30th. The results of the survey are being compiled and analyzed in mid-July.
- Mercy Corps met with SFCG, the Network of Journalists for Human Rights, and Internews to assure media coverage of project activities, including forums and dialogues.
- To prepare for the dissemination of peace messages, Mercy Corps met with several radio stations to discuss coverage of project activities. Each radio station expressed an interest in helping to produce peace messages and in assisting in identifying any necessary theater groups.

¹ United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

Security

Security continues to be an issue throughout the country. The most serious incidents in Bangui during the period were the killing of three young Muslims by the "anti-Balaka" militia during Mother's Day celebrations and the reprisals which followed, leading to the killing of 15 people during an attack on the Notre Dame de Fatima Church by "ex-Seleka" militia. These events triggered a period of spontaneous demonstrations and other incidents of civil unrest. As a result, project activities were interrupted for a week. In Bouar, the situation is much calmer than the last reporting period. Anti-Balaka forces reportedly attacked vehicles arriving from Cameroon in the areas west of Bouar. It is important to note that there has been an increased level of crime, including armed burglary, and some of our Bouar staff have been victims.

In May, around 2500 Muslims living in makeshift shelters in the PK12 district were evacuated to Bambari and to other areas of northern CAR. While controversial, the decision to relocate over 1,393 displaced persons in April from PK12 to Bambari, Kabo and Moyen Sido appears to have resulted in the reduction of tension in Begoua. UN agencies and INGOs are working together to assist the return of IDPs who wish to return to their areas or origin.

Following the violent incidents this period, the government attempted to implement a voluntary disarmament program in certain communities with little success. Due to a number of revenge killings and episodes of violence within certain communities, Mercy Corps' staff have been unable to operate within these locations. Furthermore, access to PK 12 in Begoua and the 8th *arrondissement* remains challenging to our staff. Mercy Corps encourages program participants from these areas to travel to other locations where SVC activities are implemented in Bangui, if the security situation enables them to do this, so that they can still participate in the program. Mercy Corps continues to monitor the security situation and operate according to its standard security operation procedures.

C. Performance Summary

SVC Program Intervention Areas: In coordination with the Working Group on Social Cohesion (DRC SFCG and CRS), Mercy Corps has finalized the selection of program intervention areas. Mercy Corps is now working in the 1st, 2nd, 5th and 8th *arrondissement* in Bangui and neighboring *sous-prefecture* of Bimbo and Begoua. In Bouar, Mercy Corps is covering six *groupements* (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th *groupement*), to support areas not covered by other partners and to focus intervention in areas with higher levels of violent conflict.

In total the SVC Program is covering 4 *arrondissements* and 93 *quartiers* in Bangui; 46 *groupements* in Bimbo and Begoua; and 6 *groupements* and 58 *quartiers* in Bouar. See Table 1 below and Annex 1 Program Intervention Areas.

Table 1: SVC Program Intervention Areas²

N°	Arrondissement	No. of Groupements	No. of of Quartiers
1	1 st	1	22
2	2 nd	2	26
3	5 th	3	27
4	8 th	2	18
5	Bimbo	7 secteurs, 22 <i>groupements</i>	Bimbo 1, Bimbo 3 ³
6	Begoua	14 <i>groupements</i>	127 <i>quartiers</i> et villages ⁴
7	Bouar	1 st	7
		2 nd	15
		3 rd	8
		4 th	8
		5 th	11
		6 th	9

Staff recruitment: All local staff including two PM Assistants, four facilitators, five community level supervisors, and two M&E Officer have been recruited for both Bangui and Bouar and have begun work on the program. Mercy Corps will recruit two drivers, one for each of program location.

Program launching in Bouar: On May 22nd Mercy Corps and CRS jointly launched their social cohesion programs in Bouar. CRS will focus primarily on supporting the religious platform, while Mercy Corps will focus on providing communities with negotiation skills and supporting social and economic development by working with peace committees and peer educators. More than 67 people were present, including representatives from local Authorities (Prefect, Mayor), police, MISCA, *Centre International de Développement et de Recherche (CIDR)*, the Prefect's, Youth Council, *Association des Femmes Juristes de Centrafrique (AFJC)*, *Association des Femmes Libres*, the Bishop of Bouar, leaders of the religious platform, MISCA, MINUSCA, Sangaris, Cordaid, Save the Children, youth and



Picture 1 – SVC program launch in Bouar

² Each Arrondissement is divided into *groupements*. Each *groupement*

³ Bimbo 1 (4 secteurs et 18 *groupements*, 133 quartier and villages); E

2 *groupements*, 13 *quartiers/villages*)

⁴ Begoua center, Batayanga, Damala (road to PK10), and Gbaloko (road to Boali)

women representatives, media, etc.



