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

**2<sup>nd</sup> FY13 Quarterly Report**  
*Period: January 2013 – March 2013*

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

AECID	Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo
ADELSAR	Agencia de Desarrollo Estratégico Local de Santa Rosa de Copán
ALAC	Asistencia Legal Anticorrupción
ASJ	Asociación para una Sociedad más Justa
ASONOG	Asociación de Organismos No Gubernamentales
CAP	Community Action for Prosperity
CARITAS	Pastoral Social Caritas Honduras
CASM	Comisión de Acción Social Menonita
CBO	Community Based Organization
CCT	Citizens Transparency Commission
CDH	Centro de Desarrollo Humano
CEPROSAF	Centro de Promoción en Salud y Asistencia Familiar
CIPE	Centro de Investigación, Planeación y Evaluación
CIPRODEH	Centro de Investigación y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos
C-Libre	Comité por la Libre Expresión
COALIANZA	Comisión para las Alianzas Público-Privadas
COSOCITELA	Coalición de la Sociedad Civil de Tela
CPRG	Citizen Participation for Responsive Governance
CRC	Community Revitalization Committee
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DEI	Executive Income Office
DNT	National Transport Department
EROC	Espacio Regional del Occidente
FOPRIDEH	Federación de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales para el Desarrollo de Honduras
FOROSIDA	Foro Nacional de SIDA
FOSDEH	Foro Social de la Deuda Externa de Honduras
FUHRIL	Fundación Hondureña de Rehabilitación e Integración del Limitado
FUNADEH	Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo de Honduras
GSC	Grupo Sociedad Civil
IAPI	Institute of Access to Public Information
ICEFI	Instituto Centroamericano de Estudios Fiscales
ICNL	International Center for Not-for-Profit Law
ISCPG	Institutional Support and Civic Participation Grant
ISO	Intermediate Service Organization
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
NC	National Congress of the Republic of Honduras
NPD	National Police Department
MIS	Management Information System
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NGOG	National Government Oversight Grant
PICG	Public Information Campaign Grants
PPO	Public Prosecutor Office
RFA	Request for Applications
RRG	Rapid Response Grant
SOPTRAVI	Ministry of Works, Transport and Housing
TRAG	Transparency Research and Advocacy Grant
TIG	Training and Implementation Grant
TSC	Supreme Court of Accounts
SELCOM	Selection Committee
SOW	Scope of Work
SETELEC	Servicios Técnicos, Legales y Económicos
SICA	Sistema de Integración Centroamericana
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

## **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 CPRG component has concentrated efforts on providing technical assistance to 15 CSOs in the management of their grants. As of March 31, 22 grants were awarded for a total amount of \$1,090,497.59, representing 27% of the total amount of the LOP grant funds of \$4,000,000 approved for the CPRG component. The CAP component concentrated efforts on providing technical assistance to 10 CSOs in the management of their grants. As of March 31, 15 grants were awarded for a total amount of \$580,000, representing 24% of the LOP grants budget of \$2,450,000 approved for the CAP component. A total of \$1,670,497.59 was allocated in grants by the Program, representing 29% of the total amount awarded \$6450,000 under the grants budget for the LOP. (For more detailed information, please refer to Annex J: Grants Table).

## **II. POLITICAL CONTEXT**

An uncertain social, political, and economic environment persists in Honduras. According to a 2012 public opinion poll, the perception of Honduras' situation was rated at 4.07 on a 10 point scale. More than eighty-three percent of the respondents noted that President Porfirio Lobo Sosa does little or nothing to help Honduras out of the crisis. More than 50% estimate a worsening situation for this current year<sup>1</sup>.

### *Financial Crisis*

Many citizens view the Government's Fiscal Policy as damaging, arguing that the adjustment measures<sup>2</sup> negatively impact the economy. Moody's Investors Service noted the country went from “Stable” to “Negative” just a few days after the government placed US\$750 million sovereign bonds in the

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<sup>1</sup>Public Opinion Poll /Perceptions on the Honduran Situation in year 2012 (November- December 2012).Reflection, Research and Communication Team of the Company of Jesus of Honduras /“José Simeón Cañas” Central American University.El Progreso, Yoro, Honduras, January 2013. [www.laprensa.hn/.../Boletín%20Sondeo%20de%20Opinión%202012](http://www.laprensa.hn/.../Boletín%20Sondeo%20de%20Opinión%202012)

<sup>2</sup> As of February 2013, up to 8 tax measures approved by the National Congress.

international market to alleviate the burden of a growing national debt and to honor commitments with the debtors<sup>3</sup>. Experts argue that the failure in tax collection is due to the design of the tax measures and mismanagement by the Executive Income Office (DEI)<sup>4</sup>. According to the *Instituto Centroamericano de Estudios Fiscales* (ICEFI), the Honduran public debt increased by 107% during the last five years, from US\$2.86 billion in 2008 to US\$5.92 billion in 2012<sup>5</sup>. This situation impacts governance negatively as it affects the government's ability to fulfill public expenditures. ICEFI expects the public debt to increase in 2013. This scenario could jeopardize the new administration as it assumes office in January 2014 as it will be forced to make strong fiscal adjustments due to the critical imbalances.

In this reporting period, the National Congress (NC) delayed the approval of the National Budget<sup>6</sup> due to controversies on the suspension of tax exemptions and exonerations to several sectors, including those with economic and political influence in the country<sup>7</sup>. The abusive use of tax benefits prompted the government to take the decision to suspend this benefit for 90 days. As a proactive measure, the government created a Special Commission to analyze and control tax exemptions and exonerations comprised of representatives from the public, private and civil sectors. The commission will conduct a thorough review of the tax benefits and propose recommendations on regulating these benefits, and reduce losses to the national treasury. The Commission conducted this review amid strong questioning and controversy. The general perception is that the Government used the establishment of the Commission distracting issue used by the government to avoid development of a true tax policy that could address issues such as smuggling, fraud, tax evasion, and the non-payment of taxes by some key sectors that would ensure a fair tax collection. Some sectors claim the government is using legal reform as a political move to poach funds to alleviate the fiscal crisis; others view this as an opportunity to seek justice and an option to finally apply fiscal policy with equity. The unions argue that, as a result of this measure, the poor will be left without the ability to cover their basic needs, while the general public argues that funds are used for political campaigning.

### *Security*

Honduras continues to struggle with citizen insecurity and criminality even though the government continues to develop activities to coordinate joint actions among governmental institutions that address violence prevention as 2013 was declared the "National Year of Violence Prevention". According to the Violence Observatory, an average of 572 victims per month was registered from January 2010 through December 2012. In 2012, the homicides decreased by 0.9% compared to 2011. However, the numbers are still dismal. One report notes 598 monthly homicides, with an average of 20 daily victims, one every 72 minutes. In January alone the Observatory recorded 634 victims. These figures underscore an unstoppable wave of violence and crime, and the government's efforts have not yet yielded the expected results. Given this scenario, the public has increasingly expressed their discontent on the efforts to address public safety.

Another issue that has garnered attention is the lack of progress on the police's debugging (*depuración*) initiative that began 14 months ago. According to police authorities, there is an urgent need to take action including initiating "state of emergency procedures", because the normal administrative route is unable to support an effective and agile police debugging process.

In a report released a year after the creation of the Commission for Public Security Reform (CRSP), the *Centro de Investigación y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos* (CIPRODEH) and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation argue that CRSP's recommendations lack strength, linkage and dedication. The government lacks the political will as expressed in its inability, fear or collusion with those who encourage crime and

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<sup>3</sup> See: [www.moodys.com](http://www.moodys.com)

<sup>4</sup> Executive Income Office (DEI), institution in charge of tax collection in Honduras.

<sup>5</sup> Important news, Press Room, Honduras tax diagnosis / March 12, 2013 <http://icefi.org/honduras-presentacion-analisis-politica-fiscal-hondurena-en-cuidados-intensivos/>

<sup>6</sup> Honduras National Budget approved for year 2013 amounts to about US\$8.2 billion, US\$5.5 billion above 2012 budget.

<sup>7</sup> Legislative Decree No. 220-2012

violence<sup>8</sup>. Speaking to the media, Reform Commission President Victor Meza said the “National Police Department is an institution that cannot be reformed”. In February, events shocked the National Police Department (NPD). First, a video was released demonstrating how a group of gunmen kill young men in cold blood. Through official communication, the NPD assured the public that the case was under investigation. However, the NPD never reported the video to the Public Prosecutor Office (PPO). In the eyes of the public, not disclosing these events made the police department an accomplice.

A few weeks later, the 17-year-old son of Ricardo Ramírez del Cid<sup>9</sup>, former Director of the NPD, was found murdered. Mr. Ramírez del Cid blamed the Armed Forces and the NPD for the murder. Amid accusations from the Ministry of Security, social networks leaked a video showing current NPD Director Juan Carlos Bonilla and a group of policemen plan an operation to capture former president Manuel Zelaya. These events underscore the power struggles that exist within the police department. The lack of communication and coordination between the NPD and the PPO reflects the lack of interest to conduct the criminal and investigative actions that are the responsibility of both institutions.

Despite limited resources, Honduras is making progress in the implementation of its public safety and violence prevention strategy. Both the government and civil society continue to face challenges with identifying effective solutions for the Honduran populace. The Ministry of the Interior and Population initiated the establishment of around 16,000 security neighborhood committees that will have a legal status granted by the state. These committees will have the authority to conduct a census of migration patterns in their neighborhoods. They will perform activities such as work with private security companies, and manage and receive aid from the government and international organizations to enhance security. Other steps taken by the government towards violence prevention include a proposal to reform the Population Security Law also known as the Security Tax, which generates funds to strengthen the police, the PPO, the Supreme Court of Accounts (TSC), and the Secretariat of Defense (to date, these funds are not even 10% of the total collected funds<sup>10</sup>).

To support international coordination on security issues and violence prevention, the Government of Honduras will present a proposal for the adoption of a regional public policy on violence prevention for children and youth at the next meeting of the *Sistema de Integración Centroamericana* (SICA). In February, SICA informed the public of the creation of the Secretariat of Democratic Security within the regional system. The Secretariat is responsible for regional security issues, including those such as drug trafficking and organized crime, and serves as a technical body, facilitating regional coordination by including actors such as SICA’s Council of Ministers for Security.

### *Political Trial*

During this reporting period, the National Congress approved a constitutional reform to establish a political trial<sup>11</sup> to assign responsibility to leaders of the three branches of government and to other senior officials that are alleged to abuse authority. The National Congress is to implement the political trial which grants absolute control to this body. Given the politicization on this constitutional reform, the trial is at risk of becoming a biased instrument of interests by various partisan groups.

The lack of genuine political will to drive change is still witnessed by the public. An economic setback is anticipated; however, there is no action to penalize or punish those responsible for the economic situation. State comptrollers and judicial operators such as the TSC, the PPO, the Office of the Republic’s General Attorney, and the Judicial Branch act as if they are mere observers to the State’s institutional crisis. While the TSC expresses interest in investigating allegations of abuse related to reported acts corruption, it lacks

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<sup>8</sup>LA PRENSA newspaper, Thursday March 21, 2013

<sup>9</sup> Ricardo Ramírez del Cid, predecessor of the current Director of the National Police Department.

<sup>10</sup> 857 million lempiras raised in security taxes by December 2012.

