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COLOMBIA LAND AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

FY16Q2 QUARTERLY REPORT
JANUARY – MARCH 2016



April 2016

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

Cover photo: Small-scale cocoa growers in Ortega (Tolima) exhibit their product. In five regions of Colombia, LRDP helps connect local producers to markets by strengthening public-private partnerships in cocoa, coffee, plantain, honey, and milk.

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This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development by Tetra Tech ARD through the Colombia Land and Rural Development Program Task Order under the Strengthening Tenure and Resource Rights (STARR) Indefinite Quantity Contract (USAID Contract No. AID-EPP-I-00-06-00008, Task Order No. AID-514-TO-13-00015).

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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

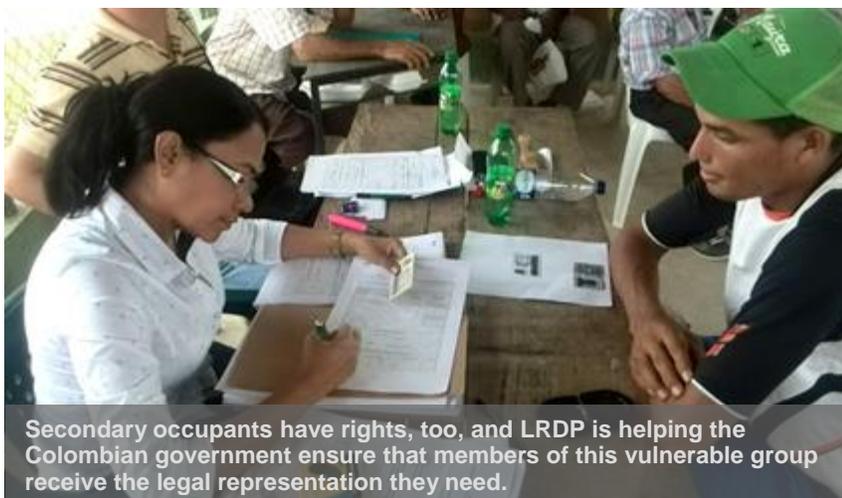
AMEP	Activity Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
FARC	Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia)
GOC	Government of Colombia
IGAC	Instituto Geográfico Agustín Codazzi (Agustin Codazzi Geographic Institute)
INCODER	Instituto Colombiano de Desarrollo Rural (Colombian Institute for Rural Development)
INCORA	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)
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

A signed peace accord between the government of Colombia (GOC) and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) did not happen on March 23, 2016, as had been anticipated. This reality evidences the fact that both parties are still far from seeing eye to eye on critical issues for establishing lasting peace in Colombia. The negotiations continue with no established timeframe for their conclusion.

While disappointing, the GOC and USAID remain committed to preparing Colombia for peace. Up-to-date information systems remain a critical priority to promote land reform. For example, this quarter, the Land and Rural Development Program (LRDP) helped the Agustin Codazzi Geographic Institute (IGAC) launch an internal electronic information platform that allows the entity to quickly assign and follow up on all land restitution-related information requests and court orders. This system enables IGAC to comply with legally mandated restitution requests 50% faster than before, promoting a higher quality and more effective land restitution process. In addition, resolving the secondary occupant issue remains a priority for regional peace and the reduction of conflict over land. In this regard, we provided valuable information to 536 secondary occupants in Cesar, Montes de María, and Meta regarding their



Secondary occupants have rights, too, and LRDP is helping the Colombian government ensure that members of this vulnerable group receive the legal representation they need.

legal rights. Sixty-six of these received legal representation to help move their cases forward, which will result in greater land security for families in need and a more sustainable restitution policy. Finally, preparing the newly established land and rural development agencies for peace (e.g., the National Land Agency and Rural Development Agency) remains a priority for LRDP. For example, we are providing technical assistance in the creation of a methodology that allows the

GOC to identify parcels that are currently registered under the now-defunct Colombian National Institute of Agrarian Reform (INCORA). This methodology will allow the GOC to successfully register these parcels in the name of the new National Land Agency. This quarter, we analyzed 60 parcels and determined that 56 are viable for transfer. We will continue this activity next quarter by reviewing more than 400 parcels in total, thereby helping increase land available for the Land Fund.

The assistance we provide to promote land reform and rural development demonstrates our relevance to the GOC. With or without a peace agreement in place, we are providing needed support to national and regional government entities to help modernize and streamline processes needed for true reform to occur. Critical work for promoting peace is underway and will continue during the next reporting period. Priority activities include the following:

- *Direct support for formalization campaigns.* We are planning for the implementation of a formalization pilot activity in Ovejas (Montes de María). This pilot will establish best practices and

lessons learned, facilitating massive formalization in other municipalities throughout Colombia, which is essential for lasting peace.

- *Support the expansion of Colombia's multipurpose cadaster.* The GOC identified the multipurpose cadaster as a critical initial step to implement development policies in conflict-affected regions. We are providing direct support to this initiative, working closely with the National Planning Department and IGAC. Maximizing the viability and use of a multipurpose cadaster is essential for territorial governance and resource management.
- *Direct support to modernize information systems.* We have progressed 60% in the construction of the Land Node, a web-based platform that links the databases of land-related agencies, permitting the exchange of information in real time. We are also preparing to support the Superintendence of Notary and Registry (SNR) to digitalize millions of files in several departments across the country. This is a critical step for enhancing the Land Node, streamlining land restitution and formalization processes, and reducing the time it takes to promote land reform.

“Peace is not cooked using recipes from Bogota.”

- SEMANA MAGAZINE, DESCRIBING POST-CONFLICT MINISTER RAFAEL PARDO'S VISION FOR THE COMING YEARS

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Building relationships based on trust and confidence is essential for achieving positive development impact. During the quarter, we spent much time and effort engaging the newly elected governors and mayors in the five regions where we work. Today, these new officials—who took office on January 1, 2016—have a solid understanding of the type of assistance available to them through the various USAID implementing partners in the regions, particularly LRDP. Buy-in from local authorities is essential for the successful implementation of project activities.

We provided targeted technical assistance to local governments in the construction of their municipal and departmental development plans. Working together with local counterparts, LRDP staff ensured the inclusion of cross-cutting land reform and rural development initiatives, as well as territorial peace building efforts, in local government planning over the next four years. Based on our extensive knowledge and experience in various regions, we provided a strong foundation for the new officials to build on. Through these initiatives, LRDP is well positioned to continue providing assistance to the implementation of the development plans in the coming years and to prepare local governments for post-conflict initiatives.



LRDP is helping mayors and governors with the inclusion of cross-cutting land reform and rural development initiative in their municipal and departmental development plans.

PROMOTING PROJECT COORDINATION

We demonstrated our leadership in coordinating among the various USAID implementing partners in the regions where we work. Taking the initiative in Montes de María, we hosted a project coordination meeting to promote dialogue and synergies between the various USAID projects operating in the region. This helped orient USAID's new Rural Finance Initiative on the realities of working in Montes de María, on where the various partners are active, and on what each one is doing. Participation by USAID's Program Office in this meeting highlighted its importance and helped establish a model for project coordination for application in other regions. We also played a key role in project coordination efforts in Cauca—again, in close coordination with USAID's Program Office.

Establishing synergies across technical areas and ensuring that implementing partners avoid duplicating efforts are important. However, project coordination also spans across other areas. For example, LRDP played an important role in providing security support and guidance to other implementing partners, such as USAID's new Rural Governance Activity and the Rural Finance Initiative. Sharing best practices, contacts for transportation services, and overall intelligence about the security situation in the regions where we operate is important for promoting the safety of other projects' staff. We will continue to play a leading role in project coordination in our five focus regions.



“Thanks very much for your outstanding work on today’s high-level visit to Northern Cauca. [The Colombian delegation] came away with a deep appreciation for our work and its importance to the post conflict ... Great way to start the new year with important partners.”

—PETER NATIELLO, MISSION DIRECTOR

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.

