



# Global Communities

Partners for Good

**Municipal Governance Program**

## ***QUARTERLY REPORT***

July 1 – September 30, 2014

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## 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: July 1, 2014-September 31, 2014**

#### **Citizen Participation**

- Signed an agreement with the Movement for Sexual Diversity (MDS) of the RACS, a project that contributes to the inclusion of the needs of the LGBT community in public policy and citizen participation in two municipalities of the region, Bluefields and Rama.
- 712 participants from the Municipal Development Committees (CDM) municipalities of Santo Domingo, San Pedro de Lovago and Muelles de Bueyes continued to participate in town hall meetings for budget consultations.
- Both the FUMSAMI and BICU first- year projects came to a close and both have started conceptualizing their projects for next Fiscal year. BICU will continue organizational strengthening activities for adolescent youth in four municipalities of the RACS. FUMSAMI will continue their work with the women of San Miguelito and El Almendro with an emphasis on health and GBV.
- In celebration of the day of the disabled person, The MGP supported the mobilization of organizations from PwD in Bluefields, Corn Island and Pearl Lagoon, in which city officials including, the mayors, were involved in advocating PwD rights.
- Completed the initiative that strengthened the Water and Sanitation Committees (CAPS). They are now more effective and efficient at providing community services in the municipalities of Bluefields and Pearl Lagoon in RACS.
- The Youth Roundtable in RACS agreed on thematic advocacy areas – education and employment. They also developed their brand and logo. Additionally they organized cultural and educational events for youth week in which 1260 young people from Bluefields, Pearl Lagoon and Corn Island participated
- MGP promoted ICT by proving six organizations the opportunity to design a participatory social digital campaign on a topic of common interest to all. These organizations decided to advocate for improved inclusive education in the RACS
- Trained 24 journalists from the RACS and Rio San Juan Chontales to monitor the implementation of municipal budgets as tools to reflect municipal public policies, commitment to communities and the budget expenditure allocated to them

#### **Snapshot of Life of Project Accomplishments**

- 139 community-led projects (out of the 406 presented) were included in the 2014 local budgets and implemented in 16 Municipalities.
- 60 Journalists were trained in best practices for citizen participation and advocacy,
- 1,713 civic leaders representing 54 CSOs trained in public participation, advocacy, access to public information and social audit
- Four organizations conducted ten Social audits, most of them focused on interest for women and youth.
- Through the Fiscal Transparency component IEEPP launched “*Our Budget Observatory*”, which was presented at five universities attended by 445 students
- Trained 11 CAPS in leadership, community organization, the legal framework, proper performance of their water system, operation and maintenance plans for water systems and gender issues
- Sponsored three awareness campaigns about the importance of youth in citizen participation
- 400 copies of the reader-friendly 2014 National budget have been distributed
- Trained 42 members (24 women) of 36 CSOs in tax transparency
- 215 people have been trained in Nicaraguan human rights framework for persons with disabilities

### **Fiscal Transparency**

- The extension of the Fiscal Transparency component was approved this quarter, extending activities through August 2015. Activities under this component included a forum of national and international organizations to disseminate good practices in Fiscal Transparency. Civil Society Organizations from Guatemala, Mexico, and Argentina joined forces with International donors, the Government of Nicaragua and Media outlets to reflect on past experiences and best ways to move forward.

### **CSO Organizational Capacity Development (OCD)**

- MGP, through its PODER program, designed and implemented an information and awareness campaign on PwD rights in line with the UN Convention and Law 763 through workshops for PwDs, local government officials, private-sector employers and educational institutions. 215 people from the municipalities of Bluefields, Corn Island and Pearl Lagoon participated in these workshops, 174 were PwDs.

- Additionally through PODER, MGP facilitated organizational assessments and subsequent strengthening plans for FECONORI's Bluefields chapter by using the Appreciate Review of Capacity (ARC) approach. This reporting period, two of the four ARC steps were completed (1) facilitated a self-assessment of internal capacity that will serve as a baseline assessment; (2) facilitated the elaboration of organizational capacity building plans.

- MGP completed the process of leadership strengthening with seven partner organizations in workshops addressing issues of Communication and Conflict Management. As a result of these workshops, the organizations were able to 1) Strengthen the linkage between the organizations leadership and their base; 2) Identify actions for conflict resolution such as seeking solutions based on commonalities; and 3) Foster good working relationships that enable grassroots base to stay organized

- MGP provided organizational capacity development through its ARC institutional strengthening methodology to strengthen local CSOs planning and project management capabilities. This quarter, six partner organizations completed the cycle of technical assistance that included six sessions to develop their strategic plans, sustainability strategies, communication, and project management.

- MGP supported the Territorial Government Awaltara (GTA) by initiating a small project which aims to strengthen the Ulwa Development Committee (CODIUL) through training and organizational development and cultural, educational and linguistic revitalization that contribute to the development of Ulwa identity. This quarter we helped CODIUL form their Board of Directors through a participatory process.

### **Institutional**

- This quarter, MGP signed a modification to our agreement to increase the resilience of the people and natural resources in the Caribbean region of Nicaragua to the long-term impacts of climate change. Activities include promoting the participation of vulnerable populations in the adaptation planning process. This component covers climate change activities through 2016.

## II. PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### *Citizen Participation*

#### *2.1. Project to support the LGBT community begins in two RACS municipalities*

A donor agreement was signed with the Movement for Sexual Diversity in the RACS at the beginning of September. The goal of the project is to promote the participation of the LGBT community in decision-making spaces and facilitate the inclusion of the LGBT community's demands in public policies in Bluefields and El Rama. The project's first month focused on designing training programs to encourage reflection about LGBT rights and increase citizen participation. Implementation of both training programs will begin in October 2014.



*Bluefields. Members of Sexual Diversity Movement and Association of Young Women Fighters.*

#### *2.2 Municipal Development Committees monitor budget implementation and prepare for budget consultations*

MDC members have participated actively in budget transparency forums on the actual and fiscal implementation of 2014 municipal budgets during the second semester. Participation in the budget transparency forums is a way in which the MDCs monitor budget implementation.

***Table 1: Number of participants in budget transparency forums***

Municipality	Forum Date	Total Participants	# of Women	# of MDC Representatives	# of Women
San Pedro de Lóvago	24-jul-14	120	78	22	10
Muelle de los Bueyes	24-jul-14	257	103	53	27
Santo Domingo	31-jul-14	335	188	61	24
<b>Totals</b>		<b>712</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>61</b>

The MDCs, along with municipal government technical staff, have participated in community and neighborhood-level activities to understand the needs and demands of community members. The

MDCs have also been active in the process of prioritizing projects on the sub-regional levels. This process is based on an analysis of the Municipal Development Plans and other criteria to facilitate the efficient and equitable allocation of funds. Decisions about the allocation of funds will be solidified in the Annual Municipal Budgets. The factors considered include:

1. Poverty levels (greater support for more impoverished communities)
2. Equitable distribution of resources (keeping in mind the 2013 resource distribution map)
3. Investment per capita (beneficiary)
4. Priority level in the Municipal Development Plan (the MDCs ensure that projects are linked to the priorities identified in the municipal development plans)
5. **Closing gender gaps**

### *2.3 Follow-on programs with FUMSAMI and BICU designed*

During August and September BICU and FUMSAMI designed follow-on projects through an inclusive process involving both target sector representatives and MGP representatives. Their main objectives are as follows:

- BICU: Continue to strengthen partnerships among youth and adolescent organizations in four RACS municipalities, prioritizing participation in budget consultations, the presentation and approval of municipal youth policies, and advocacy for social investment.
- FUMSAMI: Continue supporting women's initiatives in San Miguelito and El Almendro that focus on improving healthcare and fighting gender-based violence. Expand the target population to include women representing the sexual diversity movement. Continue to improve advocacy in municipal budget formulation and monitoring.



*FUMSAMI has held public forums to raise the profile of women's issues in the municipality. Activities such as these will be included in new projects.*

### *2.4 Handicapped people march to draw attention to their demands*

The MGP supported a march organized by organizations of handicapped persons in Bluefields, Corn Island, and Laguna de Perlas. In Bluefields, the march was held on August 25 – National Day for Handicapped Persons – and was attended by the mayor and other municipal officials. The objectives of the march were to draw attention to handicapped peoples' demands and to increase

the involvement of public institutions and the general citizenry in ensuring the application of Law 763.



*August 25, 2014. Members of handicapped peoples' organizations, with support from the MGP, march in Bluefields to commemorate the National Day for Handicapped Persons*

### *2.5 Support for CAPS completed in two RACS municipalities*

During this quarter, MGP completed project assisting Potable Water and Sanitation Committees (CAPS, Sp.) in becoming efficient and effective service providers at the community level and in exercising their rights and responsibilities under Law 722 (the law for Special Committees of Water and Sanitation) in order to improve water and sanitation services in Bluefields and Laguna de Perlas.