<sup>11</sup> The creation of the Political Trial as a legal charter was recommended by the Commission of Truth, appointed by the Executive Branch to research the events that occurred before, during and after June 28, 2009.

the ability to assign responsibility to abusive officials. The PPO lacks funding, which leaves the institution unable to address its mandate. In addition, the recent news that three judges were fired has prompted the State's independent agencies such as the PPO and the TSC assume a low profile rather than their mandated role of judicial operators.

Because of the events that took place in the first months of 2013 and the events foreseen in the future, such as reforms to the Telecommunications Law that reflect an apparent desire of the government to control the media and news sources, and the beginning of a strong partisan political campaign, there are an ever increasing number of challenges to support civil organizations in Honduras in their initiatives to advocate for an efficient public administration.

### **III. ANALYSIS**

There is a relationship between corruption, insecurity, transparency, and security in the sense that a positive relation between these variables exists. More corruption implies greater citizen insecurity and greater transparency implies safer societies. In Honduras, the lack of transparency and effective accountability mechanisms in institutions like the NPD and others responsible for public safety has meant that, in some cases the criminal organizations have managed to infiltrate the public institutions responsible for combating and preventing criminal actions. As a result, organized crime has found a friendly context to develop their illegal activities. This situation has worsened the climate of discredit and distrust on public institutions among the population. The weakness in terms of governance is the source of violence and impunity that affect the life, integrity, and the right to justice of the Honduran population. To counteract the negative effects of corruption, capacity building of civil society is seen as one of the means by which people can claim their rights and influence effectively on transparency of the governmental processes in order to create social opportunities and safer environments within society. The Impactos Program concentrates its efforts on building capacities of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and empowering people to build resilient communities enhance their capability of proposing effective solutions and demanding their fundamental rights for better livelihoods.

As a response to the current social, political, and economic crisis, the Honduran think tank *Foro Social de la Deuda Externa de Honduras* (FOSDEH) stands out within the circumstantial moment of the financial crisis. FOSDEH continues its role as a think tank on macroeconomics and its ability to transfer this knowledge to the citizens and advocate decisively within the public sector. During the reporting period, FOSDEH contributed with analysis and technical recommendations as an independent adviser which influences decision-makers, questioning the government's fiscal policy. FOSDEH has been gaining public attention through two particular activities: publicizing complaints of abusiveness by public institutions when handling non-budgeted expenses, putting evidence on the institutions' degree of impunity and permissiveness in their practices; and an analysis on the fiscal matter that FOSDEH was able to advocate in decision-making processes of the Executive Branch. To further strengthen the capacities of successful grants, and contribute to the improvement of the country's financial crisis, the initiatives that seek to advocate for efficient public policy will continue to be supported by Impactos. FOSDEH will continue leading actions on the fiscal issue<sup>12</sup>, in order to advocate for Honduras to have equitable and transparent fiscal policy.

During this quarter, there was also direct and mediated advocacy conducted by FOSDEH. The Institute of Access to Public Information (IAIP) expressed openness to the civil society actors working in coordination with FOSDEH. An example is the cancellation of the secretiveness of information in the contract management processes conducted by the *Comisión para las Alianzas Público-Privadas* (COALIANZA). COALIANZA was in charge of conducting bidding processes and awarding major

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<sup>12</sup> Recently, FOSDEH has been awarded Rapid Response Funds in order to support citizen initiatives on fiscal matter.

infrastructure projects promoted by the State. The collaborative relationships between FOSDEH and IAIP, established since the implementation of the Impactos grants, made possible the elimination of the information secrecy managed by COALIANZA. According to the IAIP, "all COALIANZA actions should be subject to social audits by the Honduran population".

In the reporting period, the grantees implemented several social audits as a response to the lack of transparency and accountability in the public institutions. These audits included: the NC in the administration of the Social Fund managed by the congressmen<sup>13</sup>; Ministry of Education, in the process of recruiting teachers and in the purchase and distribution of school textbooks; and the PPO, in the performance of its duties regarding human rights. These social audits have allowed the grantees to overcome challenges and demand more technical assistance for their organizational strengthening. Additionally, Impactos and grantees seek to hire experts who, with new ideas, revitalize citizen-led initiatives. The efforts to conduct citizen oversight actions in various government sectors are stronger each day. Often there are accusations of corruption acts expressed by various stakeholders of the society. It is important to highlight the shared learning among grantee organizations and with the Impactos Program. All this attributed to the openness shown by CSOs towards the fulfillment of Program guidelines while developing their institutional capacities. The work flow generated by the Program has materialized new practices within the CSOs as far as reporting discipline, assessing the importance of evaluations of training sessions, documentation of field processes, and reinforcement of their advocacy strategies in complex public issues. Often grantee CSOs leaders capture the attention of the media and receive a wide coverage on their technical opinions and political position in relation to issues such as citizen participation, transparency, accountability, public budgets, rule of law, and the fight against impunity, among others. Due to regular exposure of CSO leaders in the media, the Program is challenged to have a dynamic communication strategy that provides agile support that allows for widespread public opinion towards efficiency in public administration as part of a citizens' movement for transparency and accountability.

Through grants awarded to organizations such as CIPRODEH, *Asociación para una Sociedad más Justa* (ASJ), the *Pastoral Social Caritas Honduras* (Caritas), and FOSDEH, among others, the Impactos Program supported citizens' actions related to the performance of the Commission of Honduran Public Security Reform System (the "Commission") and facilitated technical assistance for the Commission. CIPRODEH supported the development of a law proposal that regulates the basic police training curriculum and ongoing education and training to ensure that police skills are up-to-date, and every officer is able to fulfill professional and personal development ambitions. CIPRODEH presented the proposal in a package of seven reforms that the Commission submitted to the National Defense and Security Council. CIPRODEH is also directly supporting the preparation of an anti-corruption policy for the NPD, a proposal of a Code of Ethics and Policy Conduct, and a human rights approach in the curriculum of police studies. The endorsement that several civil society organizations have given to the Commission of Honduras Public Security System Reform shows an interest in restoring the citizens' trust in the NPD.

It is evident that year 2013 will be exclusively an elections year. This situation, coupled with the country's major issues (financial crisis, public and juridical insecurity, unemployment, etc.) raises new challenges, mainly in the political sector, so it is expected that the CSOs will be more involved in the preparation of a citizens' proposal regarding the new government. It is expected that these citizen initiatives have clear positions in order to ensure that public interest issues are included in agendas shared among political leaders and civil society. These are issues to be considered by the Program starting next quarter for its decision making and strategic, fine-tuning of priorities before the new grants cycle is conducted and for facing social, political, economic, and public security changing scenarios in Honduras.

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<sup>13</sup> Social Departmental Fund managed by the National Congress amounts to about 400 million Lempiras (US\$ 20 million)

#### IV. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

During the reporting period, a total of 3 grants closed and preparations were made to close 7 grants for the next reporting period. This amounts to a 48% advance in the execution of the grants.

Under the CPRG component technical assistance was provided to 21 grantees. A total of 22 grantees were awarded a total amount of US\$1,449,975.55, representing 22.48% of the total grants budget of US\$6,450,000. Under the CAP component technical assistance was provided to 14 grantees, and 15 grants were awarded for a total amount of US\$818,828.29, representing 12.70 % of the total grants budget of US\$6,450,000 (Refer to Annex J: Grants Table).

#### **CPRG program 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter activities according to the draft FY2013 work plan**

Objective 1: Through 22 CPRG grants, CSOs in Honduras are actively auditing government performance in terms of transparency and accountability. Through the implementation of investigation and advocacy grants, 14 CSOs are acquiring better knowledge and experience in government oversight to effectively advocate for the implementation of rule of law. There are a total of 13 different areas<sup>14</sup> where these CSOs are actively implementing social audits on government performance. Some of the areas and the implementing grantees are:

- Monitoring of the distribution of funds of the Honduras government's national budget (FOSDEH)
- Investigation and documentation of bribery and corrupt practices in 12 government offices (FDSF)
- Establishment of the Anticorruption Legal Assistance Center (ALAC) (ASJ)
- Monitoring of the management of the Subsidy Fund of the National Congress (CIPRODEH)
- Auditing the legal procedures for the human rights cases at the Prosecutor's Office (CARITAS)
- Implementation of a Municipal Transparency Index in 4 sample municipalities (C-Libre)

Capacity development for CSO members not including the sub-grantees has reached 567 beneficiaries. The aim is to increase Honduran CSO understanding of the government's institutional structure as well as the national policy and legislative framework in terms of accountability and government performance as a precursor to analyzing government operations. The Intermediate Service Organizations (ISOs) play a vital role in providing trainings. The Impactos team designed a baseline protocol and survey to measure the ISOs' capacity to provide the trainings and technical assistance to other CSOs (Refer to Annex I: CPRG Baseline Protocol.)

The Impactos program is also implementing three key campaigns as well as 36 additional campaign strategies. Public information campaign funds are used to increase the public's knowledge of the Transparency and Access to Information Law and the governments' compliance and implementation of the law.

Objective 2: A second key aspect of the CPRG component of the program is the innovative CSO and government collaborative relationships that are established as part of implementing each grant. Through efforts this quarter, the program has achieved 22 collaborative relationships. These relationships are reflected by 11 CSOs providing training and technical assistance to 147 government officials at the

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<sup>14</sup>Please refer to Annex F: No. of collaborative relationships established between Impactos' grantees and public institutions

national and local level. Some examples of the training topics provided included the Human Rights International Legal Framework, the Municipal Transparency Index and National Fiscal Policy.

The grants have addressed issues such as the attitudes of government officials towards transparency. As a result, government officials and decision makers are revising their procedures and implementing suggestions extended by the CSOs to improve accountability and performance at national level as well as local level.

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

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

Four agreements (FOSDEH/TIG, FOPRIDEH/TIG, ASJ/RRF and GSC/TRAG) were closed in this reporting period. In addition, tools were designed to evaluate project results and compliance with the commitments established in the grant agreements. Program staff also used the evaluations of each implementing TIG and ISCP grantee as support for the renewal of both grants for FY2013, as well as technical assistance to the grantees' administration and finance teams to complete grant closure on time with required documentation. The program also gave special attention to reviewing detailed cost share supporting documentation. This is a complex process that requires time from the program and its grantees to establish good practices in the detailed documentation of the grantees' contributions in adherence to standards set by the U.S. government and Counterpart International.

The program improved the process in renewing ISO grant agreements and expects to sign the grant agreements with the ISOs early next quarter.

On March 18, 2013, the Program had to early-terminate GSC's Grant Agreement No. HN/TRAG-01-2011-05-017, signed June 4th, 2012 for the implementation of the project "*Informe alternativo del cumplimiento de la Ley IAIP*". The decision was made after additional technical assistance and guidance were extended and GSC's continued failure to meet the terms of the agreement. To address this suspension, the program decided to reallocate the remaining funds and release a new RFA to CSOs in the next quarter.

#### 1.3 Competitively Select Two Intermediary Support Organization (ISO) Partners

As part of the closing of the first cycle of ISO TIG grants, FOSDEH and the *Federación de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales para el Desarrollo de Honduras* (FOPRIDEH) completed the revision of outputs, targets, indicators and achievements according to each grant's objectives. This is part of the performance evaluation that each organization must complete for the subsequent renewal of their grant agreement. The process of grant renewal requires constant technical assistance to the grantees in order to accomplish the requirements established in the Grants Manual and the donor procedures. In this reporting period, the program prepared Requests for Application (RFAs) for the four ISOs to be financed in the next quarter. The RFAs are defined by a set of clear guidelines related to strategies, operating methods and methodologies which the four ISOs must fulfill to provide training and technical assistance, especially to program grantees, other CSOs and public officials. Funds to be awarded to two of the ISOs are dependent on USAID's approval of a program modification. The proposals of four TIGs submitted by the ISOs to the program will be evaluated and approved in April 2013.