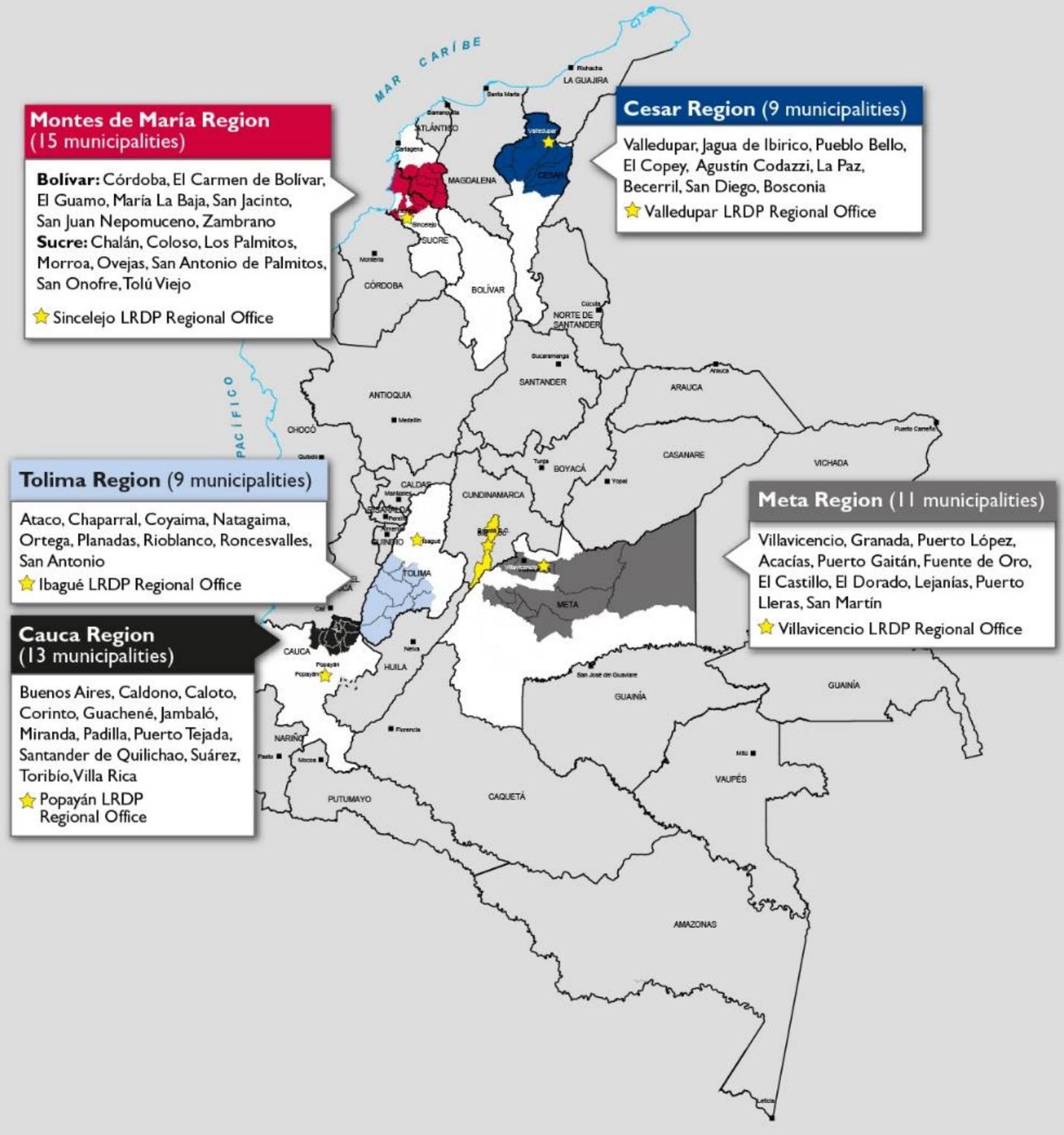
The program achieves results through the following approaches:

- *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.



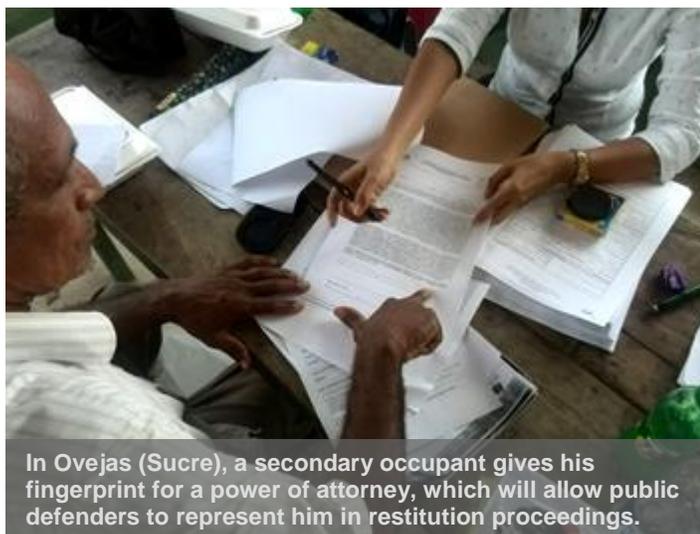
Project Activities

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

Ethnic restitution. In Cesar, we initiated characterization studies for three restitution cases of the Yukpa population, one of the indigenous groups most affected by Colombia's armed conflict and which stands on the brink of cultural extinction. At stake are the lands of approximately 121 indigenous families and nearly 1,000 hectares. Characterization studies are key forms of documentation that must be completed by the Land Restitution Unit (LRU) before an ethnic restitution case can proceed to a judge. For these studies, we formed a professional working group consisting of a coordinator, a legal advisor, a cadastral advisor, an environmental advisor, and a community relations liaison (a member of the local community who serves as liaison between GOC institutions and the community). Over the next six to seven months, this team will gather information through community meetings, visit the parcels in question, conduct measurements, and collect institutional information about the case from relevant entities (such as the National Land Agency and the Ministry of the Interior). It will then publish a report describing the indigenous territory, how the conflict affected it, and the substance of the community's demand (namely, the exact violations that took place and what requires restituting). Once these three cases are completed, the LRU will have processed all pending Yukpa claims throughout the country, marking the first time that an *entire* indigenous group has been attended to in the restitution process.

Complementary to this activity, we revised the LRU's methodology for characterization studies for ethnic restitution claims. The revised methodology improves the LRU's ability to prepare solid cases with more compelling legal arguments, thereby increasing chances for favorable restitution rulings.

Secondary occupants. In Cesar, Meta, and Montes de María, we supported the Defensoría del Pueblo in teaching 536 secondary occupants about Colombia's policy of assistance for secondary occupants, as well as their rights during the restitution process. Of these, 66 received legal representation from public defenders.¹ Ensuring that this vulnerable group of Colombians—who are often themselves victims of the armed conflict—receives the legal support they need is an essential piece of the restitution puzzle.



Territorial Action Plans. Under Colombia's Victims Law, all local governments must have a territorial action plan (known as PAT for its Spanish acronym). This plan, which is part of the larger municipal or departmental development plan, includes measures for assistance and reparation for victims, and it should be developed with the participation of victims of the armed conflict. Among other requirements, each PAT should include a component on land

¹ This official number does not include data from Montes de María, which was not provided to us by the Defensoría del Pueblo. Thus, the actual number is likely much higher.

restitution. In this regard, LRDP is assisting mayors, governors, and their support teams in effectively incorporating land restitution into their PATs in a way that ensures that Colombia's restitution policy is well executed in the regions. To this end, we trained 305 public officials on tools and methodologies for including restitution in their PATs. (For more about our work on development plans generally, see page 11.)

Colombia's restitution demand. When Colombia's land restitution policy and the LRU were designed, the government estimated that approximately 360,000 households throughout the country were in need of land restitution. Today, however, now that the policy is underway and the LRU is seeing the actual on-the-ground demand for restitution services, the initial estimate is under scrutiny. This quarter, we designed a statistical model for the LRU that allows it to recalculate this figure—both now and in the future as needed. Currently, the model is in the validation phase, and by July 2016, we expect to calculate a more accurate estimate of the actual existing demand for restitution. Adjusting this number is important because it gives the GOC an accurate idea of the universe of potential restitution beneficiaries, allowing the GOC to better plan how to implement the remainder of the restitution policy.

Youth and music in Cauca. This quarter, we organized a commemorative event to mark the conclusion of LRDP's support to Fundación Ayara regarding the project "Tu tierra, mi tierra, nuestro territorio," which increased awareness of ethnic identity, collective territories, and restitution among Afro-descendant youth in Cauca. The event, which took place on January 21 in Bogota, featured hip-hop and dance performances by youth who had been trained as part of the project. In all, the project trained 89 young people, many of whom are now leading their own activities in Cauca, thus multiplying the benefits of land rights awareness generated through the project. The DVD that was produced, containing five videos and 16 songs, is now being disseminated to key stakeholders in the region.



The "Tu tierra, mi tierra, nuestro territorio" project supported by LRDP empowered Afro-descendant youth in Cauca on ethnic identity and territorial rights. A concluding event featuring hip-hop and dance performances was held in January 2016 in Bogota.

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

INCORA parcel transfers. In 2003, INCORA was dismantled and replaced by the Colombian Institute for Rural Development (INCODER). At the time, some of the public lands that INCORA had been managing were not transferred to INCODER. Because INCODER lacked legal ownership over these public lands—and because the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), the parent entity, could not do anything with them, either—they were never adjudicated to anyone. Today, with INCODER gone, they remain in INCORA’s name and thus in legal limbo. In order for the government to be able to award these lands to the campesinos who need them, they must be registered in the name of the new National Land Agency. To this end, LRDP is assisting with the creation of a methodology that allows the government to properly identify these parcels and assess their legal viability in order to confirm that they are ready for registration in the name of the National Land Agency. This quarter, as part of a pilot that developed and applied the methodology, we analyzed 60 parcels, 56 of which were deemed viable for transfer. By June, we expect to finish analyzing the remainder of the estimated universe—approximately 400 parcels—and will leave a tested methodology in the government’s hands so that it can analyze any future cases that might come up. In this way, we are helping take certain *baldíos* out of legal limbo and place them into the hands of the rural poor.



Community focus groups shed light on the barriers that women who are in common-law marriages face when trying to become land titleholders.

