



FIRST QUARTERLY REPORT, YEAR TWO

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FOR RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE (CPRG) PROGRAM

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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 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.

In consultation with and per concurrence with USAID, effective January 2012 the Program has officially realigned its project implementation year from calendar year to fiscal year, including all workplan activities and budget. Thus, this Quarterly Report has become the First Quarter of Year Two (January 20 to March 31, 2012), and fiscal year 2012 will only have three Quarters. Counterpart prepared and submitted its Year 2 Workplan on February 21, 2012 and it is currently pending USAID approval until the corresponding budget is submitted by Counterpart International.

During this Quarter the Program implemented significant activities for both components. The CPRG component continued to monitor the implementation of the two previously awarded Training and Implementation Grants (TIGs) for the Intermediary Support Organizations (ISO), and will begin the selection process for two new ISOs in the next Quarter. The CPRG team has begun to assess training needs through surveys with ISO partners to design and deliver customized training programs for CSOs. Additionally, Counterpart held workshops for potential grantees to provide training in proposal writing, and Letters of Interest (LOIs) and Requests for Applications (RFAs) have been released and responded to for various grants in the Program, ready for selection and dissemination in the next Quarter. A joint workshop was held with three public oversight institutions and nineteen Honduran CSOs to discuss opportunities for synergy and possible collaboration. These organizations have historically had trouble convening to work together due to mutual distrust; the CSOs have expressed a lack of transparency in government entities, and the government institutions have expressed that the lack of accountability in CSOs presents a problem for transparency as well. Through Counterpart's support, 45 participants had the opportunity to work side-by-side to identify common ground where strategic alliances could be formed in a joint anti-corruption effort.

During the reporting period, the CAP team signed five awards with CSOs in the first three target cities of Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, and Choloma, obligating a total of \$200,000 in grants. Additionally, LOIs have been issued for CSOs working on crime and violence prevention in high-risk municipalities and

communities in the four new cities where CAP will begin operations next Quarter (La Ceiba, Tela, Choluteca, and Santa Rosa de Copán). Counterpart held a brainstorming session with the partner CSOs to create a strategy for various technical interventions directly aiming at behavior and perception change among targeted youth and communities in general. Such interventions include positive messaging to promote prevention of violence, community participation, and youth opportunities. CSO partners and Counterpart agreed to design a workshop with the five implementing CSOs to create a strategy for the dissemination of positive messages, increased education, and behavior and perception change tactics linked to crime prevention, to be convened in the next Quarter. With the support of our M&E officer, the CAP team with CSOs conducted two workshops, one in Tegucigalpa and one in San Pedro Sula, in order to prepare tools and methodology to develop community assessments. Additionally, site visits to each CSO partner were conducted. During these visits the CAP team prepared and shared with the partner CSOs tools and methodology for developing and conducting community assessments in 20 target communities. Additionally, a strategy has been formulated to move forward with convening the Community Revitalization Committees (CRCs) in each of the 20 communities of intervention.

As member of the CARSI-USAID Group, CAP staff have continued its significant contribution in the CARSI-USAID initiatives by participating in joint visits with other CARSI funded projects to the Program's targeted municipalities of Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, Choloma, La Ceiba, and Tela. The objectives of these visits were to integrate crime and violence prevention approaches at the municipal levels, and to achieve greater support and commitment from the municipal authorities. Finally, the goal of these visits was to enable a synergistic implementation of different CARSI-funded projects at the local level and thus helping targeted communities towards the shared goal of sustainability and the institutionalization of violence prevention programs in Honduras led by local governments. Some of the outcomes achieved through these visits are: the formal introduction of the CSO partners with local authorities; arrangements for coordination of activities and work plans between the CSO and the municipalities; and, to strengthen the soon-to-be Community Revitalization Committees by connecting more individuals and expanding the network.

ICNL's primary focus this Quarter was to support Honduran civil society partners and Government officials in drafting regulations to implement the *Special Promotion Law for Non-Governmental Development Organizations* (the "NGO-D Law"), signed into law on June 27, 2011 by President Porfirio Lobo. ICNL engaged throughout January and February with the Commission of civil society representatives that was convened to work on the Regulations and led by the *Federacion de Organizaciones para el Desarrollo de Honduras* (FOPRIDEH). ICNL supported the CSO Commission by providing comments and other technical assistance to help the group assess and respond to the Government's proposed regulations. ICNL provided extensive written and oral comments on successive versions of the draft regulations, often responding within hours or days of learning about new proposed restrictions, to ensure that the Commission received our support prior to key meetings with Government representatives. ICNL also provided suggestions on advocacy strategies that might contribute to achieving enabling implementing regulations acceptable to the sector and the Government. While the Commission's regulatory proposals were technically stronger this Quarter than last, the proposals presented by the Secretariat of the Interior and Population (Secretariat) in January introduced new and highly restrictive provisions, inconsistent with both the NGO-D Law and Honduras's obligations under international guarantees of free association rights. Most significantly, the Secretariat sought to insert a new chapter on foundations that would have burdened the creation of foundations by limiting the permissible activities of foundations; creating new financial and administrative burdens on foundations; imposing rigid management structures on all foundations regardless of their size or scope of activities; and required all NGO-Ds to disclose private information to the Government.

II. POLITICAL CONTEXT

The year 2011 ended in the midst of an acute crisis regarding citizen security. Shocking crime and violence statistics, as well as scandals of impunity, gave way to public manifestations of despair and high expectations for a change in 2012.

Unfortunately, during this reporting period there were a series of decisions made by the Executive Branch of Honduran Government that, rather than demonstrate the Government's intention of making positive decisions to improve citizenship confidence, have instead shown a weakening government that is incapable of dealing with critical situations in the country. Citizens' voices expressing pessimistic statements such as, "there is no State in Honduras. What we have is government officials without a State"¹ are becoming more frequent.

The President of Honduras began the year with a series of questionable actions including unexpected changes among his close collaborators in the Cabinet, controversial public manifestations that question freedom of expression, and a lack of coordination between decisions taken by his officials and those taken by him. The change in Cabinet members is perceived as a Government strategy to prepare the National Party, the current party in power, for the upcoming primary elections in November.

Presently, Government officials are openly participating in political campaigns directly from their offices and with no restraints from the Tribunal Supremo Electoral, the responsible agency for regulating such campaigning, or from any other regulating institutions regarding the use of public funds for political activities.

