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**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FOR RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE (CPRG) PROGRAM**

**Third Quarterly Report**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	3
II.	POLITICAL CONTEXT.....	3
III.	ANALYSIS .....	4
IV.	SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES .....	5
V.	MONITORING AND EVALUATION.....	11
VI.	ACHIEVEMENTS .....	13
VII.	CHALLENGES AND GENDER-BASED CONSTRAINTS .....	14
VIII.	EXPENDITURES .....	14
IX.	PROGRAMMING PRIORITIES.....	14

## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Citizen Participation for Responsive Governance (CPRG) program, known locally in Honduras as *Impactos* and referred to as the “Program” in this report, is a five-year initiative funded by USAID and implemented by Counterpart International in partnership with the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) and Management Systems International (MSI). The *Impactos* program consists of two independent but yet very intertwined and complementary components: 1) the CPRG component, which aims to increase the transparency and accountability of public institutions through support for civil society-led initiatives, and 2) the Community Action for Prosperity (CAP) component, which aims to improve citizen and community safety by strengthening local communities' and governments' ability to prevent threats from gangs and narco-trafficking. The program goal representing both components is framed by five programmatic objectives: (1) Improved effectiveness of civil society to advocate for transparency and accountability of public institutions; (2) Improved capacity of public institutions to address gaps in the enabling environment for transparency and accountability; (3) To improve multi-sectoral capacity to provide coordinated and comprehensive responses to changing security needs; (4) To improve municipal capacity to provide effective crime prevention services; and (5) To expand opportunities for community led initiatives. The *Impactos* approach consists of: supporting Honduran civil society in a sustained effort to increase transparency and public accountability of public institutions; employing a non-partisan and non-confrontational approach toward engaging the national government; understanding and engaging existing transparency institutions; integrating public transparency and accountability activities into sector-specific development programming; and, designing and disseminating targeted and transparent program grants. It also aspires to build communities' capacity to work collaboratively with municipal authorities, the private sector, civic organizations and *patronatos* (local councils) to plan and implement activities that address the root causes of insecurity at the grassroots level, taking into consideration the unique motivations of youth and other at-risk groups.

The Program is now in its third Quarter and, after having completed initial start-up activities, has begun initiating important programmatic activities. After the 2009 coup, the political context was very challenging, especially due to the resulting fracture in civil society organization across the country. Nevertheless, while still challenging, the context presents new opportunities for program implementation, both for civil society sector as well as the public sector.

## II. POLITICAL CONTEXT

After 14 months of investigation, the national government entity known as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission presented its final report in early July. This report detailed factual events of the 2009 political crisis and it provided recommendations to avoid a repetition future crisis of this nature. The report affirms that former president Manuel Zelaya propitiated a political crisis that led to the ousting of his power, but that he was also a victim of a coup d'état of the Executive Branch. The 88 recommendations presented, focus on the constitutional level, institutional, human rights, strengthening of the rule of law, political elections, media, international environment and fighting corruption. The report was generally accepted by different sectors in Honduran society.

As part of an effort to improve transparency and curb corruption, the Government of Honduras has initiated different actions including: the approval of the 2011-2014 Transparency and Anti-Corruption Plan which aims to install greater transparency in activities implemented within public institutions; training of public officials on good practices of budget management; and promoting sectorial dialogues to discuss political, economic and social changes demanded by different sectors of Honduran society.

Meanwhile, the country's traditional political parties have begun to mobilize their agendas, seeking unity within the parties prior to the planned 2012 primary elections. These primary elections present a challenge, as they are foreseen to be very complex and costly due to the diversity of new political parties and independent political movements that are arising. The Superior Electoral Tribunal (TSE in Spanish) has presented to the National Congress a draft Law for Political and Electoral Participation. The law seeks to replace the current Electoral and Political Organizations Law, and establish the legal framework to improve citizen participation in election processes by creating more awareness and effectiveness for the benefit of the entire country. This law proposes to create a Citizen Training Institute that would promote civic culture and active and informed political participation with interaction between the government and civil society. In regards to gender, the Law also proposes a series of obligations to guarantee gender equity and social inclusion in political proposals for candidates at all levels, as well as in leadership positions within the political parties.

