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COLOMBIA LAND AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

FY16Q3 QUARTERLY REPORT
APRIL – JUNE 2016

July 2016

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Tetra Tech.

Cover photo: In April 2016, restitution judges ruled in favor of 37 families from Chengue (Sucre) who were displaced from their homes in 2001 following a massacre by paramilitaries. LRDP provided support to the Colombian entities tasked with tackling this complex restitution case.

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DISCLAIMER

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AMEP	Activity Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
ANT	Agencia Nacional de Tierras (National Land Agency)
FARC	Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia)
GOC	Government of Colombia
IGAC	Instituto Geográfico Agustín Codazzi (Agustin Codazzi Geographic Institute)
INCODER	Instituto Colombiano de Desarrollo Rural (Colombian Institute for Rural Development)
INCORA	Instituto Colombiano para la Reforma Agraria (Colombian National Institute of Agrarian Reform)
LRDP	Land and Rural Development Program
LRU	Unidad de Restitución de Tierras (Land Restitution Unit)
MARD	Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development)
PDET	Development Programs with a Regional Focus
PPP	Public-private partnership
SNR	Superintendencia de Notariado y Registro (Superintendence of Notary and Registry)
STARR	Strengthening Tenure and Resource Rights
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

Executive Summary

PREPARING FOR PEACE

The government of Colombia (GOC) and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) reached a major milestone in the peace negotiation process by signing the bilateral ceasefire on June 23, 2016. Timochenko, leader of the FARC, declared the armed conflict over and vowed that the FARC would never again take up arms against the state. Included in the ceasefire agreement is the FARC's demobilization plan—with specific geographic areas identified in which former guerrillas will temporarily live and surrender their weapons.

While this gives reason to rejoice, and Colombians can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel, the signature of the final peace accords remains pending. President Santos stepped out on a limb once again, declaring July 20 the new date for the signing of the peace accords—marking the second time he has provided a specific date for the signature.

Once the peace deal is signed, the GOC must move quickly and efficiently to ensure its sustainability, particularly in the regions hit the hardest by the conflict. To help the government in the momentous task of creating a constructive post-conflict Colombia, USAID's Land and Rural Development Program (LRDP) will continue providing technical assistance to promote peace, secure property rights, and ensure rural development in the regions.

POSITIONING THE REGIONS FOR PEACE

As reported last quarter, we supported the inclusion of strategic issues related to peace, rural development, and land—with a gender and ethnic focus—in 57 municipal and 6 departmental development plans. Ensuring the inclusion of these areas in development plans is required for regional governments to access GOC funds and to promote implementation of key activities needed to prepare the regions for post-conflict. Next quarter, we will transition our support from aiding in the creation of development plans to providing technical assistance in their implementation. Our effective engagement of regional governments has established LRDP as an “honest broker” and an important stakeholder in promoting rural development.



LRDP ensured that local development plans included land and rural development themes, thus positioning rural areas for peace.

ENGAGING NEW AGENCIES

The end of the quarter marked important advances in our engagement with new GOC agencies. Mirroring our approach to establishing trust and confidence with regional-level authorities, we did the same at the national level, meeting separately with the heads of the National Land Agency (known by

its Spanish acronym, ANT), the Rural Development Agency, and the Agency for Renewal of the Territories.

Based on our knowledge and experience of rural development and land reform challenges facing Colombia at the national and regional levels, we have much to offer these agencies. All will be looking for quick wins as they begin to operate. We have initial buy-in from the ANT regarding our massive formalization pilot in Ovejas (Sucre), which is essential for the pilot's success and for the ANT's adoption of new mechanisms and methodologies to continue promoting massive formalization in the future. Our first working meeting with the agency allowed us to establish relationships at the technical level—everyone is clear on their points of contact within the new agency, and our staff are already engaging their respective collegial counterparts.

Like the other new agencies, the Agency for Renewal of the Territories is in its nascent stages. Its director is hard at work, although she is awaiting announcement of her official appointment. The agency will work in the municipalities hardest hit by conflict, helping build confidence and trust between rural Colombia and the state.

Discussions with the Rural Development Agency are incipient, and our first technical meeting with the agency will take place early next quarter.

We expect to take on an important coordination role among these three agencies. They are so closely linked in objectives and results that they must achieve a level of coordination unprecedented among GOC institutions. Historically, the tendency among GOC institutions is to go their separate ways, implementing their mandates in a vacuum, which significantly reduces efficiencies and fosters duplication of efforts and, ultimately, confusion among the final beneficiary—the campesino. We will spearhead efforts to promote synergies among these agencies and to maximize the impact that each one can have in a post-conflict scenario.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: ACHIEVEMENTS

Key achievements from this quarter include the following:

- *Improving access to information.* We digitalized over 10,000 restitution case files, which are now available via a searchable online platform, improving the quality and speed of the restitution process.



In Montes de María, women reenacted the radio drama “Un sancocho con aroma a tierra” in front of a live audience. LRDP produced 12 such radio dramas—all written and performed by female victims of the armed conflict—which aired on community radio stations across the country in June.

- *Recalculating the demand for restitution services.* For a long time, the GOC and the international donor community worked under the assumption that 360,000 families require restitution services—a figure strongly debated by national and regional media. To clarify the validity of this estimate, and at the request of the Land Restitution Unit (LRU), we conducted a statistical analysis to determine the real demand for restitution services among Colombian citizens. Our analysis revealed that only 160,000 individuals require restitution—less than half of the country’s original estimate. This analysis also involved the creation of a statistical model and methodology that the GOC can use in the future. It serves as an important input to facilitate strategic planning by the LRU during its final five years of operation. Ricardo Sabogal, the LRU’s director, estimates that by 2021 (the last year for the LRU as established by the Victim’s Law) the LRU will have only a few municipalities in need of restitution support. Perhaps they will represent the most complex cases, but they will be limited.
- “This was a very careful and well-done exercise—the variables, the scenarios were very well selected. I congratulate [LRDP and the Mission]; this is a contribution where international aid can be seen.”***

—Ricardo Sabogal, LRU director, during the roll-out event in June regarding the recalculated restitution demand
- *Preparing for the Land Fund.* The availability of land parcels for the Land Fund is an important part of the post-conflict phase, as it will ensure that rural citizens get their hands on the land they need. We completed legal studies of 438 parcels (representing 39,164 hectares) of public lands that can potentially feed this new fund. Of those, 236 parcels are available for immediate transfer (the others require additional field work before they are viable for transfer). This is important because these parcels will likely be the first inputs for the Land Fund when it is formally established after the signing of the peace accords. The ANT has requested additional support from LRDP with regard to preparing the administrative resolutions—a necessary procedural step—for these 236 parcels, which we will do next quarter.
 - *Activity Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (AMEP).* USAID approved a new revision of LRDP’s AMEP. The new version combines both quantitative and qualitative indicators, enabling us to better tell our story and to improve our ability to measure progress toward targets. We will begin reporting on these revised indicators next quarter.

TRANSITION: PROJECT LEADERSHIP

This quarter, we welcomed a new Chief of Party, Anna Knox, and a new Deputy Chief of Party—Administration/Finance, Vanessa Martinez, and we bid farewell to our Deputy Chief of Party—Technical, Alejandro Tellez. Although the level of transition in leadership positions is significant, we have mechanisms and plans in place to ensure that the transition occurs smoothly and efficiently. For example, our new COP, Anna Knox, and outgoing COP, Christian Kolar, have a four-week overlap period following Ms. Knox’s two-month consulting assignment with LRDP. Vanessa Martinez, as our former Operations Manager, brings institutional memory and sound experience to the DCOP-Administration/Finance position, allowing for a smooth transition and for continued efficient operations of our administrative and financial areas. While we finalize selection of a new DCOP—Technical, Laura Viñoly will serve in an acting capacity, bringing more than 20 years of international development implementation experience to ensure that technical activities are strategic and remain on schedule.

Introduction and Background

The USAID/Colombia Land and Rural Development Program began in July 2013 and is a five-year task order under the Strengthening Tenure and Resource Rights Indefinite Quantity Contract. As an institutional strengthening initiative, LRDP is designed to help the GOC improve its ability to resolve the many complicated land issues that have plagued the country and fueled conflict for years.

Our four integrated objectives also form the program's structural components:

1. Improved capacity of GOC at the regional and national levels to restitute lands to victims of conflict (Restitution Component).
2. Improved capacity of regional and national GOC institutions to formalize rural property rights and to allocate public lands (*baldíos*) (Formalization Component).
3. Improved capacity of regional and national government entities to mobilize and execute public resources for rural public goods that meet community needs and market requirements (Rural Development Component).
4. Improved information available and efficiently used to deliver land rights services (Information Sharing and Management Component).

Sustainable and inclusive peace hinges on whether the GOC can effectively meet the needs of society's most vulnerable populations. To this end, we work closely with Colombian institutions to prioritize the unique needs of these vulnerable groups, ensuring their access to legal representation, land and property, and public goods and services in rural areas.

