



**Global
Communities**
Partners for Good

Municipal Governance Program

QUARTERLY REPORT

January 1 – March 31, 2015

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ACRONYMS

AMJOLU	Young Women Fighters Association
ANSNIC	National Association of Nicaragua's Deaf
APRODER	Association for Promotion and Rural Development
ARC	Appreciative Review of Capacity
BICU	Bluefields, Indian and Caribbean University
CEIMM	Center for Studies and Investigations on Multiethnic Woman
CENIDH	Nicaraguan Center of Human Rights
CDM	Municipal Development Committee
CIDCA	Center for Research and Documentation of the Atlantic Coast
CODIUL	Integral Development Committee Ulwa
COSEP	Superior Council of Private Enterprise
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSV	Comma Separated Values
FECONORI	Federation of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities
FUMSAMI	San Miguelitos' Women Foundation
GBV	Gender Based Violence
IBP	International Budget Partnership
IEEPP	Strategic Studies and Public Policies Institute
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INSS	National Institute for Social Security
LSN	Nicaraguan Sign Language
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transsexual
MDC	Municipal Development Committee
MDS RACCS	Sexual Diversity Movement Southern Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region
MGP	Municipal Governance Program
MINED	Ministry of Education
MINSA	Ministry of Health
MRS	Sandinista Renewal Movement
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OCD	Organizational Capacity Development
ORD	Organization of Disabled Revolutionaries
PODER	PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES PROJECT
PGR	General Budget of Republic
PLI	Indecent Liberal Party
PwD	Person with Disabilities
RACCS	Southern Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region
RACCN	Northern Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region
REJUB	Bluefields Youth Network
TRANSMUNI	Municipal Transfers (system on line)
UNIRSE	Nicaraguan Union for Corporate Social Responsibility
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
URACCAN	University of the Autonomous Regions of the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The goal of Municipal Governance Program (MGP) is to strengthen citizen participation and the capacity of civil society organizations to engage and influence key decision makers in order to improve local governance. Under this vision, citizen participation and civic advocacy efforts are tied to achieving short-term tangible improvements in the lives of the target citizenry.

Reporting Period: January 1, 2015-March 31, 2015

Summarized accomplishments from the quarter include:

Citizen Participation

- 91% of the 93 partner organizations' projects submitted to the 2015 Municipal Budget process were included in their respective budgets.
- Municipal Development Councils continue to perform their social control responsibilities by actively participating in the accountability councils for the physical and financial implementation of the Municipal Budgets.
- The Local Organizations Sexual Diversity Movement Southern Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (MDS RACCS) and Young Women Fighters Association (AMJOLU) have proposed a municipal ordinance on Human Rights for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transsexual (LGBT) community in Bluefields. Proposals have been submitted before their respective municipal councils and analyzed by the Social Committees of both municipalities.
- The MGP supported Youth Roundtable has developed a monitoring and evaluation system which will systematically monitor the situation of adolescents and youth (aged 10-29 years) in the Southern Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCS).
- The Federation of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (FECONORI) held the first course in sign language for deaf people in the municipality of Corn Island.

Fiscal Transparency

- The Republic's General Budget and the 2015 procurement program were integrated in the virtual observatory Our Budget, which is expected to increase participation of the civil society in monitoring public resources.
- The first draft of the Budget Reform Study was completed, which should generate public opinion on key national issues such as how the resources from tax collection are used. One key finding of the study was that the ability of the Government is limited when estimating revenues, primarily tax revenues.
- The Citizen Budget, which demonstrates to citizens how resources are allocated to meet the most pressing demands of the population, was elaborated and will be delivered to members of Civil Society Organizations, students, congressmen and the general public.

- The Strategic Studies and Public Policies Institute (IEEPP) launched the second phase of the campaign “The Budget is Your Money Understanding it is Your Responsibility”. The campaign aims to raise awareness in the general public about the importance of knowing where the resources of the general budget are spent.
- IEEPP sponsored a working group with 45 legislators and legislative advisors about the prospects for change in the electricity tariff and its relation to the General Budget.

Civil Society Organization (CSO) Organizational Capacity Development (OCD)

- MGP continued supporting FECONORI’s local organizations in RACCS in the process of forming local boards of directors for each respective organization in the municipalities of Corn Island and Pearl Lagoon. To date, the board of National Association of Nicaragua’s Deaf (ANSNIC) in Corn Island and Los Pipitos in Corn Island and Laguna de Perlas have been formed and are now functioning.

Climate Change

- MGP sponsored the first of two planned forums this quarter which examined already existing experiences of climate change adaptation in the region and introduced international adaptation experiences. The forum was attended by 142 people, of which 50% were women.
- An MGP local partner, blueEnergy, started the design of adaptation demonstration centers. Centers were selected in a visible and accessible location such as community centers, churches or private schools in each of the target communities. They include a) water and sanitation solutions such as rainwater catchment and storage systems and composting latrines for adapting to drier conditions; b) integrated solid waste management to reduce environmental contamination and emission of greenhouse gases; c) eco-efficient cook stoves to reduce greenhouse gases and contribute to better family health, especially for women and children; and d) demonstration garden plots designed to maximize productivity while minimizing the use of space and water.
- Based on the fact that there is a shortage of materials and methodology for an integrated gender approach to adaptation planning in the region, MGP and local partners elaborated a gender strategy for Climate Change for the Caribbean coast which will include equity and equality.
- This quarter, MGP defined its strategy for working with journalists to strengthen their capacities in the journalistic approach to the issue of climate change. The goal to raise awareness and disseminate not only the threats but the opportunities that climate change may bring.

Gender Accomplishments

- A local partner, FUMSAMI, commemorated International Women's Day through the activity "Diverse and Together for Inclusive Development". The activity was attended by

50 women and ended with a recreational afternoon open to the public where about 200 people participated, raising awareness to gender equality.

- CEIMM of the URACCAN university developed two sessions of their short course work on "Collective Feminist Action and New Masculinities", which focused on the collective action of women to critically reflect on the struggle of women in the region from a historical and contextual perspective.
- URACCAN-CEIMM facilitated the first of two joint sessions with women decision makers in the RACCS region. These 20 women from different municipalities and ethnic groups in RACCS attended a two-day discussion group with the main objective of discussing the regional context and some conceptual and strategic tools that enable female decision-makers to help strengthen the self-development of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants from a gender perspective.
- CEIMM-URACCAN, Catholics For a Free Choice and Software Libre advanced in the design, conceptualization, format, data structure and key definitions for construction for virtual monitoring of gender based violence (GBV) for the Violence Observatory .

II. PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Citizen Participation

2.1 *Transmuni data confirms that more than 90% of projects proposed by organizations are included in municipal budgets*

Of the 93 projects incorporated into 2015 Municipal Budgets through the advocacy of MGP partner organizations and their target groups, 91% have been registered in the online database tracking municipal allocations (Municipal Transfers (system on line)-TRANSMUNI, Sp.). The inclusion of these projects in municipal budgets were reported by the Association for Promotion and Rural Development (APRODER) and the Municipal Development Committee (CDM) for a total of USD \$1,700,000. Projects presented by MDS and FECONORI do not appear on TRANSMUNI., despite the commitments made by municipal authorities in El Rama, Corn Island, and Laguna de Perlas during last year's budget consultation processes. However, the Bluefields municipal government has allocated 300,000 Cordobas for attention to people suffering from mental illnesses and drug addiction and an additional 1,800,000 Cordobas for the installation of an elevator in the municipal market. Additional follow-on should be undertaken to ensure that these allocations are executed effectively.

Table No. 1: Projects Not Recorded in TRANSMUNI*

Implementing Partner	Municipality	# of Initiatives Included in Budgets	Cordobas Budgeted	Projects Reported as Included in Municipal Budgets by Partner Organizations, but not Reported in Transmuni	Project Beneficiaries
MDS RAAS/AMJOLU	El Rama	2	20,000.00	Improvements to the infrastructure of the MDS office in El Rama	LGBT Community
			10,000.00	Two educational fairs on the LGBT community and its rights in coordination with MINSA and MINED	
PODER	Corn Island	3	370,000.00	Initiatives to support organizational development	Handicapped people
				Guarantee adherence to Law 763	
	Support to persons with handicaps				
	Laguna de Perlas	3	340,000.00	Initiatives to support organizational development	
Guarantee adherence to Law 763					
				Support to persons with handicaps	
Totals		8	740,000.00		

2.2 Active participation in budget transparency forums

Members of the MDCs have participated in 2014 municipal budget transparency forums as an aspect of the social auditing activities they implement to track budget implementation.

In Muelle de los Bueyes, MDC members raised concerns with the municipal government's failure to implement a number of projects that were included in the 2014 municipal budget. Municipal authorities responded that implementation of the projects had been postponed until March 2015. In Santo Domingo, MDC members requested explanations of a number of financial terms including "non-tax income" and "debt servicing", for which the municipality's financial director explained the terminology. MDC members also requested information about the salaries of Municipal Council members. In San Pedro de Lovago, MDC members focused their inquiries on the implementation of the project to repair the San Bartolo-El Carmen road, as the construction methods used in repairs to this road will be utilized in other road construction projects included in this year's municipal budget.