The most recent political perception survey carried out by the Center for Democracy Studies (CESPAD) revealed that while there continues to be a sentiment of disenchantment with Honduran democracy, most people do not identify with right or left ideologies. In fact, the greater preference among citizens is to maintain a more centered position, and many citizens report that they are adverse to confrontations and believe strongly in negotiated solutions. There has also been a significant loss of trust in social and public institutions, a perception of deterioration of human rights and a belief that during 2012 the level of social conflict may either be sustained or increased.

During this third quarter, President Lobo posed a challenge to the private sector through the approval of a Security Tax Law, which aims to raise funds to fight crime and reduce violence in the country. Many citizens perceive that, similar to other public funds, these will also be used to finance political campaigns and to further enrich corrupt government officials. Furthermore, the government has not been able to reduce crime and violence. Currently Honduras is considered the most violent country in the world with 82.1/100,000 homicides reported for 2010. Hondurans also continue to be concerned about the actions undertaken by the Government and added to a general atmosphere of instability and violence, such as the agrarian conflict in the northern part of the country, which has intensified and has led to a militarization of the area.

### **III. ANALYSIS**

The current political environment has contributed to significant social polarization, resulting in a public focus on corruption, transparency and accountability of government. This political

environment is favorable for strengthening civil society efforts to control and combat anti-corruption. Among the many opportunities currently existing, it is important to note the following:

- The existence of a strong network of civil society organizations ready to engage in public policy issues and governance reform, above and beyond their support or opposition for the coup.
- The Government's commitment, at least vocally, to control and curb corruption, and the existence of champions of this commitment in the administration, including the President of the Institute for Access to Public Information, the Secretary of Human Rights, and the Secretary of the Presidency.
- Innovative exercises in the anti-corruption front, particularly in health and education. For example: the Inter-Institutional Commission on Pharmaceuticals, and social audits in health and education (hiring of teachers, construction projects, purchase of pharmaceuticals).
- Support from the international donor community, including USAID.
- Broad experience at the local level from which important lessons can be extracted, such as the Municipal Transparency Commissions and their role monitoring local government projects and public services.

However, launching an anti-corruption effort is not risk free. Among the risks that need to be considered are:

- High levels of frustration among civil society due to ineffectiveness of past efforts.
- Lack of more effective coordination and collaboration among the NGO community.
- Insufficient technical capacity and weak internal structures of many civil society organizations.
- Absence of a record of past anti-corruption experiences, documenting success stories and lessons learned.
- Risk of political co-optation on the part of the government.
- To the extent that powerful interests are touched by an anti-corruption program, it is important to take into account possible retaliation against civil society leaders.

#### **IV. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES**

In this Quarter the two components – the Community Action for Prosperity (CAP) component, which aims to improve citizen and community safety by strengthening local communities' and governments' ability to prevent threats from gangs and narco-trafficking, and the CPRG component, which aims to increase the transparency and accountability of public institutions through support for civil society-led initiatives – reflected movement forward as an integrated Program. A series of important activities were conducted that allowed the Program to move forward and began to strengthen a growing relationship with different civil society organizations as well as government officials.

Project highlights during the reporting period include:

- The Program launch in early August was divided into two events: one event was held in the capital city of Tegucigalpa, which was accompanied by the Vice President of

Honduras who publicly committed to support the Program and its objectives in alignment with the Government's Transparency and Anti-Corruption Plan; and the other event was held in San Pedro Sula, where several important regional CSOs participated as well as many municipal officers.

- The Branding Strategy and Marking Plan for the CPRG Component were submitted and the Grants Manual was approved by USAID during the reporting period. These were considered milestones for the Program, particularly to initiate grant delivery activities.
- The Program's first Request for Applications (RFA) was issued and the corresponding applications have been received for the selection of two partner intermediary service organizations (ISOs) who will receive Training and Implementation Grants. These Grants will be used by the selected ISOs to design and deliver tailored trainings and consultations to participating CSOs and public institutions.
- The Program's entire staff participated in a three day retreat to define program strategies, working policies, and to fine-tune the monitoring and evaluation plans of the CAP and CPRG components.
- Counterpart's institutional partner ICNL conducted a training session for 11 CSOs on the importance and next steps of the NGO Law to ensure that the corresponding regulation approved by the Ministry of Interior and Population complies with good international best practices that foster an enabling environment for development NGO work in Honduras. This training allowed them to understand the legal framework and the importance of preparing an adequate and timely regulation of the law to the Ministry of Interior.
- The Chief of Party (COP) and the Financial Manager also attended Counterpart's 2011 Global Meeting and Training, which took place at Counterpart Headquarters. The main goals of this meeting were to build cohesion as a team and build a common strategy to meet today's U.S. government requirements and expectations for implementation partners.