The current implementation of the country's national budget raises red flags. One of the Program's ISO partners, FOSDEH, has called to attention that some Ministries have executed more than 50% of their total annual budget, according to the Ministry of Finance information system (known as SIAFI) which shares the amounts budgeted per institution as well as quarterly implementation of the budget. This adds to the country's already precarious financial condition. There has also been a drastic change in access to public information within the Ministry of Finance. Some of the CSOs that have been monitoring macroeconomic indicators have expressed their concern on the lack of transparency and political will to facilitate budget information. Constant failure within the Ministry's Financial Administration System and rotation of key staff are part of the newly imposed dynamic.

With the upcoming primary elections this November, the media is shifting the spotlight from country priorities to political party-specific agendas. News, even on issues related to corruption, is linked to such situations. Thus, the integrity and validity of the information provided may be questioned, as it can be seen as promotion for a particular political benefit rather than a national or local development priority.

An important landmark of this Quarter was the approval of the Extradition Law for Hondurans on January 25, 2012. This action aims to demonstrate that the Government is making an effort to combat drug trafficking. To date, the public awaits the application of the Extradition Law to see what effect it may, or may not, have on drug trafficking; as of yet, there has been little movement under this law.

Finally, on February 14, 2012, a massive fire at a prison in central Honduras killed more than 300 people,² the latest disaster in a prison system known for overcrowding and violence.

¹ Julieta Castellanos/ Rectora UNAH

² <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/16/world/americas/prison-fire-in-honduras-leaves-high-death-toll.html>

A consistent theme for the past year has been irregularities in the legislative and regulatory processes in Honduras, which add complexity and unpredictability to the legal environment for civil society. Although the NGO-D Law required publication of Regulations by January 17th, ultimately, this deadline has been disregarded, and the Regulations are still in limbo. The conflict-ridden negotiations between the CSO Commission and the Secretariat, which repeatedly inserted new restrictions into the draft Regulations, were consistent with the overall hostile tone of senior Government officials, including President Porfirio Lobo, toward the sector during the Quarter. According to a January 25th *El Heraldo* article, *The head of the Executive Branch warned that there are NGOs that are dedicated to presenting [the country] in a bad light in the international arena to obtain funding, [saying] “We have to defend our nation.”* Ultimately, however, a representative of the Commission purportedly successfully appealed to high-level political contacts, securing their commitment to finalize NGO-D Regulations consistent with the sector’s proposal.

III. ANALYSIS

The strategies of implementation of CPRG are being shaped by current situations in Honduras, such as the general behavior of the Government and its response to the country’s needs, the changing political atmosphere due to the pending electoral process and the inclusion of new political parties, and the participation of CSOs. With the current political scenario, along with a weak civil society, the Program faces greater challenges and must find and define adequate dynamics to be able to achieve its objectives.

The previous grant processes conducted for the ISO selection, along with the undergoing grant processes for National Government Oversight Grants, Public Information Campaigns Grants and Transparency Research and Advocacy Grants, have reflected the real capacity that Honduran CSOs have to advocate for greater transparency and accountability in public institutions. Among the weaknesses of CSOs that can be highlighted are: development of isolated, local-level, specific advocacy proposals; lack of communication mechanisms and practices to exchange experiences related to public advocacy; and weakness in adopting a medium or long term organizational vision and advocacy goals. These are some of the situations affecting the grant award process, as well as highlighting the need to refine some current processes to define a stronger support strategy that ensures fulfillment of Program objectives and indicators. To date, only a few of the interested and potential CSOs have shown the ability to produce comprehensive proposals that clearly outline how they can achieve their strategic objectives through these funds. The CAP component CSOs demonstrate similar weaknesses, specifically having a lack of work experience with crime prevention issues and working with youth at the community level. Those that do have some experience have such varied strategies that a more standardized approach must be developed to create a more effective process of change. Because of these weaknesses, both the CPRG and CAP teams will have to strategize on how to respond to these situations, including developing necessary trainings and workshops.

Accumulated knowledge in previous months on CSOs’ main strengths and weaknesses has highlighted the need to maintain continuous and close monitoring of project implementation that allows providing timely and customized technical support to CSOs as needed. For existing ISO partners and grantees, and for new grants yet to be signed, the effort required to monitor the implementation of different projects financed through the Program grants will become more demanding and will require the Program’s individualized attention for each CSO. At this point, the Program has already taken steps to expand the technical team in this second year of implementation to better respond to the increased need for a closer relationship with grantees.

Uncertainty characterizes the legal environment for CSOs in Honduras. Norms setting forth procedures for publishing legislation and regulations are routinely disregarded, and as a consequence, CSOs are frequently unaware of legislative initiatives that would significantly affect them. Moreover, official channels for dialogue between representatives of the sector and the Government may ultimately be less influential in shaping a regulation than private, one-on-one meetings based on personal relationships. In order for CSO representatives to make the most of advocacy opportunities – to successfully advocate for enabling norms and raise objections to restrictive ones – they must have a strong command of Honduran and international laws and best practices, including the NGO-D Law. CSO representatives must similarly develop expertise in other laws affecting the sector, like the Law on Volunteerism, the Social Policy Law, the Law on Municipalities, and a number of other laws identified as sector priorities, and corresponding international laws and practices. Finally, CSOs would benefit from greater awareness not only of currently effective laws affecting the sector, but also of laws that have been passed but not implemented, as well as proposed but little-known legislation. In order to help CSOs to better understand the existing legislative environment, the Program is planning to conduct a mapping exercise of legislation affecting the sector that will help the Program build the CSOs’ collective capacity to engage in legal reform on these and other issues. This mapping exercise will be conducted under a hired consultant who will work closely with ICNL and the CSOs, and is scheduled for the next Quarter.

Comment [USAID1]: This is an excellent initiative and an exercise that will fill a gap that affects the entire CSO sector.

Finally, under the CAP component, grant amounts for the Institutional Support and Civic Participation aimed at the CSOs in smaller municipalities are currently too low in relation to the level of activities and deliveries demanded by the project and the timeline of activities. It is necessary to increase the amount of each grant to individual grantees (from \$25,000 to \$40,000) to have a stronger effect and to take into consideration high costs of activities conducted in hard-to-reach and marginal areas.

Comment [USAID2]: USAID reiterates our support to the increase in the amount of grants – not only the \$25K grants but all level of grants in order to have a greater impact.

