

QUARTERLY REPORT

Third Quarter FY 2001

USAID/Colombia Hurricane Mitch Supplemental Special Objective: Earthquake Reconstruction

Summary:

On January 25, 1999 an earthquake measuring 6.0 on the Richter Scale struck Colombia. The epicenter was in the important coffee-producing department of Quindío. Armenia, the Department's capital, was hardest hit. Over 1,000 people were killed, some 8,000 were injured, and approximately 425,000 were affected. Some 37,000 families (approximately 185,000 people) were left homeless, 11,000 homes were completely destroyed and 65% of all buildings in the region were damaged or destroyed. Public infrastructure suffered multiple damages and the environment was also affected.

On January 26, 2000, the day immediately following the earthquake, The Former U.S. Ambassador, declared the region a disaster area, setting in motion the USG response and an initial \$25,000 allotment for emergency assistance. The same day, USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) deployed a 62-person Miami Dade County Search and Rescue Team, along with 56,000 pounds of search and rescue equipment. That team worked in coordination with the Colombian Red Cross and remained in Armenia through January 30.

U.S. grant assistance under USAID/Colombia's Special Objective 2 (SpO2) is helping Colombia's coffee region to recover from the devastation brought on by the earthquake and is contributing to communities' increased preparedness for future natural disasters. During the quarter ended June 30, 2001, USAID and its partners achieved tangible progress, exceeding expected targets.

Key Special Objective Intermediate Results: (1) Provide Emergency Assistance; (2) Increased Preparedness for Earthquake; (3) Stabilization of Mountainside near the City of Pereira, 4) Reconstruction of Local Infrastructure.

IR 1: Provide Emergency Assistance

Activities/Status:

Emergency assistance was provided immediately following the earthquake. A cumulative summary of actions taken to provide emergency assistance is as follows:

USAID/OFDA provided a total of \$125,000 to USAID/Colombia to support the local purchase, rental and transportation of relief supplies and equipment. USAID/OFDA also provided \$250,000 to the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) in support of earthquake-related health activities. Between January 26 and February 4, 1999, USAID/OFDA airlifted 600 rolls of plastic sheeting, 8,000 polyester blankets, 1,980 ready-to-eat meals, 1,980 gallons of bottled water, and 8,460 prepackaged daily food rations (Humanitarian Daily Rations - HDRs) to earthquake-affected areas. The rolls of plastic sheeting were used to support a variety of initiatives identified by the USAID/OFDA assessment team in Armenia, including the construction of temporary family shelter units, community kitchens, temporary facilities for fire stations destroyed in the earthquake, and also to assist in the reconstruction of daycare centers.

IR 2: Increased Preparedness for Earthquakes

Summary:

USAID-sponsored assistance includes immediate relief as well as programs to achieve lasting results. Thus, USAID has been involved in activities that will permit greater preparedness for responding to similar natural disasters in the future. In follow-up to the emergency response, USAID/Colombia received \$10 million in Mitch Disaster Relief (CACEDRF) funds to assist the GOC in the longer-term reconstruction effort.

Activities/Status:

- An Earthquake Reconstruction Study

The Colombian Association of Seismic Engineers, in conjunction with the *Universidad de los Andes*, *Universidad del Quindío*, *Corporación Regional Autónoma del Quindío*, and *Ingeominas* prepared and implemented a study entitled "*Estudio de la Microzonificación Sísmica para Orientar la Reconstrucción de Armenia, Quindío*". This analysis of earthquake reconstruction procedures was finalized in December of 1999.

Through a grant made to the local NGO *Fundación Carvajal*, USAID funded the following activities:

- Construction Workshops

Local construction workshops were held which focused on teaching earthquake resistant construction techniques using local materials and resources in order to assure that appropriate uses of local materials became part of existing norms in the affected communities. More than 1,000 people attended a total of 21 seminars and workshops. These events focused on teaching appropriate construction and maintenance techniques. Among other things, citizens and builders were taught how to effectively utilize local materials and resources in the reconstruction process. All activities related to earthquake

preparedness have been successfully completed. In March, 2001, the *Asociacion Colombiana de Ingenieria Sismica* submitted to the *Comision Asesora Permanente de la Norma NSR98* the regulations that standardize construction using guadua (bamboo) as a result of these workshops.

- “Materials Bank” for the Reconstruction of Social Infrastructure

Throughout the affected area, many schools, community centers, and other important community buildings suffered serious damage. To help meet the demand for construction materials, USAID supported the creation of a "Materials Bank." The bank includes basic construction materials such as zinc sheets for roofing, wood and cement. Materials are provided in exchange for transportation and labor provided by beneficiaries. Designs for structures conform to earthquake-resistant codes and prototypes developed through the USAID-supported activities of the Colombian Association of Seismic Engineers.

Community projects include the following: two primary schools, six community centers (centers for town meetings, social and minor health events and recreational activities), four hospitals and health clinics, five homes for the elderly, one cultural center, one artisan center, one Civil Defense Post, two sports centers and two market places for micro entrepreneurs

Currently, the “materials bank” is fully functional. It has provided building materials for the reconstruction of the 24 social infrastructure projects mentioned above in thirteen municipalities in three departments, benefiting an estimated 300,000 people. One of these projects was completed during the quarter, for a total of 23. The materials bank has also served as a means for keeping the price of local construction materials in check and within the reach of the local population.