In February, the program team conducted a workshop for its current and new proposed ISOs (FOPRIDEH, CIPRODEH, FOSDEH and the *Comisión de Acción Social Menonita* (CASM)) to develop a joint Impactos/ISO 2013-2015 Strategic Plan. At the workshop, the program team, ISO directors, and ISO technical staff analyzed the following elements to enable the development of the plan:

- Each ISOs' political, strategic, and operational areas within the framework of the program based on the current Honduran environment

- The priority core areas of intervention between the ISOs and Impactos for 2013-2015
- Draft agreements on the roles, scope of work and responsibilities of the ISOs and Impactos within the framework of the program

The main outcome of this event was a consensus on the following strategic directions and interventions of the 2013-2015 Joint Strategic Plan. This will enable the program to respond to the current needs faced by Honduran CSOs and public institutions in the fight against corruption:

- **Democracy, citizenship and governance** (elections, government transition, democratization of the National Congress)
- **Creation of employment opportunities for youth**
- **Access to public information as the foundation for transparency**
- **Public safety as a condition for peaceful co-existence and governance**
- **Citizen oversight of public finances**
- **Human rights – with a focus on the management of cases according to international standards in the PPO and in the judiciary**
- **Increasing learning opportunities for CSOs (Organizational Development)**

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

In this quarter, the program intensified its technical assistance to respond to the needs of each grantee to increase the impact of all grants. Technical assistance was provided to grantees prior to the awarding of the grant, during implementation, and during the closure of each of the awarded projects as detailed below.

- The program facilitated a work session with the participation of 11 members from the *Asociación de Organismos No Gubernamentales* (ASONOG) and the *Espacio Regional del Occidente* (EROC). The purpose of the session was to provide additional guidance on the design of a more effective advocacy strategy aimed at influencing the quality and efficiency of the reconstruction work of the CA-4 highway in Western Honduras.
- Caritas and Impactos implemented several workshops focused on improving the capacity of prosecutors in the Public Prosecutors' Human Rights Office. A total of 25 prosecutors received trainings on topics related to accountability, and the protection of human rights.
- A total of 10 members from the Citizens Council received technical assistance to design a work plan. The Citizens Council is attached to the PPO to support the institution. It was the first time a CSO managed to provide technical assistance to this Council. Caritas is currently conducting social audits of the PPO. The Citizens Council plays a decisive role in the advocacy strategy.

Other CSOs developed trainings for local CSO staff on issues related to citizen participation and methods for increased advocacy on public policies. An example is the support provided by the grantee *Servicios Técnicos, Económicos y Legales* (SETELEC), who trained 44 members of various CSOs during January 2013 on issues of transparency and accountability in the public sector.

Based on the experience of each ISO, and according to their respective core areas of intervention, the ISOs have developed training modules to strengthen their individual and joint strategies; improve methodologies on advocacy, accountability, and citizen oversight; and further develop the leadership skills of civil society<sup>15</sup>. The program has continued to upgrade the toolbox available to CSOs that currently has more than 100 documents, tool kits, manuals and other items that support improved transparency and accountability. In addition, the program expects to complete a strategy for institutional strengthening & organizational development in the next quarter. The strategy complements the training modules developed by the ISOs and delivers targeted “training of trainers” style training in core areas

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<sup>15</sup>e.g. public finance, public safety, organizational development (OD) and electoral observation.

defined jointly by the ISOs to respond to CSO needs. The new ISO project proposals in the next quarter will complement this strategy.

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

The program continued to monitor and support initiatives of coalitions and civic movements implemented by the CSOs, especially those that have the greatest potential to contribute to the formation of a broad transparency coalition. Through the strategic workshop developed in Tela in February, the four ISOs discussed the need for a national transparency coalition. One ISO (CIPRODEH) demonstrated interest in the idea of leading such a coalition in FY2013. In the next reporting period, the CPRG team will develop a work plan to define the initial strategic steps towards the organization of the coalition. Besides the above mentioned advances, the following highlights are some of the advances achieved through the grants implementation:

- A coalition of organizations committed to social audits led by SETELEC. A total of 11 CSOs signed an agreement to monitor the TSC's adherence to the recommendations noted in the social audits undertaken on public institutions. With this approach, SETELEC seeks to improve the quality and effectiveness of the audits by fostering citizen participation and a close collaboration with the TSC.
- A coalition of CSOs monitoring corruption in public institutions. The initiative is led by the *Fundación Democracia sin Fronteras* (FDsF) as part of the project "Monitoring of corruption and bribery in government offices in Tegucigalpa". The project aims at expanding the range of CSOs involved in transparency promotion<sup>16</sup>.
- The Coalition for the *Reconstruction of the CA-4 Highway* is led by EROC and ASONOG and comprises a total of 38 organizations from the private sector, CSOs, unions, coffee cooperatives, among others. The goal is to influence the quality and effectiveness of SOPTRAVI's reconstruction of the CA-4 highway in Western Honduras.

#### 1.6- Award National Government Oversight Grants and Support CSO Watchdog Capacity and Activities Initiatives

Through the work of CSOs grantees supporting activities under 1.6, the following progress in the reporting period was made:

- During this reporting period, the national government oversight grantees CARITAS, ASJ, and the *Foro Nacional de SIDA* (FOROSIDA) developed methodologies to conduct social audits. CARITAS oversaw activities on the PPO on human rights; ASJ oversaw activities on teacher recruitment and the purchase of school textbooks; and FOROSIDA focused on the use of recovery funds managed by the national hospital Escuela<sup>17</sup>.
- All the above mentioned social audit methodologies used by the watchdog CSOs have common elements including prior evaluation of the audited sectors, citizen interest in targeted oversight activities, defined profiles of social auditors, and tools to conduct oversight activities.
- Grantees ASJ and FOROSIDA provided four training sessions on the methodology and use of tools to conduct social audits (each of the CSOs conducted two social audits). The trainings provided social auditors with the key elements on how to request public information through simple user friendly social audit tools to revise and verify process. The tools ASJ designed that were tailored for different levels of end users, such as CSOs and community-based organizations, and "*padres de la familia*", (the heads of the family). The tool is a type of checklist and can be used to request further applicable public information since this group does not manage technical concepts.

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<sup>16</sup> e.g. Caritas, the Honduran Institute for Rural Development - IHDER, Federation of Agricultural Cooperatives and the Agrarian Reform Companies of Honduras - FECORAH, Environmental Movement of Campamento, Olancho - CAM, the MAO, Network Transparency Commissions Citizen South Central and East - RECTSO, Progressio America and the National Council Against Corruption - CNA.

<sup>17</sup> The Hospital Escuela also referred to as the National Hospital has the most complex public health services network and is located in the capital of Honduras.

- To date, the grantees CIPRODEH, SETELEC and CARITAS have concluded their social audits of public institutions noting evidence of non-compliance to the law. CIPRODEH's social audit will serve as the basis for reforms to regulations of the Departmental Social Fund. CARITAS's findings will serve as the basis for reforms to the PPO, and SETELEC's findings will advocate for reform to the TSC to comply with the recommendations extended to local governments. Additionally, the grantees held two public presentations on their audits, CIPRODEH to congressmen (with 124 participants) and SETELEC to magistrates of the TSC (with 50 participants).

#### 1.7 - Provide Targeted Consultations on National Government Oversight and Increased Government Transparency

The program provided technical assistance to grantees to help them achieve their objectives and targets by hiring specialized consultants with knowledge of the public sector and with the ability to teach training methodologies and design advanced advocacy strategies and public outreach campaigns. EROC, ASONOG, Caritas, and CDH are some of the grantees that received technical assistance to define terms of references and identify and select competitive candidates. During this reporting period, two experts provided CSOs and Impactos with technical assistance:

- Sandra Maribel Sanchez: a journalist with extensive knowledge of the country's political environment and civil society development in Honduras and with experience in training methodologies that encourage participatory advocacy strategies. Currently, she is providing technical support to ASONOG and EROC in the design of an effective advocacy strategy to improve the transparency and effectiveness of SOPTRAVI's reconstruction of the CA-4 road in Western Honduras.
- Gerardo Ballesteros de León: a Mexican consultant and lawyer, with a Ph.D. & MA in human rights and government and public administration. He currently focuses on transparency and accountability. Caritas contracted Mr. Ballesteros to conduct training sessions to CSOs and the prosecutors attached to the PPO's Human Rights Office.

#### 1.8 -Develop a Self-Regulatory System to Improve CSO Accountability Practices

During the previous quarter, the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) conducted a series of workshops on self-regulation systems for NGOs in Tegucigalpa, Santa Rosa de Copán, and San Pedro Sula. Responses to a survey on the self-regulation practices of NGOs as well as workshop discussions reflected a great interest among NGOs in developing a self-regulation system. In mid-May with assistance from Impactos, ICNL is expected to join a working group with CASM that will design a pilot self-regulation system and share knowledge with members of the other ISOs. In a project proposal that is expected to be funded by a TIG grant early next quarter, CASM proposes to address interventions in organizational development and self-regulation. A "training of trainers approach is expected to train CSO grantees as well as the CSOs accredited as members of CASM's own national network. This activity is scheduled for the next reporting period.

#### 1.9 - Support Targeted Anti-Corruption Public Information Campaigns

Under activity 1.9, eight organizations reported the following progress in research and advocacy initiatives:

CDH, FUHRIL and FOSDEH made significant progress in the conduct of several advocacy campaigns to the public:

- The Public Information Campaign grants supported various public advocacy activities. FOSDEH's campaign consisted of gathering 1,032 citizen signatures and distributing massive communication materials in support of improved access to public information. These activities increased transparency on funds and services reflected in the national budget. The *Fundación Hondureña de Rehabilitación e Integración del Limitado* (FUHRIL) continued to encourage the participation of hearing impaired citizens to fight corruption. Through the publication and posting of comic strips.

- FUHRIL’s campaign "Listening is more than hearing, we are not deaf to corruption" continued to publish cartoons in *La Tribuna*. It also conducted a campaign to promote the participation of hearing impaired citizens as part of a comprehensive and more inclusive approach to support transparency. Through the same campaign, three television spots were aired on how corruption is part of people’s daily lives. With the support of national television stations, these advertisements shared information such as, "It does not matter how you call it: the use of influence to obtain something, to bribe or pay someone for something, to give money in return for favors- it’s all ‘corruption’!" The advertisements sought to engage a broad audience including youth and adults highlighting three different situations that any citizen can experience on a daily basis. Each advertisement was broadcast using sign language to include community members both with and without disabilities in the fight against corruption. Additionally, during this quarter, FUHRIL implemented a Rapid Response Grant (RRG) that complements the education campaigns and advocacy activities by training public officials (TSC, IAIP, CNA, PPO, etc.) and civil society leaders in sign language, citizen participation, and accountability.
- CDH trained 67 youth leaders from ten urban “high risk” communities located on the outskirts of the capital. Topics included the right to public information and understanding the Transparency and Access to Public Information Law. This permitted a youth network of approximately 35-40 youth to begin replicating the workshops for other community members using different avenues such as street theater and music.
- FOSDEH developed an advocacy campaign with media and civil society actors to advocate for the elimination of the information secrecy clause of COALIANZA. IAIP requested FOSDEH’s support, and in March the IAIP approved the repeal of the clause eliminating COALIANZA’s right to withhold information in COALIANZA’s bid process. The achievement of FOSDEH’s advocacy campaign is a significant step towards the enforcement of the Transparency and Access to Information Law<sup>18</sup>.