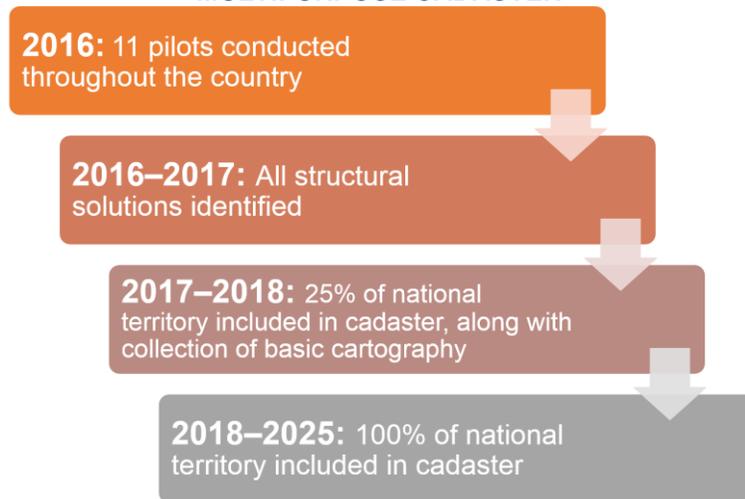


Common-law marriages. We completed the first step of an activity aimed at improving women’s access to land tenure. Specifically, the activity centers on reducing legal barriers for women who are (or were) in common-law marriages and are required to provide evidence of these relationships in order to be recognized as a titleholder—evidence that is sometimes difficult, if not impossible, for them to produce. The first part of this activity involved an extensive two-part analysis: (i) an assessment of the current legal environment, including court rulings on the types of evidence that are required for women in common-law marriages who wish to be recognized as titleholders, and (ii) an analysis, based on field work and focus groups with women, of the specific problems that women encounter

when trying to become titleholders as a common-law spouse. Based on this analysis, we will be able to assess where the legal framework is failing women—in other words, where its requirements or its practical application are so onerous that women are effectively prevented from exercising their right to legal land ownership. Moving forward, we will produce a final report suggesting ways to facilitate women’s access to land, which we will socialize at the national level with the National Land Agency, MARD, the LRU, the SNR, and the Ministry of Justice; and at the regional level, we will conduct workshops to socialize the results with judges, legal assistance centers (*casas de justicia*), conciliators, IGAC officials, LRU officials, and officials from MARD’s formalization program.

Multipurpose cadaster. One of the items called for in the 2014–2018 National Development Plan is a multipurpose cadaster. Such a cadaster will facilitate the GOC’s ability to provide much-needed basic services to communities, providing added value above and beyond the traditional use of the cadaster

FIGURE 1 – GOC TIMELINE FOR THE ROLLOUT OF THE MULTIPURPOSE CADASTER



primarily for tax-collection purposes. In particular, it will have complementary functions regarding public policy, territorial governance, and resource management, and will support implementation of point one of the Havana peace talks. To support this long-term GOC effort (see figure 1), LRDP is organizing the work team that will be tasked with designing and overseeing the implementation of 11 pilots conducted throughout the country, which will cover 65,000 rural land parcels. Although the multipurpose cadaster is stated public policy and is required by law, many of its

practical details have yet to be defined—and LRDP’s involvement during this early stage is critical to ensure that the cadaster model being developed is also linked to the government’s other public policy of massive land formalization. This quarter, we completed the first of five phases regarding our management of the work team; this first phase consisted of a diagnosis of the pilots to be carried out. Next quarter, we will hire staff to define and begin the pilots and to determine with the GOC how to effectively link the cadaster with massive formalization to ensure the efficient use of public investments.

Municipal formalization plan in Cauca. In Cauca, we began developing a municipal formalization plan for Santander de Quilichao. This plan, which will be the first of its kind for any municipality within Cauca, will allow the local government to successfully plan and coordinate the massive formalization of private and public lands, thereby bringing secure land tenure to local residents and taking the onus off individuals to initiate the formalization process. This quarter, as a first step in this ten-month activity, we completed



the work plan. The work plan was drafted in collaboration with the mayor of Santander de Quilichao and other local entities, including IGAC, the SNR, the Unit for Land Use Planning (UPRA), the Association of Municipalities in Northern Cauca, and the Association of Community Councils of Northern Cauca. Such coordination—particularly with community representatives—is critical to ensure the activity’s success, since the development of the formalization plan will involve visits to communities (many of which are ethnic minorities), and community buy-in is essential.

“Pre” land office in Ovejas and direct implementation for formalization in Ovejas. We worked with the municipality of Ovejas (Sucre) to identify and hire a five-person multidisciplinary team who will begin the development of a municipal land office in Ovejas. We also subcontracted the Land Alliance, an international land nongovernmental organization, to design an operational model for the integrated parcel sweep; a monitoring and evaluation model for tracking and evaluating the social and development impacts of massive land tenure formalization; and a project implementation document for massive land tenure formalization in Ovejas. These are critical first steps that will enable massive land formalization to take place in the region in year four of the program. The municipal land office will allow the municipality to (i) actively and effectively participate in the development and implementation of the municipal formalization plan, which is expected to eventually map approximately 4,000 urban and rural parcels and formalize approximately 80% of these parcels; (ii) make use of the land information resulting from the eventual implementation of the massive formalization activity for the planning and physical development needs of the municipality; and (iii) support the maintenance of formality at the local level once the formalization effort is completed. Working closely with the mayor and the City Council, this team will develop the organizational documents needed to formally establish the land office as an entity within the organizational structure of the municipality of Ovejas.

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

Resource mobilization. As shown in table 1, we mobilized US\$1.4 million in INCODER resources to enhance livelihoods for rural populations in LRDP focus regions (the funding was from INCODER’s 2015 budget and was officially transferred in 2016; currently, INCODER is being liquidated). Despite this progress, we are concerned about our ability to mobilize agricultural-sector funds during the 2016 calendar year. The relevant new agencies—the Rural Development Agency and the National Land Agency—have not yet begun operating and are not slated to be fully functioning until 2017, making it difficult to mobilize these particular resources since most of our targeted funds will come from these agencies’ budgets. There is still little clarity as to how these agencies will operate and how they will mobilize resources to the regions. The National Planning Department and MARD have requested LRDP’s support for this transition and in piloting operational procedures to help accelerate the process. In the meantime, we will focus on mobilizing resources from MARD and other possible regional sources, such as royalties and regional budgets.

TABLE 1 – RESOURCES MOBILIZED DURING QUARTER 2

REGION	AMOUNT MOBILIZED (USD)	SOURCE OF FUNDING	PURPOSE
Cesar	\$560,000	INCODER	Project to cultivate 33 hectares of sugarcane, benefitting 33 families; project for improved sheep rearing, benefitting 79 families
Meta	\$625,818	INCODER	3 projects to cultivate 95 hectares of plantain, benefitting 115 families
Montes de María	\$64,800	INCODER	Project to cultivate 105 hectares of cassava, benefitting 42 families
Tolima	\$155,149	INCODER	Project to strengthen the cocoa and coffee productive chains, through the cultivation of 215 hectares, benefitting 48 families

Exchange rate: \$2,500

Municipal and departmental development plans. This quarter was a crucial one for the construction of regional development plans, which must be created according to strict national-government deadlines, and for setting strategic priorities within the regions for the years ahead. Building on our previous efforts with newly elected mayors and governors, LRDP continued to work closely with these officials and their teams to ensure the inclusion of strategic cross-cutting themes on land (restitution and formalization) and rural development in their development plans, including specific budget allocations for these elements. Importantly, we emphasized the need for these strategic themes to incorporate a focus on territorial peace—as requested by the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace—and a focus on gender and ethnicity. For example, we supported a pilot initiative in Pueblo Bello (Cesar) to include indigenous life plans (*planes de vida*), which are long-term community-led plans for development in indigenous territories, as a key issue in the municipality’s development plan.

Such advocacy efforts around land and rural development are critical because they ensure the strong and clear representation of issues that have historically been neglected in municipal and departmental development plans. It is critical that these plans be in harmony with the National Development Plan and point one of the Havana peace negotiations so that Colombia can make the most of a post-conflict scenario by addressing the needs in conflict-affected rural communities. Moreover, our involvement seeks to leave local governments with the capacity to implement actions that incorporate various policies, thus fostering a more comprehensive approach to local governance. Although the development plans will not be finalized and approved until next quarter (see figure 2), we have already witnessed glimpses of success (see text box on Tolima).

FIGURE 2 – GOC TIMELINE FOR DEPARTMENTAL PLANS



LRDP SUPPORTS TOLIMA'S PROMISING DEPARTMENTAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

One of the strategic lines included in the current draft of Tolima's departmental development plan concerns the transformation of the countryside, framed within a comprehensive vision of development. To this end, the plan incorporates planning processes, efficient land use, and the provision of public goods necessary for competitiveness based on innovation and environmental sustainability. The plan also promotes equity in land distribution, property formalization, and the inclusion of citizens (particularly women, youth, and ethnic groups) from neglected rural areas, thereby setting a solid foundation for territorial peace. Further, the plan includes strategies for demining in Southern Tolima that contribute to rural development and the revival of agriculture, tourism, crafts, goods and services economies, among other things.

Among the plan's specific goals are the following:

- 15 types of land use for productive landscape management
- 500,000 hectares included in agricultural land classification maps at a scale of 1:25,000 for the development of productive systems
- Implementation of a public policy on productive and social landscape management
- Design and implementation of an information system for rural agricultural planning
- Formalization of rural parcels for 325 families
- Design and implementation of 3 instruments that strengthen municipalities' capacities regarding territorial and productive landscape management
- Participation of 1,000 vulnerable rural residents (e.g., rural women, victims of the conflict, and ethnic minorities) in productive projects

These priorities facilitate the creation of enabling environments for land restitution and for secure and stable returns. They also foster community empowerment and participation, as well as a culture of peace and coexistence.