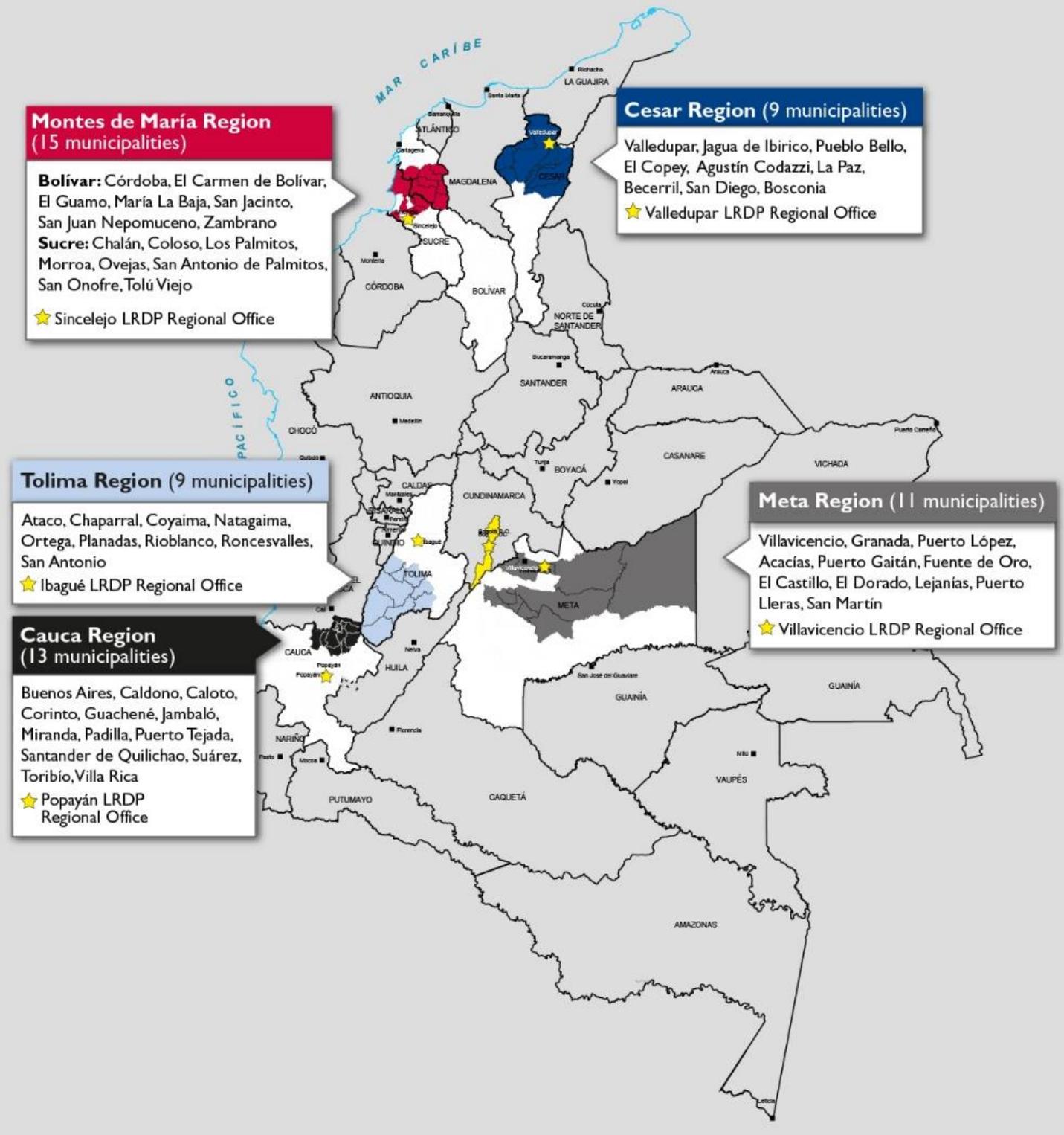
The program achieves results through the following approaches:

- *Testing* improved methods for returning stolen or abandoned land to victims of conflict (through replicable pilot initiatives).
- *Defining and up-taking* global best practices for implementing quick, efficient, scalable land formalization activities that will ensure that citizens, small producers, and medium- and large-scale investors in rural areas have secure tenure on paper and in practice.
- *Identifying and tackling* constraints to efficiently move national-level government funding into rural areas so that rural communities have increased access to public goods and markets.
- *Partnering across institutions* in the design, establishment, and maintenance of land-related knowledge management systems that will allow all government agencies to share information in real time, reducing the time associated with land-related transactions such as registering a title.

We work at the national level and in five focus regions: Cauca, Cesar, Meta, Montes de María, and Tolima.

LRDP WORKS IN 57 MUNICIPALITIES ACROSS FIVE FOCUS REGIONS

The Land and Rural Development Program (LRDP) selected these areas in consultation with USAID and the Government of Colombia (GOC) based on the need to strengthen the GOC's capability to title and register lands held informally (formalization), return stolen or abandoned lands to their rightful owners (restitution), and to provide the basic services required for improved rural livelihoods—all of which are important elements of a broader effort by LRDP to help the GOC develop the rural sector. LRDP also provides targeted technical assistance to strengthen GOC capacity to monitor and evaluate restitution, formalization, and rural development programs. No matter how an activity is developed, LRDP initiatives are designed to help the GOC understand and respond to the different needs of women and ethnic minorities.



Project Activities

COMPONENT 1: IMPROVED CAPACITY OF THE GOC AT THE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS TO RESTITUTE LAND TO VICTIMS OF CONFLICT

Chengue ruling. In April, restitution judges issued a ruling for the village of Chengue (Sucre), allowing 37 families to return to the land that they had been forced to abandon in 2001 after fleeing a brutal massacre at the hands of paramilitaries. In addition to providing for the restitution and formalization of these families' lands, the ruling also orders several government entities to take other actions, such as the provision of legal assistance, productive projects, housing, and property tax debt relief. We played an important role in pushing this complex case through the restitution process, as its unique characteristics made it difficult to tackle—for example, none of the 80-some homes on the land in question had ever been registered with a public registry office, and it was unknown whether any of the owners had property titles. Through our case clinics—a series of roundtables that brought together various GOC entities to troubleshoot particularly difficult restitution cases—the LRU, the Colombian Institute for Rural Development (INCODER), the Agustín Codazzi Geographic Institute (IGAC), Superintendence of Notary and Registry (SNR), public registry offices, and restitution judges analyzed the case and found ways to overcome its difficulties. In June, we co-organized an event for the community to ensure that they understood the details of the ruling and how the court's orders would be fulfilled by various agencies.



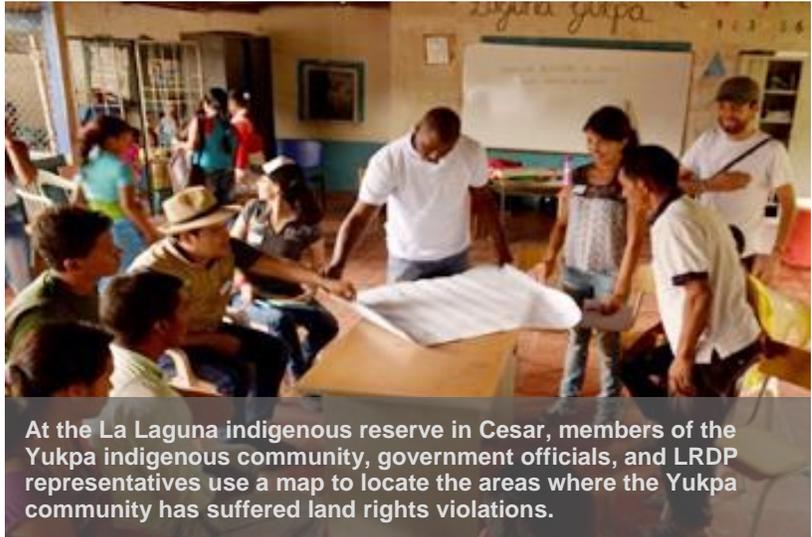
(Left) Éver López Romero stands in front of avocado crops that he helps cultivate. He is one of the beneficiaries of the Chengue restitution case. (Right) Residents of Chengue listen as an LRDP restitution specialist explains the details of the restitution ruling.

Recalculated restitution demand. This quarter, we completed our statistical model, developed at the LRU's request, that accurately calculates the country's restitution demand. As revealed during the roll-out event in June, only 160,000 individuals across Colombia currently require restitution—not 360,000 as previously estimated. This information is important for two reasons. First, it shows that the country has made much more progress than originally believed in terms of meeting the overall restitution demand among Colombian citizens. Second, in addition to providing the overall number, it provides important characteristics of the individuals in need of restitution (such as their location and gender), which will enable the government to develop an effective restitution strategy that addresses the unique needs of victims. During the event in June, Ricardo Sabogal, director of the LRU, stated, "This was a

very careful and well-done exercise—the variables, the scenarios were very well selected. I congratulate [LRDP and the Mission]; this is a contribution where international aid can be seen.” The model has been handed over to the LRU, which can now use it at any point to recalculate the country’s restitution demand and obtain more information about potential claimants.

Ethnic restitution. Assisting the LRU with “characterization studies” for indigenous communities—a key piece of evidentiary material that must be completed before an ethnic restitution case can proceed to a judge—is important because ethnic restitution cases are generally time- and research-intensive endeavors that require strengthened human resources within the LRU. And without this study, indigenous groups are unable to submit their applications and complete the restitution process, leaving them unprotected and in a state of limbo. LRDP’s assistance in this area is therefore vital for ensuring the protection of the rights of indigenous groups and other ethnic minorities.

In Cesar, we continued working on characterization studies for three indigenous reserves of the Yukpa population. We expect to complete the studies next quarter.



At the La Laguna indigenous reserve in Cesar, members of the Yukpa indigenous community, government officials, and LRDP representatives use a map to locate the areas where the Yukpa community has suffered land rights violations.

In Meta, we initiated characterization studies on behalf of the Domoplanas and Walianae reserves of the Sikuani population. Over the last 40 years, members of this indigenous group were forcibly displaced due to conflict, illegal mining by paramilitaries, and arms and drug trafficking. At stake in this restitution case are 42,577 hectares of indigenous land communally owned by 612 families.

