



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**QUARTERLY REPORT #15  
(OCTOBER 2014 – DECEMBER 2014)  
USAID-ACCESO**



December 2014

This publication was prepared by Fintrac Inc. for review by the United States Agency for International Development.



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The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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# I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

USAID-ACCESO is a 46-month project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of Economic Growth in Honduras, to move rural Honduran households out of extreme poverty and under-nutrition by improving their incomes. USAID-ACCESO represents the core investment by USAID/Honduras in the US government's global hunger and food security initiative known as Feed the Future. The project is working through six key components to enable economic development at the household level:

1. Technical assistance and training to enhance the capacity of Honduras' poorest households in production, management, and marketing skills.
2. Market access focused on linking farmers to market opportunities.
3. Rural financial services through existing rural financial intermediaries, village banks, commercial banks, and other service and input providers.
4. Assistance in eliminating policy barriers that impede rural household access to market opportunities.
5. Malnutrition prevention activities to enhance the capacity of rural households to improve utilization and consumption of healthy food.
6. Sound environmental and natural resource management.

USAID-ACCESO is implemented by the US agribusiness firm Fintrac Inc., in association with Fundación Hondureña de Investigación Agrícola (FHIA), Escuela Agrícola Panamericana (EAP-ZAMORANO), Fundación para el Desarrollo Empresarial Rural (FUNDER), CARE International, and the Global Village Project. Seven additional local organizations are also under sub-contracts; these are Hermandad de Honduras, Save the Children, Cooperativa Regional Agroforestal Erandique Limitada (COPRAFEL), Organismo Cristiano de Desarrollo Integral de Honduras (OCDIH), Proyectos e Iniciativas Locales para el Autodesarrollo Regional de Honduras (PILARH), Comisión Acción Social Menonita (CASM), and Instituto Hondureño del Café (IHCAFE).

This is the fifteenth quarterly report for USAID-ACCESO, summarizing the principal activities carried out from October to December 2014.

Activities carried out during the quarter include the delivery of the technical assistance and training programs, the installation of irrigation systems, expansion of market-based production programs, implementation of basic production packages, sales alliances with new buyers, implementation of nutrition and health assistance program, delivery of technical support to small off-farm businesses, technical assistance to open and expand USAID-ACCESO clients' access to finance options, formalization of organized groups, establishment of renewable energy and water conservation projects, forming and organizing disaster mitigation groups, installation or repair of community potable water systems, and data and results sampling.

Results and status of indicators for the current quarter include:

- Increased rural MSMEs' access to inputs, practices, and technologies to improve market participation: as of December 2014, the project is providing training and technical assistance to 34,770 clients, including 30,373 poor and extreme poor household clients (27,848 extreme poor, 2,525 poor), in 2,736 communities in 130 municipalities in the six departments. To date, 88,285 training events have been carried out (including 5,471 during the quarter). 65,152 individuals have received training, including 23,910 women (37 percent). As of December 2014, project clients have received a total of 781,894 technical assistance visits from project technicians and specialists, including 51,508 recorded during the current quarter.

- This quarter, the project continued supporting coffee growers in developing planting systems, harvesting systems, drying systems, quality maintenance, quality differentiation, and sales contacts. Coffee growers continue to diversify their coffee production areas with calendarized plantings of high-value crops, and are experiencing successes with these new crops.
- Continued and expanded delivery of technical assistance and training to basic grain and small-scale coffee producers on soil preparation practices, the use of lime applications, seed selection, increasing planting densities, implementing weed control, improving fertilization use, and diversification into high value crops.
- During the quarter emphasis was given to the installation of the new irrigation conduction systems throughout the six departments. Focus was given to growers in existing irrigation projects on market linked crop planting calendars, the use of the basic production practices, irrigation use and maintenance and the full production systems. In addition, environmental audits were carried out on the irrigation systems that have been installed with project assistance.
- During the quarter, 276 hectares of coffee were planted, 523 hectares of corn, and 185 hectares of beans, for a total of 160 hectares when fruits, vegetables and tree crops are included. 347 hectares of vegetables were planted, plus 9 hectares of tree fruits. The total area under production that has received project assistance is 73,059 hectares. Overall, coffee accounts for 26,286 hectares, basic grains for 40,262 hectares, fruits and vegetables with 5,666 hectares, and tree fruits with 845 hectares.
- Private sector investment during the quarter totalled \$0.836 million, for a total to date of \$22.1 million. 1,248 individual investments were recorded in the quarter for a total of 34,323 individual investments made to date.
- During the quarter 101 additional MSMEs accessed new market opportunities through a broker, for a total of 11,905 to date; 4 additional brokers provided market linkages for a total to date of 262; and, 8 market surveys were carried out for a total to date of 20.
- As a result of project activities that eliminate barriers to rural MSME competitiveness and increase access to financing, 71 additional MSMEs accessed market-based financing, for a total to date of 8,589 MSMEs. The proportion of female participants in the project with access to productive economic resources (loans) now stands at 17 percent (1,454). Loans reported during the quarter were for \$0.6 million, for a total to date of \$16.5 million.
- The project has developed 55 public-private sector alliances (4 during the current quarter) with 472 companies and organizations providing business development and extension services to project clients (11 additional during the current quarter). 743 producer organizations, water users associations, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations have received technical assistance and training (3 additional during the current quarter). 178 small farmer associations have been formally established as businesses (including 14 new ones during this quarter; an additional 73 are in the process of registration).
- Two value chain/sector constraints were resolved during the quarter for a total of 34 barriers and 6 policies to date.
- The prevalence of underweight children under 2 years old in the communities supported by the project continues to decrease from a baseline of 22 percent in August 2011 to 9.3 percent as of December 2014 (a 57.6 percent reduction from baseline). The number of children under 2 involved with the project averaged 5,184 per month in communities where the project has worked over time. Of the 318 children under the third percentile in December, 121 (38 percent) were growing adequately. The promotion of improved feeding practices, improved hygiene practices, and the introduction of the healthy household program is having a positive effect on the overall health status of entire families.
- Chronic malnutrition data among children under 2 years old who leave the growth monitoring groups was also recorded over the quarter reflecting a decrease from the 37.5 percent in

October 2013 (when the first data was collected) to 16.0 percent in December 2014. To date 96,742 participants have received training in nutrition and health, and 7,961 children under 2 years old have been reached by the project.

- Annual anaemia surveys carried out for the September 2014 annual report indicated positive changes in the mothers, but negative changes in the children under two years old. Activities were carried out to identify the cause of the negative change in children.
- 42 municipal governments are effectively implementing natural resource management policies (6 additional ones during the current quarter) and 61 vulnerable communities now have adequate disaster prevention and mitigation capacity.
- USAID-ACCESO installed 101 rural renewable energy projects during the quarter, for a total of 3,671 to date (including 2,207 eco-justa stoves, 1,142 solar dryers, 153 solar panels, 154 bio-digesters and 15 ram pumps).

In addition to field activities, administrative activities were initiated for the close-out of USAID-ACCESO, including sub-contracts, employee contracts, equipment disposition and the preparation of the draft final report. Meetings were held with USAID in December 2014 with instructions being received for Fintrac to continue providing in-field technical assistance until the end of the current contract on February 27, 2015. Sub-contracts and employment contracts were modified accordingly. Fintrac was informed that USAID Honduras would be considering options to extend or partially extend ACCESO implementation and that activities should begin for transition of activities in selected departments to USAID-MERCADO.

## 2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

Honduras' social and economic indicators rank it among the least developed countries in the Western Hemisphere, with 65.5 percent of its population living in poverty, the largest portions of which are found in rural areas.

The agriculture sector in Honduras employs 35 percent of the workforce, accounts for an estimated 75 percent of exports, and remains the most important source of income for the poor and extremely poor. USAID-ACCESO targets six departments that are among the poorest in the country. The majority of farm households cultivate traditional crops on small plots, often on hillsides, for which market access is hindered by poor roads and distance. The use of traditional cultural practices has produced poor yields, depleted soil of nutrients, and led to forest encroachment. Malnutrition is also a major problem, with nearly half of all children in extremely poor households exhibiting stunted growth.

USAID-ACCESO represents an important component of USAID/Honduras's new multi-year strategy for Feed the Future. Objectives of Feed the Future include increasing agricultural productivity, preserving natural resources, improving agricultural marketing, increasing the purchasing power of vulnerable households, and maximizing food security. This strategy is in line with the economic growth (Agriculture/Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise) and natural resource management related aspects of the "Promoting Economic Growth and Prosperity" goals of the US government's Honduras Country Assistance Strategy covering fiscal years 2009 to 2013.

USAID-ACCESO works in six departments: Intibucá, La Paz, Ocotepeque, Lempira, Copán, and Santa Bárbara. The project has the following high-level targets:

- Bring 30,000 rural households living below the poverty line above the poverty threshold, of which a minimum of 18,000 will be from households living in extreme poverty; plus, 1,000 commercial scale producers of horticultural crops, and 800 off-farm rural MSMEs.
- Generate \$73.95 million in net profits for client households assisted by the project.
- Create 10,425 permanent jobs in the assisted communities.

The project is increasing sales and incomes by introducing basic production practices and market-driven programs for high-value cash crops, as well as by expanding off-farm microenterprise and employment opportunities. The tailored technical assistance and training provided enables economic development and nutrition improvements at the household level.

The details on implementation methodology, strategies, and activities are provided in other documents prepared for USAID, including those on the work plan, gender, and environment.

The details on implementation methodology, strategies, and activities are provided in other documents prepared for USAID, including those on the work plan, gender, and environment. Additional information and details are provided in the December 2014 PMP Excel file presented in association with this report.

USAID-ACCESO initiated activities in April 2010 and is scheduled to finish in February 2015. During the quarter USAID indicated that field activities should continue under the end of February 2015 with the aim of transitioning activities to USAID-MERCADO in Copan, Santa Bárbara and Ocotepeque, and a possible extension of USAID-ACCESO activities in La Paz, Intibucá and Lempira.

## 3. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

USAID-ACCESO aims to lift 30,000 households in six departments in Western Honduras above the poverty line, with a minimum of 18,000 being from extreme poverty, while also achieving improvements in the nutrition and health indicators of both women and children. These poverty reduction targets are being achieved through income generation at the household level via on- and off-farm economic development activities and employment. They apply to 30,000 families, or approximately 10 percent of the total population in the six departments. The project also provides technical assistance at the household and community level on disaster mitigation, natural resource management, finance, renewable energy, and policy. Implementation strategies have been developed to ensure full coordination and integration of all technical components to meet the principal poverty reduction and nutrition targets. The following section provides a summary of strategies, systems, and selected activities under the principal technical components.

### 3.1. PROJECT CLIENTS

The principal project clients are households in poverty and extreme poverty. These families normally live on subsistence farming of corn and beans and/or small-scale coffee farms. In addition to low incomes, they are characterized by low yields, zero technology, poor or non-existent infrastructure, no access to technology, finance, or markets, a high dependence on government or NGO support, poor living conditions, and high prevalence rates of malnutrition and other child health problems. To lift the families out of poverty, they need to generate income, which small-scale corn, bean, and coffee production will not provide.

To enter into higher value crop production, households first need to ensure their basic grain supply, while the project needs to obtain the families' confidence to make changes. The project shows farmers the basic technologies to double or triple corn and bean yields with no additional cost of production. The grains for self-consumption are then guaranteed while freeing up area for production of other crops with higher farm-gate value. The increased yields demonstrate the technologies' ability and provide the confidence to enter in new crops. At the same time, the nutrition and health component works with selected families to change and improve the household living conditions, food preparation, eating habits, hygiene, and child care. For those families with (or interested in) small-scale livestock such as cattle or chickens, support is also provided to increase milk and egg production for self-consumption, again with no or minimal additional costs. Family plots are also being established to supplement the dietary requirements. This integrated approach and technical support at the household level provides multiple solutions and options to a complicated problem, for which working in and solving only one area will not produce the required results.

### 3.2. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DELIVERY

The USAID-ACCESO team is made up of 206 full-time positions (December 2014), which is broken down as follows:

Management:	3	Production:	122
Value added:	10	Marketing:	4
Business Skills & Finance:	10	Nutrition & Health:	22
Disaster mitigation/NRM:	4	M&E:	19
Administration/Accounts/IT:	7	Donations:	3
Renewable energy:	1	Policy:	1

The team is technical based. 147 technicians are directly related to income generating activities. All field activities are coordinated through 30 zone managers (agronomists) and six department managers. To reach the target of 30,000 families, each agronomy position is providing ongoing technical assistance to an average of 300 households. As a result, technical assistance and training activities in production and animal husbandry are given in a group format, where the technician rotates the farm visits between growers in the same group. These are not formal groups but grouping of growers around buyer and market production programs and various crops.

Training and technical assistance in the related areas for economic development follow a similar system, including marketing, postharvest, business skills, finance, and renewable energy. Nutrition technicians also work under similar systems with training in group format and household visits playing a major role in fomenting change. Technical support to off-farm business is normally directed to the individual MSMEs with specific training being given both direct and in group format.

To expand outreach, USAID-ACCESO has made many alliances with municipalities, private sector buyers, input and equipment suppliers, NGOs, donors, government, and others. Most have funds and donations to support the poor and extreme poor, but most do not provide integrated solutions or quality technical assistance and training. For example, some municipalities donate fruit trees and some NGOs donate irrigation equipment, but on their own, neither will help families move out of poverty. USAID-ACCESO is able to bring together the different players to provide the integrated solutions.

The team with zone managers, roving technical specialists, and 12 community technical teams is actually structured with 12 sub-contractors under Fintrac's management. However, unlike many other projects, Fintrac provides overall management and direction of all zones, activities, and technical areas. The structure ensures all project technicians report to Fintrac managers, who set targets, provide oversight, training, support, and direction. In this way, the project operates under one umbrella, moves in one direction, speaks the same language, is fully integrated and focused on the households and the targets. While some sub-contractors would prefer more independence, multiple sub-contractors operating independently, either geographically or by technical area, would not be able to achieve integration.

### **3.3. INCOME GENERATION COMPONENT**

The poverty line in Honduras has been established by the government as a minimum of \$2.42/day/person, while families with incomes below \$1.81/person/day are considered to live in extreme poverty. To take individuals above the poverty line requires an annual income of \$883/year – a six-person family requires a minimum of \$5,300/year to move above the poverty line. With basic technologies, maize generates a net income of around \$319 per hectare while beans can generate around \$433 per hectare. While the yields and incomes increase with technology adoption, farmers would still require 5 hectare plots to generate the required income levels (for a six person family). High value horticulture production with the basic production technologies generates around \$4,000 per hectare. Growers would need to have access to at least 0.5 hectares of land, with year round water supply to produce two crops a year and at least \$5,000 of annual working capital to cover production costs. Most client farmers that started with USAID-ACCESO have less than 0.5 hectares of land, grow coffee, corn, and beans with zero technology, and do not have access to water, finance, or markets.

As a result, USAID-ACCESO has worked with progressive strategies to generate income from multiple sources, and over time, introduce basic technologies to increase yields of basic grains and coffee, enter into production programs for higher value crops, diversify crops and markets, and generate off-farm income where possible. Small-scale household production plots and chicken, egg and milk production provide additional nutrient sources that do not need to be purchased and in some cases, can be developed into a small business to generate additional income. It was projected that 75 to 85 percent of income can come from high-value crop production, but other income sources were factored in and generated.

Over the last year, increased emphasis has been given to animal production based on the sales and income results and in FY2013. Off-farm activities with small-scale operations (MSMEs) are groups or individuals. In most cases, these small businesses alone do not generate sufficient income to lift families out of poverty, but they can contribute to the overall family income. Pickled vegetables, plantain chips, tortillas, and crafts are good examples, but even with improvements in quality, reduced costs, and legalization the income generation is limited when split between numerous members or owners. Bakery and honey products are normally exceptions, where the margins are sufficient to generate higher levels of income. Efforts have been made to try to match project support to MSMEs with support to the same family members for on-farm production activities.

Results to date on income generation and poverty reduction were provided in the September 2014 annual report.

### **3.4. PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES**

Subsistence level growers of basic grains and coffee are introduced to the basic production practices that double or triple traditional yields. For corn and beans, four of five basic practices are introduced with no or minimal addition input costs, but which do require more work.

#### **Corn and beans as a Stepping Stone to Higher Value Crops**

- Basic land preparation and contouring where necessary
- Seed selection (with existing types)
- Specific planting distance with one seed per hole (high density)
- Liming of soils
- Fertilizer applications are applied in solution with more frequent applications (where fertilizers are used, the total volume of fertilizer used is equal to or less than that used traditionally)
- Weed control

Initially, most growers do not move completely to these practices, but instead “test” a small area in their production and then make comparisons. As mentioned previously, with increased yields the grower gains confidence in the basic technologies and, in subsequent plantings, can reduce the land area needed to obtain sufficient grains for self-consumption. The freed up area can then be used for higher value crops. Given that technologies are introduced gradually, the crops selected are usually those that can still perform without full technology, are not expensive to produce and can withstand rural roads in (normally) poor conditions. These usually include carrots, broccoli, cauliflower, squash, potato, plantain, and others. Market driven production programs have been established with both formal and informal buyers; growers are introduced to these and normally start production with 1 or 2 *tareas* (1 *tarea* is equivalent to 1/23 of a hectare or 435 square meters). This requires significant efforts in planting coordination between growers to ensure sufficient volumes are available at harvest to be able to fill pick-ups or trucks to minimize unit freight cost.

With the installation of the project support irrigation conduction systems over the last year, increased support and time has been provided to growers with a wide range of higher value crops produced under market driven production programs. This has been expanded to include the production of pasture under basic production practices and irrigation technologies for the small scale animal production program, particularly dairy.

#### **Coffee (existing plantations)**

Basic production practices introduced for coffee production include:

- Liming of soils
- Diluted and more frequent fertilizer applications (where fertilizers are used)
- Plant pruning (after harvest)

- Control of soil-borne insects

With the implementation of three or four of these practices, productivity can be doubled on existing plantings, but given that coffee is an annual crop, the increases occur within 1 or 2 seasons. Practices are also being implemented to dry more coffee on farm to increase incomes through increased productivity and increased value. However, it is understood that most project coffee farmers will not generate sufficient income from coffee alone and in these cases the project is promoting improved corn production systems, crop diversification, and other income sources.

The majority of project households work with corn or coffee. Before the growers can move into higher value products, they need to improve their existing operations (yields) to develop the confidence to introduce new crops or other income generating activities. At this point, crops are selected based on market needs, logistics, cost, and water availability. Normally, the lower cost and less technically challenging crops are selected including carrot, cabbage, plantain, watermelon, and passion fruit. Growers with more experience work with potatoes, broccoli, cauliflower, peppers, tomatoes, strawberries, and others.

The widespread problems with coffee rust which initially occurred in the 2012/2013 season, with the effects continuing into the 2013/2014 season, are expected to be minimal in this coming 2014/2015 season. The lack of rainfall in 2014 delayed the initial harvests until November 2014 and will result in some loss of potential yield. Growers who followed the production practice recommendations during 2013 (including stumping, shade management, liming, fertilization and disease prevention) have seen improvements in the plant development and overall harvest volumes from project clients are expected to increase in the 2014/2015 harvest season. Market prices are also expected to be higher this season compared to the previous two seasons. Project support on introducing solar dryer technology and market links direct with buyers paying premiums for quality coffee has also been increased during the current quarter for the 2014/2015 harvest season.

### **3.5. NUTRITION AND HEALTH COMPONENT**

An initial selection was made of priority communities for nutrition and health interventions based on the nutrition statistics from the Ministry of Health and the possibility of economic development activities (principally on-farm activities). In the majority of cases, communities with the highest nutrition problems were selected under the basic premise that if these statistics can be improved the overall averages will also improve. This component is actually working in 226 communities, and while most are also involved in economic development activities, it is not the case in all of them. As with the economic development activities, USAID-ACCESO reports results on these communities rather than the ZOI at the department level.

When the project started, the Ministry of Health was implementing the AIN-C program (*Atención Integral a la Niñez en la Comunidad*) either through service providers or directly. Through a system of health volunteers, the AIN-C carried out monthly weighing of children under 2 years old, provided basic advice and messages, and tabulated the statistics for the Ministry of Health. In most cases the detailed data was not being utilized to determine the cause of problems nor was assistance provided at the household to prevent problems. Initial data analysis showed that at least half of the underweight children were due to preventable illnesses, with the remainder being due to lack of balanced diet, calories, nutrients, and vitamins. The AIN-C program ceased to be implemented by the government in January 2012. USAID-ACCESO has since worked with AIN-C volunteers in target communities and is providing additional training to the volunteers, including them in the economic development activities, and expanding the activities to the household level.

USAID-ACCESO quickly identified that solutions to the basic problems could not be achieved with messages and basic training, as changes were needed in culture, diet, and habits. While this could be

considered as basic, it was not being carried out by others. The nutrition component implementation systems are similar to those used in economic development. A wide range of training activities are carried out in group format, from the preparation of fortified foods and meals to ensuring balanced diets, basic hygiene practices, and using locally available food items. Training activities are reinforced with household visits to determine problems and implement recommendations and procedures to prevent them. To be successful, repeated training and visits are needed until the improvements form part of day-to-day activities.

The sources of preventable illnesses are determined and where possible, reduced. The project has developed an integral “healthy household” activity to eliminate smoke from cooking fires, cover dirt floors and walls with a cement mix, ensure clean water inside the house, use waste disposal methods, and keep animals outside (particularly chickens and pigs). Once solutions to these problems are implemented they are usually long term and do not require constant reinforcement.

Activities also include the planting of family plots, with crops that are needed to supplement the nutritional needs. These are crops that do not require the purchase of expensive hybrids seeds or pesticide applications to ensure production and from which planting materials can be taken from the plants themselves. They include both short and long term crops such as sweet potato, malanga (taro), banana, plantain, passion fruit, avocado, orange, mandarin, and locally available “weeds” high in iron (*amaranthus*, *chipilin*, *juniapa*). These plots range from 100 to 400 square meters and are not commercial plots. They involve land preparation, beds, plantings distances, weeding and several of the basic practices used under commercial production systems, but this is to ensure production volumes, not commercial viability. They are normally managed by the women of the household but, in some cases, men have also become involved. Some of these plots have also been planted in schools and centers where AIN-C meetings are held, for use by the volunteers and mothers and caregivers for the training activities.

During the current quarter, additional effort was given in an attempt to determine the cause of the unexpected increase in anemia prevalence rates in children under two years old, despite the significant decrease in the rates in mothers, both reported in the September 2014 annual report. Problems with parasites were identified as a probable cause during field visits to selected communities to conduct interviews to mothers and caregivers, and an alliance was developed with UNAH and the Ministry of Health to carry out field work in January 2015.

### **3.6. INTEGRATION OF THE TECHNICAL COMPONENTS**

The integration of technical components is key to developing solutions and options for the households. Examples include:

- Production & Nutrition: household plots
- Nutrition & Renewable Energy: installation of eco-justa stoves, bio-digesters, transparent roof sheet
- Nutrition & NRM: community potable water & “clean community” programs
- Production & NRM: joint activities on water source protection and environmental audits.
- Nutrition & Processing & Value Addition: recipe development for short-term processing and storage
- Production & Marketing: sales and income
- Nutrition & Animal Husbandry: milk and chicken egg/meat production
- Production & Disaster Mitigation: improving market access by preventing floods, landslides, road damage
- Production & Finance: access to credit for market based production
- Production & Processing & Business Skills – recordkeeping, cost controls for income generating activities

- Renewable Energy & Processing: solar dryers
- Policy, Production, Marketing & Business Skills: reduction and elimination of barriers to technology, services and trade

Project production technicians are also involved in giving basic nutrition messages during production trainings. Nutrition technicians are learning the basics for household production plots. Both men and women participate in nutrition and health activities.

## **3.7. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

### *3.7.1. M&E Unit*

As of September 2014, the USAID-ACCESO M&E team consists of one M&E manager, three regional M&E specialists, 12 field-based M&E technicians, and three full-time data entry persons. Part-time data entry persons are also hired when necessary. In addition to the designated M&E team, each project field technician is required to report on their own activities (and results in certain cases), which accounts for around 5 percent of their time.

### *3.7.2. CIRIS*

The Client Impact and Results Information System (CIRIS) is Fintrac's proprietary database software used to monitor all project activities and results. Activities such as technical assistance, plantings, training events, technologies in use and meetings are entered directly into the system by field staff, while more complex surveys covering outcome and impact indicators are collected and entered by designated M&E staff. Nearly all figures in this report are derived from primary information entered into CIRIS.

### *3.7.3. Sampling*

Due to the high number of targeted households, USAID-ACCESO has implemented a system of random sampling to collect baseline and subsequent results information from a representative sample of project-assisted households. As the entire population of targeted households was not known from the outset of the project, USAID-ACCESO designed the sample to grow over time, incorporating new households as they entered the project. The first sample was established in December 2011 for all households entering the project until that time; a second round was established in May 2012. Sampling was conducted as simple random sampling where each household was equally eligible for selection, ensuring a 95 percent confidence level and 5 percent margin of error while also accounting for potential attrition due to a variety of factors. In September 2012, 1,515 households were selected in the sample and in FY 2012/2013 an additional 2,550 households were randomly selected and included for baseline survey. 403 households were removed from the FY 2012/2013 data set and 332 from the FY 2013/2014 (due principally to inactivity, non-participation in the project, or the project pulling out of specific communities as a result of security problems). As of September 2014, the baseline and follow-up survey includes 3,330 households, distributed randomly across all project zones.

The following maps depict the total client population as compared to the random sample. The random sample achieves representative distribution geographically, as well as within primary demographic subgroups.

### *3.7.4. Data Collection Process*

USAID-ACCESO employs a variety of data collection tools to report on the required indicators outlined in the PMP. Upon entry into the program, a household profile form was completed to capture basic demographic information (i.e. location, household structure, gendered household type) as well as a survey on income over the year prior to technical assistance. The income survey was used to categorize the household as extreme poor, poor or non-poor. 23,715 profile forms were collected. Once the profile form had been collected, field technicians (production, postharvest, business skills, value-added,

health and nutrition) provided technical assistance and training to the household that is reported directly into CIRIS and/or through training forms.

For households selected for the sample, a baseline form was completed to capture crop-specific information (i.e. area, production, sales, costs, net income), technologies and management practices, maternal and child health and nutrition (dietary diversity), and off-farm income. The data from this baseline form were recorded in CIRIS. Once a household had been selected into the sample, the M&E team began ongoing monitoring of household activities. Training forms are completed and submitted regularly to the central office for entry of trainee names and national identification numbers. Additionally, new planting information for crops is reported directly into CIRIS by field technicians as they occur. Based on estimated harvest dates the M&E team conduct field visits to complete crop productivity/end-of-harvest forms following the close of each crop cycle. These forms are used to derive crop yields, sales, cost of production, net income, technology adoption, investments in fixed assets, labor and loan details.

Toward the end of the fiscal year, another data collection effort was organized to collect follow-up information on maternal and child health and nutrition indicators and off-farm income. Crop income and off-farm income are then combined to determine the income per person per day for each sampled household and determine if they have moved out of poverty. This was last carried out for the September 2014 annual report. As of December 2014, this the survey was not going to be repeated prior to project close-out in February 2015 as harvesting would not be complete for the 2014/2015 coffee season, the late corn planting season, and only three to four months data for animal production and selected higher value crops. Discussions were held with USAID in the current quarter on a possible extension of selected ACCESO activities, including the client income surveys.

## 4. HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

This section highlights some of the activities and results achieved by the project across the areas of intervention during the reporting period. It details the actions taken by the project in order to meet the intermediate (IR) and sub-intermediate results (sub-IR) established in the contract, and presents the project's progress in achieving milestones and output indicators. Additional information and data has been included for the smaller components of the project. The IRs are as follows:

- Rural MSME growth increased (IR 2.1).
- Honduran biodiversity and natural resources conserved (IR 2.2).
- Capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change strengthened (IR 2.3).
- Use of quality maternal and child health and family planning services increased (IR 4.1).

### 5.1. PROJECT CLIENTS

As of December 2014, a total of 34,770 household and MSME clients were registered and receiving technical assistance. Details on the number of clients recruited by financial year are provided in Table I.

**Table I. Project Client Breakdown**

CLIENT TYPE	April – Sept. 2011	Oct. 2011 – Sept. 2012	Oct. 2012 – Sept. 2013	Sept. 2014	Dec. 2014
HH Extreme Poverty	3,722	11,420	13,193	27,769	27,760
HH Poor	375	1,014	1,192	2,517	2,516
HH Non Poor	762	1,163	1,868	3,637	3,639
HH-MSMEs Extreme Poverty	21	98	5	88	88
HH-MSMEs Poor	2	8	5	9	9
HH-MSMEs Non Poor	15	22	5	30	29
MSMEs Microenterprise	57	176	212	405	403
MSMEs Small Enterprise	10	48	9	35	33
MSMEs Medium Enterprise	1	3	3	6	6
MSMEs Large Enterprise	1	-	1	2	2
MSMEs Others	103	149	61	285	285
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,069</b>	<b>14,101</b>	<b>16,555</b>	<b>34,783</b>	<b>34,770</b>

As of December 2014, the total number of client households receiving project assistance who started with the project with baseline incomes below the poverty line was 30,373 (27,848 extreme poor, 2,525 poor). The poor and extreme poor families cover a total of 165,646 beneficiaries, including 21,884 children less than 5 years old. In addition the project is working with 3,668 non-poor, covering an additional 15,585 beneficiaries with 1,452 children less than 5 years old. In both cases, the beneficiaries are the total number of the household members. These total 181,231 beneficiaries, 94,391 male, 86,840 female, 23,336 less than 5 years old, and 6,627 less than 2 years old (the last two, at the time of client registration). Of the total 34,041 poor and non-poor registered clients 6,988 are women (20.5 percent) and 27,053 are men.

During implementation the project has worked with more household clients than mentioned above. A total of 6,719 additional households have received some assistance, but were “downgraded” to “non-active” when they stopped participating in project activities (for lack of interest, death, migration, etc.). There are also additional persons who participate in some activities, but not on a regular basis, or became involved with the project after client registration was closed in June 2013.

It should be noted that not all clients receive the same level of technical assistance and support, and not all participate to the same level. As mentioned previously, technical assistance and training is provided on a group basis, rotating the activities between farms. Group visits may be weekly, as in the case of vegetable production, or every two or three weeks, as in the case of coffee production. Grower participation is usually higher with vegetable production and lower with coffee or basic grain production, averaging around 50 percent grower participation in the technical assistance and training events.

Technical assistance and training is also currently being provided to 444 business enterprises and 285 others (MSMEs, buyers, BDS providers, municipalities, counterpart organizations).

The project is working in 2,736 communities in 130 municipalities in the six departments (Table 2).

**Table 2. Number of Municipalities and Communities with ACCESO presence**

Department	# Municipalities	# Communities
Copán	23	438
Intibucá	16	423
La Paz	19	404
Lempira	28	614
Ocotepeque	16	291
Santa Barbara	28	566
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>2,736</b>

## 5.2. RURAL MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE GROWTH INCREASED (IR 2.1)

USAID-ACCESO’s main activities and interventions are targeted toward achieving increased household incomes through MSME growth. Not only will increased incomes and increased productivities at the household level have a positive effect on the communities’ overall economic growth, it will also increase client purchasing power to reduce the food insecurity situation in western Honduras and the related health problems. In this section, USAID-ACCESO is reporting on activities that are directly contributing to three USAID sub-intermediate results (Sub IRs). These are:

- Rural MSMEs access to inputs, practices, and technology for market participation improved (Sub IR 2.1.1).
- Rural MSMEs access to new market opportunities increased (Sub IR 2.1.2).
- Barriers to competitiveness of rural MSMEs improved (Sub IR 2.1.3).