While initially the project was going to support 20 CAPS, the MGP had to reduce the scope of the project to support just 11 CAPS due to budget cutbacks. Institutional strengthening initiatives were designed for these 11 CAPS – five in Laguna de Perlas and six in Bluefields. A total of 797 community members benefitted from the initiatives (56% women). The following results should be highlighted:

- 20 CAPS received community evaluations, an Organizational Capacity Index (administrative and technical), and an evaluation of their community water and sanitation systems (with a focus on gender and women's access to these services)
- 20 CAPS developed improvement plans that identify initiatives and results with a focus on sustainability
- 11 CAPS received legal recognition as water service providers and understand best practices in maintaining water systems.
- 11 CAPS received training on Law 722, community organizations, the rational use of water, water system management, operation and maintenance of water systems, gender, leadership, and women's advocacy on water and sanitation issues
- Created the Network of Laguna de Perlas Municipal CAPS



August 5, 2014. Closing ceremony for CAPS that received training and organizational strengthening project through blueEnergy.

*2.6 More than 1,000 youth participate in events to celebrate Youth Week in Bluefields, Laguna de Perlas, and Corn Island*

Youth Week was celebrated during this quarter. Organizations participating in the Youth Roundtables agreed to hold joint activities during the week. The events were promoted through press releases, press conferences, and posters. An estimated 1,260 young people participated in the events in Bluefields, Corn Island, and Laguna de Perlas.

Youth Roundtable organizations also agreed to form two issues groups. The issue groups will provide spaces for stakeholders to develop, debate, and implement projects. One issue group will focus on education and job access, while the second will focus on youth participation. The Youth Roundtable also designed a logo and slogan in recognition of the need to develop a communications strategy that will increase the group’s recognition. The logo and slogan will be used on all materials that the Youth Roundtable produces and at all of its activities.



Logo Youth Roundtable.

*2.7 Six MGP partner organizations create digital communications campaign to promote inclusive education*

With the goal of promoting the use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) in citizen participation partner organization communications strategies in the RACS, the MGP provided its citizen participation partners with the opportunity to design a digital media campaign. The

campaign will address an issue that all six partner organizations are interested in. The project began this quarter with the participation of blueEnergy, FECONORI, the Movement for Sexual Diversity in the RACS, the Association of Strong Young Women (AMJOLU, Sp.), the Multicultural Women's Center for Research and Information (CEIMM, Sp.), and BICU. With the support of digital communications company Argomedia, the partner organizations decided to focus their campaign on the promotion of a truly inclusive educational system in the RACS. This decision was made after an intensive debate among the representatives to identify common interests across their organizations. The organizations also surveyed their target groups about the issue of inclusive education.

Focus group responses showed that a majority of participants had an understanding of the general concept of inclusive education, though they were often unfamiliar with that terminology. Participants provided split responses when questioned about the inclusion of handicapped people in the educational system. Twenty-two respondents (of 57) stated that handicapped people should attend separate, specialized centers. Respondents noted that formal education systems in the RACS do not provide the tools necessary for personal and professional development. They also noted that, even if the educational system were to provide these tools, students would have trouble making use of them because of the lack of employment opportunities in the region. Respondents noted that school administrators should be responsible for developing inclusive and quality education. They also noted that students should play an active role in their educational processes. It was noted that examples of discrimination are not hard to find within the educational system in the RACS. The focus groups agreed that the communications campaign should be designed to both inform its audience and to encourage action. The groups indicated that the target sectors should be youth (of both genders) and public sector officials.



*September 19th 2014. Bluefields.  
Focus group with young people  
called for BICU*

**Table 2: Focus groups with target sector representatives to identify perceptions about inclusive education**

Participants in Digital Social Media Campaign Focus Groups					
Target Groups	Municipality	Total	Women	Men	Under 30
AMJOLU	Bluefields	7	7	0	7
blueEnergy	Bluefields	8	6	2	5
BICU	Bluefields	3	1	2	3
	El Rama	2	1	1	3
	Pearl Lagoon	3	1	2	3
Movement for Sexual Diversity	Bluefields	4	1	3	2
	El Rama	4	1	3	4
Awaltara Territorial Government	La Cruz de Río Grande	8	5	3	8
	Desembocadura de Río Grande	5	3	2	5
	Bluefields	13	8	5	6
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>57</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>46</b>

### 2.8 Local journalists possess tools to monitor budget implementation

Twenty-four journalists from the RACS, Chontales, and Rio San Juan received training for monitoring municipal budget implementation. Journalists were trained to see municipal budgets as tools that reflect municipal policies and the funding allotted to different sector areas. Workshops held over the course of 2 ½ days allowed journalists to understand the legal framework governing the design, consultation, implementation, evaluation, and monitoring of municipal budgets. The trainings focused on providing practical tools to allow journalists to calculate budget allocations for the salaries of municipal officials by municipal category (A, B, C, or D)<sup>1</sup>, monitor budget modifications and Annual Investment Plans using Transmuni<sup>2</sup>, and monitor municipal acquisition plans through the website [Nicaraguacompra.gob.ni](http://Nicaraguacompra.gob.ni). Through these trainings, the MGP launched the second phase of its local journalist training program. The program provides journalists with tools necessary to increase the depth of journalistic coverage.

<sup>1</sup> According to Municipal Budget Law Regime (Law 376) municipalities are categorized according to their level of current income year: Category A: Managua; Category B: more than ten million of Córdobas, less than 50 million; Category C: more than six millions and equal or less than ten million; Category D: more than two million and equal or less than six million of Cordoba. Municipal transfers and wages of the elected authorities (such as Mayor, Vice Mayors and Municipal Town Secretary) are defined by these categories.

<sup>2</sup> Municipal transfers: Online system run by the Ministry of the Treasury and Public Credit that collects information about municipal budget implementation to determine when transfers from the Nicaraguan Central Bank will be made to the municipalities.



September 25 2014. Workshop for journalists in Chontales and Río San Juan on the use of Transmuni and Nicaraguacompra.

**Table 3: Number of media outlets represented at journalists workshops**

#	Media Outlet	Municipality
1	Radio Única	Bluefields
2	Radio Única	
3	Radio Bluefields Stereo	
4	Voz Indígena	
5	Noticias de Bluefields	
6	Telenoticiero El Meridiano	
7	Telenoticiero Doce Noticias	
8	Corresponsal Canal 2	
9	Radio La Costeñísima	
10	Rama Visión Canal 5	El Rama
11	Radio Dignidad	Juigalpa
12	Radio Stereo Vida	
13	Canal 5	
14	Canal 7	
15	Canal 8	
16	Radio Centro	
17	Corresponsal Acción 10	
18	Radio Humadales	San Miguelito

### 2.9 Partner organizations complete eight social audits

BICU, the Chontales Women’s Network, and FUMSAMI completed eight social audits this quarter. The conclusions and recommendations, which were shared widely, will serve as input for the design of this year’s budget consultation advocacy initiatives. The partner organizations are committed to increasing advocacy activities on the municipal level to ensure greater funding and strengthen institutional coordination around initiatives to improve women’s healthcare, fight gender-based violence, and implement an Equal Opportunities plan in San Miguelito. Other central issues for the organizations include improved scholarship distribution, increased opportunities for young people to receive technical degrees, and funding for sports/recreation.

The Social Audit Committees in each municipality shared the results of their work through forums, municipal gatherings, and meetings with the Municipal Councils. These events facilitated

interaction between representatives of the partner organizations, their target groups, municipal officials, and public sector representatives including members of the National Police, Woman’s Commission, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, judges, and others. The events also facilitated conversations about the need to coordinate and combine efforts across sectors and allowed public sector representatives to provide the public with information about their efforts to address issues affecting women and youth.



August 2014. Santo Domingo, Chontales, Red de Mujeres Chontaleñas presenting results of social audits in a public forum.

**Table 4: Events to share social audit results**

Municipal Events	Participants per Event	% Women
El Almendro Municipal Forum: "Perspectives on improving our well-being: A woman's view"	81 people representing the municipal government, Ministry of Health, Woman's Commission, Social Cabinet, Ministry of the Family, Association for the Development of El Almendro (ASODEAL), Casa Materna, and rural and urban communities.	60
San Miguelito Municipal Forum: "Perspectives on improving our well-being: A woman's view"	70 people including female community leaders from Las Palomas, Los Pantanos, and El Never Oporta, Casa Materna, students and representatives of MINSA and MINED.	70
Laguna de Perlas Municipal Council Session	24 people including COMAJ youth and adolescents, the mayor, the vice-mayor, the municipal secretary, and municipal advisors	45
Corn Island Municipal Council Session	22 people including COMAJ youth and adolescents, the mayor, the vice-mayor, the municipal secretary, and municipal advisors	42
Bluefields Municipal Council Session	61 people including COMAJ youth and adolescents, the mayor, the vice-mayor, the municipal secretary, municipal advisors, and the general public	40
El Rama Municipal Council Session	63 people including COMAJ youth and adolescents, the mayor, the municipal secretary, and municipal advisors	41
Forum: "A Participatory, Green, and Healthy Santo Domingo Participativo"	91 people including community leaders, MDCs, journalists, municipal council members, and B2Gold representatives.	71
Villa Sandino Municipal Council Session	20 women representing the network, municipal council representatives	75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>432 total participants</b>	<b>57</b>

### 2.10 Partner organizations have improved capacities to promote citizen participation at the local level

The MGP held a workshop on promoting citizen participation at the local level. Participants included the COMAJ (Municipal Commission of Adolescence and Youth) from Laguna de Perlas, Corn Island, and El Rama, Bluefields youth organizations, members of the Awaltara Territorial

Government, and APRODER representatives. The workshop allowed participants to share experiences in local advocacy on issues of youth and diversity.

