



COUNTERPART  
INTERNATIONAL



**SECOND QUARTERLY REPORT, YEAR TWO**

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

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Comment [KYR1]: I don't have this on file.

## **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.

During this Quarter, the Program signed 17 additional grant agreements. To date, the awards provided under CPRG total \$880,000 representing 26% of the total amount budgeted \$4,000,000 for the LOP. The Program staff put additional emphasize on capturing the project achievements by developing various promotional materials such as program weekly updates, interest stories, and bulletins outlining programmatic achievements. During this Quarter, a debriefing of the Program was presented to USAID Mission Director and the Democracy and Governance staff. The USAID team praised Counterpart for its achievements to-date and encouraged the *Impactos* team to come up with a series of rapid response interventions to further address the changing environment in country. In consultation with USAID, Counterpart will revise the project description, particularly reassessing certain strategies to meet the needs more rapidly respond to the social and political context of country. Counterpart also started to revise the Program's staffing structure in line with Program needs to ensure adequate programmatic and administrative support as well as better streamline roles and responsibilities among staff.

## **II. POLITICAL CONTEXT**

Violence and crime with no signs of resolution in the near future continue to be a part of everyday lives of citizens, a situation that is aggravated by the continued acts of corruption by the national police, throughout the public education sector, and within public transportation, among others. In addition, there is uncertainty generated by Honduras' growing national budget deficit, as well as constant disagreements between the government and the private sector, financing of political campaigns with funds from drug trafficking, and lack of control in prisons. Irregularities in the legislative and regulatory processes in Honduras continue to be the norm, adding complexity and unpredictability to the legal environment for civil society. This atmosphere of insecurity and uncertainty generates apathy among the citizens,

minimizing the search for collective solutions and maximizing the distrust of government actions to conclusively resolve the major challenges affecting the country.

The Government has failed to adequately address the continued deterioration in the security situation. Allegations that the son of a prominent Honduran academic was murdered by police officers have been the focus of extensive press coverage and public debate. There is an overarching pessimism regarding corruption within the security forces. The kidnapping and subsequent murder of the journalist Alfredo Villatoro<sup>1</sup> demonstrates that the national police is permeated by organized crime, and highlights the urgent need for an effective purge and reform of the security system as well as a process accompanied by the transparent application of justice to those involved in illegal actions. "The ordinary people" increasingly perceive that the authorities have lost control; common and organized crime take hold of and permeate new social, political, and economical strata. Although it has been several months since the police crisis erupted, there is still no political will to implement the process of police vetting. Surprisingly, ruling politicians have recently been hinting at the possibility of militarizing the National Police.

In addition to police corruption, the conflict in the agricultural sector belies additional problems for citizens. In recent months, social movements and disputes over land tenure have become acute. These movements and disputes have been highlighted by: military intervention in eviction of citizens in land tenure disputes; a struggle for power control and for territories between landowners, drug traffickers, and farmers for the management of highly productive and strategically located land; and allegations of human rights violations. In addition to this and to further aggravate the situation, the National Agrarian Institute (INA), has initiated proceedings to expropriate land being cultivated by private companies operating with national and international capital in order to assign them to farmers' organizations that claim ownership. However, newspapers still publish stories about corruption and trafficking of land titles in urban areas where 78% of the population is living illegally, waiting for new plots of land.

Recently an audit of the Prosecutions Division against Corruption within the Prosecutors Office was performed covering the period of June 2009 to June 2010, before meeting the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) to the Public Ministry. Among the findings, it is mentioned that there are prosecutors who carry 459 cases that have not solved at minimum a third of them. Additionally, 3,306 corruption cases were recorded in 2009, of which 548 were crimes of corruption, 2,690 administrative offenses, and 68 were tax offenses. Of these, only 3% of all cases have been prosecuted and 97% are supposedly under investigation<sup>2</sup>. Given these findings, the only action that has visibly been taken was the removal from office of the Attorney General against Corruption, reassigning him to another area to perform similar functions, without revealing to the public concrete measures to remedy the alleged situations.

The tax issue has also occupied the public agenda during this period, keeping both the government and private enterprise in controversial situations. Under the argument of increasing the tax revenue, the government has tightened fiscal measures, and many trade activities and domestic savings have been taxed at higher rates. Currently, the development of the country's fiscal policy has no clear path. The Secretariat/Ministry of Finance has made clear the intention to repeal all tax exemptions applicable to national taxpayers (private company, unions, NGOs). These unsolved confrontations cause an atmosphere of instability and uncertainty. Some influential business investors have been informing the public that they are ready to pull out their investments to neighboring countries where legal certainty and fiscal policies are more promising.

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<sup>1</sup> With the murder of Armando Villatoro, a total of 25 journalists have been assassinated in Honduras.

<sup>2</sup> Publication from La Tribuna Newspaper, Monday June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Another sector that is in constant conflict is public education, with continuous and on-going strikes by teachers being a tangible result. Corruption and administrative disorder at different levels of the system are elements that tarnish the Ministry of Education. The sale and trafficking of teacher positions continues being an outstanding finding in social audits performed by Asociación Para un Sociedad más Justa (ASJ), where politicians are involved, as well as representatives of teacher unions and officials from the Ministry of Education.

The provision of public services such as health, transport, electricity, and infrastructure such as roads are not excluded from the poor quality of attention to citizen demands. Because of these issues, the government is exposed to constant complaints and protests. The measure commonly used by citizens to call attention to and protest the situation is road blocking and public building takeovers. These actions usually end up as citizen confrontations with police and military forces.

In this context of social conflict, political excitement arises ahead of the internal primary elections, which political parties celebrate in November. Currently, politicians inside and outside the current administration address the critical issues of the country from an open political campaign perspective. Under this atmosphere of insecurity, crime, corruption, and political campaigns, government action has not been effective. The rifts between President Lobo and members of Cabinet, and the lack of separation of powers have often left the country's administration in poor position.

During this Quarter, the leader of the Commission of CSOs that drafted the Regulations in collaboration with Ministry of Governance officials reported that the President had signed off on the version recommended by the Commission.<sup>3</sup> He further reported that the Regulations would be published in the official Gazette as early as the beginning of July.

While insecurity affects the entire population, CSOs – notably those dedicated to public sector oversight – report that they are particularly vulnerable to threats and attacks in retaliation for exposing corruption or human rights abuses.

### **III. ANALYSIS**

The political context that exists in Honduras makes it increasingly challenging to implement the CPRG Program. However, for CSO partners, these challenges represent opportunities for action, to the extent that they can contribute to better governance, redirecting with a sense of urgency the course that the country will take.

According to political analyst and sociologist Eugenio Sosa, “The democratic process in Honduras is in a state of exhaustion, where historical problems such as poverty and inequality converge with new problems such as organized crime and drug trafficking, a combination that today shows an institutional structure worn and eroded by impunity”. Despite this dark overview of the situation, CSOs implementing the Impactos Program show interest in becoming involved in public affairs under a strategy of purposeful dialogue aimed at strengthening public institutions. Although the topics defined for monitoring the actions of the Government of Honduras and the influencing processes in public policies are complex, CSOs have taken up the challenge by submitting proposals on priority issues with new and innovative actions for civil society. During the reporting period, a total of 17 projects led by 14 CSOs sought to advocate for greater transparency and accountability to 30 Federal Government and local governments

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<sup>3</sup> While the CSO Commission assured ICNL that the version of the Regulations in the hands of President Lobo is identical to the version put forth by the sector, ICNL has not been able to obtain a copy. ICNL was informed early in the next Quarter that President Lobo's top advisor for civil society insisted on reviewing the Regulations before the President signed them; that she had not yet completed her review; and that the President had therefore not yet formally approved the Regulations.

institutions. (Refer to Annex B Table with Grantees and description of their awarded projects by type of Grant)

Civil society initiatives supported by CPRG are developed in a polarized political environment and often overwhelmed by a culture of fear that requires joint strategies and fluid communication between different actors involved in the program. CSOs recognize that this joint strategizing is necessary in order to promote true synergies to push in one bipartisan direction, such as combating corruption and transparent accountability. An example of the achievements of joint strategy can be seen in the wake of negotiations among members of the Ministry of Finance, who finally provided CPRG ISO partner FOSDEH with a new link to display government financial information on the Ministry of Finance's website. In recent months (February-June 2012), access to the country's financial information was not possible through the Integrated Financial Management System (SIAFI), thus limiting the surveillance of public finances and public access to information that should have been available to the public in accordance with the provisions of the Law on Access to Public Information.

