

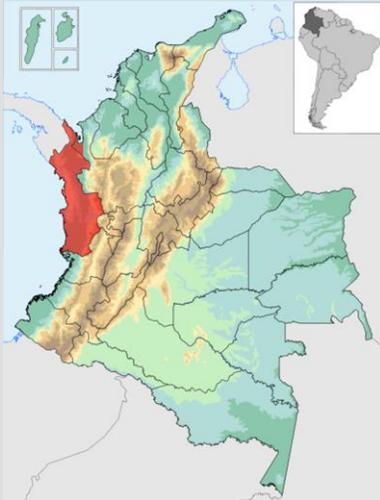


USAID CMM APS #M/OAA/DCHA/DOFDA-10-390

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

QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

01 April – 30 June 2014



Submitted by

MERCY CORPS COLOMBIA (Primary Applicant)

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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 Ungia
INCODER	Colombian Institute for Rural Development

1. Executive Summary & Implementation

During the reporting period, Mercy Corps and the women's groups from each major council from COCOMASUR, COCOMACIA and COCOMAUNGUIA focused activities on the preparation of the Regional Exchange in Quibdó (Chocó), where 58 participants from three major community councils participated. Participants had the opportunity to share their experiences with both gender equity promotion and new masculinities promotion for afro-descendent communities. The exchange also helped ethnic authorities understand the challenges of promoting policies to enhance the participation of women and youth in the decision making process on access and use of land and natural resources within the community councils.

The team also made progress towards the preparation of the workplan for the Science and Technology grant which will follow the timeframe of the Resolution of Land and Natural Resources Conflicts project between July and December, 2014. This component will be financed with the funds awarded by USAID's Science and Technology office for this initiative.

In the black community councils, the topics of Gender and New Masculinities followed an approach inspired by, and aimed at, allowing a critical reflection by addressing these topics with higher precision both at the individual and collective levels. This allowed for a re-thinking and redefinition of Culture and Community in the context of exercising rights, including non-discrimination and equity between women and men. Through this exercise, the group learned the importance of teaching men and boys about being empathetic partners, saying no to violence, and breaking myths about men's inability to express affection and love to their families in public spaces.

Photo No 1. Women and men at the regional Exchange in Quibdó, Choco. Group activity.

2. Indicators

Table No 1: Achievements from April - June 2014¹

Indicator	Indicator Description	Indicator type	LOP Goal	Desagregation by sex	Total Year 1	Total Year 2	Year 3 QR1 14	Year 3 QR2 14	Year 3 QR3 14	Total Year 3	Gender Goal Year 3	% Gender Goal Achieved Y3	Cumm. Year1 +Year2+ Year3	% LoP Achieved		
1	Number of previously existing land and natural resources conflicts resolved in areas receiving USG assistance for mitigation of land conflicts.	CMM	160		133	37	0	0	19	19	40	48%	189	118.1%		
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	190	Male	85	28	0	0	13	13	0	n.a	182	95.8%		
				Female	31	23	0	0	2	2	40	5%				
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	730	Male	1,083	68	0	160	0	160	0	n.a	2,369	324.5%		
				Female	743	95	0	220	0	220	220	100%				
4	# of regional exchanges concerning conflicts over land and natural resources between technical teams, staff members, and leaders of Colombia and Guatemala.	MC	5		2	1	1	0	1	2	2	100%	5	100.0%		
5	Number of households that have obtained property rights as a result of USG assistance.	MC	Beneficiaries	145	Households	48	224	0	0	0	0	100	0%	272	187.6%	
				n.a	Female	48	163	0	0	0	0	0	100	0%	211	n.a
				n.a	Male	0	61	0	0	0	0	0	n.a.	n.a	61	n.a
				n.a	Female	0	171	0	0	0	0	0	n.a.	n.a	171	n.a
				n.a	Male	0	65	0	0	0	0	0	n.a.	n.a	65	n.a
8	# of users in the RedTierras disaggregated	MC	340		171	172	38	12	6	56	40	140%	399	117.4%		
9	# of local women participating in a substantive role or position in a peacebuilding process supported with USG assistance	CMM	55	Female	0	33	0	0	0	0	40	0%	33	60.0%		
10	Proportion of females who report increased self-efficacy at the conclusion of USG supported training/programming	CMM	30	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0%	0	0.0%		
11	# of local women participating in a substantive role or position in a peacebuilding process supported with USG assistance	CMM	30	Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0%	0	0.0%		

¹ This table includes indicators 10 and 11 which are unique to gender. For this period no progress on indicators 10 and 11 correspond to delivery because they are evaluation indicators and their progress will be known at the end of the project. As per discussions with USAID, Indicators 6 and 7 were removed from the table because the indicators were part of the previous phase of the project and do not apply to this stage with an emphasis on gender.