“Tolima’s productive transformation will be made possible through an organized and planned territory that prioritizes rural development as the foundation for the transformation of the countryside.”

—CURRENT DRAFT OF TOLIMA'S DEPARTMENTAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN



Office of the High Commissioner for Peace. As highlighted in the previous Quarterly Report, we have been supporting the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace in three key areas. One of these areas is the inclusion of peace guidelines in territorial development plans. Our efforts started with the sponsoring of a workshop in Bogota in February, where approximately 200 participants from various donor agencies and public entities received guidelines from high-level officials from the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace, the Ministry of Post Conflict, and the National Planning Department that could be disseminated at the regional level during the construction of development plans. In particular, we used these inputs in local workshops throughout the quarter to ensure that key issues on territorial peace and post conflict were addressed in development plans.

Secretariats of Agriculture. Building on efforts that began with previous regional administrations, we continued strengthening departmental Secretariats of Agriculture, with excellent results in Cesar, Meta, and Tolima. In Cesar, we supported the development of an information system for the Secretariat of Agriculture. In Meta, we worked closely with the Secretariat of Agriculture to develop “banks” of productive projects that are ready to hit the ground running once funded. Finally, in Tolima, we helped design a tool together with UPRA to increase the Secretariat of Agriculture’s planning capacity; in addition, with our support, the secretariat agreed to establish a technical planning unit, something that had previously never existed within the secretariat. All of these activities enhance the leadership of newly appointed secretaries, equipping them with the tools and know-how to advance agricultural development in rural communities.

PPPs. This quarter, we prioritized, together with regional entities and local communities, five public-private partnerships (PPPs) that will be finalized by the end of this fiscal year (see figure 3). Much progress was made this quarter with the cocoa PPP in Montes de María, which has now structured an agreement among public and private parties—including the Secretariat of Agriculture, Finagro, Sena, the Chamber of Commerce, the Compañía Nacional de Chocolates, Fedecacao, and other producers’ associations—to strengthen production for local growers in eight associations who will sell consistent-quality cocoa to the Compañía Nacional de Chocolates once the partnership is formalized.



LRDP is strengthening a cocoa PPP in Montes de María that seeks to fill in the missing links in terms of connecting producers to markets.

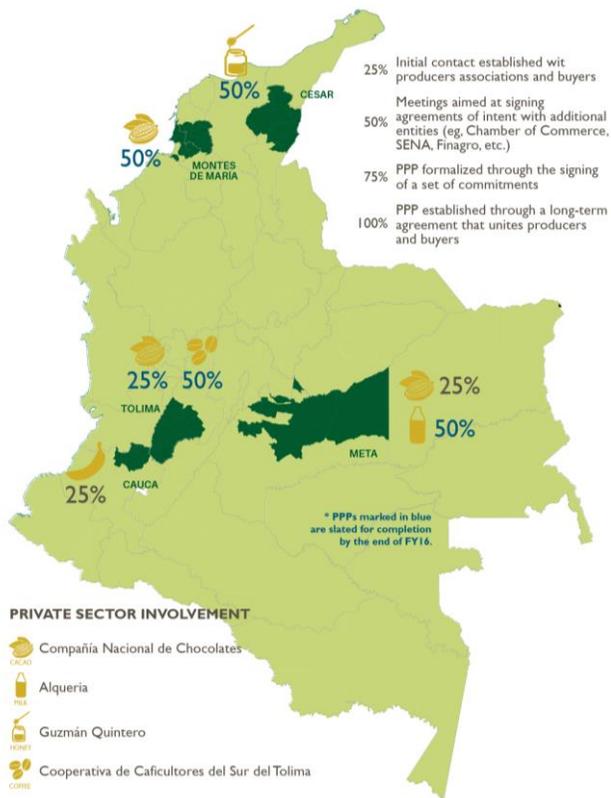


FIGURE 3 –LRDP PROGRESS IN PRIVATE-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS: TWO VISUALIZATIONS

	CACAO	COFFEE	HONEY	MILK	PLANTAIN
Private sector involvement	Compañía Nacional de Chocolates	Cooperativa de Caficultores del Sur del Tolima	Guzmán Quintero	Alquería	
MONTES DE MARÍA	50%				
META	25%			50%	
CESAR			50%		
CAUCA					25%
TOLIMA	25%	50%			

25% Initial contact established with producers associations and buyers
 50% Meetings aimed at signing agreements of intent with additional entities (eg, Chamber of Commerce, SENA, Finagro, etc.)
 75% PPP formalized through the signing of a set of commitments
 100% PPP established through a long-term agreement that unites producers and buyers

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

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

Information systems. With regard to our most ambitious system, the Land Node (a web-based platform that links the databases of land-related agencies, permitting the exchange of information in real time), our overall progress reached 60% this quarter. Progress at this point has been much slower than anticipated due to delays related to preparing the documents to comply with USAID’s Automated Directives System (ADS) Chapter 548, which regulates USAID-funded information technology investments that exceed US\$100,000. In particular, the ADS procedures that we must follow for the justification and approval of the Land Node have slowed us in our efforts to finalize the contracting process and sign the subcontract with the company selected to develop the software. In the short term, this paralyzes the project and places us in noncompliance with the agreements reached with the GOC entities that are part of the Land Node. In the coming months, we plan to propose an exception before Tetra Tech’s home office and USAID that allows the subcontract to begin while the ADS procedure is still in process.

Another factor involved in our slower-than-expected progress is the fact that a few entities— the Directorate for Comprehensive Action against Antipersonnel Mines, the Superior Judicial Council, and the new agencies that will replace INCODER—still need to formally request the integration of their electronic information before MinTic, the parent entity that will house the Land Node’s information.

With regard to the other 24 information systems that LRDP is supporting, we made steady advancements regarding a number of them (see “Information Systems” graphic below), although it is worth mentioning that these, too, are experiencing significant delays due to compliance with Chapter

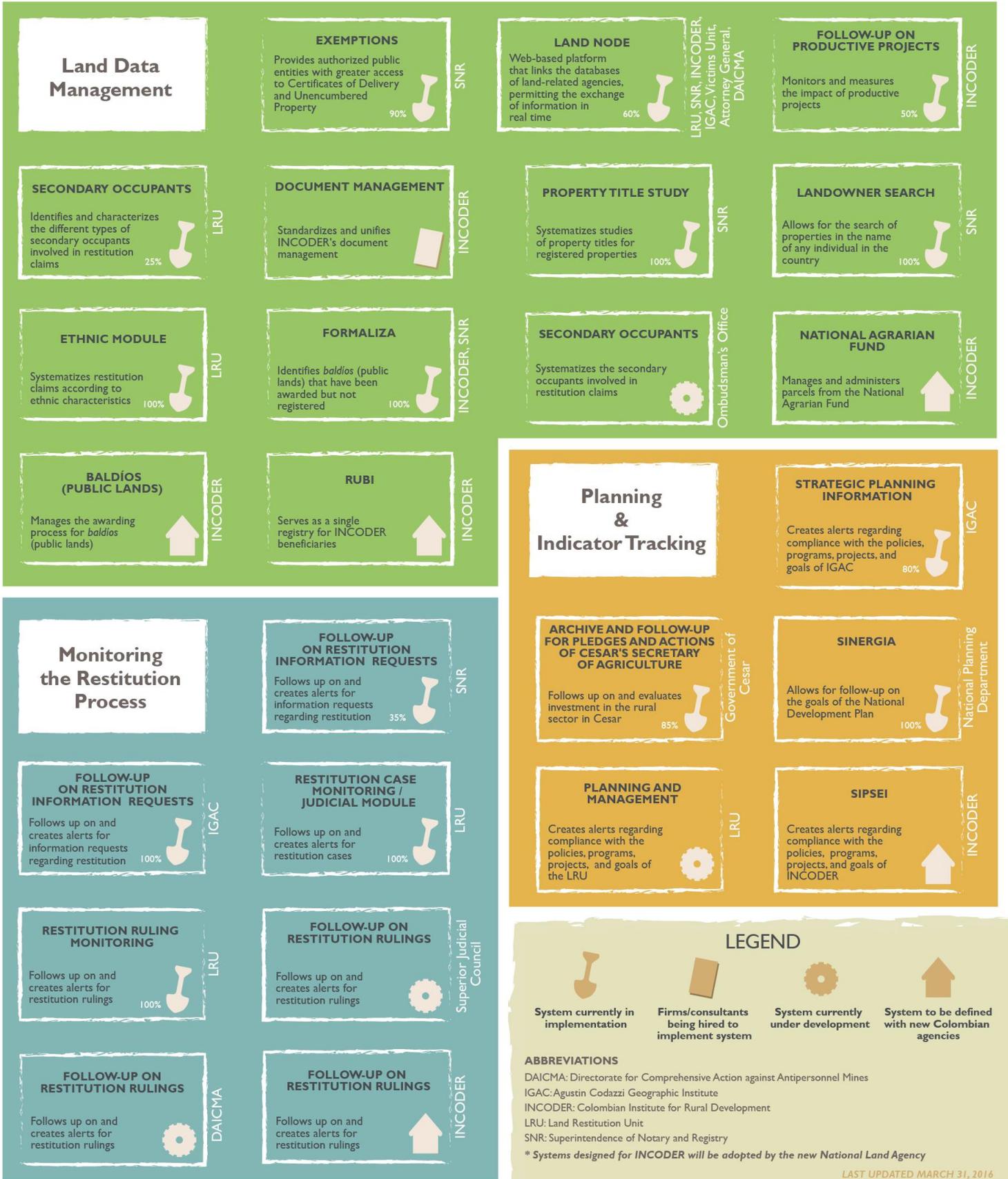
548 requirements. This quarter, we reached 90% completion of the SNR's Exemptions System; 35% completion of the SNR's Follow-Up on Restitution Information Requests System; 80% completion of IGAC's Strategic Planning Information System; 50% completion of INCODER's Follow-Up on Productive Projects System (which will be utilized by the new National Land Agency); 85% completion of the Archive and Follow-Up for Pledges and Actions of Cesar's Secretariat of Agriculture System; and 25% completion of the LRU's Secondary Occupants System.