Secondary occupants. In Montes de María, we helped 29 secondary occupants receive the legal representation they need in the restitution process. We did this through an ongoing activity in which we bring mobile brigades to local communities and connect low-income secondary occupants with public defenders.

Training the GOC on restitution policy. We trained 367 mid-level and technical staff from GOC agencies on a variety of public policy-related themes. For example, we trained LRU officials on new laws related to restitution (Decree 440 on the restitution process and Agreement 029 on secondary occupants); the Defensoría del Pueblo on Agreement 029; governors’ offices on Territorial Action Plans; and IGAC on the multipurpose cadaster, whose information will constitute an important part of the restitution process. Building these entities’ knowledge of the legal framework strengthens the country’s capacity to implement the restitution policy.

Activity cancelled in Cesar. Due to a change in leadership in the LRU’s Cesar–Guajira office, our activity on a combined claim (a type of class-action lawsuit) was cancelled.

COMPONENT 2: IMPROVED CAPACITY OF REGIONAL AND NATIONAL GOC ENTITIES TO FORMALIZE RURAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND TO ALLOCATE PUBLIC LANDS (*BALDÍOS*)

INCORA parcel transfers. Continuing our efforts to help the government take certain *baldíos* (public lands) out of legal limbo and place them into the hands of the rural poor, we completed a legal analysis of 438 parcels that had never been transferred from INCORA to INCODER—and thus had never been awarded to anyone—determining that 236 were eligible for immediate transfer to the new ANT. The remaining ones require greater field work, such as topographic surveys, before they can be transferred. By being transferred to the agency, these parcels will be at the ready for the future Land Fund, enabling the fund to hit the ground running once established. In addition to our analysis, we left a tested methodology in the government’s hands, which will allow it to analyze any similar cases that might emerge in the future.

When the head of the new ANT, Miguel Samper, and his team visited our offices in June, they expressed extreme interest in this activity and formally requested an extension of our support. Instead of concluding the activity with the legal analysis, as originally planned, they want us to assist with the preparation of administrative resolutions for these 238 parcels. Administrative resolutions are documents that the ANT must prepare for each parcel, ordering the appropriate public registry office to register the parcel in the agency’s name. The extension of this activity will last through next quarter.

Common-law marriages. This quarter, we completed our activity on common-law marriages, which explored the legal barriers faced by women in common-law marriages who try to obtain titles to their land. As part of our research, we conducted focus groups with women in Cauca, Cesar, Meta, Montes de María, and Tolima, to learn firsthand about the barriers they face. Our findings revealed a distressing hurdle in Colombian law and practice: in order for an individual to prove his or her ownership over land, the person must demonstrate how he or she has worked the land—in other words, activities such as tilling, planting, and harvesting. However, these activities are traditionally



Members of a focus group in Tolima explore the barriers that stand in the way of women’s land rights.

male ones. Activities generally performed by women—such as feeding laborers, caring for children, and performing household chores—are not considered valid for demonstrating one’s relationship to the land. In the face of this practice, women must therefore demonstrate that they were or are in a relationship with the male landowner—another difficult task, since common-law marriages (which are prevalent in rural areas) carry no formal certification and can be difficult to prove.

LRDP presented ways in which the GOC can alleviate the burden of proof faced by women, increasing their access to land that is rightfully theirs. In June, we socialized these solutions with Colombia’s Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), and the LRU, which will rely on them to better coordinate their inter-agency work around women’s issues. We also conducted an additional round of focus groups to socialize the study’s results and empower women with solutions. Moreover, we are integrating these recommendations into the municipal formalization

plans that we are developing (see below), thus ensuring that these plans adopt a gender focus. Next quarter, we will share the recommendations with additional high-level GOC counterparts, including the Vice Minister of Rural Development, MARD's Rural Women's Program, and the director of the LRU.

Parcel sweep methodology. The development of a parcel “sweep” methodology—a first for Colombia—will provide the government with a critical tool that allows it to achieve two objectives at once: on the one hand, massive land formalization efforts (because the sweep methodology will obtain information on each and every parcel, both public and private ones, within a particular geographic area), and on the other, the formation and updating of the multipurpose cadaster. This quarter, we presented our advances in the construction of this methodology to the National Planning Department, the ANT, and the head of the multipurpose cadaster project. As we implement the methodology in our pilots in Ovejas (Sucre) and Santander de Quilichao (Cauca), we will continue to socialize our advances with key entities to secure the government's buy-in for this tool.

ENGAGING WITH COLOMBIA'S NEW INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

On June 29, Miguel Samper, the head of the new National Land Agency, along with a delegation of staff, visited LRDP's offices. The meeting—which marked our first formal encounter with the new agency, slated to become operational in 2017—was aimed at learning about current and future LRDP activities that will involve the new agency as a key counterpart. In particular, Samper and his delegation were interested in our efforts in three areas: (i) municipal formalization plans, (ii) methodology for comprehensive parcel sweeps, and (iii) the formalization of the land parcels on which public entities, such as schools and health clinics, operate. Samper's team understood the importance of this last issue, which sets the stage for investment opportunities in rural areas. Moving forward, the agency proposed convening technical tables for each activity so that it can better understand the details and identify the stages in which the agency should lend support.

Municipal formalization plans.

Municipal formalization plans are essential tools that will allow local governments to successfully plan and coordinate the massive formalization of public and private lands, thereby offering secure land tenure to local residents and taking the onus off individuals to initiate the formalization process. They also represent a key first step for municipalities before the parcel “sweep” methodology can be performed. In Cauca, we continued our efforts to develop a municipal formalization plan for Santander de Quilichao, advancing in the legal analysis of the municipality's 33,000 land parcels. We expect to complete the plan in September, after which point it will be ready for implementation by the local government with LRDP support.

In Sucre, we worked with staff of the “pre” land office (a five-person interdisciplinary team supported by LRDP) to diagnose the legal status of the parcels that require formalization and to determine the costs for the plan's implementation. The mayor has also publicly expressed his investment in this activity, including it as an expected result during his term in office. As we move forward in the plan's design, the “pre” land office is also compiling cases of urban public parcels—approximately 100—that can be titled by the mayor (mayors have authority to title urban public lands but not rural ones), thus providing the Mayor's Office with important early victories in land formalization.

COMPONENT 3: IMPROVED CAPACITY OF REGIONAL AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES TO MOBILIZE AND EXECUTE PUBLIC RESOURCES FOR RURAL PUBLIC GOODS THAT MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS AND MARKET REQUIREMENTS

Regional and local development plans. Our months-long intensive effort to influence the content and budgets of 6 departmental and 57 municipal development plans proved to be a resounding success. In June, regional and local governments approved their plans, which are now slated for

implementation. The final, published versions of their plans reveal that the strategic elements that we pushed so hard for—namely, cross-cutting themes on land (restitution and formalization) and rural development—were included, along with corresponding budget allocations, which will ensure that these activities receive the funding they need to become realities on the ground. Departmental and municipal governments have acknowledged LRDP’s role in helping them develop these plans in a way that best prepares their regions for post-conflict. We will accompany regional and local governments in the implementation of these plans, which form the backbone for our activities during the final two years of the program. Next quarter, we will report on the final budget information from the plans (although budgets for development plans have been approved, regional and local governments are currently harmonizing these budgets with their action plans and the country’s general budget; final budget lines are normally socialized in September).

“In Meta, we are ready in case we’re faced with the responsibility of having [concentration] zones. With the development plans that we have constructed with the 29 mayors in the department, we are prepared to make a contribution to peace.”

— Marcela Amaya, governor of Meta, during an interview with Blu Radio, June 24, 2016

GENDER AND ETHNIC INCLUSION IN DEVELOPMENT PLANS

The final versions of departmental development plans in LRDP’s focus regions reflect a strong focus on gender and ethnic minorities. We supported governors’ offices in ensuring that these elements were included. Among the highlights are the following:

CAUCA: This plan’s agricultural section includes the Rural Women’s Program, along with accompanying budget allocations.

CESAR: This plan promises to “promote equality in opportunities with fairness and access among Cesar’s indigenous population,” to “offer the right to difference with social and economic opportunities among the Afro community in Cesar,” and to “increase affirmative actions with a population-based approach, encouraging the full exercise and effective enjoyment of women’s rights and a life free from violence, directed toward development and the construction of peace within our society.”

BOLÍVAR: This plan promises to “convert the Bolivarenses woman into a protagonist for reconstructing the social fabric, economic development, and overcoming of poverty ... This implies the design and implementation of actions for the reestablishment of women’s human rights affected by the conflict and the development of their capacities for the transformation of society.”

SUCRE: This plan promises to achieve “the design and implementation of strategic projects oriented toward the protection and guarantee of fundamental human rights ... [within] the framework of gender equality (women), and cultural richness and identity.”

META: Among the plan’s goals for 2019 are (i) 2,000 rural indigenous people, 2,000 rural Afro-descendants, and 16 associations of rural victims included in productive agrarian projects; (ii) 200 indigenous and Afro-descendant families benefitting from food security programs; (iii) 1,500 rural women benefitting from agricultural programs; and (iv) 8 new productive enterprises established for rural women.