As part of the same strategy, CPRG is supporting a regional initiative of a pilot program for Honduras' "Accountability and Citizen Participation" of the Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Supreme Audit Institutions OLACEFs<sup>4</sup>. The activities developed with the support of the Program include training of 35 Multipliers for Deliberation and Construction of the National Agenda on Accountability, grant recipients, and active CSOs on the issue of Transparency and Accountability of public management will participate in this initiative. The pilot project has three components: 1. Building a National Agenda for Accountability and Citizen Participation, 2. Active citizens monitoring recommendations made for improving the accountability of public institutions, and 3. Strengthening municipal capacities for accountability and citizen participation.

Honduras faces an upcoming electoral process next year. Amidst the growing campaign promises of the traditional parties and new political parties registered, politicians and citizens are becoming more in tuned to platform issues of Honduras. Although the political campaign has been officially initiated, the Program has yet to receive a grant application that involves monitoring of the electoral process. Thus, the Program will make concerted efforts to include applications for monitoring main elections in 2013.

The CSOs' awareness on their role as advocates for the government's transparency and accountability is gradually increasing. It is also expected that, as a result of the technical and financial support provided by the Impactos Program, CSOs will focus their efforts towards increasing civic participation and activism, as well as tap into the existing and emerging social monitoring mechanisms, such as observatories, citizen report cards, etc. Consequently, the general public will become more aware of their civic rights and demand transparency and accountability of their public institutions. Our experience shows that the advocacy CSOs are lacking targeted advocacy experience that entails information-based advocacy interventions coupled with constituency building and negotiation skills, especially when working with the respective public institutions such as the Supreme Court of Accounts, the Institute of Access to Public Information (IAIP), and other relevant public and government entities. Counterpart will work with these organizations to build their advocacy capacity along with overall institutional capacity to create reliable and respected advocates on behalf of their constituency.

Lack of transparency and accountability clearly prevails among government institutions. However, the civil society sector also is heavily criticized in this regard as well. Thus, before the CSOs can become catalysts of transparency and accountability, they need to first master these exact values themselves. In

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<sup>4</sup> The Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Supreme Audit Institutions (OLACEFS) is an international, autonomous, independent, apolitical, and permanent organization. Its objectives are as follows: Conduct scientific investigation; Develop study, training and specialization; and, Provide technical advice, assistance, and coordination for the SAIs of Latin America and the Caribbean.

response to this need, Counterpart will work with its partner ISOs to build the CSOs capacity through customized trainings and technical assistance to help them become effective organizations by acquiring organizational sustainability requirements demanded by the NGOD Law and international standards. A self-regulation system could bolster the legitimacy of the sector by helping CSOs to demonstrate that they are well governed and managed, and that they are contributing to Honduran development.

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

During this Quarter, both the CPRG and CAP components have successfully moved forward in grant dispersion and monitoring. Additionally, the Program has convened CSOs, partner ISOs, and CAP ISCPs for workshops, dialogs, and the initiation of building a coalition in Transparency and Security.

Program highlights during the reporting period include:

- Partner ISOs have prioritized the development of tools and methodologies to enable local CSOs to conduct oversight and social audits to advocate for transparency and accountability of 19 public institutions and 37 local governments.
- FOPRIDEH's activities have been focused on advocating in various public policies, with special emphasis on monitoring the final issuance of the NGOD Law and its Regulations. This Law
- As part of their scope, FOSDEH is building its member organizations capacity to promote civic participation in monitoring the appropriate implementation of the government's fiscal policy, specifically related to budget planning, at national, regional and municipal levels. Additionally, FOSDEH is advocating for the issuance of norms to regulate the execution of budgets without imputation of funds that were not originally budgeted, based on generally accepted international norms.
- CPRG formed a panel with Honduran experts to discuss the "Challenges of Honduran Civil Society in Advocating for Transparency and Accountability of Public Institutions, and the Current National Financial Situation". The panel was attended by 50 participants from 14 CSOs.
- CPRG, in collaboration with the High Court of Accounts (TSC) and with the technical support from the Corporation Acción Ciudadana Colombia, developed a workshop in Tegucigalpa. More than 20 representatives of 9 partner CSOs, 5 representatives of 2 Regional Transparency Commission Networks, and 15 public institution staff members were trained to act as "Multipliers of Debate" (CSOs trained to host civil debate) to actively participate in the design of the Government's 2012 National Accountability Agenda. Participants were trained on the art of debate as an important mechanism for creating open dialogue, encouraging critical thinking and promoting listening. It is the structured nature of debate that provides a valuable opportunity for participants to engender and promote concepts of free expression, respect for varied opinions, and tolerance for divergent ideas in reaching solutions regarding the accountability of public institutions.
- The CPRG Rapid Response Fund grant recipient "Association for a Just Society (ASJ)" published two social audits on the National Education System. The first one was done with the collaboration of more than 189 volunteers (mostly parents) that helped audit 49 education centers from the Departments of Olancho, Choluteca, and Comayagua. The second audit was the examination of information, including the number of class days (200 per school year), a school platform called

“Educational Monitoring”<sup>5</sup>, textbooks, and free school annual enrollment that will be used as a tool to monitor teachers that work in the National Education System.

- Counterpart signed 17 grant agreements to conduct 6 National Government Oversight projects, 3 Public Information Campaigns and 8 Transparency Research and Advocacy Projects. The citizen participation mechanisms to be implemented by the awardees are: research, social audits, observatories of national and municipal budgets, transparency index at national and municipal levels, and public campaigns. To date, the awards provided under CPRG total US\$880,000, representing 26% of the total amount budgeted at US\$4,000,000 for the LOP. Through these 17 grant projects, CPRG will be reaching 60 CSOs, 33 public institutions, and 37 local governments. (Refer to Annex A.)
- Project staff continued monitoring the implementation of the 2 previously awarded Training and Implementation Grants (TIGs) for the Intermediary Support Organizations (ISOs) FOPRIDEH and FOSDEH and is working with the Rapid Response Fund grantee ASJ to develop a sustainability strategy of the Advocacy and Legal Advisory Center (ALAC) established in Tegucigalpa. The team and ASJ are also considering a possible expansion of ALAC using a methodology of Help Desks at municipal levels in the Northern Region of the Country.
- A local consultant was hired to design a methodology and toolbox to establish CPRG’s CSO Transparency Observatory. The consultancy is also developing a methodology for the development of a “Learning and Knowledge Community of CSOs” that are currently working on public institutions’ transparency and accountability issues. The Learning and Knowledge Community of CSOs will allow CSOs to exchange experiences in their advocacy initiatives for transparency and accountability of public institutions. These experiences, once documented, can also be shared nationally and internationally. The Transparency Observatory is a space for strategic analysis for the CSOs, much like a think tank, to generate knowledge and foster and ability to propose new advocacy initiatives to respond to the national and local contexts.
- CPRG has completed an Assessment of Training Needs of its participating CSOs. During the assessment, 96 CSO staff members from 41 CSOs were interviewed. 34% percent of the participating CSOs received CPRG grants. The assessment provides a characterization of the experiences of both the CSOs and their staff, as well as identifies four key areas to be strengthened through training developed by the ISOs for CSOs participating in the Program: CSO Organizational Development, Project Management Cycle, Citizen Advocacy and Watchdog Capabilities, and Institutional and Staff Security.
- Counterpart and ICNL introduced the theme of a Self-Regulatory System to improve CSO accountability practices. Two workshops were held for local CSOs with the following themes: "A Conversation on Security and CSOs: The Honduran and International Reality Lessons", and "Introduction to Self-Regulatory Systems for CSOs". The response of CSOs was enthusiastic and more than 50 people applied for registration in both workshops.
- During this Quarter, several voluntary groups of the Programs’ target communities have participated in the process of preparing community diagnostics and baselines of the project. About 50 volunteers participated in the process of conducting their community baseline surveys in 20 target communities, and approximately 400 community leaders have shown commitment and interest in improving the situation of their communities by joining the Community