### *5.2.1. Rural MSMEs Access to Inputs, Practices, and Technology for Market Participation Improved (SUB-IR 2.1.1)*

The greatest impact on the livelihoods of project-assisted households occurs when market-driven production programs are implemented with basic production practices to enable access to markets and buyers. Competitive, consistent, and coordinated production operations with defined markets are critical to ensuring increased incomes, the ability to continue generating incomes and resilience to climatic conditions, pest and diseases, and price fluctuations. While this applies principally to horticultural production, the project also supports other smaller-scale income generating activities on

farm which complement the “larger” horticulture activities. These may include dairy, cattle, pigs, chickens, fish, and eggs, most with a more basic local rural market focus.

To achieve the goals, a wide range of integrated activities are being implemented by the project. This principally involves the provision of technical assistance and training to on- and off-farm MSMEs to implement technology and updated production practices; develop direct links with markets and buyers; work with groups of growers to introduce market-led production programs and the logistics requirements; develop private sector alliances; and increase the technology transfer capacity, knowledge and process of local NGOs, agricultural schools, and the private sector.

Agricultural production activities form the main technical component under this Sub-IR, supported by activities carried out under post-harvest and animal production. The value-added processing component works with rural MSMEs both on-farm and off-farm, in most cases complementing the production activities, generating additional income for household clients, or providing employment opportunities.

<b>AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES</b>			
Dedicated technicians	1 production manager, 2 deputy production managers, 6 department managers, 30 zone agronomists, 85 junior field agronomists (they also carry out activities related to postharvest, animal production and marketing)		
Training Events	67,570		
Training Participants	441,462 men	108,729 women	Total 550,191
Training Individual	34,744 men	12,347 women	Total 47,091
Technical Assistance	610,620		
Investment	Clients \$10,261,333	Others \$1,807,151	Total \$12,068,484
Training materials	94 bulletins	33 presentations	Total 127
<b>POSTHARVEST &amp; CERTIFICATION ACTIVITIES</b>			
Dedicated technicians	3		
Training Events	1,784		
Training Participants	14,565 men	3,839 women	Total 18,404
Training Individual	4,981 men	1,186 women	Total 6,167
Technical Assistance	16,293		
Investment	Clients \$276,058	Others \$445,980	Total \$722,038
Training materials	3 bulletins	17 presentations	Total 20
<b>ANIMAL PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES</b>			
Dedicated technicians	2		
Training Events	2,424		
Training Participants	14,136 men	6,518 women	Total 20,654
Training Individual	3,690 men	1,842 women	Total 5,532
Technical Assistance	22,200		
Investment	Clients \$1,807,543	Others \$163,409	Total \$1,970,952
Training materials	5 bulletins	11 presentations	Total 16
<b>VALUE-ADDED PROCESSING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Dedicated technicians	10		
Training Events	2,202		
Training Participants	3,135 men	13,729 women	Total 16,864
Training Individual	822 men	2,354 women	Total 3,176
Technical Assistance	34,644		
Investment	Clients \$1,910,412	Others \$799,771	Total \$2,710,183
Training materials		9 presentations	Total 9

*Implementation of updated production technologies (on- and off-farm)*

The status of activities in the Project Monitoring Plan (PMP) under this component during the reporting period and the year to date is provided in Table 3.

**Table 3. Rural MSME Access to Inputs, Practices and Technology for Market Participation**

Indicator	Year 1. May to Sept. 2011	Year 2. Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012	Year 3. Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013	Year 4. Oct. 2013 to Sept. 2014	Total Sept. 2014	Year 5. Oct. to Dec. 2014	Total to Date	LOP Target
WP #1: Number of individuals who have received government-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training								
	7,723	15,671	21,110	16,371	60,875	4,277	65,152	55,500
WP #2: Number of extension visits to program beneficiaries:								
	13,571	134,840	267,955	313,875	730,241	51,653 <sup>1</sup>	781,894	378,40
WP #12: Number of technical materials produced (bulletins, manuals, presentations and tools):								
	63	142	50	67	322	11	333	225
WP #10: Number of MSMEs (off-farm and processing) assisted by project								
	285	417	132	-101	733	-	1,014 <sup>2</sup>	805
PIRS #6: Value of new private sector investment in the agriculture sector or food chain leveraged by FTF implementation (\$ millions)								
	0.079	3.018	4.451	13.218	21.095	0.972*	22.067	21.6
WP #11: Number of female individuals in training activities								
	2,202	5,729	5,711	8,175	21,817	2,093	23,910	8,300
PIRS #7: Number of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of government assistance								
	-	4,592	14,270	6,638	25,500	1,411 <sup>3</sup>	26,911	22,050

<sup>1</sup>, includes data from previous quarter reported in the current quarter  
<sup>2</sup>, the number reported is the total number of MSMEs that have received assistance during project implementation. As of December 2014, of these 729 were receiving on-going technical assistance.  
<sup>3</sup>, data updated for FY 2014 when reporting in FTMS system

**WP #1: Number of individuals who have received government-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training / WP # 11: Number of female individuals in training activities**

During the quarter a total of 4,277 individuals have been registered under agricultural sector productivity or food security training activities. To date, 65,152 individuals have received training, against a LOP target of 55,500, made up of 41,242 men and 23,910 women (37 percent). Breakdown by department, sex, and technical component is provided in Tables 4 and 5. (Note: individuals may receive training in different technical areas and as a result the total number presented is higher than the 65,152). As would be expected, production accounts for the highest percentage (51 percent), followed by nutrition and health (10 percent) and business skills (9 percent). Names and identification numbers for each participant are taken from training logs and entered one by one into CIRIS; identification numbers are then used to determine the number of individuals. Individuals may have participated in one or multiple training events.

**Table 4. Summary of Individuals Trained by Department (Accumulated to December 2014)**

Department	# Males	# Females	Total
Copán	5,848	2,874	8,722
Intibucá	7,778	4,862	12,640
La Paz	6,373	5,171	11,544
Lempira	7,636	4,754	12,390
Ocotepeque	5,032	2,565	7,597
Santa Bárbara	8,354	3,532	11,886
Other	221	152	373
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,242</b>	<b>23,910</b>	<b>65,152</b>

*Individuals registered only when National ID numbers are included*

**Table 5. Summary of Individuals Trained by Activity Area (Accumulated to December 2014)**

Activity Area	# Males	# Females	Total
Animal Production	3,690	1,842	5,532
Business Development Services (BDS)	22	5	27
Business Skills	5,509	2,679	8,188
Certifications	1,557	365	1,922
Natural Disaster Management & Mitigation	1,102	540	1,642
Finance / Credit	426	183	609
Forestry	557	129	686
Information Technology	470	192	662
Market Information / Marketing	960	284	1,244
Natural Resource Management (NRM)	2,949	1,045	3,994
Health & Nutrition	1,429	8,188	9,617
Postharvest	3,424	821	4,245
Processing	822	2,354	3,176
Production	34,744	12,347	47,091
Project	898	456	1,354
Renewable Energy	1,987	668	2,655
Research/Other	63	73	136
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,609</b>	<b>32,171</b>	<b>92,780</b>

*Only individuals with National ID numbers are included. Individuals can receive trainings in more than one area.*

For reference purposes, during the quarter, a total of 5,471 training events were carried out up to with 45,286 participants, including 31,505 male and 13,781 female (30 percent). As of December 2014, a total of 88,285 training events have been carried out with 786,840 participants, including 538,169 male and 248,671 female (32 percent). Production training accounts for the highest percentage of participants (70 percent), followed by nutrition and health (12 percent), and business skills (5 percent). Data is presented in Table 6. Participant numbers and sex are recorded directly in the CIRIS M&E program.

**Table 6. Training Events and Participants by Technical Area (Accumulated to December 2014)**

Technical Area	Oct. to Dec. 2014				Accumulated Dec. 2014			
	# Events	Male	Female	TOTAL	# Events	Male	Female	TOTAL
Animal Production	163	1,276	328	1,604	2,424	14,136	6,518	20,654
Business Skills	116	848	371	1,219	4,065	24,535	12,834	37,369
Certifications	6	48	9	57	263	2,972	680	3,652
Finance / Credit	5	82	52	134	264	2,611	1,183	3,794
Food Safety	0	0	0	0	1	11	1	12
Forestry	15	62	27	89	183	1,662	366	2,028
Health & Nutrition	525	143	7,295	7,438	6,464	6,344	91,329	97,673
Information Technology	0	0	0	0	68	514	350	864
Market Information	13	89	27	116	396	3,492	1,006	4,498
Monitoring & Evaluation	0	0	0	0	11	234	37	271
Postharvest	127	822	182	1,004	1,521	11,593	3,159	14,752
Processing	81	144	387	531	2,202	3,135	13,729	16,864
Production	4,121	25,486	4,461	29,947	67,570	441,462	108,729	550,191
Project	1	20	9	29	254	2,626	1,219	3,845
Renewable Energy	189	1,012	235	1,247	1,414	8,162	1,944	10,106
Research	0	0	0	0	6	61	59	120
Specialty Coffee	27	143	45	188	80	791	93	884
Natural Resource Management (NRM)	74	1,128	271	1,399	789	9,446	3,334	12,780
Natural Disaster Management & Mitigation	8	202	82	284	310	4,382	2,101	6,483
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5,471</b>	<b>31,505</b>	<b>13,781</b>	<b>45,286</b>	<b>88,285</b>	<b>538,169</b>	<b>248,671</b>	<b>786,840</b>

**WP #2: Number of extension visits to program beneficiaries:**

During the quarter 51,508 technical assistance visits were made (plus 145 reported during this quarter for activities carried out in the previous quarter), for a total of 781,894 to date (against a LOP target of 378,400). A breakdown by technical component is provided in Table 7. The majority of these are under the production component (71 percent) and nutrition and health (9 percent).

**Table 7. Technical Assistance Visits by Technical Component (December 2014)**

Area	Oct. to Dec. 2014 # Visits	Oct. to Dec. 2014 % TA Visits	Accumulated Dec. 2014 # Visits	Accumulated Dec. 2014 % TA Visits
Certifications Systems	323	0.6%	2,942	0.4%
Business Skills	3,136	6.1%	37,743	4.8%
Health & Nutrition	4,457	8.7%	51,647	6.6%
Market Information	234	0.5%	4,277	0.5%
Natural Disasters Mgt.	383	0.7%	5,078	0.6%
Natural Resources Mgt.	1,461	2.8%	10,725	1.4%
Postharvest	1,216	2.4%	13,351	1.7%
Production	36,653	71.2%	610,620	78.1%
Project	37	0.1%	317	0.0%
Processing	2,132	4.1%	34,644	4.4%
Renewable Energy	1,395	2.7%	9,597	1.2%
Other	81	0.2%	953	0.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51,508</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>781,894</b>	<b>100%</b>

**WP #12: Number of technical materials produced (bulletins, manuals, presentations and tools):**

The project produced 11 technical materials during the quarter, including a presentation on climate smart agriculture, an excel tool for pest and disease sampling and market surveys. To date, 333 technical materials have been produced, against a LOP target of 225 (Table 8). Materials include 129 bulletins, 136 technical presentations, 32 Excel tools, plus manuals, posters, surveys, and toys (jigsaws for nutrition and health training centers).

**Table 8. Number of Technical Materials Produced by Component**

Technical Area	Total
Animal Production	16
Business Skills/Finance	82
Disaster Mitigation	21
Forestry	8
Marketing	21
NRM	13
Nutrition & Health	12
Policy	1
Postharvest	20
Processing	9
Production	127
Renewable Energy	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>333</b>

**WP #10: Number of MSMEs (off-farm and processing) assisted by project**

Overall USAID-ACCESO has provided technical assistance to 1,014 MSMEs against a LOP target of 805. In December 2014, a total of 729 MSME were being provided technical assistance and training by the project. These include 444 small and micro scale companies, 284 rural banks, and 1 other. 285 have stopped receiving assistance during project implementation (prior to December 2014) and were downgraded from “active client status” in the project database. This has been as a result of graduation, business inactivity, change in business direction, closure, and/or insufficient response to the technical assistance provided (needed to obtain sales and/or income increases for project targets).

**PIRS #6: Value of new private sector investment in the agriculture sector or food chain leveraged by FTF implementation**

During the quarter a total of \$0.97 million of private sector investment was reported, including \$0.836 million in this quarter and \$0.137 million from the previous quarter and reported in this quarter (excludes USAID-ACCESO investments). Total private sector investment to date is \$22.07 million, against a LOP target of \$21.60 million.

Investment by area is provided in Table 9, with the majority in production (55 percent), processing (12 percent), nutrition and health (10 percent), and animal production (9 percent). Additional details are provided in the PMP 12/2014 Excel file.

**Table 9. Private Sector Investment in Fixed Assets (\$)**

AREA	Accumulated Sept. 2014			Oct. to Dec. 2014 <sup>1</sup>			Total Dec. 2014		
	Client	Other	TOTAL Non-Project	Client	Other	TOTAL Non-Project	Client	Other	TOTAL Non-Project
Alliances	26,800	70,000	96,800			-	26,800	70,000	96,800
Animal Production	1,724,734	158,204	1,882,938	82,809	5,205	88,014	1,807,543	163,409	1,970,952
BDS	269,127	0	269,127			-	269,127	-	269,127
Business Skills	6,200	3,741	9,941	-	100	100	6,200	3,841	10,041
Certifications	16,110	0	16,110			-	16,110	-	16,110
Forestry	4,400	3,728	8,128			-	4,400	3,728	8,128
Health & Nutrition	1,504,741	504,054	2,008,795	127,114	13,960	141,074	1,631,855	518,014	2,149,869
Information/Other	850	2,527	3,377			-	850	2,527	3,377
Marketing	26,661	39,184	65,845			-	26,661	39,184	65,845
Natural Disaster Mngt	26,407	136,030	162,437	-	3,025	3,025	26,407	139,055	165,462
Natural Resource Mngt	198,999	242,426	441,426	32,331	3,675	36,006	231,330	246,101	477,431
Postharvest	256,348	413,757	670,104	3,600	32,223	35,823	259,948	445,980	705,928
Processing	1,838,041	799,771	2,637,812	72,371	-	72,371	1,910,412	799,771	2,710,183
Production	9,789,920	1,712,757	11,502,677	471,413	94,394	565,807	10,261,333	1,807,151	12,068,484
Project	96,987	58,247	155,233	-		-	96,987	58,247	155,234
Public Services	54,721	515,983	570,704	6,500		6,500	61,221	515,983	577,204
Renewable Energy	355,013	238,435	593,447	20,075	3,960	24,035	375,088	242,395	617,483
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>16,196,057</b>	<b>4,898,843</b>	<b>21,094,900</b>	<b>816,213</b>	<b>156,542</b>	<b>972,755</b>	<b>17,012,272</b>	<b>5,055,386</b>	<b>22,067,658</b>

<sup>1</sup> includes investments made prior to September 2014 that were reported during the current quarter.

### **PIRS #7: Number of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of government assistance**

This indicator was measured as part of the annual client sampling activity for the September 2014 annual report and is not updated quarterly. As of September 2014, a total of 6,996 farmers and others have applied new technologies or management practices, against a target of 10,640. The total reported for September 2014 was 25,500 farmers, against a LOP target of 22,050. When completing the data entry for the FTFMS the technology categories the raw data was re-categorized into the technologies and practices, resulting in an increase of 1,411 farmers, to a total of 26,911. Under this indicator the farmer has to implement a minimum of five of the following technologies and practices.

- Land preparation
- Raised beds
- Improved Seeds
- Transplanting systems/density
- Fertilization systems/plan
- Use of irrigation
- Biological control systems
- Integrated Pest Management Systems
- Crop rotation/diversification
- Pruning methods
- Harvesting methods
- Medicine usage (animal production)
- Improved nutritional content (feeding)
- Updated/semi-automated processing systems
- Lay out of new plants and expansions
- Market led production programs
- Following market-set product standards
- Post harvesting systems
- Packaging/transport systems
- Industrial safety systems
- Record keeping (yields and sales)
- Record keeping (inputs and labor)
- Equipment/tools improvements
- Segmentation of land for different usage

This was measured as part of the M&E sampling process carried out in August 2014 and extrapolated for all project clients. The top five technologies were transplanting density, seed selection, land preparation, crop rotation, and improved seeds.

Using the FTF technology type categories, cultural practices are being implemented by 23,159 of the 25,547 growers (87 percent), soil-related fertility and conservation practices by 15,030 growers (56 percent), and pest management practices by 24,508 growers (91 percent).

Additional information of interest includes:

- The project has promoted new crop diversification alternatives (from basic grains and coffee), based on the potential of each specific region in terms of crop development, cost of production, and availability and proximity to logistics and markets. Since most of the farmers are new to these crops, they start with small plots with the project technicians guiding them in every step of the production process.
- The main crops receiving project assistance are coffee, basic grains, higher value fruits and vegetables, and animal production (Table 10). Basic production technologies are implemented for each crop group, with more technified systems being used for horticulture (and pasture) production.

**Table 10. Hectares Assisted as of December 2014**

Value Chain	Year 1 (Apr. to Sept. 2011)	Year 2 (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)	Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013)	Year 4 (Oct. 2013 to Sept. 2014)	Year 5 (Oct. to Dec. 2014)	Total to Date (Dec. 2014)
Basic Grains	2,029	5,614	15,555	16,343	721	40,262
Coffee	18,477	1,707	2,572	3,233	297	26,286
Tree Fruits	563	56	114	103	9	845
Horticulture	481	1,009	1,526	2,290	360	5,666
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>21,550</b>	<b>8,386</b>	<b>19,767</b>	<b>21,969</b>	<b>1,387</b>	<b>73,059</b>

Note: Year 5 (Oct.-Dec. 2014) includes areas left out in previous months.

- Crops with the highest area of new plantings by USAID-ACCESO client households during the current quarter include corn, coffee, beans, potato, cabbage, plantain, onion, tomato, lettuce and carrots. Details are presented in Table 11.

**Table 11. Area Planted by Selected Crops (Hectares)**

Product	Year 1 (Apr. to Sept. 2011)	Year 2 (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)	Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013)	Year 4 (Oct. 2013 to Sept. 2014)	Year 5 (Oct. to Dec. 2014)	Total to Date (Dec. 2014)
Corn/Maize	920	2,808	9,249	9,740	523	23,240
Coffee under production	16,874				19	16,893
Coffee	1,547	1,579	1,986	2,653	276	8,041
Corn/Maize (High Altitude)	659	1,482	2,858	3,473	-	8,471
Beans (Dried)	413	1,126	2,189	2,686	185	6,599
Yellow Corn/Maize	0	0	1,052	199	0	1,251
Coffee Plantlets for Sale	56	128	586	579	3	1,352
Potato	82	213	415	532	80	1,322
Allspice in Production	355	0	-	1	-	355
Plantain	102	92	96	195	21	506
Watermelon	13	97	158	125	4	397
Cabbage	9	52	90	163	31	345
Beans (Silk)	0	82	60	69	1	212
Proso Millet	12	71	73	87	1	244
Corn (On the Cob)	0	44	90	56	21	210
Carrot	11	34	59	71	11	186
Rice	17	31	47	43	-	138
Passion Fruit	25	13	48	59	3	148
Tomato (Processing)	9	33	46	94	14	196
Cardamom	85	6	3	3	1	97
Onions	3	35	42	46	15	141
Sugar Cane	33	44	7	10	-	93
Tree Fruits - Avocado Hass	10	21	57	20	1	109
Cocoa	49	11	13	32	6	111
Lettuce	5	24	29	54	14	126
Others	261	360	515	978	160	2,274

**Table 11. Area Planted by Selected Crops (Hectares)**

<b>Product</b>	<b>Year 1 (Apr. to Sept. 2011)</b>	<b>Year 2 (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)</b>	<b>Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013)</b>	<b>Year 4 (Oct. 2013 to Sept. 2014)</b>	<b>Year 5 (Oct. to Dec. 2014)</b>	<b>Total to Date (Dec. 2014)</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>21,550</b>	<b>8,386</b>	<b>19,767</b>	<b>21,969</b>	<b>1,392</b>	<b>73,059</b>

*Note: Year 5 (Oct.-Dec. 2014) includes areas planted in previous quarter but reported in the current quarter.*

Given the economic limitations of client households, one of the project's greatest challenges has been to achieve competitive yields and acceptable quality with low or no additional costs. The project has taken a similar approach to working with both basic grains and higher value vegetables. The application of basic production practices, such as land preparation, seed selection, planting densities, weed control, soil pH amendments, and the use of fertilization programs, enables the first jump in productivity with minimal increases in cost. The practices recommended by USAID-ACCESO focus on the prevention of problems before they occur and the efficient and proper use of inputs, rather than encouraging farmers to use more or additional inputs.

### **Processing and Value Added Activities**

The processing and value added component works with rural MSMEs that have a commercial focus and generate at least \$10,000 of gross sales revenue per year. The specialists and technicians also provide technical assistance and training to household production clients able to and interested in supplementing their incomes through processing or adding value to the crops produced or bought and sold. Both areas have a strong focus on involving women in or running the business operations.

There are many rural MSMEs that have been supported by NGOs and others, providing seed capital and grants, but have lacked a commercial approach and technical assistance. Many were formed by donors looking to support large numbers of people who formed the MSME (mostly women) rather than profitability. The initial project strategy to assist a wide range of rural business meant investments in time to identify that many were unprofitable and that to move from artisanal to semi-industrial levels was difficult to justify. Constraints to growth included the lack of raw materials, inefficiencies, too many members or owners, highly competitive markets, and limited logistics and distribution systems. Many of the MSME were groups of 5 to 20 people, where the sales and income did not even cover a basic salary. Production and sales volumes were low and the members only worked a few hours a week, meaning that individual salaries or income were below the minimum. This approach meant that many MSMEs have abandoned projects when they do not generate sufficient income or do not receive additional funds or grants. This has occurred with MSME clients taken on by USAID-ACCESO once they become aware of their actual incomes and (lack of) profitability.

The project therefore identified MSME businesses that made commercial sense and supported businesses in the areas of dairy, broiler, diversified honey products, pig fattening, bakeries, snacks, juices, and preserves. These can be profitable, competitive, and have growth potential to create jobs, source raw materials from local growers, and expand the range of products available in rural markets. Most USAID-ACCESO MSMEs are now stand-alone operations, with one or two owners, generating profits and providing small-but-consistent levels of employment. The remainder are principally businesses that allow client households to diversify their income base to supplement income from agricultural production.

The focus of the technical assistance is comprehensive, based on the development and application of good manufacturing processes (GMPs), and introduces concepts in food safety, efficient and cost-effective sourcing of materials and inputs, and market requirements. Production costs, cash flows, cost centers, and profit margins are determined, together with the implementation of recordkeeping and

basic accounts. The project initially started with standardized recordkeeping systems, but has developed systems specific to each business line.

Through coordination with other project components, support is provided to the MSMEs in company registration and legalization, sanitary licenses, product bar codes, product standardization and specifications, market linkages, and credit access.

USAID-ACCESO outreach in this area has been increased through alliances and coordination with others including:

- *INFOP*: with trainings in bakery, dairy, meat and preserves; the training provided by INFOP has been not only been important for the training of MSMEs, but also for project specialists and technicians. This training has been carried out in the communities and tailored to the requirements of MSMEs.
- *Zamorano and FHIA laboratories*: linked project clients with private laboratories, necessary for the analysis of food samples.
- *Municipalities*: support has been provided to MSMEs and MSMEs client households with seed capital, which has been useful for venture start-up.
- *Suppliers of equipment, inputs, packing and labelling materials*: support has enabled MSMEs to reduce costs, enhance presentations, and offer more competitive products.

Project technical assistance and training provided during the quarter covered processing systems, packing, packaging, cost controls and cost reduction, quality checking and management. A total of training 81 events were given, including specialist training in yoghurt production using season fruit (to a livestock cooperative) and confectionary production (to a women group).

## Forestry Activities

FORESTRY			
Dedicated technicians	1		
Training Events	183		
Training Participants	1,662 men	366 women	Total 2,028
Training Individual	557 men	129 women	Total 686
Investment	Clients \$4,400	Others \$3,728	Total \$8,128
Training materials	2 bulletins	6 presentations	Total 8

USAID-ACCESO's forestry component is small compared to other components but plays an integral part of the services provided to selected project household and municipal clients. Most of the geographical area in the six department of the ZOI is forest based. These are natural forest of conifers in mountainous areas and broadleaf forests in humid tropical areas. Much of the area is mountainous with slopes and infrastructure unsuitable for agriculture. Many forestry areas require protection and management for sustainability of water sources and nature reserves. The conservation and utilization of these natural resources are under state management, dependent technically on the *Instituto de Conservación Forestal* (ICF) for the national forests and municipal authorities for community forests.

Selected activities carried out during the quarter include:

- Contract agreement for the CORAGUIL cooperative to supply pine resin to a local buyer, who also financed the purchase of selected equipment (carried out with support under the MOU CATIE- FINNFOR II and USAID-ACCESO).

- Under the MOU between ICF and USAID-ACCESO, three operational plans were approved for three MSMEs in San Marcos de la Sierra, Intibucá; La Majada, San Pedro Zacapa and El Sitio, Quimistan, Santa Barbara for the utilization of 1,200 m3 of timber.

***Private sector alliances and integration of private sector equipment, input and service providers***

The status of activities in the Project Monitoring Plan (PMP) under this component during the reporting period and the year to date is provided in Table 12.

**Table 12. Private Sector Alliances and Integration**

PIRS/ WP #	Year 1 (Apr. to Sept. 2011)		Year 2 (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)		Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013)		Year 4 (Oct. 2013 to Sept. 2014)		Year 5 (Oct. to Dec. 2014)		Total To Date (Dec. 2014)	
	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
PIRS #30: Number of organizations / companies providing business development / extension services to MSMEs (LOP Target 465):												
	23	-	70	78	175	110	254	273	0	11	465	472
PIRS #32: Number of public-private partnerships formed (LOP Target 65):												
	12	3	33	23	24	15	24	10	14	4	65	55

### **PIRS #30: Number of organizations / companies providing business development / extension services to MSMEs**

A total of 472 organizations and companies are providing business development or extension services to project MSMEs, against a PMP target of 465. 11 were added during the current quarter. These include input and equipment suppliers, cooperatives, rural village banks, foundations, grower/buyer organizations, microenterprises, exporters, and others (details are provided in the ACCESO PMP Excel file, 12/2014).

### **PIRS #32: Number of public-private partnerships formed / PIRS #33: Number of private sector alliances developed**

During the quarter four public-private alliances were signed. A total of 55 public-private partnerships have been formed to date, against a LOP target of 65. Eighteen letters of agreement have been signed with the public sector, including one this quarter with SEDIS (Secretaria de Estado en el Despacho de Desarrollo e Inclusión Social) as part of the government's Vida Mejor program. Details are provided in Tables 13 and 14. Copies of all alliances and letters of agreement are available on the [project's intranet site](#).

**Note:** The 2012/2013 PMP work plan merged the indicators relating to public-private sector alliance and private sector alliances into one indicator under public-private sector alliances. The new target set was at the sum of the two original targets.

**Table 13. Public-Private Sector Partnerships**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Organization/Company</b>	<b>Coverage</b>
Jul. 2011	SwissContact	Santa Bárbara, La Paz, Intibucá: honey production training.
June 2011	VECO MA	Intibucá: produce consolidation
Sept. 2011	Bomhosa	All six departments: equipment supplier, discounts, training, demonstrations.
Sept. 2011	MexiChem	All six departments: equipment supplier, discounts, training, demonstrations.
Nov. 2011	ADHESA	All six departments: eco-justa stoves.
Nov. 2011	DICONSA	All six departments: equipment and input supplier, discounts, training, demonstrations.
Feb. 2012	SEREMA	All six departments: equipment supplier, discounts, training, demonstrations.
Feb. 2012	DURMAN	All six departments: equipment and input supplier, discounts, training, demonstrations.
Feb. 2012	DISAGRO	All six departments: equipment and input supplier, discounts, training, demonstrations.
Mar. 2012	Bayer	All six departments: equipment and input supplier, discounts, training, demonstrations.
Mar. 2012	SEAGRO	All six departments: equipment and input supplier, discounts, training, demonstrations.
Mar. 2012	ODECO	
Apr. 2012	Agritrade	All six departments: equipment and input supplier, discounts, training, demonstrations.
Jun. 2012	COAPIGOR	Santa Bárbara: allspice production & exports.
Jun. 2012	ILAMEX	Santa Bárbara: allspice production & exports.
Jun. 2012	PRODUCTOS PANTHEODS	Intibucá: vegetable packer.
Jul. 2012	Original Maya	Intibucá, Copán, Lempira: vegetable exporter.
Jul. 2012	Hermanidad de Honduras	Copán: technical assistance to growers.
Aug. 2012	AGROS International	Santa Bárbara: technical assistance to growers.

**Table 13. Public-Private Sector Partnerships**

Date	Organization/Company	Coverage
Sep. 2012	Frozen Foods/Grupo Madeesma	Intibucá, Santa Bárbara, Copán: baby corn processor and exporter.
Sep. 2012	Bioplanet	All six departments: moringa seed provider.
Sep. 2012	COHORSIL	All six departments: equipment and input supplier, discounts, training, demonstrations.
Sep. 2012	DUWEST	All six departments: equipment and input supplier, discounts, training, demonstrations.
Oct. 2012	D'Leite	Santa Bárbara, Copán, and Lempira: oriental vegetable exporter
Oct. 2012	CAMOSA	All six departments: equipment supplier, discounts, training, demonstrations
Jan. 2013	TECHO Honduras	La Paz: low-cost housing
Jan. 2013	Programa Educativo El Maestro en Casa	Intibucá: greenhouse operations and training
Jan. 2013	Agroindustrias del Coral	Copán: cattle production program
Jan. 2013	Croplife	All six departments: safe pesticide use training
Feb. 2013	Syngenta	All six departments: input supplier, discounts, training, demonstrations; training in safe pesticide use; support to healthy household program.
Feb. 2013	UNAH/CUROC	Copán: student internships
Mar. 2013	UNITEC (+SIC)	All six departments: company registrations
Mar. 2013	AHPROABA / DUWEST	All six departments: outgrower program, marketing, inputs and finance (corn)
Jul. 2013	Beneficio Santa Rosa	Copán, Lempira, Ocotepeque: coffee buyer, training
Jul. 2013	Supermercados La Antorcha	All six departments: buyer of horticultural and MSME products, promotion and training.
Jul. 2013	Municipality of Jesus de Otoro, Intibucá	Intibucá. Community and municipal co-investments in irrigation infrastructure
Aug. 2013	EYL Comercial	All six departments: equipment and input supplier, discounts, training, demonstrations.
Sep. 2013	Boncafe	Intibucá, Copán, Lempira, Ocotepeque: coffee buyer, training, specialty premiums
Sep. 2013	FENAGH	Project wide: support on policy activities
Sep. 2013	Municipality of Talgua, Lempira	Lempira. Community and municipal co-investments in irrigation infrastructure
Oct. 13	Pineapple growers/buyers/SAG	Ocotepeque. Pineapple production/value chain.
Nov. 13	Water Engineers of the Americas	Intibucá, Lempira, La Paz. Technical assistance and cost sharing with potable water system design and construction.
Dec. 13	Municipality of Candelaria, Lempira	Lempira. Community and municipal co-investments in irrigation infrastructure
Mar. 14	Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza	Intibucá. Forestry equipment cost sharing.
Mar. 14	CADELGA	All six departments; equipment and input supplies
Mar. 14	ANAVIH	Santa Bárbara, Copán, Intibucá, Lempira and Ocotepeque. Eggs for diet diversity.
Jul. 14	OLAM	La Paz. Coffee purchase and technical assistance
Oct-14	WFP / two village banks	Commercial purchase of vegetables and eggs from project growers sold to local school feeding program via WFP
Nov-14	BANADESA / Municipality Belen, Ocotepeque	Municipal guaranteed loans funds to project clients
Nov-14	BANADESA / Municipality	Municipal guaranteed loans funds to project clients

**Table 13. Public-Private Sector Partnerships**

Date	Organization/Company	Coverage
	Belen, Lempira	
Nov-14	BANADESA / Municipality Santa Rita, Santa Bárbara	Municipal guaranteed loans funds to project clients

**Table 14. Letters of Agreement with Institutions**

Date	Institution
Jun. 2011	IHMA
Jun. 2011	PRONADERS
Sep. 2011	Ministry of Health
Oct. 2011	Vision Mundial
Nov. 2011	SOLARIS
Jan. 2012	Ministry of Work and Social Security
May 2012	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
May 2012	Ministry of Health Region 14 – Ocotepeque
May 2012	Ministry of Health Region 04 – Copán Ruins
May 2012	Ministry of Health Region 10 – Intibucá
May 2012	Ministry of Health Region 12 – Marcala
May 2012	Ministry of Health Region 13 – Gracias
May 2012	Instituto Polivalente San Jose Cupertino
Dec. 2012	Banadesa
May 2013	Registro Nacional de la Personas / SAG
Jul. 2013	Instituto Nacional de Conservación y Desarrollo Forestal (Nor-Occidental)
Aug. 2013	COPECO
Oct. 2014	SEDIS

### ***Grower organization and the development of market-driven production programs***

The status of activities in the Project Monitoring Plan (PMP) under this component during the reporting period and the year to date is provided in Table 15.