In San Miguelito and El Almendro, the FUMSAMI-organized citizen networks reported that the municipal authorities did not hold a budget transparency forum during the first fiscal quarter. FUMSAMI claims that this is a similar occurrence from previous years in which the government prefers to only work with those from their political parties. The Movement for Sexual Diversity (MDS, Spanish acronym)/Association of Empowered Women (AMJOLU, Spanish acronym), FECONORI, and Bluefields, Indian and Caribbean University (BICU) also reported that budget transparency forums were not held in Corn Island, Laguna de Perlas or El Rama. The Bluefields municipal government held a budget transparency forum on February 24, 2015, but MGP partner organizations and their target groups were not notified about the forum until after it was held.

2.3 Partner organizations presented draft ordinances to Municipal Councils

The Muelle de los Bueyes Commission to Encourage Local Development presented a draft ordinance to the Municipal Council, which is expected to be approved in April 2015. The draft ordinance, titled the "Ordinance for Local Economic Development with a Gender and Generational Focus"¹, was developed during four sessions organized by the Commission with the participation of 113 individuals (42% women) representing the Women's Cooperative, Las Praderas Cooperative, the Municipal Council's Governance Commission, Ministry of Education (MINED), National Institute for Social Security (INSS), Ministry of Health (MINSA), the MDC's Gender Commission, and other municipal stakeholders.

¹ The goal of the draft ordinance is to "define general guidelines for the promotion of municipal economic development with an emphasis on the greater inclusion of women and young people through the support of the economic sector, capacity strengthening, product diversification, value-added production, the promotion of sustainable markets, access to credit, and the promotion of public investment in the municipality's most productive sectors."

Table 2: Local Economic Development Ordinance Drafting Sessions

Date	Total Participants	Women
January 7, 2015	18	7
January 13, 2015	23	10
January 21, 2015	26	9
January 27, 2015	46	21
TOTAL	113	47

MDS and AMJOLU presented draft ordinances on LGBT rights to the Bluefields and El Rama Municipal Councils.² The organization Prevensida assisted in the development of these draft ordinances. As of the date of this report, neither of the ordinances has been approved. As such, MDS and AMJOLU is developing an action plan to increase advocacy efforts and ensure the approval of the ordinances prior to the close of MGP support for the project. The action plan includes the following activities:

- ✓ Lobbying visits to council members and municipal authorities;
- ✓ Making approval of the ordinances a central component of activities to commemorate the International Day for Sexual Diversity (June 28);
- ✓ Meetings with organizations and allies to build visible support for LGBT initiatives;
- ✓ Propose council-member debates on the “Sin Tabues” (“Without Taboos”) radio program and in other public forums.

2.4 FUMSAMI and BICU resumed activities

Implementation of the FUMSAMI and BICU follow-on programs began in March. The programs will target women and young people in urban and rural areas, an LGBT group with membership in two Rio San Juan municipalities, and the Youth and Adolescent Municipal Councils (COMAJ, Spanish acronym) in four RAAS municipalities. The program will strengthen the organizational capacities of these citizens’ groups to support their increased participation and advocacy in the public sphere.

2.5 Two organizations preparing social audits

At the end of the quarter, MDS and AMJOLU used a participatory process to identify the issues/initiatives to be targeted by social audits. The issues were selected using municipal challenge/opportunity analyses. As a result, two social auditing plans were developed which include the following objectives:

² The goal of the proposed ordinances is to set guidelines for the planning, implementation, and evaluation of initiatives and funding aimed at improving the treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans people in two municipalities to ensure equal treatment under the law, reduce stigmatization and discrimination, and provide comprehensive support to members of the LGBT community on the individual, family, and community levels.

Table 3: Social Auditing Objectives

Municipality	Social Auditing Objectives
El Rama	Evaluate the quality of medical attention provided to members of the LGBT community in select health centers in El Rama between November 2014 and March 2015, using Ministry Resolution 761-2014 and other institutional documents as input.
Bluefields	Evaluate the Bluefields municipal government's commitment to support for the LGBT community.

2.6 MDCs shared experiences to strengthen initiatives to combat violence against women and improve local economic development

As established in their respective municipal advocacy plans, APRODER and the Muelle de los Bueyes, Santo Domingo, and San Pedro de Lovago MDCs held two conferences to share experiences and increase member`s understanding of best practices for initiatives designed to combat violence against women and improve local economic development.

The Muelle de los Bueyes Commission to Encourage Local Development visited a model farm operated by Mr. Pedro Figueroa in Nueva Guinea. Mr. Figueroa implements training programs to promote Comprehensive and Efficient Agricultural Systems. The visit to the model farm introduced the participants to a sustainable and environmentally-friendly agricultural system that has served as a model for thousands of farmers throughout the country and promotes the development of sustainable and profitable small-scale farms.³ Members of the Santo Domingo municipal government and MDC also participated in the visit. These representatives will be counterparts in the implementation of the APRODER and MDC Gender Commission-led project titled "Active Participation and Economic Empowerment for Women and Youth in the Santo Domingo Municipality."

The Santo Domingo and San Pedro de Lovago Gender Commissions visited the Cooperative of Women Farmers in Rio Blanco (COOMPRIO R.L.) to learn about the cooperative's efforts to combat violence against women and its strategies to raise awareness about gender-based violence issues. The Commissions also met with the Network of Men Against Violence and learned about its work methodologies. The CDM Gender Commissions shared achievements and challenges from their experience working with the Inter-Institutional Commission to Combat Violence Against Women and made a presentation on pilot projects to transform local conceptions of masculinity.

³ Currently 16 crops are grown on the farm, including: coffee, citrus fruits, roots and tubers, pineapple, plantains, fruits (passion fruit, mamon), pepper, pejobay, basic grains (rice, beans, sorghum), and sugarcane (used for cattle feed). The farm also has livestock including chickens, pigs, pelibuey sheep, and approximately 100 cattle.

Table 4: Exchange Programs

Exchange Program Theme	Location	# of Participants	Participant Affiliations
Local Economic Development (Muelle de los Bueyes MDC)	Pedro Figueroa's Model Farm, Nueva Guinea.	66 (23 women)	Cattle farmer associations, agricultural cooperatives, small-scale farmer associations, CDM Board of Directors, Santo Domingo municipal government and MDC representatives
Violence against women (San Pedro and Santo Domingo MDCs)	Cooperative of Women Farmers in Río Blanco (COOMPRIO R.L), Río Blanco.	25	Representatives of COOMPRIO, NITLAPAN, Ayuda en Acción, Río Blanco Municipal Council, Network of Men Against Violence, San Pedro y Santo Domingo Gender Commissions, APRODER and Global Communities.

2.7 Results of the "Voices of the South" report distributed for use in promoting public policy advocacy

In coordination with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Youth Roundtable is working to establish a monitoring and evaluation system that will track data on the situation of young people and adolescents (aged 10-29 years old) in the RAAS. This initiative, which was inspired by the report titled "Voices and Realities of the South," was announced at the last session of the Youth Roundtable where the South Caribbean Coast Regional Government's health, education, economic, youth, and planning secretaries were in attendance.

The impetus for the monitoring and evaluation initiative is a recognition that access to education, the ability to live free of violence (including sexual violence), the right to postpone pregnancy until after childhood, and access to job training are fundamental to living a positive and healthy life. The initiative is based in a human rights framework that emphasizes three areas of human development: employment, education, and sexual and reproductive health.

The Observatory for Human and Autonomous Rights at BICU hopes that the study and the monitoring system will help increase understanding about the realities that young people and adolescents in the South Caribbean face. The initiatives will be used in advocacy campaigns with the regional authorities and civil society organizations to promote the development and approval of a regional plan focused on young people and adolescents.

2.8 Organizations working with young people identified priorities for 2015

Youth Roundtable member organizations engaged in planning activities for 2015 with the goal of continuing to promote initiatives supporting youth development in the South Caribbean Coast. The planning process included an analysis of the results of 2014 activities. The operational priorities for this year focus on initiatives that will improve the capacities of the Youth Roundtable to serve as a space for the development of policies that support youth in the region:

- Updating, promoting, and increasing use of the Youth Roundtable website;
- Design and implement a capacity strengthening plan for Youth Roundtable member organizations;
- Design strategies to improve Youth Roundtable internal decision-making;
- Advertise and distribute the “Voices and Realities of the South” study and monitoring and evaluation system.

2.9 Deaf people participated in sign language classes to improve communication skills

One of the main challenges facing the deaf community is the inability to communicate due to a lack of knowledge of sign language. The majority of the deaf community, especially in Corn Island and Laguna de Perlas, communicates through a locally developed sign language. While this permits communication between deaf people on a local level, the local sign language is not understood by other deaf people. The first sign language course for deaf people in Corn Island, organized with the support of FECONORI, taught adult deaf people about Nicaraguan Sign Language (LSN, Spanish acronym). Participants were taught new signs and refined their local signs, with an emphasis on non-repetition of signs. The methodology for deaf children was distinct as many children did not yet know the alphabet. The children were taught the alphabet, learned to write their names, and created signs representing their own names. 22 deaf people participated in the course, 15 of which were youth. Additionally another 24 parents of the deaf participated. The participation of parents in the sessions was key as they can continue to support the education of their children and strengthen the support networks so that they can communicate with other deaf people as well. .