Picture 2 – SVC program launch in Bouar

Through the launch in Bouar, Mercy Corps communicated its selection criteria document for community leaders. Participants appreciated the fact that CRS and Mercy Corps launched their programs together, and certain community leaders expressed their desire to be involved in project activities and to support partners' efforts on social cohesion in Nana Mambéré. CRS and Mercy Corps meet to regularly coordinate and inform each other on significant events or other matters relevant to social cohesion programming and to collaborate on the development of joint action plans in Bouar. Mercy Corps and CRS have agreed to harmonize beneficiary per diems and other expenses to ensure fairness and consistency across programs. We also agreed to explore the possibility of sharing training curriculums and even conducting joint trainings.

SVC Staff orientation and program kick-off: During June, a staff orientation and internal Mercy Corps program kick-off meeting was held to officially launch the SVC program, with all the SVC staff, the M&E assistants, the support team (Finance and Operation managers) and the other social cohesion Project Managers⁵. This orientation focused on assuring a common understanding of SVC and its implementation by all relevant Mercy Corps staff. After this activity the Bouar staff travelled to Bouar (2 Supervisors and 2 Facilitators) to commence program implementation activities. One Program Assistant who was originally recruited to be based in Bouar will remain in Bangui until a new Program Assistant can be recruited for Bangui.

⁵ For a DFID funded project implemented in Bangui, Bambari, Bangassou and Rafai.

Objective 1: Muslim and Christian community leaders have enhanced capacity to resolve inter-communal disputes peacefully.

Activity 1.1: Prepare training materials for negotiation and dispute resolution workshops: From May 27th to 29th, Mercy Corps conducted a training of trainers (TOT) for program staff and also invited partner organizations from the Working Group on Social Cohesion. An Interest Based Negotiation (IBN) expert from Mercy Corps Nigeria provided the 3-day training on IBN in preparation for the training of Community Leaders. The training was attended by the Mercy Corps SVC Program Manager, Conflict Mitigation Advisor, 2 Program Assistants and 1 Program Facilitator. One program staff member from DRC and SFCG also attended the training, providing an opportunity for sharing experiences and learning. Mercy Corps contextualized and translated into French the IBN curriculum developed in Nigeria to reflect the situation in the Central African Republic. Mercy Corps coordinated with partners in the Working Group on Social Cohesion to ensure that methodologies are consistent and complementary.

All Program Staff will be trained in IBN TOT in July and the training will be conducted in both French and Sango. The TOT will provide Mercy Corps staff with the knowledge and skills to train community leaders and peace committees in the IBN approach. By learning IBN, community leaders will be better equipped to identify different types of conflicts and introduce a “win-win” approach to resolving conflicts. These skills will allow communities to better manage conflicts before they escalate.

Activity 1.2: Select workshop participants: Mercy Corps developed rigorous selection criteria to identify community leaders, religious leaders, civil society, and youth representatives and women leaders