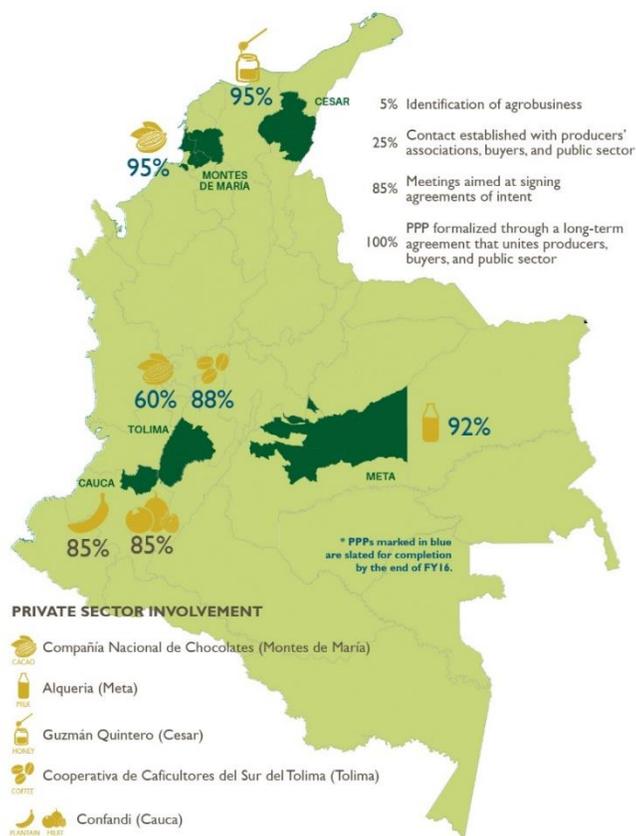
TOLIMA: Among the plan’s goals for 2019 are (i) the strengthening of 40 rural organizations with a differential and gender focus; (ii) 84 ethnic minority families supported in access to land; and (iii) 500 families strengthened through the Family Agriculture Program, with a differential focus.

Public-private partnerships. We continued constructing seven public-private partnerships (PPPs), which are understood as collaborative working relationships in the agricultural sector that involve entities from both the public and private sectors and where all parties play an equal role in determining the partnership’s goals, structure, and administration, as well as individual roles and responsibilities. These partnerships include two cacao PPPs in Montes de María and Tolima, in collaboration with the Compañía Nacional de Chocolates; one coffee PPP in Tolima, with the Cooperativa de Caficultores del Sur de Tolima; one honey PPP in Cesar, with Guzmán Quintero; one milk PPP in Meta, with Alqueria; one plantain PPP in Cauca, with Confandi; and one cold-climate fruit PPP in Cauca, also with Confandi (see figure 3).

As planned, we are on track to sign five of these PPPs next quarter. This effort has helped improve coordination among key actors in the regions and with the private sector, laying a much-needed groundwork to facilitate the government’s actions within a post-conflict scenario by connecting small producers to markets through formal relationships and coordinated activities leading to sustainable long-term agreements. Importantly, the construction of these PPPs has involved the participation of women’s associations and ethnic groups, improving income-generation possibilities among these traditionally marginalized populations.

Internally, we have developed a management and tracking tool to measure our advances in the formation of the PPPs and to record the agreements reached by the parties involved. We plan to present this tool to USAID and the GOC next quarter in the interest of promoting its potential use among GOC entities faced with challenges regarding income-generation initiatives in post-conflict regions, and also in the interest of other USAID programs working on similar activities.

FIGURE 3 – LRDP PROGRESS IN PRIVATE-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS: TWO VISUALIZATIONS



	CACAO	COFFEE	HONEY	MILK	PLANTAIN	FRUIT
Private sector involvement	Compañía Nacional de Chocolates	Cooperativa de Caficultores del Sur del Tolima	Guzmán Quintero	Alqueria	Confandi	
MONTES DE MARÍA	95%					
META				92%		
CESAR			95%			
CAUCA					85%	85%
TOLIMA	60%	88%				

5% Identification of agrobusiness
 25% Contact established with producers' associations, buyers, and public sector
 85% Meetings aimed at signing agreements of intent
 100% PPP formalized through a long-term agreement that unites producers, buyers, and public sector

* PPPs marked in blue are slated for completion by the end of FY16.

Office of the High Commissioner for Peace. As mentioned in previous Quarterly Reports, we are supporting this office in three key areas, one of which is the design and validation of a regional instrument known as PDET (Development Programs with a Regional Focus), a program that will be spearheaded by the newly created Agency for Renewal of the Territories, in preparation for the government’s post-conflict actions in rural areas. In four of our focus regions—Cauca, Cesar, Montes de María, and Tolima—we are now beginning the design of operations manuals for the PDET.

Resource mobilization. This quarter, we mobilized US\$800,000 in Cesar through the structuring of a food security project for the RESA Program, a voluntary network on food security that supports small producers affected by the country’s armed conflict. This particular project supports the establishment of parcels for the cultivation of corn, plantain, and fruits (the last of which also supports a future beekeeping PPP, as it provides bees with more flowers for foraging), and will benefit 725 families across seven municipalities. Moreover, in Cesar, rehabilitation began for the four mini irrigation districts that we have been supporting over the past year; we expect them to be completed in December. These irrigation districts promise to improve the water situation in a region historically affected by severe droughts, thus bringing more stable income to 136 families involved in small-scale farming. In Montes de María, we formed twelve projects, of which seven resulted in the mobilization of US\$1.4 million. Of the seven projects, one relates to the strengthening of small-scale cattle ranchers, two relate to land parcels that will produce cacao and *ñame*—in support of our PPPs in the region—and four relate to basic sanitation; these projects will benefit 1,668 local residents.

TABLE 1 – RESOURCES MOBILIZED DURING QUARTER 3

REGION	AMOUNT MOBILIZED (USD)	SOURCE OF FUNDING	PURPOSE
Cesar	\$800,000	Governor’s office	Improvement of food security for 725 campesinos and indigenous families in seven municipalities
Montes de María	\$1,404,738	MARD and others	Strengthening of 200 small-scale cattle raisers affected by the conflict, in two municipalities
			2 projects for the implementation of cacao and <i>ñame</i> cultivations
			4 projects on potable water

Exchange rate: 2,500

COMPONENT 4: IMPROVED INFORMATION AVAILABLE AND EFFICIENTLY USED TO DELIVER LAND RIGHTS SERVICES

Land Node. We made significant advances on the project management front. Among our advances are the following:

- presented operational model for phase two of the Land Node within all participating entities
- reached agreement with MinTic regarding the procurement of the software architecture for the node
- updated the inventory and catalogue of the Land Node’s 57 “services” (unique types of information that will be shared among land entities)

- validated deliverables for the development of the software that will ensure the interoperability of the 57 “services”
- defined a common language and architectural requirements that will ensure the node’s interoperability
- presented the Land Node at MinTic’s “Tour de Innovación” (see below)
- drafted the first version of the interoperability agreement—a type of legal contract—that all participating entities must sign in order for the node to function properly

On May 25, MinTic presented the Land Node to the public sector and academia as part of its “Tour de Innovación,” a series of monthly events that feature inspiring projects related to digital innovation. The Land Node was highlighted as a creative technological solution that promises to facilitate Colombia’s land restitution process. The event was streamed live, and the government has produced a video summarizing the project, which is available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dNqTSsjUx0c>.



Information systems. This quarter, we completed the Exemptions System, housed by the SNR. The system grants a range of public agencies free and easy access to *certificados de tradición y libertad* (certificates of delivery and unencumbered property), a public document containing legal information on a particular land parcel, including its former and current owners. Prior to the system, these agencies—including embassies, the police force, the Public Prosecutor’s Office, and all land-related entities—had to pay to obtain these certificates, and could access only certain ones electronically, as not all public registry offices were integrated into the online system. Thanks to the launch of the Exemptions System, 100% of property certificates from the country’s 196 public registry offices are available to qualified agencies through a few clicks of the mouse.



The SNR’s new system allows authorized agencies—such as embassies, the police, and land entities—to access property certificates free of charge.

For information on how our other information systems are progressing, see the graphic on page 16.

Digitalization of files. Before 2016, displaced victims of conflict in need of restitution were required to file paper-based applications. Many of these claimants are still waiting for their cases to be resolved—but the paper-based files make the process slow, cumbersome, and prone to human error. This quarter, we scanned 11,574 restitution case files and entered their data into a searchable online platform, improving the quality and speed of the restitution process by reducing the time it takes to access data and making case information more reliable. The platform increases judges' ability to access the information they need to issue restitution rulings for these pending cases, and it allows the LRU to better track restitution progress across the country. By the end of this activity, we will digitalize 30,593 such case files, representing the totality of all paper-based restitution files as of December 31, 2015.



Workers organize and digitalize masses of historical land files from INCODER in the department of Meta. Making this information electronically available is critical for Colombia's new institutional framework.

This quarter, we also began digitalizing INCODER's historical files. In Bolívar and Meta, we organized and digitalized 156 linear meters (representing 9,360 files related to the adjudication of *baldíes*) and 4,000 plans. This effort is critical for being able to successfully pass the now-defunct agency's files over to its successors, the National Land Agency and the Rural Development Agency; for helping the government identify *baldíes* for possible use in the Land Fund; and for supporting massive formalization processes. Next quarter, we will digitalize the files for Sucre and Cauca, where we are conducting our formalization pilots. By the end of this activity in October, we will digitalize 100% of INCODER's files from 215 municipalities, representing approximately one-quarter of all such files in the country.