3. Activities & Results

Objective 1. To empower Afro-Colombian women to gain new abilities for land conflict resolution and land tenancy security.

Result 1. At least 40 conflicts related with land and natural resources have been resolved by Afro-Colombian women of the 64 Local Councils, therefore, increasing land access and use for 100 women. During the reporting period, 19 additional cases were resolved in Unguia, benefitting 13 men and 2 women who participated in USG reconciliation activities as outlined by Indicator No. 2 and adding to a cumulative number of 182 participants for Indicator No. 2.

Activity 1.1. Afro-Colombian women, leaders of the three communitarian Councils COCOMACIA, COCOMASUR, and COCOMAUNGUIA lead mediation sessions about disputes on land and natural resources.

This activity was completed and reported on during the last quarter with 220 women trained on Gender and New Masculinities. Indicator No. 3 reported 100% achievement with respect to Gender goals. Of note, 160 men also participated in this training process.

Activity 1.2. Build Afro-Colombian women's capacities on GPS usage and interpretation of GIS maps for land tenancy security and planning of land use.

This activity was completed and reported on during the last quarter, 148 women were trained on the use of GPS, reaching 134% achievement of this activity vs planned. Of those trained, 116 men were also trained on the use of GPS. In total 264 persons have participated in the training processes.

Activity 1.3. Elaborate and disseminate methodological guides with protocols for land conflict resolution focused on gender equality and Afro-Colombian women's leadership approach.

This activity was previously implemented as intended in the project. According to Indicator No. 7, from last quarter, 171 methodological guidelines on the resolution of land conflicts were distributed to local community councils, thus reporting a 124 % achievement against its goal.

Activity 1.4 Land and Natural Resources Conflict Resolution –Implementation of the Route for Case Management

This activity was implemented as intended in the project, with 19 additional cases solved for this quarter, resulting in a total of 189 cases solved. Overall, Indicator No. 1 on solved territorial and natural resources conflicts has achieved 118.1 % of its targeted goal.

Activity 1.5. Establish rights for the use of the land of at least 100 Afro-Colombian women through usufruct documents and/or legal certainty of the titles of the government vacant lots.

This activity was previously completed with 272 land titles awarded. Indicator No 5 on resolved territorial and natural resources conflicts reported 187 % achievement. Under this activity, 171 women gained access to public lands, either formalizing State vacant lands or obtaining certificates of family usufruct within a collective title.

As an added value, together with the Territorial Direction of INCODER Choco and the Municipal Mayorality of Unguia, the team is reviewing the possibility of awarding property rights to 65 families with State vacant lands, thus benefiting farmers of this town. According to the Project's operational planning, such awards may take place in September, 2014.

Objective 2. Strengthen the Gender Commissions of the Afro-Colombian Community Councils and groups of women throughout exchanges of experiences and learned lessons in Colombia, Guatemala, and Bolivia on the subject of gender equality and land and natural resources conflict resolution.

Result 2. Activities of exchange of experiences about land and natural resources conflict resolution are carried out using regional visits and the virtual RedTierras, resulting in the strengthening of the COCOMACIA's Gender Commission and the three groups of Afro-Colombian women in the Lower Atrato.

Activity 2.1. Exchange technical information and the experiences of Afro-Colombian women and other women, concerning land tenancy, conflict resolution, and ethno-territorial rights through cross visits and the virtual network RedTierras (www.redtierras.com).

This activity was implemented according to the Project, with six additional users for this quarter, resulting in a total of 399 registered users in RedTierras who are sharing best practices and experiences on the resolution of territorial and natural resources conflicts. Following this quarter, Indicator No. 8 on the registration of new users on RedTierras reported a 117.4 % achievement.

Activity 2.2. Exchanges of Experiences with Guatemala

There was no progress on this activity during the report period. However, Mercy Corps, together with INCODER, held an exchange of experiences in Bogota with the Lands Fund (*Fondo de Tierras*) and the *registro de informacion catastral* (RIC), with the participation of 14 people. This group of Civil Servants from Guatemala shared their knowledge on the following topics: i) institutional responses on land access for ethnic communities, ii) rural development programs and differential approaches, iii) experiences of organizational strengthening for ethnic communities for the sustainability of value chains.

The fourth exchange in Guatemala will be held next August with the participation of INCODER officers and delegates from the Community Councils of Choco. It will aim at sharing experiences around Planning for Development with an ethnic approach.

Activity 2.3. Exchange of Experiences between COCOMACIA and the Communitarian Council of Darién.