IV. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

By the end of this Quarter both components have successfully moved forward in grant facilitation and monitoring, as well as convening CSOs and partner ISOs for workshops, dialog, and initiation of coalition building and formation of committees.

Project highlights during the reporting period include:

- Training needs were assessed through surveys of ISO partners to design and deliver customized training programs for CSOs.
- Workshops were conducted to train potential grantees on submission of clear applications to the Program RFAs, and LOIs and RFAs have been released and responded to for various grants in the Program, ready for the process of selection, approval, and dissemination in the next Quarter.
- A joint workshop was held with three public oversight institutions and nineteen CSOs (approximately 45 participants) to discuss the opportunities and identify possible joint collaboration. This collaboration was groundbreaking, as these organizations have historically had trouble convening to work together.
- Five awards were signed with CSOs in three target cities of the CAP component - Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, and Choloma. LOIs have been issued for CSOs targeting the remaining four cities (La Ceiba, Tela, Choluteca, and Santa Rosa de Copán). Four grants will be awarded in June 2012 with four CSOs, one in each city.
- The CAP team conducted several technical support activities with the CSOs, including two workshops and site visits to each CSO. Through the workshops were discussed and validated several documents including the protocol guide for community assessments, the lines of message for community outreach and the instructions for

Comment [USAID3]: When will these training programs be designed and delivered?

Comment [USAID4]: How many?

Comment [USAID5]: When are the grants expected to be awarded? During the next Quarter?

Comment [USAID6]: What was achieved through these workshops and site visits?

mapping of youth networks. The objective of site visits was to monitor and follow the activities of CSOs in the target communities.

- A strategy has been formulated to move forward with convening the Community Revitalization Committees (CRCs) in each one of the 20 communities of intervention. This strategy includes identifying leaders in communities for CRC membership, and participatory monitoring activities by the CSOs, such as focal groups and community leader participation.
- ICNL met with the CSO Commission, which included representatives of FOPRIDEH and other leading networks of CSOs (including Agencias de Cooperacion Internacional (ACI), Coordinador de Instituciones para los Derechos del Niño (COIPRODEN) World Vision, Save the Children, and Ayuda en Accion). ICNL presented concerns related to a number of provisions in the draft NGOD Regulations and suggested changes. The Commission endorsed several changes in its proposed draft Regulations based on the discussion with ICNL, and the Commission's revised draft reflected improvements in most of the highlighted issues.

REPORT BY OBJECTIVES UNDER THE 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. This activity has already been completed and the civil society assessment was submitted to USAID on December 1, 2011 and is currently pending approval from USAID for publication.

Comment [USAID7]: USAID will provide approval as soon as possible.

1.2 – Establish and Initiate CPRG Grant Facility. To strengthen the grant facility process, the Program has hired a Grants Assistant through a competitive process advertised locally in Honduras. The Grants Assistant is undergoing training in the Program's grant process, including the Program's Grant Manual and grantee selection process, monitoring, cost share, applicable regulations, and Counterpart's MIS (Management Information System). Additionally, the Program prepared a grant tracker that will serve as grantee database that will demonstrate a schedule of grant solicitations and awards, as well as help to track grants advanced to the grantees for greater monitoring and financial control. This tracker will be rolled out and institutionalized in the next Quarter.

Comment [USAID8]: Kindly provide grants update in subsequent Quarterly reports, including name of grantee, brief description of project, funding amount, community, etc. including cumulative and new in reported quarter.

1.3 – Award New Training and Implementation Grants (TIGs) and Monitor Implementation of Previously Awarded TIGs. The Program will begin the selection of two new ISOs next Quarter. Meanwhile, the Program has continued to monitor the implementation of the two previously awarded Training and Implementation Grants (TIGs) for the Intermediary Support Organizations (ISOs). The two existing grants were awarded to relatively large organizations that, despite their experience, are showing some difficulty in the smooth implementation of their grants. This is due to weaknesses in their organizational strategy to advocate for public policies, as well as a lack of long-term vision and a general work overload of their staff. Nevertheless, the CPRG team is working closely with each organization to be able to fulfill their objectives in a timely manner.

1.4 - Design and Deliver Customized Program Trainings. During this Quarter, the Program has begun to assess training needs through surveys with ISO partners, designed by our M&E and Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building Specialists, to give an initial base line of CSOs that receive training. One of the surveys seeks to identify training needs in relationship to the subprojects implemented as part of the TIG grants. Preliminary results of this survey show that in addition to training in advocacy, most CSOs also require basic training in project design, evaluation, and administrative and financial management, as well as organizational development. The second survey aims to determine the degree of satisfaction and relevance of trainings received by participating CSOs through our ISO partners prior to the Program. This survey also identifies the percentage of CSOs that have benefited from such trainings provided by any of the ISO partners. These surveys will give a base line as well as measure levels of satisfaction from CSOs that receive training

through the Program. This activity was initially planned for completion in early July, but it is foreseen that it will be completed early in the next Quarter, as it has already been 100% completed with FOPRIDEH and only FOSDEH is pending. Actual training is programmed for July and August of this year.

1.5 - Support the Establishment and Activities of a National Transparency Coalition and Civic Movement. This activity will be conducted during the next two Quarters. Nevertheless, during site visits and trainings in preparation of RFAs, the CPRG team opened dialog with 28 CSOs and the 2 ISOs concerning the establishment of a National Transparency Coalition and Civic Movement. All CSOs and ISOs have voiced their interest and need of such a coalition.

1.6 Award National Government Oversight Grants and Support CSO Watchdog Capacity and Activities; 1.9 Support Targeted Anti-Corruption Public Information Campaigns and 1.11 Support Non-Partisan Policy Research and Advocacy Initiatives. These three activities were initiated simultaneously, though they are managed as three separate grant processes. Through these activities the Program planned to award a total of 28 grants as follows: 12 National Government Oversight Grants, 10 Transparency Research and Advocacy Grants, and 6 Public Information Grants. However, despite having provided two workshops to ensure full understanding of the Request for Application (RFA) and to orient all 44 CSOs on the preparation of applications, CSOs still demonstrate extensive weakness in producing comprehensive proposals. It is foreseen that not all scheduled 28 grants will successfully be awarded at this time due to weak CSOs not yet ready to receive funding.

The process to award the National Government Oversight Grants (NGOG) is almost complete. Initially, 22 organizations presented letters of interest and 18 were selected to pass to the second phase and submit applications. A total of 16 applications were received; the organizations that did not submit applications had explained that due to other organizational activities they would not be submitting proposals. .