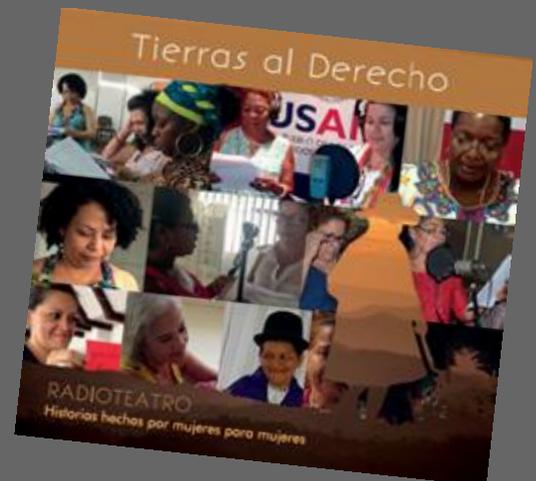
IGAC investment projects. We concluded our trainings of IGAC officials regarding how to use the General Methodology for the Formulation of Public Investment Projects, which enables the entity to secure funding from Colombia's royalties system. This quarter, we conducted four regional-level workshops for IGAC officials, resulting in the formulation of three investment projects: one on the updating of cadastral information in Nariño, valued at COP3,141 million; another on the updating of cadastral information in the Guajira, valued at COP255 million; and a third on institutional strengthening for IGAC regarding the implementation of planning and evaluation methodologies, valued at COP6,426 million. These projects are now in IGAC's project bank and ready to submit to the national government for funding. With this training in hand, IGAC officials are equipped to formulate additional proposals for funding from the national government.

ON THE AIR



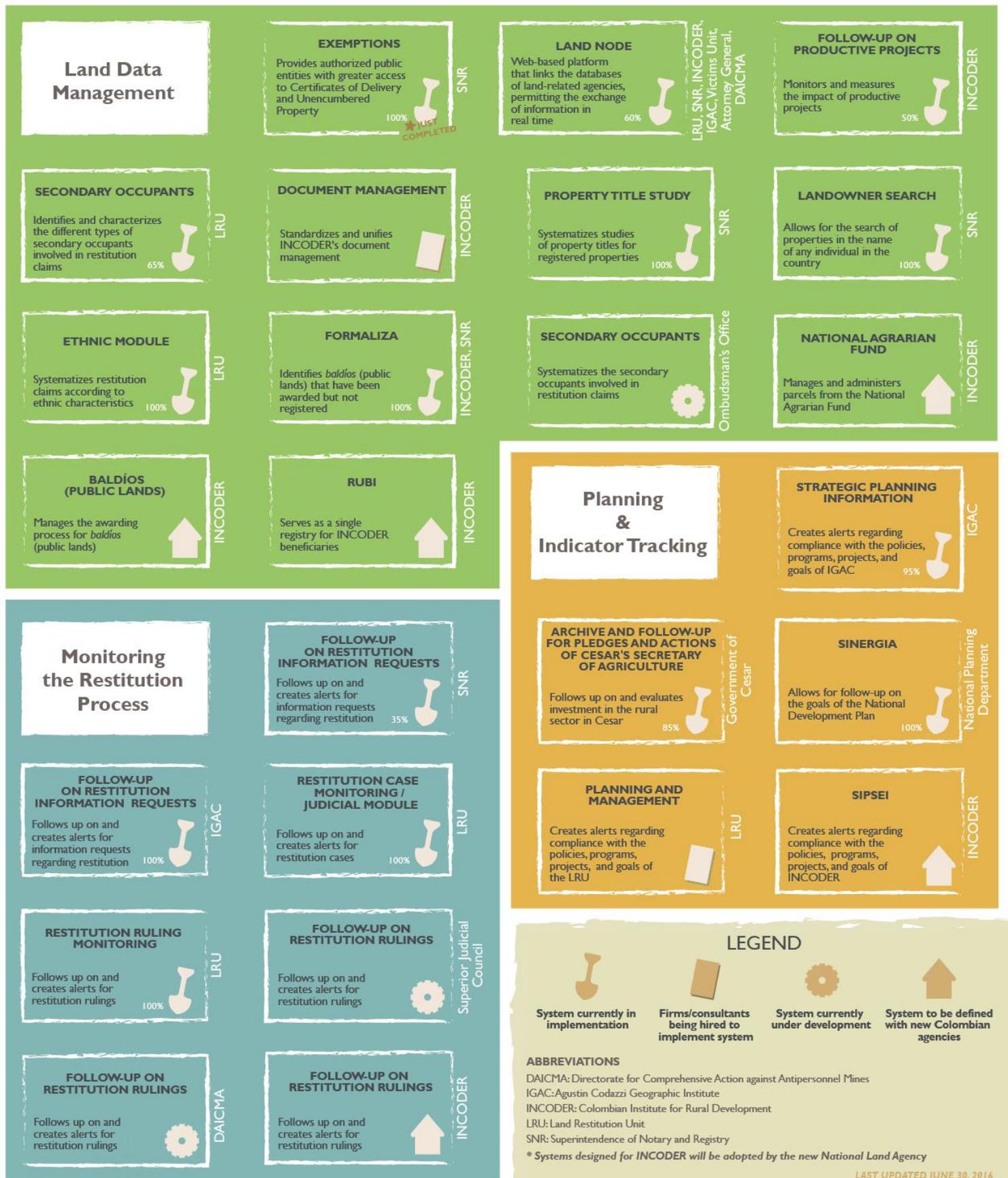
Earlier this year, we led the production of 12 radio dramas, written and performed by 59 female victims of the armed conflict. This quarter, these programs—which increase awareness about women’s rights to land and provide information on how GOC institutions can support them in claiming these rights—began hitting the airwaves. The programs aired on 26 community radio stations in LRDP’s focus areas, reaching residents in 74 municipalities across the country.

In addition, we began a series of launch events, providing a space for participants to tell their stories and share what they learned from the process in front of an audience that includes local media, radio stations, and community members. At these events, we disseminate copies of the CD that we produced (containing all 12 radio dramas, along with a booklet on women’s land rights) and explain how it can be used as a teaching tool within rural communities. This quarter, we held our first such event in Montes de María; next quarter, we will hold events in our other focus regions.



INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Placing technology at the heart of land and rural development in Colombia



Operations

GRANTS & CONTRACTS

We are implementing an aggressive technical assistance schedule. This quarter, we signed six additional subcontracts (see bolded items in table 2).

TABLE 2 – ACTIVE SUBCONTRACTS AND GRANTS

SUBCONTRACTOR/GRANTEE	COMPONENT	START DATE	END DATE	AMOUNT (COP)	AGREEMENT TYPE
ITS Soluciones Estratégicas	4	Sep 2015	Jul 2016	459,000,000	FPS
Ocampo Duque Abogados	2	Oct 2015	Aug 2016	498,158,316	FPS
Proyectamos Colombia	1	Jan 2016	Aug 2016	558,300,000	FPS
Mobile Corp	3	Jan 2016	Aug 2016	324,877,000	FPS
Corporacion Opcion Legal	1	Jan 2016	Oct 2016	477,185,273	FPS
Heinsohn Technology 1	4	Jan 2016	Aug 2016	230,095,000	FPS
Observatorio Del Caribe 3	3	Feb 2016	Jul 2016	322,920,690	FPS
Fundación Desarrollo y Paz de Montes de María	3	Feb 2016	Jul 2016	467,054,291	FPS
Geosoil	2	Mar 2016	Nov 2016	419,330,340	FPS
Alina Tech	4	Apr 2016	Oct 2016	475,146,051	FPS
Almarchivos	4	May 2016	Oct 2016	1,793,715,630	FPS
Universidad Javeriana de Cali	3	Jun 2016	Dec 2016	1,895,791,000	FPS
Centro Nacional de Consultoría	4	Jun 2016	Sep 2016	268,000,000	FPS
Cispro	2	Jun 2016	Apr 2017	738,010,000	FPS
Heinsohn Technology 2	4	Jun 2016	Feb 2017	646,976,925	FPS
Total COP				9,574,560,516	
Total USD				3,247,816	
<i>FPS – Fixed Price Subcontract Exchange rate: 2,948</i>					

STAFFING

Currently, we have 115 employees across Bogota and five regional offices, and we are wrapping up recruitment of a DCOP–Technical replacement for Alejandro Tellez, who departed the project on June 30. We expect his replacement to begin in mid-July. During the quarter, we hired 11 long-term staff and have 61 consultants providing technical assistance across all components. It is worth noting that to optimize program implementation in the coming years, we have restructured the Operations and Planning unit to report under one office. This new unit will be a one-stop-shop for program implementation and budget efficiency, and it will ensure that indicators are meeting targets since Monitoring & Evaluation will now also report under the Operations and Planning unit.

To meet environmental contractual obligations recently modified with regard to Regulation 216, we hired an environmental expert to facilitate the initiation of a programmatic environmental evaluation. This addition has been key to ensuring that activities are in line with environmental approval procedures within two systems, Mission and MONITOR.

Environmental Compliance

On May 24, the third modification to the contract between USAID/Colombia and Tetra Tech became effective. The most significant part of this modification is an update to the contract's environmental compliance clause based on the amended Environmental Threshold Decision. The modification includes a positive determination for several categories of project activities. Toward the end of the reporting period, we engaged the services of a Colombian environmental law expert to support our environmental specialist in the preparation of the required scoping statement and subsequent Environmental Assessment, based on Regulation 216. We are currently working on the scoping statement and will begin the Environmental Assessment upon receiving USAID approval. Close coordination between LRDP and USAID will continue throughout the entire scoping and assessment process.

Annex A: Project Specific Performance Indicators

The purpose of this annex is to present information related to progress toward our performance indicators. The information below summarizes quarterly, annual, and life-of-project results and progress toward targets.

This annex reports on the indicators from the Activity Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (AMEP) that was approved by USAID on June 15, 2015. This quarter, after completing several rounds of revisions to that AMEP, we received USAID approval on a revised AMEP. We will begin reporting on the newly revised indicators next quarter. In addition to demonstrating outcomes based on support to institutional partners, the revised AMEP will facilitate the reporting of more detailed information on results of the program's direct implementation activities, specifically with regard to land formalization.