The mother of one child participating in the classes provided the following feedback: “I’ve seen my boy advancing. He does his own things around the house and he is more responsive. I’ve seen a change in him. He feels happy. He does not misbehave the way he used to. He’s learning more.”⁴

⁴ [See YouTube video.](#)



The Nicaraguan Sign Language is recognized by Law 675 as the official language for the deaf.

2.10 Corn Island mayor's office committed to provide sign language classes

The Corn Island mayor's office has committed to providing a classroom so that intensive sign language courses can continue. The classes will be taught twice a week by Dorbie Hudgson, municipal president of ANSNIC. The mayor's office also agreed to provide Ms. Hudgson with a monthly stipend. The mayor, Cleebeland Wester, will take weekly sign language classes with Ms. Hudgson, and will raise awareness about deaf issues and improve the attention of the deaf population in Corn Island.

2.11 Survey of handicapped persons in Corn Island and Laguna de Perlas

Medical teams participating in the survey project titled "Everyone has a Voice" identified handicapped people in Bluefields and Corn Island. In Bluefields, almost 700 people with identified disabilities were surveyed. This survey will help local authorities better attend to the needs of the PwD population and other benefits such as identification cards to have medical attention in the health public system. The results are displayed below:

Table 5: Types of Disabilities in Bluefields

Disability	Number	%
Physical/Motor	283	41
Multiple	115	16.5
Intellectual	115	16.5
Visual	97	14
Audio	53	8
Mental	24	3
Emotional	6	1
Total	693	100

Data from the Corn Island survey has not yet been processed, but a total of 124 people with disabilities were identified, of whom 24 have intellectual disabilities.

2.12 Three handicapped persons organizations elected boards of directors in Corn Island and Laguna de Perlas

FECONORI member organizations in Bluefields began the process of establishing boards of directors for their organizations in Corn Island and Laguna de Perlas. As of the date of this report, ANSNIC in Corn Island and Los Pipitos Commission of Fathers and Mothers of Children with Disabilities in Corn Island have elected boards of directors.



Board of Directors of
Pipitos in Pearl Lagoon.

2.13 Partner organizations completed the design of a social media campaign

This quarter, the eight local organizations supporting the launch of a social media campaign completed the campaign's design and are preparing for its launch in April. The goal of the campaign is to create favorable public opinion towards access to inclusive education as a human right and essential factor for local development. The organizations selected the campaign slogan: "Pa Ti, Pa Mi, Educación Si, pero Incluyente" (For You, For Me, Education Yes, but Inclusive). While the campaign will largely take place on social media (Twitter, Facebook, website), it will also include offline advocacy activities. In addition to audio messages, the organizations are planning to post video testimonies that evidence the exclusion of handicapped people, the LGBT community, women, and indigenous peoples in the education system. All campaign materials will be translated into the three locally-used languages: Spanish, Miskito, and Creole.



Fiscal Transparency

2.14 2015 budget information updated and available online

The 2015 Nicaraguan national budget and public contracts have been posted and are accessible on the “Our Budget” Observatory website. By making this information accessible, MGP hopes to:

- Increase the participation of civil society in the monitoring of public resources;
- Provide public budget and contracting information in accessible formats;
- Encourage the use and distribution of the information in ways that promote citizen’s objectives.

With this update, the Observatory now offers access to budget information over a five-year period (2010-2015). The Observatory has also registered municipal allocations and public contracts for the years 2012-2015.

The website was advertised during presentations for university students and CSO representatives. A total of 271 attended these presentations. Approximately 85% of participants were young people between 17-25 years old.

Table 6: Our Budget Observatory Presentations

Date	Location	University/CSO	# of Participants
March 18	Managua	Central American University (UCA)	35
March 24	Chinandega	Nicaraguan Popular University (UPONIC)	29
		Nicaraguan Autonomous Christian University (UCAN)	32
		Association for Local Survival and Development (ASODEL)	32
March 25	Juigalpa	Nicaraguan National Autonomous University (UNAN)	56
		Nicaraguan Autonomous Christian University (UCAN)	11
		Chontales Women’s Network	20

March 26	Managua	American College	34
March 28	Managua	University for Commercial Sciences (UCC)	22
Total Participants			271

2.15 Initial study results evidence discretionary use of surplus tax revenue during the 2009 – 2013 period

During this quarter, the program completed a first draft of the study “Budget Reforms: A Balance After the Crisis: What Happened to the Casas Maternas, Low-Income Housing Subsidies, and Food Credits?” The goal of the study is to promote the discussion of issues of national importance like the allocation of surplus tax revenue. The study demonstrates that the Nicaraguan government has a limited capacity to estimate tax revenue. Faulty estimates of tax revenue are a recurring issue and make it challenging to effectively audit government income and monitor expenditures. Further, faulty estimates can lead to the use of surplus tax revenues for discretionary purposes.

The conclusion of the study is that the adoption of more participatory budget processes that require the government to explain its methods for projecting budget revenue and expenditures should be made a national priority in order to improve budget planning and execution. The results of the study will be presented next quarter to civil society organizations and university students.

2.16 2015 Citizen Budget developed

During this quarter, the program developed a Citizen Budget, which presents the most important information from the 2015 Nicaraguan national budget in an accessible and reader-friendly format that uses scenes and dialogues from daily Nicaraguan life. The Citizen Budget demonstrates how the national budget is designed and approved. It lists budget allocations for important sectors such as healthcare, education, and citizen security. The report also helps government representatives better understand budget allocations per sector.

The goal of publishing the Citizen Budget is to increase citizens’ understanding and promote further study of the Nicaraguan national budget, with an emphasis on university students, professionals, and small and medium-sized business owners. In addition to the Citizen Budget, the program has also produced:

- Bookmarks that contain the central messages contained in the Citizen Budget;
- A pamphlet for creating a family budget. The goal of the pamphlet is to teach citizens about the similarities between family budgeting and the Nicaraguan national

- budgetary process in order to underscore the campaign message, “The Budget is Your Money. Understanding it is Your Responsibility.”;
- Infographic on budget allocations across the nine main sectors identified in the Nicaraguan national budget;

All of these materials will be distributed to civil society organizations, university students, government representatives, and the general public.

2.17 Citizens have been exposed to messages about the importance of monitoring the Nicaraguan national budget

The campaign titled “The Budget is Your Money. Understanding it is Your Responsibility,” continued to raise awareness about budget issues through 3,312 spots on 23 radio stations in nine departments throughout the country. The campaign has also spread its message through social media. The social media posts allow interested parties to learn more about budget issues, use the virtual observatory and allow for more interaction. They also form part of IEEPP’s social media strategy and increase general readership.

To reinforce the campaign messages, the program uploads short videos and other posts about documents that the government should publish to increase fiscal transparency on Facebook and IEEPP’s YouTube channel. Additionally, and as part of its strategy to integrate the different initiatives, with funding from the International Budget Partnership IEEPP has designed a pamphlet titled “Towards Budget Transparency in Nicaragua”, which has been made available in both digital and physical formats.

2.18 Government representatives received input on potential reforms to the 2015 national budget

On March 23, IEEPP held a conference with national representatives and legal advisors on changes to electricity rates and their effects on the national budget. 45 people, including national representatives, substitute representatives, and legal advisors, participated in the conference.

The conference coincided with a presentation by President Ortega to the National Assembly about a draft proposal for the Law on Changes to Electricity Rates. During the conference, the draft proposal was analyzed by IEEPP and certain aspects that should be modified were identified. This analysis was used by representatives from the Independent Liberal Party (PLI, Spanish acronym) in plenary debates around the approval of the initiative.

Climate Change

2.19 Launch of the climate change project increased CSO awareness around climate change in the region

In January, 148 people (50% women) participated in the public launch of the Citizens Prepared for Climate Change project in Bluefields, evidencing the importance of climate change issues in the region. Representatives of the six communities where the climate change adaptation pilot program was conducted, communal and territorial governments, mayor's offices, the Regional Government, national government officials, media outlets, NGOs, and other associations attended the launch. 49 organizations familiar with the efforts that blueEnergy, Centro Humboldt, and BICU (with the support of Global Communities) will start to strengthen local community capacities for climate change adaptation in Bluefields and Laguna de Perlas also attended the program's launch.

The central message of the launch was that efforts towards climate change mitigation and adaptation must be community-based and respect local cultural, ethnic, and economic traditions. Providing technical support is crucial to strengthening lobbying and advocacy activities with political officials and communal, territorial, municipal, and regional governments. The partner organizations emphasized that the project represents a pilot initiative that will help strengthen local capacities for planning, understanding, and building momentum around initiatives which aim to solve the challenges that climate change presents to highly vulnerable communities.