## **REPORT BY OBJECTIVES UNDER CPRG COMPONENT:**

### **Objective One: Improve Effectiveness of Civil Society to Advocate for Transparency and Accountability of Public Institutions**

*1.1 Conduct Rapid Assessments on Civil Society and Anti-Corruption Institutions.* Both the civil society assessment and anti-corruption institutions assessment have been completed by two consultants who researched and authored the documents with input from Counterpart HQ and the field team. The civil society assessment highlights that curbing corruption cannot be solely the responsibility of civil society and that it is critical to consider the following needs: to work with strong civil society partners with greater capacities to identify and prioritize problems; to plan and design long-term projects; to select and work with partners, monitor activities, comply with established and new government regulations for NGO operations; to advertise activities and results and mobilize citizens in a regular fashion; to mobilize a broad social coalition and to include not only traditional NGOs, but also entrepreneurs, academics, journalists, churches, artists, sports, and other celebrities. It is critical to reach out and seek new and innovative alliances with the business and academic communities, and find alternative (not politically coopted) venues of political participation. Finally, it is important to identify champions in the

Government who have a legitimate interest in improving the performance of their organizations, enhance the quality of public services, and reduce the levels of corruption.

The anti-corruption institutions assessment provides recommendations that include: motivating the implementation of the 2011-2014 Transparency and Anti-Corruption Plan; promoting initiatives for the subscription of agreements between Government officials and CSOs to monitor and evaluate government procurement processes; carry out social audits on significant procurement processes such as energy, large infrastructure, and pharmaceuticals.

Findings and recommendations of both assessments will enable Counterpart and its partners to:

1. Improve the design of grant making and training materials in transparency and accountability initiatives in the Honduran context for ISOs and CSOs;
2. Include advocacy, watchdog and crime prevention organizations, as well as other past and present domestic and internationally funded transparency institutions and initiatives in Honduras in Counterpart's Programming;
3. Build off existing research and assessments conducted to date.

The civil society assessment will be available for publication and dissemination in November 2011. The Institutional Analysis will be available in early November 2011.

*1.2 Establish and Initiate CPRG Grant Facility.* With the approval of the Grants Manual, the Grant facility has been completely established and the Program now has the capacity to initiate competitive grant delivery to CSOs.

*1.3 Competitively Select Two Intermediary Support Organization (ISO) Partners.* On April 15, 2011 Counterpart Honduras issued a solicitation for Letters of Interest (LOIs) for the Training and Implementation Grants for CSOs. By April 29, 2011, twenty-nine LOIs for the Training and Implementation Grants (TIG) were collected and analyzed by the grants management team. Ten CSOs were short-listed by the Grants Selection Committee. The selection process was on hold pending USAID's approval of the Grants Manual. After several iterations were submitted, the Manual was officially approved on August 30<sup>th</sup> and Counterpart immediately issued the Request for Applications to all ten shortlisted CSOs. The applications were received within a month. These will be reviewed by the Selection Committee and two Training and Implementation Grants will be awarded to the top CSOs that will serve as Intermediary Support Organization Partners in the next Quarter.

*1.4 Design and Deliver Customized Program Trainings.* In the past Quarter the Program investigated and compiled various methodologies, manuals and toolkits in digital formats related to social auditing, advocacy processes and social impact to design and deliver customized trainings to CSOs. Because the Program has had the chance to interact more closely with the potential ISOs, and despite the fact that all trainings will be custom delivered, Counterpart has already identified the following particular potential training areas: institutional capacity building for ISOs and their regional members including access to public information and social citizen control; training in methods for gender analysis in public budgeting and economic policies. Nevertheless, this will be confirmed once the ISOs have been selected and a detailed assessment of their capacity has been carried out.

*1.5 Support the Establishment and Activities of a National Transparency Coalition and Civic Movement.* This activity is foreseen to be carried out through the Training and Implementation Grants that will be awarded to the selected ISOs. The establishment of this Coalition and Civic Movement is foreseen to take place during the next four quarters in parallel to the duration of the Training and Implementation Grants activities.