Despite ongoing communication and requests for information, it remains a challenge obtaining timely and high-quality data from our GOC counterparts. Our technical team continues strengthening our institutional relationships to ensure the smooth delivery of information from the government.

Table 3 outlines all LRDP performance indicators, targets, and results for this reporting period and achievement toward annual and life-of-project targets. The following section provides further detail and analysis on those indicators for which progress is significantly higher or lower than expected results.

TABLE 3 – SUMMARY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TABLE

Key	
[*]	= indicators for which progress is significantly above or below our expected target
[Blue shading]	= key indicators
[Gray lettering]	= indicators that have been suggested for removal in LRDP's revised AMEP, which will be rolled out next quarter

No.	Indicator	FY3 Target (2016)	Q3 - FY2016 Results	FY3 ACTUAL	% Annual Target Achieved	LOP Target (Total over 5 years)	LOP Results	% LOP Target Achieved
PO1	Number of households that have obtained documented property rights as a result of project assistance through restitution, titling and allocation of public lands (custom)	7,000	835	4785	68.4%	32,560	17,038	52.3%
PO2 A	Percentage of restitution and formalization beneficiaries that are women (custom)	45%	20%	20%	45%	50%	20%	40%
PO2 B*	Number of restitution beneficiaries that are ethnic minorities (custom)*	3,000	24	24	0.8%	20,000	2,504	12.5%
PO3	Number of rural households that gain access to relevant public goods through expanded funding as a result of LRDP assistance (custom)	1,000	197	1,410	141%	5,000	1,410	28%

No.	Indicator	FY3 Target (2016)	Q3 - FY2016 Results	FY3 ACTUAL	% Annual Target Achieved	LOP Target (Total over 5 years)	LOP Results	% LOP Target Achieved
PO5	Person hours of government officials, traditional authorities, or individuals trained in restitution, formalization, public project planning, monitoring and/or IKM systems as a result of LRDP assistance (contributes to STARR IQC iv)	3,400	5,580	9,058	266.4%	21,920	15,020	68.5%
O1.1*	Number of restitution cases processed by the LRU (custom)	5,000	2,575	10,547	210.9%	20,000	22,830	114.1%
O1.2	Reduced time for restitution case preparation by LRU (custom) ¹	241	--	--	0%	224	--	0%
1.1.1	Number of restitution cases that have complete parcel information in targeted municipalities (contributes to STARR IQC vi)	300	0	678	226%	1,900	1,687	89%
1.1.2*	Number of current vulnerable occupants of land claimed ("secondary occupants") in restitution that are represented in case proceedings (custom, contributes to: STARR IQC vi)*	250	67	412	164.8%	800	834	104.2%
O2.1	Number of titles issued (legal certainty) (contributes to STARR IQC ii)	2,000	324	928	46.4%	8,000	1,946	24.3%
O2.2	Number of issued titles directly resulting from LRDP-supported area-wide formalization (contributes to STARR IQC ii)	300	0	0	0%	2,496	0	0%
O2.3	Reduced time to register issued titles (custom)	1,318	0	0	0%	1,154	0	0%
2.1.1	Number of formalization cases that advance to a key milestone in the process (application accepted, parcel demarcated, legal proceedings started) (DO1-040, custom)	3,000	4,530	15,714	523.8%	16,000	15,714	98.2%
2.2.1*	Legal framework enabling rapid and massive formalization drafted and submitted to GOC entities and Congress with LRDP support (custom)	2	0	0	0%	6	1	16.7%
2.3.1	Number of cases of recoverable public lands inventoried to potentially feed into the Land Fund (custom, contributes to STARR IQC i)	7,000	0	0	0	47,000	48,605	103.4%

¹ As mentioned previously, we were unable to obtain information from the LRU in order to establish the baseline and the advances in this indicator. For this reason, we did not include this indicator in our revised AMEP.

No.	Indicator	FY3 Target (2016)	Q3 - FY2016 Results	FY3 ACTUAL	% Annual Target Achieved	LOP Target (Total over 5 years)	LOP Results	% LOP Target Achieved
2.3.2	A roadmap for recovery of public land is produced	1	0	1	100%	1	1	100%
O3.1	Percentage increase in resources mobilized by the national GOC as a result of LRDP in the targeted regions that meet community needs and market requirements (custom)	80%	32.3%	32.3%	40.4%	90%	89.7%	99.7%
O3.2	Percentage of projects funded with LRDP support that are in implementation (custom)	65%	51%	51%	78.5%	75%	51%	68%
3.1.1	Number of projects which reflect community needs included in rural development plans or in other mechanisms (custom)	26	15	56	215.4%	113	100	88.5%
3.1.2*	Number of public-private partnerships (PPPs) formed or strengthened with LRDP support (FACTS-PPP5)*	4	0	0	0%	13	0	0%
O4.1	Increased ability to access and use data for results management as measured by the IKM capacity index score of relevant institutions (custom)	3.20	--	--	--	3.52	--	0%
O4.2*	Reduced time to access inputs for restitution and formalization processes (custom)*	20%	29.3%	29.3%	146.5%	60%	29.3%	48.8%

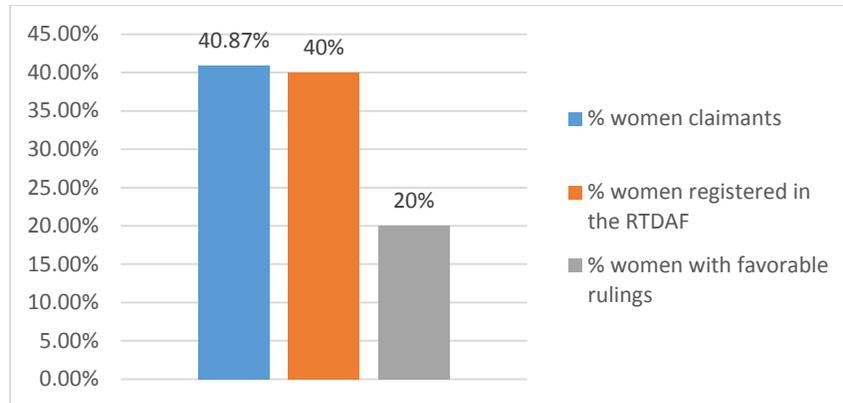
ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS AND BACKGROUND ON THE PERFORMANCE OF SELECTED INDICATORS

Cross-Cutting PO2A. Percentage of restitution and formalization beneficiaries that are women

The advance reported this quarter corresponds only to restitution beneficiaries. The information provided by MARD's formalization program is not disaggregated by gender.

This quarter, the percentage of female restitution beneficiaries who received documented property rights via judicial rulings is 20%, representing a 6% decrease from the prior quarter. Nonetheless, it is worth pointing out that at the level of administrative acts, the percentage of female title holders in the Registry of Dispossessed and Forcefully Abandoned Lands during the quarter is 40%. This percentage is close to that of female claimants, which is 40.87%. We expect this percentage from the administrative phase of the restitution process to be reflected in the future in an increased number of restitution rulings.

GRAPH 1 – WOMEN IN THE RESTITUTION PROCESS



Cross-Cutting PO2B. Number of restitution beneficiaries that are ethnic minorities

On April 5, 2016, restitution judges issued a ruling in the case of the Embera-Dobida Dogibi indigenous community regarding the ancestral land of Eyaquera (located in the municipality of Unguía, in Chocó). This ruling benefits 24 families (133 individuals) and covers a territory of 3,157 hectares. Thus, indicator PO2B increased by 24 this quarter. Next quarter, however, when we begin reporting on our revised AMEP, this indicator will count the number of cases—as opposed to the number of families. This change was made in light of the fact that it is difficult to produce goal estimates based on the number of families, as indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities involved in the restitution process vary significantly in their demographic composition.

01.1. Number of restitution cases processed by the LRU

This quarter, we continued to witness a trend of increasing numbers of rejected claims alongside decreasing numbers of accepted claims (with a total of 2,575 cases reported this quarter). It is likely that Decree 440 of 2016, which ordered adjustments to the first phase of the LRU’s administrative procedures, is connected to the persistence of this trend. For the LRU, enforcing this decree implied a decrease in the number of cases included in the Registry of Dispossessed and Forcefully Abandoned Lands. Indeed, in LRDP’s target municipalities, the cases included decreased, particularly in four municipalities: San Jacinto and San Juan de Nepomuceno (Bolívar); Ataco (Tolima); and Santander de Quilichao (Cauca).

1.1.2. Number of current vulnerable occupants of land claimed (“secondary occupants”) in restitution that are represented in case proceedings

In Q2Y3, the Ombudsman’s Office presented us with a report according to which, as of February 29, 2016, 544 “intervening third parties” (potential secondary occupants) had received legal representation in land restitution claims in LRDP focus regions that quarter. However, this quarter, the Ombudsman’s Office published a correction to that report, noting that the number of cases was actually just 72 for the period December 2015–March 2016. That is why the overall progress for this indicator has decreased since our last Quarterly Report. For Q3Y3, the Ombudsman’s Office issued a new report with a cut-off date of April 30, 2016, which included 62 new cases of legal representation. In any case, we have met our life-of-project goal for this indicator, which stands at 104.2%. We will continue reporting on this indicator in our revised AMEP, but with a revised, higher goal.

O2.3. Reduced time to register issued titles

Reporting progress on this indicator has not yet been possible, since the activities that had been agreed on and scheduled for implementation this year were suspended due to INCODER's liquidation. We have kept this indicator in our revised AMEP, but we will reevaluate its relevance once our Year 4 Work Plan is defined.