During the reporting period, Mercy Corps and its partner, the Collective New Masculinities and the women groups from COCOMASUR, COCOMACIA and COCOMAUNGUIA, held an exchange on Territory, Gender and New Masculinities in Quibdó, Choco, from June 24 to 27. This activity allowed for the presentation of results from a series of workshops held with the communities within the area of influence of COCOMACIA, COCOMAUNGUIA and COCOMASUR. It was also an opportunity for those who attended the workshops to share their knowledge of gender issues with the local community councils. Fifty-eight people attended this activity, of which 35 were women and 23 men. They are not accounted for in this quarter's table because they had previously registered for the course during the timeframe covered by the last reporting period.

The next exchange will be held this September in the town of Unguia; the main topic to be addressed will be the effects on women of illegal mining operations by armed groups on the collective lands of their community and women's role in the illegal mining.

Activity 2.4. Complete participative sessions with Afro-Colombian women to create exchange agendas, methodologies for testing, and the documentation of lessons learned.

The regional exchange in Quibdó, Choco allowed for women and the directors of the local councils to understand how the discussions on rights held during the different workshops have become a junction that has allowed the community to establish relationships based on knowledge and respect. This has further allowed for new relationships to be generated within families, the community and local institutions.

Photo No 2. Women and men at the workshop on Gender and New Masculinities

Based on the experiences of the participants, gender relationships have been further scrutinized by looking at the tasks and activities allocated to each sex. This has allowed for participants to better understand how tasks assigned to women make her a recipient, subordinated and servile player, while men maintain an image of toughness, domination, authority and protector / supplier. The possible alternatives the men have built to survive and resist the hegemonic model of masculinity present in the region do not receive wide attention. On the other hand, women who take the chance of establishing working professional relationships with men within the new setup of the family, where they play a key role as a response to the varying economic, social, and political conditions, may risk that these new alternatives are still based on the old paradigms of patriarchal power and the permanent difficulties present in the territory.

Women were key participants in the discussions and dialogues held within the working groups and during the joint meetings where they highlighted the transformations in their relationships with their partners while still serving as the primary caregivers for their families. They also called attention to the alternatives that men have shown as a response to social, economic, and political conditions within their communities. The successful completion of activities with men highlights the role that women have been playing in the discussion of their rights; particularly, their right to land. Similarly, men with alternative interpretations of their masculinity were called upon, providing solid discourse rejecting violence and questioning the traditional paradigm of masculinity. They, however, do not have other alternative guidance models to respond to the traditional patriarchal paradigm.

It is the intention of the councils to incorporate women and address gender issues in the project's approach to the peaceful resolution of land and natural resources conflicts. Moving forward, the lessons and themes that were of most interest to the group will be shared with their respective organizations. The most popular topics thus far have been:

- The contribution of men for the construction of the collective, as an inclusive and democratic issue, implies commitments on the real participation in the redefinition of the social systems that ensure equal relationships between men and women, but also between men and between women. This leads to challenging the systems of beliefs and

paradigms of being a woman or a man rooted in the communities, which constitute paradoxes and paradigms in the basis of consciousness of gender inequality.

- The progress achieved and evidenced by certain individuals on the deconstruction of the traditional, hegemonic discourses on masculinity, which are based on the masculine model of the armed conflict, allow for the planning of activities and the promotion of new alternative masculinities, whereby further domestic responsibilities for men are recognized. However, regarding the *supplier* role, the right to land and its use by women, there is need for further intervention, contribution and for agreeing on commitments in order to ensure that women can exercise their rights in full.
- Addressing gender issues with the Councils, in the context of the Project, is inspired on, and aimed at, allowing a critical reflection, through addressing these topics with higher precision both at individual and collective level. This, promotes the re-thinking and redefinition of Culture and Community in the context of exercising rights, non-discrimination and equity between women and men. It is important that the male participants understand the importance of promoting a culture of love and affection and non-violence within their families and communities.

Such learning processes will be shared in a General Assembly in August to define affirmative action in the collective territory.

Objective 3: To strengthen the role of Afro-Colombian women in terms of land access and land ordering of the Local Councils

Result 3. 220 Afro-Colombian women incorporate land tenancy, conflict resolution, and use of the land in the ethno-development plans, using gender equality and leadership approaches.

Activity 3.1. Build capacity in terms of gender equality, as well as new masculinities and leadership in women for the ethnic-territorial planning, including the participation of men and youth.

This activity was already implemented as intended in the project. This process of training on territory, gender and new masculinities had the participation of 380 people of which 220 or 57 % were women and 160 men. Indicator No. 3 reported an achievement of 100 %.

Activity 3.2. Increase the participation and number of leadership positions of Afro-Colombian women in the greater and local communitarian councils, in terms of gender equality in land tenancy and use of the land.

The trainings have built the capacities of the women in the local councils aiming at increasing their participation in the decision making scenarios, both in the Major Council and in the groups of women and community work. The Design, Monitoring and Evaluation team and the Boards of Directors will apply a final survey in August in order to identify the increased participation of women in decision making scenarios within the community councils.