Table 7: Attendance at the Launch of the Climate Change Project

Organizations	# of Participants	%
Civil Society Organizations	27	18%
International Cooperation	7	5%
Associations	19	13%
Community Organizations	20	14%
Territorial and Communal Governments	8	5%
Regional Government	17	11%
Universities	17	11%
Schools	2	1%
National Government	9	6%
Media Outlets	7	5%
Private Sector	1	1%
Others	14	9%
TOTAL	148	100%

2.20 Work methodology for journalist program developed

During this quarter, the MGP and its partner organizations under the climate change program held an initial meeting with 16 journalists in Bluefields (8 women) to measure the level of interest they had in covering climate change issues. Another purpose was to develop a functional work model that will allow train journalists on climate change themes while respecting journalists' daily workloads. The incentive to provide training to journalists

#	Program	Medium	# of Journalists	M	W	Other MGP Initiatives
6	Noticiero Telecaribe	Cable	1		1	Yes
7	News / Press Area	Radio La Costeñísima				
8	Noticiero Hoy	Radio Zinica	1		1	Yes
9	News/Press Area	Radio Zinica	1	1		No
11	Informativo Al Mediodía	Radio Siempre Joven	1	1		No
12	Revista Informativa	Radio Única	1		1	Yes
13	Telenoticiero El Meridiano	Cable	4	3		Yes
14	Corresponsal	Canal 10			1	Yes
15	Revista Informativa	Radio La Morenita	1		1	Yes
16	Corresponsal	Canal 8				
TOTALS			16	8	8	9

2.21 Attendance at regional climate change forum evidences civil society's interest in climate change issues

The MGP held a regional climate change forum titled “Challenges and Alternatives for Climate Change Adaptation in the RAAS” during this quarter. Forum attendance was nearly double what the MGP had estimated. While the program estimated 80 participants, 148 people (50% women) attended the forum. The climate change program launch, which was held one month earlier, increased the interest of local actors in understanding initiatives to address the effects of climate change that the region is already feeling.

The participants were organized into three working groups that focused on municipal climate change adaptation plans, community climate change adaptation plans, and climate change adaptation capacity strengthening. The participants discussed proposals for initiatives and commitments to prepare their respective communities to address climate change vulnerabilities and develop pilot climate change adaptation actions to increase climate change resilience in coastal communities.

Table 9: Attendance at the Regional Climate Change Forum

Type of Organization	# of Organizations	Male Participants	Female Participants	%
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Type of Organization	# of Organizations	Male Participants	Female Participants	%
Academia	4	13	6	13%
Community	7	6	6	8%
Civil Society Organizations	13	18	15	23%
National Government	16	7	9	11%
Regional Government	2	6	3	6%
Mayor's Offices	1	2	1	2%
Civil Society Associations	13	11	10	15%
International Organizations	3	2	3	3%
Media Outlets	8	3	5	6%
Implementing Partners	3	9	13	15%
TOTALS	70	77	71	100%

Organizational Development

2.22 Methodology for technical assistance for community organizations developed

This quarter, the MGP designed a methodology for technical assistance to strengthen the community organizations that it has been working with during the 2014-2015 period and that participated in the citizen participation program component. Under the citizen participation component, the community organizations developed capacities for improved advocacy on the municipal level, in particular in municipal budget consultation processes. The proposed technical assistance will focus on strengthening three organizational areas, to be implemented as follows:

Table 10: Technical Assistance for Community Organizations

Workshops	Objective	Duration	Content
Leadership and Gender	Analyze best practices in leadership and gender equality to raise awareness about these issues among community organization members and create conditions for institutional change based in democratic values.	Two 12-hour workshops	Gender Equality Sexism Leadership Paradigms Emotional Intelligence Teamwork
Action/Communications	Develop with each	Two 12-hour	Main community

Workshops	Objective	Duration	Content
Plans	community organization an action plan based on organizational missions, visions, and interests to identify a logical work methodology that fits organizational priorities. The action plan will also be linked to communications strategies to improve organizational visibility on the local level. The actions plans will identify concrete initiatives for implementation by the community organizations.	workshops	organization issues and needs. Issues identified by community organizations. Decision-making for change/roots of change. Annual action plans. Communications strategies linked to action plans.
Organization and Management	Improve internal community organization governance and provide tools to improve the quality of community organization activities.	One 16-hour workshop	Organizational structures Roles of organizational units Information management Process quality

2.23 Selection of community organization partners reflects diverse social needs

This fiscal year MGP is adjusting its Organizational Development methodology to focus more on smaller grassroots organizations. The community organizations selected for participation in the MGP program are composed of a diverse set of local civil society actors that face distinct issues. Youth groups are confronting challenges related to the quality of education, access to recreational activities, and the scarcity of dignified employment. Women's groups are confronting challenges related to gender-based violence, unequal employment opportunities, and other gender-based inequalities. LGBT individuals suffer from discrimination within their own communities. Indigenous groups also face discrimination, marginalization, and violations of communal land rights. In total, the MGP is working with 16 community organizations, with 128 individuals participating in the organizational development programming.

Table 11: Community Organizations Selected by the MGP

Community Organization	Municipality	Population Sector	# of Participants
Association of Young Empowered Women, AMJOLU	Bluefields	-Women -Youth	8

Community Organization	Municipality	Population Sector	# of Participants
Network of Young Entrepreneurs	Bluefields	-Women -Private sector	10
Bluefields Communal Creole Government	Bluefields	-Indigenous population	15
Rama Kriol Territorial Government	Bluefields El Rama San Juan de Nic.	-Indigenous population	12
Awaltara Territorial Government	Desembocadura de Río Grandes y La Cruz de Río Grande	-Indigenous population	16
Movement for Sexual Diversity	Bluefields	- LGBT	10
Gender Commission	Santo Domingo	-Women	7
Young Environmentalists	San Pedro de Lóvago	-Youth	7
Alliance for Local Economic Development	Muelle de los Bueyes	-Private sector	8
Organization of Blind Nicaraguans	Bluefields	-Handicapped people	5
National Association of Deaf Nicaraguans	Bluefields Corn Island	-Handicapped people	10
Los Pipitos	Bluefields Corn Island	-Handicapped people	10
Association of Physically Handicapped People	Bluefields	-Handicapped people	5
Association of Retired People	Bluefields	-Handicapped people	5

2.24 108 partner organization members have improved understandings of gender and leadership themes

In February and March, the MGP's organizational development component held the first scheduled workshops focusing on leadership, gender, and the development of action plans with community organizations. The workshops produced the following results:

- Men and women made commitments to reduce organizational gender gaps;
- Community organization leaders have improved understandings of horizontal and democratic leadership;
- Teamwork capacities strengthened;
- Representatives made aware of the need to eliminate negative paradigms;

- More than 90% of the participants rated the sessions as “very important” both on the organizational development and personal development levels.

Attendance at the workshops on leadership and gender held through March 31 was as follows:

Table 11: Leadership and Gender Workshops

Date	Community Organization	Location	Participants		
			Women	Men	Total
1st Workshops on Leadership and Gender					
Feb. 3 and 4	Association of Young Empowered Women, AMJOLU	Bluefields	10	0	10
Feb. 3 and 4	Movement for Sexual Diversity, MDS	Bluefields	3	5	8
Feb. 5 and 6	Bluefields Creole Communal Government	Bluefields	5	5	10
Feb. 5 and 6	Network of Young Entrepreneurs	Bluefields	4	4	8
Feb. 12 and 13	Gender Commission, Santo Domingo	Juigalpa	6	1	7
Feb. 12 and 13	Alliance for Local Economic Development, Muelle de los Bueyes	Juigalpa	4	4	8
Feb. 12 and 13	Young Environmentalists, San Pedro de Lóvago	Juigalpa	3	2	5
Mar. 9 and 10	Awaltara Territorial Government	Bluefields	3	6	9
Mar. 13 and 14	Association of Physically Handicapped People, ADIFIM	Bluefields	2	2	4
Mar. 13 and 14	National Association of Deaf Nicaraguans	Bluefields	2	1	3
Mar. 13 and 14	Association of Retired People	Bluefields	2	2	4
Mar. 13 and 14	Los Pipitos	Bluefields	6	0	6
Mar. 13 and 14	Association of Blind Nicaraguans	Bluefields	2	2	4
Mar. 25 and 26	Rama Kriol Territorial Government	Bluefields	2	10	12
TOTAL			62	46	108
2nd Leadership and Gender Workshops					
Feb. 23 and 24	Association of Young Empowered Women, AMJOLU	Bluefields	10	0	10
Feb. 23 and 24	Movement for Sexual Diversity, MDS	Bluefields	4	4	8
Feb. 25 and 26	Bluefields Creole Communal Government	Bluefields	5	7	12

Date	Community Organization	Location	Participants		
			Women	Men	Total
Feb. 25 and 26	Network of Young Entrepreneurs	Bluefields	5	3	8
Mar. 4 and 5	Gender Commission, Santo Domingo	Juigalpa	4	1	5
Mar. 4 and 5	Alliance for Local Economic Development, Muelle de los Bueyes	Juigalpa	6	2	8
Mar. 4 and 5	Young Environmentalists, San Pedro de Lóvago	Juigalpa	2	4	6
TOTAL			36	21	57

Note 1: The schedule for workshops with the Awaltara and Rama Kriol Territorial Governments was revised. Two 12-hour workshops were replaced with one 16-hour workshop, as the travel time and costs would have tripled with two separate workshops.