For the Public Information Campaign Grants (PICG), there were 12 organizations invited to submit applications. Only 9 applications were received and although originally CPRG expected to award 6 PICG, only 3 grants may be awarded at this time (unless we are thinking about increasing the grant amount).

In the case of the Transparency Research and Advocacy Grants, 16 organizations received RFAs but only 12 organizations submitted applications. One of the organizations that was expected to submit but did not was the *Centro de Documentacion de Honduras (CEDOH)*, whose Executive Director was nominated as a member of the Commission that will lead reforms in public security, including the National Police. One organization did not submit an application on time, and the other two explained that they were concentrating on preparing applications for other funding sources.

At the end of this reporting period, the grant selection committee (SELCOM) had completed a preliminary evaluation of all proposals. Potential grantees for all three processes have been identified and the final list will be submitted to the Donor early in the next Quarter after having completed the required and needed due diligence visits.

1.7 Provide Targeted Consultations on National Government Oversight and Increased Government Transparency. From mid-February to mid-March, the 16 organizations that were short-listed for the Program's first National Government Oversight Grants (NGOG) process received training on how to prepare specific NGOG RFAs. This grant will focus on supporting the oversight and implementation of national level government efforts in improving transparency and accountability. An additional grant, the Transparency Research and Advocacy Grant (TRAG), has the objective to work with CSO coalitions to enable them to conduct non-partisan research concerning the detrimental impact of corruption in a number of sectors. The grant also aims to implement related advocacy campaigns to encourage adoption, implementation, and enforcement of legislation, including specific mandates, policies, and regulatory bi-

Comment [USAID9]: While USAID encourages increasing the grant amount, please clarify how increasing grant amounts would increase the number of grants?

Comment [USAID10]: Is this only one grant? Or several grants? It is my understanding that there will be several TRAGs. Please clarify.

laws that will ensure full implementation of existing laws. This will improve the operating environment for CSOs. Finally, the Public Information Campaign Grant (PICG) will incorporate new technology and media print and broadcast outlets in promoting anti-corruption messaging to help reduce public tolerance of corrupt practices.

Forty-eight participants were trained through regional workshops held in the western city of Santa Rosa de Copan, in the northern city of San Pedro Sula, and in the capital city of Tegucigalpa. All participants were also informed and received resumes of CPRG's cadre of consultants. Organizations were informed that hiring any of these consultants was optional, and any agreement would be between the CSO and the consultant. At least five organizations confirmed that they had hired a consultant from the cadre to help them prepare their applications.

Comment [USAID11]: Purpose of training?

Comment [USAID12]: 5 out of how many?

1.8 - Introduce a Self-Regulatory System to Improve CSO Accountability Practices (to be completed by ICNL) and 1.10 – Support Efforts to Improve Civil Society Operating Environment (to be completed by ICNL). In early January, the Commission was engaged in intense negotiations with a delegation of Secretariat representatives in order to hammer out an agreement by the January 17th statutory deadline for publishing regulations. ICNL met with the CSO Commission, which included representatives of FOPRIDEH and other leading networks of CSOs: Agencias de Cooperacion Internacional (ACI), Coordinador de Instituciones para los Derechos del Niño (COINPRODEH) World Vision, Save the Children, and Ayuda en Accion. ICNL presented concerns related to a number of provisions in the draft NGOD Regulations, including: requirements for obtaining legal personality (necessary to be distinguished as an entity with legal rights and obligations) that go beyond those of the NGO-D Law, including a high minimum asset requirement for foundations; and a provision that would in every case grant NGO-Ds ownership of all assets purchased with grant funds at the conclusion of a project – a determination that would interfere with the freedom of NGO-Ds and their donors to establish terms of their choice for the disposition of purchased goods. Ultimately, the Commission endorsed several changes in its proposed draft Regulations based on the discussion with ICNL, and the Commission's revised draft reflected improvements in most of the highlighted issues.

The Commission's meeting with Minister Madrid did not, however, take place as planned. Instead, Secretariat representatives released a significantly revised version of the Regulations that included a range of new restrictions and an entirely new, internally inconsistent chapter specifically governing foundations. Contrary to the NGO-D Law and international best practices, the Secretariat's mid-January draft law would have signified a drastic deviation from the essentially enabling NGO-D Law. In light of the threat it posed, ICNL immediately prepared comprehensive comments for the Commission's use. ICNL also provided the Commission recommendations on its advocacy strategy, including the suggestion that if the Secretariat continued to promote the restrictions, it might be advantageous for a Honduran CSO to join a requested special regional hearing before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights regarding legal restrictions on freedom of association in Latin America.

Finally, during this Quarter ICNL took the first steps towards assisting Honduran CSOs in evaluating whether a self-regulation system might be beneficial to the sector, by:

- Introducing self-regulation at the February 15th meeting with Impactos and the ISOs;
- Presenting to ISOs models of self-regulation initiatives, including: codes of conduct or ethics, self-certification systems, peer reviews by CSOs of other CSOs, evaluation of CSOs by independent organizations, certification by designated agencies, and prestigious prizes;
- Leading a discussion with the ISOs on their experiences with self-regulation, which revealed that, notwithstanding both FOPRIDEH and FOSDEH's initial contentions that they lack self-regulation experience, both are currently engaged in a self-regulation system (FOPRIDEH implements a certification system that evaluates its members' governance and financial practices as a condition of membership, and FOSDEH is undergoing a peer review of its operations as a condition for joining an international network of CSOs); and

Comment [USAID13]: Were the ISOs made aware that these are self-regulatory mechanisms?

- Preparing a one-page introduction to self-regulation systems along with a survey of prior self-regulation practices for dissemination to the Program’s network of CSOs.

ICNL will utilize the survey results along with the information gleaned from the two ISOs in order to facilitate a broader discussion of self-regulation systems and the possibility of establishing an initiative in Honduras. Such initiatives of accountability and quality control have proven helpful to CSOs in improving the public image of the sector in diverse countries where, as in Honduras:

- CSOs have been stigmatized by governments;
- The sector’s reputation may have been undermined by notorious instances of bad practices by CSOs; or
- CSOs for other motives desired to improve their transparency.

1.12 - Organize CSO Networking, Collaboration and Coordination Events. This activity is planned to begin in the next Quarter.