Activity 3.3 Design the guidelines to elaborate a self-made methodology for land ordering and ethno-development with a differential approach.

This activity is intended to be implemented through the second regional exchange of Major Community Councils to be held in the town of Unguia in September, 2014.

Activity 3.4 Promote an ethnic institutional dialogue roundtable between the Councils and government actors to strengthen leadership activities of Afro-Colombian women, and to include them in initiatives for territorial development at the local level.

COCOMAUNGUIA, with the support of CODECHOCO, designed the Environmental Management Plan for the Major Council, whereby activities intended to protect and preserve natural resources and to ensure the sustainability of the collective territory were defined. The involvement of the women ensures that they will have a piece of land to farm and a say in what happens to the crops that are grown on it. This plan is an integral part of the public environmental policy of the Department of Choco as women were not previously involved in decisions regarding the use of land in their communities and can now benefit from government programs that aim to increase women's participation in environmental programs.

2. Monitoring and Evaluation

For this reporting period, M&E focused on (i) review, analysis, quality control, processing of open questions, and digitalization of the pre and post-tests applied to the community during last March, (ii) review and quality control on the databases of COCOMAUNGUIA, COCOMASUR and COCOMACIA, (iii) training on the Most Significant Change technique and (iv) updating the Monitoring plan for inclusion of gender specific indicators. On May 13th a female leader of COCOMAUNGUIA was trained on the Most Significant Change technique.

3. Annex 1. Success Story

Ethnic authority and territorial organization that preserves tradition

From the origins of the first peoples of what is now Cocomasur, authority was in the hands of the first inhabitants: they organized families and defined jointly where to locate the populated centers.

The Elder had the authority to resolve conflicts. After a while, the community decided to vest such authority to a captain or community policeman, who enforced the rules defined by the community and who would be present whenever there was trouble. Should the person be unable to resolve the conflict, they would then go to the Elder to “put the house in order.”

Since the first inhabitants came, land tenure has always been approached through a collective or community sense, whereby the community defines and provides a place for each family to build their house and a parcel of land for them to work. Thus, each family worked for their subsistence and then traded or exchanged their products, supplementing their food.

The armed conflict in the region changed many of the ways in which people work, as well as their relationships with the land. Many external factors have forced people off their lands and to “sell” the possessions they had inherited from their ancestors, leaving them with nothing. As such, today there are strangers who own large extensions of land in what is known as a collective territory.

The collective territory is defined by the traditional means of land tenure, which emphasizes the importance of the definition of zones within the territory to allow for the identification of zones for cultivation and sustenance, for sustainable exploitation and preservation, and for restoration of the flora and fauna of the region.

Subsequently, with the foundation of towns and the municipal administrative processes, the Community Action Boards (CAB) were established. From 2005 on they have identified themselves as part of Cocomasur. The CAB were dissolved after being reorganized as the Community Council of Black Communities as a result of the Constitution of 1991, Law 70 of 1993 and related rulings. Under this new way of governance, the Council manages organizational processes and makes decisions on the kind of development and education that they want autonomously from the central government. They effectively have their own government and their own form of organization, through the Major Council (Cocomasur) and the nine local councils that are part of it. Now, decisions are made at the Assembly, the highest authority.

Each local council has its own Board of Directors, which oversees compliance with the Directives issued by the Assembly of the Local Council. These, in turn, work under the Direction of the General Assembly of Cocomasur, which encompasses all the Local Councils. In turn, Cocomasur as the Major Council has a Board of Director which works overseeing compliance with decisions taken by the General Assembly.

According to the database of the Census of Cocomasur, there are 245 persons in the local council of Peñaloza, of which 141 are men and 145 are women.

Age	Women	Men
0 – 10 years	34	30
11 – 17 years	18	29
18 – 50 years	68	56
51 – 83 years	25	26

The above evidences the existence of a population with balanced growth, where the average life expectancy is around 75 years and women tend to live longer. According to the community, this has been a constant throughout the history of Peñaloza.

With the Project on Resolution of Land and Natural Resources Conflicts in the territory of Cocomasur, the population now has technical knowledge on cartography, use of land demarcation technologies such as GPS units and other mapping tools, and the role of women and youth to manage the Regional District of Integral Management (DRMI) of Playona and Loma de Caleta. DRMI Playona and Loma de Caleta involves the local council of Peñaloza and four other councils as well as the Acañí sanctuary, Playón, and Playona. Youth and women are now actively involved in surveillance activities and control of the Preservation Corridor, which not only strengthens their leadership and governance skills in the nine councils but has allowed them to gain a deeper understanding of their rights and governance over their land. With the support of USAID, these women and youth have planted seed of hope for the future.