**Table 15. Grower Organization and Market-Driven Production Programs**

PIRS/ WP #	Year 1 (Apr. to Sep. 2011)		Year 2 (Oct. 2011 to Sep. 2012)		Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sep. 2013)		Year 4 (Oct. 2013 to Sep. 2014)		Year 5 (Oct. to Dec. 2014)		Total To Date (Dec. 2014)	
	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
PIRS #31: Number of producers organizations, water users associations, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations (CBOs) receiving USG assistance (LOP Target 210)												
	20	40	70	150	20	31	0	519	0	3	210	743
WP #3: Number of small farmer associations formally established as businesses (LOP Target 55)												
	-	-	4	0	150	118	0	46	20	14	55	178

### **PIRS #31: Number of producer organizations, water users associations, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations receiving USG assistance**

USAID-ACCESO is developing activities with organizations and associations, particularly community-based organizations, to increase outreach and improve the quality and quantity of services. By working with community level organizations, the project generates client confidence. In many cases, problems and opportunities are identified through a participatory process by the communities themselves. During the quarter, 3 organizations were incorporated into the project, for a total of 743 organizations enrolled as USAID-ACCESO beneficiaries (against LOP target of 210). These include 651 private enterprises, 23 producer organizations, 42 water/irrigation associations, 25 community-based organizations, and 2 women's groups. Many of the water and irrigation boards were set up with project assistance.

Department managers work closely with municipalities to support community projects and farming activities of poor and extreme poor growers. This year, through close coordination and collaborative efforts with municipalities, agriculture schools, local NGOs and buyers, cash, and in-kind donations were contributed for the establishment of irrigation and potable water systems, procurement of seeds, and plantlets.

### **WP #3: Number of small farmer associations formally established as businesses**

USAID-ACCESO business skills, policy, production and marketing specialists work together to identify the needs and requirements of groups of growers to formally register as businesses (but where the initial decision is made by the growers, not as a requirement by the project). In addition to the work with the growers themselves, input from the project's policy component has shortened processes and reduced costs, and has improved the efficiencies of the registration process. Alliances were initially made with UNAH and SIC, but this was not formalized; a formal alliance was then made with UNITEC and SIC to assist in the legalization of the businesses.

During the quarter, registration has been obtained for 14 businesses, rural village banks, and organizations against a target of 20; to date 178 business have received assistance to obtain registration against a LOP target of 55. In addition, documents have been sent for registration for an additional 73 businesses and 91 are in the process of collecting and preparing documents. Groups currently receiving assistance under this activity total 342; they cover 7,929 members with an average of 23 members per business or group. They include:

- Grower Association: 20
- Rural banks (cajas rurales): 231
- Companies with multiple services: 38
- Water boards: 49

### ***Increasing the technical capabilities of agricultural schools and local NGOs***

As project implementation evolves, coordination with local actors continues to increase. NGOs, local governmental organizations, and agricultural, technical, and social promotion schools participate in many project training events and activities, and in some cases, specialized training courses have been developed to meet their specific needs.

During the quarter, USAID-ACCESO continued close working relationships with seven technical schools and universities from all project regions, with 24 students spending a total of 68 weeks with the project. To date, more than 760 students have held internships with the project in areas such as processing, business skills and finance, production, health and nutrition, IT, and administration. These students came from 57 different schools, technical colleges, and universities, and have received a total of 4,952 weeks of on-the-job technical training. 34 students have been at the university level (Zamorano, UNAH, Universidad Metropolitana, Universidad de San Pedro Sula, and UNA). Other schools have been

trained in executing community cleaning campaigns and others are participating in the food preparation workshops. Coordination has been carried out with the World Food Program WFP) in training the mothers who prepare the *merienda escolar* in select communities within the project regions.

As of December 2014, more than 60 counterpart organizations, including NGOs, donor institutions and projects have participated in project-sponsored activities. These include: Aldea Global, ANDESAIN, Caritas, CASM, CESAL, CEPUDO, CHF Honduras, Child Fund, CODESSE, COMUCAP, COOMUPL, COPRAFEL, Catholic Relief Service, Escuela San Pablo, EDUCAR, Escuela Agrícola Pompilio Ortega, FAMA, FAO, FIDA, FIDE, FOPRIDEH, Fundación Adelante, FUNDAHRSE, Fundación Banhcafe, Fundahmicro, Fundación Vida, Funder, Red Cross, Heifer, IHCAFE, OCDIH, ODECO, Veco-MA, Oxfam, PILARH, Save the Children, SOCODEVI, Swiss Contact, World Food Programme, and World Vision. Representatives from government organizations receiving USAID-ACCESO training include PRONADERS, DICTA, and selected municipalities and municipal organizations.

**Note:** most of the NGO under subcontract to Fintrac have also increased their capabilities – especially on accounting and administration – with changes and improvements being made to meet USAID regulations and documentation requirements.

#### 5.2.2. Rural MSMEs Access to New Market Opportunities Increased (SUB-IR 2.1.2)

USAID-ACCESO marketing specialists continually monitor new product and market opportunities, as well as recommend crops, varieties, and value-added products for calendarized production programs and commercial trials. Calendarized production programs are being implemented in each of the six departments for both the local and export markets, and will expand as more growers join these programs. In addition to fresh produce, the project has emphasized developing new markets and improving logistics for MSME processed and off-farm products, including sweets, baked goods, pickles, sauces, plantain chips, raw sugar, honey, wines, and crafts.

Due to low production volumes (small plots, partial technologies) and difficulties competing in large markets in the main and secondary cities (poor roads, long distances, high transport costs, low volumes), USAID-ACCESO has developed local farmers' markets and distribution routes for sales to local outlets, *pulperias*, and intermediaries in the same zones where they are produced. This reduces transport costs and speeds up payment time, especially given the low volumes, limited transport logistics, and poor roads. But most do not yet count toward indicator targets.

MARKETING			
Dedicated technicians	1 manager and 3 specialists		
Training Events	396		
Training Participants	3,492 men	1,006 women	Total 4,498
Training Individual	960 men	284 women	Total 1,244
Technical Assistance	4,277		
Investment	Clients \$26,661	Others \$39,184	Total \$65,845
Training materials	18 bulletins	3 presentations	Total 21

#### Development of buyer linkages and logistics

The status of activities in the Project Monitoring Plan (PMP) under this component during the reporting period and to date is provided in Table 16.

**Table 16. Rural MSME Access to New Market Opportunities**

PIRS/ WP #	Year 1 (Apr. to Sept. 2011)		Year 2 (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)		Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013)		Year 4 (Oct. 2013 to Sept. 2014)		Year 5 (Oct. to Dec. 2014)		Total to Date (Sept. 2014)	
	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
WP #4: Number of MSMEs accessing new market opportunities through a broker (LOP Target 10,932):												
	300	35	1,968	1,403	3,500	5,486	3,500	4,880	0	101	10,932	11,905
PIRS #12: Number of brokers providing market linkages to MSMEs (LOP Target 500):												
	25	10	125	19	200	41	400	288	142	4	500	362
WP #6: Number of market surveys conducted (LOP Target 24):												
	6	1	12	5	12	3	3	3	9	8	24	20

**WP #4: Number of MSMEs accessing new market opportunities through a broker**

During the quarter, 101 MSMEs were registered as accessing new market opportunities through a broker; to date, a total of 11,905 MSMEs have been registered against a LOP target of 10,932. Of these, 9,948 were male and 1,957 female (16 percent). These are those who have at least two recorded sales events to at least one broker. A total of 2,958 buyers are registered as having purchased products from USAID-ACCESO clients. Data by department is given in Table 17.

**Table 17. Number of Clients accessing new Market opportunities (>=2 deliveries each)**

Department	Total Clients	%
Copán	2,091	17.6%
Intibucá	1,697	14.3%
La Paz	1,625	13.6%
Lempira	2,717	22.8%
Ocatepeque	1,939	16.3%
Santa Bárbara	1,823	15.3%
Other	13	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,905</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Two of the brokers buy from more than 200 ACCESO clients, 14 brokers with between 100 and 200 growers each, 37 brokers with between 50 and 100 growers each, and 309 brokers with 50 growers or less each. The top 10 brokers buying from USAID-ACCESO clients include three coffee exporters (Bon Café, Sogimex and Becamo), one supermarket (La Colonia), two packhouses/distributors (Aldea Global and CAEOL), one wholesaler, and three intermediaries. Around 30 percent of project clients have been recorded as benefitting from access to new market opportunities. This number is probably under reported given the amount of time it takes to track every grower, each sale, and buyer details. In addition, it should be noted that clients with crops with a single harvest event will not be counted in this indicator. In addition, the main supermarkets require suppliers to have their own code and as a result, groups of growers in calendarized production programs deliver to supermarkets under one supplier code. There may be 10 or 20 growers delivering to one supermarket under one supplier code.

**PIRS #12: Number of brokers providing market linkages to MSMEs**

During the quarter, the number of new brokers providing market linkages to MSMEs was four against a target of 142. To date, a total of 362 brokers are counted against a LOP target of 500. This is based on the definition where they have at least two sales transactions with a minimum of 10 project-assisted MSMEs and have a permanent relationship with assisted MSMEs. The 362 brokers to date include 7 major supermarkets, 21 retailers, 20 packing houses (local market), nine processors, 28 exporters, and 277 intermediaries. The project has registered sales to 443 brokers with a least one sales transaction. The target for this indicator will not be achieved based on the definition, which takes a significant amount of time to track in the detail required to meet the definition.

**WP #6: Number of market surveys conducted**

To date, 20 market surveys have been carried out for potential products, including allspice, cardamom, processed onions, gherkins, eggplant, zucchini, stevia, chia, turmeric, and essential oils from pimento leaf, pimento berry and cardamom. Eight were carried out during the current quarter, including avocado, fresh and processed passion fruit, chayote, processed guava, hot pepper, and cashew. The allspice survey resulted in direct exports for the first time from Honduras to the US in 2012 (as opposed to intermediaries from Guatemala). This was expanded in the 2012/2013 season and has stabilized in the 2013/2014 season. The cardamom survey resulted in direct exports to Switzerland. In the previous year, both crops were to be supported with short-term technical assistance for essential oil extraction, but this was not carried out at that time due to administrative limitations (approvals). The processed

products surveys indicated limited market options and low profitability not suitable for the USAID-ACCESO grower. The surveys for stevia, turmeric, and chia identified opportunities. This year, production and market trials were carried out with stevia and chia, with the latter being taking to commercial production levels in the last two quarters. Informal market surveys were carried out for a range of crops in El Salvador and with exporters and importers for fresh herbs, snow peas, sugar snap peas, and French beans. This indicator is currently slightly behind the LOP target of 24.

### ***Production and systems implementation to meet buyers' quality and standards***

#### **WP #5: Number of MSMEs that have entered formal preferred supplier or contract agreements with brokers**

The status of activities in the Project Monitoring Plan (PMP) for years 1 to 4, against targets is provided in Table 18.

**Table 18. Number of MSMEs that have entered formal preferred supplier or contract agreements**

PIRS/ WP #	Year 1 & 2 (Apr. 2011 to Sept. 2012)		Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013)		Year 4 (Oct. 2013 to Sept. 2014)		Total to Date (Dec. 2014)	
	T.	A.	T.	A.	T.	A.	T.	A.
WP # 5: Number of MSMEs that have entered formal preferred supplier or contract agreements with brokers (LOP Target 2,996)								
	599	550	925	1,521	925	9,473	2,996	11,544
<i>T. = Target A. = Achieved</i>								

This data is collected through annual client surveys rather than on a quarterly basis. As of September 2014, 11,544 MSMEs have entered into formal preferred supplier or contract agreements with brokers (against a target of 2,996). These were determined through end-of-year client household sampling as the quantity of transactions are too high to be able to track every one. Of these, 4,478 were male (83 percent) and 910 female (17 percent). These are those who have at least two recorded sales events to at least one broker. There are a total of 10,859 MSMEs who have one recorded sales event. These buyers include collection centers, cooperatives, supermarkets, processors, and exporters. Details are provided in the PMP 12/2014 Excel file.

Given the limitations of farmers in the region, it has been essential that these efforts are supported by activities to improve postharvest infrastructure, irrigation, logistics, access to inputs and seed, finance, and local investment to ensure farmers meet quality standards and safety regulations.

Select examples of activities to initiate new or expand existing market-driven production programs for the quarter include:

- Supermercado Los Andes, San Pedro Sula: new buyer linkages were made with Los Andes with growers with excess vegetable production and fruit trees (avocado) beginning deliveries. Small scale production programs were also initiated based on market demand. The possibility of developing a dedicated “*centro de acopio*” is also being investigated.
- PriceSmart Supermarkets: after meetings and field visits with PriceSmart regional management one plantain/papaya grower group registered with PriceSmart and started deliveries of plantain. Papaya deliveries are expected next quarter.
- Olam: following contacts with USAID an agreement was developed with OLAM to link project growers in La Paz and Santa Barbara with the potential for specialty coffee sales. Sales of up to 300 QQ of coffee are expected this season. OLAM have provided in-field training to project growers and investments have been made in processing infrastructure, solar dryers and logistics. Deliveries are expected to begin in the next quarter.

### **Implementation of business certification programs**

The status of activities in the Project Monitoring Plan (PMP) during the quarter and to date against targets is provided in Table 19.

**Table 19. Implementation of Business Certification Programs**

PIRS/ WP#	Year 1 (Apr. to Sept. 2011)		Year 2 (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)		Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013)		Year 4 (Oct. 2013 to Sept. 2014)		Total to Date (Dec. 2014)	
	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
PIRS #13: Number of MSMEs that have been verified to meet market standards for their products (LOP Target 2,000)										
	-	35	300	882	500	836	247	21,344	2,000	23,097

This data is collected through annual client surveys rather than on a quarterly basis. As of September 2014, 23,097 MSMEs are classified as meeting market standards, against a LOP target of 2,000. MSMEs include growers.

Whether producers or microenterprises have implemented systems to meet buyers' demands is verified when sales to a specific market demanding a particular quality or standard take place. In order for micro and small businesses (including farmers) to build sustainable relationships with new markets, it is essential they comply with buyer expectations, not only for volumes, consistency, and frequency, but also in terms of quality and product standards. USAID-ACCESO's marketing, postharvest, certification and production specialists provide direct technical assistance to farmers so they can achieve this goal. Additional training is provided by the actual buyers themselves, who visit the farms and participate in training and technical assistance activities or provide feedback to growers when produce is delivered.

USAID-ACCESO specialists are providing support to vegetable growers to enter formal markets with quality standards and where necessary to obtain farm and product certifications. Project specialists are also assisting coffee growers meet the requirements for quality and a range of certifications (depending on buyer requirements), including Rainforest Alliance, UTZ, 4C, Certified Organic, and Fair Trade.

Given the informal nature of local markets, there were very few buyers with specifications for fresh produce. For this reason, postharvest specialists, working with marketing specialists, have worked with "informal buyers" to develop basic standards and quality inspections to formalize some of the relationships. This is in addition to the continued focus on supporting USAID-ACCESO clients in meeting buyer quality standards so they can enter more reliable formal markets with potential for expansion. Support has been provided to both buyers and growers in the development and use of product standards for fresh fruits and vegetables. Additional activities have been carried out with quality and standards for processed and other off-farm products, such as pickled vegetables, raw sugar, processed garlic, dehydrated herbs, dairy products, honey products, wood, and woven items.

USAID-ACCESO has worked with many buyers to develop quality standards for several crops. Examples include all vegetables for supermarket buyers, plantain for wholesalers, Chinese eggplant for the export market, green beans to Guatemala, stevia for a local processor, coffee for many buyers and for specialty markets.

Small-scale processed food operations who have been selling informally because of a lack of registration or bar codes, have been assisted in upgrading their products and operations to enter slightly larger markets (most are still not ready for the main distributors in the principal cities). As this requires higher transport cost and higher margins for those involved, the processors need to reduce their sales price. USAID-ACCESO is helping improve efficiencies and reduce production costs (and know the unit cost of production as most of these small businesses lose money if self-employed labor is included in costs).

### 5.2.3. Barriers to Competitiveness of Rural MSMEs Reduced (SUB-IR 2.1.3)

Most of the activities under this component are carried out by the business skills and finance technical team, who work in coordination with the production, processing, marketing, and policy components. This team also contributes to activities under other Sub-IRs, including 2.1.1. and 2.1.2. Activities carried out by the business skills and finance team are wide-ranging, commercially-focused, integrated with other project components, and work at all levels of the finance chains.

BUSINESS SKILLS AND FINANCE			
Dedicated technicians	3 senior specialists and 7 junior technicians		
Training Events	4,329		
Training Participants	27,146 men	14,017 women	Total 41,163
Training Individual	5,935 men	2,862 women	Total 8,797
Technical Assistance	37,743		
Investment	Clients \$6,200	Others \$3,841	Total \$10,041
Training materials	51 bulletins	31 presentations	Total 82

#### Loan Targets

The development, linkage and expansion of access to credit by the growers are first made possible by market-led, technified production programs. Profitable commercial farming operations are a necessity. Subsistence growers can rarely, if at all, pay back loans even if they are inclined to do so. In many cases, the production programs require finance options be pre-identified, for which finance may be required by individuals or by groups of growers, to purchase inputs or for inputs and labor. The project links the finance source together with the users, aiming to be beneficial to both sides. Many non-traditional lending sources do not have the outreach to look for new clients, suitable financial products, sufficient funds to lend, or in the case of some rural village banks, are simply not legalized.

The project provides technical support and training in business skills and finance directly to the growers and to the lending sources. These activities contribute directly to PIRS #14 (access to finance), PIRS #15 (loan value), and PIRS # 11 (business management practices).

*Increased access to finance*

The status of activities in the Project Monitoring Plan (PMP) for the quarter and to date against targets is provided in Table 20.

**Table 20. Barriers to Competitiveness of Rural MSMEs Reduced**

PIRS/ WP #	Year 1 (Apr. to Sept. 2011)		Year 2 (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)		Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013)		Year 4 (Oct. 2013 to Sept. 2014)		Year 5 (Oct. to Dec. 2014)		Total To Date (Dec. 2014)	
	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
PIRS #14: Number of MSMEs accessing market-based financing as the result of government assistance (LOP target 4,314):												
	215	315	863	1,577	1,000	2,826	100	3,800	25	71	4,314	8,589
PIRS #15: Value of agricultural and rural loans made to MSMEs (\$ millions) (LOP target \$6.33 million):												
	0.32	0.200	1.26	1.554	1.730	6.072	1.000	8.060	0.030	0.602	6.330	16.488
PIRS #11: Number of MSMEs implementing sound business management practices (LOP target 8,482):												
	-	-	1,696	695	3,750	4,498	3,250	8,762	-	-	8,482	13,955

### PIRS #14: Number of MSMEs accessing market-based financing as the result of government assistance

During the quarter, 71 MSMEs accessed market based finance with project assistance. To date, 8,589 MSMEs have accessed financed, against LOP target of 4,314. Women made up 17 percent of the MSMEs and 16 percent of the number of loans. The extreme poor made up 77 percent of the MSMEs and 74 percent of the number of loans. Details on the loan numbers are provided in Tables 21 to 23. More details on loans and lenders are provided in the Excel PMP file 12/2014.

**Table 21. Number of MSMEs accessing market-based financing by sex (Accumulated to December 2014)**

Category	# MSMEs LOP Target	# MSMEs to Date	% of Total	# Loans to Date	% of Total
Male	3,667	7,135	83%	11,155	84%
Female	647	1,454	17%	2,154	16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,314</b>	<b>8,589</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>13,309</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 22. Number of MSMEs accessing market-based financing by baseline income (Accumulated to December 2014)**

Category	# MSMEs to Date	% of Total	# Loans to Date	% of Total
Extreme Poor	6,588	77%	9,885	74%
Poor	658	8%	1,065	8%
Non-Poor	1,129	13%	1,955	15%
MSMEs Micro	127	1%	252	2%
MSMEs Other	87	1%	153	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,589</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>13,309</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 23. Number of MSMEs accessing market-based financing by department (Accumulated to December 2014)**

Department	# MSMEs to Date	% of Total	# Loans to Date)	% of Total
Copan	1,694	20%	2,549	19%
Intibucá	1,344	16%	2,191	16%
La Paz	1,175	14%	2,115	16%
Lempira	1,990	23%	2,902	22%
Ocotepeque	1,231	14%	1,744	13%
Santa Bárbara	1,139	13%	1,788	13%
Other	16	0%	20	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,589</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>13,309</b>	<b>100%</b>

### PIRS #15: Value of agricultural and rural loans made to MSMEs

During the quarter, USAID-ACCESO clients accessed \$0.602 million in loans. To date, loans total \$16.488 million against a LOP target of \$6.33 million. More than 389 different finance sources have been used including rural village banks, input stores, cooperatives, buyers, NGO and municipalities. These are the formal loans. There are also many informal loans, particularly between family members, intermediary buyers and “sharecroppers”. Traditional banks do not normally work with this segment. Women clients make up 10.9 percent of the total loan value with \$1.793 million in credit. The extreme poor clients obtained credit totaling \$5.577 million and made up 34 percent of the total loan value. The average loan amount was \$1,919, with the majority in the range of \$100 to \$500 (43 percent). Details on the loan

values are provided in Tables 24 to 27. More details on loans and lenders are provided in the Excel PMP file 12/2014.

**Table 24. Value of Loans by Sex (Accumulated to December 2014)**

Category	Loan Value LOP Target	Loan value to date (December 2014)	% of Total
Male	\$5.38 million	14,694,747	89.1%
Female	\$0.95 million	1,793,431	10.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6.33 million</b>	<b>16,488,178</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 25. Value of Loans by baseline income (Accumulated to December 2014)**

Category	Loan Value	% of Total
Extreme Poor	5,577,093	33.8%
Poor	1,298,210	7.9%
Non-Poor	3,810,446	23.1%
MSMEs Micro	3,315,530	20.1%
MSMEs Other	2,486,899	15.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,488,178</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 26. Value of Loans by Department (Accumulated to December 2014)**

Department	Loan Value	% of Total
Copan	3,267,718	19.8%
Intibucá	2,517,265	15.3%
La Paz	1,343,048	8.2%
Lempira	2,353,559	14.3%
Ocotepeque	3,356,786	20.4%
Santa Bárbara	3,634,401	22.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,472,777</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Excludes loans made to initial clients in Comayagua*

**Table 27. Number of MSMEs accessing market-based financing by Loan Amount (Accumulated to December 2014)**

Loan Amount	# MSMEs	# MSMEs % of Total	# Loans	# Loans % of Total	Total Value	% of Total Value
< \$100	777	9.0%	1,808	13.58%	93,029	0.56%
>\$100 <\$500	3,270	38.1%	5,765	43.32%	1,414,122	8.58%
>\$500 < \$1,000	1,687	19.6%	2,465	18.52%	1,546,759	9.38%
>1,000 < \$5,000	2,336	27.2%	2,734	20.54%	4,767,864	28.92%
>\$5,000 < \$10,000	285	3.3%	289	2.17%	1,830,806	11.10%
>\$10,000 < \$100,000	221	2.6%	242	1.82%	5,630,139	34.15%
>\$100,000	14	0.2%	6	0.05%	1,205,458	7.31%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,590</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>13,309</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>16,488,178</b>	<b>100%</b>

389 loan sources have been used to obtain credit. The *cajas rurales* have become the main source of loans for USAID-ACCESO clients: \$1.7 million of a total of \$16.5 million (11 percent), and 3,921 loans of a total of 13,309 loans (29 percent).

In terms of loan number, after the *cajas rurales*, IHCAFE has loans with 617 project clients for \$604,200; Hermandad de Honduras with 531 loans for \$362,300; municipalities with 342 loans for \$67,500 and Del Campo with 240 loans for \$227,300.

Larger loans have been obtained from banks including Banco Occidente (100 loans for \$1.35 million), FICOHSA (384 loans for \$621,000), Banadesa (227 loans for \$856,400), and BANHCAFE (30 loans for \$297,500).

### **PIRS #1 I: Number of MSMEs implementing sound business management practices**

This data is collected through annual client surveys rather than on a quarterly basis. As of September 2014, 13,955 are implementing sound business practices against an overall target of 8,442. To count as an MSME toward this indicator, the MSME has to implement a minimum of three of the following business management practices:

- Access to credit
- Annual accounts (internal or external)
- Annual audits (internal or external)
- Break-even point analyses
- Budgeting (operative / investment)
- Business operations
- Cash flow operations and control
- Credit scoring
- Financial indicator analysis
- Financial links
- Inventory controls
- Legal procedures/documentation
- Payroll systems and controls
- Promotional activities (materials, trade shows)
- Recordkeeping
- Sales records and control
- Tax management

This indicator was measured as part of the sampling procedures for September 2014 and was extrapolated to the USAID-ACCESO clients. The top five practices being implemented are:

- Access to credit
- Credit scoring
- Financial links
- Inventory controls
- Recordkeeping

### **PIRS #GNDR 2: Proportion of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources.**

This indicator was added in for Year 3 (October 2012 to September 2013). Data for Years 3 and 4 and the current quarter are provided in Table 28. To date, women make up 17 percent of the individuals obtaining loans (1,454).

**Table 28. Proportion of female participants with access to productive resources**

Indicator	Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013)			Year 4 (Oct. 2013 to Sept. 2014)			Year 5 (Oct. to Dec. 2014)			Total to Date (Dec. 2014)		
	Total	Female	%	Total	Female	%	Total	Female	%	Total	Female	%
GNDR 2: Proportion of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (LOP Target: 20%)												
Individuals	4,718	819	17%	5,085	800	16%	71	6	8%	8,589	1,454	17%
\$ millions	7.826	0.921	12%	8.83	0.813	9%	0.6	0.03	5%	16.488	1.793	11%
# Loans	6,727	1,151	17%	6,271	927	15%	208	21	10%	13,309	2,154	16%

### **Policy and value chain sector constraints identified and eliminated**

Prioritized policies and value chain/sector constraints were identified through a short-term consultancy finalized in December 2011. This activity identified the needs and feasibility of adjustments, changes, and additions in prioritized areas of agricultural policy in force, and in selected administrative procedures and requirements to produce, market, process and export agricultural products and derivatives, which are needed to remove obstacles or barriers that affect the growth and competitiveness of USAID-ACCESO clients in the domestic and foreign markets.

The most important problems identified related to policies, rules or regulations, were found primarily in the area of access to credit, access to technologies and agricultural extension services, and institutional aspects of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG).

In terms of administrative barriers, the most significant problems identified were related to the high costs, requirements, and time required for registration; procedures for exports or imports agricultural products and inputs; access to technologies and agricultural extension services; market access and business practices; food safety and plant/animal health; and access to land or titles.

**Table 29. Status: Policy and Value Chain Sector Constraints**

PIRS/ WP #	Year 1 & 2 (Apr. to Sept. 2012)		Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013)		Year 4 (Oct. 2013 to Sept. 2014)		Total to Date (Dec. 2014)	
	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
PIRS #16: Number of value chain / sector constraints identified and resolved (LOP Target 40):								
	15	1	24	16	23	15	40	34
PIRS #17: Number of policy reforms, regulations, administrative procedures passed for which implementation has begun with USG assistance (LOP Target 4):								
	1	2	1	3	0	1	4	6

#### **PIRS #16: Number of value chain / sector constraints identified and resolved**

During the quarter, two value chain/sector constraint were resolved, for a total to date of 34 barriers against a LOP target of 40. The following value chain/sector constraints have been resolved as a direct result of or with USAID-ACCESO assistance:

- Legalization process for MSMEs.
- Simplification of export permit processes to regional markets of agriculture products.
- Reform of the operational guidelines of the MCA-H/ACA Trust Fund for Farmers' Credit Access (via Policy Measures to Expand Credit Service to Farmers).
- Normative evaluation and classification of the loan portfolio issued by the National Banking and Insurance Commission (via policy measures to expand credit service to farmers).
- Agricultural Insurance operated by BANADESA (via policy measures to expand credit service to farmers).
- Streamlined process for the establishment and operation of water administration boards.
- Streamlined process for registration of poultry farms engaged in production of meat and eggs.
- Official recognition of corn production manual under integrated crop management in order to harmonize and improve the quality of agricultural extension services.
- Official Recognition of Bean Production Manual in order to harmonize and improve the quality of agricultural extension services.
- Reform of the operational guidelines of the MCA-H Trust Farmers' Credit Access (ACA) to finance projects in the cattle value chain.