Youth from the COMAJ continued working on municipal ordinances. These ordinances will allow the Local Youth Plans developed by the COMAJ to become municipal policy once they are presented to and approved by the municipal councils. The Municipal Development Council (CDM Sp.) of Muelle de los Bueyes, which is supported by APRODER, also revised and improved the ordinance which created the MDC. This allowed for a rich exchange on best practices and lessons learned in promoting citizen participation. The COMAJ reproduced the workshop for youth in their local communities (87 in total), as demonstrated below:



*August 2014.  
Bluefields.  
Workshop to learn  
how to promote  
local ordinances.*

**Table 5: Workshop replicas on promoting citizen participation at the local level**

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Men</b>
<b>Laguna de Perlas</b>	22	12	10
<b>El Rama</b>	28	14	14
<b>Corn Island</b>	13	10	3
<b>Bluefields</b>	24	13	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>38</b>

### *2.11 Project with the Awaltara Territorial Government completed*

During this quarter, MGP completed the project titled “Community Participation in the Institutional Development of the Multi-Ethnic Awaltara Government”. The project targeted 16 communities composed of ethnic Ulwa, Miskito, creole, and mestizo members in two RACS municipalities (La Desembocadura del Río Grande y La Cruz de Río Grande). Some of the most pertinent results are highlighted below:

- 16 participatory community diagnostics completed in GTA communities.
- 192 leaders (41% women), adults and youth, trained in citizen participation and community management cycles. The trainings strengthened participant’s understandings of and strategies for the defense of rights. Participants also learned about tools for designing and managing community projects, based on municipal, community, and sector priorities.

- 19 people trained on leadership, democratic values, strategic communications, negotiation, and conflict resolution (36% women), thereby improving the Awaltara Territorial Government's institutional structure.
- Communal and territorial governance systems strengthened through support for assemblies to elect community and territorial leaders. The elections helped promote the autonomy and capacity for self-determination of indigenous, mestizo, and afro-descendent populations in the territories.
- Participation in budget consultation improved. Project proposals presented to Municipal Councils.
- 13 community associations formed. Associations requested legal certification from Municipal Councils.
- Awaltara Territorial Government institutional structures strengthened through the revision, modification, and approval of internal regulations (the GTA's main normative legal instrument)

This project allowed the GTA to improve its advocacy capacities on the national, regional, and local levels in support of citizen participation for local governance. The project strengthened informal community groups, which facilitated better communication, relationships, and trust between community members and the traditional government that represents them.



*In Awaltara territories  
live meztizos, creoles,  
miskitos and ulwas  
persons.*

### *2.12 Support for the preservation of archeological sites in the RACS completed*

The project to protect archeological sites and strengthen cultural heritage in the Rama Kriol Territory in the South Caribbean Autonomous Region (RACS, Sp.) completed all expected program activities. Results include: the completion of three archeological expeditions (1 investigative, 2 for inventory) in partnership with UNAN-Managua and the under the supervision of the National Institute for Culture. A total of 47 new archeological sites were documented. Eight formerly identified and eight newly identified sites containing large numbers of ceramic and stone artifacts are now being protected by BICU-CIDCA. The sites will be managed by local communities after the conditions necessary for their preservation and use for tourism have been established. Among the

archeological discoveries is a human skeleton found in the Monkey Point community. The skeleton is believed to be approximately 7,000 years old. The results of the archeological expeditions will be published in a special edition of WANI magazine.

The project also included a radio campaign on four local radio stations to raise awareness among community members and local officials about the importance of protecting archeological sites. Capacity strengthening workshops were held in the four communities in the Rama Kriol territories that hold most tourism potential (Bangkukuk Taik, Monkey Point, Rama Cay y Tiktik Kaanu). Workshop themes included organization and leadership, ecotourism, hotel work and culinary arts, tour guides, administration, basic accounting, Laws 28 and 445, and museology. The objective of the workshops was to provide Rama Kriol community members with tools to improve and manage community resources.

Another important component of this project was the initiative to preserve the offices of the Atlantic Coast Center for Research and Documentation (CIDCA-BICU, Sp.). The building has architectural characteristics standard of the colonial era on the Caribbean Coast. The building was completed renovated and electricity was installed. Renovations included interior painting and roofing. The building itself is a piece of the region's cultural heritage, and holds artifacts that are displayed for tourism purposes in local museums.



*CIDCA trained people from communities such as Rama Cay, to better preserve archeological sites and use them as places for community tourism.*

### *2.13 More than 2,200 people trained by the MGP in FY 2014*

During this quarter the MGP trained a total of 467 people, of which almost 60% were women. Across FY2014, the MGP provided training to 2,252 people on a wide range of issues including social audits, leadership, access to public information, municipal budget consultations, gender and local governance, mediation and conflict resolution, management of cultural heritage, fiscal

transparency, the legal framework for handicapped people, and CAPS. A total investment of \$202,460 was made by the MGP for its training activities. (See Annex 4).



*Women leaders  
from San  
Miguelito, Río  
San Juan, left.  
Leaders members  
of Gobierno  
Comunal de  
Laguna de Perlas,  
right.*

### ***Fiscal Transparency***

#### *2.14 Best practices in fiscal transparency shared and second phase of program approved*

During this quarter, the MGP held a forum for national and international organizations interested in improving budget transparency and understanding initiatives to improve fiscal transparency on the Latin American regional level. The July 9th conference, titled “Initiatives Contributing to Budget Transparency in Latin America”, was attended by technical staff of the Ministry of the Treasury and Public Credit and Nicaraguan Central Bank, representatives of international aid organizations, representatives of civil society organizations, and journalists.

Presentations were made by two national organizations: the Nicaraguan Foundation for Economic and Social Development (Funides, Sp.) and the Federation of Nicaraguan NGOs Working for Children and Adolescents (Codeni, Sp.). Presentations were also made by regional organizations, including: Fundar Center for Analysis and Investigation (Mexico), International Budget Partnership (IBP), the Central American Institute for Fiscal Studies (ICEFI – Guatemala), and the Civil Association for Equality and Justice (ACIJ – Argentina). The regional organizations had significant experience in public sector budget analysis and advocacy. In addition to providing an important space for reflection and shared experiences, the conference generated media attention. Journalist interest to the conference was facilitated by IEEPP’s workshops for journalists, who now have a better understanding of fiscal transparency issues.

**Table 6: Participants in the fiscal transparency conference**

Sector	# of Participants	Organizations
Nicaraguan Government	5	MHCP, BCN, DAN
CSOs	39	Movimiento Puente, ALDEMA, CODENI, BCIE, AJOMA, ASOTRASOL, UCA, FUNIDES, CC, FUNDAR, CEFI, LAPOP, NCEJU, epp, BP, ACIJ
International Aid Organizations	14	HIVOS, MS-ActionAID, COSUDE, GlobalCommunities, USAID, EMBUSA
Media Outlets	11	Metro, La Prensa, Confidencial, Canal 2, Radio Restauración, Canal 12, El Nuevo Diario
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	

**Funding for the continuation of the project through August 2015 was approved this quarter** for a total of US\$ 227,280 (approximately 80% USAID, 20% counterpart).

### **CSO Organizational Capacity Development (OCD)**

#### *2.15 More than two hundred people with an increased understanding of the legal framework for handicapped people*

During this quarter, the MGP increased citizen understanding of the legal framework affecting handicapped people, focusing in particular on Law 763 (Law on Handicapped Persons). Trainings on the application of Law 763 were attended by municipal advisors, journalists, public sector representatives, and representatives of FECONORI member organizations at the local level (Nicaraguan Blind Persons' Organization [OCN-MT, Sp.], Los Piptos – Association of Fathers and Mothers of Children with Disabilities, Association of People with Physical Disabilities [ADIFIM, Sp.], Association of Pensioners, Handicapped, and Retired Persons [APPD, Sp.]).

174 of the participants were handicapped people. An additional 41 were representatives of municipal institutions (88 men and 127 women). In addition to the pertinent legal framework, the forum for journalists addressed the appropriate terminology to use when reporting on issues affecting handicapped people.