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<sup>5</sup> More details: [www.monitoreoeducativo.com](http://www.monitoreoeducativo.com)

Revitalization Committees (CRCs). About 20 young volunteers worked in typing the information of the surveys conducted for the preparation of the baseline in the communities. For this reason, the project has proposed to stimulate the support of community volunteers as a way to strengthen the technical work developed by the implementing partners, and to also generate greater identification of the communities with their projects.

- During the introduction of CAP to CSOs, local authorities, and community organizations in the city of Tela, two CSOs proposed an initiative to create a coalition of CSOs with the purpose of joint work to achieve common goals and projects for the benefit of the population of the municipality. This initiative, Coalición de la Sociedad Civil de Tela (COSOCITELA), demonstrated an interest and willingness of these organizations to coordinate and work together, expressed by over 15 social and community organizations grouped in this coalition. This joint effort was selected by the Program for an ISCP grant to implement a project based on violence prevention in the community, and that grant agreement will be signed early next Quarter. In the future, this initiative can be crucial to the work in this city on issues of civic participation and municipal public policy advocacy.
- After assessing CSOs working in Honduras (please refer to Findings and Recommendations of the CPRG CSO Assessment Report for more information), Counterpart concluded that there was a need to introduce its Organizational Development (OD) Methodology to the Program's CSO strengthening and capacity building approach. An OD workshop to train Impactos staff and the Counterpart Guatemala Program team was conducted in Copan in April. Following the training, a sample OD assessment was conducted with one of Counterpart's ISCP grantees working in Copan Ruins (CASM). This assessment pilot aimed to better adapt Counterpart's OD methodology to reflect the Honduran reality, as well as to adjust it to meet the specific needs of partners. The OD expert trained Impactos staff to conduct organizational assessments of the ISO partners FOPRIDEH and FOSDEH under the CPRG component of the program. The outcome of the training was the production of a tailored OD Manual available to the trained Impactos team to assess and help train CSOs with emphasis on the ISOs. Follow-up OD trainings will take place early FY 2013.

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

##### **Objective 1: Improve Effectiveness of Civil Society to Advocate for Transparency and Accountability of Public Institutions**

###### *1.2 - Establish and Initiate CPRG Grant Facility.*

During the reporting period, the Grants team disbursed funding to newly selected CPRG and CAP grantees, and provided a second disbursement of funds to existing grantees. To better respond to the needs of the Program, specifically for the oversight of more than 180 Program grants during the LOP and provide quality financial and accountability training to the grantees of both components, Counterpart hired an additional Grants Manager.

###### *1.3 - Award New Training and Implementation Grants (TIGs) and Monitor Implementation of Previously Awarded TIGs.*

The Program has continued monitoring the implementation of the two ISO partners: FOPRIDEH and FOSDEH. FOPRIDEH's activities have focused on public policy advocacy, with special emphasis on monitoring the final issuance of the NGO-D Law and its Regulations, as a means to help create an enabling environment for the work of organized civil society and its contribution to the development of the country. FOPRIDEH has developed the following five themes with its CSOs working on social audits in 33 municipalities across the country: **1.** Social Audit to 5 municipalities on performance of public services delivered to citizens of the central region, based on the Law of Public Servants (CODE); **2.**

Social Audits on the operations and management of seven Municipal Corporations of the South Region; **3.** Social Audits on the execution of Local Economic Development Programs under the institutional framework of Four Municipal Strategic Development Plans in Olancho Department; **4.** Social Audits on the adequate implementation of the Access to Public Information Law in nine municipios of the North Region; and **5.** Social Audits on the application of the New Education Law, in three Departmental Directions and Education Districts in eight municipalities of the western region. (Refer to Annex D: CSOs' Projects by type of mechanisms that are supported.) Through Program support, FOPRIDEH has developed four manuals as practical guides to social audit processes. The manuals are a) Participatory Techniques for Debate, b) Social Audits, c) Popular version of the Access to Public, d) Information Law, and e) Training Tools for Public Employees.

Under the Impactos Program, FOSDEH is strengthening the civic participation skills of its member organizations and citizens in monitoring the implementation of the fiscal policy at the national, regional and municipal levels. FOSDEH is advocating for the issuance of norms to regulate the execution of budgets without imputation of funds that were not originally budgeted, based on generally accepted international norms. FOSDEH has advocated for the issuance of regulations on clear allocation, imputation and, over time, distribution of costs of the national budget, based on generally accepted international norms. FOSDEH has also developed 4 publications to educate the public on budget monitoring. Furthermore, FOSDEH developed the following publications with the support from the Program: **1.** Manual on Concepts of Public Budget (a tool illustrating the cycle of budget planning); **2.** Pamphlet with legal guidance (tools to guide the oversight of financial execution and reconciliation of public budgets); **3.** Pamphlet with the Concept and Methodology for the Regional Observatory of Transparency and Fiscal Execution; **4.** Pocket booklet publication of the budgetary cycle at the municipal and national levels, identifying actors, timeframes, process, and opportunities for citizen participation to ensure transparency of fiscal execution.

#### *1.4 - Design and Deliver Customized Program Trainings.*

The Program has successfully completed the first training needs assessment for the CSOs that directly or indirectly benefit from the training and institutional strengthening activities provided by CPRG's partner ISOs, FOPRIDEH and FOSDEH. The main purpose of this assessment was to identify the training needs of the benefactor CSOs' staff, which, in turn, would enable Counterpart and its ISOs to design and facilitate training and technical assistance plan that contributes to achieving the Program's goal "to increase transparency and accountability of public institutions through the support of initiatives led by civil society." This assessment also served as a baseline, aimed at identifying factors that will help both Counterpart and local partners to enhance their contribution in creating a more transparent, just, and democratic Honduras. The assessment revealed that the main training needs are: **1.** OD, with special emphasis on developing strategies for financial sustainability and institutional marketing; **2.** project management cycle: design, management, monitoring, and evaluation of projects; **3.** Advocacy and citizen oversight with emphasis on the development of citizenship's advocacy capacities; **4.** Institutional Safety and Security: due to a rapid increase of common and organized crime, CSOs are required to establish systems to reduce risks and manage crises.

This assessment is useful to the following users: **a.** USAID: to help evaluate, design, and monitor programs related to institutional strengthening of Honduran CSOs involved in working in transparency and accountability of public institutions; **b.** Counterpart: to enable the Impactos Program and local partners to design training programs tailored to the needs of Honduran CSOs; **c.** Honduran CSOs and individuals interested in the subject: to identify opportunities for capacity building and/or use the results discussed in this assessment as inputs for other research or development proposals.