Note 2: The second leadership and gender workshops for handicapped peoples' organization in Bluefields are scheduled for April 10-11, 2015.

Note 3: Workshops for Corn Island handicapped peoples' organizations are scheduled to begin in April.

Table 12: Action/Communications Plan Workshops

Date	Community Organization	Location	Participants		
			Women	Men	Total
1st Workshops on Action/Communications Plans					
Mar. 18 and 19	Association of Young Empowered Women, AMJOLU	Bluefields	9	0	9
Mar. 16 and 17	Movement for Sexual Diversity, MDS	Bluefields	4	6	10
Mar. 18 and 19	Bluefields Creole Communal Government	Bluefields	8	9	17
Feb. 5 and 6	Network of Young Entrepreneurs	Bluefields	4	4	8
Mar. 25 and 26	Gender Commission, Santo Domingo	Juigalpa	6	2	8
Mar. 25 and 26	Alliance for Local Economic Development, Muelle de los Bueyes	Juigalpa	6	3	9
Mar. 25 and 26	Young Environmentalists, San Pedro de Lóvago	Juigalpa	2	4	6
TOTAL			39	28	67

Note 1: Action/communication plan workshops have not yet begun for GTRK, GTA, and Bluefields and Corn Island handicapped peoples' organizations

Note 2: The 2nd round of action/communication plan workshops will begin in April

III. GENDER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

3.1 FUMSAMI organized activities to celebrate International Women's Day

In celebration of International Women's Day on March 8th, FUMSAMI organized a conference for women and young people titled "Diverse and United for Inclusive Development." 50 25women from diverse backgrounds (adults, youth, rural, urban, housewives, public officials) and diverse political and religious beliefs attended the event. The participants completed a self-evaluation of their local contexts, different types of discrimination they face, how they respond to discrimination, and how they support local development. The women also identified and prioritized advocacy demands for citizen participation activities.

The activity ended with a fair that was open to the public. Approximately 200 people (more than 50% women) participated in the fair, which included cultural performances. Daniela Amador, an artist from Los Pantanos, sang "My Rights as a Woman" (written by Norma Elena Gadea). Ms. Amador asked participants to reflect on the chorus: "I have a right to respect. I have a right to equality. No one will physically or verbally threaten me."



One woman's final message at the conference: "We women need to think politically to demand policies that benefit us."

3.2 Elaboration of a Climate change gender methodology

Despite the increasing social demand for programs addressing climate change, few methodological resources exist that incorporate gender analyses into climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives. As such, the implementing partners have adjusted their methodological instruments and are currently validating them for use in the context of Caribbean Coast communities. The newly designed methodologies are based on a human rights and human development framework and emphasize equality in the development of climate change adaptation strategies.

For the purposes of this initiative, the rights-based framework focuses on the need to address gender inequities through activities aimed at reducing poverty, increasing female participation in decision-making around climate change initiatives, and integrating gender analyses universally into programming and policies.

3.3 Women leaders from five municipalities participating in a course on intercultural and community-based feminism

During this quarter, the short course course titled “Collective Feminist Action and New Masculinities,” designed by the Multiethnic Women’s Center for Studies and Information (CEIMM) in coordination with the feminist collective “Our Own Classroom” began. The first session focused on a discussion of collective feminist action. Participants reflected on feminist movements from a historical perspective, analyzing feminist demands, challenges, and initiatives. In particular, participants examined black and indigenous feminist movements, linking the historical lessons to the South Caribbean Autonomous Coast context.

The second session introduced feminist theory and involved participatory exercises to help identify the main challenges in the development of an, anti-colonial, and anti-racist feminist politics. Participant enthusiasm was evidenced by the level of participation in activities, discussion, and debates, which focused on the realities and contexts faced in their respective municipalities. The participants also agreed to replicate the trainings for other women who did not have the chance to attend the course.



Women leader’s mestizas, creoles, garífunas, and ramas participating in the first session.

3.4 First meeting of women working in public institutions

CEIMM also held the first of two sessions designed for women in decision-making positions. The 20 participants come from different municipalities and ethnic groups throughout the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region⁵. Discussions during the two-day session focused on regional realities and provided women in decision-making positions with tools and strategies to help strengthen processes for the self-governance and development of indigenous, Afro-descendant, and mestizo groups from an intercultural and gender-based framework.

The program offers women a space to reflect and develop strategies as decision-makers. Many of the women feel that while taking positions of authority has allowed them to

⁵ 10 mestizas, 3 Creoles, 2 Ulwas, 2 Miskitas, 2 Garifunas, and 1 Rama.

advance change, it has had costs in terms of their personal and community lives. The program allows women a chance to both exchange experiences and improve their capacities in leadership roles.

3.5 Violence observatory making advances

Through the coordinated efforts of CEIMM-URACCAN, Catholics for the Right to Decide, and members of the Open Source Community, significant advances in the design, format, and structure and the online system to monitor gender-based violence were made this quarter.

In addition to the observatory's main webpage ("Voices: Data that Speaks"), a blog of articles, reports, life stories, and qualitative data on violence related multiethnic contexts will be designed. The goal of the observatory is to serve not only as a space for gathering information but also as a tool for reporting gender-based violence, with community members reporting on violence occurring in their local communities.

Advances have also been made in the identification of themes for publications on the observatory website. The strategic partnership with Catholics for the Right to Decide has allowed the program to update and publish information on femicides, maternal deaths, sexual violence, and other forms of violence and discrimination that affect Nicaraguan women.

3.6 The "Self-Convened" Movement held activities to commemorate International Women's Day throughout March

In commemoration of International Women's Day, the Self-Convened Movement for Women's Rights held a series of events to raise awareness about women's advocacy goals⁶.

The movement, which was formed last November, helped organize various awareness-raising and recreational activities to promote feminist reflection throughout the month of March. All of the activities that had been previously planned were successfully held through the development of strategic partnerships with organizations on both the Caribbean and Pacific side of the country.

⁶ The movement is composed of more than 10 organizations working in the RAAS.

Significant Constraints/lessons learned

4.1 Constraint: Staff Turnover in Partner Organizations

During this quarter, key BICU and APRODER staff members (project coordinators) left their respective organizations and accepted other job offers. The three young staff members were experienced in and dedicated to citizen participation and local development work, and their absences will affect the timetables for project implementation.

Lesson Learned (or Corrective Measure): To ensure that new project coordinators are provided sufficient training, work sessions will take place on-site and will involve the participation of prior project coordinators and Global Communities' monitoring staff.

4.2 Constraint: Obtaining Municipal Council certification of initiatives included in 2015 municipal budgets

As explained in section 2.1 above, the MDS, AMJOLU and FECONORI teams have not been able to obtain verification of the inclusion of partner initiatives into 2015 municipal budgets. The initiatives that were supposedly included in the municipal budgets were not published by Transmuni, and the Municipal Councils have not released certifications confirming the inclusion of the initiatives.

Lesson Learned (or Corrective Measure): Continue to request that Municipal Councils release certifications confirming the incorporation of initiatives proposed by MGP partner organizations and their target groups into the 2015 Corn Island, Laguna de Perlas (PODER) and El Rama (MDS/AMJOLU) municipal budgets.

4.3 Constraint: Lack of political will in the National Assembly to reform Law 550

While National Assembly representatives understand the importance of fiscal transparency to the economic development of the country, they do not prioritize it as an issue. During this quarter, National Assembly representatives were focused on the Law on Changes to Consumer Electricity Tariffs, which was sent to the assembly by President Ortega as an urgent piece of legislation and was approved on March 25, 2015. Unfortunately, members of the opposition party have done little to advocate inclusion of Law 550 (which would require the publication of a midterm report on the national budget) into the legislative agenda.

Lesson Learned (or Corrective Measure): Because of this constraint, the IEEPP team will create draft proposals for reform of Law 550 for approval by civil society organizations. After the draft proposals have been developed and reviewed they will be presented to National Assembly members.

4.4 Constraint: Public spaces/ infrastructure unavailable for use in climate change initiatives

Restrictions on access to public spaces/infrastructure for the installation of demonstration plots for climate change initiatives has delayed project implementation. Efforts to find new sites that offer sufficient protection to seedlings from animals and people are being undertaken.

Lesson Learned (or Corrective Measure): The sites will be chosen in coordination with community leaders and written agreements to protect the sites will be signed.

4.5 Lesson Learned: Importance of providing follow-on to projects involving multiple partners

Global Communities provides support to individual partner organization initiatives and also supports initiatives undertaken by multiple organizations with complementary activities. The initiatives involving multiple partner organizations have led to the successful creation of partnerships, creative programming, and better results in terms of program impact. However, the initiatives have also presented challenges in terms of developing strategies to resolve conflicts and reach consensus and in developing fluid, timely, and democratic communications strategies among partner organizations.

The presence and participation of Global Communities staff in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of project activities has been crucial to strengthening the partnerships and inter-institutional initiatives. Global Communities staff is able to play the role of neutral mediators that encourage the partner organizations to consider the long-term objectives of initiatives.