**Table 7: Number of People Trained on the Legal Framework Affecting Handicapped People**

Municipality	Organization	M	W	Total
Bluefields	ADIFIM	17	18	35
	Los Pipitos	8	20	28
	OCN-MT	13	14	27
	APPDJ	12	21	33
	Journalists and Human Rights Workers	7	6	13
	Municipal Councils	6	5	11
Corn Island	Handicapped persons (not formally organized)	9	14	23
	Nicaraguan Army, National Police, Mayor, Ministry of Health, judges, attorneys	6	11	17
Laguna de Perlas	Handicapped persons (not formally organized)	10	18	28
<b>Total</b>		<b>88</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>215</b>

### 2.16 Organizational strengthening programs for organizations working with handicapped people begin

Under the organizational development component, the MGP designed and began implementing technical assistance for six partner organizations working with handicapped people in Bluefields, Corn Island, and Laguna de Perlas. These organizations are categorized either as emerging organizations or are ones just being formed and their membership includes people with physical handicaps that have been marginalized in educational, cultural, or ethnic arenas. Additionally the organizational structure is weak with little or no leadership capacity. As such, the organizations require specialized attention in order to increase their local advocacy capacities.

The MGP designed comprehensive technical assistance programs that will help strengthen the organizations on the local level. The technical assistance will take place in four stages. The first stage evaluated organizational capacities using a revised ARC methodology. Data was gathered on the achievements and visions of the organizations, allowing the MGP to understand organizational interests and development needs. This data was used to design institutional strengthening initiatives and evaluate the organizations' citizen participation and advocacy strategies. Stage one workshops (12 hours) were held in all three target municipalities in August. Stage two workshops on citizen participation were held in September. These participative workshops focused on training local leaders of the partner organizations to identify basic aspects of a good social organization that they can use in citizen participation.



Workshop to diagnose training needs of organizations of persons with disabilities in Bluefields.

**Graphic 1: Design of technical assistance for handicapped person's organizations**



**Table 8: Institutional strengthening workshops with handicapped persons' organizations**

Issue	Municipality	Organizations	M	W	Total
Introductory workshop to identify organizational needs	Bluefields	ADIFIM, ORD, APPDJ, ANSNIC y Los Pipitos	19	17	36
	Laguna de Perlas	Handicapped persons	5	14	19
	Corn Island	Handicapped persons	9	15	24
<b>Total</b>			<b>33</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>79</b>
Social organization: An instrument for citizen participation	Bluefields	ADIFIM, OCN-MT, ORD, APPDJ, ANSNIC y Los Pipitos	15	20	35
	Laguna de Perlas	Handicapped persons	12	16	28
	Corn Island	Handicapped persons	19	23	42
<b>Total</b>			<b>46</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>105</b>

*2.17 Seven organizations completed leadership training cycles*

During this quarter, the MGP completed leadership development training cycles with seven partner organizations. Training workshops addressed communications and conflict resolution. As a result, the organizations have been able to:

- Activate their grassroots bases, which has led to increased communication with grassroots actors and strengthened partnerships
- Identify areas for organizational improvement such as: the exercise of leadership, horizontal team structures, direct and respectful communication, conflict management
- Develop best practices for ensuring that grassroots organizations are addressing high-demand issues
- Share capacities, knowledge, and visions with their entire grassroots structures

The MGP plans to build on this leadership strengthening experience by developing new leadership development programs for women and youth.



*During these workshops, members of organizations learn about horizontal team structures and how to manage conflicts, among others themes.*

*2.18 Institutional strengthening programs for six partner organizations completed*

Six MGP partner organizations completed technical assistance cycles that included six workshops on the development of strategic plans, sustainability, and communications, and two additional workshops on project management. The technical assistance has improved partner organization capacity to increase the quality of their services and adapt programming to meet the demands of their target sectors. The concrete results of the technical assistance listed by issue area are demonstrated in the table below:

**Table 9: Results of organizational development technical assistance**

Results of Organizational Development Technical Assistance	
Institutional Planning	o Organizational strategic framework
	\$ Organizational values
	\$ Vision and mission
	\$ Strategic objectives
	o Institutional operating plan for first year of strategy
	\$ Quantifiable goals per strategic objective
	\$ Initiative defined by objective
	\$ Timetables and staff
\$ Cost of initiatives	
Financial Sustainability Strategy	o Financial sustainability strategy for each organization
	o Financial sustainability action plan
	o Income projection per selected strategy (4 years)
Communications Strategy	o Communications diagnostic
	o Communications strategy
	o Key messages per organization
	o Target audiences
	o Communications mix
Project Management	o At least one future project profile per organization
	o Logical program framework developed

The workshops have also influenced the institutional cultures of the partner organizations and allowed them to sustainably incorporate the results of the technical assistance. The most notable qualitative results are listed below:

- Improved capacities for teamwork
- Development of new leadership
- Improved technical capacities
- Improved internal communication
- Increased commitment of staff to organizational missions

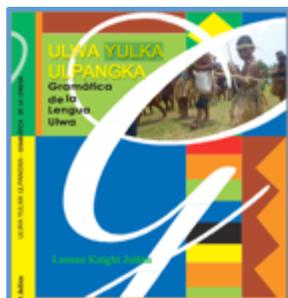
### 2.19 MGP supports education in RAAS indigenous languages

This quarter, the Awaltara Territorial Government (GTA, Sp.) began implementing a small but socio-culturally significant project for the Ulwa indigenous community. The project will provide training to strengthen the Committee for the Comprehensive Development of the Ulwa Community (CODIUL, Sp.). The project will also support cultural, educational, and linguistic revitalization initiatives to strengthen Ulwa identity in Desembocadura del Rio Grande municipality in the RACS.

Due to the limited presence of NGOs and community-based organizations in the territory, CODIUL has been one of the GTA's main partners in establishing development strategies for the Ulwa community. This institutional strengthening project arose out of the partnership and is designed to

strengthen local organizational capacity and promote local culture. The project will play an important role in strengthening regional autonomy, which is exemplified by the local government's recognition of diverse cultural and linguistic traditions. Through a democratic process, over 100 community members, including community elders and leaders, participated in the selection of CODIUL's board of directors. This level of community participation will increase the legitimacy of the processes.

The first three-day training workshop on promotion of the Ulwa language was held in the Ulwa community. 30 people participated (15 men and 15 women). The first workshop focused on the use of intercultural/bilingual educational materials. With the support of the Bluefields India and Caribbean University (BICU), an instruction manual on Ulwa grammar is being revised. This manual will serve as one of the educational materials that will be promoted for the preservation of the Ulwa language.



*Cover of “Grammar of Language Ulwa” (in progress) that will be released during the project with Gobierno Territorial Awaltara.*

## ***Institutional***

### *2.20 Approval of new climate change component*

This quarter, MGP was modified to include a climate change component whose goal is to strengthen citizen participation and civil society's organizational capacity to influence decision-makers for the purpose of improving local governance and development. MGP will address climate change adaptation issues in the RACS by taking a rights based approach that improves the capacity of vulnerable populations to develop locally relevant strategies for engaging local, municipal, and regional governments for greater enforcement of their rights to know about and plan for impending changes that will profoundly affect their lives and livelihoods.

Specifically, MGP will increase the resilience of the people and natural resources in the Caribbean region to the long-term impacts of climate change by promoting the participation of vulnerable populations in the adaptation planning process using the following objectives:

- **Provide indigenous and Afro-descendant communities with the knowledge and tools to engage and participate in local adaptation planning processes.**
- **Strengthen coordination, advocacy, citizen participation and dialogue between the communities and the communal, municipal and regional governments.**

- Create opportunities to identify, develop and implement options for local adaptation plans with the communities.



*Tik Tak Kanu, Rama Kriol terrotorie in Bluefields, will be one of the communities where climate change component will take actions.*

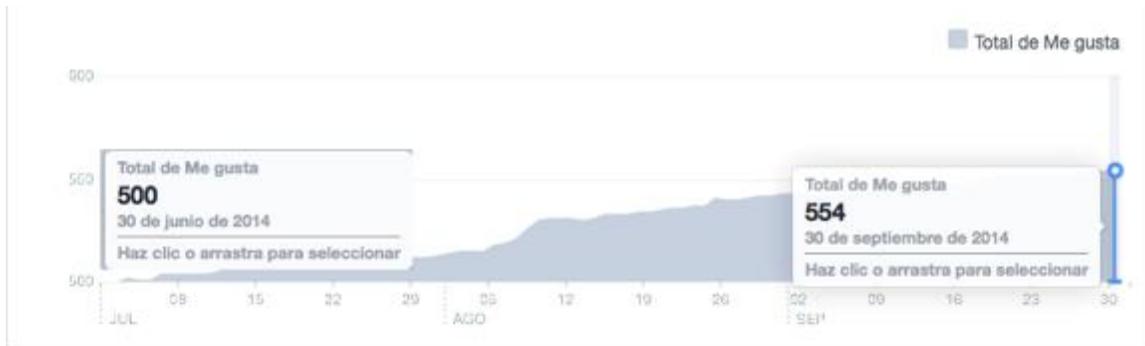
2.21 Nearly 5,000 people have read the electronic bulletin this year

This year, 4,735 people read electronic bulletin articles on MGP activities. They accessed the bulletin either through direct email or through social media sites. The number of “likes” on the MGP’s Facebook page increased from 314 in October 2013 to 540 as of September 2014.