*1.6 Award National Government Oversight Grants and Support CSO Watchdog Capacity and Activities.* Once the ISOs have been selected this activity will be carried out. A draft RFA was prepared but awaited the ISOs to come on board to be engaged into further discussion prior to issuing it.

*1.7 Provide Targeted Consultations on National Government Oversight and Increased Government Transparency.* Employment announcement was issued seeking for local experts on matters of governance (transparency, citizen participation, public policy impact, and organizational networks).

*1.8 Develop a Self-Regulatory System to Improve CSO Accountability Practices and 1.10 – Support Efforts to Improve Civil Society Operating Environment.* Technical assistance was offered to CSOs in light of several legislative developments that will affect CSOs, including the newly-passed NGO-D Law. A workshop was designed and delivered by Impactos partner ICNL geared towards the leading 11 CSOs to lay the groundwork to strengthen the CSO coalition advocating for progressive implementing regulations and on other legal issues affecting the sector. The workshop aimed to provide a forum for participants to reflect on their collective accomplishment in the enactment of the NGO-D Law, and prepare for the next steps in promoting proper implementation of that Law and an overall enabling legal environment for civil society. The workshop highlighted the legal environment for Honduran CSOs, including the Special Law to Promote Non-Governmental Organizations for Development (the NGO-D Law). It also highlighted an overview of regional trends regarding the legal environment for CSOs and international lessons on implementing a new law for the sector as well as looming legislative challenges for the sector. Representatives of several CSOs and CSO federations participated, including FOPRIDEH, ASONOG, ACI, FOSDE, CIPRODEH, Vision Mundial, COINPRODEN, ASJ, Democracia sin Fronteras, and Care. Because many participating CSOs were already engaged in preparing draft regulations to implement the NGO-D Law, CSOs were oriented on opportunities to promote appropriate implementation of a new law governing NGOs. Participants identified a number of troubling legal developments affecting the sector, most prominently, recent antagonistic statements by Ministry of Interior officials vastly overestimating the size of the civil society sector and asserting that 100 CSOs would soon lose their legal personality. The workshop contributed to establishing a tone of cooperation and good will between the CSOs and Impactos that will facilitate program implementation moving forward. In light of the limited time frame for drafting regulations to implement the NGO-D Law, the workshop was instrumental in informing the drafting process, ensuring that CSOs will be able to present timely and technically sound proposed regulations to the Government.

*1.11 Support Non-Partisan Policy Research and Advocacy Initiatives.* Scheduled to initiate grant process in next Quarter.

*1.12 Organize CSO Networking, Collaboration and Coordination Events.* Activities are scheduled for next Quarter, after the ISOs have been selected and TIGs awarded.

**Objective Two: Improved Capacity of Public Institutions to Address Gaps in the Enabling Environment for Transparency and Accountability**

*2.1 Conduct Ongoing Joint Transparency Challenge and Opportunity Mapping.* The team created a proposal to establish a Transparency Observatory, through which the Program will be able to map transparency challenges and opportunities and guide program implementation regarding national government oversight grants, advocacy grants, as well as corresponding government training and technical assistance interventions. This Observatory will include program staff, ISO partners and other key stakeholders including international donors working on transparency and anticorruption. The body would meet monthly under a common agenda to discuss ongoing issues regarding transparency and anticorruption, ensuring that all notes and maps are duly reported to USAID and other interested parties.

As part of the activities of Objective Two that seeks to improve the capacity of public institutions to address gaps in the enabling environment for transparency and accountability, the team also held meetings with the Municipal Directorate of the Superior Tribunal of Auditors to learn about their interest in training programs for the Municipal Directorate, and in other training programs being offered to Honduran municipalities.

*2.2 Facilitate Collaborative Partnerships and Dialogue Channels between CSOs and Public Entities.* Because the Program supports civil society led initiatives, this activity is expected to be led by Honduran CSOs, particularly by the ISO partners who will be selected in the following Quarter. Thus, the activity will be carried out in the following Quarters pending agreements and joint work plans with ISO partners.