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 creation of tools and methods to identify challenges to greater transparency and reducing corruption using an observatory body has been initiated. The Program has worked with ISO partners to identify the following:

- The existence of more than 20 different observatories focusing on different subjects such as violence, human rights, health services, education, gender, etc. These observatories generate information on activities and performance of public institutions and it is foreseen that the Program and grantee CSOs may form alliances with some of these observatories.
- Mapping transparency challenges and opportunities at both national and local levels will require as much CSO participation as possible. Thus, **it is recommended that the Program’s observatory include other CSOs beyond CPRG.**
- Formal communication between CSOs is weak and lacks mechanisms to articulate activities among them. The Program hopes to hire a consultant to design **mechanisms to strengthen communication** between CSOs working on transparency. Additionally, one of the main objectives of the Coalition is to convene CSOs for dialog and joint work.
- Very few CSOs have the experience in **advocating for public policies,** especially regarding transparency in public institutions. Most CSOs have worked at a local level and generally without synergies, resulting in very little impact in improving transparency and accountability in the public institutions that they have monitored. Again, **the Coalition hopes to improve this.**

Comment [USAID14]: Excellent!

Comment [USAID15]: We recommend that IMPACTOS/CPRG consider using social networks for this purpose.

Comment [USAID16]: This should be and essential part of the capacity building strategy.

Comment [USAID17]: How? Will the consultant mentioned below make recommendation on this too? Specific interventions should aim at achieving this goal.

Given the above, it was jointly agreed with the ISO partners to hire a consultant to define the strategies and methodology, including a Toolbox (methodology of information collection, formatted in a standardized way for consistent results), to be able to systematize transparency challenges and opportunities. The consultant has been selected through a competitive process and will be hired early in the next Quarter.

At this point, the Program and the ISO partners foresee that, despite the high perception of corruption in the country, there are important transparency opportunities within certain public institutions, particularly in the oversight institutions. Some examples of these opportunities include: the Government agency ONADICI³ is trying to unify bidding documents for purchase of pharmaceuticals; the implementation of a regional project by the Citizen Participation Directorate of the Tribunal Superior de Cuentas; the establishment of a Citizen Commission to lead reforms in the National Police; and the preparation of the first report from the Government’s Transparency and Anticorruption Plan. The Program and ISO partners are open to exploring synergies with these organizations, as well as consider working directly with officials from these government entities in training offered through the Program.

³ ONADICI is the Government’s national office for integrated development of internal controls which seeks to establish and ensure fulfillment of adequate internal controls to improve transparency and reduce corruption in public institutions.

2.2 - Facilitate Collaborative Partnerships and Dialogue Channels between CSOs and Public Entities and 2.4 - Support Joint CSO / Government Transparency Project Initiatives. Both of these activities are related and require joint CSO and Government participation and will be implemented throughout Year 2. The Program has initiated these activities through the identification of potential leaders interested in transparency reform, specifically in the Tribunal Superior de Cuentas, in the ONADICI, and in the Institute for Access to Public Information. In early March, an initial joint workshop was held with these three public watchdog institutions and eighteen CSOs to discuss the opportunities and identify possible areas of collaboration. In this workshop, 45 participants concluded the following:

- This workshop provided an opportunity for collaboration between CSOs and government watchdog institutions for the first time. There is distrust, and in some cases animosity, from the CSOs towards government oversight institutions. This indicates the need to promote more joint events and open dialogues for CSOs and these institutions to be able to work together.
- All three government institutions are willing to examine potential areas of collaboration. These areas of cooperation include actions such as: basic socialization actions among citizens of the Internal Control Guidelines of obligatory use in government institutions; an invitation to jointly build a National Agenda with CSOs to strengthen accountability in public institutions; and the socialization of the Citizen Complaint System offered by the TSC. The TSC and the IAIP have offered to provide training and technical assistance to citizens to understand the legal tools available that allows enforcement of the requirement of transparency and accountability among government officials and institutions. Counterpart continues to encourage both public institutions and CSOs in the identification of transparency and accountability that can be done in a coordinated manner. A good example of this is the support Counterpart is providing to facilitate joint actions between the TSC and CSOs in the construction of a National Agenda on Public Institution Accountability.
- Limited budget in oversight institutions reduces their operational capacity.

Comment [USAID18]: Does this mean individuals or organizations? Please clarify. TA and training to CSOs would be more efficient.

2.3 Deliver Targeted and Demand-Driven Training and Technical Assistance to Government Officials. The Program and ISO partners have begun discussions on training strategies and subjects for government officials. It has been agreed that government officials require training on “public presentation of information on national and municipal budgets.” This training is considered to be a separate and highly specific module and a consultant will be hired in the next Quarter to develop appropriate training material. Discussions with ISOs in this period have highlighted the need to consider the operational environment of government officials and the trainings received from other organizations. Additionally, these discussions have put a spotlight on the need to reconsider the concept of “training” to be able to proactively attract officials to Program trainings. Trainings are scheduled for implementation in the last Quarter of this fiscal year.

Comment [USAID19]: What was the methodology, criteria, that was used to identify training needs of the government officials?

Comment [USAID20]: It is important for the Program to consider a broader approach to training. Thus, we also strongly recommend an alliance with IAIP for training on the Ley de Transparencia y Acceso a la Informacion Publica which prescribes disclosure of national and municipal budgets, as well as the requirement for a Public Information Official in every public institution, among others. In addition this falls under one of the program’s indicators.

2.5 - International Learning Exchange. This activity is programmed for the last Quarter of Year Two.

2.6 - Establish and Award Rapid Response Grants. During this Quarter, the Program has continued to monitor the implementation of the first Rapid Response Grant awarded in Year One to ASJ⁴. Through the RRG awarded, ASJ established a Legal Anticorruption Center (ALAC) aimed at receiving corruption complaints. During this reporting period, the ALAC has received 32 complaints (such as various charges for school enrollment, lack of promised retirement payment, police assault of youth in their homes, usurpation claims for family members of deceased, etc.) and has also forwarded these complaints to the corresponding government watchdog institutions. During the last week in March, LAC staff also travelled to Guatemala to learn about Guatemala’s experience and best practices with this type of center. Annex A is a table that shares a compilation of the complaints received.

Comment [USAID21]: Please use the acronym that has been adopted in the project for consistency.