**Table 10: Electronic bulletin readership 2014**

Quarter	Number of hits	Through social media
Q1	1060	N/A
Q2	674	1515
Q3	1001	123
Q4	171	191
<b>FY 2014</b>	<b>2906</b>	<b>1829</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4735</b>	

**Graphic 2: Growth in “likes” on Facebook**



### III. GENDER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### 3.1 MDC advocacy plans focus on women’s rights

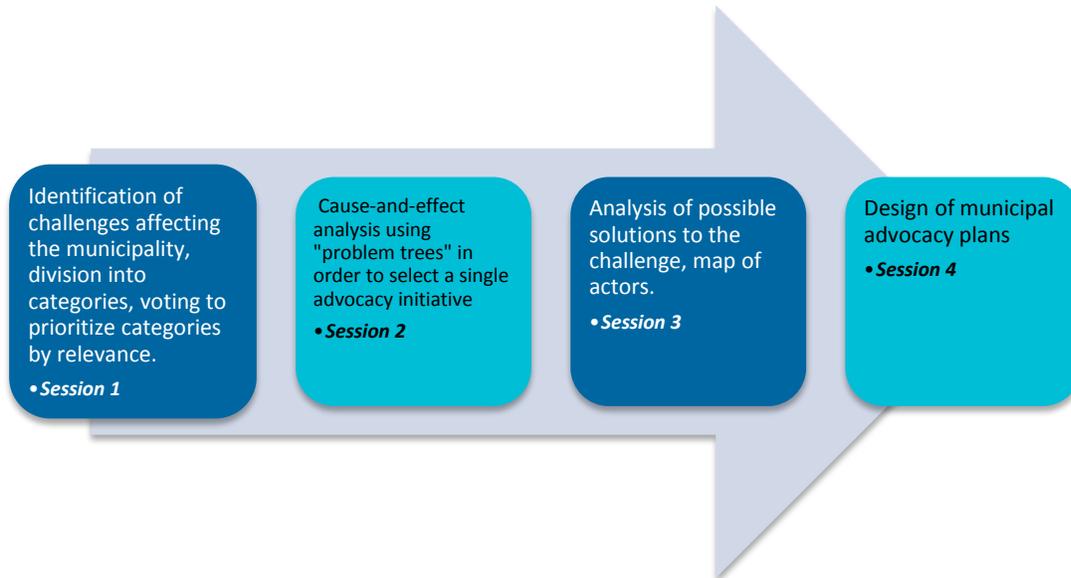
The San Pedro de Lóvago, Santo Domingo, and Muelle de los Bueyes MDCs, with the support of APRODER, evaluated the main challenges facing their municipalities through an inclusive process. They then prioritized the challenges in terms of impact in order to create advocacy plans.

The Muelle de los Bueyes MDC decided to work towards the design and approval of a Municipal Economic Development Plan with a Gender Focus. The San Pedro de Lóvago and Santo Domingo MDCs will focus their work on combatting violence against women through an inter-institutional approach. The advocacy plans are clearly linked to the results of the gender diagnostics implemented by the MDCs. They address strategic issues affecting women’s rights – economic independence and gender-based violence.

**Table 11: Average attendance at MDC sessions**

Municipality	Average # of Participants
Santo Domingo	63 people (33 women)
Muelle de los Bueyes	58 people (30 women)
San Pedro de Lóvago	45 people (22 women)

**Graphic 3: Advocacy plan methodology**



#### 3.2 Handicapped women reflect on gender issues

In Bluefields, MGP held two workshops for women on gender themes. A total of 25 women from the six partner organizations under the PODER project participated in the workshops. The first session was used to explain the objective of the workshops – the creation of a space for women to discuss issues of importance to the group. During the first session, the participants highlighted the following issues:

- Violence against women in all its forms
- Women’s rights
- Law 779
- Women’s participation in decision-making processes

During the second session, women’s rights issues and gender-based violence were discussed in brief. However, the participants quickly appropriated the space and shared personal experiences with gender-based violence. As such, priority was given to allowing the participants to share their stories and to providing some suggestion as to ways for women to avoid becoming repeat victims of violence.



*Bluefields. Women with disabilities talk about their personal experiences.*

### *3.3 Female CAPS members strengthened and with increased representation on boards of directors*

By the close of the project with the Potable Water and Sanitation Committees in Bluefields and Laguna de Perlas, the number of women in leadership positions had risen by 11%. Thanks to blueEnergy’s efforts to promote the participation and inclusion of women, the number of females on the boards of the 11 CAPS that were restructured rose from 50% to 61%.

## IV. SIGNIFICANT CONSTRAINTS/LESSONS LEARNED AND BEST PRACTICES

### 3.1 Constraint: Programs with handicapped persons require specialized materials

One issue the new PODER component is the limited participation of the PwD in the workshops due to the lack of sign language interpreters in the three municipalities, the limited access to Nicaraguan sign language dictionaries, the lack of materials in Braille/audio materials for blind participants, and the lack of Braille instructions. **3.2 Constraint: Leadership issues within FECONORI**

During the first quarter of PODER, MGP has had to confront various issues with this new component. The first is based on the overall vertical structure of the National Federation FECONORI and its grassroots local organizations in the region. FECONORI, who is the lead partner organization for the program has had difficulty delegating responsibility to their regional organizations which slows down the implementation, Additionally since FECONORI has never relinquished that leadership role to the regions, it has created a leadership vacuum as the regional organization have never had to assume that role. With such little capacity, it will require specialized attention in order to increase their advocacy skills.

### 3.3 Best practice: Reporting on key program data generates donor interest

The MGP's practice of systematizing and providing short reports on key program results and impacts have increased stakeholder access to important program information. The availability of program data and its presentation in concise format (for example, reports on gender projects with the Municipal Development Committees) has contributed to the selection of the program for site visits by USAID functionaries from different parts of Latin America. The MGP plans to continue making improvements in its collections and reporting on this type of information.

### 3.4 Constraint: Communal government response to the central government's promotion of mega-projects is weak.

The result of economic and political interests by the ruling party that believe "favorable" conditions to Interoceanic Canal project and the community organizations which have appealed for protection against the project will create tensions and hamper coordination and action with the territorial governments. This will lead to interference and/or influence in the structures of territorial governments and will weaken the interest of community organizations and could create internal division and conflict.

## V. PLANNED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The main accomplishments planned for Q1 and Q2 of 2015 are:

**Table 12: Planned Accomplishment Q1 and Q2 FY2015**

Quarter	Citizen Participation	Institutional strengthening	Fiscal Transparency (IEEPP)	Climate Change	Cross Component
<b>Q1 October - December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner organizations and their target groups participate in 2015 municipal budget consultation processes.</li> <li>Advocacy plans for women (APRODER and FUMSAMI), handicapped persons (FECONORI), youth (BICU) and the LGBT community (MDS RAAS and AMJoLu) being implemented.</li> <li>Program on citizen participation with a sector emphasis (gender, handicapped persons, youth, LGBT community) being implemented.</li> <li>International Day of Persons with Disabilities celebrated in Bluefields with a march, theater performance, and local communications campaign to raise awareness about the rights of handicapped people.</li> <li>Event for sharing experiences and best practices between leaders of handicapped person's organizations in Corn Island, Laguna de Perlas and Bluefields.</li> <li>Results of the archeological explorations in Rama Kriol Territory published in the WANI magazine.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CODIUL board of directors and members participate in a training program to strengthen management and leadership capacities.</li> <li>Institutional development follow-on activities for three partner organizations designed.</li> <li>Technical assistance program for five territorial government community-based organizations designed.</li> <li>Leadership strengthening technical assistance for five territorial government community-based organizations designed.</li> <li>Leadership strengthening technical assistance for three community-based organizations begun.</li> <li>Organizational development initiatives for handicapped persons' organizations in the RAAS designed.</li> <li>Trainings on citizen participation and gender for handicapped persons' organizations in the RAAS begun.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Our Budget" Observatory updated with 2015 budget information.</li> <li>Fiscal transparency campaign</li> <li>Presentations on the observatory given at universities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate change forum.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Journalist workshops in the RAAS, Chontales and Río San Juan on coverage of gender-based violence issues.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Festival to promote the Ulwa culture and small awareness-raising campaign on the municipal and regional levels implemented.</li> <li>• CAPS municipal network formed in Bluefields.</li> <li>• First training workshop for CAPS network members on leadership, self-esteem, advocacy, management, legal frameworks for water resources, and CAPS network sustainability held.</li> <li>• Partners participate in public policy consultation processes around issues of effective liquid and solid waste management.</li> <li>• Publication of citizen participation toolkit to be released the first 2014 – 2015 fiscal quarter.</li> </ul>				
<p><b>Q2 January - March</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partners participate in the first budget transparency forum on 2014 budget implementation.</li> <li>• Advocacy plans for women (APRODER and FUMSAMI), handicapped persons (FECONORI), youth (BICU) and the LGBT community (MDS RAAS and AMJoLu) being implemented.</li> <li>• Program on citizen participation with a sector emphasis (gender, handicapped persons, youth, LGBT community) being implemented.</li> <li>• Conference for MGP partner organizations to share experiences on advances in and challenges to citizen participation held.</li> <li>• Second workshop for CAPS network members held.</li> <li>• CAPS municipal networks participate in municipal forums, present proposals to improve projects, and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three-part technical assistance for three partner organizations begun.</li> <li>• Technical assistance for six handicapped persons organizations in three RAAS municipalities continues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiscal transparency campaign</li> <li>• 2015 Citizen’s Budget</li> <li>• Report on the allocation of excess tax revenue and its impacts during the 2009-2013 period completed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Journalist workshop in the RAAS, Chontales and Río San Juan on coverage of climate change issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch of digital social media campaign with partner organizations in the RAAS.</li> </ul>