Most importantly, we completed IGAC's Follow-Up on Restitution Information Requests System, which is now up and running in IGAC's national headquarters and its regional offices. This system is an internal electronic information platform that allows IGAC to quickly assign and follow-up on all restitution-related information requests or court orders—whether they pertain to the preparation of a restitution claim, the judicial review of a case, or a favorable restitution ruling. Previously, IGAC had to manage these information requests manually and at an individual staff level, making follow-up slow and prone to human error; indeed, the average processing time was 40 days. With this new platform, the entity will be able to process requests in an average of 20 days, fostering a higher quality and more effective restitution process.

Finally, with regard to the five systems that were initially designed for INCODER to improve the management of information on Colombia's *baldíos*, we must now work with the new agencies to redesign these systems so they are in line with each agency's respective information infrastructure. Since the new agencies are not yet operational, we have been unable to meet with them to discuss these systems. With regard to the information system developed for the Superior Judicial Council—an entity that was ordered to be dissolved in 2015 yet continues to function in the meantime—it has not been possible to initiate the system's development. We had a meeting with the magistrate responsible for coordinating with our restitution component, where next steps were agreed on in terms of moving the system forward. However, the council remains occupied with pressing transitional issues and has been unable to meet its commitments.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

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



LAST UPDATED MARCH 31, 2016

Formulation of IGAC investment projects. As part of our efforts to strengthen GOC institutions, we responded to a direct request that IGAC's director submitted to USAID regarding the entity's need to formulate four projects under the General Methodology for the Formulation of Public Investment Projects (MGA, for its Spanish



acronym), with the goal of securing resources from Colombia's royalties system. In March, we organized a four-day workshop with an MGA expert and 58 members of IGAC's national-level team to train them in using the MGA methodology. During the workshop, they successfully crafted profiles for two projects: one on updated and complete cadastral information, with an estimated value of 5,060 million pesos; and another on strengthening of the operational framework for the national geodetic network, with an estimated value of 2,130 million pesos. Next quarter, we will conduct four workshops at the regional level, where we will teach the same methodology to officials from IGAC's 22 regional offices. With this training in hand, IGAC officials will be equipped to formulate full project proposals and submit them for approval before the national government.

AT THE FOREFRONT OF REGIONAL COORDINATION

This quarter, we demonstrated our leadership in coordinating among the various USAID implementing partners in the regions where we work.

- In Cauca and Montes de María, as part of a USAID-led initiative, we are collaborating with other project implementers to ensure that our actions are coordinated and to avoid duplicating efforts. This coordination lends greater clarity to USAID's messages to local governments. In particular, we are working with other programs to streamline USAID's advocacy efforts around the political agendas of local and departmental governments, as well as the construction of their municipal and departmental development plans.
- We provided support to USAID's new Rural Finance Initiative in terms of its risk management and security protocols. We shared the contacts of our logistics and security providers in Montes de María and Cauca, as well as information on travel routes, security risks, and the armed forces. This facilitated the program's start-up activities and its knowledge of the security situation in these areas of Colombia.

LEARNING FROM THE EXPERIENCES OF OTHERS: WORLD BANK CONFERENCE

In March, LRDP participated in the 17th Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty in Washington, DC. This year's conference—which focused on responsible land governance—brought together experts and key stakeholders to explore land policy, including its design and implementation, as well as how to track its progress. In particular, participants explored how land policies can be more inclusive, sustainable, and reliable, and how secure land tenure and improved access to land information can build stronger societies.

For the conference, LRDP and the Land Alliance coauthored a paper entitled “Land and Rural Development Policy Reforms in Colombia: The Path to Peace,” which examines several policy instruments, including (i) the policy framework that supports rural transformation, including Mission for Transformation of the Countryside, Comprehensive Rural Reform, and the National Development Plan (ii) the identification, clarification, and recovery of illegally awarded or obtained lands; and (iii) the design and implementation of the Land Node.

Most importantly, we had the opportunity to hear the experiences of others from around the world, allowing us to enrich our perspective with an arsenal of observations and lessons learned that we can take into account as we implement our work. Among the takeaways are the following:

- Responsible—as opposed to large-scale—investment in agriculture is key for ensuring the sustainability of rural development initiatives.
- As demonstrated by successes in Africa, formalization efforts should be conceived of and implemented within a comprehensive package of rural development efforts and should include a strong gender focus.
- Marriage informality affects women's access to land around the world, so finding ways to reduce barriers in this regard is key.
- Worldwide, development efforts often fail to effectively coordinate between land and ways of life. Frameworks for improving land policy implementation should not be developed in a silo and should involve a comprehensive consideration of the surroundings and realities in which communities live.

“For me, the biggest lesson I took away was seeing that in Colombia we are on the right track, when viewed in comparison to other successful experiences from around the world. A big challenge in terms of restitution and formalization is the absence of information on land parcels—and with our efforts to digitalize files and develop information systems, we are helping fulfill people's right to access land.”

—CAMILA JARAMILLO, TECHNICAL SPECIALIST FOR RESTITUTION, LRDP

Operations

GRANTS & CONTRACTS

LRDP is implementing an aggressive technical assistance schedule. This quarter, we signed nine additional subcontracts.

STAFFING

Currently, we have 121 local staff positions across Bogota and five regional offices, of which only five positions are in recruitment. During this quarter, we strengthened our monitoring and evaluation unit to meet additional requirements with the more strategic vision of presenting information. We also filled the Programming and Planning Officer vacancy, which is charged with verifying and troubleshooting issues related to compliance with our Year 3 Work Plan and activities under implementation. Key hires during the reporting period include the following:

- Monitoring and Evaluation Manager (Bogota)
- Programming and Planning Officer (Bogota)
- Nine regional specialists and assistants for Cesar, Cauca, and Bogota

We also hired 11 long-term staff members, filling all existing vacancies on our gender and vulnerable populations team. Furthermore, two new contracts and grants specialists were added to the contracts and grants team (who will support quicker ramp-up of project activities), and one events and logistics specialist was added to the national administrative team, with the goal of providing the required support to the timely implementation of activities.

With regard to short-term technical assistance, we recruited and hired 22 consultants to carry out technical assistance activities on a variety of topics.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

This quarter, we revised our implementation plan to reflect the fact that INCODER is no longer an active LRDP counterpart (due to its dissolution) and the fact that the three new agencies created to replace it will not be operational until 2017. The current implementation plan includes 54 activity *fichas* (internal program worksheets required before an activity can commence), reflecting the modifications required to the approved Work Plan. During the first half of the fiscal year, 52 *fichas*—about 96% of the total for this project year—were reviewed and approved by our internal committee. During the following reporting period, all of these *fichas* will be in implementation to ensure that we complete our Year 3 Work Plan activities in a timely manner.

In light of the way Colombia's new institutional framework is materializing, as well as other changes in GOC priorities, we have had to suspend a few planned activities. Table 3 below details the cases where *fichas* are being delayed or canceled.