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

To follow up on 2012 proposed activities to improve the working environment of CSOs in Honduras, the program conducted several meetings with ICNL to review the 2012 priorities. As a result, two main activities will be developed with ICNL:

- *Analysis of the framework of Honduran fiscal laws and their impact on NGOs.* In the CPRG 2013 work plan ICNL will provide technical assistance to FOSDEH to ensure the incorporation of international best practice in the actions taken by FOSDEH in its advisory role to the Special Committee charged with analyzing the fiscal laws affecting CSOs and proposing recommendations for reform. At the recommendation of Impactos, ICNL will offer support to FOSDEH to help the organization (a) assess current Honduran fiscal laws; and (b) understand comparative international best practices on fiscal laws governing CSOs. As a result of this technical assistance Commission deliberations will be informed by international best practices. One of the expected outcomes of this initiative is that for FOSDEH to present to the National Congress a compilation of all the legislation related to fiscal laws including recommendations to the executive and legislative branches on how to formulate legal reforms to encourage increased transparency on the implementation of these laws in Honduras.
- *Monitoring the approval of the NGO-D Law.* In the next quarter, ICNL will design and facilitate a training workshop on public policy advocacy aimed at promoting appropriate regulations for the NGO-D sector.

#### 1.11- Support Non-Partisan Policy Research and Advocacy

The grantees supporting activities 1.11 made the following progress:

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<sup>18</sup> Please see Annex H: Interest Story: “Mediated Advocacy for Change”.

- Grantees focused on research and advocacy initiatives completed the following evaluations: review of cases involving human rights violations in Honduras (CARITAS), public security (CIPRODEH), unlisted expenditures in the national budget (FOSDEH), compliance with the Transparency and Access to Public Information Law (C-Libre<sup>19</sup>), funds allocated for road maintenance (EROC), and the Santa Rosa de Copán municipal budget planning process (ADELSAR<sup>20</sup>). All these initiatives and resulting information serve as a basis for CSOs to advocate for a change in public policy. CSOs will use this information to establish long-term advocacy guidelines and improve the accountability of the following public institutions: the PPO, the NPD, the SOPTRAVI, the Finance Ministry, and the municipalities of La Esperanza, Gracias, Siguatepeque, Puerto Cortes, and Santa Rosa de Copán.
- CARITAS monitored cases involving human rights violations in the PPO. The findings are expected to be presented in the next quarter.
- CIPRODEH advised the Committee of Public Safety on: 1) the incorporation of human rights material into the police curriculum; 2) a police code of ethics and conduct, and 3) an anti-corruption policy proposal.
- FOSDEH promoted increased information and improved access to information on the unlisted expenditures in the national budget.
- C-Libre supported the enforcement of the Transparency and Access to Information Law and the development of indicators for an index to improve transparency at the municipal level.
- EROC documented the allocation of state funds for road maintenance on the CA-4 road. Following the project “Increasing Citizen Voice in the Western Region through improved communication channels”, ASONOG and EROC worked to further finalize an advocacy strategy improved transparency and accountability on the rehabilitation of the CA-4 road. The final strategy is expected to be completed in the next quarter.
- ASONOG began updating research undertaken on C-4 budget expenditures from 2006 to 2011.
- ADELSAR facilitated a participatory planning process for a municipal budget in the city of Santa Rosa de Copán. ADELSAR also presented its proposed methodology to civil society in the municipality of Santa Rosa de Copán. Currently, ADELSAR is conducting several events to raise awareness on the methodology at the community and municipal level.

FDsF completed several activities this quarter:

- Conducted surveys in ten public institutions. A total of 3,100 surveys were undertaken and FDsF completed a preliminary report on the findings titled, "Monitoring of corruption and bribery in the government offices in Tegucigalpa".
- Developed a "Citizen Scrutiny Index" that measures the extent to which public institutions are open to social audits.
- Monitored articles in the national newspapers *La Prensa* and *La Tribuna*. The articles focus on transparency issues and FDsF created a digital database of their findings. This monitoring has resulted in the identification of 223 cases of corruption within the last six months.

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

Counterpart International's HQ-based communications team visited the Impactos Program to document the activities of various grantees in the cities of San Pedro Sula, Tegucigalpa, Choloma, and Santa Rosa de Copán. With support from Impactos, the communications team produced a series of videos and testimonials as inputs to support the fundraising campaigns developed by Counterpart International, and to that could serve to encourage collaboration on efforts to fight corruption and improve transparency and improve coordination with other programs undertaking similar initiatives.

<sup>19</sup> Comité por la Libre Expresión (C-Libre)

<sup>20</sup> Agencia de Desarrollo Estratégico Local de Santa Rosa de Copán

The U.S. Ambassador in Honduras, Lisa Kubiske, visited the *Asistencia Legal Anticorrupción* (ALAC) to learn about the services ALAC is providing to Honduran citizens. The Ambassador met with the center's beneficiaries and attorneys to hear different testimonials on ALAC's legal assistance and achievements to date.

## **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

After reaching consensus at a February workshop with the four ISOs, FOSDEH proposed to lead the mapping of challenges and opportunities Honduran civil society is confronting in the fight against corruption. The development of a "learning community", comprised of grantees and non-grantees, is envisioned as a space in which CSOs can discuss issues related to the fight against corruption and the identification of citizen-led solutions to advocate on for improved public policies and decision-making processes. By applying a methodology for the "Observatory of Transparency Challenges and Opportunities", the program will continue to provide technical assistance to FOSDEH and coordinate combined actions with the ISOs and the sub-grantees to strengthen this learning community. FOSDEH will include this activity in its project proposal to be awarded next quarter.

### 2.2 – Facilitate Collaborative Partnerships and Dialogue Channels between CSOs and Public Entities

The Program continued to support the ongoing collaborative partnerships inherent to each grant. Please see Annex J for a brief overview of the type of collaborations between government entities and CSOs supported by Impactos.

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

The following highlights assistance extended this quarter:

- CARITAS developed four training sessions for an average of 25 public prosecutors in each training workshop. The prosecutors are assigned to the Prosecutors' Human Rights Office in the cities of Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, La Ceiba, and La Esperanza. The first three sessions focused on the legal procedures not adequately addressed in the Human Rights Office: The International System of Human Rights Protection; the convention of control in the PPO, and the effective investigation of human rights violations. The Mexican scholar Gerardo Ballesteros de León conducted a fourth session emphasizing the "right to the truth". The Commission of Truth was created in June 2010, with the objective of "clarifying the facts of the June 28, 2009 coup d'état to demand justice for the Honduran population affected by the coup d'état and to recommend the adoption of measures necessary to avoid the repetition of this type of event in the future" as a mechanism against impunity, and to promote accountability of the public prosecutors.
- C-Libre provided training to 24 public officials from the municipality of Siguatepeque. The support came as a result of the strategic advocacy approach undertaken by the Citizens Transparency Commission (CCT) from Siguatepeque with C-Libre's support. Public officials requested training on the following topics: the role of the Transparency and Access to Public Information Law; public sector transparency; the provision of service delivery, and citizen support. The purpose of the training was to improve the municipality's compliance with the Transparency and Access to Public Information Law and improve the areas identified in the municipal transparency index.

### 2.4 - Support Joint CSO / Government Transparency Project Initiatives

In support of the project, "Monitoring corruption and bribery in government offices in Tegucigalpa", FDSF established a collaborative partnership with the Ministry of Works, Transport and Housing (SOPTRAVI) to raise the awareness of at least 100 officials from the National Transportation Department (DNT) on topics such as transparency, accountability, and corruption.

Based on the audits conducted in the Municipal Corporation of the Central District, SETELEC conducted the project "Social Audit in the Supreme Court of Accounts (TSC).", SETELEC established a partnership with the TSC to provide technical assistance to a total of 62 public officials on topics such as social audits, citizen participation, and the right to access public information. Based on the results of the audits, SETELEC issued a series of recommendations to the TSC on how to conduct efficient and transparent audits in their role as an institution that ensures accountability.

#### 2.6 - Establish and Award Rapid Response Grants

The Impactos program approved a new Rapid Response Grant (RRG) submitted by FOSDEH. The proposal supports the reform of Article 15 of the Tax on Sales Act the work of the Special Commission responsible for the analysis and control of tax exemptions and exonerations. FOSDEH has advocated for positive changes related to the public policies of Honduras to make them more equitable and address the problems of individuals affected by the policies. FOSDEH's proposal highlighted that tax exemptions are relevant for those institutions that contribute to development efforts, and address human rights protection and humanitarian work. It further notes that international regulations such as trade agreements, mutual diplomatic agreements, international cooperation, etc. that varies from national legislation must be respected.

During the reporting period, ASJ successfully completed the installation of ALAC in Tegucigalpa. Successfully initiated with Impactos funding in 2012, ALAC is an institution open to the public that receives and monitors corruption complaints. Citizens can direct their complaints to ALAC through a free hotline, website, social network, text messages, or in person at one of their offices. These institutions are supported by Transparency International (TI) globally and they have proven to be successful as a tool for engaging citizens in the fight against corruption and to promote institutional changes. In Honduras, ASJ is the national chapter of TI. Counterpart International incorporated ALAC into the proposed modification submitted to USAID to extend the geographic coverage of ALAC's services to the northern coast and the western part of the country from office installations located in the city of San Pedro Sula. The approval of the proposed project and installation of ALAC is pending the approval of the modification by USAID. A private donor is providing a facility to establish ASJ's operations in San Pedro Sula, strategically located in the central park plaza nearby to the Municipal palace.

FUHRIL continued to implement its RRG by providing capacity development to people with disabilities, 39 member CSOs and government officials in sign language. Through their grant, they have motivated and mobilized people with disabilities (PWDs), volunteers dedicated to a good cause, public officials, and the media. FUHRIL acted as a partner that communicates the view of the PWDs on issues such as the accountability of public institutions. As one of the main achievements of their actions, FUHRIL raised awareness among public officials about the limitations PWDs face to demand services, delivery and access to information to communicate their ideas, and proposals to curb corruption. The 32 public officials received training in sign language to facilitate the provision of service delivery to this particular group. This way FUHRIL is contributing to the national culture by facilitating a dialogue for PWDs to participate and speak on equal terms in favor of transparency and accountability in Honduras.

**CAP program 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter activities according to draft FY2013 work plan**

**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

As of January 2013, five Institutional Support and Civic Participation (ISCP) CSOs<sup>21</sup> completed their planned activities according to their main objectives and achieved project indicators related to Community Based Organization strengthening through their first year of grant implementation. Impactos staff conducted meetings with the CSOs' technical staff for the performance evaluation and closure of the ISCP grants awarded between January 2012, and January 2013. Based on the CAP strategic approach for FY13 in the communities of Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula and Choloma, Impactos Staff provided orientation to the ISCP CSO partners to prepare project proposals for the second year of project implementation. On March 11<sup>th</sup>, Counterpart International renewed the grant agreements with FUNADEH, CASM, Children International, CDH, and CIPRODEH. The five renewals were based on previous activities implemented in year 2012 with the purpose of providing continuity of the projects within the framework of the IMPACTOS ISCP focus on violence prevention in 20 communities. The amount approved for each grant this fiscal year is US\$32,000.