*2.3 Deliver Targeted and Demand-Driven Training and Technical Assistance to Government Officials.* Due to its particularly sensitive nature, this activity requires an adequate identification of potential government champions willing to engage in Program objectives and a needs assessment on behalf of the watchdog CSOs monitoring public institutions. The Institutional assessment has identified some potential government areas where Counterpart could provide training and technical assistance. Over the next two quarters, the Program team will jointly identify government officials and agencies in need of and interested in targeted trainings and then conduct the following trainings sessions: Measurement, Monitoring and Evaluation of Transparent and Accountable Governance; Citizen Engagement and Public Communications; and Financial Accountability Mechanisms for Oversight of the National Budget. The Program will also provide resources to executive branch officials on international best practices related to Honduran legislation in conjunction with Honduran CSOs and conduct training on international law and best practices related to implementation of the NGO and Social Policy Laws for Government officials.

*2.4 Support Joint CSO/Government Transparency Project Initiatives and 2.5 International Learning Exchange.* The project initiatives described in activity 2.4 will derive from the

experience of activity 2.5. Because the Exchange will take place after the selection of the ISO partners and after key programmatic activities have been initiated, these two activities are foreseen to be carried out in the first Quarter of 2012.

*2.6 Establish and Award Rapid Response Grants.* The Rapid Response Grants System has been established and all requirements for grant awards have been defined and approved by the Donor in the corresponding Grants Manual. To this date, there has been only one “emerging opportunity” and in early September there was a Stakeholder meeting with Donor representatives and Program staff to discuss a request from Transformemos Honduras, an innovative organization that seeks to build a broad social coalition for reform. In 2010, Transformemos Honduras began to work on corruption in the education sector. They disseminated the results of a study conducted by the World Bank which demonstrated that the government wasted significant amounts of resources in “ghost teachers” and “phantom construction projects.” Their current request is to advocate for greater transparency in the educational sector. Transformemos Honduras was instructed on the manner in which they must present an application, following the guidelines defined in the Grants Manual, but to this date, they have not presented any formal application.

### **REPORT BY OBJECTIVES UNDER CAP COMPONENT:**

#### **Objective Three: Improve the multi-sectorial capacity to give coordinated and comprehensive answers to the changing security needs**

##### *3.1 Select and train up to eleven CSO implementing partners*

Requests for letters of interest (LOIs) were prepared and published for the competitive selection process of the first three (3) CSO implementing partners for CAP. The hope of the implementing partners is that regional representation includes Tegucigalpa (two CSOs) and San Pedro Sula (one CSO). The evaluation criteria were defined for the collection of the LOIs from the CSO implementing partners. Two meetings were organized and conducted (one in Tegucigalpa and one in San Pedro Sula), and two meetings were held with potential CSO participants in the selection process of implementing partners. These meetings were aimed to inform them about the Program and to explain the competitive process for public convocations. Thirty-nine LOIs were received to participate in the selection process of the implementing partners, with an equal number of CSOs from both Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula. A selection committee was formed to review the incoming LOIs and begin the process of evaluation and selection of CSOs. At the time of this report, the selection of the implementing partners had not yet been vetted and decided.

##### *3.2 Conduct Initial Program Outreach Activities*

Once CAP CSO partners are selected, the Impactos team will work closely to help partners develop a tailored plan for initial information and outreach activities conducted to inform communities about the CAP program, its goals and activities, and to educate them about its processes and gain their input, support and ownership of the project.

##### *3.3 Conduct Rapid Community Assessments in Potential Target Communities*

During September 2011, staff responsible for the CAP component began to conduct the desk review by gathering information from primary sources through interviews with key actors and

potential partners and reviewing secondary sources, such as research and analysis of statistics on the demographic situation of the potentially intervened municipalities. The preliminary information will allow the program to select target communities and identify potential partners and implementing CSOs.

### *3.9 Identify (or Catalyze) Municipal Development and Security Councils (MDSCs) in each Municipality*

During this period the Program participated in CARSI Group Project visits to San Pedro Sula and Choloma as a means to strengthen collaboration among CARSI funded Projects and to learn about the local needs of communities and opportunities to work in partnership. In addition, the project team visited these municipalities to present the Program to members of the Municipal Prevention Committees. In Choloma a meeting was held with the leaders of the Community Prevention Committee to gather information to validate data of the Project's Desk Review.

## **Objective Four: Improve municipal and community capacity to provide effective crime and violence prevention services**

### *4.1 Support public information and outreach campaigns for the citizenry and communities*

Meetings were held with the Impactos Program Communications Specialist to coordinate the preparation of the call for LOIs for the CSO selection process and/or the selection of firms to perform the first stage of the information and outreach campaigns directed to citizens and potential target communities.