- Reform of the operational guidelines of the MCA-H Trust Farmers' Credit Access (ACA) to finance projects in the chicken value chain.
- Reform of the operational guidelines of the MCA-H Trust Farmers' Credit Access (ACA) to finance projects in the coffee value chain.
- Reform of the operational guidelines of the MCA-H Trust Farmers' Credit Access (ACA) to finance projects in the agricultural inputs value chain.
- Development of credit access mechanism for small producers assisted by USAID-ACCESS with trust funds managed by BANADESA.
- Reform of the operational guidelines of the MCA-H/ACA Trust Farmers' Credit Access (ACA) for the qualification of new financial intermediaries.
- Executive Order to facilitate access to credit to MSMEs without collateral.
- Socialization of objectives, use and operation of the mobile guarantee register.
- Official Recognition of Potato Production Manual in order to harmonize and improve the quality of agricultural extension services.
- Official Recognition of Onion Production Manual in order to harmonize and improve the quality of agricultural extension services.
- Official Recognition of Cacao Production Manual in order to harmonize and improve the quality of agricultural extension services.
- Official Recognition of Carrot Production Manual in order to harmonize and improve the quality of agricultural extension services.
- Simplification of RTN applications from the DEI for companies and individuals.
- National Plan for Integrated Assistance to Small Scale Coffee Growers Affected by Coffee Rust (with IHCAFE).
- Custom technical instruction for the waiver of payment of 15% on sales of inputs used in the process of production, processing and distribution of milk, beef and pork as set out in the law of the National Fund for The Competitiveness of the Agricultural Sector.
- Reforms to the Circular No. PE-002/2014 of BANHPROVI on the National Program of bovine, swine and poultry repopulation, to allow access to credit to small and medium-sized producers who are not members of associations or organizations belonging to the FENAGH.
- Streamlined Process for the registration and operation of chicken slaughterhouses.
- Official Recognition of Plantain Production Manual in order to harmonize and improve the quality of agricultural extension services.
- Official Recognition of Lettuce Production Manual in order to harmonize and improve the quality of agricultural extension services.
- Official Recognition of Palm Oil Production Manual in order to harmonize and improve the quality of agricultural extension services.
- Accreditation of natural and legal persons to provide agricultural inspection services.
- Establishment of additional reforms to the Normative Evaluation and Classification of the Agricultural Loan Portfolio issued by the National Banking and Insurance Commission (via Policy Measures to Expand Credit Service to Farmers).
- Clarification of the list of products that must pay the 1.0% of income tax established in article 19 of the law of strengthening of income, Social equity and rationalization of public expenditure, Decree No. 17-2010.

### **Current Quarter**

- Review and updating of the pesticides and related substances regulations to simplify administrative procedures and requirements
- Development of La Esperanza Municipal Ordinance to comply with the regulations for the sale of agrochemicals with varying degrees of toxicity (Legislative Decree).

A series of activities are also ongoing to resolve or eliminate other barriers. These include:

- Presentation before National Congress of the Project of Law of the Financial Fund for the Capitalization of Cajas de Ahorro y Crédito Rural
- Review of the Veterinary Medicine regulations to simplify administrative procedures and requirements
- Review of the fertilizer regulations to simplify administrative procedures and requirements
- Development of Santa Barbara Municipal Ordinance to comply with the regulations for the sale of agrochemicals with varying degrees of toxicity (Legislative Decree).
- Development of Marcala Municipal Ordinance to comply with the regulations for the sale of agrochemicals with varying degrees of toxicity (Legislative Decree).
- Development of San Marcos de Ocotepeque Municipal Ordinance to comply with the regulations for the sale of agrochemicals with varying degrees of toxicity (Legislative Decree).
- Development of Santa Rosa Municipal Ordinance to comply with the regulations for the sale of agrochemicals with varying degrees of toxicity (Legislative Decree).
- Development of Gracias Municipal Ordinance to comply with the regulations for the sale of agrochemicals with varying degrees of toxicity (Legislative Decree).

**PIRS #17: Number of policy reforms, regulations, administrative procedures passed for which implementation has begun with USG assistance**

No additional policy reforms were achieved during this quarter (policy reforms, regulations, and/or administrative procedures have been passed for which implementation has begun with US government assistance). To date, six reforms have been achieved against a LOP target of four. These are as a direct result of, or with USAID-ACCESO assistance:

- Country Investment Plan for the Agricultural Sector.
- Copyright law for protection for plant materials.
- Sector policy paper (FENAGH & COHEP) of actions to eliminate political and administrative barriers that limit sector growth.
- Regulation of Agricultural Mutual Guarantee Fund (Fagre) to facilitate access to credit to MSMEs.
- Policy Measures to Expand Credit Services to Farmers (approved by Council of Ministers).
- National Policy of *Cajas de Ahorro y Crédito* (approved by Council of Ministers).

***Applied research and development programs developed***

**FHIA:** Applied research programs in technical areas to support USAID-ACCESO's production activities and crops are currently being carried out under the auspices of a partner fund with FHIA. This applied research will result in information and scientifically validated practices that will help Honduran farmers achieve higher yields, utilize more resistant and productive crops, and improve production and postharvest practices. Most of the research activities were carried out or initiated in the previous year, and finalized in the previous FY.

Status of activities in the PMP under this component:

- Research and development projects and activities identified: 14

Research activities with FHIA have continued this year with additional research being sought with a corn planting study to determine the best planting date for this crop. The data will be obtained from planting corn for 52 consecutive weeks and measuring harvest yields individually. This information will be of importance in determining the best date for planting this crop in Honduras, as well as for financial

institutions and the Honduran government to program their financing efforts accordingly to ensure the best yields possible in the field. The activity will be completed in the next quarter.

### 5.3. HONDURAN BIODIVERSITY & NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVED (IR 2.2)

On-farm natural resource management activities to maintain healthy soils and conserve water are integrated into the good agricultural practices at the centerpiece of the USAID-ACCESO extension program. Under this component, the project works in collaboration with community groups to improve overall natural resource management practices at the community, micro-watershed, and municipal levels. USAID-ACCESO uses a participatory municipal and community planning process to develop and implement municipal natural resource management plans that identify existing, proposed, and potential areas of public interest; biological and economic corridors, including areas with potential for and irrigation or hydropower development; as well as areas under current or future environmental threat due to deforestation, soil erosion and sedimentation, chemical and organic pollution, and natural hazards.

The status of activities in the Project Monitoring Plan (PMP) to date against targets is provided in Table 30.

**Table 30. Status: Natural Resources Conserved**

PIRS/ WP #	Year 1 (Apr. to Sept. 2011)		Year 2 (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)		Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013)		Year 4 (Oct. 2013 to Sept. 2014)		Total to Date (Sept. 2014)	
	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
PIRS #8: Number of additional hectares under improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (LOP Target 14,904):										
	-	-	2,981	8,321	3,000	7,693	0	11,215	14,904	27,229
PIRS #10: Number of companies (including farms) that have made conservation-friendly changes in their business practices (LOP Target 22,050):										
	-	-	4,410	356	8,750	351	13,500	6,194	14,207	6,901

#### *Implementation of natural resource management practices on farm*

#### **PIRS #8: Number of additional hectares under improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance.**

This data is collected through annual client surveys rather than on a quarterly basis. As of September 2014, 27,229 hectares of production were under improved technologies or management practices, against a LOP target of 14,904. This indicator was calculated with data from the client survey for September 2014 and extrapolated to the total registered active clients. The 27,229 hectares broken down by sex – 23,609 hectares by male clients (87 percent) and 3,620 hectares by female clients (17 percent).

To be counted toward this indicator the company has to implement at least one of the following technology or management practices:

- Crop genetics
- Animal genetics
- Cultural practices
- Pest management
- Disease management
- Soil-related fertility and conservation
- Irrigation
- Water management (non-irrigation-based)
- Post-harvest handling and storage
- Processing
- Climate mitigation or adaptation

Results for this indicator were obtained as part of the annual sampling survey. Of the technologies and management practices, 85 percent of the area is under improved cultural practices, 48 percent with improved soil-related fertility and conservation, and 20 percent with improved pest management systems.

**PIRS #10: Number of companies (including farms) that have made conservation-friendly changes in their business practices.**

This data is collected through annual client surveys rather than on a quarterly basis. As of September 2014, 6,901 companies have made conservation-friendly changes, against a target of 13,500. To date, 6,901 companies have made the changes, against a LOP target of 22,050.

This indicator was calculated with data from the client survey and extrapolated to the active clients registered with the project as of September 2014. To be counted toward this indicator the company has to implement a minimum of five changes at the farm or household level from the following predefined list:

- Contoured beds
- Field drainage systems
- Incorporation of organic materials in soils
- Use of physical terraces
- Pest and disease sampling systems
- Planting of permanent live barriers
- Water source protection
- Planting of riparian buffers (rivers and streams)
- Reforestation
- Forestry management plan
- Safe disposal of chemical containers
- Recycling of drip irrigation equipment
- Use of *eco-justa* stoves
- Development of wildlife conservation plans
- Effluent treatment systems for households and processing plants
- Treatment of coffee residues
- Production and use of hay silage for cattle feed
- Planting of fast woods for firewood
- Formal disposal of household waste

For reference, the number of companies (including farms) and the respective changes from the list are as follows:

**Table 31. Number of companies that have made conservation-friendly changes in their business practices**

# Changes	# Companies	%
1	5,397	27%
2	3,655	18%
3	2,578	13%
4	1,685	8%
5	1,613	8%
>5	5,287	26%

The indicator definition also states that at the community level, if three of the following five NRM practices are achieved, the number of households in the community will be counted.

- Regulations for solid waste disposal
- Prevention and control of forest fires
- Legalization of water producing zones
- Recuperation of deforested area in watersheds
- Basic sanitation systems and water treatment for human consumption

These numbers have not been factored into the totals presented to date, but will be done so for the final report or next quarterly report.

This indicator is under target due mainly as the “five changes” requirement was included after the target was set. Given the type of client that USAID-ACCESO is working with, they do not normally implement all of the practices in one crop cycle, and technologies and practices have to be incorporated over time. A significant increase however, will occur once the number of households at the community level are included in the data. For example, the project has supported the installation or reconstruction of 49 potable water systems covering 4,606 individual households.

USAID-ACCESO incorporates on-farm natural resource management activities to maintain healthy soils, prevent contamination, and conserve water as part of the good agricultural practices. These activities are carried out mainly by the production component with input from the NRM component. The following practices are being promoted through technical assistance and training on a regular basis in all regions covered by the project:

- **Land preparation:** Use of contoured beds, raised beds, drainage systems, minimum tillage techniques, live and dead wind and erosion barriers; introduction of appropriate tools and machinery.
- **Crops:** Crop rotation (including use of leguminous cover crops that fix nitrogen in a more economical way than chemical fertilizers), elimination and/or incorporation of crop residues, use of border weed control (alternative hosts), pest and disease sampling, use of hybrid seeds, and improved planting materials with greater disease tolerance.
- **Water:** Protection of water sources from contamination for better water management, better water quality, less soil erosion, and less pesticide and fertilizer use. This also increases yields for farmers, reduces input costs, and increases gross and net incomes.

#### ***Implementation of natural resource management practices at community and municipal levels***

During the life of project, USAID-ACCESO was to work with at least 20 municipalities to develop and implement natural resource management policies. The USAID-ACCESO natural resource management team has developed activities with 67 municipalities (42 in September 2012, 64 in September 2013, and 67 in September 2014). These municipalities were selected based on project presence, rates of poverty and child malnutrition, and high vulnerability to environmental disaster. Many NRM practices have now been implemented by these municipalities and community involvement is high. Assisted municipalities have made significant progress and are in different stages of the process, from awareness to implementation.

<b>NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND DISASTER PREVENTION</b>			
Dedicated technicians	2		
Training Events	1,099		
Training Participants	13,828 men	5435 women	Total 19,263
Training Individual	4,051 men	1,585 women	Total 5,636
Technical Assistance	15,803		
Investment	Clients \$257,737	Others \$385,156	Total \$642,893
Training materials	13 bulletins	21 presentations	Total 34

Six municipalities have achieved the project criteria for successful implementation during the current quarter. To date, 42 municipalities are implementing the required practices against a LOP target of 20 for this indicator (Table 32).

**Table 32. Status: NRM Practices at Community and Municipal Levels**

PIRS/ WP #	Year 2 (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)		Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sep. 2013)		Year 4 (Oct. 2013 to Sep. 2014)		Total To Date (Dec. 2014)	
	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
PIRS # 9: Number of Local Municipal Governments effectively implementing natural resource management policies (LOP Target 20):								
	7	7	10	24	0	5	20	42

Per the indicator's precise definition, a municipality is counted once implementation of 4 out of 7 of the following NRM practices have begun:

- Development or strengthening of water boards
- Coffee waste
- Solid waste disposal
- Legalization of water producing zones
- Watershed protection / reforestation
- Basic sanitation and water treatment
- Forest fire prevention

Of the 42 municipalities implementing at least four practices, there are 12 with 4 practices; 2 with 5 practices; 22 with 6 practices; and 6 with 7 practices. Another 11 municipalities require one additional practice to be counted for this indicator (Table 33). This indicates the value of the assistance being provided and the commitments from the municipalities involved.

**Table 33. Number of NRM practices implemented by municipalities**

# NRM Practices Implemented	# Municipalities
7	6
6	22
5	2
4	12
3	11
2	11
1	2

Support was provided to the municipalities in seven areas. Assessment of the uptake and implementation of the areas indicates that priority was given by the municipalities to potable water supplies. Development and strengthening of water boards was achieved in 91 percent of the municipalities and basic sanitation and water treatment in 72 percent of them. Coffee waste treatment systems were taken up by 78 percent of the municipalities, indicating the importance and concern of the environmental damage caused by waste pulp (Table 34).

**Table 34. Number of municipalities implementing specific NRM practices**

NRM Practice	# Municipalities	% of total
Development or strengthening of water boards	61	91%
Coffee waste	52	78%
Solid waste disposal	39	58%
Forest fire prevention	23	34%
Legalization of water producing zones	27	40%
Watershed protection / reforestation	39	58%
Basic sanitation and water treatment	48	72%

#### 5.4. CAPACITY TO MITIGATE AND ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE STRENGTHENED (IR 2.3)

Two main activities tracked in the PMP are being developed under this component:

**Table 35. Status: Disaster Vulnerability Reduced**

PIRS/ WP #	Year 1 & 2 (Apr. 2011 to Sept. 2012)		Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013)		Year 4 (Oct. 2013 to Sept. 2014)		Year 5 (Oct. to Dec. 2014)		Total To Date (Dec. 2014)	
	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
PIRS #28: Number of communities in high vulnerability municipalities with adequate disaster prevention and mitigation capacity (LOP Target 40):										
	15	11	20	50	0	0	-	-	40	61
PIRS #29: Number of rural micro-generation clean/renewable energy projects established (LOP Target 805):										
	351	728	100	921	0	1,921	0	101	805	3,671

#### *5.4.1. Disaster Vulnerability Reduced (SUB-IR 2.3.3)*

##### *Development and implementation of disaster mitigation plans*

### **PIRS #28: Number of communities in high vulnerability municipalities with adequate disaster prevention and mitigation capacity**

USAID-ACCESO aimed to work with at least 40 communities to develop and implement adequate disaster prevention and mitigation capacity. The USAID-ACCESO disaster prevention team has developed activities with 117 communities of which 81 have implemented at least 1 of the activities (23 in September 2012, 75 in September 2013, and 81 in September 2014). These communities were selected based on project presence, rates of poverty and child malnutrition, and high vulnerability to environmental disaster. Many disaster prevention and mitigation practices have now been implemented by these communities and community involvement is high. Assisted communities have made significant progress and are in different stages of the process, from awareness to full implementation.

Of the 81 communities that the project is working with in this area, 61 are implementing the required practices, against the LOP target of 40. No additional ones were reported during the current quarter.

Work under this component includes support to communities with high vulnerabilities in disaster prevention, mitigation, and preparedness. Reducing communities' disaster vulnerabilities will ultimately put USAID-ACCESO-assisted households in a position to increase their incomes or reduce losses during disasters.

Systems to reduce vulnerability to disasters are being implemented at the farm level with the introduction and implementation of the basic production practices. Activities under this component are targeted to reduce vulnerability to disasters at the community level. USAID-ACCESO is utilizing the small grants mechanism for select projects.

Per the indicator's precise definition, a community is counted once implementation of six out of eight of the following activities has begun:

- Plans for local prevention and response (PLPR)
- Personnel trained to prepare and update PLPRs
- Risk mapping
- EDAN Capacity
- Early warning systems implemented
- Identification and management of emergency centers
- First aid systems
- Simulation exercises

While no additional communities were reported during the quarter, existing communities did begin implementing new practices. Of the 61 communities implementing more than six disaster prevention and mitigation practices, there are 3 with 8 practices; 29 with 7 practices; and 29 with 6 practices (Table 36). Another four communities require one or two additional practice to be counted for this indicator. This indicates the value of the assistance being provided and the commitments from the communities involved.

**Table 36. Number of disaster prevention and mitigation practices implemented by communities**

# Practices Implemented	# Communities
8	3
7	29
6	29
5	1
4	3
3	4
2	4
1	8

Support was provided to the communities in eight technical areas. Assessment of the uptake and implementation of the areas indicates that priority was given by the communities to the prevention plans and local response, risk mapping and improving the EDAN capacities.

**Table 37. Number of communities implementing specific disaster prevention and mitigation practices**

Disaster prevention and mitigation practice	# Communities	% of total
Prevention Plan/Local Response (PPLR)	74	91%
Personnel Trained to update &/or prepare PPLR	69	85%
Risk mapping	73	90%
EDAN capacity	71	88%
Early Warning System Implemented	59	74%
Identification & Management of Shelters	62	77%
First Aid	32	40%
Simulation & Mock Exercises	5	6%

### ***Installation of renewable energy technologies***

#### **PIRS #29: Number of rural micro-generation clean/renewable energy projects established**

USAID-ACCESO's renewable energy component is focusing on promoting low-cost renewable technologies for individual rural households and selected nutrition training centers. Priority project support was given to investments that provide clean renewable energy for individual households, nutrition training centers and productive farm activities.

<b>RENEWABLE ENERGY</b>			
Dedicated technicians	1 (with support from production, postharvest and nutrition components)		
Training Events	1,414		
Training Participants	8,162 men	1,944 women	Total 10,106
Training Individual	1,987 men	668 women	Total 2,655
Technical Assistance	9,597		
Investment	Clients \$375,088	Others \$242,395	Total \$617,483
Training materials	2 bulletins	1 presentations	Total 3

During the quarter 101 renewable energy projects were installed in household, farms, and CENs; to date, 3,671 projects have been installed against a LOP target of 805.

**Table 38. Installation of Renewable Energy Projects (in households, farms and CENs)**

Renewable Energy - Type	Year 1 (Apr. 2011 to Sept. 2011)	Year 2 (Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012)	Year 3 (Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013)	Year 4 (Oct. 2013 to Sept. 2014)	Total To Date (Dec. 2014)
Solar Dryers		112	224	720	1,142
Bio-digesters		40	62	50	154
Eco-justa cooking stoves	4	538	630	1,026	2,207
Solar panels		33	9	111	153
Ram pump		1	0	14	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>1,921</b>	<b>3,671</b>

**Note:** An additional 1,304 ecofriendly cooking stoves, 23 solar panel systems, and 2 solar dryers have been registered as installed by the University of Florida/USAID trilateral project in USAID-ACCESO client households or CENs.

This activity is being carried out in close coordination with both the production (to add value on-farm and increase incomes) and the nutrition component (to reduce the smoke pollution in houses and reduce the expenditure or time for collecting firewood). The installation of the renewable energy projects by department is given in Table 39.

**Table 39. Installation of Renewable Energy Projects by Department (December 2014)**

Department	Solar Dryers	Bio-digesters	Eco-justa cooking stoves	Solar panels	Ram pumps
Copán	187	35	201	0	0
Intibucá	263	23	208	95	0
La Paz	171	32	283	35	1
Lempira	240	26	393	20	0
Ocotepeque	128	8	835	1	0
Santa Barbara	153	30	287	2	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,142</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>2,207</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>15</b>

## 5.5. USE OF QUALITY MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES INCREASED (IR 4.1)

USAID-ACCESO has fully integrated the nutrition and health activities with all other technical areas, including economic development (access to food), renewable energy (improved stoves), natural resource management (drinking water access and chlorination, waste disposal), and value-added products and animal production (diet diversity).

NUTRITION AND HEALTH			
Dedicated technicians	22		
Training Events	6,464		
Training Participants	6,344 men	91,329 women	Total 97,673
Training Individuals	1,429 men	8,188 women	Total 9,617
Technical Assistance	51,647		
Investment	Clients \$1,631,855	Others \$518,014	Total \$2,149,869
Training materials	9 bulletins	3 presentations	Total 12

As a result of strategies implemented since the second quarter of 2014 (community mobilization to identify and add to AIN-C records all children under 2 years old in the community and expand to new

communities), project's health and nutrition services are now working throughout 226 communities in 56 municipalities (after suspension of services to some communities with high insecurity for project staff).

Implementation of the above mentioned strategies, has contributed to the increase in coverage of project nutrition and health services to 5,337 children less than 2 years of age as of December 2014. Attendance to AIN-C meetings during the quarter has been 88, 84 and 77 percent for October, November and December respectively, with the lowest attendance rates being in Lempira, Santa Barbara and Ocotepeque due to the migration of families in response to labor opportunities for coffee harvest. It must be noted that the impact of labor opportunities from coffee harvest on the nutrition and health activities is very significant and not only affects mothers but also community health volunteers. During the month of December, 12 of the 38 groups (32 percent) in Santa Barbara alone did not hold growth monitoring sessions because the volunteers were absent from the communities on coffee harvest in other communities or departments. Of the 5,337 children listed, only 3,855 attended a growth monitoring session during the month of December accounting for 77 percent coverage of this particular service among all targeted communities, compared to 89.5 percent coverage in September. When including children that have moved out of the age group, to date the project has provided assistance to 7,781 children under two years old.

Since the AIN-C program ceased operation in 2012, USAID-ACCESO has worked directly with the health volunteers to continue growth monitoring activities, improve the skills of community health volunteers to weigh children and record data as well as to provide training and services to the mothers. In accordance with Ministry of Health norms for the AIN-C program, the data is collected on children under 2 years of age (not on children under 5 years of age) by project nutrition and health staff during growth monitoring sessions in prioritized communities where the USAID-ACCESO nutrition component is implemented. It should be noted that the communities where USAID-ACCESO is working are predominantly those that had the highest levels of malnutrition. Improvements in these communities are expected to have positive effects on the reduction of overall department figures.

The status of selected indicators under this IR for December 2014 are provided in Tables 40 and 41.

**Table 40. Status of Nutrition and Health Indicators**

Indicator	Baseline (Aug. 2011) <sup>1</sup>	Sept. 2012			Sept. 2013			Sept. 2014			December 2014		
		Results	Difference	% Change	Results	Difference	% Change	Results	Difference	% Change	Results	Difference	% Change
PIRS #19: Prevalence of underweight children under 5 <sup>2</sup> (LOP Target: -20%):													
	22.00%	16.74%	-5.26%	-23.92%	14.6%	-7.44%	-33.77%	9.6%	-12.4%	-56.36%	9.33%	-12.68%	57.60%
PIRS #20: Prevalence of stunted children under 5 (LOP Target: -20%)													
								28.6%	-8.9%	-23.8%	16.0%	-21.5%	57.3%
PIRS #21: Percent of children 6-23 months that received a Minimum Acceptable Diet (LOP Target: +30%)													
								58%	-2.58%	-4.25%	na	na	na
PIRS #22: Prevalence of exclusive breast feeding of children under 6 months <sup>3</sup> (LOP Target: +20%):													
	92.24%	96.39%	+4.15%	+4.50%	94.85%	+2.61%	+2.83%	83.07%	-9.17%	-9.95%	80.35%	-11.89%	-12.9%
PIRS #23: Prevalence of anemia among women of reproductive age (LOP Target: -5%) <sup>4</sup>													
		27.70%			27.60%	-0.1%	0.4%	22.6%	-5.1%	-18.21%	na	na	na
PIRS #24: Prevalence of anemia in children 5 - 59 months (LOP Target: -20%) <sup>4</sup>													
		35.40%			37.99%	+2.61%	+7.38%	45.74%	+10.36%	+29.29%	na	na	na
PIRS #25: Women's dietary diversity: mean number of food groups consumed by women of reproductive age (LOP Target: +30%) <sup>5</sup>													
		3.40			3.54	+0.15	+4.28%	4.09	+0.7	+20.45%	na	na	na
PIRS #27: Modern contraceptive prevalence rate <sup>6</sup> (LOP target: +10%):													
	27.5%	30.6%	+3.1%	+11.2%	56.0%	+28.5%	+103.4%	68.8%	+41.3%	+150.2%	66.0%	+38.5%	+140.0%
<sup>1</sup> , PIR#19 and PIR#22 baseline from AIN-C data for the communities with USAID-ACCESO nutrition intervention. <sup>2</sup> , PIR#19 data collected monthly with health monitors for the communities with USAID-ACCESO nutrition interventions; data collected by health monitors only for children under 2 years old. <sup>3</sup> , PIR#22 data collected monthly with health monitors for the communities with USAID-ACCESO nutrition interventions <sup>4</sup> , Anemia indicators with baseline date of August 2012 (data collected by USAID-ACCESO). Data reported corresponds to anemia in children 6-23 months of age <sup>5</sup> , Baseline September 2012 HH survey with 3.4 groups. <sup>6</sup> , PIR#27 baseline from USAID-ACCESO client sample survey for those households with a minimum of six months between survey interviews. na. not available													

## **PIRS #19: Prevalence of underweight children under 5**

The status of indicators tracked by USAID-ACCESO is presented in comparison to baseline and data reported in the September 2014 annual report. Data related to underweight children comparing results during the quarter to previous year results is given in Table 40. Note that data in Table 40 corresponds to children under 2 in the original project communities only. Tables presenting data from new communities added over the last year are identified as such, since data from these communities are being tracked against baseline data collected when they began with the project.

Project results to date clearly indicate that significant advances have been made in reducing acute malnutrition. The number of children (under 2 years old) under the third percentile was reduced from:

22.0 percent in August 2011 (936 of 4,253 children), to:

- 16.7 percent in September 2012 (796 of 4,754 children) – reduction from baseline of 23.9 percent
- 14.6 percent in September 2013 (626 of 4,296 children) – reduction from baseline of 33.8 percent
- 9.6 percent in September 2014 (415 of 4,329 children) – reduction from baseline of 56.4 percent
- 9.3 percent in December 2014 (318 of 3,408 children) – reduction from baseline of 57.6 percent

As of December 2014, the project is serving a total of 5,337 children under 2 in 226 communities in 56 municipalities across all six departments. This coverage does not include communities from which the project has had to withdraw services due to high insecurity. Of these, 3,855 attended growth monitoring sessions in December accounting for 77 percent coverage of nutrition and health services (77 percent in old communities, and 84 percent in new communities).

The prevalence of acute malnutrition in children under 2 in new communities has reduced significantly over the past year of project interventions. As indicated in previous reports, these communities were selected based on the criteria that the community is served by a decentralized health service provider, the presence of USAID-ACCESO's agriculture production activities and the existence of trained community health volunteers implementing AIN-C. The baseline of *Prevalence of Underweight Children Under 2 Years* in these new communities two years after the close-out of activities of the decentralized AIN-C service providers under the World Bank project is consistent with what it was in the old communities when USAID-ACCESO initiated service delivery to them in 2011: 22.5 percent for January 2014. After 12 months of support, it was reduced to 11 percent in December 2014, which represents a 51 percent reduction from baseline in less than a year. This is a very clear indication that growth monitoring activities as delivered by AIN-C groups on its own cannot affect the nutritional status of children. The USAID-ACCESO strategies to reduce acute malnutrition work. Complementary activities aimed to improve child feeding practices, food availability at the community level, household conditions and personal hygiene, hence increasing food intake and reducing gastrointestinal and respiratory disease in these poor communities, are crucial to reduce the prevalence rates of this indicator.

Data by department and month are given in Tables 41 to 44 (additional data is provided in the ACCESO PMP Excel file, 12/2014).

**Table 41. Prevalence of Underweight Children Under 2 Per Department (original communities)**

Department	# children < 2 years					# children under 3 <sup>o</sup> percentile					%				
	Aug. 2011	Sept. 2012	Sept. 2013	Sept. 2014	Dec. 2014	Aug. 2011	Sept. 2012	Sept. 2013	Sept. 2014	Dec. 2014	Aug. 2011	Sept. 2012	Sept. 2013	Sept. 2014	Dec. 2014
La Paz	634	603	669	674	611	123	102	73	46	44	19.4	16.9	10.9	6.8	7.2
Intibucá	629	793	750	839	795	185	191	124	100	83	29.4	24.1	16.5	11.9	10.4
Lempira	1,260	1,177	979	893	662	293	165	136	102	76	23.3	14.0	13.9	11.4	11.5
Copán	424	950	838	872	736	112	162	145	83	66	26.4	17.1	17.3	9.5	9.0
Ocotepeque	419	636	427	397	242	92	113	84	58	32	22.0	17.8	19.7	14.6	13.2
Santa Barbara	887	595	630	654	362	131	63	64	26	17	14.8	10.6	10.2	4.0	4.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,253</b>	<b>4,754</b>	<b>4,293</b>	<b>4,329</b>	<b>3,408</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>796</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>9.3</b>

<sup>1</sup>, Note: data from 200 original communities with USAID-ACCESO nutrition intervention.

**Table 42. Prevalence of Underweight Children Under 2 Per Department (new communities)**

Department	# children < 2 years			# children under 3 <sup>o</sup> percentile			%		
	Jan. 2014	Sept. 2014	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2014	Sept. 2014	Dec. 2014	Jan. 2014	Sept. 2014	Dec. 2014
La Paz	-	111	109	-	15	12	-	13.5	11.0
Intibucá	-	77	61	-	12	11	-	15.6	18.0
Lempira	49	67	63	9	9	6	18.3	13.4	9.5
Copán	-	125	109	-	14	13	-	11.2	11.9
Ocotepeque	13	21	19	5	4	5	38.4	19.0	26.3
Santa Barbara	-	33	86	-	1	2	1	3.0	2.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>11.0</b>

<sup>1</sup>, Note: data from 25 new communities with USAID-ACCESO nutrition intervention starting January 2014

**Table 43. Prevalence of Underweight Children Under 2 Years Old (Original Communities)**

Month/Year	# Children < 2 years old	# Children under the 3 <sup>o</sup> percentile	%
Aug-11	4,253	936	22.0
Mar-12	4,419	834	18.9
Apr-12	4,700	892	19.0
May-12	4,944	902	18.2
Jun-12	4,664	879	18.8
Jul-12	4,972	950	19.1
Aug-12	4,895	916	18.7
Sep-12	4,754	796	16.7
Oct-12	4,835	780	16.1
Nov-12	3,815	703	18.4
Dec-12	3,615	649	18.0
Jan-13	3,911	645	16.5
Feb-13	3,903	634	16.2
Mar-13	4,042	648	16.0
Apr-13	4,191	682	16.3
May-13	4,207	649	15.4
Jun-13	4,299	649	15.1
Jul-13	4,260	663	15.6
Aug-13	4,403	651	14.8
Sep-13	4,296	626	14.6
Oct-13	4,204	607	14.4
Nov-13	4,103	508	12.4
Dec-13	3,905	556	14.2
Jan-14	3,799	514	13.5
Feb-14	3,842	529	13.7
Mar-14	3,930	544	13.8
Apr-14	3,867	519	13.4
May-14	4,201	551	13.1
Jun-14	4,173	559	13.3
Jul-14	4,357	556	12.7
Aug-14	4,320	470	10.8
Sep-14	4,329	415	9.6
Oct-14	4,263	400	9.4
Nov-14	3,956	324	8.2
Dec-14	3,408	318	9.3

**Table 44. Prevalence of Underweight Children Under 2 Years Old (New Communities)**

Month/Year	# Children < 2 years old	# Children under the 3 <sup>o</sup> percentile	%
Jan-14	62	14	22.5
Feb-14	167	35	20.9
Mar-14	429	81	18.8
Apr-14	371	66	17.8
May-14	458	78	17.0
Jun-14	467	76	16.3
Jul-14	421	65	15.4
Aug-14	440	80	18.2
Sep-14	434	55	12.7

**Table 44. Prevalence of Underweight Children Under 2 Years Old (New Communities)**

Month/Year	# Children < 2 years old	# Children under the 3 <sup>o</sup> percentile	%
Oct-14	442	53	12.0%
Nov-14	433	55	12.7%
Dec-14	447	49	11.0%

Project implementation strategies for the treatment and prevention of malnourished children under 2 years of age are the same in all six departments. Though all six departments has demonstrated a decrease in the rate of malnourished children under 2 years over the three-year period, it is important to note the results of project implementation strategies in Intibucá where the rate has reduced from 29.4 percent in 2011 (the highest prevalence rate of all six departments) to 10.4 percent in December 2014, which represents a 65 percent reduction. A similar result is observed in Ocotepeque where project intervention over the past two quarters has resulted in a 59 percent reduction of a prevalence rate that had stagnated for the first quarters of the year. Santa Barbara presents the lowest prevalence rates among all six departments since 2011 where project activities have resulted in an outstanding 68.2 percent reduction from 14.8 percent in 2011 to 4.7 percent as of December 2014.