The Program delivered technical assistance to four ISCP CSOs<sup>22</sup> for Phase II. The technical assistance included the processes of community action planning and design of the community revitalization projects. CSOs were provided with the skills and tools to develop capacities of the Community Revitalization Committees' (CRC) leaders and members. In the Program's 16 new communities of Choluteca, La Ceiba, Tela, and Santa Rosa de Copán, the CRC members began the process of community planning and project design. The key factor for the development of these processes is the active participation of the CRC members in analyzing intervention opportunities and collected information from the community assessments, making use of the information tool provided by the Program. The community project proposals resulting from the community action plans will be funded by Impactos in the next quarter. The Program prepared supporting documents to serve as reference for the CSOs and CRCs on the operational strategy of the CAP program and the CRC strategy (Refer to Annex A: Strategic Methodology to Organize CRCs (*Estrategia Metodológica para la Conformación de los CRC*), and Annex B: Implementation Process of CAP Project Social Opportunities Project (*Proceso de implementación de IMPACTOS/Proyecto Oportunidades Sociales*)). The Program also provided technical assistance to the CSOs related to the process of creation, organization and strengthening of the Youth Networks (Refer to Annex C: Organization and Consolidation of Community Youth Networks (*Formación y consolidación de redes de juventud comunitaria*)).

1.2- Conduct Initial Project Outreach Activities

The Program conducted meetings to gather and document feedback from the grantees on their experience and lessons learned during the last year of project implementation. This favored the continuation of the initial relationships and enhanced the coordination with the grantees for the second round of grant implementation during FY 2013. In terms of project implementation, the CSOs expressed their concerns over the Honduran government's slow process of issuing are solution to the tax exemption and how this is affecting community revitalization project activities, especially for those CSOs without the capacity to absorb tax payments. Assisted by Impactos, CDH, and CASM, the CSOs conducted meetings with CRC members to analyze and identify solutions. Some measures and solutions to overcome this issue were adopted, such as obtaining the support of the mayor's office in Choloma and support of the private sector by receiving donations to cover tax payments (such was the case of FUNADEH in Choloma). Other ISCP grantees are absorbing tax payments and able to consider using this as Program cost share (such was the case of Children International). At the end of the quarter, CDH and CIPRODEH were still waiting for the

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<sup>21</sup> CASM, Children International, FUNADEH, CDH, CIPRODEH

<sup>22</sup>The Program's CAP CSOs implementing partners- Phase II include the ones who started implementing projects on the second quarter of year 2012: CIPE, COSOCITELA, CEPROSAF, and ADELSAR

government's resolution on tax exception while they were moving forward with activities that do not involve tax payment. This situation has caused significant delays in the implementation of community revitalization project implementation with emphasis on infrastructure and other small public works that involve construction materials and involve tax payments. The Program has also looked for alternatives with the Fondo Hondureño de Inversión Social (FHIS) so they can develop construction and upgrading of infrastructure.

### 1.3 - Conduct Rapid Community Assessment in Potential Communities of Intervention

Community participation provided community volunteers an opportunity to learn more about their communities' strengths and weaknesses and to prepare to work on viable solutions to prevent violence and reduce crime. On February 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, the Program conducted a workshop to introduce the findings of community assessments in 16 target communities from La Ceiba, Tela, and Santa Rosa de Copán. A total of 16 CRC members and 8 CSO project technicians participated in the event, presenting a summary of the main findings and conclusions of the diagnostic. As a result of the presentations, the participants made assessment observations primarily regarding the information to be collected through alternate sources, given that some information is unavailable in the Statistics National Institute or at the Violence Observatory. The final assessment reports are expected to be completed during the next quarter.

Meetings were held with three of the ISCP CSOs (CEPROSAF, COSOCITELA, and ADELSAR) to enable the process of preparing the baseline report in 16 communities in La Ceiba, Tela, Choluteca, and Santa Rosa de Copán. The mechanics of the baseline process and how to best engage community leaders throughout the baseline process were discussed to allow project participants to take ownership of the information, findings and recommendations, and to enable them to actively participate in monitoring and evaluating their community project interventions.

### 1.4—Establish and Strengthen Community Revitalization Councils (CRCs) in Each Community

In January, the Program facilitated workshops with CIPE in Choluteca and CEPROSAF in La Ceiba. A total of 142 community leaders participated from 8 communities (Choluteca (77) and La Ceiba (65)) with the purpose of motivating the CRCs and community members to participate in project activities generate and strengthen goals, challenges, and benefits for their communities. The CSOs from Santa Rosa de Copán, Choluteca, La Ceiba, and Tela continued to develop a series of workshops for the CRC members concerning violence prevention, Public Policy for Violence Prevention on Children and Youth, leadership skills, domestic violence, self-esteem, teamwork, networking, SWOT analysis, and research on social issues, research survey, strategic planning, and M&E.

The Program conducted field visits to four of its target communities in the municipality of Tela (Grant, September 15, Triunfo de la Cruz, and Tornabé) together with its ISCP implementing partner COSOCITELA. Below the highlights of the meetings held with community members:

**Grant**

Some outstanding leaders attended the meeting. Wilfredo Trosty, Angel Vargas, Luis Garcia, and Itza Vanegas, as well as other representatives of the community board, water board, women's organization and community members mentioned that they believe that their CRC has been conducive to consolidating and grouping the different community base organizations into a representative structure to address their needs. They informed that, as a result, there is now a better understanding of their community needs and plans then before the Impactos Program began to operate in their communities.



**15 de Septiembre**

Norma Euceda, a school teacher and member of the Youth Network, and Teresa Bejarano, a volunteer of the Organization of Child, Family and Community Development (ODEIFC), are active CRC members. They agreed that education is the essence of development. The leaders expressed that they were very motivated and that they believe that, through the creation of the CRCs, the Impactos Program has brought together different community organizations and boards, teachers, students, and churches by integrating and bringing closer together their community members. They believe that the trainings motivate them far more to invest efforts to improve their community and that they have raised their level of awareness over the changes needed to improve their living conditions. They expressed, "We do not want money. What we want is to be educated." They believe that "prevention is better than rehabilitation of the youth."



**Triunfo de la Cruz**

Mr. Anselmo, a community leader, is an active CRC member and president of the Community Water Board. He also owns a small restaurant located at the beach. One of his greatest concerns is the lack of cultural identity of the young Garifuna population who are often "consumerist oriented with a tendency to lose sight of the important things." For this leader, "community comes first and second the individualism", hinting that it is important for the community to come together to develop projects that benefit the majority of the population, especially the youth. He mentioned that other organizations have come in the past, but didn't provide any concrete benefit and that he perceives that this is not the case with Impactos. This community leader showed strong leadership capacities, analytical skills, and situational awareness of the needs of his community, and great motivation by saying, "We have to keep improving, and that's what life is for."



**Tornabé**

The visit was attended by CRC members Ansela Santos and Andrea Valerio. They expressed that Impactos has been a great opportunity and of great help in achieving the integration of youth in their community. The leaders defined the CRC as a team of community members with diverse activities who meet to discuss different situations affecting the community.



**1.5 - Conduct Participatory Community Crime Appraisal (PCCA)**

CRC members learned about the situation of their communities by actively participating in the process of gathering and analyzing information to design their community assessments. The members obtained relevant information to identify and prioritize local security challenges and available resources. The ISCPG CSOs facilitated several meetings with the CRC members in the 16 target communities of La

Ceiba, Tela, Choluteca and Santa Rosa de Copán. They discussed the insecurity and violence communities are facing and ideas on opportunities for their community with emphasis on the youth to improve things. They also began the development of their strategic community action plans based on their needs and prioritizing interventions to be included in their community revitalization project proposals to be funded by Impactos in the next quarter. In 20 target communities of Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula and Choloma, the CRC members and the CSO partners discussed and analyzed solutions on the delay in the implementation of the community revitalization project due to suspension of tax exemption by the Honduran government. Impactos staff motivated the CRC members and CSOs to mobilize resources from different sources to resolve the payment of taxes. FUNADEH and Children International CSO built partnership relations and obtained financial support from the private sector, municipal government, and private donations to overcome this situation.

#### 1.6 - Present PCCAs to the Communities for Buy-in

Representatives of FHIS-CLIP conducted two meetings with Impactos and the CARSI Group implementers to foster closer relationships to overcome security weaknesses and crime in CARSI communities, achieve greater impact, practice effective use of resources, and to widen collaboration among the technical project teams. The Program shared community assessments and community action plans with FHIS-CLIP to identify and prioritize infrastructure interventions in common target communities. The Program also shared the plans prepared by the CRCs with the PASMO project for the identification of project interventions in common target communities according to the actions prioritized by CRC members within the area of sexual education and reproductive health. FHIS and PASMO have considered the CRCs as the contact points in CARSI focused communities to develop their project activities. FHIS already started infrastructure activities in some of the CAP communities in the municipalities of Tegucigalpa, Choloma and La Ceiba, and PASMO is planning to develop reproductive health training and activities emphasized in youth to respond to the CRCs' action plans.

#### 1.7 - Create Annual Community Strategic Action Plans

The Program provided technical assistance to the CSOs on action planning, which progressed with the active participation of community members. The CSOs enabled the CRCs from 16 target communities in Choluteca, La Ceiba, Tela, and Santa Rosa de Copán to enhance their capacity of analyzing and identifying risk factors, as well as prioritize viable actions to prevent violence within their communities. The communities conducted the decision-making processes in an interactive way, helping them to improve their level of participation as empowered citizens, and strengthen their organization capacities towards fostering revitalized communities. These strategic planning exercises stimulated generation of potential contributions, solutions, and reflexive opinions about future activities that could lead to the improvement of living conditions within the CAP targeted population for the foundation of more resilient communities.

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

The CRC members implemented periodic meetings in 20 targeted communities. Working on a voluntary basis, the members dedicated part of their time to measure project progress and participate in coordination activities as a means to assure proper project implementation. The CSOs provided technical assistance to the CRC members for the monitoring process. These activities have encouraged the active involvement and commitment of community members in the development and monitoring of their projects. Future training sessions for CRC members to enhance their capacity on management, monitoring and project evaluation will be led by the Impactos M&E Specialist in coordination with the CSO technicians during the next quarter.

#### 1.9 – Identify (or Catalyze) Municipal Development and Security Councils (MDSCs) in each Municipality

In February, the mayor of Choloma publicized the Citizen Security and Violence Prevention Plan 2013-2018. Impactos attended this public presentation organized by UNDP. Members of the Municipal Council for Citizen Security and Violence Prevention expressed their commitment to ensure the effective implementation of the plan. The Council is composed of about 20 representatives of the private and public sectors and members of civil society. As member of the Council, FUNADEH represented the civil society sector in the preparation and validation of this plan. This is an important opportunity to promote CAP activities for strengthening municipalities in the prevention of violence and to increase the level of local community project initiatives. The Program expects to receive the program modification approval from USAID to reinforce municipal project intervention activities by hiring a professional specialist in the field of municipal management for violence prevention. This specialist will also support the ISCP CSO implementing partners in capacity building assistance for municipal officials.

