

INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION

SO3: Support to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Other Vulnerable Groups

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE LOCATION: Colombia

TITLE: SO3: Support to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Other Vulnerable Groups

ACTIVITY NUMBER: 514-009

LOP FUNDING: \$112,500,000

LIFE OF STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: Five Years - FY 2006 to FY 2010

IEE DRAFTED BY: Gabriel Escobar, USAID/Colombia, Mission Environmental Officer

I. Description of Strategic Objective:

Assuring the next five years (FY2006-FY2010) USAID/Colombia's alternative economic development portfolio and local governance programs are to be focused in four regions with strong economic growth potential and employment opportunities. The Mission will also concentrate assistance to displaced and other vulnerable groups in 102 municipalities in these regions, drawing upon synergies expected to be generated by the other USAID programs. It is believed this strategy will create incentives for IDPs to locate receptor communities closer to their original homes, thus facilitating their eventual return home.

Overview of the Activities:

Under SO3, USAID/Colombia will implement two activities to: (1) strengthen the national and local capacity to provide an integrated package of services to IDPs and other vulnerable groups in areas where complementary USAID programs will be concentrated, and (2) reintegrate ex-combatants including children. Investments to address the two crosscutting concerns of the Mission (youth at risk of illegal recruitment and land tenure) will be subsumed under the first activity rather than singled out as stand-alone programs.

The activities will help create a safety net for those who have been displaced, and will affect their opportunities for reintegration in receptor communities, or return to their original homes. The program will also increase opportunities for illegally recruited children as well as adult demobilized combatants to reintegrate back into society.

The first activity offers assistance to strengthen local and national institutions to provide an integrated package of services to IDPs and other vulnerable groups (youth at risk, Afro-Colombians, indigenous groups) in targeted municipalities to increase their access to social and economic opportunities.

The program will finance a variety of activities, requiring a wide range of humanitarian assistance expertise. These interventions shall include policy analysis and dialogue, and programs to increase IDP's access to food, water, communication, transportation, and health care and counseling, land, shelter, education, job training and placement, home repair, sanitation, and organizational strengthening for Colombian institutions.

It is noteworthy that opportunities to obtain access to micro and small enterprise assistance, business credit, longer-term shelter solutions, and community-municipal-organizational infrastructure will be provided to IDPs and vulnerable groups through other USAID programs (Alternative Development and Democracy and Governance) operating in select municipalities, in close and constant coordination with the humanitarian assistance program. Actions to increase opportunities for young persons to resist and avoid displacement or illegal recruitment will be crosscutting throughout the Mission's portfolio. These opportunities will be centered upon job training and apprenticeships, and community-based programs to increase self-esteem, promote social values, community involvement, culture and recreational activities. Increased access to land will be promoted.

The second activity provides social and economic opportunities to former ex-combatants, including children.. Assistance will consist of technical assistance to help the "Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar" (ICBF) adapt their program to the possible sudden arrival of longer numbers of former child combatants as a result of the demobilization of illegal armed groups and promote and monitor their sustainable reintegration into society. If additional funding is provided to the Mission for demobilization-reintegration assistance, a second element of this activity will provide adult ex-combatants from illegal armed groups with opportunities to peacefully re-enter their communities and obtain licit sources of income. The re-entry program for adults will be focused on the strengthening and decentralization of the Ministry of Interior and Justice's Reintegration Program.

This AAD proposes to obligate USAID humanitarian assistance resources through two separate instruments:

1. To achieve the first Intermediate Result, a cooperative agreement will be competed by the Mission to obtain the required goods and services, preferably from a consortium of offerors;
2. To achieve the second Intermediate Result, the Mission will extend the existing Child Ex-Combatant agreement with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for three years, with a clause enabling the Mission to extend it for an additional two years (i.e. for a total five years beyond 2005).

The rationale for implementing the IDP program under a cooperative agreement (thus providing the Mission with an increased degree of involvement) is that (1) the program

will largely focus on municipalities in relatively concentrated geographic areas where one organization can provide the appropriate oversight; (2) it will eliminate duplication of effort and facilitate the coordination of services, (3) it will help ensure accountability due to its vertical hierarchy, (4) it will provide USAID with greater control and direction regarding the level and location of program implementation, and (5) it will enable improved monitoring, reporting and unequivocal responsiveness to an overall Mission and Agency communication strategy. Assistance instruments are much less staff intensive than contracts, and should thus require fewer USAID personnel to manage the program.

USAID will increasingly seek to channel social services through experienced and proven regional Colombian social assistance organizations, wherein scale economies and other cost savings can be attained. Activities will be closely aligned with activities pursued under other Strategic Objective Agreements (SOAGs) between the US and the Government of Colombia in order to achieve synergies in the target regions. USAID will continue to support programs to develop economic opportunities for displaced persons in the communities into which they have settled by offering relevant skills training, internship and job placement programs, and start-up seed grants for income/employment generation projects. Other economic opportunities for IDPs will be made available through the municipal-level alternative development and private sector led investment initiatives under other USAID's strategic objectives.

II. Justification for Environmental Determination:

Expected Impacts:

The following activities of Support to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Other Vulnerable Groups are not expected to have significant impacts on the environment: a) training, b) technical assistance, c) food provision, d) improved access and quality of education, e) institutional strengthening and f) psychosocial and basic health care. These activities focus on training, technical assistance, and capacity building. These activities qualify for a categorical Exclusion under 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2): (i) education, technical assistance or training programs; (iii) analyses, studies, academic workshops and meetings; (v) document and information transfers; (viii) programs involving nutrition, health care or family planning services except to the extent designed to include activities directly affecting the environment (see below); and (xiii) matching, general support and institutional support grants provided to PVOs.