Overall, the results for this indicator are positive and indicate that project implementation strategies and methodology have worked well – prioritized communities and population focusing on mothers and children attending the AIN-C groups; counseling mothers on child nutrition, training and food preparation demonstrations; targeting family households with malnourished children for regular home visits to assist mothers with the practice of food preparation and feeding of the malnourished child and reinforce proper individual and household hygienic practices. Furthermore, along with technical assistance and training, USAID-ACCESO has implemented household improvement initiatives in collaboration with families as preventive measures to address household conditions which contribute to child illness such as: installing eco-stoves, improving floors and walls, access to potable water inside the house, transparent roof sheets to improve illumination, and water filters.

#### **PIRS #20: Prevalence of stunted children under 5**

**Chronic Malnutrition (Stunting).** According to ENDESA 2011-2012, 23 percent of children between 6 months and 5 years of age experience stunting, with the highest percentage in Intibucá and Lempira. In January 2013, USAID-ACCESO began tracking height and weight per age for all children turning 2 and over during their last attendance to AIN-C growth monitoring sessions. An analysis of this data during the first two quarters of FY 2013/2014 gives results consistent with those of ENDESA. As of December 2014 chronic malnutrition among children reaching 24 months of age in AIN-C groups attended by the project was 16.0 percent, which is a 57.3 percent reduction from 37.5 percent baseline in October 2013 (Tables 45 to 49).

Chronic malnutrition or stunting is an indicator of the accumulative effects of malnutrition and micronutrients deficiencies over time. It is associated with intrauterine growth retardation (low birth weight babies are prone to become stunted especially if the mother herself is stunted and has poor nutritional status), socioeconomic conditions, level of education of the mothers, and health conditions of the mother. Other contributors to stunting include chronic or recurrent infections, sometimes in combination with intestinal parasites. The prevalence of growth stunting, particularly among children under 2 can also reflect the prevalence of low birth weight in a population.

Though project interventions to address the problem of low weight for age ultimately has a positive effect thus the consistent reduction of the prevalence rate of malnutrition, the cumulative effect of the severity of this health condition in the child over the first two years of life in addition to conditions of the child at birth due to the health of the mother, is reflected in the rates of stunting. Studies conducted

in developing countries around the world assessing the prevalence of stunting, malnutrition and wasting has produced results of higher prevalence rates for stunting than for malnutrition and wasting in the same period of time because of the accumulative effect of malnutrition in the stunting of the child.

As indicated in tables below, the behavior of this indicator is not consistent with that of acute malnutrition where there is a gradual and sustained decline over time. Chronic malnutrition fluctuates with increases and declines over each quarter. Understanding the concept of chronic malnutrition and its causes is crucial to better understand the results obtained for this indicator. Micronutrient deficiencies cause permanent loss of growth in children and most of them never regain from these effects, leading to long-term deficits in mental capacity. Given the behavior of this indicator over the past two ENDESA's, it is apparent that there is a need to review the implementation of national policies, as well as their appropriateness and impact.

**Table 45. Stunting in Children 2 Years of Age per Department (October to Dec. 2013)**

Department	# of Children 23 months of age in AIN-C			# of Children with Stunting			Percentage		
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Oct	Nov	Dec	Oct	Nov	Dec
La Paz	15	19	15	6	6	6	40.0	31.6	40.0
Intibucá	0	11	7	0	4	6	0.0	36.4	85.7
Santa Bárbara	10	9	0	4	3	0	40.0	33.3	0.0
Lempira	21	20	14	6	6	12	28.6	30.0	85.7
Copán	32	31	10	13	7	3	40.6	22.6	30.0
Ocotepeque	18	11	15	7	4	3	38.9	36.4	20.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>29.7</b>	<b>49.2</b>

**Table 46. Stunting in Children 2 Years of Age per Department (January to March 2014)**

Department	# of Children 23 months of age in AIN-C			# of Children with Stunting			Percentage		
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jan	Feb	Mar
La Paz	12	14	25	3	5	6	25.0	35.7	24.0
Intibucá	8	22	12	4	13	8	50.0	59.0	66.6
Santa Bárbara	6	6	4	3	2	0	50.0	33.3	0.0
Lempira	11	22	36	1	4	4	9.0	18.1	11.1
Copán	8	14	17	0	4	6	0.0	28.5	35.2
Ocotepeque	14	7	10	3	4	4	21.4	57.1	40.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>26.9</b>

**Table 47. Stunting in Children 2 Years of Age per Department (April to June 2014)**

Department	# of Children 23 months of age in AIN-C			# of Children with Stunting			Percentage		
	Apr.	May	June	Apr.	May	June	Apr.	May	June
La Paz	14	30	9	4	5	2	28.6	16.7	22.2
Intibucá	12	16	17	6	7	7	50.0	43.8	41.2
Santa Bárbara	6	9	8	1	0	1	16.7	0	12.5
Lempira	27	49	23	9	11	5	33.3	22.4	21.7
Copán	18	20	25	6	8	8	33.3	40.0	32.0
Ocotepeque	6	29	13	3	16	4	50.0	55.2	30.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>34.9</b>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>28.4</b>

**Table 48. Stunting in Children 2 Years of Age per Department (July to Sept. 2014)**

Department	# of Children 23 months of age in AIN-C			# of Children with Stunting			Percentage		
	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.
La Paz	2	21	15	0	4	2	0	19	13
Intibucá	9	16	12	3	11	7	33	69	58
Santa Bárbara	16	6	8	2	0	0	12	0	0
Lempira	36	22	29	14	3	5	39	14	17
Copán	25	32	37	7	13	9	28	41	24
Ocotepeque	17	11	25	9	2	13	53	18	52
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>28.5</b>

**Table 49. Stunting in Children 2 Years of Age per Department (October to December 2014)**

Department	# of Children 23 months of age in AIN-C			# of Children with Stunting			Percentage		
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
La Paz	17	17	20	2	1	0	11.8	5.9	0.0
Intibucá	12	17	12	7	5	8	58.3	29.4	66.7
Santa Bárbara	9	16	5	1	0	2	11.1	0.0	40.0
Lempira	26	24	14	4	3	1	15.4	12.5	7.1
Copán	29	37	23	5	8	1	17.2	21.6	4.3
Ocotepeque	15	20	7	2	2	1	13.3	10.0	14.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>16.0</b>

**PIRS #21: Percent of children 6-23 months that received a Minimum Acceptable Diet**

This indicator is measured as part of the annual survey carried out for the September 2014 annual report. USAID-ACCESO nutrition and health staff conducted a survey during the months of August and September 2014 among mothers of children 6-23 months of age who attended the growth monitoring sessions to assess the status of the minimum acceptable diet among children 6-23 months of age. Data was collected for the first time in 2013 and was repeated in 2014. Of the total 505 children subject of the survey, 293 were receiving the minimum acceptable diet-received feedings from at least 4 of the food groups (58 percent compared to 61 percent in 2013), of which 266 children were 9 to 23 months

of age, and the remaining 27 were between 6 and 8 months of age. Of the 505, 317 were receiving breastfeeding of which 187 (59.0 percent compared to 64.0 percent in 2013) were receiving a minimum acceptable diet. Of the 188 children who were not being breastfed, 106 (56.3 percent compared to 49 percent in 2013) were receiving a minimum acceptable diet (Table 50).

One of the key feeding messages delivered by health technicians to mothers to impact the reduction of malnutrition is to increase the number of feedings during the day. Although no significant change was observed in the number of children 6-23 with a minimum acceptable diet, the results of the survey conducted demonstrate an outstanding impact in this practice among both age groups: 97 percent of children who were being breastfed received the minimum frequency of feedings and 99 percent of those who were not being breastfed were receiving the minimum frequency of feedings per day (minimum frequency of feeding per day is 3 feedings for children 9 to 23 months and 2 feedings per day for children 6 to 8 months of age).

**Table 50. Children 6 to 23 months that receive a minimum acceptable diet**

	Sept. 2013	Sept. 2014
<b># children</b>	449	505
# receiving minimum acceptable diet	272	293
% receiving minimum acceptable diet	61%	58%
<b># children being breastfed</b>	347	317
# breastfed children with minimum acceptable diet	222	187
% breastfed children with minimum acceptable diet	64%	59%
<b># non-breastfed children</b>	102	188
# non-breastfed children with minimum acceptable diet	50	106
% non-breastfed children with minimum acceptable diet	49	56%

*Minimum Acceptable Diet for breastfed children 6-23 months is defined as four or more food groups out of the 7 food groups: Grains, roots and tubers, Legumes and nuts, Dairy products (milk, yogurt, and cheese), Flesh foods (meat, fish, poultry and liver/organ meats), Eggs, Vitamin-A rich fruits and vegetables, Other fruits and vegetables.*

*Minimum Acceptable Diet for non-breastfed children is defined as four or more food groups out of the following six food groups: Grains, roots and tubers, Legumes and nuts, Flesh foods, Eggs, Vitamin-A rich fruits and vegetables, and other fruits and vegetables.*

## **PIRS #22: Prevalence of exclusive breast feeding of children under 6 months**

According to ENDESA 2011-2012, the prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding among children under 6 months is 31 percent, and in the majority of the departments, the duration of exclusive breastfeeding has a median of less than 1 month with the exception of Intibucá, which has a median of 4.8 months, and Lempira and La Paz with 3.9 and 3.8 months respectively. During the first quarter of fiscal year 2014, project specialists identified discrepancies in the concept of exclusive breastfeeding among community health volunteers and begun standardizing the concept as well as the questions asked to collect data during the monthly meetings. As a result of this change, a continued decrease of the prevalence rate were observed throughout all six departments, as training of community volunteers regarding the concept and data collection was completed and they began to change the way the questions were asked thus obtaining more accurate data on this indicator.

The percentage of children reported as receiving exclusive breastfeeding decreased from 95.5 percent in September 2013 to 83.1 percent in September 2014 which is closer to national rates. During the past quarter the results of 81.9, 78.8 and 80.4 percent for October, November and December, respectively, is a clear indication that the standardization of data collection process for this indicator has been accomplished throughout the project targeted communities.

Baseline for this indicator collected for children under 6 months of age recorded in AIN-C groups in new communities added during the previous two quarters was 82.6 percent in March, 67.5 percent in June 2014, 87.6 percent in September 2014, and 78 percent for both November and December of this

quarter. As project nutrition technicians and specialists continue to work with these new groups and train community health volunteers in proper data collection methods, it is expected that these results will stabilize over the upcoming quarter in these new communities as it has begun to happen in the originally targeted communities.

Though there is no way to tell what the actual rates were in 2011 when baseline data was collected under the initial concept and questioning method, we are confident that there has been a positive impact on this indicator as a result of project interventions. Discussions with staff from the previous World Bank decentralized services providers for AIN-C has indicated their awareness that this problem existed without their capacity to do anything to correct it. Promotion of exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months of life continues to be one of project technicians' key messages to pregnant women and mothers of young children. The data collected through health monitors is presented for reference in Table 51.

**Table 51. Prevalence of Exclusive Breastfeeding of Children Under 6 Months**

Department	# children < 6 months					# children with exclusive breastfeeding					%				
	Aug. 2011	Sept. 2012	Sept. 2013	Sept. 2014	Dec. 2014	Aug. 2011	Sept. 2012	Sept. 2013	Sept. 2014	Dec. 2014	Aug. 2011	Sept. 2012	Sept. 2013	Sept. 2014	Dec. 2014
La Paz	132	88	177	114	123	115	85	177	109	107	87.12	96.59	100.00	95.6	87
Intibucá	80	128	146	159	193	67	117	127	133	164	83.75	91.41	86.99	83.6	85
Lempira	285	148	160	164	100	269	141	154	153	92	94.39	95.27	96.25	93.3	92
Copán	93	147	159	169	173	90	143	146	134	120	96.77	97.28	91.82	79.3	69.3
Ocatepeque	80	103	100	80	58	77	103	97	73	52	96.25	100.00	97.00	91.2	89.6
Santa Barbara	NA	74	131	123	91	NA	74	131	70	58	ND	100.00	100.00	56.9	63.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>92.24</b>	<b>96.37</b>	<b>95.30</b>	<b>83.1</b>	<b>80.3</b>

**PIRS #23: Prevalence of anaemia among women of reproductive age****PIRS #24: Prevalence of anaemia in children 5 - 59 months**

PIRS #23 and PIRS #24 relate to the prevalence of anemia in women of reproductive ages and children under 5 years old. Both of these indicators were measured as part of the annual survey carried out for the annual report in September 2014. In August 2012, USAID-ACCESO technicians measured anemia levels in these two categories, and also in pregnant women, in communities where the USAID-ACCESO nutrition component is operating. The results of this testing was used as the baseline for USAID-ACCESO.

In August 2013, nutrition and health technicians conducted blood testing for children who attended growth monitoring sessions in all six departments between the ages of 1 and 2, and women of reproductive age who attended growth monitoring sessions. In August and September 2014, health and nutrition staff once again conducted blood testing to women in reproductive age and children 6 to 23 months of age in a sample of 521 children 6 to 23 months of age and 511 women of reproductive age, from 35 communities randomly selected throughout all six departments. The 521 children were randomly selected from all children within the age group attending the growth monitoring session the day the survey was carried out. Table 52 presents the results for 2014 compared to baseline of 2012 and testing of 2013.

**Table 52. Prevalence of Anemia In Women of Reproductive Age and Children Under Two Years Old**

Department	Women of Reproductive Age			Children < 2 years		
	# sampled	# with < 12g/dl	%	# sampled	# < 10.5g/dl	%
<b>Baseline August 2012</b>						
La Paz	34	10	29.4	23	9	39.1
Intibucá	47	16	34.0	21	8	38.1
Lempira	68	15	22.1	59	13	22.0
Copán	53	12	22.6	45	17	37.8
Ocotepeque	47	10	21.3	29	6	20.7
Santa Bárbara	69	25	36.2	35	22	62.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>35.4</b>
<b>Results August 2013</b>						
La Paz	37	14	37.8	25	12	48.0
Intibucá	90	35	38.9	53	26	49.1
Lempira	143	31	21.7	90	18	20.0
Copán	104	29	27.9	72	37	51.4
Ocotepeque	69	11	15.9	52	17	32.7
Santa Bárbara	47	15	31.9	37	15	40.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>27.6</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>38.0</b>
<b>Results August 2014</b>						
La Paz	74	18	24.3	77	30	39.0
Intibucá	115	32	27.8	109	47	43.1
Lempira	103	20	19.4	101	49	48.5
Copán	104	33	31.7	102	69	67.6
Ocotepeque	45	2	4.4	45	16	35.6
Santa Bárbara	70	11	15.7	71	20	28.2

**Table 52. Prevalence of Anemia In Women of Reproductive Age and Children Under Two Years Old**

Department	Women of Reproductive Age			Children < 2 years		
	# sampled	# with < 12g/dl	%	# sampled	# < 10.5g/dl	%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>45.7</b>

**Anemia in children under 2 years old:** Baseline Data showed that 35 percent of children sampled were considered anemic for the six departments. Santa Barbara presented the highest rate with 63 percent of children, followed by La Paz with 39 percent and Intibucá and Copán with 38 percent. The department of Ocotepeque had the lowest rate with 21 percent which is actually 2 percentage points lower than that of ENDESA (37.1 percent).

Data from testing conducted in August 2013, showed that 38 percent of the children less than 2 years of age were anemic (based on a hemoglobin level of less than 10.5 g/dl), compared to the baseline of 35 percent. Project health specialist attributed this increase in cases of anemia to the fact that health service providers attending these AIN-C groups up to March 2012 provided all children less than 2 years of age with iron and zinc supplements on a monthly basis, and by this, ensuring they received appropriate nutrients which ensured reduction of anemia. Copán presented the highest rate with 51 percent, followed by Intibucá with 49 percent and La Paz with 48 percent. Lempira's rate dropped from baseline of 22 percent to 20 percent and is also the department with the lowest rate of anemia in children under 2 during this period. It is important to note that the rate of anemia in children under 2 also decreased in Santa Barbara from the baseline of 62.9 percent to 40.5 percent during 2013.

**Table 53. Classification Of Anemia In Children 6-23 Months By Type**

Hemoglobin	#	%	Anemia
<=5.9	1	0.2%	Anemia- severe: < 5.9 g/dl*
6-8.9	53	10.5%	Anemia- moderate: 6.0-8.9 g/dl*
9-10.4	177	35.0%	Anemia- mild: 9.0-10.9 g/dl*
	231	45.7%	WITH ANEMIA
	274	54.3%	WITHOUT ANEMIA
	<b>505</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>TOTAL SAMPLE</b>

\* Ref: Honduras ENDESA DHS 2012 06-19-2013

**Table 54. Classification of Anemia in Children 6-23 Months by Sex**

Hemoglobin	Male	Female	Anemia
<=5.9	1	0	Anemia- severe: < 5.9 g/dl*
6-8.9	28	25	Anemia- moderate: 6.0-8.9 g/dl*
9-10.4	89	88	Anemia- mild: 9.0-10.9 g/dl*
<b>231</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>With Anemia</b>
	51.1%	48.9%	<b>% According To Sex</b>
<b>274</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>Without Anemia</b>
	50%	50%	<b>% According To Sex</b>

\* Ref: Honduras ENDESA DHS 2012 06-19-2013

During the period of August-September 2014, health and nutrition staff with the assistance of the M&E director randomly selected a sample of 35 communities from all six departments to be surveyed for Minimum Acceptable Diet and hemoglobin testing. A total of 521 children 6 to 23 months of age were randomly selected as subjects of the survey on Minimum Acceptable Diet and hemoglobin count, and their respective mothers were the subjects of hemoglobin count in women of reproductive age. For the purpose of analysis only 505 records were considered as the remaining 16 were either children younger than 6 months or older than 24 months of age.

Of the 505 children 6-23 months of age tested, 231 resulted with anemia (45.7 percent), an increase of 29.3 percent compared to baseline. The increase occurred across five of the six departments, with only Santa Barbara showing a decrease against baseline (Table 52). It is also important to point out that the mothers of the 505 children tested were also surveyed to identify those children that were actually receiving iron intakes. Of the 231 anemic children, 132 (57.1 percent) were receiving one of two different sources of iron supplements during the six months previous to the test. Of the 132 children who were receiving iron supplements six months previous to testing, 89 children (67 percent) were children 12 to 24 months of age.

Tables 53 and 54 present the distribution of anemia by type and sex. It should be noted that of the 231 with anemia, 177 (76.6 percent) experienced mild anemia. The large majority of the anemic children could be treated with oral therapy. While these results may appear high and raise genuine concerns, reports on experiences in other Latin America countries as well as the United States demonstrates that despite the living conditions of project clients, this aspect of their health (anemia) is very similar to other populations in countries with far better socioeconomic conditions. It also raises awareness to the need to strengthen the capacity of health facilities in the area to closer monitor this health condition among this particular age group.

Project results for 2014 are very consistent with national rates presented by ENDESA 2011-2012: a 29.1 national rate for children 6-59 months of age, with the highest rates being among children 6 to 8 months with a 59.5 percent and a 52.4 percent in children 9 to 11 months. Despite this fact, and the information of anemia in other countries demonstrated in scientifically conducted studies, USAID-ACCESO recognizes the need to address the problem and begun working immediately after the analysis of survey results, with health professionals at the national, regional and local levels of the Ministry of Health and decentralized providers and USAID to put in place a plan for treating and preventing anemia. It is recognized that as a medical condition, anemia is treated subject to the type and cause, however, ministries of health around the world put in place preventive measures involving from supplementation to pregnant and lactating women as well as practices during child birth, to promotion of preventive measures during the first years of life of the child. These experiences will be revised along with norms and strategies provided by WHO/PAHO during upcoming instances for discussions and decision making to be held with Ministry of Health officials.

During the quarter, USAID-ACCESO nutrition and health leaders and specialists, with the collaboration of the USAID staff conducted field visits to selected communities in four of the six departments to identify and review determinant factors for anemia in children less than two years of age in the ZOI. Results of this exercise led to the development of an intervention plan to be carried out in two stages:

- The immediate stage, which consist of a field study to identify the level of parasitism in children 6 to 23 months of age. This activity will be carried out with the collaboration of the Department of Microbiology of the National University of Honduras (UNAH) in the second quarter of FY 2015.
- The ongoing stages, which will consist first, of the delivery of individualized treatment to each child tested based on results and prescribed by a pediatrician; and second, of an ongoing collaborative effort with the Ministry of Health facilities in the communities for the distribution of

micronutrients along with a continued delivery of counseling on preventive measures to mothers and caregivers.

Project health specialists have continued to work closely with public and private health service providers to identify key factors among children in targeted communities that can be contributing to gradually increase the prevalence of anemia among children under 2, and help them develop a strategy to address these factors. Some factors already identified are those which inhibit the absorption of iron such as parasitism, consumption of coffee, lack of consumption of other micronutrients, those that contribute to blood loss leading to anemia such as specific practices during child birth, and consumption of cow's milk by children under 2. Plans are being developed to address these factors.

Considering that USAID-ACCESO is a project with a defined lifeline, and the fact that existing health conditions of children and mothers primarily, are consistent and permanent issues which require consistent and continued medical service delivery by the Ministry of Health, USAID-ACCESO made no provision in its planning for the delivery of micronutrients or medications to address existing health conditions of its target population. USAID-ACCESO's interventions are geared to the promotion of preventive measures through changes in knowledge and practices, while other donor funded initiatives are addressing policy and service delivery. If constraints within the last two areas are not to be addressed in the near future, then USAID needs to provide guidance on whether the project should obtain and distribute supplements in what remains of project implementation, in order to ensure that targets related to anemia are met.

**Anemia in women of reproductive age:** The baseline sample was carried out in August 2012 of women of reproductive age – the mothers of children under 2 years that were sampled – of which 27.7 percent had a hemoglobin level of less than 12g/dl (the level considered normal in this group). This compares to the ENDESA figure of 16.5 percent for the same group. Santa Barbara was the department with the highest rate with 34 percent (also coinciding with the rate for children under two years in this department).

Testing was again carried out in 2013 of mothers of children under 2 years of age selected for testing. Of the 490 women tested, 27.6 percent (compared to 27.7 percent at baseline) had a hemoglobin level of less than 12g/dl. Intibucá was the department with the highest rate of anemic women in reproductive age with 38.9 percent followed by La Paz with 37.8 percent and Santa Barbara with 31.9 percent which is a decrease from the baseline of 36.2 percent. Ocotepeque was the department with the lowest rate at 15.9 percent, which also decreased from the baseline of 21.3 percent.

In August-September 2014, testing of women in reproductive age was carried out on mothers of children selected for the sample for hemoglobin testing. A total of 517 women were tested of which 117 (22.6 percent) resulted as anemic, an 18.2 percent decrease from baseline in 2012. These results, when analyzed along with food consumption practices among project assisted households in 2014, suggest a correlation between the reduction of anemia in women and the increased number of families that are now consuming from an average of 4 food groups, compared to 3.5 in 2013. In addition, it is important to note that women in reproductive age are less likely to have absorption problems with supplements provided during pregnancy through health centers, than children under 2 years of age.

**PIRS #25. Women's dietary diversity: mean number of food groups consumed by women of reproductive age**

The mean minimum number of food groups consumed by women of reproductive age is calculated by averaging the number of food groups consumed (out of the nine food groups: grains, roots and tubers; legumes and nuts; dairy products (milk, yogurt, cheese); organ meat; eggs; flesh foods and other miscellaneous small animal protein; Vitamin A dark green leafy vegetables; other vitamin A rich vegetables and fruits; and other fruits and vegetables) across all women of reproductive age in the sample.

The baseline for number of food groups consumed at the household level was determined in September 2012 in client surveys carried out by the M&E team (98 percent of the client households sampled include women). The number of food groups consumed averaged 3.4. The exercise was repeated in September 2013, where the average was 3.54 food groups, representing an increase of 4.3 percent.

The survey conducted in 2014 produces very encouraging results. The average has increased to 4.09 food groups representing 15.5 percent increase above the results for 2013. The highest number of women consuming from 4 or more food groups are in Ocotepeque (342 women representing 66 percent) and the lowest number is in La Paz (176 women representing 35 percent). This increase in the mean numbers of food groups consumed can be a result of increased availability of a diversity of food products at the community level due to the transformation of agriculture production generated by the project, or it can be the impact of multiple methods for delivering trainings on diet diversity used by project health and nutrition staff in the communities with mothers and other caregivers. It is most probably the result of both.

### **PIRS #27: Modern contraceptive prevalence rate**

The modern contraception prevalence rate increased from 27.5 (baseline) to 30.6 percent (September 2012) and 56 percent (September 2013) in USAID-ACCESO sampled clients with at least six months between the samplings. In August 2013, from a total of 4,316 women in the communities with project support, 2,417 responded positive to the use of modern contraceptives. This represents a 28.5 percentage point increase indicating a 103.6 percent increase over baseline.

The modern contraception prevalence rate among mothers of children under 2 years of age who attend growth monitoring sessions continued to increase every quarter during the past year. It increased from 56.0 percent in September 2013, to 62.5 percent in December 2013, to 64.3 percent in March 2014, and 65.8 percent in June 2014. The prevalence rate for all six departments as of September 2014 was 68.8 percent which represented a 41.3 percentage point increase and a 150.1 percent increase over baseline. The rate varied across the six departments, with highest prevalence rates in Santa Barbara, Lempira and Ocotepeque with 79.7, 77.7 and 74.1 percent respectively. In some departments the topic is very sensitive and women are not open to sharing this information, while Santa Barbara is considered a more “urbanized” department where the women have a slightly different mentality compared to those more “rural” departments.

The prevalence rates for December 2014 indicates a slight decrease from 68 percent in September 2014 to 66 percent, with Santa Barbara, Lempira and Ocotepeque maintaining the highest rates of 80, 77 and 73 respectively. This slight decrease is due to the decrease in availability of methods during the last quarter of FY 2014 and the reporting period.

**Table 55: Modern Contraceptive Prevalence Rate**

Department	# Children < 24 months			# mothers using modern contraceptive methods			Percentage		
	Oct 2014	Nov 2014	Dec. 2014	Oct 2014	Nov 2014	Dec. 2014	Oct 2014	Nov 2014	Dec. 2014
La Paz	699	678	611	350	353	353	50%	52%	58%
Intibucá	810	798	795	468	485	485	58%	61%	61%
Sta. Bárbara	638	565	312	518	456	249	81%	81%	80%
Lempira	895	759	662	653	566	510	73%	75%	77%
Copan	840	849	736	550	532	456	65%	63%	62%
Ocotepeque	381	308	242	293	230	176	77%	75%	73%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4263</b>	<b>3957</b>	<b>3358</b>	<b>2832</b>	<b>2622</b>	<b>2229</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>66%</b>

### WP #8: Percentage of children less than two years old with two consecutive low monthly measurements

Data from March 2012 through December 2014 of children under 2 in project communities with “persistent inadequate growth” (two consecutive low monthly measurements) is provided in Table 56.

Tracking “persistent inadequate growth” allows technicians and community volunteers to target mother who require specific training on feeding practices than can prevent the child from falling below the third percentile. It is primarily an indication of the prevalence of child morbidity, which is why higher rates are observed in months corresponding to rainy seasons when prevalence of diarrhea and acute respiratory infections are higher.

**Table 56. Percentage of children less than two years old with two consecutive low monthly measurements**

Year	Month	TOTAL # Children	Sum of # Girls with “PIG”	Sum of # Boys with “PIG”	Sum of TOTAL # Children with “PIG”	% total
2012	Mar	4,419	180	136	316	7.2%
	Apr	4,700	241	165	406	8.6%
	May	4,944	317	231	548	11.1%
	Jun	4,678	272	213	485	10.4%
	Jul	4,972	315	249	564	11.3%
	Aug	4,922	294	233	527	10.7%
	Sep	4,754	246	213	459	9.7%
	Oct	4,778	214	180	392	8.2%
	Nov	3,807	241	209	449	11.8%
	Dec	3,615	214	185	397	11.0%
2013	Jan	3,903	176	135	311	8.0%
	Feb	3,974	177	163	340	8.6%
	Mar	4,042	214	163	377	9.3%
	Apr	4,189	207	187	394	9.4%
	May	4,205	308	226	534	12.7%
	Jun	4,299	296	240	536	12.5%
	Jul	4,331	267	202	469	10.8%
	Aug	4,403	268	196	464	10.5%
	Sep	4,293	260	210	470	11.0%
	Oct	4,204	264	213	477	11.4%
	Nov	4,103	235	226	461	11.2%
	Dec	3,905	225	226	451	11.5%
2014	Jan	3,799	183	162	345	9.1%
	Feb	3,842	176	156	332	8.6%
	Mar	3,930	208	192	400	10.2%
	Apr	3,867	235	191	426	11.0%
	May	4,201	265	226	491	11.7%
	Jun	4,173	238	227	465	11.6%
	Jul	4,357	269	225	494	11.3%
	Aug	4,311	248	221	469	10.9%
	Sep	4,270	246	193	439	10.3%
	Oct	4,263	222	191	413	9.7%
	Nov	3,956	206	171	377	9.5%
	Dec	3,358	161	140	301	9.0%

### **IND-3.1.9-1. Number of people trained in child health and nutrition through USG-supported programs (New 03/2014)**

During the quarter, 7,438 participants were trained in child health care and nutrition during 525 training events (7,295 women and 143 men). To date, 6,401 training events have been carried out with 96,742 participants (90,510 women and 6,232 men).

To date, the total number of individuals who have received training in health and nutrition is 9,617, including 8,188 women and 1,429 men.

### **IND-3.1.9-15. Number of children under five reached by USG-supported nutrition programs (new 03/2014)**

During the quarter, 5,184 children under 2 years old have received assistance from the project (7,961 to date). This is calculated based on the total number of children participating in monthly weighing sessions, an average attendance rate of 80 percent (from March 2014 the actual data information has been used for the total number of children in the lists in order to determine the percentage of participation), and a monthly average of 80 children moving over 2 years old. For the current quarter, the actual number of participating children moving above 2 years old was used. It should be noted that a reduced number of newborns were registered as participation from both mothers and monitors was lower than normal due to the coffee harvesting activities.