#### 1.10– Initiate Subsequent Cycles of Appraisal and Action Planning Activities

Twenty communities from San Pedro Sula, Tegucigalpa, and Choloma continued to develop their Community Action Plans through community revitalization grants. The actions undertaken within the framework of these projects were near to completion at the end of this quarter. CASM, Children International, FUNADEH, CDH, and CIPRODEH will begin the process of reviewing and updating the strategic community action plans with the CRC members, as well as identifying new activities.

#### 1.11 - Facilitate Dialogue Forums

With the objective of empowering youth in target communities, the Program coordinated four Youth Municipal Dialogue Forums in the municipalities of Choluteca, Santa Rosa de Copán, San Pedro Sula, and Tegucigalpa in partnership with ISCP CSOs and the municipal officials. The youth received inspirational messages related to violence prevention from the facilitators and from the Forum participants, and discussed current issues affecting the youth in their communities and in Honduras. They also shared discussions with each other about their personal views of security weaknesses and violence that they face in their communities and proposed solutions to their social problems. The outstanding issues discussed included family disintegration, teenage pregnancy, loss of moral and civic values, alcohol/drug addictions, and lack of educational and employment opportunities. These inputs are used to inform and design the youth action plans and initiatives contributing to the improvement of the citizen's security and violence prevention with the active participation of young community leaders. The youth plans are expected to be implemented through the youth network grant implementation. Through the dialogue, the Program motivated the municipal officials and the representatives of the CRCs to work jointly with the young leaders in violence prevention strategies. A total of 347 people participated in the Youth Municipal Dialogue Forums held in Choluteca (82), Santa Rosa de Copán (81), San Pedro Sula (108) and Tegucigalpa (76).

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

#### 2.1 - Assess Training Needs and Deliver Capacity Building Assistance to Municipal Government Officials and 2.2 – Increase Government Support for Public Participation in Policy Formulation

COSOCITELA conducted two workshops on domestic violence in January and February for the Municipal Development Committee in Tela. A total of 33 municipal officials participated, as these individuals are seen as critical players in violence prevention at the personal, family, school, and community levels. This engagement of municipal officials in prevention is essential to help strengthen the local institutionalized and political forces capable of eliminating the causes of violence. Nevertheless, the intervention with the municipal governments has been a challenge considering the low level of responsiveness due to the upcoming presidential elections. Meanwhile, community based organization strengthening was in progress during this quarter, as community assessments among municipal officials

were in the process of preparation by CRC members. This is decisive to promoting a closer relationship between government officials and CRC members, creating awareness about security needs, and strengthening linkages between CRCs and municipal officials to develop joint actions in violence prevention in the communities.

### 2.3 - Award Policy Advocacy Grants

The Program re-submitted a program and budget modification proposal to USAID to allocate funds through the Municipal Advocacy Grants aimed at strengthening the institutional capacity and responsiveness of local governments to community demands. Pending the modification, the following activities are considered in the work plans of the recently renewed ISCP grant agreements for violence prevention with CSOs in Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, and Choloma:

- Improve identified municipal services for violence prevention in target communities.
- Promote and strengthen the relations between CRCs and local governments to incorporate the Community Violence Prevention Plans into the Municipal Prevention Plans.
- Develop effective joint coordination between the Municipal Violence Prevention Committees or Sub-Commissions for Violence Prevention with CSOs and CRCs to promote activities for strategic mobilization of the state or international investment resources. These resources would aid the implementation of Municipal Strategic Plans promoting violence prevention activities, such as small income generation activities, education and job opportunities for youth, and preservation and promotion of natural resources and cultural heritages.

### 2.4 - Support Public Information and Outreach Campaigns (PIOCs)

Meetings were held with ISCP CSOs to discuss future activities for campaign implementation, emphasizing the involvement that will be needed from the ISCP CSOs and coordination activities with the CSO that will be responsible of the campaign implementation in the coming months. The PIOC aims to disseminate inspirational messages about violence prevention in the CAP target communities. The coordination of these activities is necessary to link the CRC members and Youth Networks with the CSO responsible for the implementation. The involvement and leadership of the youth networks is expected throughout the process, along with the support of CRC members. The CSOs from Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, and Choloma have included these coordination activities in their work plans for year 2013. In March, Impactos released a RFA to select a CSO to develop a PIOC in CAP's 36 target communities. Will evaluate the applications for the competitive process and will award the grant in the next Quarter.

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

### 3.1 - Award Community Revitalization Grants (CRG)

The CRG agreements signed November 2012, by CASM, Children International, FUNADEH, CDH, and CIPRODEH were being implemented during this quarter. These grants (US\$10,000 for each community) are targeted to help 1,600 beneficiaries in 20 target communities from Tegucigalpa, Choloma, and San Pedro Sula to develop community-led initiatives in areas of a) employability and income generation, b) education, c) youth inclusion and mobilization, d) mental health (prevention of drug and alcohol abuse), and e) community space preservation. The projects seek to empower people, consolidate community solidarity and integration, and create awareness among community members on violence prevention and drug abuse by creating opportunities for social development. The communities are more focused on achieving life free of violence and increased social opportunities for their population. A culture of peace, cohesion among community dwellers, and mutual support for social development and violence prevention is spreading continuously through the Program's implemented activities. Hope for better for better living conditions prevail among community members as they strive to fight against the threats of staggering violence in their territories. The involvement and commitment of community members is outstanding and the CSOs started developing processes in joint coordination with the CRCs through the following activities:

<b>Children International</b>	<i>Communities</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vocational trainings on jewelry manufacturing and cell phone repair</li> <li>• Workshops on family and community values, interpersonal relations and conflict resolution</li> <li>• Campaign and workshops on environmental stewardship and good management of solid waste</li> </ul>	<i>Cristo Viene and Asentamientos Humanos</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training for community leaders, parents and youth on family values, sexual and reproductive health, prevention of alcohol abuse, and use of addictive substances</li> <li>• Upgrading infrastructure of community center facilities for social activities and training</li> </ul>	<i>6 de Mayo and Sinaí</i>
<b>FUNADEH</b>	<i>Communities</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrading infrastructure of a local kindergarten facilities to install a computer lab</li> </ul>	<i>Rubi</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vocational training on bakery to promote small businesses in communities</li> </ul>	<i>Rubí and Éxitos de ANACH</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negotiations with Instituto Nacional de Formación Profesional (INFOP) to develop vocational training on sewing and tailoring</li> </ul>	<i>Éxitos de ANACH</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure improvements of the community's soccer field and park</li> </ul>	<i>CARE</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facility improvements of the local Outreach Center to expand training services</li> </ul>	<i>López Arellano</i>
<b>CASM</b>	<i>Communities</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshop on creative craftsmanship</li> </ul>	<i>Jesús R. González</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of school supply kits to students 12-18 years of age</li> <li>• Leadership skills training for young community members</li> <li>• Hairdressing and beauty vocational trainings</li> <li>• Training for parents and young people on family values and prevention of alcohol and drug abuse</li> </ul>	<i>Bordo Gavión</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide financial support to entry into the informal education system EDUCATODOS</li> </ul>	<i>Bordo Gavión, San Vicente de Pául and Jesús R. González</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshops on personal and family values, leadership, prevention of alcohol abuse and use of addictive substances</li> </ul>	<i>San Vicente de Pául</i>
<b>CDH</b>	<i>Communities</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English courses</li> </ul>	<i>José Á. Ulloa</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshops for youth network members on leadership, self-esteem, values and gender</li> </ul>	<i>Generación 2000 and Mary Flakes</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirmed the support from the company Molino Harinero Sula to develop vocational training on bakery skills to start community bakeries</li> </ul>	<i>Mary Flakes</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrangements for the purchase of equipment for vocational computer training</li> </ul>	<i>Nueva Capital</i>
<b>CIPRODEH</b>	<i>Communities</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshops on sexual and reproductive health</li> <li>• Training on mural art painting</li> </ul>	<i>La Era</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshops on prevention of alcohol abuse and addictive substances</li> </ul>	<i>La Travesía</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trainings in violence prevention and culture of peace</li> <li>• Workshops on prevention of alcohol abuse and addictive substances, and sexual and reproductive health</li> </ul>	<i>La Sosa</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community football championship and recreational activities to promote community integration and positive messages for community coexistence</li> </ul>	<i>San Miguel</i>
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In spite of progress made in project implementation, the CSOs faced difficulties in implementation and budget performance due to the government’s slow process of issuing the resolution of the tax exemption. This situation is affecting the CRG activities, especially in the cases where the CSOs lack financial resources for tax payments. The CSOs and CRCs made their best efforts in identifying solutions to overcome this impasse. Through its CPRG component, Impactos is financing a Rapid Response Grant to FOSDEH so they can provide technical support to CSOs and the government through the Special Tax Commission dealing to resolve this situation. Please refer to the Program’s RRF activities for more details.

### 3.2 - Seek Additional Funding to Support Community Revitalization Projects (CRP)

On March 11, the Program coordinated a meeting with the CARSÍ Group in San Pedro Sula to continue building collaborative relationships with other USAID projects under the CARSÍ Initiative. All seven ISCP CSOs participated in the event with organizations from the CARSÍ group to share experiences and models of violence and crime prevention. The participants also shared geographical coverage to identify opportunities of coordination and integration among the CARSÍ Group and Impactos grantees within the various target communities and municipalities. In addition, to inform CARSÍ group members of the scope of interventions under the CAP and CPRG projects, CASM, ASJ and CIPRODEH presented their project models currently being implemented within the Impactos Program. The participants concluded that the problem of insecurity requires a multi-sectoral treatment to support the communities and their local governments. Projects must create a greater impact when managing effective coordination of collaboration and mutual support. The following general strategic guidelines were identified for coordination and integration of CARSÍ projects and Impactos grantees:

- Knowledge management and crime and violence prevention tools
- Inclusion of CARSÍ interventions into municipal planning
- Integration of CARSÍ actions to support local implementation of strategic action plans developed by the CRCs
- Use of CRCs by CARSÍ implementing partners as the community-based organization structure to work with communities and implement their CARSÍ initiatives

The Program held meetings with FHS-CLIP and PASMO to build closer relations and widen collaborations among project teams and identify collaborations in common target communities. As a result of the meeting with FHS-CLIP, technical assistance was provided to the communities of San Miguel and Generación 2000 in Tegucigalpa on infrastructure and environmental requirements to upgrade existing facilities to recover community spaces for public services (health and computer center in Generación 2000) and recreation facilities (sports court and community park in San Miguel).

ISPCSOs ADELSAR and FUNADEH succeeded in developing joint coordination and partnerships with government authorities and other projects related to security and violence prevention. Both CSOs coordinated with and obtained support of the local government in activities concerning the recognition of the CRCs. This support will aid developing project activities such as training workshops for local authorities and financial support for community revitalization projects. FUNADEH facilitated collaborative partnership efforts between CRCs and the Choloma authorities by providing financial support to cover tax payments and construction materials to rehabilitate community spaces. In the case of CDH and FUNADEH, the private company Molino Harinero Sula is supporting vocational training activities in bakery skills. ADELSAR is coordinating project evaluations with the PROMUEVE project financed by AECID to promote security and violence prevention in the Elder Romero community in

Santa Rosa de Copán. FUNADEH is coordinating activities with the United Nations Development Program and CitiLinks (CARSI projects).

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

With the purpose of empowering the youth of the target communities, the ISCP-CSOs (Phase II<sup>23</sup>) facilitated various violence prevention activities and trainings on self-esteem, leadership, and team work to encourage the creation of youth networks, and succeeded in identifying and creating interest among young community members to engage in program activities.