## **Objective Five: Expand social opportunities for youth in community leadership**

### *5.4 Facilitate the creation of youth social networks and experience exchanges*

Youth groups and networks in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula were identified for future program interventions and coordination with youth leaders. This information was also used to complete the Desk Review.

## **V. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

During this Quarter, Impactos' Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) activities were developed as follows:

- Implementation of focus groups for the Civil Society Assessment in San Pedro Sula and Choloma with civil society organizations and municipal authorities regarding transparency and accountability topics. The purpose of this assessment was to identify the areas of current and potential fracture in civil society, and to make recommendations as to how to consolidate civil society actors in the aftermath of the 2009 coup. The Assessment helped Counterpart to identify the civil society organizations that can most effectively work in the field of anti-corruption in Honduras and thus provide information on possible grantees and partners for our program.
- Collaborated with the Impactos team in several M&E intensive work meetings and coordinated the process to fill out the Reference Indicator Sheet and the Data Quality Assessment for each indicator of the Program's PMP.

- Designed and facilitated the M&E section in the Start-up Workshop of the Impactos Program.
- The USAID AOTR, the USAID Gender Specialist and other USAID Democracy and Governance staff provided general guidelines on gender mainstreaming for both Programs and the inclusion of this cross-cutting theme in the Programs M&E plan.
- Drafted the M&E section including the Program's logical framework, management, and monitoring and impact evaluation of the first RFA for the selection of the two intermediary service organization (ISO) partners.

During this Quarter, a series of activities related to Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) were carried out in which the CAP technical team participated with the M&E specialist. Activities are as follows:

- The M&E plan for CAP was prepared and submitted to the Chief of Party for approval. After revisions, the plan was sent for USAID approval. The PMP has not been approved by the Donor yet.
- A diagnosis of civil society with different civil society organizations and municipal authorities in the municipalities of San Pedro Sula and Choloma, in the areas of youth and violence prevention.
- Revision of the indicators and goals of CAP contained in the Monitoring Plan (MP).
- Development of the first draft of the Reference Indicator Sheet and the Data Quality Assessment for each of the PMP indicators was initiated.
- The CAP staff discussed and coordinated with USAID Mission to engage the subject of gender in the project.
- The CAP team conducted a field visit to San Pedro Sula and Choloma with the goals of:
  - Gathering information from community leaders for project start-up through interviews and other primary sources.
  - Obtaining municipal information on San Pedro Sula about the topics of youth, gender, violence prevention, local statistics, and violence prevention methodologies.
  - Pre-identifying the communities involved potential partners and public institutions in order to obtain relevant demographic and socio-political context of the project intervention area in the municipality of San Pedro Sula.
  - Facilitating focus groups with youth and community members of the Chamelecon sector.
  - Participating in meetings coordinated by USAID in San Pedro Sula and Choloma with different projects that are part of the CARSI strategy.

## **VI. ACHIEVEMENTS**

During this reporting period, the key achievements included:

- 1) Completion of Civil Society and Anti-corruption Institutions Assessments
- 2) Approval of Branding Strategy and Marking Plan by Donor
- 3) Approval of Grants Manual by Donor
- 4) Submission of Project Monitoring and Implementation Plan to Donor for approval
- 5) Delivered the RFA to short listed CSOs and reception of applications for Training and Implementation Grants to be awarded to two selected ISO partners
- 6) Training of CSOs on NGO Law by ICNL
- 7) Successful formation of CAP project team (Project Director, Youth at Risk Specialist, CSO specialist)
- 8) Donor approval for the CAP component workplan for the first seven months of 2011 (June-December)
- 9) Successful socialization of the CAP project at the CSO level in several municipalities (Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, Choloma)
- 10) Donor approval of the Grants Manual. This manual will guide the grant process for the CAP Project as well as the CPRG Project
- 11) The CAP team is participating in the design of a joint strategy and implementation of projects in USAID/Honduras' CARSI initiative, through which all projects involved in the vulnerable communities of the following cities: Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, La Ceiba and Choloma, would be integrated for greater impact.
- 12) The process to select the first implementing partner CSOs for the CAP Project has begun. At the end of this process, three grants will be given for Capacity Building and Civic Participation to two CSOs from Tegucigalpa and one from San Pedro Sula.
- 13) Massive CSO participation, from the cities of Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, in the first round of submissions for CAP Project Grants. 39 CSO's presented letters of interest for this grant request.
- 14) According to the work plan approved for the July-September quarter, 90% of foreseen activities have been executed. The 10% of CAP's work plan that was not completed during this reporting quarter falls under the development and dissemination of publicly available information on the CAP Program for CSOs. The goal of this information is for CSOs to take it and further share it with potential CAP target communities. This activity was originally planned for September. However, it was strategically reprogramed for November after the CAP's CSOs Implementing Partners have been officially selected. The CAP team considered that more information on the CSOs and communities was needed in order to produce the information. It was also deemed that it could be more impactful if the CSO Implementing Partners and communities worked together in producing the content of the public information based on their specific context, with Impactos' Communication Specialist technical support. The plan is for the first RFA related to the information campaigns to be released at the end of October.