4.6 Lesson Learned: Concrete actions needed to strengthen the commitment of organizations participating in the Youth Roundtable

During a planning session held with representatives of the organizations participating in the Youth Roundtable this quarter, representatives identified a series of challenges. One of the main needs identified was for an action plan that will increase the level of commitment and sense of belonging of the participating organizations, which will encourage other organizations to participate in the activities the Youth Roundtable promotes. Representatives also indicated a need for greater monitoring and follow-on of Youth Roundtable initiatives. The need for greater levels of commitment represents a challenge because it will require participating organizations to accept new responsibilities and offer tools and resources for use in improving Youth Roundtable activities.

4.7 Constraint: FECONORI has not signed an agreement with SEPRODIS

The signing of an agreement between FECONORI and the Regional Government is of vital importance to strengthening the position of FECONORI organizations in the region.

However, the agreement has been postponed due to bureaucratic delays on the Regional Government's side.

Lesson Learned (or Corrective Measure): FECONORI should continue to advocate for the signing of the agreement. The agreement has gone through a 5 month revision process and both sides have made adjustments. Signing should not be delayed any longer.

4.8 Constraint: Delays in selection of partner organization boards of directors has slowed organizational development activities

The selection of boards of directors by partner organizations in Corn Island and Laguna de Perlas is necessary for the implementation of organizational development activities. However, most partner organizations have not yet elected boards of directors. As of the date of this report, only ANSNIC has elected a board of directors in Corn Island, and Los Pipitos has formed a board of directors in both municipalities. The other organizations have found the selection of boards of directors to be a challenge.

Lesson Learned (or Corrective Measure): MGP will continue to push/encourage FECONORI to speed up the process of forming the board of directors, which is their commitment to the program and of the delays that it has caused. Actions to encourage the selection of boards of directors by organizations in Laguna de Perlas and Corn Island should continue. Organizational development activities will be much more effective and likely to achieve their expected results once boards of directors have been established.

4.9 Constraint: Youth perspectives on citizen participation activities reducing participation

The BICU team working with youth have indicated that both municipal authorities and young people themselves are skeptical of citizen participation activities because of their perceived political nature. It has been easier to involve young people in recreational, sports, and religious activities than it has been to involve them in citizen participation initiatives.

Lesson Learned (or Corrective Measure): Projects with youth have become even more relevant. Planned training programs and citizen participation activities are designed to increase youth participation in local development using a rights-based perspective that emphasizes the responsibilities of citizenship.

4.10 Constraint: Partner organizations and target groups not informed about budget transparency forums

In various municipalities, MGP partner organizations and their target groups were not provided with information about when and where budget transparency forums would be held. Requests for this information were made both formally and informally to municipal authorities.

Lesson Learned (or Corrective Measure): Continue to demand that this public information be made available through loudspeaker announcements or pamphlets at the mayor's office.

IV. PLANNED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The main accomplishments planned for Q3 and Q4 of 2015 are:

Table 17: Planned Accomplishment Q3 and Q4 FY2015

UPDATED MILESTONES FOR QUARTERS No. 3 (April – June) and No. 4 (July – September) FY 2015

Quarter	Citizen Participation ⁷	Institutional strengthening	Fiscal Transparency (IEEPP)	Climate Change	Cross Component
Q3 Apr – Jun 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 local economic agendas drawn up prioritizing Muelle de los Bueyes (Tourism, Agriculture and PYME) • Roles and contributions of each public and private entity in the implementation of the Muelle de los Bueyes Local Economic Development Policy established. • Recreational / educational activities with the central theme of prevention of violence towards women implemented in which the youth of San Pedro de Lóvago and Santo Domingo participate (cinema forums, theatrical works). • Advocacy plans on interests of women (FUMSAMI) and youth (BICU) being executed • The partner organizations have participated in the 2nd assembly on the 2014 budget execution. • The Virtual Observatory on Gender-based Violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2nd stage of technical assistance to 3 CSO Program partners developed according to the ARC methodology. • 9 grassroots organizations finalize the strengthening cycle, which consists of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leadership and Gender workshops. ○ Construction of Action and Communication Agendas. ○ Organization and Management workshop. • 8 OPDs in 2 municipalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2015 Citizen Budget is reproduced and distributed. • The study on the historical assigning of the over-collection of taxes from 2009 to 2013 and its impact is reproduced and distributed. • Impact analysis done on the national finances and social investment of the Venezuelan funds received by the Government of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A press conference is held on the project advances. • Workshop held with RACCS journalists on climate change. • Alliance of the South Caribbean Civil Society Organizations formalised with the CC. • The methodology of community adaptation plans hammered out. • Communication and sensitization campaign designed. • Web Portal with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launching of a digital social campaign with RACCS partner organisations. • New educational gathering on gender focus for journalists of Chontales and RACCS. • Celebration of World Environment Week (June)

⁷ This column includes part of the Milestones of the Subcomponent of Strengthening of Organisations of People with Disability (OPD – Agreement with FECONORI)

Quarter	Citizen Participation ⁷	Institutional strengthening	Fiscal Transparency (IEEPP)	Climate Change	Cross Component
	<p>and Discrimination against Women was officially launched in the RACCS as a product of the CEIMM and Catholics for the Right to Decide alliance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd and 4th sessions of the Collective Feminist Action and New Masculinity diploma course – CEIMM. • 6th Session of the Youth Concertation Working Group in the RACCS. • Agreement signed between FECONORI and the Regional Council. • Launching of the Computer Application for following up on the Budgetary Execution of the Municipalities. • The training of the partner organisations in the use of the Computer Application for following up on the Budgetary Execution of the Municipalities is developed. • The workshops for strengthening the CAPS network members are developed. • The municipal CAPS networks are formed. 	<p>are strengthened through workshops on leadership and gender, action and communication plans, and organization and management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange of experiences held among the boards of the FECONORI organizations and similar organizations of Rivas. • Technical assistance process to OPD – FECONORI in RACCS systematized. 	<p>Nicaragua in the 2009-2013 period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Observatory is presented in universities. • CSOs and journalists trained on fiscal transparency. • Technical assistance to CSOs on budgetary analysis and public contracting developed. 	<p>information on Climate Change activated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil society – public sector dialogue sessions held. • The first 3 Demonstrative Community and Prepared Families Center established. • 1st community training package completed. • 1st Diploma Course for professionals on Adaptation to Climate Change initiated • 1st Local Adaptation Plan in Response to Climate Change formulated. 	
<p>Q4 Jul – Sep 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The interlocution session between women of civil society and decision-makers facilitated by CEIMM is held. The women’s position has been presented to Regional Government representatives. • The documentary on reflective formative processes facilitated by CEIMM is disseminated. The first bulletin: Voices... data speak is published. • The CAPS network has participated in the Regional Water and Sanitation Working Group. • The exchange of experiences is held among Program partner organisations: Achievements and Challenges of Citizen Participation in the current 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 CSOs with ARC self-assessments have again measured their ARC organisational development rates. • Exchange held for the strengthening of grassroots organisations. • The process of strengthening leadership and grassroots organisations evaluated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft of the proposal to reform Law 550 is completed. • International conference is held on good practices of fiscal transparency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication and sensitization campaign is implemented. • The 1st Community Course of Climate Change is initiated. • The next 3 Demonstrative Community and Prepared Families Centers established. 	

Quarter	Citizen Participation ⁷	Institutional strengthening	Fiscal Transparency (IEEPP)	Climate Change	Cross Component
	<p>context.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The partner organizations have participated in the 3rd assembly on the 2014 budgetary execution. • Communication campaigns of each partner organization are executed with sectorial emphasis (gender, youth, LGBT). • The 7th session of the Youth Concertation Working Group is held in the RACCS. 	<p>and systematised.</p>			

ANNEXES

The following annexes are attached:

1. MGP Project List
2. MGP Logical Framework Indicator Report
3. MGP Trainet Report
4. MGP 2013 Cost Share Report
5. MGP Accruals
6. IEEPP Quarterly Report