Given the success of this activity, an amendment to the grant to Fundacion Carvajal was signed during the month of March, providing an additional \$152,226 in funds for the Materials Bank to implement an additional ten projects. Reviewing the detailed budget for the additional projects, the total number of centers to be reconstructed under the Materials Bank will have grown to 344 and the benefited municipalities will reach 19. The completion date for this activity was extended to September 30, 2001 to complete these additional eight projects.



Inauguration Hogar del Anciano in La Tebaida



Inauguration Hogar del Anciano in La Victoria

- Construction of “Community Homes”

The Colombian Institute for Family Well-Being (ICBF) funds a variety of programs aimed at supporting the physical, psychological and social development needs of children under the age of seven who live in poverty. Many of the facilities that provided these services were destroyed in the earthquake. In order to reestablish these important activities USAID is supporting the reconstruction of "Community Homes" (daycare centers). These facilities will provide appropriate space from which the ICBF's programs will resume their operations. The four “community homes” planned for reconstruction (in addition to the above mentioned community projects) have now been fully reconstructed benefiting 485 pre-school aged children.



*Inauguration of the El Japon Children's' Community Home
in Dosquebradas, Risaralda.*



Inauguration Hogar Celmira Mejia in La Tebaida

IR 3: Stabilization of Mountainside near the City of Pereira

Summary:

As a direct result of the January 25 earthquake, landslides occurred throughout the region, the most serious of these just outside the city of Pereira immediately adjacent to its water supply intake system, threatening the lives of some 3,000 residents and the supply of water to all 500,000 inhabitants. Through a Participating Agency Service Agreement (PASA), USAID contracted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to assess, design and implement a series of measures aimed at achieving slope stability, thereby substantially reducing the risk of damage to the Pereira water supply intake structure and protecting the lives of residents.

Activities/Status:

At the beginning of the quarter, USACE efforts to stabilize the affected mountainside and prevent further landslides were 88% complete. During the quarter, the project was completed. . The project has generated an estimated 80 direct jobs and 400 indirect jobs over the project implementation period. All activities are scheduled to be completed by

April, 2001. The inauguration is tentatively scheduled for early July with the presence of US Ambassador Anne Patterson and the President of the Republic of Colombia, Andres Pastrana.



View of Pereira Landslide project on January 17, 2001.

IR 4: Reconstruction of Local Infrastructure (CAEDDRF-funded)

Summary:

Through a contract with the U.S. firm Planning and Development Collaborative, Inc. (PADCO), USAID assistance includes: 1) support to local NGOs in the delivery of shelter and basic infrastructure services to low-income earthquake victims; and 2) the development of sustainable finance and delivery models that require public and private sector participation, as well as a sustainable investment financial model.

Under this activity, USAID/Colombia will provide permanent shelter to approximately 2,600 of the estimated 6,000 of the region's poorest families who were renting at the time of the earthquake. These homes are being built using a "sites and services" approach, which calls on the families themselves to contribute local materials and labor. Additionally, USAID is financing the reconstruction of one private school serving street children and a home for the elderly.

Activities/Status:

PADCO initially pre-selected eleven local NGOs that to implement a total of eleven housing reconstruction projects, 1 primary school that serves 290 street children, and 1 community home for the elderly that serves 100 people.

After reviewing the changes in the budget because of differences in the exchange rate the global program has been changed and now includes now a total of 16 projects with 11 subgrantees. The number of houses to be built was increased to 2,927. New projects and a more houses may also be included by further reprogramming funds generated by the difference in the exchange rate.

By the end of the quarter, all 16 projects were approved (14 housing, 1 home for the elderly, 1 school) and 15 agreements have been signed. Construction began in all projects and is proceeding at a satisfactory rate.

The largest of these projects, awarded to *Antioquia Presente*, will be responsible for the construction of 952 homes, representing roughly forty percent of the overall housing reconstruction effort.

The total planned investment for this activity is \$9.5 million. USAID is leveraging an additional \$5 million from the eleven local NGOs and universities implementing this activity.

The final date for the Padco contract is being extended up to December 31, 2001. Construction began in February and the delivery of homes will start next quarter and will continue through November 30, 2001. The project will generate 500 direct jobs and 2,500 indirect jobs over the approximately one-year construction period. A total of 13,500 people who currently reside in temporary shelters, some built by USAID/OFDA, will directly benefit from the project.

Earthquake Reconstruction Expenditures

IDA and ESF Funds

Amounts shown are in US\$

Project Grantees	LOP Funding Total	Accrued Expenditures up to the 2st Quarter 2001	Accrued Expenditures During 3nd Quarter 2001	Total Accrued Expenditures to Date	% of Total Funding expended to Date
Fundacion Carvajal	912,409	743,717	168,692	912,409	100.00%
USACE (2099430)	2,032,913	2,006,776	26,137	2,032,913	100.00%
Others	241,628	219,645	-0-	219,645	90.90%
Total	3,186,950	2,970,138	194,829	3,164,967	99.31%

Earthquake Reconstruction Expenditures

Cacederf Funds

Amounts shown are in US\$

Project Grantees	LOP Funding Total	Accrued Expenditures up to the 2st Quarter 2001	Accrued Expenditures During 3nd Quarter 2001	Total Accrued Expenditures to Date	% of Total Funding expended to Date
PADCO	9,550,822	2,490,546	3,273,998	5,764,544	60.39%
USACE (2099430)	128,437	-0-	46,191	46,191	35.96%
BDO-Audit	80,000	25,000	21,000	46,000	57.50%
USAIDManagement	88,515	45,490	17,846	63,336	71.55%
Fundacion Carvajal	152,226	-0-	14,457	14,457	9.50%
Total	10,000,000	2,561,036	3,373,492	5,934,528	59.34%