#### *1.5 - Support the Establishment and Activities of a National Transparency Coalition and Civic Movement.*

The activity will begin at the end of the next Quarter and its strategic development will demand a process that will last until the second Quarter of FY 2013 before the Coalition and Civic Movement is established.

Nevertheless, last Quarter Counterpart opened dialog with 28 CSOs and the 2 ISOs for the establishment of a National Transparency Coalition and Civic Movement. All CSOs and ISOs have voiced their interest and need of such a coalition. However, due to the situation that Honduras is facing as described above, the Program has identified the need to hire an outside Advocacy Expert to provide specialized training to CPRG staff and its CSOs to identify the strategic approach to develop the Coalition and movement. This consultancy would use inputs developed by the Program such as: CSOs projects, Observatory findings and recommendations, Training Assessments needs, and conclusions and commitments resulting from the Regional Transparency International Forum that will take place early FY2012 in Tegucigalpa.

*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 conducted simultaneously, though they are managed as three separate grant processes. For the three processes, 73 Letters of Interest were received; 37 projects were reviewed by the Program. The funds were awarded to 17 initiatives led by 14 CSOs. It bears mentioning that from the 14 CSOs, 3 were awarded funds for two different projects.

Between May 31 and June 4, Counterpart signed agreements with 14 CSOs to conduct six National Government Oversight projects, three Public Information Campaigns, and eight Transparency Research and Advocacy projects. The citizen participation mechanisms to be implemented by the awardees include: research, social audits, observatories of national and municipal budgets, transparency index at national and municipal levels, and public campaigns. To date, the awards provided under CPRG total US\$880,000, representing 26% of the total amount budgeted (US\$4,000,000) for the LOP. With the 17 awarded projects, CPRG will be reaching 60 CSOs, 33 public institutions, and 37 local governments. Around 30 Central Government offices will be subjected to citizen oversight. From the 14 participating CSOs, at least 11 will be accompanied by grassroots organizations to carry out oversight and advocacy actions. The CSOs will use different mechanisms of citizen participation such as social audits, citizen observatories, investigations on bribes, budget performance, contracting processes for goods and services, and public campaigns to raise awareness and create a culture of permanent surveillance on public resources. The CPRG grantee projects focus on dynamic topics such as: fiscal policy and national budget planning; cases of human rights violations; grants (departmental fund) by Congressmen of the National Congress; process for the policy purge; corruption and bribery actions in government offices; hiring teachers and procurement of textbooks; Law of Access to Public Information at central government and local government levels; confidentiality on the National Budget Project and management of budget assigned to maintaining the road towards the country's western region.

*1.7 Provide Targeted Consultations on National Government Oversight and Increased Government Transparency.*

As mentioned, 14 CSOs have been funded for oversight activities, research, and public campaigns. To provide technical assistance to CSOs, the Program identified consultants who can provide technical assistance to CSOs to implement initiatives in the Central Government Oversight and Research in Transparency. Some examples of the work that cadre consultants have assisted include: a) Democracia Sin Fronteras is using consulting services to investigate corruption in ten public institutions and to apply citizen surveys; b) The project will feature C-Libre consulting services for the design and validation of a Municipal Transparency Index, based on the fulfillment of the Law on Access to Public Information; c) The Project of the Asociacion para Sociedad Mas Justa (ASJ) will be assisted by a consultant to investigate the processes of teacher recruitment and the procurement and delivery of textbooks.

Eight funded projects will hire experts to implement their projects. While not all experts identified by the CSOs are in the cadre of consultants leading the program, all consultants' profiles were analyzed together with CPRG and CSOs. It has been agreed to with CSOs during the implementation of projects that

Impactos will provide technical assistance to CSOs in preparing terms of reference for consultancies. This will ensure directed and high quality consultancies for CSOs.

In mid-May, CPRG organized a panel discussion with Honduran experts to confer about the “Challenges of Honduran Civil Society in Advocating for Transparency and Accountability of Public Institutions, and the Current National Financial Situation”. The panel was attended by 50 participants, representatives of grantee CSOs. The panelists shared information on approaches and experiences that contribute to good governance with the active participation of civil society in monitoring and oversight of transparency and accountability in government entities. The panelists were: Ileana Morales of the Social Forum of External Debt and Development of Honduras (FOSDEH), Jose Filadelfo Martinez, Independent Consultant expert in civil society; Eugenio Sosa, a sociologist and political analyst and the well-known journalist; and Sandra Maribel Sánchez the moderator of the forum. The panel of experts discussed three topics related to the challenges and opportunities currently faced by CSOs. These challenges were analyzed by a diverse group of CSOs who are the protagonists in the Program. The challenges included: lack of analysis of the diverse group of CSOs who are the protagonists in the Program; lack of analysis of the willingness and readiness of public institutions to begin the process of reform which the Program aims to inspire; and lack of in-depth discussion of recent legislation and decisions made by the current administration in regards to the national budget. The panel allowed CSOs participating in Program to contextualize their project proposals based on the updated juncture regarding opportunities and challenges to work in transparency and accountability of the GOH, which they would be facing while developing their projects and the need to work in alliances to overcome the barriers.

Impactos, in collaboration with the High Court of Accounts (TSC) and technical support from the Corporation Accion Ciudadana Colombia, developed a workshop during May 24-25th in Tegucigalpa. More than 20 representatives of 9 CSOs grantees of the Project, 5 representatives of 2 Regional Transparency Commission Networks and 15 public institution staff were trained to act as “Multipliers of Debate” (trained CSO members who can host civic debate) to actively participate in the design of the Government’s 2012 National Accountability Agenda. The objectives of the event were: 1) to train representatives of CSOs and public institutions in the use of the methodological tools to jointly lead the design of the Government’s National Accountability Agenda with Citizen Participation, and 2) to design a plan to formulate and actively conduct the Government’s National Accountability Agenda. Participants were trained on the art of debate as an important mechanism for creating open dialogue, encouraging critical thinking and promoting listening. It is the structured nature of debate that provides a valuable opportunity for participants to engender and promote concepts of free expression, respect for varied opinions, and tolerance for divergent ideas in reaching solutions regarding the accountability of public institutions.

A local consultant was hired to design a methodology for the development of a “Learning and Knowledge Community of CSOs” that are currently working on public institutions’ transparency and accountability issues. The Learning and Knowledge Community of CSOs will allow CSOs to exchange experiences in their advocacy initiatives for transparency and accountability of public institutions. These experiences, once documented, can also be shared nationally and internationally. The Transparency Observatory is a space for strategic analysis for the CSOs, much like a think tank, to generate knowledge and foster and ability to propose new advocacy initiatives to respond to the national and local contexts.

#### *1.8 - Introduce a Self-Regulatory System to Improve CSO Accountability Practices and 1.10 – Support Efforts to Improve Civil Society Operating Environment.*

ICNL prepared a brief introduction to self-regulation systems along with a survey of prior self-regulation practices for dissemination to the Program’s network of CSOs. The survey revealed that 65% of the 20 CSOs that responded to the questionnaire have had some experience in this area, and 95% of them would be willing to engage in a new system of self-regulation. The survey results will be shared with the ISOs, in order to facilitate further discussion of self-regulation systems and the possibility of establishing a

similar initiative in Honduras. Worldwide, CSOs have benefitted from self-regulation systems that document and promote good CSO governance and effective management. ICNL introduced several models of self-regulation systems: self-certification; peer review; evaluation by an independent entity; certification by an independent entity; and a prize for top performers, with real-life examples of each from different countries. Such initiatives as accountability and quality control have proved useful for CSOs to improve the public image of the sector. In Honduras, CSOs have been stigmatized by governments and the sector's reputation may have been undermined by notorious instances of bad practices by CSOs. Additionally, many CSOs simply desired to improve their own transparency.