	<p>monitor project implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Camp for handicapped youth held.</li><li>• Journalists provide regional and national media coverage on CODIUL activities.</li><li>• Official launch of the Violence Observatory, as a result of the partnership between CEIMM and Catholics for the Right to Choose</li></ul>				
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## **ANNEXES**

The following annexes are attached:

1. MGP Project List
2. MGP Logical Framework Indicator Report
3. MGP Trainet Report
4. MGP 2014 Cost Share Report
5. MGP Accruals
6. IEEPP Quarterly Report
7. FECONORI Quarterly Report

## Annex 1. MGP Project List

Local Governance Program On-Going Projects QIV 2014

#	Organization	Project Name	Main Objectives	Component	Target Group	Geographic Coverage	Start Date	End Date	Total Amount US\$	USAID Support US\$	Status
1	Institute for Strategic Studies and Public Policy (IEEPP)	Fiscal Transparency in Nicaragua	Improve civil society understanding of the good governance of public resources	Fiscal Transparency	General population, national and local civil society	National	15/03/2013	31/08/2015	728,005	626,965.71	En Ejecución
2	Chontales Women's Network	Public Policy Advocacy for Local Development	Promote the participation of organized women and youth in public policy advocacy for local development	Citizen Participation	Civil society with a focus on women and youth	Chontales: Acoyapa, San Pedro de Lovago, Santo Tomas, Santo Domingo, Comalapa, Villa Sandino and San Francisco de Cuapa	30/04/13	30/07/14	206,702	151,226	Completado
3	Bluefields Indian Caribbean University, BICU	Promotion of Youth Participation and Empowerment for Local Development	Strengthen the exercise of civil and political rights and responsibilities by youth in the Caribbean Coast from a perspective of autonomy, to contribute to local development through youth activism and the strengthening of the region's autonomous system of government	Citizen Participation	Civil society with a focus on women and youth	South Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAS): Bluefields, Rama, Laguna de Perlas and Corn Island.	13/05/13	13/08/14	178,693	147,568	Completado
4	Awaltara Territorial Government	Community Participation in the Institutional Development of the Awaltara Multi-Ethnic Government	Develop and strengthen management, governance, and citizen participation capacities of community leaders in indigenous, afro-descendent, and mestizo Awaltara Luhpia Nani Tasbaya territories	Citizen Participation	Indigenous, afro-descendent, and mestizo populations	RAAS: La Cruz de Rio Grande and La Desembocadura de la Cruz de Rio Grande.	20/05/13	20/08/14	99,879	72,950	Completado
5	San Miguelito Women's Foundation, FUMSAM	Forming Leadership to Exercise Citizenship	Develop the advocacy capacities of women to improve citizen participation advocacy processes encouraging an informed and cohesive civil society.	Citizen Participation	Civil society with a focus on women and youth	Rio San Juan: San Miguelito and El Almendro	06/05/13	06/08/14	89,832	66,059	Completado
6	Atlantic Coast Center for Research and Documentation/Bluefields Indian and Caribbean University (BICU -CIDCA).	Preserving Archeological Sites/Strengthening Cultural Heritage in Fortalecimiento del patrimonio cultural arqueológico en el Territorio Rama y Kriol en la Región Autónoma del Atlántico Sur, RAAS, Nicaragua	Strengthen cultural/archeological heritage in the Rio Maiz, Bankukuk, Monkey Point, Tiktik Kaanu, Wiring Cay, Sumu Kaat, and Rama Cay (Rama Kriol Territories) in the RAAS.	Citizen Participation	Bluefields Black Creole Indigenous Population	RAAS: Rama Kriol Indigenous Territories	25/09/13	24/09/14	92,380	50,000	Completado
7	Bluefields Indian Caribbean University, BICU	RAAS Youth Roundtable	Facilitate the development of joint initiatives and efforts by local, national, and international stakeholders implementing programming for youth and adolescents in the RAAS	Citizen Participation	RAAS Youth	RAAS: Bluefields, Rama, Laguna de Perlas and Corn Island.	25/02/14	20/12/14	9,781	6,202	En Ejecución
8	Institute for Strategic Studies and Public Policy (IEEPP)	Promotion of Active and Informed Citizen Participation. "Café con Voz"	Promote active citizen participation in advocacy spaces through the production of radio and television programs that keep citizens informed about the main challenges impacting development.	Citizen Participation	General population, national and local civil society	National	21/03/14	20/03/15	141,536	49,988	En Ejecución
9	Association for Rural Development and Progress (APRODER*)	Creation of Spaces for Inclusive Decision Making around Issues of Local Development	Support the creation of spaces for decision making by citizens with the support of MDCs in order to improve the committees' role in municipal budget consultations and implementation. Support the development of stakeholder groups that create advocacy plans to present citizen demands to local governments and contribute to the resolution of challenges faced by the population.	Citizen Participation	Municipal Development Committees	Chontales: San Pedro de Lovago and Santo Domingo; RAAS: Muelle de los Bueyes	09/05/14	30/01/15	72,000	52,000	En Ejecución

Local Governance Program On-Going Projects QIV 2014

#	Organization	Project Name	Main Objectives	Component	Target Group	Geographic Coverage	Start Date	End Date	Total Amount US\$	USAID Support US\$	Status
10	Nicaraguan Handicapped Peoples' Association, Feconori	Organizational Strengthening and Improved Advocacy Capacities for Handicapped Peoples' Organizations in the RAAS	Strengthen handicapped peoples' organizations in the RAAS, especially indigenous and afro-descendent organizations, in order to improve their capacities to advocate for the equal rights and opportunities of handicapped people.	Citizen Participation	Handicapped Persons	RAAS: Bluefields, Corn Island and Laguna de Perlas	11/06/14	11/06/15	156,294	110,000	En Ejecución
11	blueEnergy	Strengthening of the Organizational, Environmental, Social, Financial and Legal Capacities of 20 Potable Water and Sanitation Committees (CAPS) in the RAAS	Support CAPS in becoming effective and efficient community service providers that exercise their rights and responsibilities under Law 722, in order to improve potable water and sanitation services and the sustainable maintenance of those systems.	Organizational Development	Potable Water and Sanitation Committees	RAAS: Bluefields and Laguna de Perlas	30/04/13	30/07/14	168,524	109,932	Completado
12	Global Communities/Local Consultants	Organizational Strengthening Technical Assistance and Training for CSOs	Provide technical assistance and training to 9 CSOs to strengthen their organizational capacities (as defined by ARC methodology) and improve the quality and scope of their services.	Organizational Development	MGP Implementing Partners	Chontales, Río San Juan and the RAAS	02/01/2014	31/08/2014	64,000	64,000	Completado
13	Association of Strong Young Women, AMJOLU	Promoting the Participation of the LGBT Community for Representative, Inclusive, and Equitable Development	Support the inclusion of LGBT demands in public policies and decision-making spaces in two RAAS municipalities.	Citizen Participation	LGBT Community	RAAS: Desembocadura de Río Grande	25/08/2014	25/08/2015	74,363	59,772	En Ejecución
14	Awaltara Territorial Government	Institutional Strengthening of the Ulwa Comprehensive Development Committee (CODIUL) for Cultural, Educational, and Linguistic Revitalization in the Desembocadura del Río Grande Municipality in the RAAS	Institutional strengthening of the Ulwa Comprehensive Development Committee (CODIUL) through training, organizational development, and cultural revitalization initiatives that contribute to the development of Ulwa identity in the Desembocadura del Río Grande municipality, RAAS.	Citizen Participation	Indigenous, afro-descendent and mestizo populations	RAAS: Bluefields and El Rama	10/07/2014	10/12/2014	24,549	16,895	En Ejecución
15	Global Communities/Local Consultants	Strengthening the Capacities of Local Journalists in Chontales, Río San Juan and the RAAS	Strengthen the technical and analytical capacities of local journalists in respect to local governance with a rights-based focus and citizen participation issues	Citizen Participation	Journalists in Chontales, Río San Juan and the RAAS	Chontales, Río San Juan and the RAAS	01/07/2014	30/06/2015	25,000	25,000	En Ejecución
									<b>2,131,537</b>	<b>1,608,558</b>	