Temporary shelter will be provided to program beneficiaries when needed, especially in conjunction with productive projects, as well as temporary water and sanitation infrastructure to meet public health needs. USAID/Colombia has a set of environmental guidelines for small infrastructure and industrial projects, developed by USAID/LAC. These guidelines cover the activities of rural roads construction and improvement, small scale construction, small water and sanitation systems, housing, renewable energy, leather processing, food processing, and wet textile operations.

The environmental impacts of most agricultural crops production and processing are analyzed in the different environmental guidelines developed by USAID/Colombia,

USAID/LAC, and the Colombia Ministry of Environment. These environmental guidelines make a full analysis of the crop production and processing steps and indicate clear and affordable mitigation measures. These guidelines cover most of the crops to be developed by the IDPS program for income/employment generation. Attached is the list of the crops for which USAID/Colombia Mission has environmental guidelines (annex 1).

III. Recommendation:

Based on the above, it is recommended that the LAC Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO) approve a **categorical exclusion** for the following activities of USAID/Colombia's Strategic Objective Three: food provision, improved access and quality of education, institutional strengthening, psychosocial and basic health care, and the activities of other IRs involving education, technical assistance and training. These activities will not have an impact on nature or the physical environment.

A **Negative Determination with conditions** is recommended for the activities of small-scale construction, small water and sanitation systems, housing, renewable energy. The condition is that the mentioned and listed Guidelines will be used in the implementation of these activities. The Mission Environmental Officer, CTO, and contractor(s) will oversee the use of these Guidelines and their implementation. Reports on these matters will be submitted by the Mission to the LAC/BEO on an annual basis.

A **Negative Determination with conditions** for the activities of agricultural producing and processing the products mentioned in the listed guidelines. The condition is that the mentioned guidelines will be fully used and applied in the implementation of these activities. The Mission Environmental Officer, CTO, and contractor(s) will oversee the use of these guidelines. Reports on these matters will be submitted by the Mission to the USAID/LAC/BEO on an annual basis.

Approval:

Gabriel Escobar
Mission Environmental Officer

Date: _____

Concurrence:

Michael J. Deal
Director USAID/Colombia

Date: _____

Victor Bullen, RLA

Date: _____

Approval:

Jerry Bisson
LAC Bureau Environmental Officer

Date: _____

Clearances:

Ileana Baca, Acting IDPs_General Development Officer _____
STaylor, SProgram Officer _____

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Annex I: Environmental Guidelines:

USAID/COLOMBIA Actividades agrícolas en general
USAID/COLOMBIA Actividades agrícolas en gran escala
USAID/COLOMBIA Agroforestales y silvopastoriles
USAID/COLOMBIA Cultivos anuales de subsistencia
USAID/COLOMBIA Cultivos permanentes
USAID/COLOMBIA Especies menores
USAID/COLOMBIA Extracción de productos no maderables del bosque
USAID/COLOMBIA Ganadería extensiva
USAID/COLOMBIA Piscicultura
USAID/COLOMBIA Plantaciones forestales y extracción forestal
USAID/COLOMBIA Plantaciones Frutales
USAID/COLOMBIA Procesamiento de productos de la granja
USAID/COLOMBIA Productos no frutícolas de plantaciones
USAID/NICARAGUA Proyectos de rehabilitación de caminos rurales
USAID/SALVADOR Proyectos de reconstrucción
USAID/LAC Agricultura y Aguas
USAID/LAC Agroforestería
USAID/LAC Carreteras Rurales
USAID/LAC Conservación de suelos y aguas
USAID/LAC Construcción en pequeña escala
USAID/LAC Desechos sólidos residenciales, comerciales e industriales
USAID/LAC Ecoturismo
USAID/LAC Gestión Forestal
USAID/LAC Infraestructura
USAID/LAC Irrigación y drenaje
USAID/LAC Manejo integrado de plagas
USAID/LAC Microcentrales eléctricas
USAID/LAC Microempresas en General
USAID/LAC Pequeña minería
USAID/LAC Pequeñas y micro empresas
USAID/LAC Procesamiento de alimentos
USAID/LAC Procesamiento de pieles
USAID/LAC Producción de ladrillo y baldosas
USAID/LAC Protección de orillas de ríos
USAID/LAC Reforestación
USAID/LAC Residuos en centros de salud
USAID/LAC Sector Forestal
USAID/LAC Suministro de agua y saneamiento
USAID/LAC Textiles
USAID/LAC Vivienda
MINISTERIO MEDIAMBIENTE COLOMBIA Algodón
MINISTERIO MEDIAMBIENTE COLOMBIA Guía Ambiental para el manejo de Residuos sólidos
MINISTERIO MEDIAMBIENTE COLOMBIA Guía Ambiental para el Sector Porcicola

MINISTERIO MEDIAMBIENTE COLOMBIA Guía Ambiental para Horticultura y Fruticultura
MINISTERIO MEDIAMBIENTE COLOMBIA Manejo de Residuos sólidos
MINISTERIO MEDIAMBIENTE COLOMBIA Palma de Aceite
MINISTERIO MEDIAMBIENTE COLOMBIA Producción de Arroz
MINISTERIO MEDIAMBIENTE COLOMBIA Producción de Azúcar
MINISTERIO MEDIAMBIENTE COLOMBIA Producción de Banano
MINISTERIO MEDIAMBIENTE COLOMBIA Producción de Fique
MINISTERIO MEDIAMBIENTE COLOMBIA Producción de Panela
MINISTERIO MEDIAMBIENTE COLOMBIA Producción de Panela
MINISTERIO MEDIAMBIENTE COLOMBIA Producción y mejoramiento de Café