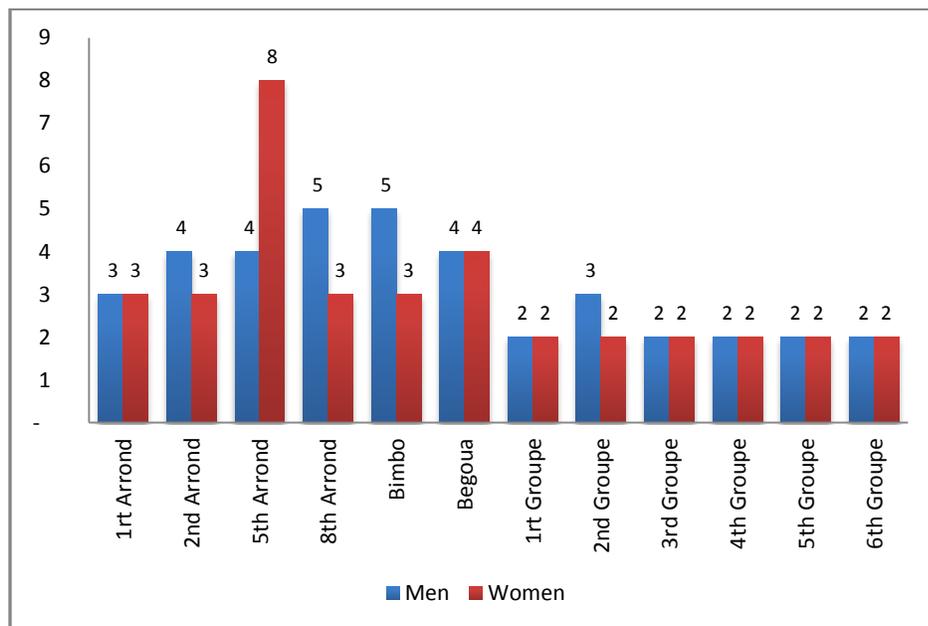
Picture 3 – Meeting with community leaders in Bangui

to form the leaders group (See Annex 2). In addition, Mercy Corps developed a leaders’ expression of interest form so that nominated leaders could share their experience and challenges as community leaders as well as their commitment to working towards SVC program objectives (see Annex 3). Mercy Corps organized several meetings in Bouar and Bangui to inform those interested in participation of the necessary selection criteria. Meetings were attended by 105 representatives from community leaders, local authorities, civil society organizations, and youth leaders and women organization.

Mercy Corps and certain community organizations (including religious, youth and women’s organizations) have carefully identified 75 community leaders (35 women, 40 men) in the Bouar and Bangui areas, who have both authority positions and influence within their community. Each community

leader will attend an Interest Based Negotiation (IBN) Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop held by SVC staff next month; the training will consist of three full day sessions in which Mercy Corps program staff will also participate. The number of nominated leaders by area of intervention is as follows:

Chart 1 Distribution of community leader by gender



Activity 1.3: Train community leaders in dispute resolution and multi-stakeholder dialogue processes:

During the next quarter, Mercy Corps will provide intensive training and accompaniment on dispute resolution and multi-stakeholder dialogue processes to the 75 nominated Community leaders both in Bouar and Bangui. Mercy Corps has developed a pre and post-training test survey negotiation for participants (see Annexes 4 and 5).

Activity 1.4: Form inter-community Peace Committees (responsible for managing disputes in their areas): Mercy Corps used rigorous selection criteria to select Inter-Community Peace Committees members (see Annex 2). Furthermore, the distribution of Inter-Community Peace Committees by area has been finalized in collaboration with the nominated leaders, see 2 below.

Table 2: Distribution of Inter-Community Peace Committees by intervention area

Target	Areas	Intervention location						TOTAL
	Bangui	8 th Arr	5 th Arr	Bimbo	Begoua	1 st Arr	2 nd Arr	
Community Peace	Bangui	4	4	3	3	2	2	18

	Bouar	1 st Groupement	2 nd Groupement	3 rd Groupement	4 th Groupement	5 th Groupement	6 th Groupement	TOTAL
				1	1	1	1	1
TOTAL								23

Mercy Corps organized a meeting both in Bouar and Bangui to share the criteria which were attended by 70 representatives from community leaders, local authorities, civil society organization, and youth leaders and women organizations.

With the help of the 75 nominated community leaders, Mercy Corps has supported the establishment of 23 Inter-community Peace Committees (IC-PC) that will provide a community forum where citizens can bring the problems and disputes they face and have them addressed in a fair and transparent manner. These IC-PC are distributed as followed:

Table 3: Number of Inter-Community Peace Committees already put in place by intervention area.

Target	Areas	Intervention location						
		8 th Arr	5 th Arr	Bimbo	Begoua	1 st Arr	2 nd Arr	TOTAL
Inter community Peace Committees	Bangui	4	4	3	3	2	1	17
	Bouar	1 st Groupement	2 nd Groupement	3 rd Groupement	4 th Groupement	5 th Groupement	6 th Groupement	TOTAL
		1	1	1	1	1	1	6
TOTAL								23

Each Inter-Community Peace Committee is made up of six individuals including two community and religious leaders as well as representative from youth and women civil society organizations. In total, inter community Peace Committees are comprised of 138 community members including 68 women and 70 men.