**Annex 2. MGP Logical Framework Indicator Report**

**Matriz de Indicadores de Desempeño  
IV Trimestre 2014**

Indicator	LOP	Years			Year 4															Observaciones
		2011-2013			I Trimestre			II Trimestre			III Trimestre			IV Trimestre			Acumulado			
		Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec	%	
<b>O1: Promote the exercise of rights and responsibilities by citizens in local governance and development</b>																				
<b>Indicator 1.1</b>	70%																			
% of citizenry target group that increases its knowledge and skills on how to exercise citizen participation																				
<b>Indicator 1.2</b>	218	116	110	95%	30	37	123%	10	9	90%	10	10	100%	10	17	170%	60	73	122%	Se sobre cumplió la meta por cuanto se realizaron 8 eventos adicionales para la devolución de los resultados de las auditorías sociales. En el trimestre incluye los cabildos de rendición de cuentas en Muelle de los Bueyes, San Pedro de Lóvago y Santo Domingo, además de una sesión especial informativa del Gobierno Municipal de Santo Domingo al CDM, 8 eventos para la devolución de las auditorías sociales y cinco sesiones de identificación de proyectos en asambleas comunitarias en la que participan los CDM. Estas sesiones se realizaron en Muelle de los Bueyes, San Pedro de Lóvago y Santo Domingo.
Number of Local Mechanisms Supported with USG Assistance for Citizens to Engage their Sub-national Government.																				
<b>R1.1. Citizens are aware of the rights and responsibilities established by the legal framework on citizen participation.</b>																				
<b>Indicator 1.1.1 (2.4.1-3)</b>	19	10	8	80%	4	4	100%	1	0	0%	1	2	200%	0	0	0	6	6	100%	Estaba previsto iniciar la campaña de Transparencia fiscal pero dado el impase en la aprobación de los recursos se reprogramó para el primer trimestre del 2015
Number of CSO Advocacy Campaigns Supported by USG.																				
<b>R1.2. Citizens have the understanding and tools necessary to exercise their right to active participation.</b>																				
<b>Indicator 1.2.1 (2.4.1-6)</b>	3508	1,704	2,559	150%	500	1080	216%	500	540	108%				100	93		1100	1713	156%	Se sobrecumplió la meta por cuanto en el primer y segundo trimestre 2014 las OSC realizaron replicas de las temáticas de consulta presupuestaria y auditoria social para promover la participación de la población en la consulta a los presupuestos municipales y en las auditorías sociales. Adicionalmente se desarrollaron acciones de formación cívica en el marco del proyecto PODER a personas con discapacidad de los municipios de Bluefields, Cornid Island y Laguna de Perlas.
Number of people who have completed civic education programs.																				
• Number of men			905		250	415		250	167					50	31		550	613	111%	
• Number of women.			1654		250	665		250	373					50	62		550	1100	200%	

Indicator	LOP	Years			Year 4															Observaciones		
		2011-2013			I Trimestre			II Trimestre			III Trimestre			IV Trimestre			Acumulado					
		Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec	%			
<b>O1: Promote the exercise of rights and responsibilities by citizens in local governance and development</b>																						
<b>R1.3 Advocacy and citizen participation activities promoted.</b>																						
<b>Indicator 1.3.1. (2.4.1-2)</b>	124	124	142	115%				30	27	90%						30	26	87%	60	53	88%	Se sub ejecutó la meta prevista por cuanto se consideró necesario dar continuidad al trabajo con las OSC incorporadas en el 2013 a fin de fortalecer su capacidad de incidencia y unicamente se realizó una convocatoria en la que se incorporaron dos nuevas OSC. En el cuarto trimestres incluye a las 8 organizaciones que forman parte de FECONORI, la asociación de mujeres jóvenes luchadoras, Movimiento por la diversidad sexual en la RACS, IEPPP, APRODER, CDM de Santo Domingo, CDM Muelle de los Bueyes, CDM San Pedro de Lóvago, BICU, FUMSAMI, RMCH, COMAJ de Bluefields, Corn Island, Laguna de Perlas y El Rama y los Gobiernos territoriales de Awaltara, Rama Creole, Rama Kriol y Laguna de Perlas.
Number of civil society organizations using USG assistance to promote political participation.																						
<b>Indicator 1.3.3.</b>	172	✓ -	✓ -	0%	165	176	107%											165	176	107%		
Number of initiatives presented by citizens and CSOs to local governments.																						
<b>Indicator 1.3.4.</b>	34%				30	34	113%											30	34	113%	Se sobre cumplió la meta por cuanto las OSC realizaron procesos de incidencia a nivel de los Gobiernos Locales, en los cabildos de consulta al presupuesto y en la consulta ciudadana.	
Percentage of citizen requests to local governments that have a positive response.																						
<b>R1.4 CS networks and alliances have greater capacity for coordination and the articulation of demands</b>																						
<b>Indicator 1.4.1.</b>	31	✓ 5	✓ 6	19%	5	5	100%	2	2	100%	1	0	0%	1	2	200%	9	9	100%	Incluye la conformación del Movimiento por la diversidad Sexual de El Rama y el fortalecimiento de FECONORI en los municipios de Bluefields, Corn Island y Laguna de Perlas.		
Number of initiatives promoting civil society coordination and networking.																						
<b>O2: Strengthen the management capacities of CSOs to empower citizens.</b>																						
<b>Indicator 2.1.</b>	10	✓ -	✓ -	0%														0				
Number of CSOs that improve their organizational capacity by at least 20%.																						

Indicator	LOP	Years		Year 4															Observaciones			
		2011-2013			I Trimestre			II Trimestre			III Trimestre			IV Trimestre			Acumulado					
		Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec		%		
<b>O2: Strengthen the management capacities of CSOs to empower citizens.</b>																						
<b>Indicator 2.1.</b>	10		-	-	0%															0		
Number of CSOs that improve their organizational capacity by at least 20%.																						
<b>R2.1 CSO have been institutionally strengthened</b>																						
<b>Indicator 2.1.I. (2.4.1-1)</b>	75	50	63	84%	9	9	100%	10			10	7	70%	6	20	333%	35	36	103%	Se priorizó el trabajo con las organizaciones socias del programa y con organizaciones de base. Las acciones en el cuarto trimestre se limitaron a las asociaciones de FECONORI filial RAAS en Bluefields: ADIFIM, OCN-MT, ORD, APPDJ, ANSNIC y Los Pipitos) y las asociaciones de personas con discapacidad en Corn Island y Laguna de Perlas, la Asociación de Jóvenes Luchadoras y 11 Comités de Agua Potable 6 de Bluefields y 5 en Laguna de Perlas.		
Number of Civil Society Organizations using USG Assistance to Improve Internal Organizational Capacity.																						
<b>Indicator 2.1.2.</b>	430	200	168	84%	160	169	106%	40	46	115%	30	65	217%	40	0	0	270	280	104%			
Number of CSO representatives trained under organizational strengthening activities.																						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of men</li> <li>• Number of women.</li> </ul>																						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>65 73 15 9 15 21 95 103 108%</li> <li>90 96 30 37 45 44 165 177 107%</li> </ul>																						
<b>R 2.2. CSOs have received support for the implementation of programs to strengthen citizen participation or organizational performance</b>																						
<b>Indicator 2.2.1.</b>	10													10	9	90%	10	9	90%	Se han implementado acciones de fortalecimiento Organizacional que incluyen la elaboración de planes estratégicos, planes de sostenibilidad y planes de Comunicación de las siguientes OSC: FUMSAMI, CEPS, RMCH, BICU, blue Energy, además de acciones de capacitación en liderazgo a los Gobiernos territoriales: GTRK, GTA, GTRC y Gobierno Comunal de Laguna de Perlas.		
Number of improvement or capacity strengthening initiatives supported by the program.																						
<b>O3. Improve civil society understanding of the good use of public resources.</b>																						
<b>Indicator 3.2.</b>	97	50	22	44%	75	85	113%	28	42	150%							103	127	123%	Se sobrecumplió con la meta por cuanto para atender la demanda de las organizaciones y periodistas para asistir a los talleres de formación se realizaron 7 talleres pese a que inicialmente se habían planificado -		
Number of participants with improved understanding of the good use of public resources. IEPPP																						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of men</li> <li>• Number of women.</li> </ul>																						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>48 18 66</li> <li>37 24 61</li> </ul>																						