The Program also provided technical assistance to CEPROSAF, COSOCITELA, CIPE, and ADELSAR for the creation and strengthening of Youth Networks. To date, there are 449 active youth network members from the target communities operate in the municipalities of San Pedro Sula, Tegucigalpa, Choloma, and Tela (Refer to Annex D: Youth Networks Information Table).

The Program coordinated four Municipal Dialog Forums with youths in four target municipalities (San Pedro Sula, Santa Rosa de Copán, Tegucigalpa, and Choluteca), in which youth network members shared their experiences in violent situations and proposed solutions to the challenges they face as youth in their communities.



#### Unscheduled Activities:

At USAID’s request, field visits were conducted in Santa Rosa de Copán and Choloma, with the purpose of obtaining information about the actions undertaken in these regions by CSO partners ADELSAR and FUNADEH. During these visits, meetings were held with staff members from ADELSAR and FUNADEH, local authorities, and community leaders. USAID representatives had the opportunity to learn firsthand all the activities that have been and are being developed in the communities, as well as: the results, challenges, and opportunities; the commitment of CRC members to the project; opinions of residents; and the level of involvement with municipal development and FUNADEH.

USAID/Honduras Deputy Mission Director Kurt Pope visited San Pedro Sula, where he was able to observe the significant achievements made to date by the collaborative efforts of the Impactos Program, Children International’s Neal Center, and FUNADEH’s public–private partnership with Molino Harinero Sula. The projects aim to improve communities’ abilities to prevent crime and expand opportunities for community members. Refer to visit story in the Impactos website [www.programaimpactos.org](http://www.programaimpactos.org).

## **V. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

Implemented CPRG & CAP M&E activities for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2013:

### **CPRG**

#### PMP update

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<sup>23</sup> CSOs from Phase II include the ISPCSO implementing partners who started ISCP implementation during the second quarter of year 2012: ADELSAR, CIPE, CEPROSAF, and COSOCITELA.

The PMP was updated according to the proposed program modification. Four meetings were held with USAID to discuss the PMP. The following is the outcome of these meetings:

- Development of the PMP Introduction Document for CPRG & CAP
- Revision of the Data Quality Assessment and the IRS sections: definition, methodology and targets
- Elimination of the indicator with reference to Transparency International
- Development of two context indicators in the PMP
- Development of new reporting tools that complements the current reporting format

#### Technical M&E Assistance

During this reporting period, the M&E team conducted monthly revisions and consolidation of the progress accomplishments according to indicators, monthly grant trackers and grants quarterly reports. The Program team conducted 23 follow-up meetings to monitor activities in each grant, and 7 meetings to monitor activities implemented directly by the CSOs, such as events and campaigns financed by Impactos.

#### Baseline

The Program completed the CPRG baseline protocol to measure the provision of ISO service delivery to grantees. The survey is scheduled to be implemented next quarter through an internet-based survey tool. It will assess the performance of FOPRIDEH and FOSDEH in year 2012. Following the approval of the program modification, a similar survey will be conducted on CASM and CIPRODEH.

#### Development of evaluation tools

M&E developed a series of tools to improve the implementation of the grants:

- Checklist of documentation prior to grant closure
- Data Sheet for the monitoring of advocacy activities
- Data Sheet for useful tips on how to work with the MIS
- Performance Evaluation Tool

#### MIS Reporting

M&E held three meetings with grantees to develop capacity in the use of the MIS (the Counterpart Knowledge Portal). In addition, Counterpart staff from HQ visited Impactos to develop capacity among the Honduras staff and to improve the M&E guidelines.

### **CAP**

#### Closure of grants

The Program supported the closure process and performance evaluation of the ISCP grants awarded to ISCP-CSOs (Phase I<sup>24</sup>) from January 2012 to January 2013. The process included a review and verification of the achievements, performance indicators, budget implementation, and proper documentation.

#### Technical M&E Assistance

The Program met with CSOs to review the means of verification of the achieved indicators in their projects, as well as the registration of supporting documentation of all their activities in the MIS. The Program prepared a detailed technical report with feedback on the analysis of information, describing findings and observations to achieve the goals documented fully by means of verification. The Program observed that the community revitalization projects are progressing, except for the delays experienced in

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<sup>24</sup>CSOs from the Phase I include the ISCP-CSO implementing partners who started ISCPG implementation during the first quarter of year 2012: CDH, CIPRODEH, FUNADEH, CASM and Children International.

activities related to construction activities and others involving tax payments. The Program provided technical assistance to the registration procedure of documentation in the MIS and decision-making process related to the timely implementation of CAP activities.

### Community Assessments

By request from the Municipality of Santa Rosa Copan, the Program assisted ADELSAR in the review of an evaluation tool attached to the PROMUEVE program. The Program also facilitated the *Community Assessments Workshop* with CRCs, ADELSAR, COSOCITELA (Tela), CEPROSAF (La Ceiba), and CIPE (Choluteca).

## VI. ACHIEVEMENTS

CPRG & CAP achievements according to the PMEPs:

CPRG					
<b>Objective One: Improved Effectiveness of Civil Society to Advocate for Transparency and Accountability of Public Institutions.</b>					
No.	PMP Indicators	Targets Year 3	Achieved	Status	Narrative
<b>Output 1.1</b>	(F Indicator)Number of USG assisted civil society organizations that engage in advocacy and watchdog functions	12	14	<b>Exceed</b>	21 grantees enabled at least 172 CSOs to conduct actions of advocacy and public oversight on public administration
<b>Output 1.2</b>	(F Indicator)Number of mechanisms for external oversight of public resource use, supported by USG assistance implemented	7	18	<b>Exceed</b>	12 grantees developed methodologies and tools of social accountability
<b>Output 1.3</b>	(F Indicator)Number of CSO advocacy campaigns supported by USG	4	36	<b>Exceed</b>	36 CSOs designed and began implementing advocacy activities related to their projects, such as forums, lobbying, use of social networks, and fairs
<b>Outcome 1.1</b>	Number of policies that have been influenced by CSOs due to USG support	4	14	<b>Exceed</b>	14 public policies are under influence (see Annex F: Table of public policies being influenced by Impactos grantees)
<b>Outcome 1.2</b>	Number of positive modifications to enabling legislation/regulation for civil society accomplished with USG assistance	0	0	<b>Met</b>	The NGOD law has been approved, the regulation of the Law is in process of approval
<b>Outcome 1.3</b>	Improved capacity of Intermediary Support Organizations to serve as training and CSO support service providers	10%	0	<b>Fell short</b>	Protocol and baseline survey is completed in this period. Application starts in April with the incorporation of the two new ISOs <sup>25</sup>
<b>Outcome 1.4</b>	Number of CSO personnel receiving training in advocacy and watchdog initiatives.	125	567	<b>Exceed</b>	Training topics are: transparency, accountability, advocacy, and communications strategies, public budgeting and expenditure at local and national institutions

<sup>25</sup> The TIG grants were implemented in the 2<sup>nd</sup> fiscal year. The baseline measured the level of satisfaction grantees who received Program-related training through the ISOs. The development of protocol, baseline survey tools, interview guide took place between August 2012 and April 2013.

<b>Contextual 1.1</b>	Increase in public perception of the possibility of decreasing corruption	<b>31%</b>	<b>30%</b>		CNA is responsible for the measuring of this index <sup>26</sup>
<b>Objective Two: Improved Capacity of Public Institutions to Address Gaps in the Enabling Environment for Transparency and Accountability.</b>					
<b>Output 2.1</b>	(F Indicator) Number of government officials receiving USG supported anti-corruption training	<b>30</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>Exceed</b>	7 grantees provided training to government officials on transparency, Access to Public Information, and Accountability
<b>Output 2.2</b>	Number of collaborative relationships established between CSOs and public institutions to improve transparency and accountability	<b>5</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>Exceed</b>	21 grants established collaborative relations with local, national authorities and government decision makers (see Annex F: No. of collaborative relationships established between Impactos' grantees and public institutions)
<b>Contextual 2.1</b>	Increase in the index of implementation of the Transparency Law	<b>2%</b>	<b>--</b>		IAIP is responsible for the measuring of this index
<b>Outcome Indicator (Gender Indicator)</b>	(Gender Indicator) Number of Laws, policies, and/or procedures drafted, proposed or adopted to promote gender equality at the regional, national or local level. (GNDR -1)	<b>--</b>	<b>1</b>		Impactos gender assessment completed; a plan will be designed with ISOs to conduct gender activities

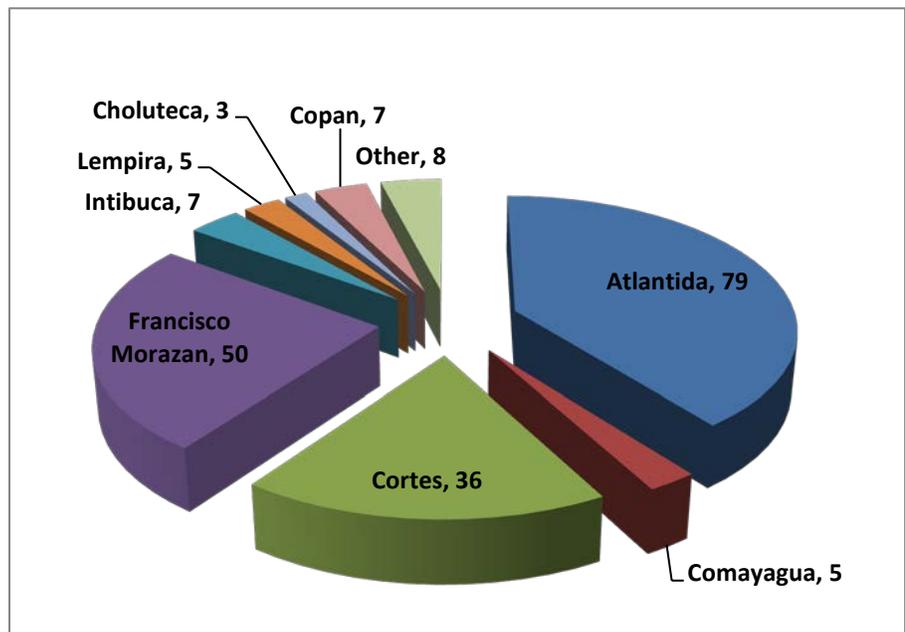
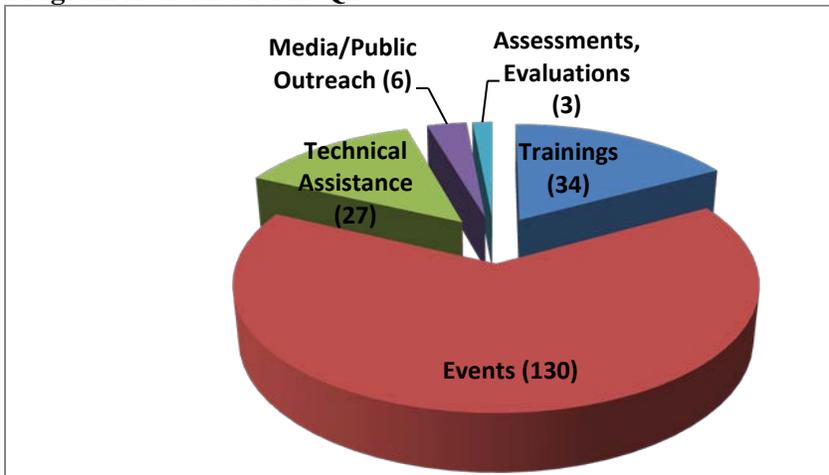
<b>CAP</b>					
<b>Objective One: To improve multi-sectoral capacity to provide coordinated and comprehensive responses to changing security needs.</b>					
<b>No.</b>	<b>PMP Indicators</b>	<b>Targets Year 3</b>	<b>Achieved</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Narrative</b>
<b>Output 1.1</b>	No. of civil society organizations receiving USG assistance in security sector oversight and advocacy	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Met</b>	The CSOs receiving USG assistance are: CASM, CDH, Children International, CIPRODEH, FUNADEH, ADELSAR, CEPROSAF, CIPE, and COSOCITELA
<b>Output 1.2</b>	Number of communities assisted in crime prevention with USG support	<b>36</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>Met</b>	Working in 36 communities in 7 municipalities through CSO partners
<b>Output 1.3</b>	Number of communities with crime and security "Asset Assessments completed"	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Met</b>	Asset Assessments completed from communities of the Municipalities of Choluteca, La Ceiba, Santa Rosa de Copán, and Tela

<sup>26</sup>According to the IRS, the contextual indicator refers to percent of respondents who believe that ending corruption is "possible" and "very possible" and is measured through the National Survey of Perceptions of Corruption by the Consejo Nacional Anticorrupción (CNA). Justification & Management Utility: Counterpart will use this indicator as reference. Perceptions are used because corruption – either frequency of or amount of – is, to a great extent, a hidden activity that is difficult to measure. Over time, perceptions have proved to be a reliable estimate of corruption and in this case, will be used to help mobilize civil society organizations against corruption. Data collection method: relevant data will be taken from National Survey of Perceptions of Corruption by the (CNA).