Annex 2. MGP Project List

Proyectos Vigentes del Programa de Gobernabilidad Local Q1 2015

#	Organización	Nombre del Proyecto	Objetivo	Componente	Grupo Meta	Cobertura Geográfica	Fecha de Inicio	Fecha de Finalización	Monto Total US\$	Aporte USAID US\$	Estado
1	Instituto de Estudios Estratégicos y Políticas Públicas	Transparencia Fiscal en Nicaragua	Mejorar la comprensión de la sociedad civil sobre la buena gobernabilidad de los recursos públicos	Transparencia Fiscal	Población en General, Sociedad Civil nacional y local	Nacional	15/03/2013	31/08/2015	728,004.60	626,965.71	En Ejecución
2	Bluefields Indian Caribbean University, BICU	Mesa de Concertación en juventud para la Costa Caribe Sur de Nicaragua	Facilitar la articulación y complementariedad de acciones y enfoques de trabajo entre los diferentes actores locales, nacionales y de la cooperación que ejecutan programas con adolescentes y jóvenes en la RAAS	Participación Ciudadana	Jóvenes de la RAAS	Región Autónoma del Atlántico Sur (RAAS): Bluefields, Rama, Laguna de Perlas y Corn Island.	2/25/14	1/30/15	9,781.00	6,202.00	Completado
3	Instituto de Estudios Estratégicos y Políticas Públicas	Promoción de la Participación Ciudadana Activa e Informada. Café con Voz	Promover la participación activa de la población en espacios de incidencia mediante la producción de programas radiales y televisivos que los mantengan informados sobre los principales problemas que limitan su desarrollo.	Participación Ciudadana	Población en General, Sociedad Civil nacional y local	Nacional	3/21/14	6/30/15	141,535.70	49,987.70	En Ejecución
4	Asociación para el progreso y desarrollo rural, APRODER*	Consolidación de Espacios de Concertación para el Desarrollo Local Inclusivo	Aportar a la consolidación de espacios de concertación ciudadana a través del apoyo a los CDM, en la búsqueda de mejorar su rol en la consulta y fiscalización del presupuesto municipal, así como a grupos de interés que desarrollen planes de incidencia orientados a demandar respuestas del Estado y a aportar a la solución de problemas que afectan a la población.	Participación Ciudadana	Comités de Desarrollo Municipal	Chontales: San Pedro de Lóvago y Santo Domingo; y la RAAS: Muelle de los Bueyes	5/9/14	1/30/15	72,000.00	52,000.00	En Ejecución
5	Federación Nicaraguense de Asociaciones de Personas con Discapacidad, Feconori	Fortalecimiento organizativo y de la capacidad de incidencia de las organizaciones de personas con discapacidad en la región autónoma atlántico sur	Fortalecer a Organizaciones de Personas con Discapacidad en comunidades de la RAAS, especialmente indígenas y afro-descendientes, para aumentar su capacidad de participación ciudadana que les permita abogar en nombre de sus integrantes para lograr la igualdad de derechos y oportunidades para las personas con discapacidad.	Participación Ciudadana	Personas con Discapacidad	Región Autónoma del Atlántico Sur (RAAS): Bluefields, Corn Island y Laguna de Perlas	6/11/14	6/11/15	156,294.00	110,000.00	En Ejecución
6	Asociación de mujeres jóvenes luchadoras, AMJOLU	Impulsando la participación ciudadana de la comunidad lgbt para un desarrollo con representatividad, inclusión y equidad	Contribuir a la inclusión de las demandas de la comunidad LGBT en las políticas públicas y la participación en espacios de toma de decisiones en 2 municipios de la Región Autónoma del Caribe Sur de Nicaragua.	Participación Ciudadana	Comunidad LGTB	Región Autónoma del Atlántico Sur (RAAS): Desembocadura de Río Grande	25/08/2014	25/08/2015	74,363.00	59,772.00	En Ejecución
7	Gobierno Municipal de Awaltara	Fortalecimiento Institucional del Comité de Desarrollo Integral Ulwa (CODIUL) para la revitalización cultural, educativa y lingüística en el Municipio de la Desembocadura del Río Grande, RAAS	Fortalecer la institucionalidad del Comité de Desarrollo Integral Ulwa (CODIUL) mediante un proceso de capacitación, desarrollo organizacional, y acciones de revitalización cultural que contribuyan al desarrollo de la identidad Ulwa en el Municipio de La Desembocadura del Río Grande, RAAS.	Participación Ciudadana	Poblaciones indígena, afro descendiente y mestiza	Región Autónoma del Atlántico Sur (RAAS): Bluefields y El Rama	10/07/2014	30/01/2015	24,549.00	16,895.00	En Ejecución
8	Global Communities/ consultores locales	Fortaleciendo capacidades de periodistas locales de Chontales, Río San Juan y la RAAS	Fortalecer capacidades técnicas y teóricas de periodistas locales en materia de análisis de la gestión local y enfoque de derechos en las cobertura periodística que promuevan la participación ciudadana	Participación Ciudadana	Periodistas comunicadores de Chontales, Río San Juan y la RAAS	Chontales, Río San Juan y Región Autónoma Atlántico Sur	01/07/2014	30/06/2015	25,000.00	25,000.00	En Ejecución
9	Bluefields Indian Caribbean University, BICU	Participación juvenil activa para una gobernabilidad local inclusiva	Contribuir al empoderamiento y protagonismo juvenil en los procesos de desarrollo local de cuatro municipios de la Región Autónoma del Caribe Sur de Nicaragua, desde una participación ciudadana con perspectiva intercultural y de género.	Participación Ciudadana	Jóvenes y adolescentes de Laguna de Perlas, Bluefields, El Rama y Corn Island	Bluefields, Laguna de Perlas, Corn Island y El Rama.	18/02/2015	18/12/2015	120,442.00	90,256.00	En Ejecución

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#	Organización	Nombre del Proyecto	Objetivo	Componente	Grupo Meta	Cobertura Geográfica	Fecha de Inicio	Fecha de Finalización	Monto Total U\$	Aporte USAID U\$	Estado
10	Fundación de mujeres de San Miguelito, Fumsami	Promoviendo la participación ciudadana de mujeres y jóvenes de san miguelito y el almendro por un desarrollo inclusivo	Contribuir al ejercicio de la participación ciudadana de mujeres y jóvenes de San Miguelito y El Almendro, para lograr la inclusión de sus demandas en la agenda pública local (equidad de género y diversidad sexual).	Participación Ciudadana	Mujeres y jóvenes de San Miguelito y El Almendro	San Miguelito y El Almendro	18/02/2015	18/12/2015	48,263.00	40,000.00	En Ejecución
11	blue Energy	Fortalecimiento de las redes municipales caps para su incidencia y participación en políticas públicas para el mejoramiento de sus condiciones de vida en la RACS	Crear y fortalecer las redes de CAPS de los municipios de Bluefields y Laguna de Perlas en materia de Participación Ciudadana	Participación Ciudadana	Comités de Agua Potable y Saneamiento CAPS	Laguna de Perlas y Bluefields	24/03/2015	24/03/2016	57,845.00	44,118.00	En Ejecución
12	Centro de estudios e información de la mujer multiétnico adscrito a la universidad de las regiones autónomas de la costa caribe nicaragüense, Ceimm-Uraccan.	Inciendiendo para la igualdad, en la diversidad	Contribuir al ejercicio de la ciudadanía intercultural de las mujeres de la Región Autónoma del Caribe Sur, fortaleciendo su capacidad de análisis, gestión de información y visibilidad de su posicionamiento ante temas estratégicos.	Participación Ciudadana	Mujeres organizadas y no organizadas, feministas académicas y activistas, estudiantes y lideresas originarias de los 5 municipios de cobertura del proyecto.	Región Autónoma del Atlántico Sur (RAAS): Bluefields, Pearl Lagoon, Desembocadura de Río Grande, Nueva Guinea y Paiwas.	01/10/2014	01/10/2015	104,421.00	76,396.00	En Ejecución
13	Global Communities/ consultores locales	Campaña Social Digital	Promover el uso de campañas de comunicación social digital en los procesos de comunicación estratégica de las Organizaciones Socias, mediante el diseño participativo y la implementación de una campaña concertada y en conjunto con otras organizaciones.	Participación Ciudadana	Miembros de las organizaciones socias del Programa	Región Autónoma del Atlántico Sur (RAAS): Bluefields, Laguna de Perlas, Corn Island, Nueva Guinea, El Rama, La Cruz de Río Grande, Desembocadura de Río Grande, Bocana de Paiwas	25/08/2014	30/06/2015	35,000.00	35,000.00	En Ejecución
14	Global Communities/ GUEGUE	Desarrollo de aplicación informática para seguimiento a la ejecución presupuestaria municipal	Desarrollar una aplicación informática que tomando como referencia los presupuestos municipales dispuestos en el TRANSMUNI genere reportes comprensibles a la ciudadanía y facilite el seguimiento a la ejecución de los presupuestos municipales.	Participación Ciudadana	Miembros de las OSC socios, medios locales y ciudadanía activa en el área de intervención del programa	Municipios de los departamentos de Chontales, Río San Juan y la RAAS.	02/01/2015	30/06/2015	10,000.00	10,000.00	En Ejecución
15	Global Communities/ consultores locales	Fortalecimiento Organizacional a Organizaciones de Sociedad Civil mediante asistencia técnica para la mejora.(Segunda Fase)	Desarrollar un segundo proceso de asistencia técnica y capacitación con 3 OSC a fin de poder mejorar sus índices de desarrollo organizacional según la metodología ARC, para fortalecer la calidad y cobertura de sus servicios.	Desarrollo Organizacional	OSC socias implementadoras del Programa	Municipios de Río San Juan, Chontales, y RAAS	02/01/2015	30/06/2015	29,500.00	29,500.00	En Ejecución
16	Centro Humbolt	Facilitando posicionamiento y metodologías ante el cambio climático en la racs	Aumentar la capacidad de recuperación de las personas y los recursos naturales en la Región del Caribe Sur de Nicaragua ante los impactos de largo plazo del cambio climático mediante la promoción de la participación de los grupos vulnerables de la población en los procesos de adaptación.	Cambio Climático	Población en general que vive en zonas de alta vulnerabilidad a los cambios climáticos.	Región Autónoma del Atlántico Sur (RAAS): Bluefields	17/11/2014	20/09/2016	97,260.00	80,000.00	En Ejecución
17	blue Energy	Iniciativa familias y comunidades preparadas ante el cambio climático"	Aumentar la capacidad de recuperación de las personas y los recursos naturales en la Región del Caribe Sur de Nicaragua ante los impactos de largo plazo del cambio climático mediante la promoción de la participación de los grupos vulnerables de la población en los procesos de adaptación.	Cambio Climático	Población en general que vive en zonas de alta vulnerabilidad a los cambios climáticos.	Región Autónoma del Atlántico Sur (RAAS): Bluefields y Laguna de Perlas	17/11/2014	20/09/2016	382,012.00	320,000.00	En Ejecución
18	Bluefields Indian Caribbean University, BICU	Formación a líderes comunitarios y profesionales de los pueblo indígenas y afro-descendientes para la adaptación ante el cambio climático	Incrementar el conocimiento de líderes comunitarios y profesionales tomadores de decisión en la Costa Caribe Sur de Nicaragua, que inciden en el desarrollo de las políticas públicas, en el área de medio ambiente y cambio climático, mediante la formación académica y desarrollo de investigaciones.	Cambio Climático	Líderes comunitarios y profesionales tomadores de decisión	Región Autónoma del Atlántico Sur (RAAS): Bluefields y Laguna de Perlas	19/01/2015	20/09/2016	80,090.00	70,000.00	En Ejecución
									2,196,360.30	1,742,092.41	