2.2.1. Legal framework enabling rapid and massive formalization drafted and submitted to GOC entities and Congress with LRDP support

No advances have been reported for this indicator in the past few quarters, as it is limited to legal proposals (i.e., bills) that are officially presented to Colombia's Congress. In recent quarters, we have made significant advances in our efforts to develop municipal formalization plans and pilot projects for the implementation of the "parcel sweep" methodology—efforts that do not qualify as indicator advances under our current AMEP but that will qualify as advances under our revised AMEP. This adjustment will allow us to show the advances made at the regional and municipal levels through our support for massive formalization processes.

3.1.2. Number of public-private partnerships (PPPs) formed or strengthened with LRDP support

This quarter, we have not reported any progress for this indicator. However, we expect to achieve our year 3 goal by the end of next quarter, with the signature of the PPPs for cocoa in Montes de María, cocoa and coffee in Tolima, honey in Cesar, and milk in Meta.

O3.1. Percentage increase in resources mobilized by the national GOC as a result of LRDP in the targeted regions that meet community needs and market requirements

This quarter, we mobilized US\$2,204,738. Of this funding, 76% was allocated to productive projects, and the remaining 24% was invested in basic sanitation. The main sources of funding include MARD, the Office of the Governor of Cesar, and nongovernmental organizations. Also during the quarter, we supported the formulation of 15 new projects, of which 10 are already under implementation (representing a 51% cumulative advance for indicator O3.2). These projects, which have been allocated US\$1,066,736, allow 197 households to improve their access to water through irrigation rehabilitation solutions (61% of the households have better access to basic services) and to improve their income through productive projects (the remaining 39% correspond to productive projects). Of the households benefitting from this investment, 41% represent women-headed households (whether single or married).

TABLE 4 – WOMEN DIRECT BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION (FY16Q3)

Department	Couples	Women	Total
Bolívar	12	8	20
Cesar	24	32	56
Sucre	0	5	5
Total	36	45	81

O4.2. Reduced Time to Access Inputs for Restitution and Formalization Processes

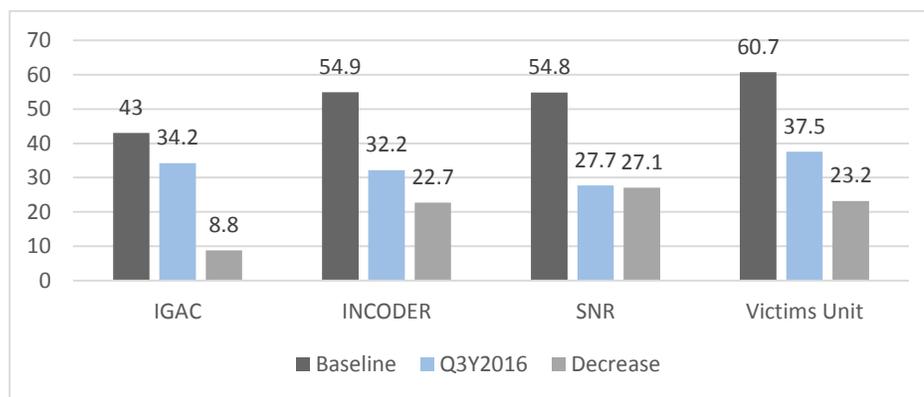
Last June, the LRU reported its second measurement of the response times of the entities from whom the LRU requests information. We are reducing these times by implementing information systems in

relevant GOC institutions and by digitalizing the files needed for the delivery of data requested by the LRU.

The baseline calculated in FY15Q4 for our focus regions was 53 days' average response time within IGAC, INCODER, the SNR, and the Victims Unit. According to the LRU's most recent report, this time has been reduced by 29.3%.

Taking into account the complexity of applying the legal framework for formalization due to the number of entities involved and the diversity of processes, our revised AMEP will consider only restitution processes and will assess time reduction based on an analysis of the services requested by the LRU and those directly affected by our support.

GRAPH 2 – REDUCED TIME TO ACCESS INPUTS FOR RESTITUTION AND FORMALIZATION PROCESSES



INDICATORS AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

One of the agreements established with USAID during the last revision of the AMEP was the inclusion of a section in this report that highlights data on LRDP's social inclusion strategy.

The following table provides disaggregated information based on gender, which is expressed in either numbers or percentages.

TABLE 5 – DISAGGREGATED INFORMATION BASED ON GENDER

Indicator	Total	Women (single or couple)	Percentage women
Number of rural households that gain access to relevant public goods through expanded funding as a result of LRDP assistance	1,410	664	47%
Percentage of restitution and formalization beneficiaries that are women (custom)	3,670	737	20%
Number of government officials, traditional authorities, or individuals trained in restitution, formalization, public project planning, monitoring and/or IKM systems as a result of LRDP assistance	15,020	6,728	45%

In the case of rural women heads of household who have access to public goods, the regional distribution can be seen in the table below.

TABLE 6 – NUMBER OF WOMEN WHO ARE DIRECT BENEFICIARIES OF LRDP-SUPPORTED PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION

Region	Couples	Women	Total
Bolívar	12	8	20
Cauca	111	47	158
Cesar	24	78	102
Meta	0	176	176
Sucre	0	186	186
Tolima	0	22	22
Total	147	517	664

Annex B: Success Story



SUCCESS STORY

After Forced Displacement, Sweet Victory

July 2016



“For 15 years we have been trying to bring the village back to life, and these rulings really give us hope.”

—Jairo Barreto López



Telling Our Story

U.S. Agency for International Development
Washington, DC 20523-1000
<http://stories.usaid.gov>

More than six million Colombians were displaced from their homes over the course of the country’s 50-year civil war. On January 17, 2001, the violence hit Chengue, a village in the coastal region of Montes de María. Residents were forced to flee their village, leaving behind their land, homes, and—in some cases—family members.

“We managed to escape after they set our house on fire with us inside it. We ran to the hills to save our lives,” said 33 year-old Jairo Barreto López, who lost three uncles and two cousins in the massacre.

Fifteen years after the massacre, victims had still not been compensated or returned to their land. Today, thanks to the support of the USAID Land and Rural Development Program (LRDP), their situation is improving. In 2014, LRDP brought together restitution judges and a range of land-related agencies to examine the difficult restitution case of Chengue claimants, identify barriers preventing the processing of their claim, and implement solutions.

In April 2016, due in part to LRDP’s support in preparing the case, a judge ruled that Chengue residents must be returned to their land and have their property formalized. Thirty-seven families will be provided secure land tenure through this ruling. LRDP is working with Colombian agencies to ensure that these families receive a wide range of government services, including legal assistance, productive projects, housing, and property tax debt relief.

Megan Peluffo Meriño, who was displaced from Chengue, said, “This ruling is a big, big advance for us. Ever since I was a little girl, I kept hearing that help was on its way, but it never came. It is a means of providing us with a better future, the chance to start over and to invest in our lands, which were abandoned.”

With this ruling in hand, Chengue will again become the agricultural breadbasket and peaceful village it once was.



Annex C: Project Brief Update



USAID | **COLOMBIA**
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

FACT SHEET

July 2016
USAID Information: (571) 275-2000 Ext. 4102/4106

Land and Rural Development Program

Cacao from Maria La Baja (Bolívar), LRDP helps connect small farmers to markets.



Thriving democracies have high-functioning land governance systems that guarantee land rights for their citizens. LRDP supports Colombia's land governance structures in providing packages of land and rural development interventions that enhance rural livelihoods.

The consequences of land insecurity in Colombia are:

- **Conflict.** The country's 50-year war has been fueled by land and resource inequities in rural areas.
- **Low agricultural productivity.** Land insecurity inhibits public/private sector investments, and prevents farmers from reaching their agricultural potential, generating livable incomes, and escaping poverty.
- **Environmental degradation.** Communities that do not feel secure in their land ownership are not incentivized to sustainably manage natural resources for the long term, which damages the environment.
- **Lack of confidence in government.** Land insecurity in rural areas has driven many to question the authority of the state and seek protection of their assets from illegal armed groups.

LRDP is a five-year project that focuses on the land-based drivers of conflict, poverty, and environmental degradation. LRDP strengthens institutions—the foundation of effective land governance—by streamlining policies and procedures that will improve land access and rural development opportunities for the rural poor. The program supports the GOC to:

Redistribute state-owned farmland to poor families, increasing agricultural production and economic growth.

During the years of conflict, a large number of state-owned lands were illegally acquired. LRDP helps the GOC recoup this land for use in the Land Fund, a bank of state-owned farmland that can be distributed to rural families, promoting agricultural production and economic growth in poor areas. The GOC's goal is to identify 47,000 parcels for redistribution by 2018. To date, LRDP has inventoried 48,000 parcels—potentially benefitting an equal number of families—and will continue identifying land that can be reallocated to Colombia's poor rural families.

Increase public spending on rural development to help farmers and rural families.

In 2015, the GOC committed US\$1.6 billion for the rural agriculture sector but was unable to move this money into the remote areas that need it the most. LRDP works with mayors, governors, and national-level GOC officials to increase public and private spending in poor regions. In doing so, LRDP supports the GOC to ensure that farmers have access to the resources they need—such as irrigation and technical assistance—to increase agricultural production and reduce poverty. To date, the mobilization of rural development resources has increased by 89.7% in LRDP target regions.

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Promote reconciliation and ensure peace by bringing displaced victims of conflict back to their land.

Nearly 7 million people have been displaced from their homes during the course of Colombia's war, and bringing them back to their land is a critical component of Colombia's post-conflict reconciliation process. Because land-related information is disorganized, paper-based, and inaccessible, the government is constrained in its ability to move people through the land restitution process. By 2018, LRDP will digitize pending case files, providing restitution judges with the information they need to make a determination. To date, LRDP has digitized 11,574 case files.