### **Sustained service delivery**

USAID-ACCESO beneficiaries are provided training in health and nutrition-related activities, complementary to assistance being provided in production systems and economic development where both components are present in the community. As of December 2014, the project is working with nutrition activities in 226 communities in 56 municipalities, directly reaching 3,453. Both men and women are receiving basic training in child care, prevention of illnesses, nutrition practices, keeping a healthy household, and family planning. Training subjects include exclusive breastfeeding for children under six months, hand washing, good household and individual hygiene practices, safe water for human consumption, family planning, and consumption of vitamin- and nutrient-rich foods.

Project implementation strategies for the treatment and prevention of malnourished children under 2 years have been continuous, with emphasis on communities with highest malnutrition prevalence rates in each department. In these communities project staff mobilized all key community actors/leaders including religious, public service workers such as school teachers, mayors, and police to raise their awareness of the determinant factors of this health problem.

To improve the capacity and skill of Community Health Volunteers (CHVs), and boost their motivation to continue the delivery of counseling and growth monitoring services, after project close-out, USAID-ACCESO held a series of four day training sessions for a total of 484 CHVs in all six departments during the second quarter of FY 2014. The activity has generated excellent results as the interest and dedication in conducting quality services was duly noted at the community level during supervisory visits and in quality of data reported. CHVs trained have also motivated others to become involved in community service to the extent that project staff is now working directly and providing ongoing training to a total of 557 community health volunteers in all six departments. For the remaining of time under USAID-ACCESO, project staff will continue to strengthen the capacity and motivation of community health volunteers as they continue to carry out the following services at the community level:

- **Household visits:** Technicians continued to work closely with community members, health committee members, and health volunteers to identify households with children under 2 years old

that are not attending group sessions for growth monitoring. This includes children recorded on group records as well as children who are not. In addition to the regular home visits to refresh mothers' knowledge of food preparation and feeding practices, household visits were conducted by community health volunteers and technicians to educate mothers on growth monitoring sessions and identify and record children who are not currently attending these sessions. As a result of these efforts the coverage of growth monitoring services for children under 2 years reached a 90.4 percent in September 2014 compared to 80 percent in March 2014 when this indicator began to be tracked. Over the past quarter coverage has reduced to 88, 84 and 77 for October, November and December respectively due to the migration of families to other communities and departments for the coffee harvest. In addition to improving coverage, this strategy is providing technicians with the opportunity to increase knowledge transfer to community health volunteers and motivate them to carry out household visits on their own, which is key to sustainability. During the quarter, nutrition and health technicians conducted 4,457 technical assistance visits (51,647 to date).

- **Counselling on child nutrition, training and demonstrations for food preparation:** During the quarter, a total of 342 food preparation demonstrations were conducted, with the highest number of these activities taken place in Ocotepeque as a key strategy to address the high prevalence rate of malnutrition in the Municipal of Belen Gualcho, Lempira and La Paz. These training and demonstrations are done during household visits, at the Nutrition Training Centers (NTCs), and at the community health volunteers' homes. As of December 2014 a total of 45 nutrition centers have been completely installed and are operational (See Table 57 for a list of communities where these centers are operating) and 2 more are pending inauguration during the upcoming quarter (in coordination with WFP). In communities where a NTC has not been established, demonstrations of food preparation and training to mothers are carried out at the homes of mothers and community health volunteers on a rotating basis.

During the quarter, specialists and technicians held 525 training events with 7,438 participants. Current quarter participants were 143 male and 7,295 female. Participation of school teachers and adolescent girls in fourth, fifth and six grades in training sessions held in the NTCs located in schools continued during the year.

- **Ministry of Health:** The project continued to work closely with leaders and technicians from Ministry of Health facilities in target areas for the coordination of field activities related to delivery of the basic services package and distribution of micronutrients. During the quarter a total of 213 basic services packages were delivered in targeted communities. The majority of these services were provided in Copán, La Paz and Santa Barbara through the decentralized health service providers, while in Intibucá despite the presence of COMIPRONIL, a decentralized service provider, the emphasis is on the delivery of Primary Health Care Services (PHCS) carried out through home visits which is expected to have a higher impact on prevention measures at the household level.

In April 2012, USAID-ACCESO procured and distributed equipment to selected health centers to strengthen their capacity to manage acute malnutrition. A total of 20 Centers for Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) has been equipped and are operational. During the past quarter, project nutrition and health technicians, community health centers staff and community health volunteers continued the delivery of the basic services package and primary health care services to targeted communities on a monthly basis, utilizing the equipment of the CMAMs. Basic services package and primary health care services include administration of dietary supplements, vaccines, prenatal care, and training of mothers and other caregivers in family planning, nutrition, and breastfeeding during group meetings and household visits respectively. The health centers that benefitted from this activity are:

- Intibucá: CESAR Zacate Blanco, CESAMO San Isidro, CESAR San Nicolás
  - La Paz: CESAR Florida de San José, CESAR El Encinal, CESAR Sabanetas
  - Ocotepeque: CESAMO San Jorge, CESAMO Belén Gualcho, CESAR Jocotan
  - Lempira: CESAMO San Rafael, CESAMO San José, CESAR Rodeo Quelacasque, CESAR Platanares, CESAMO San Bartolo
  - Santa Bárbara: CESAR Paso Viejo, CESAR San Francisco Carrizal
  - Copán: CESAR Vega Redonda, CESAR de Capuca, CESAR Río Amarillo, CESAMO Nueva Armenia
- **Activities to ensure food availability/diet diversity at the household level.** Family plots have been successful in the homes of most community health volunteers and at NTCs housed in schools. However, this has not been the case in the majority of households with children under 2 that need these food sources most. After a successful first cycle, many did not replant because mothers need more guidance, technical assistance, or training in good agricultural practices. During the quarter nutrition technicians in close collaboration with production technicians continued to work to increase and improve the level of technical assistance given to mothers and families on these small plots with excellent results. Given that the rainy season has begun in most of the communities, most households and each NTC has been successful in reactivating the plots.

Some clients are involved in poultry and goat production as another source of both food and income. Through an agreement with ANAVIH (National Association of Poultry Producers in Honduras), USAID-ACCESO has secured a supply of eggs on a daily basis to a total of 437 children under 2 years of age in 15 NTCs in the departments of Lempira, Ocotepeque, Copán, Santa Barbara and Intibucá. This activity was initiated in June 2014 and continued throughout the remaining of the year.

**Promotion of healthy household concept among client households.** Initially, this activity focused on health volunteers and families with children under 2 years old to improve basic household sanitation and health of family members through improvements to stoves, floors, walls, and water sources. This quarter, healthy household activities extended to the wider community. A total of 2,207 *eco-justa* stoves have been installed to date, mainly in households with children under 2 (plus 1,304 installed by the University of Florida). The project's natural resource management component has complemented this activity with land fill construction for solid waste management and residual water treatment systems at both household and community levels.

**Table 57. USAID-ACCESO Installed CENS**

Department	Municipality	Community
Lempira	Gracias	San Jose del Ocotal
Lempira	San Manuel Colohete	Nuevo Cedros
Lempira	San Rafael	Agua Zarca
Lempira	San Rafael	San Antonio
Lempira	La Campa	Tontolo
Lempira	San Rafael	El Sinaí
Lempira	Talgua	El Higuito
Lempira	Gracias	La Canoa
Lempira	Gracias	Rodeo El Pinal
Copan	La Unión	Cedrales Rio Blanco
Copan	Copán Ruinas	El Porvenir Segundo
Copan	Concepción	Plan Grande
Copan	Copán Ruinas	Los Arcos
Copan	Dolores	Yaruconte
Copan	San Agustín	Granadilla
Ocotepeque	Belén Gualcho	El Ciprés

**Table 57. USAID-ACCESO Installed CENS**

Department	Municipality	Community
Ocotepeque	Belén Gualcho	El Arco
Ocotepeque	Belén Gualcho	Jualaca
Ocotepeque	Lucerna	Laguneta
Ocotepeque	Fraternidad	Copantillo
Ocotepeque	Belén Gualcho	La Mohaga
Intibucá	Yamaranguila	La Unión, Yamaranguila
Intibucá	Yamaranguila	Los Olivos
Intibucá	Intibucá	El Tabor
Intibucá	Intibucá	Manazapa
Intibucá	Intibucá	Pahizlal
Intibucá	Intibucá	San Pedro Lomas
Intibucá	Intibucá	Los Encinos
Intibucá	Intibucá	Rio Colorado
Intibucá	Intibucá	Belén Manazapa
Intibucá	Intibucá	Santa Catarina
Intibucá	Intibucá	Planes
Intibucá	Jesus de Otoro	Mayes
Intibucá	Jesus de Otoro	Barrio Nuevo
La Paz	Santa Elena	Llano Alegre
La Paz	San José	Guascotoro
La Paz	Yarula	Tierra Colorada
La Paz	San Pedro de Tutule	Guayabal
La Paz	Santa Ana	Santiago
	Santa Maria	Pueblo Viejo
Santa Bárbara	Quimistan	Divisoria
Santa Bárbara	Quimistan	El Listón
Santa Bárbara	San Luis	El Jardín
Santa Bárbara	Quimistan	El Pinal
	San Marcos	Potrерillos

### Collaboration

Project health and nutrition staff collaborate closely with the decentralized service providers health facilities in the project target area, including MANCORSARIC and COMIPRONIL. Collaboration with Aldea Global and Fundación BANCAFE in training of institutional and community staff is ongoing.

## 7. SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

### 7.1. MONITORING AND EVALUATION ACTIVITIES

Activities carried out by the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) unit enable all project employees to report their activities in the field, to provide recurrent and real time feedback to department managers on major advancements in their regions, and to collect information on assisted client households. Specific activities carried out during the period include:

- Ongoing maintenance in CIRIS and Tablet databases.
- Assessment of data collected from more than 3,700 clients HH and MSMEs (data collected on Baseline, EOH, Sales and IFF forms)
- Preparation of inputs for monthly, quarterly and success story reports.
- Data analysis for monthly, quarterly and annual reports.
- Registration of annual project results on FTFMS database
- Updating FTFMS indicators results
- Updating ACCESO's PMP.
- Preparation of Advance Reports for Subcontractor's feedback and follow-up.
- Ongoing CIRIS data registration of trainees' participation lists collected on field.
- Supporting Nutrition and Health component by doing reports preparation, data revision and analysis, and sampling N&H clients for implementing surveys.
- Preparation of ongoing progress reports for project follow-up.
- Ongoing feedback on CIRIS management.
- Participation on Departmental meetings, providing critical feedback on project progress.
- Follow-up to CIRIS N&H data entry.
- FY2014 Project results shared with Laura Kulh regarding her Research "Innovation and Technology Transfer for Agricultural Adaptation: A Case Study of the ACCESO"

### 7.2. SMALL GRANTS, SUBCONTRACTS AND ALLIANCES PROGRAM

This program manages all activities related to small grants carried out under Partner Fund and Technology fund Activities, including short term subcontracts. This includes the preparation of documentation for approval by Fintrac HO and USAID, quotations, purchase orders, delivery and logistics, and records. These activities are carried out in collaboration with all of the technical components and project administration.

There is one manager and two specialists comprising this component's staff. All administrative and financial activities related to the small long term subcontractors providing field technicians for implementation are also managed by this program (CASM, OCHID, COPRAFEL, Hermandad de Honduras, PILARH, IHCAFE, and Save the Children).

The small grants and subcontracts are targeted at investments that promote increased yields, sales, incomes, nutrition and health, and food security, that in most cases are used to promote the increased use of new or improved technology.

Small grants fund activities were continued during the quarter principally with irrigation installation, community health and NRM related activities, and microenterprises. New activities included home improvements (phase II), dairy production support, disaster mitigation project, and a small scale greenhouse for plantlet production.

- # Technology fund / grants to households: 18,968 grants
- Production: 10,837 households
- Nutrition & health grants: 4,962 households
- Disaster mitigation/NRM: 1,044 households
- Renewable energy: 1,454 households
- MSMEs: 145 households
- Marketing: 400 households
- Miscellaneous: 126 households

A listing of the small grants is provided in Table 58.

**Table 58. Small grants and subcontracts program**

Activity	Area	Date	#	Status	HH Status 12/2014	Orgs/MSMEs Status 12/2014
Installation of Photovoltaic Systems (33)	R. Energy	Nov-11	TF 2011-01	Completed	32	1
Solar Dryers (300)	R. Energy	Nov-11	TF 2011-02	Completed	287	0
Installation of Small Scale Biodigesters (120/240)	R. Energy	Jan-12	TF 2011-03	On-going	91	0
International Marketing Jumpstart (20)	Marketing	Nov-11	TF 2011-04	On-going	0	4
Installation of MSME Training Kitchen (400)	MSME	Nov-11	TF 2011-05	Completed	0	0
Construction of Eco-Stoves (Eco-Estufas) (500)	R. Energy	Nov-11	TF 2011-06	Completed	500	0
Herb Seeds (230)	Production	Dec-11	TF 2011-09	Completed	3	0
Snow and Sugar Snap Pea Seeds (320)	Production	Jan-12	TF 2012-02	Completed	311	0
Allspice Thresher and Cleaners for COAPIGOR (48)	Production	Mar-12	TF 2012-03	Completed	0	2
Irrigation Equipment (1,500)	Production	Mar-12	TF 2012-04	Completed	311	0
Pea Packing Plant Equipment (200)	Production	Apr-12	TF 2012-05	Completed	0	1
Weather Stations (6)	Production	May-12	TF 2012-06	Completed	0	6
Nutritional Training Centers - Equipment (40)	Nutrition	Apr-12	TF-2012-07	On-going	20	0
Improving Rural Health Center Capacity to Manage Under-Nutrition	Nutrition	Apr-12	TF-2012-08	Completed	20	0
Bean Seeds (2,100)	Production	May-12	TF 2012-09	Completed	1,849	0
Improved Diet Diversity in Households (Parcelas) (1,000)	Nutrition	Jul-12	TF 2012-10	On-going	1,074	0
New Crop and Product Development	Production	May-12	TF 2012-11	On-going	704	6
Box Culvert Materials, Intibucá	NRM/Disaster	Jun-12	TF 2012-12	Completed	1	0
Irrigation Phase II (885)	Production	Jul-12	TF 2012-13	Completed	1,854	0
Household Water Filters (600)	Nutrition	Jul-12	TF-2012-14	On-going	606	0
Kitchen Water Connections (1,000)	Nutrition	Aug-12	TF-2012-15	On-going	958	0
Construction of Eco-Stoves (Follow-Up) (500 + 80 CEN)	R. Energy	Sep-13	TF-2012-16	On-going	544	37

**Table 58. Small grants and subcontracts program**

Activity	Area	Date	#	Status	HH Status 12/2014	Orgs/MSMEs Status 12/2014
Biological Pest Control for Coffee (480)	Production	Sep-12	TF-2012-17	Completed	200	0
Floor & Wall Improvements (1,000)	Nutrition	Oct-12	TF-2012-18	On-going	927	0
Strengthening Market Associations (12)	Marketing	Oct-12	TF 2012-19	On-going	1	0
Agromercados Agricultural Fair	Marketing	Oct-12	TF 2012-20	Completed	0	7
Water Systems Improvement	NRM/Disaster	Nov-12	TF 2012-21	On-going	0	58
Yellow corn seed (4,000)	Production	Nov-12	TF 2012-22	Completed	2,690	0
Crop Competitions	Production	Nov-12	TF 2012-23	On-going	12	0
Training Workshops	Misc	Jan-13	TF 2013-24	On-going	126	2
Training Materials and Equipment for CODELs (60)	NRM/Disaster	Feb-13	TF 2013-25	On-going	0	41
Road Rehabilitation Opatoro	NRM/Disaster	Feb-13	TF 2013-26	Completed	118	1
Irrigation Systems - Phase III (1,449)	Production	Jun-13	TF 2013-27	On-going	1,703	0
Greenhouses – El Maestro en Casa- Intibucá (1)	Production	Feb-13	TF 2013-28	Completed	0	1
Home Improvements Follow Up (1,000)	Nutrition	May-13	TF 2013-30	On-going	566	0
Improving Diet Diversity Through Access to Animal Protein (318)	Nutrition	May-13	TF 2013-31	Completed	318	0
Water Tanks & Latrines (380)+(380)	NRM/Disaster	May-13	TF 2013-32	On-going	615	0
Improving Diet Diversity Through Access to Animal Protein-Goats (13)	Nutrition	Jul-13	TF 2013-33	Completed	13	0
Solar Coffee Drier Technology-Phase II (600)	Production	Jun-13	TF 2013-34	On-going	582	0
Value added equipment (40)	MSME	Jul-13	TF 2013-35	On-going	17	17
Health & Nutrition Equipment and Training	Nutrition	Dec-13	TF 2013-36	On-going	460	0
Yellow Corn Harvest & Marketing Support	Production	Dec-13	TF 2013-37	Completed	0	9
Electronic Scales- PAG	Production	Dec-13	TF 2013-38	Completed	0	1
Production Manuals	Production	Mar-14	TF 2013-39	On-going	0	88
Road Rehabilitation & Box Culvert La Divisoria	NRM/Disaster	Aug-14	TF 2014-40	Approved	0	0
Local Disaster Mitigation Capacity Building	NRM/Disaster	Jul-14	TF 2014-41	On-going	0	8
Irrigation Systems - Phase IV (1,316)	Production	Aug-14	TF 2014-42	On-going	424	0
Access to Agricultural Equipment	Production	Sep-14	TF 2014-43	On-going	1	2
Home Improvements Follow Up Phase II	Nutrition	Oct-14	TF 2014-44	On-going	0	0
Dairy Production Support	Production	Oct-14	TF 2014-45	On-going	9	0

**Table 58. Small grants and subcontracts program**

Activity	Area	Date	#	Status	HH Status 12/2014	Orgs/MSMEs Status 12/2014
Disaster Mitigation Projects	NRM/Disaster	Dec-14	TF 2014-46	Approved	0	0
Belen's Women Group- PAG Greenhouse	Production	Dec-14	TF 2014-48	Approved	0	0
FHIA. Research and Development for Increased Productivity	Production	Nov-11	PF 2011-02	On-going	0	0
ICADE. Disaster Mitigation (EDAN) Training (90)	NRM/Disaster	Apr-12	PF 2012-02	Completed	310	0
UNITEC. MSME Formalization & Training (200)	MSME	May-12	PF 2012-03	On-going	128	0
Agroindustrias Del Corral. Cattle Production Program (40)	Production	Nov-12	PF 2012-04	On-going	21	0
Boncafe. Specialty Coffee Program (600)	Production	Nov-12	PF 2012-05	On-going	163	0
R&D for Nematode activity in drip irrigation systems and soil	Production	Nov-12	PF 2012-06	Completed	0	0
El Gourmet Katracho Promotional Cooking Events	Marketing	Aug-12	FPC 2012-01	Completed	109	0
Potable Water Studies for Two Communities - Santa Bárbara (Maxvin Trejo)	NRM/Disaster	Sep-12	FPC 2012-02	Completed	0	4
Potable Water Studies for Two Communities- Intibucá & Lempira (Rigoberto Sandoval Reinbold)	NRM/Disaster	Sep-12	FPC 2012-03	Completed	0	4
10 Mitigation Studies (Oscar Carbajal)	NRM/Disaster	Sep-12	FPC 2012-04	Completed	0	12
Legalization of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) (Bufete Eduardo Pinto Chinchilla) (81)	MSME	Jun-13	FPC 2013-06	On-going	0	0
El Gourmet Katracho Promotional Cooking Events- Part 2	Marketing	Sep-13	FPC 2013-07	Completed	290	0
Multidimensional Poverty Study by TECHO	Nutrition	Dec-13	FPC 2013-08	Completed	0	1

### 7.3. GENDER MAINSTREAMING

USAID-ACCESO continued to emphasize and implement its gender mainstreaming strategy. The gender strategy includes details on gender disaggregated indicators and data analysis, as well as for including women in technical training in the cultural context of Honduras. The strategy identifies the types of technical assistance, technologies, and crops that best address the constraints faced by women. Women clients were actively enrolled via women credit unions, credit programs designed for women, nutrition clients that became production clients, and through women's groups. Key activities include focusing crop selection on production of herbs that are easy to grow and require smaller areas of land for cultivation; production of garden-grown vegetables to generate food for the family; and fruit tree production. Good opportunities exist to increase women's involvement in the economy in animal production and off-farm and value-added microenterprises. Targeted technologies in production include drip irrigation and the

introduction of low-cost greenhouses. Sowing, harvesting, and postharvest activities are also activities that provide women with labor opportunities. Selected gender related activities and numbers include:

- 20.5 percent of the project’s client households are registered as women clients (6,988 clients). Note – these are not necessarily women headed households. These are the persons registered as receiving direct assistance from the project. The household can contain men, but they are not receiving assistance or are not the principal project client in the household. 95 percent of client household are “men and women” (not necessarily a “couple”), while 2 percent a women only and 3 percent are men only.
- 23,910 of the 65,152 individuals that have received project agricultural sector productivity or food security training are women (36.7 percent).

Data for various indicators are given in Table 59.

**Table 59. Summary: Women Participation**

Indicator	2014	
	%	Number
Clients as % of total	20.5%	6,988
Individuals trained as % of total	36.7%	23,910
Participants in trainings as % of total	31.6%	248,671
Access to finance as % of total loan value	11%	\$1,793,431
Access to finance as % of total number of loans	16%	2,154
Access to finance as % of total individuals with loans	17%	1,454
Area planted as % of total area	14%	9,848
Number of individual planting as % of total number	21%	7,085
Number of MSMEs accessing new market opportunities through a broker	16%	1,957
Number of MSMEs that have entered formal preferred supplier or contract agreements with brokers (Sampling, September 2014)	17%	910
Number of additional hectares under improved technologies or management practices (Sampling, September 2014)	17%	3,620
Number of companies (including farms) that have made conservation-friendly changes in their business practices (Sampling, September 2014)	19%	1,336

## 7.4. IFPRI

IFPRI has been contracted by USAID to carry out selected M&E activities and impact evaluations. As of December 2014, IFPRI has conducted the baseline survey (provided June 2013) and the midterm evaluation among USAID ACCESO client households (not provided). USAID-ACCESO’s involvement with IFPRI has been as follows:

- Participation in an IFPRI presentation on baseline data.
- Comments provided on baseline data report.
- USAID-ACCESO client data provided when requested in 2012 and 2013.
- No communication or interaction during the current quarter.

## 7.5. COMMUNICATIONS

Communications activities during the quarter have included:

- Preparation of six project infographics on FY 2014 results.
- Preparation of four project infographics on finance, investment, gender and irrigation investments.
- Two photo essays published on project activities in “Increasing Agricultural Productivity” and “Improving childhood Nutrition”:

- <https://fintrac.exposure.co/increasing-agricultural-productivity?more=true>
- <https://fintrac.exposure.co/improving-childhood-nutrition>
- Participation in TV program on rural development on Maya TV
- Publication of project technical manuals.
- Updating of USAID-ACCESO web site.
- Preparation of two USAID-ACCESO snapshot (44 to date).

## 7.6. FIELD VISITS

Field visits were organized for visitors from USAID, Honduran government and other local and international organizations. These included:

- Field visits from the Minister of Agriculture and USAID-Honduras to USAID-ACCESO corn productivity competition in La Paz and drip irrigation system inauguration in La Paz.
- Field visit in the six departments with USAID Honduras and INVEST to observe nutrition and health activities related to anemia.
- Field visit with the Vice Minister of Agriculture to sheep production operations in Santa Barbara.
- Routine field visits from USAID-Honduras.

### Selected Activities with other USAID and USAID-Related Projects

- Support to “USAID Climate-Smart Agriculture/Best Management Practices (CSA/BMPs) Workshop for the Latin America and Caribbean Region”; presentations in workshop and visits to field sites in Gracias, Lempira (workshop carried out in November 2014).
- FHIS: field tour to Intibucá and Santa Barbara for representatives of FHIS and USAID in preparation for FHIS renewable energy project; followed by other FHIA field visits to La Paz and Intibucá.
- Week long field visit provided to BFS consultant and USAID carrying out a scaling-up study on drip irrigation.

### Selected Activities with Government Ministries

USAID-ACCESO is collaborating with several government ministries and institutions, both informally and through signed memorandum.

#### SAG:

- Numerous meeting with SENASA as part of the policy/barriers activity to update the law on registration, use, and control of pesticides.
- Meetings with SENASA on the development of local laws on the sales of agricultural products with differing degrees of toxicity

#### SEDIS:

Meetings held and a memorandum of understanding signed with SEDIS for the training of volunteers on project activities and implementation of the healthy household component.

### Local NGO and Organizations

USAID-ACCESO is working with more than 100 organizations to coordinate activities and facilitate project implementation. Technical areas of collaboration included production, nutrition and health, renewable energy, natural resource management, and disaster mitigation. These range from grower

organizations, cooperatives, local and international NGOs, donor projects, *mancomunidades*, and government institutions. Examples include Plan de Honduras, ASONOG, Caritas, Childfund, Red Cross, Fundación Banhcafe, Heifer International, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, COMRURAL, SwissContact, SOCDEVI and others.

## 8. ADMINISTRATIVE

In addition to field activities, administrative activities were initiated for the close-out of USAID-ACCESO, including sub-contracts, employee contracts, equipment disposition and the preparation of the draft final report. Meetings were held with USAID in December 2014 with instructions being received for Fintrac to continue providing in-field technical assistance until the end of the current contract on February 27, 2015. Sub-contracts and employment contracts were modified accordingly. Fintrac was informed that USAID Honduras would be considering options to extend or partially extend ACCESO implementation and that activities should begin for transition of activities in selected departments to USAID-MERCADO.

Following the request made to modify PMP targets in November 2013, a second request was presented to USAID Honduras during the current quarter.

## 9. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

The project will resume close out activities during the upcoming quarter, pending instructions on an extension from USAID-Honduras, and transition activities to the new MERCADO activity in 3 or the 6 departments. Field activities being carried out under the eleven sub-contracts will be stopped on February 20, 2015. Fintrac staff will continue until February 27, 2015. Specific in-field technical activities that will be carried out include:

### **Rural MSMEs access to inputs, practices and technology for market participation improved**

- Continue remaining installation of irrigation infrastructure for producers in all six departments.
- Initiate a new market-led production program for beetroot production for a local processor/exporter.
- Continue training and technical assistance to coffee growers on basic production practices, with particular emphasis on harvest systems, processing, drying, and handling.
- Finalizing the technology investment fund small grants projects for productive infrastructure.
- Continue delivery of technical assistance to off-farm MSME's to improve efficiencies and reduce production cost.

### **Rural MSMEs access to new market opportunities increased**

- Develop buyer/grower contract links for beetroot production
- Grower links with OLAM and Bon Café for coffee sales following handling and drying protocols to maximize quality and price premiums.
- Expansion of grower supply program with PriceSmart, Supermercado Los Andes and EYL Commercial.
- Training of *cajas rurales* in grain warehouse receipts systems for expanding services to members and increasing revenues.

### **Barriers to competitiveness of rural MSMEs reduced**

- Continue training and technical assistance to first and second tier rural banks.

- Continue and complete existing processes with SENASA and selected municipalities to develop and implement an “ordinance to comply with the regulations for the sale of agrochemicals with varying degrees of toxicity.”
- Continue with processes for company registration for village banks, associations and MSMEs.

### **Biodiversity and natural resources conserved**

#### *At the farm level*

- Continue technical assistance in soil conservation, water resource management, wildlife preservation, pest and disease identification and control, and the safe use of pesticides.
- Carry out environmental audits of irrigation systems installed.

#### *At the municipal and community levels*

- Final implementation of the small grants program for disaster mitigation, potable water, and basic sanitation projects.
- Continue the rehabilitation of chlorinators.
- Continue assistance to water boards and community and municipal leaders in effluent treatment projects and management of water chlorinators.

### **Renewable energy projects to be implemented during the next period**

- Continue to install and train on the concepts and critical points of design and installation of solar crop dryers, eco-stoves, and biodigesters, in the six departments.
- Continue to train users and owners on the use and maintenance of improved stoves, biodigesters, and solar dryers.

### **Use of quality maternal and child health and family planning services increased**

- Carry out a survey of anemia and parasite levels in children under two years old in the six departments; in association with UNAH microbiologists and the Ministry of Health.
- In collaboration with Ministry of Health and local service providers, develop and implement a plan to address the problem with anemia in children 6 to 23 months in project target area.
- Continue implementing the IEC strategy in targeted communities with emphasis on anemia prevention and management.
- Continue providing assistance to client households for family plots for increased food availability.
- Continue training activities in Nutrition Training Centers.
- Continue promoting family planning, reproductive risk, and quality maternal and child health practices through basic messages.
- Continue training events in food preparation and diet diversity to ensure nutrient uptake.
- Continue household visits to provide direct technical assistance to those families with children less than two years of age.
- Continue coordinating field activities with the health units to improve access to family planning methods.

### **Gender mainstreaming**

- Continue to promote and follow up on gender inclusion activities in the day-to-day implementation of USAID-ACCESO.
- Monitor project activities’ consistency with recommendations highlighted in the gender mainstreaming plan.

### **Project management and administrative activities**

- Project close out activities, or extension, or a mixture of both depending on USAID Honduras guidance and requirements.

### **Monitoring and evaluation activities**

- Preparation of progress reports (monthly, quarterly and project close-out).
- Preparation of Advance Project's reports for Subcontractors.
- Continue registering trainees lists on CIRIS.
- Continue registering Children Monitoring results on CIRIS N&H based on AINC monthly meetings.
- Continue providing support to N&H on data reports and analysis, database management and data review.
- Participate in Project's Meetings.
- Updating PMP monitor.

### **Small grants, subcontracts and alliances program**

- Continue and complete close-out procedures and documentation for closed projects.

# ANNEX I. PERFORMANCE MONITORING PLAN

The PMP and work plan targets for each indicator is provided below, together with the overall status as of December 2014. These are separated by IRs and sub-IRs to be consistent with the quarterly and work plan formats. Note: data for selected indicators are collected on an ongoing basis while others are collected via annual surveys. Note: during the quarter a second request was made to modify selected PMP targets. The PMP presented below is the original PMP with targets set at project start-up.