The SVC proposal originally required that Muslim and Christian participants be equal in number whenever possible. However, due to the massive displacement of communities, specifically those of Muslim majority, from their homes to host communities, equal representation between communities cannot always be achieved.

One Inter-Community Peace Committee is yet to be formed in *arrondissement* 1. This *arrondissement* is considered one of the most affluent, where many professionals reside and some Muslim households have remained in this area. Some believe that this *arrondissement* can be used as an example to demonstrate the benefits of social cohesion. During the next quarter, Mercy Corps will work with nominated community leaders to select six leaders to form the remaining peace committee in 1st *arrondissement*. Inter-Community Peace Committee members will be trained in social cohesion, peace building and IBN early next quarter.

Objective 2: Muslim-Christian Communities are better able to work together.

*Stabilizing Vulnerable Communities in the Central African Republic through the Promotion of Interfaith Dialogue and Economic Cooperation Founded by USAID. Implemented by: Mercy Corps.
FY14 Q3 Quarterly Report Submitted 28 July 2014*

The SVC project includes the support of socio-economic projects that can bring communities together and demonstrate the value of mutual cooperation. Mercy Corps is currently developing guidelines and a proposal form for the socio-economic projects and will also develop selection criteria in collaboration with community leaders.

Objective 3: Public attitudes towards tolerance and non-violence are positively changed.

Activity 3.1: Peace Committees organize community dialogues on peacebuilding and intercommunity relations:

In Bangui and Bouar, the SVC team worked with selected Inter-Community Peace Committees members (IC-PCM) to explain the rigorous selection criteria for peer educators and finalize the distribution of peer educators by area which is as follows:

Table 4: Distribution of peer educators by area

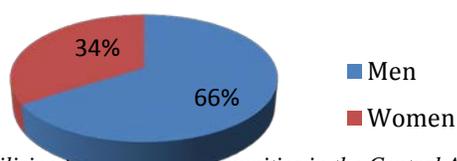
Target	Areas	Intervention location						TOTAL
		8 th Arr	5 th Arr	Bimbo	Begoua	1 st Arr	2 nd Arr	
Peer educators	Bangui	40	40	25	25	10	10	150
		1 st Groupement	2 nd Groupement	3 rd Groupement	4 th Groupement	5 th Groupement	6 th Groupement	
	8	9	8	8	9	8	50	
	TOTAL							200

Mercy Corps staff and the IC-PCMs worked together to select active and trusted members of their community to engage as peer educators. To date, 147 peer educators have been selected (50 women and 97 men). The number of peer educators selected needed for a certain area of intervention was determined by the population size and current levels of conflict. Areas with larger populations and/or higher levels of community conflict have been allocated with additional peer educators due to their vulnerability and greater need. See Table 5 below for number of peer educators per area of intervention;

Table 5: Number of peer educators already selected by area

Target	Areas	Intervention location						TOTAL
		8 th Arr	5 th Arr	Bimbo	Begoua	1 st Arr	2 nd Arr	
Peer educators	Bangui	32	20	17	15	6	7	97
		1 st groupement	2 nd groupement	3 rd groupement	4 th groupement	5 th groupement	6 th groupement	
	8	9	8	8	9	8	50	
	TOTAL							147

Chart N°3: Peer educator distribution by gender



Selected peer educators will work within their own *arrondissements*. A certain number of those selected will be former peer educators under Mercy Corps' youth program financed by UNICEF which ended in March 2014. These peer educators will be able to share the skills and knowledge that they have already gained to enhance

wider learning and capacity. The remaining peer educators will be selected next quarter.

In Bouar, Mercy Corps partly financed of the religious leader platform to organize a “Reflection Day on Peacebuilding”. This meeting was attended by local authorities, representatives from BINUCA, CRS, Word Food Program (WFP), Maison de la Société, MISCA and Sangaris forces, Anti-Balaka, and community leaders. This meeting focused on how to keep peace in Bouar and the surrounding villages. Participants agreed upon on:

- Reinforcing social cohesion activities in Bouar including community education by religious leaders, civil society organizations and INGOs,
- Organizing joint interfaith social activities such as joint cleaning of the city, mosques, churches, and market by Muslim and Christian youth,
- Reinforcing security in the town by banning the possession of weapons within the town and surrounding neighborhood villages.