As part of the work done in partnership with ICNL to introduce a Self-Regulatory System to Improve CSO Accountability Practices, two workshops for local CSOs were held in June with the following themes: "A Conversation on Security and CSOs: The Honduran and International Reality Lessons" and "Introduction to Self-Regulatory Systems for CSOs". The response of CSOs was enthusiastic and effective; more than 50 people applied for registration in both workshops. The workshops were focused on demonstrating different models of self-regulatory, comparing them with the ones currently used in Honduras. The CSOs will determine the viability of implementing a self-regulation system consistent with the national reality and applied in general, with no regard to the type and size of the organizations that wish to implement it. As a result of the workshops, the participating organizations identified possible characteristics that a self-regulation system could include, as well as potential obstacles to implement it. Simultaneously, various CSOs expressed their desire to continue forward on this path and determine the viability of implementing such a system. By the end of the Quarter, there have been a total of four workshops that the Program has facilitated, reaching more than 80 participants from 30 CSOs in Honduras to improve their effectiveness to advocate for transparency and accountability of public institutions.

#### *1.10 – Support Efforts to Improve Civil Society Operating Environment*

During this Quarter, the Program provided technical support to plan and develop activities for a consultancy to map existing laws governing public funding for the NGO sector. This will assist NGOs in mapping existing laws and procedures affecting government funding for the sector, identifying areas for improvement, and providing comparative information that will support NGO advocacy for more transparent implementation. It will also assist CSOs in understanding and complying with the NGOD Law. A CPRG hired consultant is preparing plain language reference guidebooks on NGOD Law rights and responsibilities. Three regional workshops for CSOs will be conducted next Quarter in order to promote the understanding of rights and responsibilities set forth in the NGOD Law.

#### *1.12 - Organize CSO Networking, Collaboration, and Coordination Events.*

In partnership with ASJ and Transparency International (TI), the Program began preparation for the III TI Forum for Central America and the Dominican Republic. This will be held in Tegucigalpa at the beginning of the next fiscal year.

### **Objective 2: 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.*

Despite an atmosphere of social instability in Honduras, now more than ever CSOs have the opportunity and the responsibility to advocate in the Superior Court of Accounts (TSC), which is the flagship for the Institution for Transparency and Accountability of the Public Administration (IAIP). The TSC is in the process of building a National Accountability Agenda, and for the first time ever, is including CSOs in this process and discussions. As we are witnessing such opportunities rising and enabling CSOs to take a more active participatory role, it is absolutely imperative for CSOs to build a unified front and minimize existing fragmentation, polarization, and replication of work. Only by coming together with a shared goal and unified voice can CSOs succeed in their efforts and gain the trust and respect that is currently lacking. To address this need, the Impactos Program will work with CSOs to establish a Transparency

Observatory, which will help unite CSOs around a common cause. The Observatory shall have two functions: it will serve as a mechanism for the continuous mapping of challenges and opportunities, and serve as a network of organizations that share best practices and exchange knowledge concerning social audits. During the upcoming reporting period, the Impactos team will work on developing a strategy, methodology, and tools for the establishment of the Observatory.

The consultancy products are: Methodology for the Establishment of a Transparency Observatory, Identifying Mechanisms for On-going Mapping of Challenges and Opportunities and their Toolbox; and the Methodology for a Community of Knowledge of Civil Society on Transparency.

*2.2 - Facilitate Collaborative Partnerships and Dialogue Channels between CSOs and Public Entities and 2.4 - Support Joint CSO / Government Transparency Project Initiatives.*

In collaboration with the TSC and with technical support from the Corporation Accion Ciudadana Colombia, the Program developed a workshop from May 24-25th in Tegucigalpa. More than 20 representatives of 9 partner CSOs, 5 representatives of 2 Regional Transparency Commission Networks, and 15 public institution staff members were trained to act as Multipliers of Debate to actively participate in the design of the Government's 2012 National Accountability Agenda. Participants were trained on the art of debate as an important mechanism for creating open dialogue, encouraging critical thinking and promoting listening. It is the structured nature of debate that provides a valuable opportunity for participants to engender and promote concepts of free expression, respect for varied opinions, and tolerance for divergent ideas in reaching solutions regarding the accountability of public institutions.

Through the 6 Oversight and 8 Research and Transparency Grants recently awarded to 14 CSOs, dialogue and relationships will be established with at least 19 public entities, including: the Institute of Access to Public Information (IAIP); TSC; National Congress; Human Right Attorney Office; Ministry of Health, Ministry Education, Ministry Planning (SECPLAN); Ministry of Finance (SEFIN); Ministry of Public Works, Transportation and Housing (SOPTRAVI); and the Vice President's Office/Unit.

*2.3 Deliver Targeted and Demand-Driven Training and Technical Assistance to Government Officials.*

During this Quarter, technical assistance has been provided to FOPRIDEH for the preparation of the training module on Law for Transparency and Access to Public Information. This training module will first be used for training-of-trainers (ToTs), and later it will be used to train government officials. The training for government officials will be conducted within conducting social audits to take place under the TIG, and will be conducted next Quarter.

Within the framework of the FOSDEH project, a Municipal Budget Manual and another practical manual with design for a quick consultation on National and Municipal Budget were prepared. These documents are inputs to develop training workshops for CSOs, as well as for government officials. FOSDEH also conducted three training workshops on Participatory National and Municipal Budget Planning, for representatives of municipalities in south and central Honduras and the Sula Valley region.

For development of future training workshops for CSOs and government officials, the ISOs have agreed to share with CSOs their training materials and methodology. However, each ISO will determine the most appropriate training methodologies based the geographic area of operation (National, Regional and Municipal), and the actors involved in the implementation of Citizen Observatories and social audits of National and Municipal Budgets.

*2.6 - Establish and Award Rapid Response Grants.*

Through an Impactos grant, ASJ established the Advocacy and Legal Advisory Anticorruption Center (ALAC) in Tegucigalpa. The goal of the project is to establish centers that can receive and monitor corruption related complaints. These centers are available for all citizens, and offer an anonymous and

confidential system where citizens who are victims of or witness to corruption can report these cases of corruption and demand transparency and accountability from government institutions. In these first months of operation, the ALAC has received a large number of reports. These reports are analyzed by the ALAC team, who consider the type of reports as well as their source. A significant amount of cases are from the northern region of Honduras. Based on this, the Program and ASJ are discussing project continuity and expansion to the northern region, with the hope of tackling corruption with emphasis in the education and health public systems. (Refer to Annex D.)

#### **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 CSO Implementing Partners.*

The Impactos team continued monitoring the progress of the five CSOs partners selected in the first quarter of 2012 through site visits and reports submitted by the grantees. Project Logical Frameworks and work plans were reviewed with grantees to ensure appropriate progress and reporting. The Impactos Grants team also conducted individual workshops for grantees to reinforce financial and grant reporting and accounting backup systems.

Furthermore, in June, the Grants team led training sessions for 23 CSOs to guide them in the management of their awarded grants. As a result of this assistance, the quality of the financial reports and support documentation has improved. This approach has allowed the Program to develop a professional relationship and improved communication with the grantee organizations. The organizations have expressed their satisfaction with the support and training provided to them, and they acknowledge that, historically, the technical support to the administrative departments has been very scarce from other donors

Follow-up workshops with all the administrative and accounting teams of the Impactos Program grantees will be developed to reinforce financial management of their grants and to exchange experiences for joint learning and strengthening.