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1 (FY 2011)	YEAR 2 (FY 2012)	YEAR 3 (FY 2013)	YEAR 4 (FY 2014)	STATUS	YEAR 5 TARGETS (Oct. to Dec. 2014)		LOP (Feb. 2015)	DELIVERABLE / UNITS	Year 5 Target Breakdown		Previous Reported Status (09/2014)	Additional Reported for Previous Quarter	Current Quarter (12/2014)	Updated Status (12/2014)
	ACHIEVED Apr. 2011 to Sept. 2011	ACHIEVED Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012	ACHIEVED Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013	ACHIEVED Oct. 2013 to Sept. 2014		Q1	Q2			Male	Female				
<b>1</b>	<b>Program Administrative Activities</b>														
	<b>Start-Up Activities</b>														
1.1	done											done			
1.2	1											done			
1.3	2											done			
1.4	cars/motorbikes											done			
1.5	done					on-going						done			
1.6	done					on-going						done			
1.7												done			
	<b>Communications &amp; Reporting</b>														
1.8	1											done			
1.9	1											done			
1.10		1			1							done			
<a href="#">1.11</a>	6	12	12	12	42	3	1	46	Reports			42		3	45
<a href="#">1.12</a>	2	4	4	4	14	1		15	Reports			14		1	15
<a href="#">1.13</a>	1	1	1	1	4	1		4	Workplans			4		1	5
1.14								1	1	Reports					
<a href="#">1.15</a>		2		1	3			3	Meeting Minutes			3			
<b>2</b>	<b>Project Monitoring &amp; Evaluation Activities</b>														
2.1	done											done			
2.2	done											done			
2.3	1				1			1	Plan			done			1
2.4									Data			done			
2.6									Data			on-going			
2.7		1	1		2	1		3							3
<a href="#">2.8</a>	2	18	17	5	42	3	8	53	Publications			42		2	44
<b>3</b>	<b>Small Grants Program</b>														
<a href="#">3.1</a>		5,160	7,681	5,237	18,078			10,146				18,078		890	18,968
<a href="#">3.2</a>		4	7	0	11			10				11		1	12
<a href="#">3.3</a>		4	5	2	11			9				11		1	12
<a href="#">3.4</a>	4	724	921	1,921	3,570	25		805				3,570		101	3,671
<a href="#">3.5</a>		5,896	8,614	3,568	18,078	25		10,970				18,078			

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1 (FY 2011) ACHIEVED Apr. 2011 to Sept. 2011	YEAR 2 (FY 2012) ACHIEVED Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012	YEAR 3 (FY 2013) ACHIEVED Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013	YEAR 4 (FY 2014) ACHIEVED Oct. 2013 to Sept. 2014	STATUS Sept. 2014	YEAR 5 TARGETS (Oct. to Dec. 2014)		LOP (Feb. 2015)	DELIVERABLE / UNITS	Year 5 Target Breakdown		Previous Reported Status (09/2014)	Additional Reported for Previous Quarter	Current Quarter (12/2014)	Updated Status (12/2014)	
						Q1	Q2			Male	Female					
<b>High Level Targets</b>																
<b>GOAL: Increased Rural Household Incomes</b>																
PIRS # 1	Number of households living in poverty moved above the poverty line		1,183	1,053	3,783	3,783			30,000	Households			3,783			3,783
PIRS # 2	Number of rural households living in extreme poverty moved above the poverty line <sup>1</sup>		834	796	2,975	2,975			18,000	Households			2,975			2,975
PIRS # 3	Value of new net income of participant rural farmers and MSMEs		7,100	-6,937	-6,725	-6,557			73.95	US\$ Million			-6,557			-6,557
	Value of new net income of participant rural farmers and MSMEs (EXCLUDING COFFEE)		4,108	3,747	11,804	19,659				US\$ Million			19,659			19,659
PIRS # 4	Number of jobs attributed to FTF implementation		2,332	243	354	2,928			10,425	FTEs			2,928			2,928
<b>Increased Agricultural Productivity</b>																
PIRS # 5	Value of incremental sales (collected at farm/firm level) attributed to FTF implementation		12,400	-4,388	0,773	8,791			133.65	US\$ Million			8,791			8,791
	Value of incremental sales (collected at farm/firm level) attributed to FTF implementation (EXCLUDING COFFEE)		6,419	6,602	24,820	37,840				US\$ Million			37,840			37,840

**IR 2.1: RURAL MICRO, SMALL, AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE (MSME) GROWTH INCREASED**

**Sub-IR 2.1.1: RURAL MSMEs' ACCESS TO INPUTS, PRACTICES, AND TECHNOLOGY FOR MARKET PARTICIPATION IMPROVED**

<b>Implementation of updated production technologies (on-farm and off-farm)</b>																
<a href="#">WP # 1</a>	Number of individuals who have received USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	7,723	15,671	21,110	16,371	60,875	250		55,500	Individuals	200	50	60,875	4,277	65,152	
<a href="#">WP # 2</a>	Number of extension visits to program beneficiaries	13,571	134,840	267,955	313,875	730,241	45,000	15,000	378,400	Extension Visits			730,241	145	51,508	781,894
<a href="#">WP # 12</a>	Number of technical materials produced (bulletins, manuals, presentations and tools)	63	142	50	67	322			225	Technical materials			322	0	11	333
<a href="#">WP # 10</a>	Number of MSMEs (off-farm and processing) assisted by project	285	417	132	(101)	733			805	MSMEs			733	281		1,014
<a href="#">PIRS # 6</a>	Value of new private sector investment in the agriculture sector or food chain leveraged by FTF implementation	0.079	3,018	4,451	13,547	21,095	0.50	0.10	21.60	New private sector investment (Millions)			21,095	0.137	0.836	22,068
<a href="#">WP # 11</a>	Number of female individuals in training activities	2,202	5,729	5,711	8,175	21,817	38		8,300	Female Individuals			21,817		2,093	23,910
<a href="#">PIRS # 7</a>	Number of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance		4,592	14,270	6,638	25,500			22,050	MSMEs			25,500		1,411	26,911

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1 (FY 2011)	YEAR 2 (FY 2012)	YEAR 3 (FY 2013)	YEAR 4 (FY 2014)	STATUS	YEAR 5 TARGETS (Oct. to Dec. 2014)		LOP (Feb. 2015)	DELIVERABLE / UNITS	Year 5 Target Breakdown		Previous Reported Status (09/2014)	Additional Reported for Previous Quarter	Current Quarter (12/2014)	Updated Status (12/2014)
	ACHIEVED Apr. 2011 to Sept. 2011	ACHIEVED Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012	ACHIEVED Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013	ACHIEVED Oct. 2013 to Sept. 2014		Sept. 2014	Q1			Q2	Male				
<b>Private sector alliances and integration of private sector equipment, input and service providers</b>															
<a href="#">PIRS # 30</a>	0	78	110	273	461	4		465	organizations / companies providing business development / extension services to MSMEs			461		11	472
<a href="#">PIRS # 32</a>	3	23	15	10	51	14		65	PPP formed			51		4	55
<a href="#">PIRS # 33</a>	merged to PIRS # 32									PSA's Formed					
<b>Grower organization and the development of market driven production programs</b>															
<a href="#">PIRS # 31</a>	40	150	31	519	740			210	Organizations / associations / CBO's receiving assistance			740		3	743
<a href="#">WP # 3</a>		0	118	46	164	20		55	Associations formally established as businesses			164		14	178
<b>SUB-IR 2.1.2: RURAL MSMEs' ACCESS TO NEW MARKET OPPORTUNITIES INCREASED</b>															
<b>Development of buyer linkages and logistics</b>															
<a href="#">WP # 4</a>	35	1,403	5,486	4,880	11,804			10,932	MSMEs			11,804		101	11,905
<a href="#">PIRS # 12</a>	10	19	41	288	358	142		500	Brokers providing market linkages to MSMEs			358		4	362
<a href="#">WP # 6</a>	1	5	3	3	12	9	3	24	Market Surveys			12		8	20
<b>Production and systems implementation to meet buyers quality standards</b>															
<a href="#">WP # 5</a>		550	1,521	9,473	11,544			2,996	MSMEs			11,544		11,544	11,544
<b>Implementation of business certification programs</b>															
<a href="#">PIRS # 13</a>	35	882	836	21,344	23,097			2,000	MSMEs			23,097			23,097

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1 (FY 2011)	YEAR 2 (FY 2012)	YEAR 3 (FY 2013)	YEAR 4 (FY 2014)	STATUS	YEAR 5 TARGETS (Oct. to Dec. 2014)		LOP (Feb. 2015)	DELIVERABLE / UNITS	Year 5 Target Breakdown		Previous Reported Status (09/2014)	Additional Reported for Previous Quarter	Current Quarter (12/2014)	Updated Status (12/2014)
	ACHIEVED Apr. 2011 to Sept. 2011	ACHIEVED Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012	ACHIEVED Oct. 2012 to Sept. 2013	ACHIEVED Oct. 2013 to Sept. 2014		Sept. 2014	Q1			Q2	Male				
<b>SUB-IR 2.1.3: BARRIERS TO COMPETITIVENESS OF RURAL MSMEs REDUCED</b>															
<b>Increased access to finance</b>															
<a href="#">PIRS # 14</a>	315	1,577	2,826	3,800	8,518	25		4,314	MSMEs accessing finance	20	5	8,518	0	71	8,589
<a href="#">PIRS # 15</a>	0.200	1.554	6.072	8.060	15.886	0.03		6.33	Value of loans (millions)	0.02	0.01	15.886	0	0.602	16.488
<a href="#">PIRS # 11</a>		695	4,498	8,762	13,955			8,482	MSMEs			13,955		13,955	13,955
<a href="#">PIRS # 16</a>		1	16	15	32	4	4	40	Constraints			32		2	34
<a href="#">PIRS # 17</a>	1	2	2	1	6			4	Policies, regulations or administrative procedures passed			6		0	6
<a href="#">PIRS # GNDR-2</a>			17.4%	17.0%	17.0%	20%		20%	Percentage			17.0%		16.9%	16.9%
<b>Applied research and development programs developed</b>															
<a href="#">xx</a>	1	8	2		11				R&D projects and Activities Identified			11		11	11
<b>IR 2.2: Honduran Biodiversity and Natural Resources Conserved and IR 2.3: CAPACITY TO ADAPT AND MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE STRENGTHENED</b>															
<b>Implementation of NRM practices on farm</b>															
<a href="#">PIRS # 8</a>		8,321	7,694	11,214	27,229			14,904	Hectares			27,229		27,229	27,229
<a href="#">PIRS # 10</a>	0	356	350	6,194	6,901	15,149		22,050	Companies (including farms)	13,634	1,515	6,901		6,901	6,901
<b>Implementation of NRM practices at community and municipality levels</b>															
<a href="#">PIRS # 9</a>		7	24	5	36			20	Local Municipal Governments			36		6	42
<b>SUB-IR 2.3.3: DISASTER VULNERABILITY REDUCED</b>															
<b>Development and implementation of disaster mitigation plans and systems</b>															
<a href="#">PIRS # 28</a>		11	50	0	61	0		40	Communities with adequate disaster prevention and mitigation capacity			61		0	61
<b>Installation of renewable energy technologies</b>															
<a href="#">PIRS # 29</a>	4	724	921	1,921	3,570	25		805	Projects established			3,570		101	3,671

ACTIVITY	YEAR 1 (FY 2011)	YEAR 2 (FY 2012)	YEAR 3 (FY 2013)	YEAR 4 (FY 2014)	STATUS	YEAR 5 TARGETS (Oct. to Dec. 2014)		LOP (Feb. 2015)	DELIVERABLE / UNITS	Year 5 Target Breakdown		Previous Reported Status (09/2014)	Additional Reported for Previous Quarter	Current Quarter (12/2014)	Updated Status (12/2014)
	ACHIEVED	ACHIEVED	ACHIEVED	ACHIEVED		Q1	Q2			Male	Female				
<b>IR 4.1: USE OF QUALITY MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES INCREASED</b>															
<a href="#">PIRS # 18</a>	Prevalence of households with moderate to severe hunger							-20%	% reduction from baseline						n/a
<a href="#">PIRS # 19</a>	Prevalence of underweight children under 5		-23.9%	-33.8%	-56.4%	-56.4%	-56.4%	-20%	% reduction from baseline			-56.4%		-57.6%	-57.6%
<a href="#">PIRS # 20</a>	Prevalence of stunted children under 5				-23.8%	-23.8%	-23.8%	-20%	% reduction from baseline			-23.8%		-57.3%	-57.3%
<a href="#">PIRS # 21</a>	Percent of children 6-23 months that received a Minimum Acceptable Diet					-4.8%		30%	% increase over baseline			-4.8%		-4.8%	-4.8%
<a href="#">PIRS # 22</a>	Prevalence of exclusive breast feeding of children under 6 months		4.5%	2.8%	-9.9%	-9.9%	-10%	20%	% increase over baseline			-9.9%		-12.9%	-12.9%
<a href="#">PIRS # 23</a>	Prevalence of anaemia among women of reproductive age			-0.4%	-18.2%	-18.2%		-5%	% reduction from baseline			-18.2%		-18.2%	-18.2%
<a href="#">PIRS # 24</a>	Prevalence of anaemia in children 5 - 59 months			7.4%	29.3%	29.3%		-20%	% reduction from baseline			29.3%		29.3%	29.3%
<a href="#">PIRS # 25</a>	Women's dietary diversity: mean number of food groups consumed by women of reproductive age			4.3%	20.5%	20.5%		30%	% Change in HDDS			20.5%		20.5%	20.5%
<a href="#">PIRS # 26</a>	Number of health facilities with established capacity to manage acute under-nutrition (REMOVED for FY 2012-2013)					20		20	Health Facilities			20		0	20
<a href="#">PIRS # 27</a>	Modern contraceptive prevalence rate		11.2%	103.6%	150.2%	150.2%	150%	10%	% Increase over baseline			150.2%		140.0%	140.0%
<a href="#">WP # 8</a>	Percentage of children less than two years old with two consecutive low monthly measurements		9.7%	10.9%	10.3%	10.3%	10%	10%	%			10.3%		9.0%	9.0%
<a href="#">IND-3.1.9-1</a>	Number of people trained in child health and nutrition through USG-supported programs (New 03/2014)			50,817	38,487	89,304	696	90,000	Individuals - new indicator starting 03/2014			89,304		7,438	96,742
<a href="#">IND-3.1.9-15</a>	Number of children under five reached by USG-supported nutrition programs (new 03/2014)				7,781	7,781	219	8,000	Individuals - new indicator starting 03/2014			7,781		179	7,961

# ANNEX II. SNAPSHOTS & MONTHLY SUMMARIES



# USAID | ACCESO

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## Monthly Bulletin *October 2014*

### HIGHLIGHTS

- USAID-ACCESO is assisting 34,047 households in the most vulnerable communities in western Honduras, promoting production technologies and practices to increase incomes and improve the overall quality of life. The project is benefitting 181,267 people – 89 percent of whom live in poverty and extreme poverty conditions – through technical assistance and training in production, value-added processing, natural resource management, renewable technologies, disaster mitigation, and nutrition and health.
- This month, 218 new hectares were planted reaching a total of 71,923 hectares under project technical assistance, including: 26,054 hectares of coffee, 39,617 of basic grains, and 6,252 of fruit and horticulture crops. The crops with the highest planting area this month were: coffee, bean, potato, maize, red onion, cabbage, tomato, plantain, chia, and sweet pepper.
- USAID-ACCESO participated in the Food Security and Nutrition Forum sponsored by EAP-Zamorano. Other participants included students, mayors from communities around Zamorano, and other special guests from both the public and private sector.
- USAID personnel visited communities working with the project's nutrition component in Ocotepeque, Lempira, Intibucá, and La Paz to identify and analyze potential cases of anemia in children under 2 years old.
- To date, more than 736 students have carried out project-promoted practices in processing, business and finance skills, production, health and nutrition, IT, and administration. These students come from 57 difference institutions, including technical colleges and universities, and have received 4,880 weeks of on-the-job training. Thirty-four students came from the university level.



*All photos by Fintrac Inc.*  
Access to technical expertise: Implementing basic practices on maize production achieves higher yields; Mejocote, Lempira.



Access to technical expertise: Producers visit other USAID-ACCESO clients to learn how they bag plantains for commercial planting; Cane, La Paz.

USAID-ACCESO client households, beneficiaries and other clients, October 2014			
Departament	Household clients	Beneficiaries	Other Clients*
Copán	5,372	23,645	1,706
Intibucá	5,584	36,795	1,562
La Paz	5,646	27,028	1,258
Lempira	6,635	44,438	2,166
Ocotepeque	4,335	24,427	1,150
Santa Bárbara	6,474	24,934	1,817
Others	0	0	821
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34,047</b>	<b>181,267</b>	<b>10,480</b>

\*Includes: MSMEs, buyers, input and service providers, municipal corporations, counterpart organizations

### About USAID-ACCESO

USAID-ACCESO is a four-year initiative funded by the people and government of the United States of America through the US Agency for International Development (USAID). This project is part of the global Feed the Future initiative of the US government and the main investment by USAID in Honduras.

USAID-ACCESO is assisting more than 30,000 clients in the departments of Copán, Intibucá, La Paz, Lempira, Ocotepeque, and Santa Bárbara to lift these households above the poverty line and malnutrition conditions through economic development and increased incomes.



# USAID | ACCESO

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

USAID-ACCESO carried out 18,222 technical assistance visits this month. Of these, 12,370 (68 percent) strengthened farmers' knowledge in agricultural production topics including basic practices for coffee, basic grains, and horticulture crops; soil preparation and management; pest, disease, and weed identification and control; transplant and planting; fertilization program management; nutrient balance; adequate and safe use of agrochemicals; soil conservation; and contour plowing.

1,476 technical assistance visits focused on childhood nutrition to prevent anemia, proper administration of micronutrients received from health posts, pregnancy spacing, and improving personal and home hygiene; 814 on processing; 1,096 on business skills including production logs for both producers and MSMEs and reducing costs. 820 technical assistance visits in animal production focused on poultry farming and livestock management; 757 visits focused on natural resource management and disaster mitigation and prevention; and 354 on postharvest handling and certifications.

## VALUE ADDITION

USAID-ACCESO processing specialists continued working with communities to help microenterprises perfect their processes and products in order to guarantee improved profitability and success on the market. This month, 289 participants attended 41 training events during which they learned good manufacturing and processing practices, including those for processing fruit and vegetables, wood products, and others.

## ACCESS TO MARKETS

This month, marketing specialists continued activities to identify new markets and confirmed agreements with new buyers including Los Andes supermarket, Pricesmart, and Grupo Intur.

The project organized 27 technical assistance visits that facilitated sharing market information, logistical details, transportation coordination, and sanitary requirements for export. Seven events trained 41 participants in meeting market and buyer requirements for specialty coffee.



Access to knowledge: Students and producers learn to use used drip tape to make low-cost doors; Mejocote, Lempira.



Access to income: Processing baby corn to add value to harvested crops; Mejocote, Lempira.



Access to education: A group of students finish their field practice with USAID-ACCESO; Cane, La Paz.



# USAID | ACCESO

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Access to information: Health volunteers trained by USAID-ACCESO measure the height of children between 2 and 5 years old.

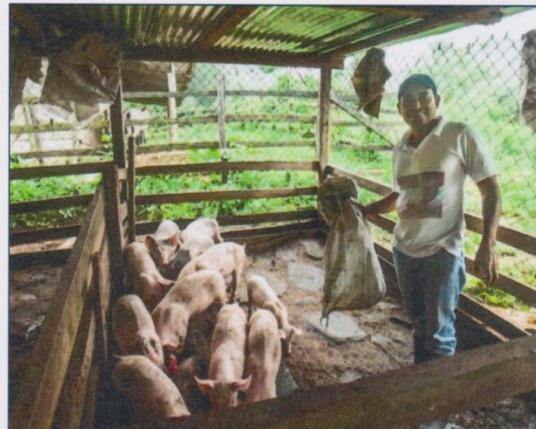
## NUTRITION AND HEALTH

The nutrition and health team held 181 training events, giving 2,647 parents the opportunity to strengthen basic nutrition and health practices. This month, 427 participants received training in the importance of closely monitoring their children’s nutritional status, especially their weight; 1,340 received training in family planning and optimal spacing of pregnancies (two years between pregnancies) to contribute to a better quality of life. 331 participants learned about nutritious food preparation and practiced recipes for natural juices, rice with vegetables, fortified tortillas, bean soup, and other vitamin-rich recipes made from low-cost and accessible ingredients. 357 participants learned “healthy household” practices to establish healthy and safe norms within the home to prevent diseases and improve hygiene practices.

## ANIMAL PRODUCTION

USAID-ACCESO animal production specialists are providing training and technical assistance to livestock farmers to improve their animals’ productivity, reduce costs, open access to new markets, and, in some cases, diversify into new income sources. In October, the project continued to assist in management of tilapia, poultry, dairy and breeding cattle, and goats and pigs.

The project held 820 technical assistance visits in animal production and management this month focused on good livestock and poultry management. 70 events provided 624 individuals opportunity to improve their understanding of animal management, commercialization requirements, and fodder preparation at the community level.



Access to new opportunities: Households can diversify their incomes with animal production, including small-scale pig fattening; Florida, Copan.

### Trainings – October 2014

Area	Participants	Events
Renewable Energy	401	58
Business Skills / Finance	477	46
Market Information	11	3
Natural Resources Management and Disaster Mitigation	693	28
Nutrition and Health	2,647	181
Postharvest and Certifications	287	38
Processing and Added Value	289	41
Production	11,278	1,510
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,083</b>	<b>1,905</b>

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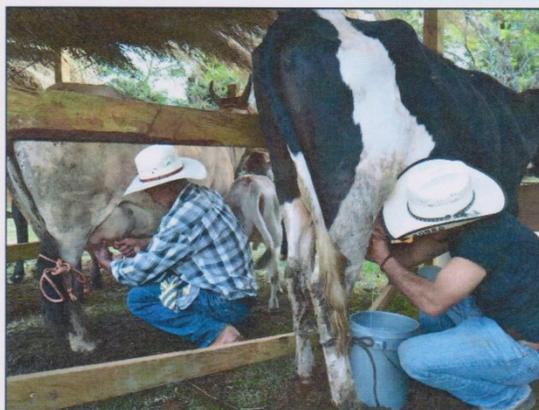
## Monthly Bulletin *November 2014*

### HIGHLIGHTS

- USAID-ACCESO is assisting 34,041 households in the most vulnerable communities in western Honduras, promoting production technologies and practices to increase incomes and improve the overall quality of life. The project is benefitting 181,231 people – 89 percent of whom live in poverty and extreme poverty conditions – through technical assistance and training in production, value-added processing, natural resource management, renewable technologies, disaster mitigation, and nutrition and health.
- This month, 452 new hectares were planted reaching a total of 72,443 hectares under project technical assistance, including: 26,166 hectares of coffee, 39,854 of basic grains, and 6,423 of fruit and horticulture crops. The crops with the highest planting area this month were: maize, coffee, onion, bean, potato, cabbage, plantain, squash, and green beans.
- Awards for the best yields in corn and milk were presented this month in Lempira. Two of the top three finishers harvested during the event; Carlos Calixto Castillo yielded 106 quintales per manzana; Jose Ceferino Lopez 96 quintales per manzana; and Agustin Martinez 70 quintales. Of the 17 participants, one woman, Marian Bernarda Castillo, placed in the top 10.
- Seventeen clients with at least two cows each participated in a competition for the highest milk production. In the category of improved cow, Allen Milla won first place with a production of 20 liters per cow per day. Second and third place winners yielded 15.5 liters and 11.5 liters per cow per day, respectively. In the category of “*vaca criolla*” Abelardo Diaz took first place with 9.5 liters of milk per cow per day. All participants are providing their cows with improved feed using the good practices learned from USAID-ACCESO.



Access to knowledge: At a maize yield competition winner Carlos Calixto Castillo Martinez achieved yields of 106 QQ/Mz with the implementation of good agricultural practices; Erandique, Lempira.



Access to knowledge: At a milking competition in Lempira, Allen Milla took first place in the improved cow category with 20 liters of milk per day. Abelardo Diaz won first place in *vaca criolla* with 9.5 liters per cow per day; Erandique, Lempira.

### USAID-ACCESO client households, beneficiaries and other clients, November 2014

Department	Household clients	Beneficiaries	Other Clients*
Copán	5,372	23,640	1,707
Intibucá	5,583	36,788	1,568
La Paz	5,642	27,023	1,258
Lempira	6,635	44,429	2,169
Ocotepeque	4,335	24,422	1,151
Santa Bárbara	6,475	24,929	1,816
Others	0	0	821
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34,041</b>	<b>181,231</b>	<b>10,488</b>

\*Includes: MSMEs, buyers, input and service providers, municipal corporations, counterpart organizations

### About USAID-ACCESO

USAID-ACCESO is a four-year initiative funded by the people and government of the United States of America through the US Agency for International Development (USAID). This project is part of the global Feed the Future initiative of the US government and the main investment by USAID in Honduras.

USAID-ACCESO is assisting more than 30,000 clients in the departments of Copán, Intibucá, La Paz, Lempira, Ocotepeque, and Santa Bárbara to lift these households above the poverty line and malnutrition conditions through economic development and increased incomes.



# USAID | ACCESO

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

USAID-ACCESO carried out 18,438 technical assistance visits this month. Of these, 11,855 (64 percent) strengthened farmers' knowledge in agricultural production topics including basic practices for coffee, basic grains, and horticulture crops; soil preparation and management; pest, disease, and weed identification and control; transplant and planting; fertilization program management; nutrient balance; adequate and safe use of agrochemicals; soil conservation; and contour plowing.

1,669 technical assistance visits focused on childhood nutrition to prevent anemia, proper administration of micronutrients received from health posts, pregnancy spacing, and improving personal and home hygiene; 826 on processing; 1,351 on business skills including production logs for both producers and MSMEs and reducing costs. 714 technical assistance visits in animal production focused on poultry farming and livestock management; 746 visits focused on natural resource management and disaster mitigation and prevention; and 528 on postharvest handling and certifications.

## VALUE ADDITION

USAID-ACCESO processing specialists continued working with communities to help microenterprises perfect their processes and products in order to guarantee improved profitability and success on the market. This month, 212 participants attended 34 training events. One event in particular trained a group of women in Corquin, Copan on improving their confectionary business. They are diversifying their product offerings to improve competitiveness.

## ACCESS TO MARKETS

This month, marketing specialists continued activities to identify new markets and confirm agreements with new buyers. In November, project clients sent a second container of frozen passion fruit to a buyer in England. Marketing specialists are in negotiation with two other exporters to send passion fruit concentrate to Europe and the US.

The project organized 242 technical assistance visits that facilitated sharing market information, logistical details, transportation coordination, and sanitary requirements for export. Seven events trained 93 participants in meeting market and buyer requirements for specialty coffee.



Access to technology: Inauguration of a new irrigation system in Candelaria y Gualcinse, Lempira with participation of local mayors and the department governor.



Access to knowledge: Health volunteers participate in production events to sell healthy food such as fortified tortillas; La Paz.



Access to improved diets: A community bank provides ingredients to a school as part of an initiative to support healthy school meals; El Durasnal, La Paz.



# USAID | ACCESO



*Access to knowledge:* Mothers participate in a health fair to receive basic health services for their children under 2, learn new recipes, and practice healthy behaviors; Santa Maria, La Paz.

## NUTRITION AND HEALTH

The nutrition and health team held 185 training events, giving 2,587 parents the opportunity to strengthen basic nutrition and health practices. This month, 476 participants received training in the importance of closely monitoring their children’s nutritional status, especially their weight; 1,228 received training in family planning and optimal spacing of pregnancies (two years between pregnancies) to contribute to a better quality of life. 155 participants learned about nutritious food preparation and practiced recipes for natural juices, rice with vegetables, fortified tortillas, bean soup, and other vitamin-rich recipes made from low-cost and accessible ingredients. 230 participants learned “healthy household” practices to establish healthy and safe norms within the home to prevent diseases and improve hygiene practices.

## ANIMAL PRODUCTION

USAID-ACCESO animal production specialists are providing training and technical assistance to livestock farmers to improve their animals’ productivity, reduce costs, open access to new markets, and, in some cases, diversify into new income sources. In November, project specialists in Lempira awarded prizes to clients with the best milk production thanks to improved feeding and maintenance practices.

The project held 714 technical assistance visits in animal production and management this month focused on good livestock and poultry management. 75 events provided 747 individuals the opportunity to improve their understanding of animal management, commercialization requirements, and fodder preparation at the community level.



*Access to finance:* Small-scale bean, grain, and livestock producers learn about new financing options from project specialists; Berlin, Copán.

### Trainings – November 2014

Area	Participants	Events
Renewable Energy	472	80
Business Skills / Finance	439	40
Market Information	93	7
Natural Resources Management and Disaster Mitigation	586	31
Nutrition and Health	2,587	185
Postharvest and Certifications	441	53
Processing and Added Value	212	34
Production	10,750	1,481
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,580</b>	<b>1,911</b>

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# USAID | ACCESO

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## Monthly Bulletin *December 2014*

### HIGHLIGHTS

- USAID-ACCESO is assisting 34,041 households in the most vulnerable communities in western Honduras, promoting production technologies and practices to increase incomes and improve the overall quality of life. The project is benefitting 181,231 people – 89 percent of whom live in poverty and extreme poverty conditions – through technical assistance and training in production, value-added processing, natural resource management, renewable technologies, disaster mitigation, and nutrition and health.
- This month, 275 new hectares were planted reaching a total of 73,059 hectares under project technical assistance, including: 26,286 hectares of coffee, 40,262 of basic grains, and 6,511 of fruit and horticulture crops. The crops with the highest planting area this month were: maize, coffee, bean, onion, potato, plantain, cabbage, squash, tomato, and lettuce.
- In La Paz, the project held the third annual award ceremony for best corn production to publicly recognize the producers who apply project-recommended practices and technologies, and who encourage others to do the same. The event was held in San Miguel, Santa Ana, La Paz where first place winner Juan Norberto Martinez Mendoza lives. Martinez yielded 169 quintales per hectare. Of the 57 registered entrants, 15 obtained yields above 60 quintales per hectare, two of which were women.
- This month, USAID-ACCESO’s production manager held a training event in Comayagua on the management and maintenance of irrigation systems. More than 140 people participated, including producers, technicians, and suppliers.
- USAID and Minister of Agriculture officials attended an inauguration for a new drip irrigation system in El Sauce, Opatoro, La Paz.



*Access to technical assistance:* A project technician discusses the development of a potato crop with a producer in Guise, Intibucá. He also helps the farmer identify and prevent potential diseases.



*Access to knowledge:* Juan Martinez, winner of the third annual corn production competition in La Paz, shucks corn with the Minister of Agriculture during the event; Santa Ana, La Paz.

USAID-ACCESO client households, beneficiaries and other clients, December 2014			
Department	Household clients	Beneficiaries	Other Clients*
Copán	5,372	23,640	1,721
Intibucá	5,583	36,788	1,603
La Paz	5,642	27,023	1,258
Lempira	6,635	44,429	2,186
Ocotepeque	4,335	24,422	1,154
Santa Bárbara	6,475	24,929	1,826
Others	0	0	814
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34,041</b>	<b>181,231</b>	<b>10,562</b>

\*Includes: MSMEs, buyers, input and service providers, municipal corporations, counterpart organizations

### About USAID-ACCESO

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USAID-ACCESO is assisting more than 30,000 clients in the departments of Copán, Intibucá, La Paz, Lempira, Ocotepeque, and Santa Bárbara to lift these households above the poverty line and malnutrition conditions through economic development and increased incomes.



# USAID | ACCESO

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

USAID-ACCESO carried out 9,466 technical assistance visits this month. Of these, 6,140 (65 percent) strengthened farmers' knowledge in agricultural production topics including basic practices for coffee, basic grains, and horticulture crops; soil preparation and management; pest, disease, and weed identification and control; transplant and planting; fertilization program management; nutrient balance; adequate and safe use of agrochemicals; soil conservation; and contour plowing.

1,100 technical assistance visits focused on health and nutrition, focusing on preventing childhood anemia, proper administration of micronutrients received from health posts, pregnancy spacing, and improving personal and home hygiene; 465 on processing; 543 on business skills including production logs for both producers and MSMEs and reducing costs; 269 technical assistance visits in animal production focused on poultry farming and livestock management; 248 visits focused on natural resource management and disaster mitigation and prevention; and 386 on postharvest handling and certifications.

## VALUE ADDITION

USAID-ACCESO processing specialists continued working with communities to help microenterprises perfect their processes and products in order to guarantee improved profitability and success on the market. This month, 111 participants attended 19 training events. One event in particular in Lepaera, Lempira trained a livestock cooperative in yogurt production using seasonal fruits. Thanks to this training, the cooperative is increasing the number of products they can offer and plan to supply schools.