During this period, Muslim and Christian youth cleaned together Bouar’s main mosque and religious leaders’ start community awareness-raising activities.

From May 17-19, an inter-religious youth group called *Messenger de la paix* (Peace Messenger) organized a social cohesion awareness event in the city center of Bouar with the support of both Mercy Corps and CRS. Meetings were held in several places such as the Central Mosque of *Haoussa*, a cultural center and the main market. During these meetings, youth educated community members on social cohesion and human rights bringing together Muslim and Christian leaders and representatives from local authorities. This youth organization has been integrated into the SVC youth groups and peace committees in Bouar.



Picture 4 – The Messengers de la Paix leaders (Peace Messengers)



Picture 5 – Muslim and Christian community leaders

Mercy Corps is developing a manual for peer educators to use in community awareness raising activities. This manual will guide peer educators on issues concerning social cohesion, human rights, good governance, tolerance, peace, etc. It will ensure that peer educators have a uniform understanding of certain terms and concepts to avoid any misinformation. Mercy Corps will ensure that the guide is accepted by the local community by involving community leaders in its validation.

Activity 3.2: Peace Committees work to resolve disputes in their communities: After leaders are trained in IBN, Mercy Corps will organize the training of the IC-PCMs on conflict mitigation and peace. Mercy Corps is finalizing the curriculum, and workshops will begin during next quarter.

Activity 3.3: Conduct weekly media outreach: Mercy Corps is in the process of finalizing a communication plan for the selection of peace messages and their dissemination. Mercy Corps will work in partnership with SFCG, DRC, CRS and other partners, as well as radio stations to disseminate messages. The finalized communication plan will be shared with the next quarterly report.

To prepare for the dissemination of peace messages, Mercy Corps met with several radio stations, including *Fondation Hironnelle*, owners of *Radio Ndeke Luka*, Director of *Radio Centrafrique* and the Director of *Radio Notre Dame* in Bangui; the Director of *Radio Siriri* and the Director of *Radio Maïgaro* in Bouar to discuss coverage of project activities, including forums, dialogues and broadcasting of peace messages on social cohesion. Each radio station expressed an interest in helping to produce peace messages and in assisting in identifying any necessary theater groups to perform.

SVC staff met with Antoine Kanza Delconte, a well-known storyteller, artist, poet, composer and singer, as well as the president of theater group LINGA in Bangui. The aim of the meeting was to begin collaborating with these artists who will develop a peace song and sketch show on social cohesion to be

used for community awareness-raising activities. The artists expressed their willingness to work with the SVC program; more artists will be approached for proposals in order to select the highest quality.

During the community leaders' TOT workshop on IBN, Mercy Corps will begin the collection of peace messages with the potential to transform relationships and communities by generating alternative narratives and promoting attitudes of tolerance.

D. Monitoring & Evaluation

The primary activities in this period were recruitment, updating the Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) indicators, and re-designing the survey that was conducted in the previous quarter. The full Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team was recruited in the current quarter, including the Manager and two Assistants. The M&E Manager updated the PMP indicators, which were approved in early May. Following this, the M&E team redesigned the survey to reflect the updated indicators. In addition, the survey results from March 2014 indicated that there was a dearth of Muslims represented in the survey, the need to better understand the nature of violence in communities, and elaborate on community level perceptions of violence and willingness to work together. The M&E Manager built on existing Mercy Corps surveys conducted in conflict-affected situations such as Nigeria, Burma, and Afghanistan, in addition to expanding on questions asked in the March 2014 survey. To ensure relevance, the team tested the survey three times with staff recruited in the SVC project, with non-SVC Mercy Corps staff, and non-Mercy Corps staff, all Central Africans. This testing was crucial to inform the design of the survey to ensure clarity, relevance, examine sensitive questions, and the use of the data to inform further activities, including dialogues and economic activities. This process of refining questions helped the newly recruited SVC staff better understand the project objectives at the community level.

Following the survey tests, the team in Bangui conducted the survey in late June. Three staff participated in the survey conducted in Bangui as part of a capacity building initiative. The staffs were trained on conducting the survey and supported external surveyors, all Central African, to conduct a total of 360 surveys in 6 sites throughout Bangui. These sites were established based on SVC's work within the larger social cohesion partnership between CRS, SFCG and DRC. The team chose not to overlap with the work of the social cohesion partners in Bangui and elected to conduct surveys in all of SVC sites, including *arrondissements* 1,2,5,8, Begoua and Bimbo. Analysis of the Bangui survey and the Bouar survey, conducted mid-July, will follow in the next quarterly report. Please find attached the community-based survey as Annex 6.