TABLE 3 – CHANGES TO SELECT YEAR 3 ACTIVITIES

FICHA NUMBER(S)	SUBACTIVITY NUMBER FROM APPROVED YEAR 3 WORK PLAN	DESCRIPTION	REGION	REASON FOR DISCONTINUING ACTIVITY	DOES SUSPENDING THE FICHA MEAN REMOVING THE ACTIVITY FROM THE CURRENT WORK PLAN?
C1-00199-15	1.2.1.a	Increase the number of families benefitting from the ethnic restitution process by strengthening the tools used by the LRU (preliminary studies, characterizations, and claims)	Cauca	In Cauca, there has thus far been little demand for ethnic restitution, and what demand there is falls outside LRDP's focus regions. We will continue this activity as planned in Cesar and Meta.	No
C2-00203-15	2.1.1.a	Generate greater institutional capacities for the issuance of land titles for <i>baldíos</i> to public-sector institutions	Bogota	Until the new National Land Authority is operational, we are unable to support the issuance of land titles within the regions. Therefore, we cannot continue this ficha as planned with INCODER or the National Land Authority. However, in the meantime, we are working with MARD to identify the parcels that will eventually be titled.	No
C2-00190-15	2.1.1.b	Support land titling in areas falling within an established radius of the exploitation of non-renewable resources	Meta	Until the new National Land Authority is operational, we are unable to support land titling in areas around non-renewable resource exploitation.	Yes
C2-00204-15	2.1.2.a	Improve the efficiency of INCODER's agrarian procedures as established in Law 1753 of 2015	Bogota	With INCODER no longer in existence and the National Land Authority not yet operational, we are unable to improve the procedures of either entity.	Yes
C2-00205-15	2.2.1.a	Adjust, follow up on, disseminate, and lobby for the drafting and approval of a new framework for land formalization and for the creation of a new institution for the management and administration of rural lands	Bogota	This <i>ficha</i> is no longer necessary because the relevant product will be completed under <i>ficha</i> 216 (on the multipurpose cadaster).	No
C2-00206-15 C2-00187-15 C2-00172-15 C2-00167-15 C2-00143-15	2.2.2.a	Design and implement regional or departmental plans for the massive titling, notification, and registration of public lands, with a focus on gender	Bogota Cesar Meta Montes de María Tolima	In order to develop these massive formalization plans, we need to work in conjunction with local governments and the National Land Agency. Since the new agency will not be functioning until 2017, we cannot pursue this activity.	Yes
C3-00174-00 C3-00176-15 C3-00159-15	3.1.2.a 3.2.2.a	Identify and prioritize projects in a participatory manner in Municipal Councils for Rural Development and Sectoral Agricultural Development Councils for the management of rural development resources, including mechanisms for women's participation Build capacity through strengthening plans for municipal Secretaries of Agriculture, forging closer links with departmental counterparts	Cauca Cesar Tolima	These <i>fichas</i> are no longer necessary because the relevant products will be completed under <i>fichas</i> 169 (Cauca), 171 (Cesar), and 166 (Tolima).	No

<i>FICHA</i> NUMBER(S)	SUBACTIVITY NUMBER FROM APPROVED YEAR 3 WORK PLAN	DESCRIPTION	REGION	REASON FOR DISCONTINUING ACTIVITY	DOES SUSPENDING THE <i>FICHA</i> MEAN REMOVING THE ACTIVITY FROM THE CURRENT WORK PLAN?
C3-00175-15 C3-00177-15	3.2.2.a	Build capacity through strengthening plans for municipal Secretaries of Agriculture, forging closer links with departmental counterparts	Meta Montes de María	These <i>fichas</i> are no longer necessary because the relevant products will be completed under <i>fichas</i> 168 (Meta) and 170 (Montes de María).	No
C3-00153-15	3.2.3.a	Propose comprehensive field intervention models to the national government through the systematization of regional interventions	Bogota Cauca Cesar Meta Montes de María Tolima	This <i>ficha</i> is no longer necessary because the relevant products will be completed under <i>ficha</i> 97 (comprehensive interventions in the regions).	No
C4-00213-15	4.1.1.a	Improve the capacity of land-related entities to plan, conduct monitoring and evaluation, and report information	Cauca Cesar Meta Montes de María Tolima	This <i>ficha</i> is no longer necessary because the relevant products will be completed under <i>fichas</i> 115 (strengthening of planning process), 133 (local information systems), 138 (institutional capacity index), and 212 (information systems).	No

Environmental Compliance

In March 2016, we received a draft contract modification updating the Environmental Compliance clause based on the amended Environmental Threshold Decision. The draft modification is under review, and we expect to sign it during the next reporting period. The proposed clause includes a positive determination for several categories of program activities. Once the contract modification becomes official, we will develop the required scoping statement, which serves as the basis for an Environmental Assessment. Based on Regulation 216, a positive determination requires the contractor to carry out an Environmental Assessment to determine what (if any) risks program activities pose to the environment and the mitigation measures we will use to prevent adverse impact on the environment as a result of our work. We will continue to coordinate with USAID to comply with the new clause and to efficiently implement the required Environmental Assessment.

Annex A: Project Specific Performance Indicators

LRDP conducted monitoring and evaluation of program activities as outlined in the Activity Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (AMEP) approved by USAID on June 15, 2015. The purpose of this annex is to present the information and data related to the tracking of progress toward achieving our results as defined in the approved AMEP. The information provided below summarizes quarterly, annual, and life-of-project progress against all project indicators.

Of the program's 23 indicators, we selected six as key in our current AMEP; these appear in blue shading in the table below. For this report, six particular indicators reveal progress that is significantly above or below our expected target; those are marked with an asterisk, and explanations for those variances are provided after the table.

As required for LRDP contractual reporting, we completed another revision of the AMEP for year three and submitted it on March 18, 2016. The recently updated AMEP is currently under review by USAID, and, as a result of that review, changes to some project indicators are likely. Keeping in mind the change in focus of LRDP component 4 toward information sharing and management, we decided not to perform the second measurement of indicator PO4. In addition, based on agreements with the LRU, we decided to consolidate the information from indicators O1.2 and O4.1 and will present those advances next quarter. These three indicators appear in gray text in the table below.

No.	Indicator	FY2016 Target	Q2 - FY2016 Results	FY3 ACTUAL	% Annual Target Achieved	LOP Target (Total over 5 years)	LOP Results	% LOP Target Achieved
Cross-Cutting PO1	Number of households that have obtained documented property rights as a result of project assistance ¹	7,000	1,723	3,897	56%	32,560	16,151	50%
Cross-Cutting PO2A*	Percentage of restitution and formalization beneficiaries that are women	45%	26%	26%	N/A	50%	26%	N/A
Cross-Cutting PO2B*	Number of restitution beneficiaries that are ethnic minorities	3,000	0	0	0%	9,865	2,480	25%
Cross-Cutting PO3*	Number of rural households that gain access to relevant public goods through expanded funding as a result of LRDP assistance	1,000	553	1,213	121%	5,000	1,213	24%
Cross-Cutting PO4	Score of LRDP institutional capacity index for key entities engaged in restitution, formalization and rural public goods provision	3.01	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.16	N/A	N/A

¹ For this report, progress is set against the program's total goal presented in the previous Quarterly Report.

No.	Indicator	FY2016 Target	Q2 - FY2016 Results	FY3 ACTUAL	% Annual Target Achieved	LOP Target (Total over 5 years)	LOP Results	% LOP Target Achieved
Cross-Cutting PO5 ²	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	3,400	2,287	3,478	102%	21,920	9,440	43%
O1.1*	Number of restitution cases processed by the LRU	5,000	3.638	7.972	159%	20.000	20.255	101%
O1.2	Reduced time for restitution case preparation by LRU	8	N/A	N/A	N/A	25	N/A	N/A
1.1.1	Number of restitution cases that have complete parcel information in targeted municipalities	300	396	726	242%	1,900	1,579	83%
1.1.2	Number of current vulnerable occupants of land claimed ("secondary occupants") in restitution that are represented in case proceedings	250	544 ³	815	326%	800	1,237	155%
O2.1	Number of titles issued (legal certainly)	2,000	223	604	30%	8,000	1,622	20%
O2.2	Number of issued titles directly resulting from LRDP supported area-wide formalization	300	0	0	0%	2,496	0	0%
O2.3	Reduce time to register issued titles	20%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.1.1*	Number of formalization cases that advance to a key milestone in the process (application accepted, parcel demarcated, legal proceedings started)	3,000	5,003	11,184	373%	16,000	11,184	70%
2.2.1	Legal framework enabling rapid and massive formalization drafted and submitted to GOC entities and Congress with LRDP support	2	0	0	0%	6	1	17%
2.3.1	Number of cases of recoverable public lands inventoried to potentially feed into the Land Fund	7,000	0	0	0%	47,000	48,605	103%
2.3.2	A roadmap for recovery of public land is produced	1	1	1	100%	1	1	100%

2 Data presented in this indicator correspond to the number of people trained.

3 Figure corresponds to LRDP's focus areas, as reported by the Defensoría. For the next Quarterly Report, this number will be adjusted based on consolidated national data.

No.	Indicator	FY2016 Target	Q2 - FY2016 Results	FY3 ACTUAL	% Annual Target Achieved	LOP Target (Total over 5 years)	LOP Results	% LOP Target Achieved
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	80% over baseline	12.58% ⁴	12.58%	16%	90%	89.72% ⁵	99.69%
O3.2	Percentage of projects funded with LRDP support that are in implementation	65%	48.24%	48.24%	74.22%	75%	48.24%	64.32%
3.1.1	Number of projects which reflect community needs included in rural development plans or in other mechanisms	26	7	41	158%	113	85	75%
3.1.2*	Number of public-private partnerships (PPPs) formed or strengthened with LRDP support	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	3.20	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.52	N/A
O4.2	Reduced time to access inputs to restitution and formalization processes	20%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	60%	N/A

* = indicators for which progress is significantly above or below our expected target

Blue shading = key indicators

Gray letters = indicators that have been suggested for removal in LRDP's revised AMEP, currently pending USAID approval

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

This indicator shows the advances in land tenure among women (expressed as a percentage) in the restitution and formalization processes carried out by the LRU, MARD, and INCODER.

For this quarter, indicator progress includes data only from the LRU, which provided us with information⁶ disaggregated by phases (i.e., restitution claims submitted, restitution claims entered into the Registry of Dispossessed and Forcibly Abandoned Lands, and favorable restitution rulings) and by gender. The data reported as progress this quarter corresponds to women who received favorable restitution rulings. During the two quarters prior to this one, we reported progress based on information available from the Red Nacional de Información regarding the total number of women who had presented restitution claims.