## ACCESS TO MARKETS

This month, marketing specialists continued activities to identify new markets and confirm agreements with new buyers, specifically working with supermarkets and other buyers to plan for 2015.

The project organized 40 technical assistance visits this month that facilitated sharing market information, logistical details, transportation coordination, and sanitary requirements for export. Three events trained 13 participants in meeting market and buyer requirements for specialty coffee.



Access to technology: A producer grows *madriago* using basic practices and high-density planting as part of a cattle feed program to increase milk production; Mejojote, Lempira.



Access to infrastructure: Drip irrigation system inauguration attended by the Minister of Agriculture and representatives from USAID/Honduras; El Sauce, Opatoro, La Paz.



Access to knowledge: Producers and technicians participate in an irrigation installation training course led by USAID-ACCESO in Comayagua.



# USAID | ACCESO

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*Access to income-generating activities:* Health volunteers are participating in a pilot project in Ocotepeque between USAID-ACCESO and Unilever to offer basic cleaning, hygiene, and cooking supplies in rural communities.

## NUTRITION AND HEALTH

The nutrition and health team held 120 training events, giving 1,628 parents the opportunity to strengthen basic nutrition and health practices. This month, 483 participants received training in the importance of closely monitoring their children's nutritional status, especially their weight; 659 received training in family planning and optimal spacing of pregnancies (two years between pregnancies) to contribute to a better quality of life. 199 participants learned about nutritious food preparation and practiced recipes for natural juices, rice with vegetables, fortified tortillas, bean soup, and other vitamin-rich recipes made from low-cost and accessible ingredients. 215 participants learned "healthy household" practices to establish healthy and safe norms within the home to prevent diseases and improve hygiene practices.

## ANIMAL PRODUCTION

USAID-ACCESO animal production specialists are providing training and technical assistance to livestock farmers to improve their animals' productivity, reduce costs, open access to new markets, and, in some cases, diversify into new income sources. In December, project specialists conducted 269 technical assistance visits focused on good livestock and poultry management. Seventeen events provided 170 individuals the opportunity to improve their understanding of animal management, commercialization requirements, and fodder preparation at the community level.



*Access to technology:* Integrating agricultural production, animal production, renewable energy, and health and nutrition components: fodder production for dairy cows helps improve milk production for home consumption and sales, and manure powers a biogas digester, which in turn produces cooking gas.

### Trainings – December 2014

Area	Participants	Events
Renewable Energy	252	38
Business Skills / Finance	282	23
Market Information	13	3
Natural Resources Management and Disaster Mitigation	175	14
Nutrition and Health	1,628	120
Postharvest and Certifications	284	34
Processing and Added Value	111	19
Production	5,478	748
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,233</b>	<b>999</b>

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# USAID | ACCESO

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## SNAPSHOT

### Commercial alliance bears fruit for coffee growers

**Coffee growers with improved production and handling practices enter into commercial partnership with high-end exporter.**



Photo by Fintrac Inc.

A coffee growers receives technical assistance from a USAID-ACCESO agronomist on pest and disease sampling

**“The market alliance with Bon Café has opened new and higher value options for hundreds of small-scale growers who previously did not have access to formal markets.”**

Ali Valdivia

USAID-ACCESO works with 30,500 poor and extreme poor households in western Honduras to improve agricultural production practices, diversify and increase on- and off-farm incomes, and gradually lift the families above the poverty line. Nearly 19,000 of these client households are coffee growers with a total production area of 21,900 hectares and an average farm size of 1.2 hectares.

In September 2013, USAID-ACCESO formally signed a public-private sector partnership with Bon Café S.A., a local buyer, processor, and exporter of specialty coffees. The aim of the partnership is to develop a market alliance between the project's coffee growers and Bon Café to provide a reliable market outlet with price premiums being received for quality (for growers), and to expand the grower sources and the production zones for specialty and premium coffee (for Bon Café).

USAID-ACCESO not only provides the market link, but also the technical assistance in production, harvesting, wet milling, and drying. Growers also received training from Bon Café technicians in handling, drying, and quality specifications.

In the 2012/2013 harvest season, 6,300 quintals (100 pound sacks) of coffee were sold to Bon Café under this alliance with gross sales incomes of \$650,000. In the 2013/2014 season, the volume of coffee purchased from project clients almost doubled to 12,234 quintals and earned growers \$1.1 million in gross sales. In both seasons, a price premium of \$5.00 per quintal was paid over the market price with a total of 289 growers involved.

Every lot from each grower was cupped for quality by Bon Café. In the 2013/2014 season 9 percent of the coffee was classified as specialty, similar to the percentage obtained in the previous season. Almost 26 percent of the 2013/2014 coffee was classified as premium, up from 22 percent the previous season. The remaining coffee were graded a “good commercial” or “commercial,” with defective coffees being reduced from 12 to 5 percent between the two seasons. Growers received a premium of \$10 to \$15 per quintal for specialty grades. End purchasers of the specialty and premium coffees included Intelligentsia Coffee and Green Mountain Coffee Roaster, with commercial grades being sold to Dunkin Donuts.

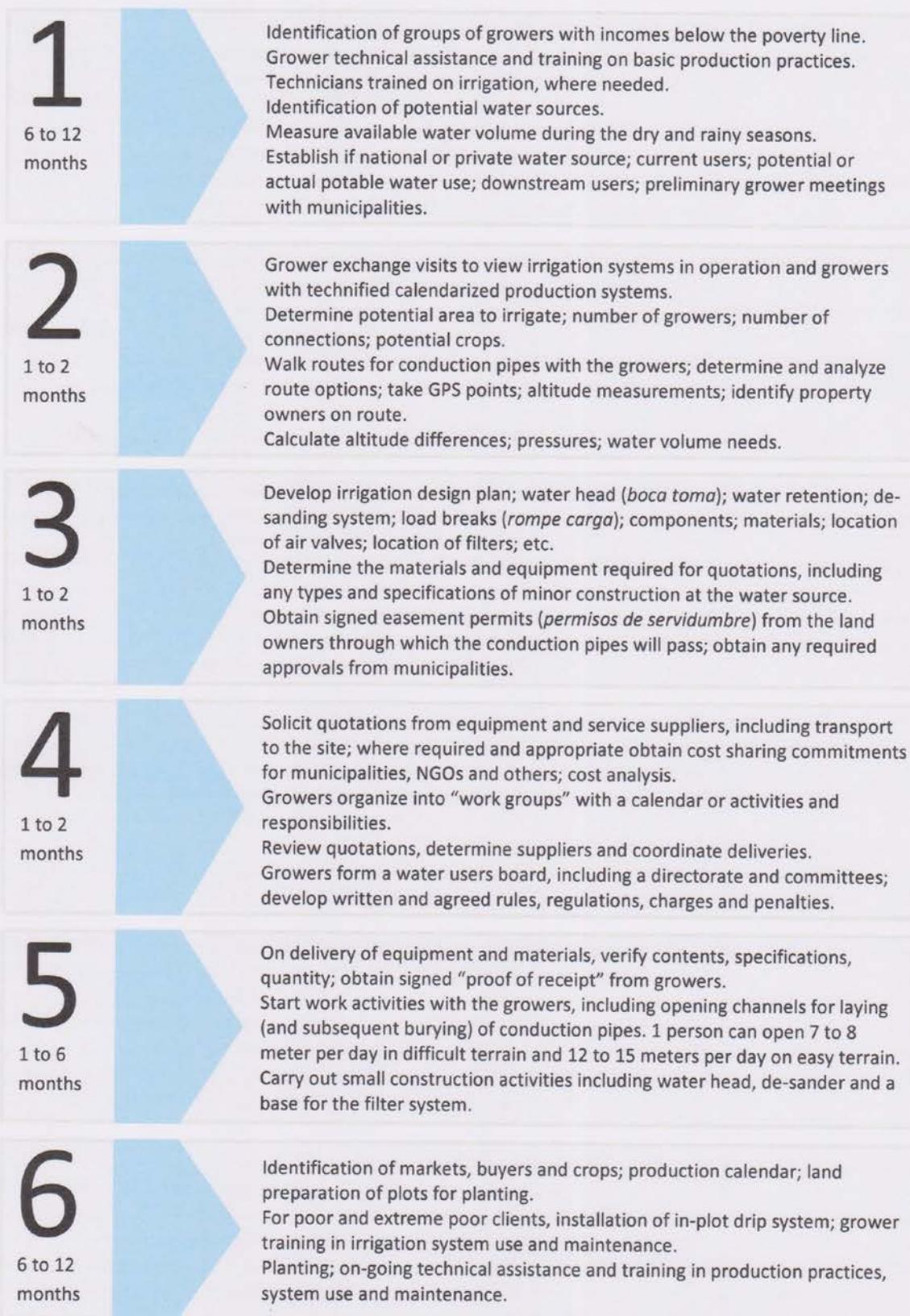
In addition, and in order to increase grower incomes and reduce transport costs, USAID-ACCESO introduced the use of low-cost solar dryers to enable growers to sell dry beans. This resulted in increased returns of \$8 to \$10 per quintal compared to selling wet coffee, and an estimated \$150,000 in additional sales income.

The results and trends to date under this alliance, with ACCESO's technical assistance, Bon Café's purchasing commitments, and the growers' dedication, are showing that small-scale growers can meet high-end buyer requirements, directly enter the value chains, and increase their incomes - to the benefit of all parties involved.

USAID-ACCESO • Snapshot • December 2014



## Irrigation Investment – Basic Practices

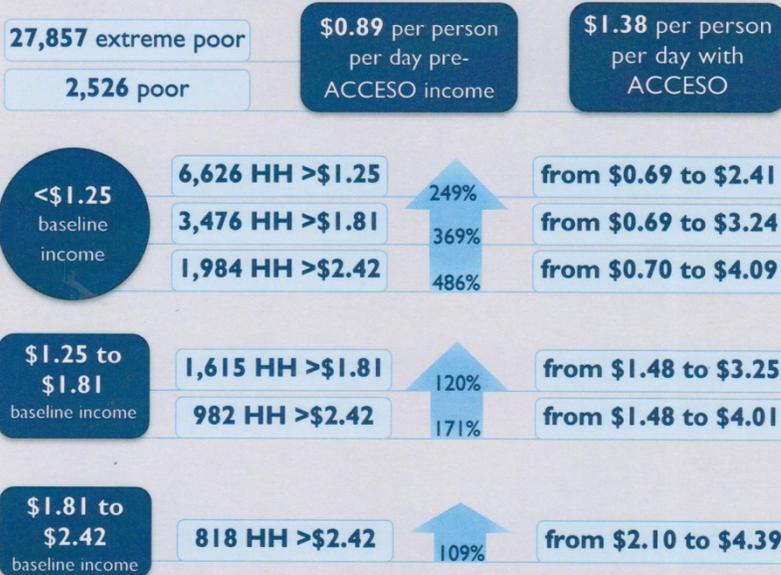




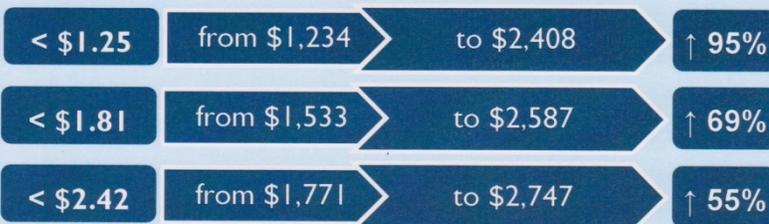
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## REDUCING POVERTY



### INCREASE IN ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME



AVERAGE OF 5.45 MEMBERS PER HOUSEHOLD

### NET INCOME SOURCE CATEGORIES

Diversified income sources are necessary to help increase incomes to move households above the poverty line.

- 29.5% from coffee, basic grains & others
- 19.7% from basic grains, horticulture & others
- 13.8% from coffee, basic grains, horticulture & others

FY 2014 Data

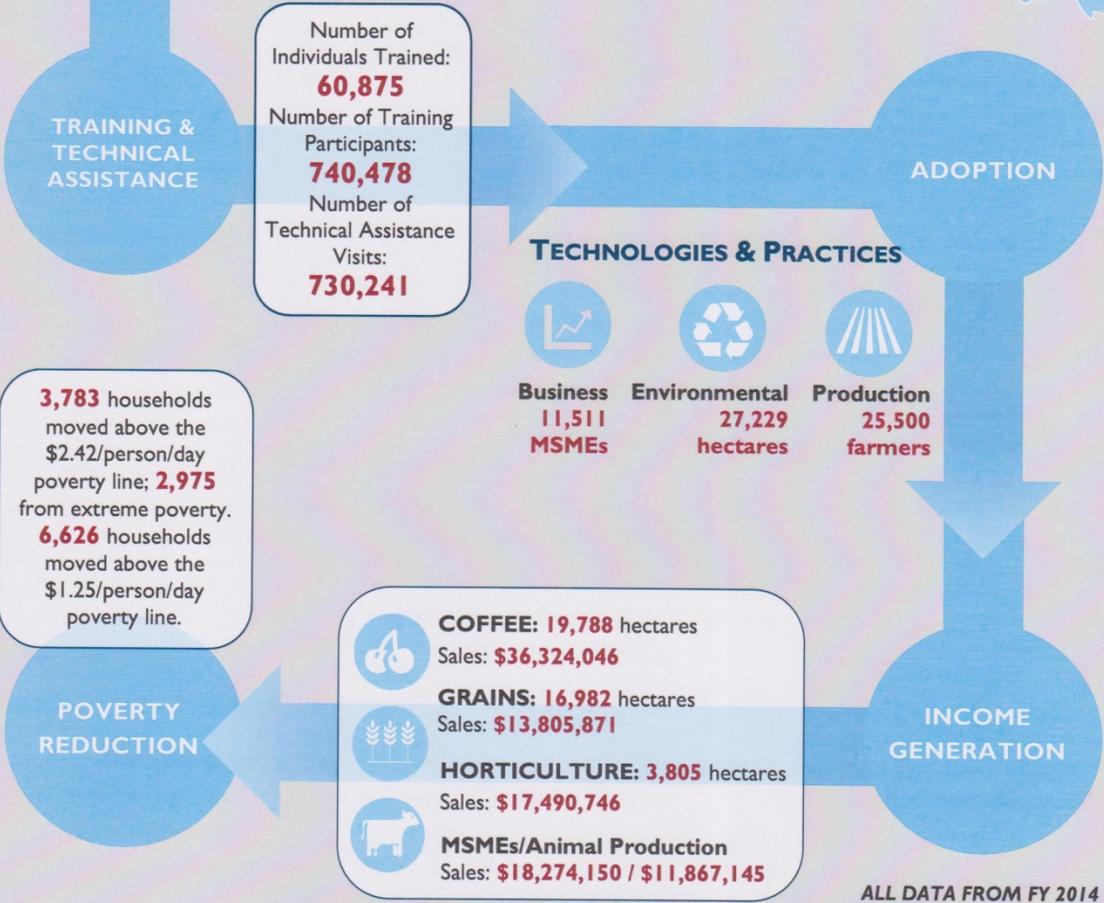
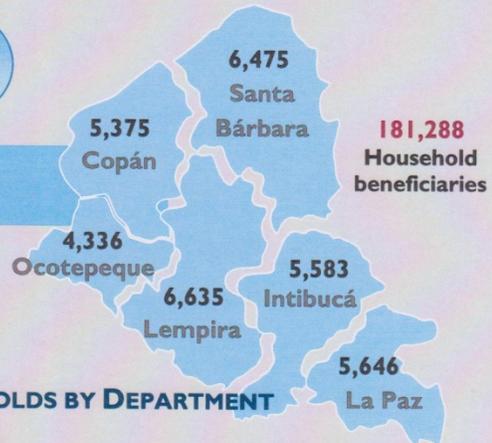


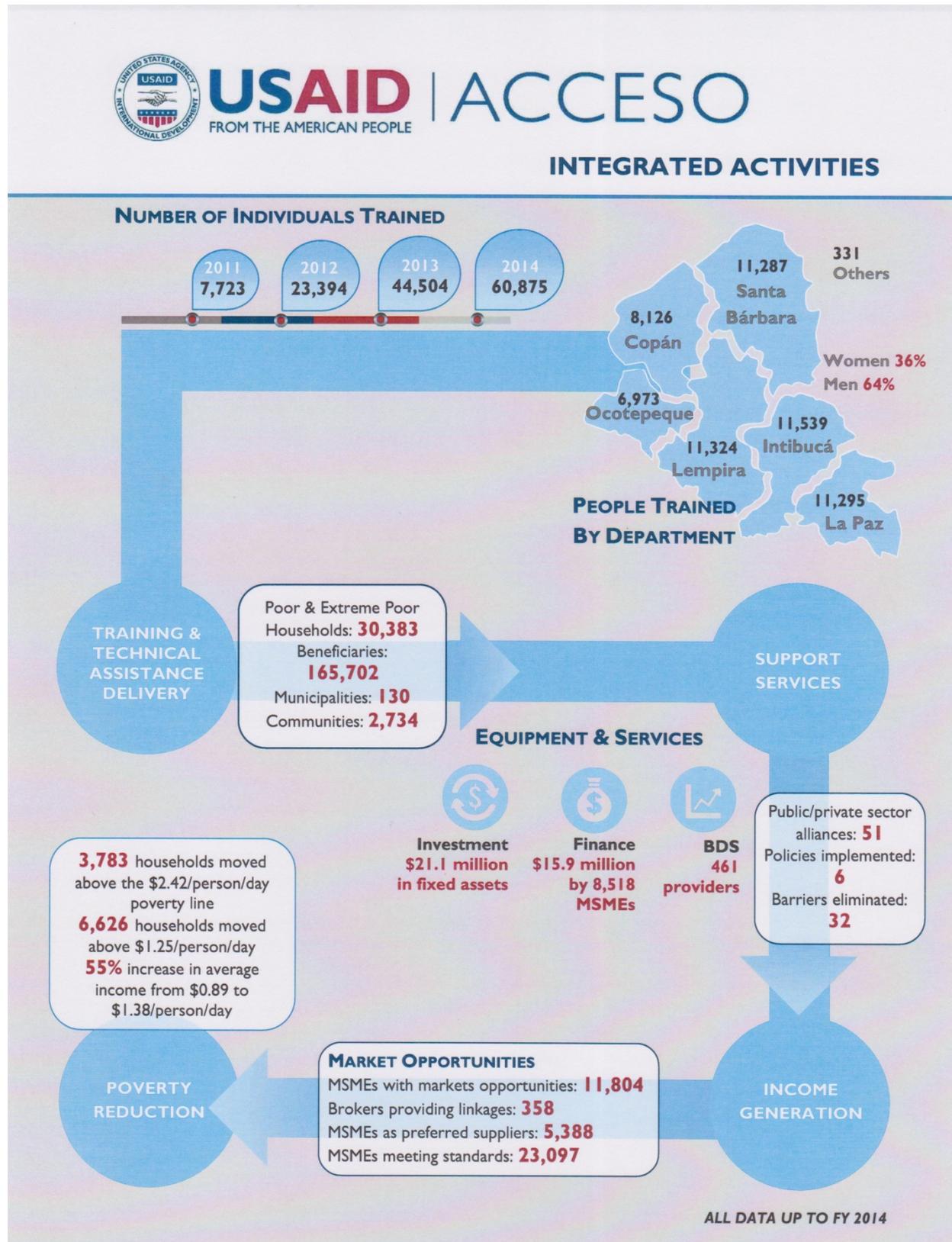
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## BY THE NUMBERS

### NUMBER OF RURAL HOUSEHOLD CLIENTS







# USAID | ACCESO

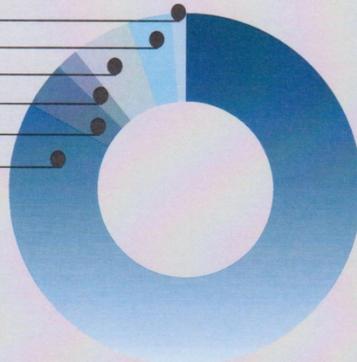
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## RURAL MSME ACCESS TO INPUTS, PRACTICES, AND TECHNOLOGY FOR IMPROVING MARKET PARTICIPATION



### EXTENSION VISITS: 730,241

- Others 1%
- Business Skills 5%
- Nutrition 7%
- NRM/Disaster 3%
- MSMEs/Processing 5%
- Production 79%



**322** Technical training materials

### TRAINING PARTICIPANTS

Area	Male	Female	Total
Production	439,923	113,417	553,340
Nutrition	6,160	83,849	90,009
Business Skills	26,133	13,528	39,661
NRM/Disaster	19,527	6,697	26,224
MSMEs/Processing	2,984	13,318	16,302
Others	11,317	3,625	14,942
<b>Total</b>	<b>506,044</b>	<b>234,434</b>	<b>740,478</b>

**INDIVIDUALS TRAINED: 60,875**

### INVESTMENTS IN FIXED ASSETS: \$21.1 MILLION



**51** public-private sector and **17** public sector alliances developed

ALL DATA UP TO FY 2014

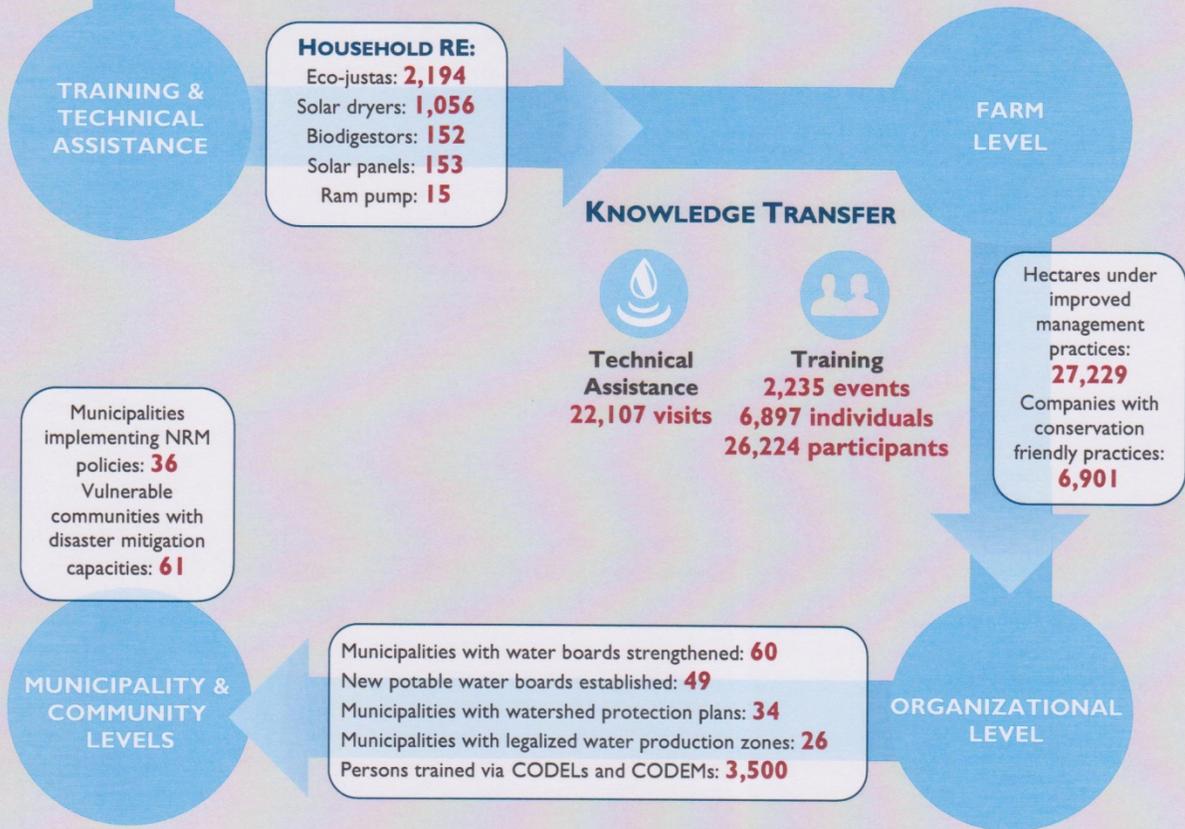
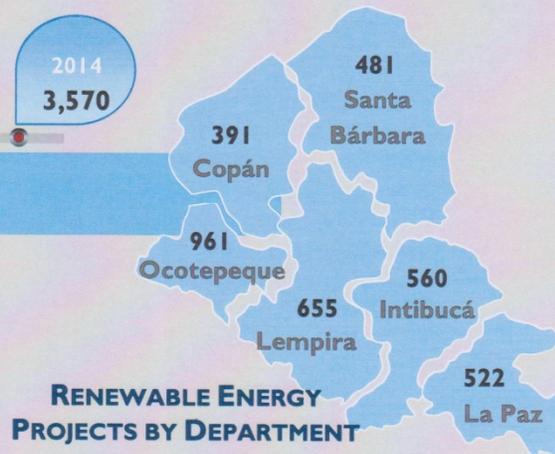
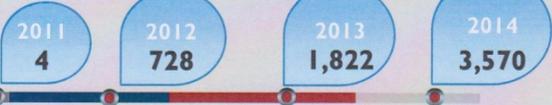


# USAID | ACCESO

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## ENVIRONMENT

### RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS



ALL DATA UP TO FY 2014



# USAID | ACCESO

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## NUTRITION & HEALTH

### CHILDREN < 2 YEARS OLD

2011  
4,253

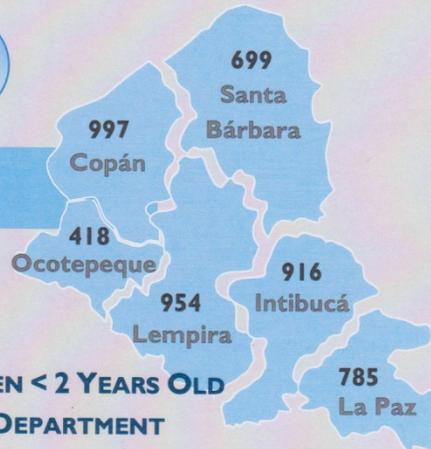
2012  
4,754

2013  
4,296

2014  
5,309

ASSISTANCE TO A TOTAL OF **7,781**  
CHILDREN < 2 YEARS OLD

### CHILDREN < 2 YEARS OLD BY DEPARTMENT



TRAINING &  
TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE  
DELIVERY

Client households: **3,446**  
Municipalities: **55**  
Communities: **225**  
Number of volunteers: **480**

### KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

PREVENTION  
ACTIVITIES

**Technical Assistance**  
47,136 visits

**Training**  
5,916 events  
8,275 persons  
89,304 participants

**NTCs**  
41 nutritional  
training  
centers

Households improved: **3,500**  
Family plots: **632**  
AIN-C groups: **229**  
Health centers strengthened: **20**

Percentage of children less than 2 years old with acute malnutrition reduced from **22.0%** to **9.6%** (a **56.4%** reduction).

MALNUTRITION  
REDUCTION

Exclusive breastfeeding: **83%** (↓**9.2%**)  
Anemia in women: **23%** (↓**18.2%**)  
Anemia in children: **46%** (↑**29.3%**)  
Contraception: **69%** (↑**150%**)  
Children – minimum acceptable diet: **58%**  
Women diet diversity: **4.1 groups** (↑**20.5%**)

IMPROVED  
FAMILY  
HEALTH

ALL DATA FROM FY 2014



# USAID | ACCESO

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## INVESTMENT



### INVESTMENT

USAID-ACCESO promotes investment in technologies, infrastructure and other fixed assets necessary to expand production, processing and other income generating activities.

**\$21.1** million in investments by clients & partners

**23,478** Individual investments made in fixed assets by clients & partners



### CLIENT INVESTMENT

15,801 project clients have made investments in a wide range of assets including basic farming implements, irrigation components and systems, small scale packing facilities, and processing plant equipment.

**\$16.2** million invested in fixed assets by project clients

**77%** of the total investment in fixed assets was made by project clients



### PARTNER INVESTMENT

77 partner organizations have made co-investments with project clients, including municipalities, NGOs, Ministry of Agriculture, parent-teacher associations, buyers, and others.

**\$4.9** million in investment by project partners

**23%** of the total investment in fixed assets was made by project partners



### PRODUCTION AND POSTHARVEST ACTIVITIES

10,851 clients invested in production and postharvest assets, including irrigation, tools, machinery, tree planting, packing, grading, handling, and transport.

**\$9.8** million invested by project clients in farm and equipment infrastructure

**\$300** thousand invested by project clients in postharvest infrastructure



### PROCESSING AND ANIMAL PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES

1,259 clients invested in processing and animal production assets including processing equipment, cooling and freezing, cattle, stabling, fodder preparation and concentrate production.

**\$1.8** million invested by project clients in processing operations

**\$1.7** million invested by project clients in animal production



FY 2014 DATA



# USAID | ACCESO

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## FINANCE



### CREDIT

USAID-ACCESO works to link project clients with providers of rural credit, with loans and terms that meet the needs and circumstances of their crops or products.

**8,518** rural households and MSMEs assisted with obtaining loans

**\$15.9** million dollars loaned in 40 months of project implementation



### LOANS

Working with a wide range of credit sources, loans are made in cash or in inputs, equipment, or services. Loan value ranges from \$5 to \$315,000 with 57 percent being for loans less than \$500.

**\$1,865** average loan size of 7,000 individual loans

**387** sources of finance, including cooperatives, rural village banks



### GENDER

Emphasis is given to sourcing and establishing credit access for women for farming operations and particularly for off-farm business operations either individually or in groups.

**17%** of the loan recipients are women (1,448)

**\$1.76** million dollars loaned to women (11%)



### LOAN SOURCES AND LOAN USERS

Rural village banks and cooperatives suppliers make up 36 percent of the loan value and 46 percent of the loan volume. Commercial banks make up 21 percent of the loan value and 6% of the loan volume.

**11%** of the total loan value is obtained from rural village banks (\$1.76 million)

**\$6.9** million borrowed by poor and extreme poor clients



### BUSINESS SKILLS/FINANCE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Continuous training events are held to teach, demonstrate, and implement the required business and administrative systems to support both on- and off farm activities.

**4,192** training events have been carried out by project specialist and counterparts

**8,262** individuals have received business skills and finance training



ALL DATA FROM FY 2014



# USAID | ACCESO

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## GENDER

### SALES AND NET INCOME



The gross sales obtained by USAID-ACCESO clients in FY 2014 totaled \$97.88 million, with net sales of \$52.43 million.

**\$12.4** million in sales made by women

**\$6.6** million in net income obtained by women



### PARTICIPATION



Continuous training events are held to teach, demonstrate, and implement the required business and administrative systems to support both on- and off farm activities.

**20.5%** of project clients are women

**35.8%** of persons trained are women



### FINANCE



Emphasis is given to sourcing and establishing credit access for women for farming operations and for off-farm business operations, either individually or in groups.

**17%** of the loan recipients are women (1,448)

**\$1.76** million in loans to women (11% of the total)



### PRODUCTION



In agricultural production USAID-ACCESO works with the coffee, basic grains, and horticulture value chains.

**14%** of the total planted area was farmed by women (9,719 hectares).

**21%** of the total number of plantings were made by women (7,084)



### TECHNOLOGY



The introduction and implementation of basic practices and technologies form are key to increasing productivity and sustainable, competitive and profitable farming operations.

**3,620** women-farmed hectares under improved technologies (17%)

**1,336** women-operated companies making conservation-friendly changes (19%)



ALL DATA FY 2014



**QUARTERLY REPORT #15  
OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2014  
USAID-ACCESO**