E. Coordination

Coordination meeting with UN agencies and other INGOs: Mercy Corps' Conflict Mitigation Advisor and SVC Program Manager (PM) participated in several meetings organized by OCHA and UNDP to share information and coordinate interventions throughout the country. The discussions are primarily concerned with sharing information on activities and for future planning, as well as possible partnerships and security matters to report to UN and Government of CAR (Go CAR).

Contact with government officials: Mercy Corps Conflict Mitigation Advisor, SVC PM and Country

Director organized several meeting with government officials such as the Mayors and the Minister of Communication and Reconciliation to present the SVC project and request their support for the program's aims. These officials expressed their commitment to support the SVC program and to be involved in its implementation.

Working Group on Social Cohesion: On May 30th in response to the unrest in Bangui, the Working Group on Social Cohesion of which Mercy Corps is a founding member, released a joint statement encouraging dialogue, tolerance and asking the international community to do all in their power to protect communities. Furthermore, the government is seeking a national dialogue on conflict to address the causes of conflict. Government officials have asked for assistance from the Working Group on Social Cohesion which was responded to with a joint letter. Mercy Corps' expertise in IBN could be beneficial in providing support for holding community dialogues. Discussion on the form of support to be offered to the government will develop next quarter.

F. Conclusion and Upcoming Activities

Despite an environment of civil unrest, insecurity and inter-communal tension, during this quarter, Mercy Corps managed to identify target areas and select community leaders who are highly capable of carrying SVC program activities forward. In addition, most peer educators have been identified and are ready to disseminate messages of peace.

During the upcoming reporting period Mercy Corps will:

- Conduct the baseline survey in Bouar and write the baseline study report for both Bangui and Bouar .
- Mercy Corps staff will receive training in the Do No Harm Approach.
- Support government and community based multi-stakeholder dialogues.
- Implement the communication strategy for peace message production, focusing on the collection and dissemination of messages.
- Finalize peer educator training curriculum and develop an awareness-raising guide to assure mutual understanding of peacebuilding work.
- Support the community leaders to select Inter Community Peace Committees members.
- Support Inter-community Peace Committee members to select peer educators and put in place the youth social cohesion club.
- Support events to enhance of social cohesion efforts.
- Continue to participate in coordination meetings with other INGOs and UN agencies.
- Support leaders and peace committees to organize inter-community dialogues in Bangui and Bouar.
- Develop and finalize the socio-economic projects selection criteria; develop mechanism to validate proposed socio-economic projects.
- Organize community forums to call for socio-economic project proposal from community members.
- Support community leaders to put in place the peace committee in Bangui and Bouar

Activity Plan for upcoming quarter (FY14 Q4)

Planned Activities	Responsible Parties	July	Sept	August
Activity 1.1.3: Train community leaders in dispute resolution and multi-stakeholder dialogue processes	Mercy Corps	x	x	
Activity 1.1.4: Form inter-community peace committees (responsible for managing disputes in their areas)	Mercy Corps, Key traditional, community and religious leaders	x	x	
Activity 2.1: Organize community forums to solicit joint inter-community economic and social projects	Mercy Corps, peer educators, and community leaders			x
Activity 2.2: Identify and assess social and economic projects	Mercy Corps, peer educators, and community leaders			x
Activity 3.1: Peace Committees organize community dialogues on peacebuilding and intercommunity relations.	Mercy Corps, peer educators, and community leaders		x	x
Activity 3.2: Peace Committees work to resolve disputes in their communities	Mercy Corps, Inter-community Peace committee and community leaders		x	x
Activity 3.3: Conduct weekly media outreach	Mercy Corps, peer educators, and community leaders		x	x

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- Annex 2a. Selection Criteria Leaders
- Annex 2b. Selection Criteria Peace Committees
- Annex 3- Leaders Training Expression of Interest
- Annex 4- Pre-Training Survey Negotiation Participants
- Annex 5- Post-Training Survey Negotiation Participants
- Annex 6- Community-Based Survey