This quarter's percentage of women is significantly lower than that of previous quarters. However, it does represent a significant advance in terms of the LRU reporting better-quality information, which can be attributed to the support and close collaboration between LRDP and the LRU. An analysis of the data from the various phases of the restitution process reveals the following:

4 Since this indicator is reported on annually, this data is a partial and provisional report that allows us to chart our advance toward the yearly goal. The official report will be able to be calculated only at the end of the 2016 calendar year, when the GOC publishes official data on public investments in the agricultural sector in LRDP focus regions.

5 This is the progress achieved in 2015, as reported in the previous Quarterly Report.

6 Cut-off date: February 29, 2016.

- 36% of all restitution claims submitted by men and women have finalized the restitution process.
- 41% of restitution claims (24,334) were presented by women.
- 25% of the claims included in the Registry of Dispossessed and Forcibly Abandoned Lands (3,814) are for women.
- 26% of restitution rulings (702) are for women.

The absence of information disaggregated by gender from MARD's formalization program, as well as the dissolution of INCODER, prevented us from being able to report progress on land formalization, which had the effect of decreasing the indicator's overall percentage this quarter. When the new land agencies are fully functioning, we expect to be able to secure formalization data for this indicator.

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

This indicator shows the GOC's advances in relation to collective restitution for ethnic territories. This type of restitution benefits families that live within larger ethnic communities and for whom land holds significant meaning for their physical and cultural survival.

The limited progress in this indicator is due to the slowness of the judicial phase of the restitution process, which affects individual campesinos and ethnic communities alike. Indeed, some restitution claimants have had to wait for more than three years before receiving their first court hearing. The congestion of this phase could be due to a number of factors:

- The judicial system is currently experiencing difficulties in its functioning and in verification visits to the field. However, in order to maintain the impartiality of the judicial portion of the restitution process, courts must stick to their assigned budgets for their operation and functioning (as opposed to, for example, accepting outside funding).
- Judges hired for *decongestión civil* (temporary judges hired to help resolve judicial bottlenecks) are attending other types of cases, such as *tutelas*.
- The identification of collective territories faces difficulties due to inconsistencies in information from the LRU and IGAC; and in some cases, the territories being claimed for restitution lack titles from INCODER, and the judges require more information in this regard.
- The presence of secondary occupants in ethnic territories requires additional attention from judges in order to ensure an equitable process for all parties involved.
- Since resolving collective restitution cases is a more time-consuming and complex endeavor, judges may be prioritizing individual cases first in order to meet established goals regarding the number of rulings.

In light of these difficulties—which go beyond the administrative phase managed by the LRU—we have proposed an adjustment to our Performance Indicator Reference Sheet. Our proposed change will mean that the indicator takes into account only those activities that belong to the administrative phase, which is the phase that we support. In this way, the indicator will cease to focus on restitution rulings and will instead count advances during the administrative phase, such as characterization studies, which are the main source of evidence for ethnic cases; it will also align with the LRU's annual goals.

Cross-Cutting PO3. Number of rural households that gain access to relevant public goods through expanded funding as a result of LRDP assistance

This indicator measures our progress in guaranteeing that our rural development efforts reach campesino households in LRDP focus areas.

GRAPH 1 – PO3 PROGRESS DURING YEAR 3



During the quarter, this indicator continued to advance significantly, reaching 121% of our annual goal (see graph 1). To the extent that the mobilization efforts supported by LRDP are now being implemented, 553 families have directly benefitted this quarter.

GRAPH 2 – BREAKDOWN OF HOUSEHOLDS’ INCREASED ACCESS TO PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

Families By Project

553 Rural Households that have new or improved access to productive activities

Households	Project	Hectares	Region
441	Plantain	421	Meta
79	Sheep and goats		Cesar
33	Cane	33	Cesar

O1.1 Number of restitution cases processed by the LRU

Our restitution-related indicators show the GOC’s progress in relation to fixed goals.⁷ In recent quarters, we have witnessed an increase in the number of cases processed, which could be due to a variety of factors, including the LRU’s 2015 strategy and the availability of more and better information for decision making during the administrative phase.

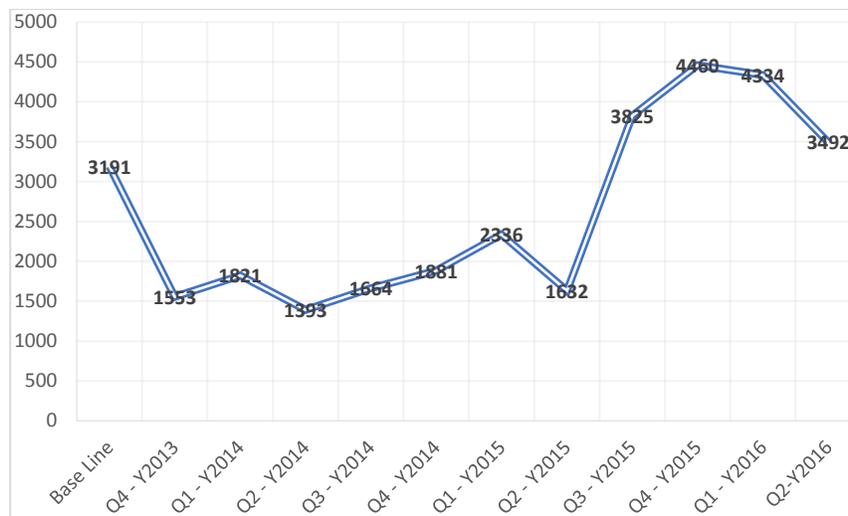
For example, the LRU’s 2015 strategy seems to have resulted in an increase in the number of cases processed, from an average of 1,754 cases processed each quarter⁸ to an average of 4,026 cases processed each quarter.⁹ This represents a 130% increase in the LRU’s capacity to process cases, as shown in graph 3.

⁷ The GOC’s goal for 2015-2018 is 50,000. We have proposed adjusting O1.1’s goal to match this.

⁸ Average number of cases processed between the third quarter of FY2013 and the second quarter of FY2015.

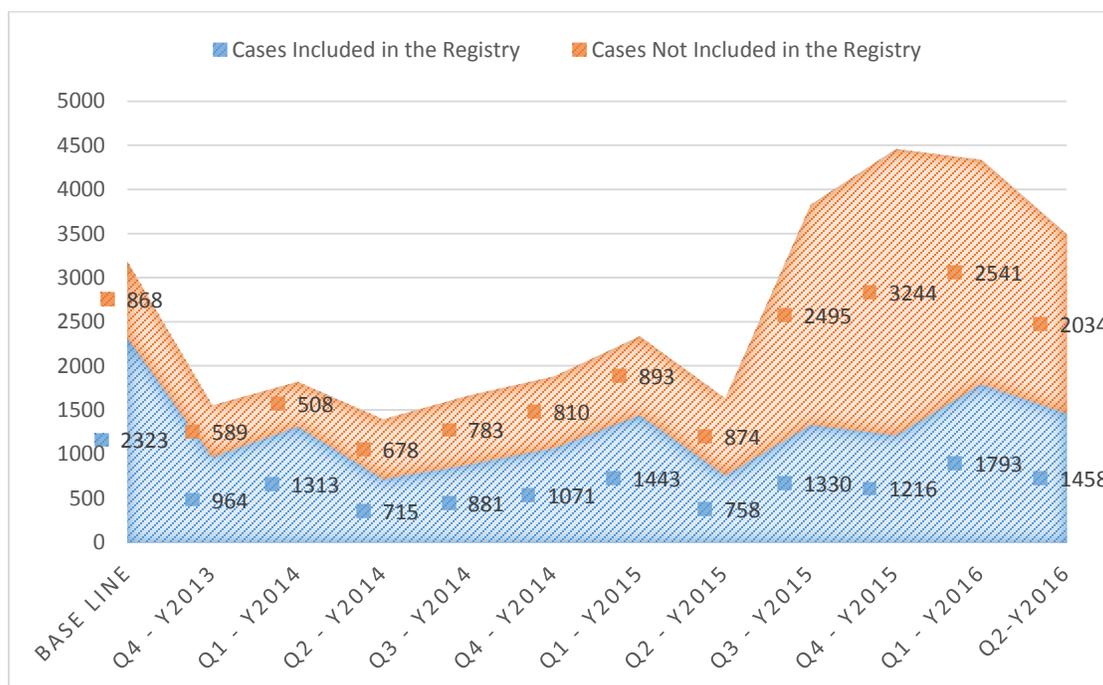
⁹ Average number of cases processed between the third quarter of FY2015 and the second quarter of FY2016.

GRAPH 3 – CASES PROCESSED BY THE LRU (2013–2016)



At the same time, the percentage of cases included in the registry decreases from 58% to 36%, while the percentage of cases *not* included increases from 42% to 64%. In other words, while the LRU is now processing more cases, it is also rejecting more. The cumulative average of processed cases shows 47% inclusion in the registry and 53% non-inclusion. These variations can be seen in graph 4.

GRAPH 4 – EVOLUTION OF CASES PROCESSED BY THE LRU



Although we do not have a definitive explanation for this behavior, we can guess that the LRU now has better information to support its administrative decisions and/or that it had initially focused on the most promising cases (i.e., those with greater possibilities of being decided in favor of the claimant).