<b>Outcome 1.2</b>	Number of well-functioning, representative Community Security Committees	13	16	<b>Exceeded</b>	Organized and strengthened CRCs in all target communities of Choluteca, La Ceiba, Santa Rosa de Copán, and Tela
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<b>Objective Two: To improve municipal capacity to provide effective crime prevention services.</b>					
<b>Outcome 2.2</b>	Number of municipalities strengthened by USG programs	7	7	<b>Met</b>	Municipalities of Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, Choloma, Choluteca, La Ceiba, and Tela

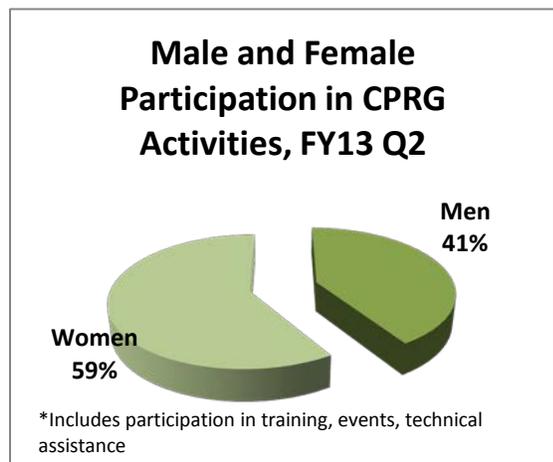
**Program Activities FY13 Q2**



**FY13 Q2 Activities by Municipality**

## VI.

### GENDER-BASED CONSTRAINTS



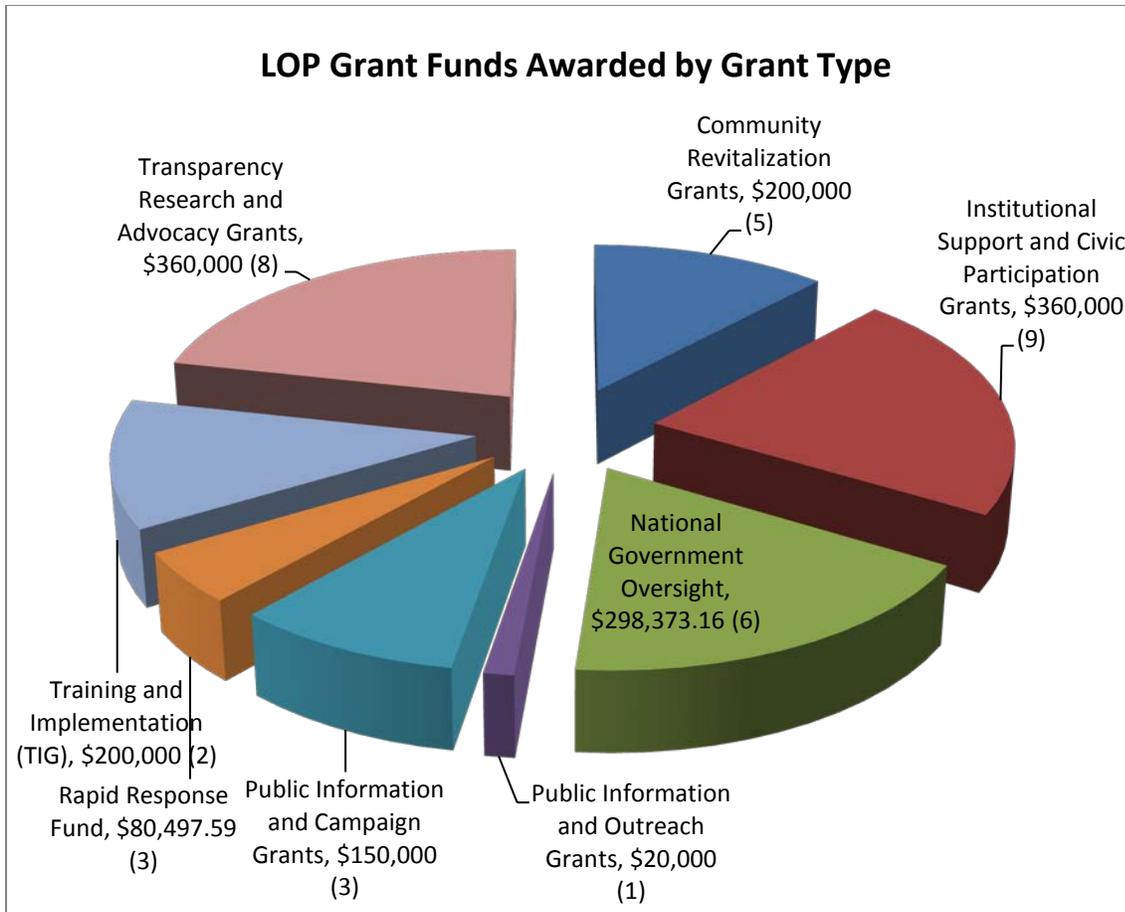
The main challenge this quarter was to encourage grantees to continue integrating gender based activities in their projects in the absence of a strategic document guiding 'gender'. In the next reporting period, Impactos will facilitate the participatory planning with the ISOs to design gender guidelines for the new RFA. In the CAP component, the ISCP and CSO implementing partners were aware of the importance of promoting gender equality, paying greater attention to finding a gender balance in the project activities. In some activities, the men participated less, compared to women who are more likely to engage in social activities. The following table shows the gender balance in implemented activities from October 2012 to March 2013:

CPRG & CAP Grants	Women	Men
ISCP	471	294
TIG	254	407
NGOG	577	517
TRAG	839	1122
PICG	585	669

The Impactos Program, with support from Counterpart International's gender expert, finalized the gender assessment developed in 2012 by an external consultant. The CAP and CPRG coordinator position is currently pending to be approved in the program modification. This coordinator will facilitate a process of gender mainstreaming in the Impactos program and support gender based activities with the ISOs.

## VII. EXPENDITURES

Program Expenditures for the reporting Quarter as of March 31, 2013 amounted to \$4,274,517, the total recorded cost share as of March 31, 2013 is \$30,777, and the total of LOP Expenses are \$4,305,294.



## VIII. PROGRAMMING PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

### CPRG

- Revise and submit the an updated version of Impactos grants manual that better reflects actual Program needs of the grants process(Act. 1.2)
- Deliver technical assistance to grants applications and management (Act. 1.3)
- Assess training needs through interviews with ISO training partners, CSOs, government, and other transparency programs and actors (incorporating FY11 assessments' findings) (Act. 1.4)
- Training in Organizational Development, Financial Management & Logical Framework Approach (Act. 1.4)
- Research potential focus of coalition and participating organizations (in collaboration with ISOs) (Act. 1.5)
- Follow-up discussions with leading CSO participants from introductory self-regulation sessions to determine interest in developing and implementing a self-regulatory system (Act. 1.8)
- Develop a workshop to review the performance of the 6 NGOG, the 3 PICG and the 8 TRAG grantees of year 2 (Act. 1.16, 1.9 & 1.11)
- Publish RFA for NGOG, PICG & TRAG grants (Act. 1.6, 1.9 & 1.11)
- Conduct RFA orientation/proposal development training (Act. 1.6, 1.9 & 1.11)
- Develop the selection process of 4 NGOG, 2 PICG, 2 TRAG grantees (Act. 1.6, 1.9 & 1.11)
- Request technical proposal from ASJ – GEDEON & ALAC (Act. 1.14 & 1.15)
- Conduct due-diligence site visits (Act. 1.14)

- Request approval from HQ to sign agreement for GEDEON model to support the implementation of the legal human rights framework at the grassroots level (Act. 1.14)
- Request Donor approval for ALAC and GEDEON grants (Act. 1.14 & 1.15)
- Request approval from HQ to sign agreement for the ALAC (Act. 1.15)
- Facilitate technical assistance and support to grantees in processes of hiring expert consultants in governance and to ISOs for the establishment of an Observatory of Challenges and Opportunities of Transparency and Community of Learning (Act. 7.1 & 2.1)
- Monitor strategies, facilitate, and support technical assistance to government officials (Act. 2.3)
- Coordinate public presentation of the grants results/deliverables of grants with CARITAS, CIPRODEH and C- Libre (Act. 1.6 & 1.11)

## **CAP**

- Prepare final version of Community Assessments of 16 new target communities from La Ceiba, Tela, and Santa Rosa de Copán, and develop workshops to introduce community assessments findings and update assessments in 20 communities from Tegucigalpa, Choloma, and San Pedro Sula (Act. 1.3)
- Prepare and conduct performance baseline assessments in 16 new communities in La Ceiba, Tela, Choluteca, and Santa Rosa de Copán and train community leaders in implementation of baseline protocol, gathering of information, design and registration of the database, analysis of information and preparation of final reports in a joint work with CSOs (Act. 1.3 & 1.8)
- Provide technical assistance to CSOs and CRCs to start designing Community Strategic Action Plans in 16 new communities (Act. 1.7)
- Start the hiring process for Municipal Specialist consultancy (Act. 2.1 & 2.2)
- Release RFA for Municipal Advocacy Grants (Act. 2.1, 2.2 & 2.3)
- Select and award a CSO to implement a PIOG to develop a public information campaign in 36 target communities (Act. 2.4)
- Facilitate the process of designing community projects in 16 new communities (Act. 3.1)
- Award Community Revitalization Grants to 4 CSOs for the implementation of community led initiatives in 16 communities (Act. 3.1)
- Continue with joint initiative of project implementation with CARS-USAID activities, especially to define mechanisms, timing, and communities in which the project could intervene (Act. 3.2)
- Conduct follow-up visits to track on project implementation and effective grant management of Community Revitalization Grants (Act. 3.2)
- Prepare RFA for the Strengthening Youth Networks Grants (Act. 3.4)