Indicator	LOP	Years		Year 5															Observaciones	
		2011-2014			I Trimestre			II Trimestre			III Trimestre			IV Trimestre			Acumulado			
		Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec		%
O3. To increase citizen awareness of and demand for fiscal transparency in Nicaragua and to support citizen dialogue with local and national budget policy decision makers.																				
R3.1. CSOs, journalists and citizens are knowledgeable about and advocating for fiscal transparency.																				
Indicator 3.1.1. (2.4.1-9)	10	20	10	50%															4	
*Number of CSOs receiving USG assistance engaged in advocacy interventions.																			4	
O 4. Increase civil society participation in the monitoring and management of national public resources																				
Indicator 4.2.	5	5	5	100%																
Number of CSOs receiving program support that monitor public resources.																				
R4.2 Dialogue between civil society and decision makers during budget process increased, especially in the area of social sector budget assignments.																				
Indicator 4.2.1. (2.2.1-6 -)	2	2	2	100%															1	
Number of Public Forums resulting from USG assistance in which																			1	
Indicator 4.2.3. (2.2.4-5)	45	0	0	0%				15	0		30								45	
Number of people affiliated with non-governmental organizations receiving USG-supported anti-corruption training																				
Indicator (2.1.1-4)	3	0	0	0%				2	3	150%	1								3	
Number of USG-supported public sessions held regarding proposed changes to the country's legal framework																			3	
Indicator (2.2.1-7)	1	0	0					1			1								1	
Number of USG-assisted civil society organizations that participate in legislative proceedings and/or engage in advocacy with national legislature and its committees																			1	
																			1	
																			100%	
																			Corresponde al IEEPP que está trabajando con un grupo de legisladores de la bancada de Partido Liberal Independiente en temas relacionados con Transparencia Fiscal.	

Annex 4. MGP Trainet Report

Programs Grouped by Activity with Funding

Report Parameters:
 Activity: CHF International
 Strategic Objective: SO1: MORE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION, COMPROMISE AND TRANSPARENCY
 Site: CHF International - Nicaragua
 Start Date After: 01/01/2015
 End Date Before: 06/30/2015
 Program Status: Active, Completed
 Location: In Country

Training Program	Location	Start Date	End Date	Males	Females	Total Trainees	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference
Activity: CHF International									
Diplomado. Acción Colectiva Feminista.	IC	01/29/2015	06/27/2015	0	41	41	\$ 12,000	\$ 6,460	\$ 5,540
Paradigmas y Marco Juridico Nacional e	IC	02/02/2015	02/24/2015	34	48	82	\$ 724	\$ 724	\$ 0
Lenguaje de Señas Nicaraguense	IC	02/23/2015	03/09/2015	27	23	50	\$ 8,160	\$ 8,160	\$ 0
Fortalecimiento Organizacional de OSC	IC	02/03/2015	03/26/2015	41	49	90	\$ 20,625	\$ 20,625	\$ 0
Auditoria Social y Politicas Publicas	IC	01/15/2015	01/31/2015	21	14	35	\$ 2,441	\$ 2,441	\$ 0
Totals for Activity:				123	175	298	\$ 43,950	\$ 38,410	\$ 5,540
Totals for Report:				123	175	298	\$ 43,950	\$ 38,410	\$ 5,540

Annex 5. MGP QR 2 2014 Cost Share Report

Report Date
As of March 31, 2015

Match (In Cash/Kind) Worksheet

Prepared By:

Project Name:

Cost Center Number

Contract Number:

Total In kind/match obligation per Cooperative Agreement

Total in kind Match collected in FY10-11

Total in kind Match collected in FY11-12

Total in kind Match collected in FY12-13

Total in kind Match collected in FY13-14

Total in kind Match collected in FY14-15

Cumulative match since project start

Total in kind/ match obligation remaining

Leonel Briceño
Municipal Governance Program
22401
AID-524-10-00006
1,531,837.00
60,869.18
1,049,989.85
371,065.87
148,389.32
41,995.03
1,672,309.25
(\$140,472)

	Amount	FY 2015				
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
A	Donated Equipment, materials and other tangible items	\$1,252	199.43	1,052.83	0.00	0.00
B	Donated use of equipment, materials and other tangible items	\$6,183	5,034.38	1,148.12	0.00	0.00
C	Donated use of facilities	\$2,716	605.71	2,109.93	0.00	0.00
D	Donated Land	\$0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
E	Donated use of land	\$0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
F	Donations of unskilled labor to CHF, to a CHF project/partner, or to Global Communities beneficiaries	\$1,895	524.04	1,371.27	0.00	0.00
G	Donations of skilled labor to CHF partners	\$29,949	11,436.93	18,512.39	0.00	0.00
Total Match, in cash and in kind in FY15		\$41,995	17,800.49	24,194.54	0.00	0.00

MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE PROGRAM AID 524 -10 - 00006

Annex 6. MGP QR 2 2014 Accruals

GLOBAL COMMUNITIES NICARAGUA
CA N° AID-524-10-00006
2nd QUARTERLY BUDGET ACCRUED EXPENDITURES
FY 2015
U.S. DOLLARS

Nro.	Line Item	a	b	c	d	e	Burned							Projected			f	g=b+ c+d+ e+ f	h = g/a	i= a-g
		Total Approved Budget	Total Expenditure FY 2011	Total Expenditure FY 2012	Total Expenditure FY 2013	Total Expenditure FY 2014	Q1	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total Expenditure FY 2015	Accumulated Expenditures through 09/30/2015	Percentage of Execution	Remaining Balance in Relation with the Approved Budget			
		1	Personnel	3,328,408	488,695	621,373	612,524	503,275	130,205	45,242	48,792	57,410	151,443	157,698	151,333	590,678	2,816,545	84.62%	511,862	
2	Fringe Benefits and Allowances	1,737,497	282,880	271,424	282,894	263,056	58,444	15,189	27,913	32,696	75,797	15,554	15,554	165,350	1,265,603	72.84%	471,894			
3	Consultants	394,016	64,225	35,417	78,974	9,839	2,439	970	1,535	913	3,418	3,150	12,600	21,607	210,062	53.31%	183,955			
4	Travel & Per Diem	433,788	78,827	73,557	52,772	49,707	15,072	3,037	3,767	3,542	10,346	23,338	20,962	69,719	324,582	74.82%	109,207			
5	Equipment & Supplies	287,818	201,941	3,201	3,425	2,887	1,090	-	-	185	185	824	1,124	3,222	214,677	74.59%	73,142			
6	Contracts and Subawards	15,440,065	1,373,557	2,654,732	1,348,215	978,745	205,632	59,615	88,589	84,371	232,574	290,569	319,753	1,048,527	7,403,777	47.95%	8,036,288			
7	Program Costs- Direct Implementation	225,265	25,769	41,866	81,233	36,029	12,441	2,387	9,899	1,062	13,348	7,590	7,090	40,469	225,366	100.04%	(101)			
8	Other Operating Costs	984,924	162,771	177,661	147,215	161,060	46,424	7,390	11,913	23,836	43,139	42,233	56,166	187,962	836,668	84.95%	148,256			
9	Indirect Charges Per NICRA	3,167,982	349,839	554,302	383,699	264,014	80,435	20,720	29,637	29,935	80,292	97,242	83,258	341,227	1,893,081	59.76%	1,274,901			
	TOTAL COSTS	25,999,763	3,028,504	4,433,533	2,990,950	2,268,612	552,181	154,549	222,045	233,949	610,543	638,197	667,840	2,468,760	15,190,360	58.42%	10,809,404			