Provide legal representation to vulnerable secondary occupants.

LRDP supports the Ombudsman's Office in providing legal representation to "secondary occupants," rural families occupying land that is claimed by others. There are 1,600 secondary occupants living in LRDP's five target regions, many of whom are entwined in complex legal cases but cannot afford the legal representation they need. LRDP will train and support public defenders to represent 800—or 50%—of these families.

Formalize land rights to protect the environment and improve livelihoods for rural citizens.

It is estimated that approximately half of rural properties in Colombia are informal. Land informality often prevents citizens and public entities from accessing investments that will improve their well-being. In addition, citizens without land rights are often disincentivized to sustainably manage natural resources, which leads to environmental degradation. Making matters worse, registering property in Colombia (the last step in the formalization process) takes over five years due to inefficient processes and a lack of access to land information. LRDP will digitize and make accessible Colombia's paper-based land information, centralize this information in an electronic web platform called the Land Node, conduct three massive land formalization sweeps that will formalize 6,000 plots of rural land, open three regional-level land offices, and support the GOC to open and structure a new National Land Agency.

Improve quantity, quality, and accessibility of land information to expedite restitution and formalization processes.

Without access to high quality, electronic land information, restituting and formalizing property in Colombia is slow, difficult, and costly. LRDP is building the Land Node, which aggregates data from eight different land-related agencies across 25 separate systems, increasing transaction efficiencies, reducing costs, and catalyzing a positive economic impact across the country. LRDP will digitize 100% of land records in our five focus regions—representing nearly 20% of all such records throughout the country—thus ensuring the accuracy of land information and filling the information gaps that impede restitution and formalization efforts.

LRDP ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- 48,605 parcels of state-owned farmland identified for potential future redistribution to poor families in need
- \$13.2 million national-level dollars mobilized by LRDP into conflict-affected regions in one year, representing a nearly 90% increase in government spending in those areas
- 11,574 restitution case files digitized and an information system for tracking restitution claims and rulings built, improving the restitution process for families
- Identification of legal barriers faced by women in common-law marriages who want to access land titles, thus promising to increase the currently low proportion (approximately 30%) of female title holders
- Development plans for 57 municipalities and 6 departments constructed with an eye toward cross-cutting themes on land, rural development, and territorial peace
- 12 radio dramas written and performed by 59 female victims of the armed conflict aired on 26 community radio stations across Colombia, reaching residents of 74 municipalities
- Rigorous statistical analysis revealing that approximately 160,000 Colombians—not 360,000, as previously thought—require land restitution, facilitating the government's ability to plan strategically for the future
- 37 families in Chengue (Sucre) have returned to their land after the government successfully resolved a complicated restitution case with LRDP support

Annex D: Women's Land Rights Infographic



IMPROVING WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS IN COLOMBIA

The research is in: when women have access to land, property, and productive assets, a cascade of benefits accrue. The *USAID Land and Rural Development Program (LRDP)* increases women's access to land and property, giving rural women the tools they need to thrive.



RESEARCH SHOWS...

Women with secure land and property rights earn **4 times** more income and save **35%** more than women without access to land and property.¹ Their children are **10%** less likely to be sick,² **33%** less likely to be underweight,³ and twice as likely to complete secondary school.⁴

USAID SOLUTION...

USAID addresses the land-based drivers of household poverty by increasing women's access to state-provided land formalization and restitution services. **50%** of the beneficiaries targeted by USAID formalization and restitution activities will be women.



RESEARCH SHOWS...

In post-conflict scenarios, women are left holding only **9%** of land titles.⁵ Three million women were displaced during Colombia's conflict, many of whom were involved in common law marriages, and do not have the documentation they need to prove they own their land.

USAID SOLUTION...

USAID helps women living in the most conflict-affected areas of Colombia reclaim their land by alleviating the common law marriage "burden of proof"—the legal evidence required to prove a common law marriage. This makes it easier for displaced women to prove their land ownership and claim the land that is rightfully theirs.



RESEARCH SHOWS...

21% of women displaced by conflict experience violence.⁶ More than **40%** of Colombian women have experienced gender-based violence, with indigenous, Afro-Colombian, and displaced women being the most vulnerable.⁷ When women have access to land and property they are **8 times** less likely to experience gender-based violence,⁸ and over **60%** less likely to experience long-term domestic abuse by their partner.⁹

USAID SOLUTION...

USAID analyzes the ways women are overlooked in land formalization and restitution processes, and trains Colombian land institutions to use a differential approach to ensure the unique needs of women and girls affected by conflict are prioritized and addressed.



RESEARCH SHOWS...

When women do not have land tenure they cannot access credit or membership in agricultural associations.¹⁰ Evidence from around the world demonstrates the importance of women participation in agricultural associations and flexible, efficient, and fair rural labor markets.¹¹

USAID SOLUTION...

USAID boosts and strengthens women's participation in agricultural associations—the key to connecting women with markets. USAID brings together women's associations, local government officials, rural development councils, and the private sector, strengthening the relationships women need to participate in the agricultural sector.



RESEARCH SHOWS...

Women are responsible for providing **45%** of household food in Latin America,¹² but own only **18%** of the land in the region.¹³ Inequitable access to agricultural resources—such as land, machinery, and technical assistance—causes women farmers around the world to be **30%** less productive than their male counterparts.¹⁴

USAID SOLUTION...

USAID works with nearly 600 women and over 1,000 households to design productive projects, help them access technical assistance, and connect with markets. By mobilizing funding from national-level budgets into communities where conflict-affected women live, USAID increases investment in the strategic assets they need—like irrigation and roads—to make their land and businesses productive.

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Annex E: Media List

COVERS APRIL 1 – JUNE 30, 2016

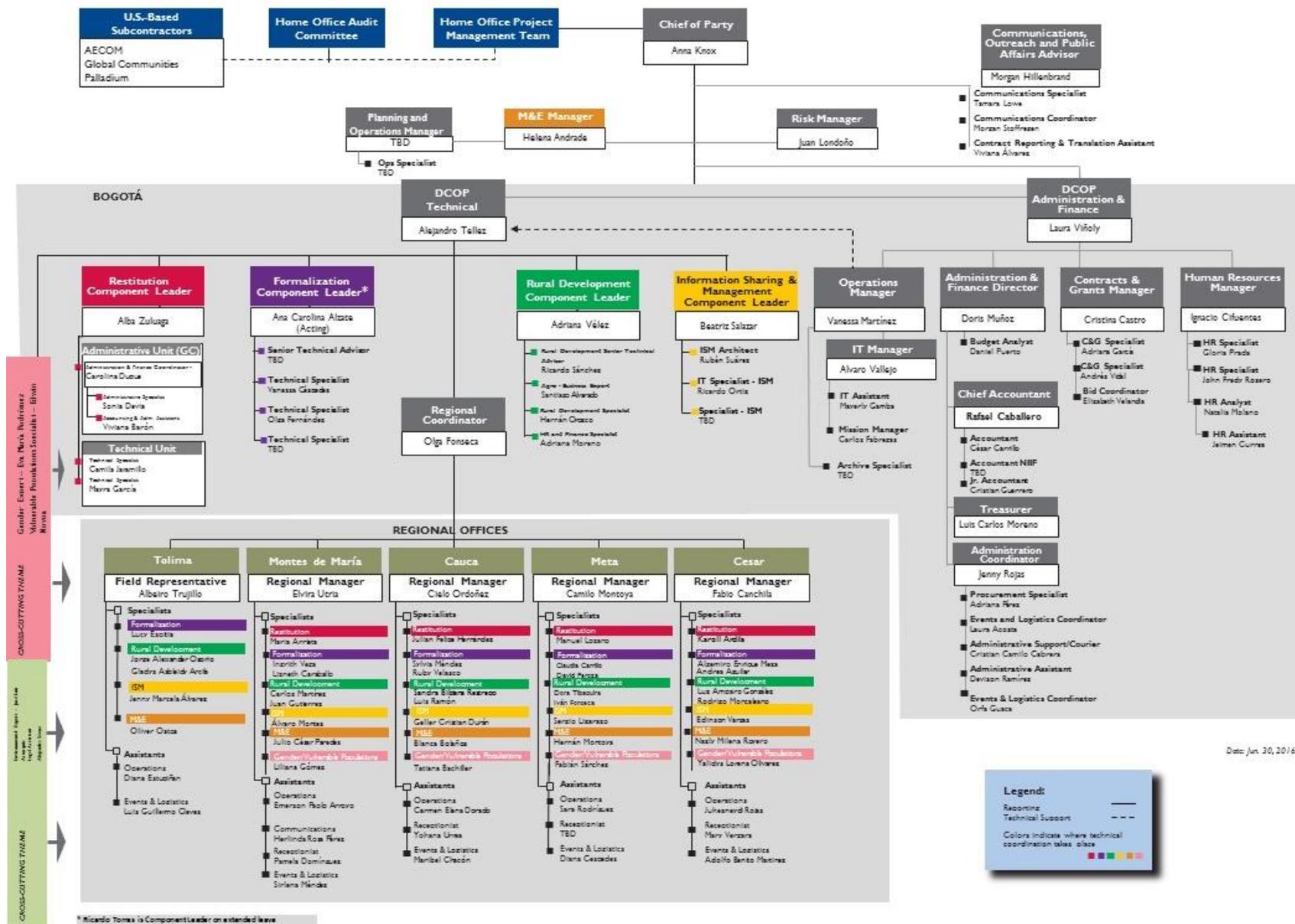
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Annex F: Organizational Chart



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