⁴ ASJ: Asociacion por una Sociedad mas Justa (Association for a more Just Society)

REPORT BY OBJECTIVE UNDER THE CAP COMPONENT:

Objective 1: Improve multi-sector capacity in order to provide coordinated and integrated responses to security changing needs

1.1 – Select and Train up to Eleven CSOs Implementing Partners. The CAP component signed five awards with CSOs in the first three target cities of Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, and Choloma, obligating a total of \$200,000. The recipient partner CSOs receiving each a \$40,000 grant were: Centro de Desarrollo Humano (CDH) and Centro para la Investigación y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (CIPRODEH) both in Tegucigalpa; Comisión de Acción Social Menonita (CASM) and Children International in San Pedro Sula; and Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo de Honduras (FUNADEH) in Choloma. Additionally, Letters of Interest (LOIs) have been issued for CSOs working on crime and violence prevention in high-risk municipalities and communities in the four new cities (La Ceiba, Tela, Choluteca, and Santa Rosa de Copán) where CAP will begin operations next Quarter.

1.2 – Conduct Project Outreach Activities. During this Quarter, the CAP team strategized how it will move forward in outreach activities and began to lay the foundation for designing a workshop with five CSO grantees to conceptualize a methodology, create information for the educational campaign appropriate for the target communities, as well as achieve municipal support. Two workshops were held to further the strategizing, one in the city of San Pedro Sula and another in Tegucigalpa. The workshops involved 29 staff members of CSO grantees who are responsible for technical, administrative, and information technology for MIS management. In addition to discussions on how to implement community activities throughout the life of the project, implications were also analyzed on how activities will affect audiences in the framework of prevention and citizen safety. The subjects of messages agreed upon refer to issues such as crime prevention, community development, and opportunities for youth. On the ground, CSO grantee implementers have begun their work at the community level with various audiences involved, including identification of leaders and the initial collection of key information for the next operation stages.

1.3 – Conduct a Community Rapid Assessment in the Potential Communities of Intervention. During the reporting period, two workshops were held (one in Tegucigalpa and one in San Pedro Sula) for technical staff of each CSO to discuss baseline survey methodology, and the Impactos M&E officer visited each CSO grantee to support the design and draft of a baseline survey methodology. This methodology will standardize the interventions in all communities so that each CSO applies a clear methodology for evaluations as they begin their rapid community assessments. The purpose of these activities was to provide tools and share methodologies for the initial collection of information for community assessments of the twenty target communities. Five CSOs are currently conducting assessments using standardized formats, with the expected time of completion to be next Quarter. The information collected in the baseline surveys of the community rapid assessments will identify specific communities to work with and particular opportunities within them, and the information will be gathered through direct consultation with communities and secondary sources.

1.4 – Establish and Strengthen Community Revitalization Councils (CRCs) in Each Community. During this Quarter, the Program designed a strategy for the creation of the Community Revitalization Committees (CRCs) in each of the 20 communities of intervention. The strategy will encompass a methodology that includes identification and involvement of community leaders, workshops to socialize the objectives of the CRCs, training of members of the CRCs, work plans, etc. Additionally, in each target community partner CSOs began to collect information to identify the community leaders (both in organizations and individuals). These leaders are seen as potential members of the CRC and will be invited to attend meetings and workshops for consultation and, if they are willing, be incorporated to the CRSs work.

1.8 – Build Community Capacity in Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation. Participatory monitoring activities by the CSOs were discussed, such as focal groups and community leader participation. The Program will begin community activity monitoring for CSOs and the Community Revitalization Committees (once they are convened) and begin project implementation next Quarter, starting with the collection of baseline information. The activities in specific areas of crime prevention will be developed in the target communities by the Community Revitalization Committee (CRC). These committees will be trained by Impactos with the support of the M&E Specialist. Expectations are that in the last Quarter of this fiscal year the CRCs will be able to initiate participatory monitoring and evaluation in their communities.

1.9 - Identify Municipal Development and Security Committees in Each Municipality. The Program, along with partner CSOs, held three meetings with municipal authorities, officials, and CSOs in the three cities where operations currently exist (Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, and Choloma). In total 59 people attended the meetings, as well as representatives from the CARS team and USAID. Through these meetings, appropriate Municipal Development or Security Councils have been identified to implement prevention tasks. Prevention Committees have also been identified in the cities of San Pedro Sula, Choloma, and La Ceiba. The Prevention Committees are the representation of different social sectors in the areas of violence prevention and safety at the municipal level. They are comprised by representatives of the private and citizen sectors, and could include municipal service agencies for youth such as health, family counseling, education, businesses and business associations, CSOs working on related issues, youth groups, senior groups, media, academic partners, and other at-risk populations. In the remaining cities Human Rights and Security Committees have been identified. In some municipal governments the preventive function and work with at-risk populations is controlled by the Committees of Human Rights and Security. The Program is preparing a strategy to work with the various municipal committees identified in the nine municipalities. This work will begin next Quarter and will include an integration of CRC members into the municipal councils and in the implementation of municipal prevention plans.

Objective 2. Improve municipal and community capacity to provide efficient crime and violence prevention services.

2.4 – Support Public Information and Outreach Campaigns. The Program prepared and shared RFAs for the Information Campaigns Grants with the four CSOs and businesses on the USAID approved short list. An informational workshop was held to explain the RFA content; three organizations participated. The Selection Committee (SELCOM) evaluated the three proposals submitted and, with the approval of USAID, the grant will be administered in the next Quarter, slightly behind schedule due to a two-week delay in March due to an extension request by the CSOs.

Objective 3. Expand social opportunities for youth with leadership in the communities

3.4- Facilitate Creation of Youth Civic Networks and Experience Exchanges. The Program has designed a methodology of the strategy for working with youth (see Annex D), with the purpose of having a defined performance framework that enables the proper identification, mobilization, and planning with youth groups and networks. This strategy is articulated with the work implemented by the Global Youth Working Group of Counterpart International. The Program has set a priority for mapping groups, networks, and other spaces of youth participation. For this, a survey has been [shared online](#)⁵ to offer young people an innovative way to use technology so that they may report on their current activities, plans, achievements, and lessons learned in their work. Young people often support CSO implementers and vice versa, since, in many cases, they facilitate access to computers in order to register their groups and information profiles of the groups. The mapping covers communities of the first five CSOs implementers and CSOs contacted in the four new municipalities have also been invited to participate in

Comment [USAID22]: Seems like a promising innovative initiative.