During the reporting period, a short list of 10 CSOs was prepared for the Institutional Strengthening and Civic Participation Grants (ISCPG) to administer project implementation in four new municipalities (La Ceiba, Tela, Santa Rosa de Copan, and Choluteca). An orientation workshop for the short-listed CSOs was delivered in Tegucigalpa to explain the grant proposal process, as well as offer technical and financial advice. The Impactos team conducted due-diligence visits to the short-listed CSOs as part of Counterpart's grant selection process. Out of 10 proposals, 4 organizations were selected and approved by USAID, one for each target municipality. The selected grantee organizations were: CEPROSAF, La Ceiba; COSOCITELA, Tela; ADELSAR, Santa Rosa de Copan; and CIPE-Consultores, Choluteca.

###### *1.2 – Conduct Project Outreach Activities.*

During this Quarter, a grant agreement for \$20,000 was signed with the CSO Libre Expresión to design and develop CAP's first information campaign in the 20 target communities. One of the methods used by the grantee for the information campaigns is the use of youth camps that allow youth to congregate in a productive education setting and interact with their peers and work together to produce positive messages to share with the rest of their community.

###### *1.3 – Conduct a Community Rapid Assessment in the Potential Communities of Intervention.*

Twenty community assessments (in the twenty target communities) have been completed, which provided information on prioritized issues of each community and existing opportunities to work on violence prevention. These assessments included the input of Municipal Prevention Committees. During the process of conducting the diagnostics, volunteer work of members of the communities was a key factor in achieving

results. The CAP team provided technical assistance to CSOs and community volunteers to develop the protocols and necessary forms to prepare the diagnostics, and accompanied the process of gathering the information ensured the analysis and sharing of collected information. The CAP staff also designed a baseline protocol and a survey for the twenty communities with community volunteers and the CSOs.

Two workshops were developed to train technicians of CSO implementing partners and community volunteers on the baseline survey. The first workshop in Tegucigalpa included representatives from CDH and CIPRODEH, with 25 volunteers from eight communities, and the second workshop in San Pedro Sula included representatives from Children International, CASM, and FUNADEH, with 25 volunteers from twelve target communities in San Pedro Sula and Choloma.

In April, Impactos and the CSO implementing partners, planned, organized and led a workshop for community leaders of the 20 target communities in the city of Siguatepeque. Participants met to discuss the results of the diagnostics made in their communities. Meetings have also been held at a municipal level with the municipalities of San Pedro Sula, Tegucigalpa, and Choloma, to introduce the diagnostics to the municipal authorities and Municipal Prevention Committees.

After completing the surveys in the target communities, CSO implementing partners prepared a final report to document the 20 community assessments, which were delivered in digital format to the Impactos. (Refer to Annex E for an example assessment.)

#### *1.4 – Establish and Strengthen Community Revitalization Councils (CRCs) in Each Community.*

CAP's implementing partners in the municipalities of Central District, San Pedro Sula, and Choloma held several meetings and visits to identify leaders who are committed to integrate the CRCs in each community. Approximately 400 community members, including women heads of family, youth leaders, religious leaders, and teachers of the 20 target communities were reached to explain the integration of CRCs.

The five CSO implementing partners followed a process of identification and outreach with community leaders in the 20 target communities. The main task was to identify potential leaders and community stakeholders that could form the CRCs. Between 40 and 60 community leaders per community were identified. As a result of the previous identification, each CSO, along with CAP staff, met with community leaders to motivate them to take part of the integration of CRCs. Only 15 to 20 members were elected by the communities to integrate each CRC. Other individuals identified by each community are supporters of CRCs who will support community action plans related to violence and crime prevention in their communities.

In June, Impactos organized and held a series of workshops with CSOs and leaders identified in each community in order to introduce the Program vision of CRCs and motivate them to join the activities of these committees. A workshop was held with each CSO implementing partner and the participation of approximately 60 community leaders (15 per community) from the four target communities of each of the CSOs. As a result of these workshops, 20 CRCs have been created in the target communities and will only be pending their formal integration by issuing a certificate of association that will later be validated by local government authorities.

Impactos and CSOs developed various promotional tools for CRCs such as newsletters, as well as assessment tools, such as a matrix to identify priority needs in the communities. Similarly, tools are being designed to guide community planning, such as prevention plans that design community projects, as well as the project profile form for community projects.

#### *1.8 – Build Community Capacity in Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation.*

At the request of USAID, the Impactos M&E specialist designed the monthly grantee indicator tracking tool. All implementing partners were trained on its use, allowing the Program and USAID to have updated information monthly on progress towards meeting indicators of the partner organizations. During this period, two reports were received, enabling the Program to analyze projects and consider necessary actions for improvement of project implementation where needed.

### *1.9 - Identify Municipal Development and Security Committees in Each Municipality.*

The Program has identified and held outreach and coordination meetings with the Municipal Prevention Committees in the three municipalities currently involved (Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, and Choloma). In the new four municipalities (La Ceiba, Tela, Santa Rosa de Copan, and Choluteca) meetings will be held next Quarter with municipal committees identified in these cities. Municipal Councils will be proposed to prepare a plan that allows them to improve their visibility and support for local initiatives led by such councils. The Program is proposing the following actions of coordination and strengthening of Municipal Councils:

- Prepare a plan for MVPCs based on the identification of needs arising in the meetings held by its members. There remains a need to identify financial resources within the projects to support these plans.
- Create an agreement with the local governments or with the MVPCs in order to provide them with minimal equipment for its operation and identify a physical space available within the Municipality.
- Make a presentation and validation to the MVPCs of the Diagnostics and Prevention Plans of each of the target communities, in order to identify coordination and intervention mechanisms to incorporate their recommendations and priority actions in the municipal prevention and development plans.
- The MVPCs will shepherd proposal development and be a clearinghouse for results of projects led by youth groups and will be a point of coordination for participation and advocacy at the municipal level.

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

#### *2.3- Award Policy Advocacy Grant.*

During this Quarter, Impactos has worked on identifying opportunities in the target municipalities to launch the process of Policy Advocacy grants. The identification process has focused on determining existing movements or citizen participation processes in municipalities, especially of young people, linked to the design, approval, and/or implementation of municipal policies for violence prevention or gender issues. This process has also allowed mapping of the interested networks, civil society groups, and youth groups in the municipalities. The mapping has also taken into consideration the information pertaining to developing actions of influence at a municipal level in the decision-making, especially those actions that are in favor of marginalized communities and at-risk groups. To date, the municipalities that have been identified with strong public and youth participation processes and can incorporate the design and/or approval of municipal policies or plans are: Santa Rosa de Copán, Choluteca, La Ceiba, and Choloma.

#### *2.4- Support public information and outreach campaigns.*

As mentioned before, the CSO Libre Expresión signed a \$20,000 grant to design and develop community information campaign on violence prevention. This CSO has experience in promoting education and social outreach with emphasis on youth by developing alternative information and awareness mechanisms. Libre Expresión is designing the campaign with the participation of youth of the communities as the key actors who will create and disseminate the messages. The design of the campaign has begun with youth camps and participation of youth groups from all of CAP's target communities. The first camp was held in June in San Pedro Sula with 25 young people from 12 target communities in San Pedro Sula and Choloma. The next youth camp will be held in Tegucigalpa in the next Quarter with the participation of youth groups of target communities of the municipality of the Central District.