2.1.1 Number of formalization cases that advance to a key milestone in the process (application accepted, parcel demarcated, legal proceedings started)

This indicator shows the GOC’s advances in the formalization process—specifically, each case that passes from one milestone to the next. This quarter, we reported information from MARD’s formalization program only, since we can no longer obtain information from INCODER, which is being dissolved.

This quarter, slightly more than 5,000 cases reached new milestones, which, together with the progress from the previous quarter, represents a 373% achievement of our annual goal and a 70% achievement of our life-of-project goal.

GRAPH 5 – FORMALIZATION CASES THAT HAVE ADVANCED TO A KEY MILESTONE



In our pending revisions to LRDP’s AMEP, we have proposed adjusting the goal for this indicator, which is important for monitoring the results of our support to the government in formalizing rural property.

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

This indicator shows LRDP’s results in mobilizing resources from the private and public sector that contribute to the sustainability of productive activities for promoting transformative development in LRDP focus regions. To date, this indicator has not reported any advances because no PPPs have been finalized; nonetheless, as mentioned in this report’s section on rural development, we have prioritized certain productive lines in each region and are advancing in the consolidation of PPPs for this fiscal year.

Annex B: Success Story



SUCCESS STORY

Transforming the Lives of Female Farmers in Conflict-Affected Areas

April 2016



“Because of USAID, we have become more organized. We are stronger. We received funding that allowed us to create a plantain project ... We have a lot of hope and dreams for this project, which we plan to replicate.”

—Luz Esmeralda García



Telling Our Story

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

Luz Esmeralda García, a 53-year-old mother of two, lived a stable life in Tame, where she and her partner raised livestock on a farm, owned a small business, and had a lovely home. Life on their land was quiet until the war came. “When the guerrillas came, they told us to arm ourselves and join their ranks, or leave,” she recalls.

After this threat, they moved to Villavicencio, where other struggling displaced families had gone. In discussion with other displaced women in her community, Luz discovered that few knew about their rights or options. She became the leader of the Network of Displaced Women in Meta and realized that to move forward with their lives, the women in her community—many of them widows—needed land.

Luz heard about an INCODER program that distributed land to displaced families, but the application process was technical, competitive, and overwhelming. She hired a previous winner to help her write her application, and won.

INCODER provided the land, but no technical assistance or other agricultural support. The women arrived on the land, divided it into 21 plots, formed a women’s agricultural association called Agroempo, and settled there with nothing but a dream for their future. Knowing they needed more support, Luz contacted local authorities, who connected her with USAID’s Land and Rural Development Program (LRDP), which supports rural families with packages of interventions that improve land access, connect families with agricultural projects, and increase rural development.

LRDP worked with the women and municipality to ensure the women could access and benefit from PARES funding—a mechanism that brings national-level funds into rural areas. By mobilizing resources this way, LRDP helped the women’s association access seeds, fertilizer, and other agricultural inputs. LRDP also gave them technical assistance to help them use their land in the best way possible. Further, the program connected the women’s association with local authorities to ensure they had a voice in the creation of rural development plans, and helped the municipality undertake a road study. When the road is built in the future, the women will have greater access and connectivity to buyers and markets.



Annex C: Project Brief Update



USAID | COLOMBIA

FACT SHEET

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

Land and Rural Development Program

José Castro, Julio Fanega, a resident of Micayepo (Bolívar), an area hit hard by Colombia's armed conflict, with many citizens displaced from their lands. Today, with peace on the horizon, many of them have returned.



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 Land Restitution Unit (LRU) 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 5,513 case files, representing 17,032 households and 11,041 hectares of land.

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 nearly half of rural properties in Colombia are informal. Land informality often prevents citizens from making agricultural investments that will improve the productivity of their land, as they are not confident they will be able to hold this land for the long term. 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 builds information systems and efficiencies between land governance institutions to streamline the formalization process, and recent pilots demonstrate that land can be formalized in 12 months. By 2018, LRDP will help the GOC provide land tenure security to 32,560 households, and will use a differential approach to prioritize the needs of women, Afro-Colombians, indigenous peoples, and other groups disproportionately affected by the conflict.

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.
- 89.72% increase in public spending in LRDP target regions, benefitting 660 rural families through 78 projects.
- 5,513 case files digitized and claim and ruling tracking system built, improving the restitution process for families.
- 30,292 families provided with increased tenure security, roughly 40% of the GOC's 2018 goal of 80,000.
- 600,000 (20%) of the land records housed in IGAC and the LRU digitized in two years, making this information available to entities who need it to push formalization and restitution processes forward.
- Time needed to access landowner information reduced from 1 hour to 4 minutes, allowing entities to access the information they need to process restitution and formalization cases.
- Supported regional entities in submitting 122 funding requests to the Ministry of Agriculture, with a 30% success rate—three times the national average of 10%.
- Supported the GOC to create a new land institution: the National Land Agency. Provided technical inputs for key policy documents and legal frameworks, such as the National Development Plan and Mision Rural—the building blocks for taking restitution and formalization to scale.

Annex D: Media List

COVERS JANUARY 1 – MARCH 31, 2016

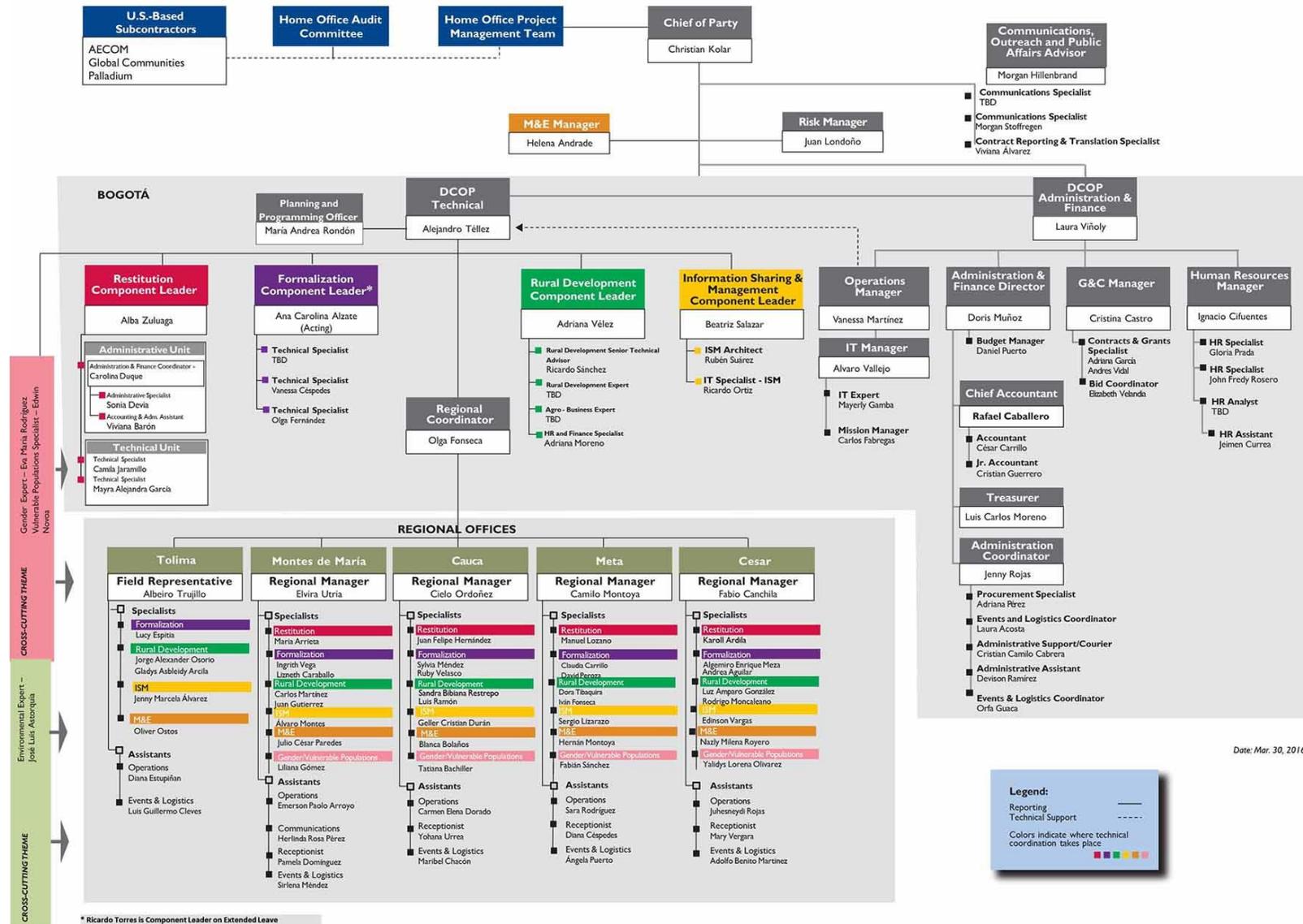
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- “Habrá ayudas para Sucre,” El Meridiano, February 18, 2016, <http://elmeridiano.co/habra-ayudas-para-sucre/31900>.
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- “En Sucre, mayoría de municipios desactualizados catastralmente,” El Universal, February 18, 2016, <http://www.eluniversal.com.co/regional/sucre/en-sucre-mayoria-de-municipios-desactualizados>
- “Para cerrar la página de la guerra hay que concluir la restitución de tierras: Whitaker,” RCN - catastralmente-219412.

Annex E: Organizational Chart



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