⁵ The survey can be accessed on line through the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/B6NMRSR-CAP>

the mapping. This mapping process is scheduled to finalize in the next Quarter. The information of these maps will provide key information for program dialogue, organization, and planning meetings at municipal, regional, and national levels. This mapping takes into account the defined territoriality in the Nation's Plan and Country Vision that establishes an official count of organizations and representation of the Honduran society.

Once the mapping ends, a database will be created by the Program and shared with CSO implementers and all mapped groups, with the purpose of facilitating a stronger connection among youth groups. Additionally, the Program will prepare a document that will consolidate the collected information, identifying youth groups with various issues/areas of interest, audiences they work with, training needs, and other key information. This process will be finished in the following Quarter and, at the same time, meetings and reunions with youth groups will begin.

Additionally, the CAP team actively participated in various meetings and events that served as a platform for networking and synergy, as well as an opportunity to promote Impactos. Below is a list of meetings that took place during the reporting period:

1. Participation in various CARSII team meetings at USAID, as well as in the working groups on the issue of the CARSII pilot and the work tools to be used in the diagnosis collection. These meetings of projects under the CARSII initiative give continuity to a joint work plan developed with the participation of all projects.
2. Consolidation of the CAP component work plan for FY2012.
3. Impactos staff participated in a meeting of the Coalition for Youth Rights, which focuses on sexual and reproductive health at the Ministries of Education and Health level. The focus was on the implementation of the Ministries' agreement approved during the HIV/AIDS World Conference that took place in Mexico in 2008.
4. Impactos staff participated in an event promoted by the National Youth Institute (INJ) and OAS to promote a national youth policy and its connection with the Nation's Plan and Country Vision.
5. Impactos staff participated in the Second National Forum "Armando Paz Honduras" promoted by OAS, USAID, the INJ, and the Trust for the Americas Foundation. A total of 135 people participated, of which 70 were young people organized in nine work groups. Impactos staff presented CAP information and promoted mapping youth networks, as well as distributed an information card.
6. Impactos staff participated in the inauguration of the Community Center of Children International in Asentamientos Humanos, in the Rivera Hernandez sector of San Pedro Sula. With the support of the Director's Office of Children International, the CAP team visited the Center with USAID personnel, including the Director of the Democracy and Governance Office and the Program Agreement Officer's Representative AOR.
7. Impactos staff participated in the International Conference "Building Safe Communities" sponsored by the USAID CARSII initiative and the United States Embassy. This conference was held in San Pedro Sula on March 28 and 29, 2012. The main lesson learned at the conference was the experience of other countries related to the participation of community actors to find solutions to their problems. In some cases the intervention of force to rescue high-crime communities is essential before social intervention.

Comment [USAID23]: Kindly add a line stating how the staff benefited from attending the conference e.g. learned about experiences in other countries? Best practices?

V. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Since the inception of the Program, Counterpart International has submitted two drafts of its Impactos Program CPRG and CAP components' PMPs, DQAs and IRSs to USAID. On February 29, 2012, the Impactos M&E specialist and Program Senior Management met with USAID's AOR and the Office of Strategy and Program Support to analyze the draft PMPs, DQAs, and IRSs submitted and to receive guidance on how to correctly complete the IRSs and the DQAs based on USAID's requirements. After

the end of the Quarter, USAID followed up with observations on the documents, requesting that Counterpart International provide detailed clarification on several key indicators and the monitoring and evaluation tools that the Program developed in the PMPs. At the time of writing this report, the Impactos team was working closely with the AOR to finalize all documents to be submitted to USAID by May 4, 2012.

During this Quarter, M&E technical support focused on two main areas: a) monitoring of project implementation of the Program's Training Implementation Grants (TIGs), and b) monitoring of the achievements of the CPRG and CAP work plans and PMP indicators. Both components benefited strongly from the development and institutionalization of the Management Information System (MIS) guidelines to introduce Impactos staff to the basic principles and procedures. This system, used by all programs under the LWA at Counterpart, records information about project activities directly in the portal, which helps the Impactos team monitor project activities and progress towards goals and targets. The MIS records information on activities implemented directly by Impactos, as well as on activities implemented by grantees. The MIS increases efficiency of project monitoring and reporting. The guidelines in MIS are divided into two main sections: (a) Reporting in the Management Information System (MIS) by Counterpart staff and its partners; and (b) Monitoring principles of Counterpart's grants programs.

Specific M&E activities to support CPRG are described below:

- Conducted an assessment of training needs through a survey with a network sample from the ISOs and geared towards the needs of CSOs. Baseline data for the training needs was set.
- Client satisfaction of CSOs affiliated with FOPRIDEH and FOSDEH networks (the Program ISOs) was also gathered regarding the training received from both ISOs in the past and its relevance between the training and their applicability to daily work. The results of the baseline will be delivered the next Quarter. Baseline data for client satisfaction of ISO affiliates was set.
- Ensured that the M&E sections (intervention in order to accomplish the CPRG indicators of the PMP, logical framework of the project, project implementation and management, and monitoring) are clearly articulated in the Request for Application (RFA) for all CPRG grants.

Specific M&E activities to support CAP are described below:

- Drafted the M&E sections of the Request for Application (RFA) for the PIOG Grants, including the logical framework of the project, implementation plans, and project management and monitoring.
- Updated the grants scheme for all grants in adherence to CAP's technical proposal, in order to maintain efficiency in project implementation and effective impact on the target population, as well as to support financial disbursements.
- Facilitated two workshops for CSO grantee staff in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula. The purpose of the workshops was to train CSO staff in management of programmatic, monitoring and evaluation, and financial topics for their awarded projects. Regarding M&E, the workshops provided to grantees the CAP strategic and operational approach, and the framework of its M&E systems, such as baselines of impact indicators, community assessments, and programmatic reports (template, frequency, and feedback).
- Led meetings with CSO grantees in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula in order to review their projects' logical framework, specifically their indicators of each project (targets, method of data

collection, verification sources, disaggregation). As a result of these meetings, each grantee has an indicator table with adequate information to monitor and measure the results of the project.