### **Objective 3: Expand social opportunities for youth with leadership in the communities**

#### *3.4- Facilitate Creation of Youth Civic Networks and Experience Exchanges.*

Impactos continued to monitor the process of mapping the youth networks. The timeline for registration of the networks, groups and other fields of youth participation was extended in order to expand the opportunity for youth to register in the mapping process through the survey monkey designed for this purpose (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/B6NMRSR-CAP>). The mapping was completed in this Quarter. (Please

refer to Annex F.) A total of 32 networks and 72 youth groups responded and registered for the mapping. It became evident that, while there is a long history of working with youth CSOs on various issues, not all of them can finish their social promotion with the establishment of a youth organized group, and those that do accomplish any establishment often suffer with a short-term life and limited effectiveness of the promotion. From the mapping of networks, groups and other fields of youth participation, the process of identifying potential members for the Program's youth networks has been initiated. With the support and feedback from partner organizations, actions will be taken to identify existing youth groups or movements in the target communities, in order to promote the creation or consolidation of youth networks, which later can be integrated into municipal networks.

**Comment [KYR2]:** Please confirm that Annex F is the right item here - Executive summary of the youth networks mapping

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:

- A work session was convened by the National Youth Institute (INJ) and the National Crime Prevention program "Social Reintegration and Rehabilitation (PNRRSS)", in which 24 people participated, representing 12 public and private organizations working on violence prevention issues and youth employability.
- The Program trained community volunteers and conducted the CARSÍ survey in the community of Exitos Anach in Choloma. This survey is a diagnosis of community infrastructure needs required by the FHIS-CLIP project for the interventions in communities under the USAID-Honduras CARSÍ framework.
- A staff retreat was held to update CAP's M&E monitoring and evaluation plan tools, and two CAP members participated at the Organizational Development Workshop conducted in Copan Ruinas.
- Coordination meetings were held between the project implementers in the CARSÍ-USAID initiative in Honduras to continue to identify areas of synergies to implement an integrated approach of the Program at local and municipal levels.

## V. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

During this Quarter, the technical support of M&E for the CPRG component focused on two main areas: a) the selection of the organizations that applied to the new project grants, and b) monitoring the implementation of the current grants. The activities developed by the CPRG project are described below:

- Facilitation of a workshop for Impactos staff to prepare the latest version of each component's Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP), Indicator Reference Sheet (IRS), and the Data Quality Assessment (DQA), for submission and approval by USAID. One of the key issues discussed was the purpose of each of the documents, how they are structured, in addition to reviewing the importance of the Standard Indicators of Foreign Assistance (F) and gender indicators. In addition, the team identified how these indicators will be measured, their means of verification and what the mechanisms and instruments to track each one of them.
- Provided technical assistance for developing FOSDEH indicators as well as training them in the Management Information System (MIS) to allow them to record all activities during the life of the project, their qualifications, events, and technical assistance in alignment with the Program's M&E strategy.
- Participation in the development of the RFA mainly in the section of M&E and lines of action binding on each of the grants convened during this period, all with the purpose of ensuring that the results and indicators were aligned with the PMP Project indicators.
- Participation in the selection committee for new CSOs implementers of new grants convened in this Quarter.
- Participation in the selection committee of the M&E Officer for the CPRG Project, who will assume her post in the next Quarter.

During this Quarter, technical support of M&E for the CAP component focused on three main areas: a) the selection of CSOs that applied for ISCPG grants, b) monitoring, tracking, and evaluation of the implementation of current ISCPG and PIOG grantees c) monitoring the achievements of the Program's work plan and the PMP indicators. The activities developed by the CAP project are described below:

- A workshop was facilitated and developed with the CAP staff to prepare the final version of the Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP), Indicator Reference Sheet (IRS), and the Data Quality Assessment in order to be submitted to USAID for approval. The purpose of each of the documents was explained to program staff.
- Technical assistance was provided to FUNADEH, CASM, and Children International for the development and analysis of community diagnostics as a result of different data collection methods used (quantitative and qualitative).
- A workshop was conducted for the presentation and analysis of 20 community assessments corresponding to the municipalities of the Central District, Choloma, and San Pedro Sula. Each of the diagnostics were made by technicians of the implementing organizations and feedback was given by leaders of each community. The USAID DG Director and a representative of OTI participated in this event.
- A meeting was held with Libre Expresión to agree on the their table of indicators, explain the format of monthly report tracking, provide guidelines for submitting their quarterly reports, and train them on how to use the Management Information System (MIS).
- A workshop was co-facilitated for the formulation of proposals for ISCP grants for the short-listed CSOs of the municipalities of Tela, La Ceiba, Choluteca, and Santa Rosa de Copan.
- Field visits were made to shortlisted organizations in La Ceiba, Tela, and Jutiapa to rapidly explore and assess the communities they proposed for CAP interventions.
- CSOs grantees of ISCPG and PIOG were trained on how to use the monthly tracker tool, which will allow the project as well as USAID to have monthly information about the progress in meeting each of the indicators of the partner organizations.
- Quarterly meetings were held with each of the partner organizations to review the means of verification of each of the indicators, as well as their registration and support of its activities in the MIS, all the above to verify the reported achievements and demonstrate the findings or observations.
- The baseline process was conducted in twenty communities in the municipalities of Central District, Choloma and San Pedro Sula. There were two workshops one in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, to share with volunteers of each of the communities, the protocol and the objective of the baseline and the various guidelines to gather information through the survey designed for this purpose.
- A survey was conducted for the preparation of the baseline in each of the communities with the support of volunteers and the supervision of the coordinators of the implementing CSOs. Five workshops were developed, two in Tegucigalpa, one in Choloma and two in San Pedro Sula to train volunteers and staff members of implementing CSOs in database registry of the information contained in the polls. Five meetings were conducted with each of the implementing organizations to elaborate different variables crossing and their corresponding categorization.
- The participation in the Selection Committee was developed to carry out the selecting process of new ISCPG grants for CSOs in the municipalities of Choluteca, La Ceiba, Tela, and Santa Rosa de Copan.

## **VI. ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Development of tools and methodologies by CPRG's partner ISOs to enable local CSOs to conduct oversight and social audits to advocate for transparency and accountability of 19 public institutions and 37 local governments.
- As an ISO, FOPRIDEH's activities have been focused on advocating in various public policies, with special emphasis on monitoring the final issuance of the NGO-D Law and its Regulations. The Law provides a means to help create an enabling environment for the work of organized civil society.

- As an ISO, FOSDEH has assumed the commitment to create the capacities of its member organizations and citizens in participating in processes that are linked to monitoring the appropriate implementation of the government's fiscal policy related to the National Budget at central, regional, and municipal levels.
- CPRG developed a panel with Honduran experts that discussed the "Challenges of Honduran Civil Society in Advocating for Transparency and Accountability of Public Institutions, and the Current National Financial Situation". The panel, attended by 50 people, linked 14 CSOs together, and experts discussed topics related to challenges and opportunities faced by CSOs.
- More than twenty representatives of nine partner CSOs, five representatives of two Regional Transparency Commission Networks, and 15 public institution staff members were trained to act as Multipliers of Debate to actively participate in the design of the Government's 2012 National Accountability Agenda.
- The CPRG Rapid Response Fund grant recipient Association for a Just Society (ASJ) published two social audits of the National Education System. The first one was done with the collaboration of more than 189 volunteers (mostly parents) that helped audit 49 education centers from the Departments of Olancho, Choluteca, and Comayagua. The second audit is a digital number of class days, a school platform called "Educational Monitoring", textbooks, and free enrollment that will be used as a tool to monitor teachers that work in the National Education System.
- Counterpart signed agreements with 14 CSOs to conduct six National Government Oversight projects, three Public Information Campaigns and eight Transparency Research and Advocacy Projects. To date, the awards provided under CPRG total US\$880,000, representing 26% of the total amount budgeted US\$4,000,000 for the LOP. With the 17 awarded projects, CPRG will be reaching 60 CSOs, 33 public institutions, and 37 local governments.
- Selection of two new Intermediary Support Organizations (ISOs) began, and LOIs were issued and will be received by July 23.
- A consultancy began to design a methodology and toolbox to establish CPRG's CSO Transparency Observatory and to develop a methodology for the creation of a Learning and Knowledge Community of CSOs that are working in transparency and accountability of public Institutions.
- CPRG has completed an Assessment of Training Needs of its participating CSOs. During the assessment, 96 CSOs staff members were interviewed. They work in 41 CSOs, 34% percent of which have obtained CPRG grants.
- Two workshops were held for local CSOs with the following themes: "A Conversation on Security and CSOs: The Honduran and International Reality Lessons", and "Introduction to Self-Regulatory Systems for CSOs". The response of CSOs was enthusiastic and more than 50 people applied for registration in both workshops.
- According to the PMP indicators, the chart below presents the following results for CPRG:

PMP Indicators	Targets Year Two	Achieved as of June 30
Indicator Output 1.1 Number of USG assisted CSOs that engage in advocacy and watchdog functions *	20	8
Indicator Output 1.3 Number of CSOs receiving USG assistance engaged in advocacy interventions **	10	10
Number of collaborative relationships established between CSOs and public institutions to improve transparency and accountability ***	5	3

\* The number of USG assisted CSOs that are engaged in advocacy and watchdog functions advocating for the transparency and accountability of public Institutions, as of June 2012 are:

- Training and Implementation Grants (TIG): FOPRIDEH, FOSDEH
- Rapid Response Fund Grant: ASJ-ALAC
- National Government Oversight Grants (NGOG): SETELEC, ASONOG, EROC, CARITAS, FOROSIDA, CIPRODEH.

\*\* The number of USG assisted CSOs through CPRG during the reporting period engaged in advocacy are listed below based on the type of grant:

Public Information Campaign Grant (PICG): FOSDEH, FUHRIL, CDH

Transparency, Research, and Advocacy Grant (TRAG): GSC, ADELSAR, FDSF, C-LIBRE, ASONOG-EROC, FOSDEH, CIPRODEH, CARITAS

\*\*\* Number of collaborative relationships established between CSOs and public institutions to improve transparency and accountability are 3:

FOPRIDEH – Vice President’s Office/unit

FOSDEH – Vice President’s Office/Unit, IAIP, and SECPLAN

Impactos – Superior Court of Accounts and the OLACEF’s Regional Initiative

Under the CAP component:

- 4 new CSOs CAP implementing partners were selected in 4 target municipalities, and 3 signed \$40,000 agreements, with the fourth to sign next Quarter (CEPROSAF, La Ceiba; COSOCITELA, Tela; ADELSAR, Santa Rosa de Copan; CIPE-Consultants, Choluteca).
- A grant was awarded for the first information campaign for 20 targeted communities with the Libre Expresión for the amount of amount of \$20,000.
- 20 community diagnostics were developed in all 20 target communities and results are being shared with communities and municipal governments.
- The process began for the organization of 20 CRCs in an equal number of CAP target communities. Because CRCs are not official structures in municipal governments, CAP is also working towards their formal recognition by their Local Governments through a certification document so that they can become effective and recognized liaisons for the communities and local government.
- Mapping of networks and youth groups was completed and over 37 youth groups were identified in the 9 target municipalities.
- Baseline in the 20 target communities of CAP with the valuable support of community volunteers.
- The focus and type of violence preventions activities that will be incorporated in community planning were identified through the community diagnostics, and have these lines of action have also been agreed and systematized with the CSOs and community leaders in each community for the subsequent prioritization of community projects.
- 7 Municipal Councils have been identified by each target municipality and have been reached in order to socialize the project and define an action plan to support these committees in their efforts to prevent violence.
- The municipalities of Santa Rosa de Copán, Choluteca, La Ceiba, and Choloma were identified as ones with better opportunities to advance processes of participation and advocacy including young people, for the creation and implementation of municipal public policies.
- According to the PMP indicators, the chart below presents the following CAP results:

PMP Indicators	Targets Year 2	Achieved
Number of civil society organizations receiving USG assistance in	9	6

security sector oversight and advocacy		
Number of communities assisted in crime prevention with USG support	36	20
Number of communities with crime and security asset assessments completed	20	20

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

During the last two weeks of May and early June, a Gender Assessment was conducted by the Program led by an international gender specialist consultant. The purpose of the gender assessment was to identify strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and opportunities in promoting gender equality consideration in civil society programs and advocacy in Honduras, particularly as they relate to transparency and accountability of national and local government institutions and community security. Currently, the consultant is working on the analytical report which will present assessment findings in the next Quarter.

Challenges to overcome next Quarter are the establishment of the Transparency Observatory and the inclusion of the gender approach in the training sessions to government officials.

## **VIII. EXPENDITURES**

Program Expenditures for the reporting Quarter as of Jun 30, 2012 amounted to US\$1,906,229.

## **IX. PROGRAMMING PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT QUARTER**

- Design and agree internally on the technical and administrative support that grantees will receive from Impactos in the implementation, management and programmatic follow-up of the projects that have been awarded to the 15 CPRG CSOs.
- Facilitate technical assistance to CSOs in order to identify and select consultants, specialists in Governance.
- Monitoring training to Government Officials.
- Provide support and technical assistance to grantees for the proper performance of the work plans of their awarded projects.
- Installation of the Transparency Observatory. Develop a 2-day workshop with ISOs to discuss their role, develop common agendas and follow-up on the establishment of the Transparency Observatory.
- Develop a 2-day Leadership, Team Building and Strategic Retreat.
- Work with ASJ and other social actors involved in the preparation of the Third TI Forum of Central America and the Dominican Republic scheduled for next October.
- Keep the Donor, HQ and local partners informed by developing the newsletter "Update" and at least one weekly interest story for the weekly report to the donor.
- Hire consultant to design Impactos' webpage.
- Draft SOW for the Advocacy and Coalition Consultancy.
- If approved start-up of Enhanced Program Modification interventions.

- Facilitate technical assistance and monitor training to Government Officials.
- Complete the design of the community campaign and start the implementation of the campaign in target communities.
- Formulate a work plan with the CSOs to strengthen networks and youth groups in targeted municipalities.
- Formulate a strengthening plan for the Municipal Councils of prevention and/or development.
- Complete the planning process in the 20 target communities and prepare community action plans for violence prevention.
- Identify and prioritize community projects to be subsidized with community revitalization funds in 20 target communities.
- Continue coordinating joint activities with other CARSI-USAID projects, especially to define mechanisms, timing and communities in which the project can integrate, coordinate or collaborate to reach program results and for greater impact.

During the upcoming Quarter, ICNL will engage with CSO partners in Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, and Santa Rosa de Copan to build local capacity on the NGO-D Law and Regulations and other relevant legislation affecting the sector. To carry out these activities, ICNL will work closely with contracted Honduran attorneys, along with Impactos and FOPRIDEH to:

- Prepare plain language materials explaining the requirements and rights set forth in the new NGO-D Law and Regulations;
- Map current and proposed legislation governing CSOs so that they will have a better understanding of their legal environment; and
- Conduct participatory workshops to present these materials to CSOs across the country.

ICNL will also broaden its outreach to CSOs on developing a potential self-regulation system through a participatory process by: conducting workshops on self-regulation for CSOs in San Pedro Sula and Santa Rosa de Copan; and incorporating comments from those sessions into an assessment of prior Honduran experiences with self-regulation.

Ultimately, ICNL will convene participants from the three regional workshops to explore in greater detail a potential self-regulation system for the sector. Should the group determine that a self-regulation system would be beneficial, ICNL will assist them in designing a proposal for broad CSO consideration.