## **VII. CHALLENGES AND GENDER-BASED CONSTRAINTS**

The primary challenge faced by Counterpart during the reporting period has been the delay due to the modification and approval processes for the revised Program Branding Strategy and Marking Plan and Counterpart's Grants Manual. Both of these items are milestones for the commencement of Program activities and after several iterations were submitted, were approved late in the Quarter. Hence, the selection of ISOs as partner CSOs was delayed and will take place in the following Quarter.

Impactos organized a Gender Working Group which will be responsible for: drafting the Program's Gender Integration Document and Plan; training Counterpart staff, partners and grantees; and ensuring that gender is integrated throughout the Programming cycle as planned, monitored and evaluated in alignment with Counterpart HQ's and USAID's guidelines and requirements. For the next quarter, the Donor has requested the program present a proposal to integrate the theme of gender into the work plan as well as the CAP field activities. The integration of gender into the project activities will be the main challenge for the next few months.

## **VIII. EXPENDITURES**

Program Expenditures for the reporting quarter amounted to US\$ 382,861. The total amount of expenditures as of September 30, 2011 is US\$ 678,796.

## **IX. PROGRAMMING PRIORITIES**

Now that the grant facility is established, full implementation of CPRG and CAP components' grant activities will be moving forward beginning the next quarterly reporting period (October through December 2011). While there has been some approach and manifested interest from some government officials in actively participating and supporting the Program, it is necessary to develop a closer working relationship with important government officers, including the President of Congress (to allow congressional budget monitoring), the Director of the Institute for Access to Public Information (to strengthen the implementation of the Law and truly allow access to information for citizens) among others.

**Other priority activities for the next reporting period are summarized as follows:**

- Finalize Impactos' partner ISO selection through corresponding grant agreements.
- Initiate Oversight Grant and Research and Advocacy Grant process.
- Develop a Security Assessment and Plan for the Program.
- Initiate identification of potential candidates for International Exchange.
- Initiate customized trainings to selected CSOs.
- Obtain final approval of PMEPs.
- Training of ISOs on Grants Administration and Management.
- Establish the cooperation and participation of reform-minded leaders in early Program activities.
- Issue Rapid Response Grants if needs/opportunities arise.

- In coordination with ICNL, develop workshop to train more NGOs on the new NGO Law and design strategic steps to create an enabling legal environment for CSOs.
- As needed, provide discrete technical assistance and consultations to government agencies and CSOs.
- Provide mapping and analysis to USAID on a quarterly basis and share with other donors and program implementers working in individual sectors and on issues of good governance.
- Draft the Program's Gender Integration Document for USAID's approval.
- Finalize the desk review with the information on the potential target communities and municipalities for CAP and present them to the Donor.
- Carry out a fast analysis on potential communities in conjunction with the CAP CSO implementing partners.
- Present the CAP Project branding plan for approval, which has begun to be prepared in coordination with the Communications Specialist.
- Obtain Donor approval for the Project M&E plan.
- Publish the request for letters of interest for the CAP selection process and grant awards for the first public information campaign.
- Carry out an information and outreach plan in the potential CAP communities in coordination with the CSO implementing partners.
- Identify and hold meetings with the Municipal Committees on Development and Prevention in the cities of Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula.
- Assist the CSOs in drafting technically sound regulations to implement the NGO-D Law. Build the capacity of Honduran CSOs to comply with the recently passed NGO Law by helping to draft user-friendly materials, which may include compliance manuals or reporting forms.