- Facilitated workshops in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula with CSO grantees in order to train them in the Knowledge Management portal (the MIS), specifically in the following topics:
 1. Local Contacts Database - a database of all relevant organizations and agencies working in Honduras, including CSOs, media outlets, and government agencies that may have a potential role participating in CAP Program activities.
 2. Management Information System (MIS) - a program that allows Counterpart, USAID/Honduras, and implementing partners to enter and access program information in real time and run monitoring reports that inform management decisions.
 3. Document Management System - a document management system that enables users to share important programmatic, financial, marketing, reporting, and other documents with other project staff, Counterpart, implementing partners, and USAID/Honduras.
- Designed and facilitated the guideline to elaborate the rapid community assessments, including the violence risk factors.
- Provided M&E technical assistance to FUNADEH, Children International, and CASM to support their activities, design and implementation of data collecting tools (quantitative and qualitative) to draft the community assessments.

VI. ACHIEVEMENTS

- Initiated the grant selection process for the following CPRG grants that will represent 30% of total grant pool of the CPRG component once awarded during the next Quarter:
 - Issued 18 Requests for Applications (RFAs) to an equal number of CSOs for National Government Oversight Grants. We received 16 proposals, which, at the end of the Quarter, were under review and a short list was being prepared.
 - Issued 16 Requests for Applications (RFAs) for Transparency Research and Advocacy Grants to an equal number of CSOs. We received 12 proposals, which, at the end of the Quarter, were under review and a short list was being prepared.
 - Issued 12 RFAs to an equal number of CSOs competing for Public Information Grants. We received 9 applications were received which, at the end of the Quarter, were under review and a short list was being prepared.
- Set the foundation for the National Transparency Coalition and Civic Movement and potential government leaders have been identified, as well as set the foundation for the Community Revitalization Committees.
- Have achieved 96% of programmed activities per CPRG Year1 work plan. There are two pending steps under two different tasks. These steps include publishing LOIs to initiate selection of new ISOs which has been strategically postponed until the other three grant processes have been completed; and the assessment of previous self-regulation initiatives which is conceptually being introduced to create the appropriate environment for the assessment; so far 31 organizations have been informed about the assessment which will be carried out in the next Quarter.
- Signed grant agreements for a total of \$200,000 under the CAP component with five CSOs from Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula and Choloma, affecting 20 communities.
- Have achieved approximately 85% on the execution of programmed activities, according to the approved CAP Year 1 workplan. 15% of unimplemented activities is attributed to two factors: 1 - The signing of the grant agreement for the CAP information campaign moved into the second

Comment [USAID24]: Great job!

Comment [USAID25]: Please explain what the unachieved 15% consisted of and what were the constraints encountered which impeded the completion of activities.

quarter that had not yet approved the short list of CSOs, 2 - At the request of certain organizations extended the mapping of youth networks until April to give more time to the inscription on the database created for this purpose.

- Thirty-two (32) letters of interest were received for the selection process of partner CSOs implementers in the four new CAP target municipalities for Year 2 (La Ceiba, Tela, Choluteca and Santa Rosa de Copán).
- Three proposals were received for CAP Information Campaign Grants from a similar number of CSOs/Publicity Firms, which have been evaluated by the Committee created for this purpose.
- Municipal Development and Prevention Committees in Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, Choloma, La Ceiba, Tela, Choluteca, and Santa Rosa de Copán were identified.

VII. CHALLENGES AND GENDER-BASED CONSTRAINTS

The greatest challenges that the Program has faced during this Quarter are: the marked weaknesses of CSOs ranging from lack of strategic vision and organizational development; limited capacity in fund raising; quality project proposals ability of CSOs; and identification of transparency opportunities within the public sector. Within this context, the Program foresees the need to strengthen the capacities of the CSOs not only directly on site but also on a one-on-one basis. The Program is in the process of identifying additional resources in the form of additional staff and consultants to address this challenge.

VIII. EXPENDITURES

Program Expenditures for the reporting Quarter as of March 31, 2012 amounted to US\$331,244,711.

Comment [USAID26]: Our financial records show expenditures for a total amount of \$462,431.00 for the quarter as of March 31, 2012. Kindly verify this figure.

IX. PROGRAMMING PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

- Initiate grant process for new ISOs and facilitate technical assistance to existing ISO partners on advocacy.
- Sign grant agreements and provide technical support for: National Government Oversight Grants, Public Information Campaigns Grants, and Transparency Research and Advocacy Grants.
- Hire a consultant and develop methodology and Toolbox for the Transparency Observatory.
- Complete Training Modules for Government officials.
- Hire Senior Program Officers for the CPRG and CAP components.
- Contract a gender specialist consultant to conduct the Gender Assessment and recommend gender training content for all Impactos Program staff and CSOs.
- Training of Counterpart Honduras staff in Organizational Development OD and conduct OD assessment of CPRG ISOs.
- Provide technical assistance to the Rapid Response Fund grantee (ASJ) on the finalization of their awarded project and investigate the sustainability of the ALAC Center.
- Finalize CPRG Year Two PMP, IRS, and DQAs for USAID's final approval.
- Select two new additional CSOs to act as Intermediary Support Organizations (ISO). These new ISO partners will support CPRG to design, develop, customize, and deliver project-relevant training and technical assistance to specific grantees, CSO partners, and government agencies. Through the two

Comment [USAID27]: And training? This is urgent.

Comment [USAID28]: Please refer to comment #19 above.

Comment [USAID29]: The program should work with ASJ and TI to come up with a sustainability strategy.

Training and Implementation Grants (TIG), CPRG will focus on small and medium-sized organizations that are not necessarily part of a Federation or network of organizations as in the case of the existing ISOs FOPRIDEH and FOSDEH.

- Sign grant agreement for the first CAP Information Campaign with selected CSO/business, as well as grant agreements with four new CSOs in the new CAP target municipalities.
- Ensure that disbursements to partner CSOs are expeditious and timely and respond to the implementation of the approved workplans.
- Prepare the short list of CSOs participating in the new process to select CAP partner implementers in La Ceiba, Tela, Choluteca, and Santa Rosa de Copán.
- Together with partner CSOs and selected CSO/Communication Firm, design the CAP information campaign to carry positive messages on crime prevention to target communities.
- Conduct meetings with the Municipal Development or Prevention Committees of the cities of Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, Choloma, La Ceiba, Tela, Choluteca, and Santa Rosa de Copán.
- Hold organization and planning meetings with network and youth organizations leaders that have been mapped by CAP project.
- Continue with the articulation of the implementation initiative of CARSI-USAID projects, especially in order to define mechanisms, time frames, and communities where the project can intervene.
- Conduct the baseline in 20 CAP target communities for year two with the support of CSO implementers through community volunteers.