Indicator	LOP	Years		Year 4															Observaciones				
		2011-2013			I Trimestre			II Trimestre			III Trimestre			IV Trimestre			Acumulado						
		Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec		%			
<b>O3. Improve civil society understanding of the good use of public resources.</b>																							
<b>R3.1. CSOs, journalists and citizens are knowledgeable about and advocating for fiscal transparency.</b>																							
Indicator 3.1.1. (2.4.1-9) *Number of CSOs receiving USG assistance engaged in advocacy interventions.	10	10	-	0%	10	0	0								5			5		10	10	100%	Incluye a FUMSAMI, RMCH, APRODER, BICU y la Asociación de mujeres jóvenes luchadoras, AMJOLU
<b>O 4. Increase civil society participation in the monitoring and management of national public resources</b>																							
Indicator 4.1. Number of National Observatory visits.	1100	-	-	0%	600	1180	197%	600	627	105%	500	89	18%	650	484	74%	2350	2380	101%				
Indicator 4.2. Number of CSOs receiving program support that monitor public resources.	5	2	-	0%				5	0	0		5					5	5	100%				
<b>R4.2 Dialogue between civil society and decision makers during budget process increased, especially in the area of social sector budget assignments.</b>																							
Indicator 4.2.1. (2.2.1-6 - ) Number of Public Forums resulting from USG assistance in which	2	-	-	0%	2	2	100%										2	2	100%				
Indicator 4.2.3. Number of meetings and exchanges with the IMF and development banks such as the IDB, World Bank and Central American Bank for Economic Integration in which strategies to promote fiscal transparency are discussed.	3	1	5	500%				1	0	0	1	0	0%		1		2	1	50%	No se alcanzó la meta por cuanto se optó por hacer una sesión ampliada sobre el tema por lo que se realizó Conferencia sobre Iniciativas que contribuyen a la transparencia presupuestaria en Latinoamérica, en dicho evento participaron 5 agencias de cooperación interesadas en la temática: HIVOS, MS- Action AID, COSUDE, USAID, EMBUSA, además de OSCs y funcionarios de Gobierno.			
Indicator 4.2.3. Number of people affiliated with non-governmental organizations receiving USG-supported anti-corruption training	45													15	0	0	15	0	0%	Dado el impase en la aprobación de los recursos para la segunda fase se reprogramaron las acciones de capacitación para marzo 2015			
Indicator (2.1.1-4) Number of USG-supported public sessions held regarding proposed changes to the country's legal framework	3													1	0	0	1	0	0%	Se reprogramó para el mes de marzo dado que los diputados priorizaron como ejes de trabajo la reforma al presupuesto 2014 y el anteproyecto de presupuesto 2015.			
Indicator (2.2.1-7) Number of USG-assisted civil society organizations that participate in legislative proceedings and/or engage in advocacy with national legislature and its committees	1													-									

Indicator	LOP	Years		Year 4															Observaciones		
		2011-2013			I Trimestre			II Trimestre			III Trimestre			IV Trimestre			Acumulado				
		Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec	%	Prog.	Ejec		%	
<b>Crosscutting indicators</b>																					
<b>Indicator (2.4.2-8)</b>	27	19	17	89%	12	17	142%	0	1		0	0	0%	2	7.5	375%	17	25.5	150%	Se sobre cumplió la meta por cuanto se estimó conveniente capacitar a los periodistas en seguimiento a la ejecución presupuestaria para apoyar los procesos de incidencia a nivel local. En el Cuarto Trimestres se realizaron dos talleres en la RACS y uno en Managua para periodistas de Chontales	
* Number of training days provided to journalists with USG assistance, measured by person-days of training.																					
<b>MGP</b>	19	11	14	127%	7	11	157%	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7.5		7	19.5	279%		
<b>IEEPP</b>	8	8	3	38%	5	6	120%	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	7	6	86%		
<b>• Number of men</b>		-	<b>58</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>46</b>			<b>7</b>						<b>12</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>130%</b>		
• Number of men MGP			48		25	13			7						12		25	32	128%		
• Number of men IEEPP			10		25	33			0						0		25	33	132%		
<b>• Number of women.</b>		-	<b>46</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>40</b>			<b>3</b>						<b>12</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>110%</b>		
• Number of women MGP			34		25	13			3						12		25	28	112%		
• Number of women IEEPP			12		25	27			0						0		25	27	108%		
<b>Indicator (2.2.4-4)</b>	207	42	32	76%	1	1	100%	15	0	0%	15	13	87%	15	11	73%	45	25	56%	Se sub ejecutó la meta programada por cuanto los espacios de participación a nivel local se han limitado considerablemente, los Gobiernos Locales no han cumplido con lo establecido en las reformas a la ley de municipios que mandata realizar cabildos de rendición de cuentas trimestralmente, adicionalmente el tema de las auditorías sociales resultó ser novedoso para las organizaciones socias. En el periodo las acciones incluye el seguimiento de APRODER y FUMSAMI, haciendo uso del TRANSMUNI, a la ejecución presupuestaria de los municipios de San Pedro de Lóvago, Muelle de los Bueyes, Santo Domingo, El Almendro y San Miguelito; la participación en cabildos de rendición de cuentas en los municipios de San Pedro de Lóvago, Muelle de los Bueyes y Santo Domingo así como sesión de rendición de cuentas del Gobierno Municipal de Santo Domingo al Comité de Desarrollo Municipal , también en éste periodo se completó el diseño y reproducción de dos estudios orientados a promover el seguimiento a los recursos públicos: Espacio Fiscal y gasto en pobreza: Una revisión desde los informes de liquidación presupuestaria y Oportunidades y desafíos del accountability social en las compras públicas nicaraguenses	
Number of mechanisms for external oversight of public resource use supported by USG assistance																					
<b>MGP</b>	199	40	32	80%	0	0	0	15	0	0	15	11	73%	15	9	60%	45	20	44%		
<b>IEEPP</b>	8	2	0	0%	1	1	100%	2	0	0%	1	2	200%	0	2	0	4	5	125%		

**Annex 3. MGP Trainet Report Q4 2014**

**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: 06/30/2014  
 End Date Before: 10/01/2014  
 Program Status: Completed  
 Location: In Country

Training Program	Location	Start Date	End Date	Males	Females	Total Trainees	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference
<b>Activity: CHF International</b>									
Fortalecimiento de Capacidades de las	IC	09/04/2014	09/26/2014	44	61	105	\$ 22,556	\$ 22,556	\$ 0
Uso de Informacion Publica. Periodismo	IC	07/25/2014	09/27/2014	12	12	24	\$ 7,382	\$ 7,382	\$ 0
Liderazgo	IC	08/12/2014	09/30/2014	19	49	68	\$ 14,035	\$ 14,035	\$ 0
Paradigmas y marco juridico nacional e	IC	09/12/2014	09/24/2014	31	62	93	\$ 9,694	\$ 9,694	\$ 0
Potestad Normativa de los Gobiernos	IC	08/16/2014	08/25/2014	34	52	86	\$ 1,365	\$ 1,365	\$ 0
Genero y Gobernabilidad Local	IC	08/29/2014	08/31/2014	48	43	91	\$ 486	\$ 486	\$ 0
Totals for Activity:				188	279	467	\$ 55,518	\$ 55,518	\$ 0
Totals for Report:				188	279	467	\$ 55,518	\$ 55,518	\$ 0

**Annex 4. MGP 2014 Cost Share Report**

**NICARAGUA - MGP**  
 Report Date  
 As of September 30, 2014

**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

<b>Leonel Briceño</b>
<b>Municipal Governance Program</b>
<b>22401</b>
<b>AID-524-10-00006</b>
<b>1,531,837.00</b>
<b>60,869.18</b>
<b>1,049,989.85</b>
<b>371,065.87</b>
<b>148,389.32</b>
<b>0.00</b>
<b>1,630,314.22</b>
<b>(\$98,477)</b>

	Amount	FY 2014				
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
A	Donated Equipment, materials and other tangible items	\$0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
B	Donated use of equipment, materials and other tangible items	\$8,105	2,399.69	407.40	2,340.00	2,958.00
C	Donated use of facilities	\$41,400	10,906.69	9,214.95	4,735.93	16,542.91
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 CHF beneficiaries	\$31,580	15,161.43	9,473.23	5,057.87	1,887.81
G	Donations of skilled labor to CHF partners	\$67,303	15,994.81	12,907.24	17,524.59	20,876.77
<b>Total Match, in cash and in kind in FY14</b>		<b>\$148,389</b>	<b>44,462.62</b>	<b>32,002.82</b>	<b>29,658.39</b>	<b>42,265.49</b>

Annex 5. MGP QR 2 2014 Accruals

GLOBAL COMMUNITIES NICARAGUA  
 CA N° AID-524-10-0006  
 4th QUARTERLY BUDGET ACCRUED EXPENDITURES  
 FY 2014  
 U.S. DOLLARS

Nro.	Line Item	a	b	c	d	e							f	g=b+c+d+f	h = g/a	i= a-g
		Total Approved Budget	Total Expenditure FY 2011	Total Expenditure FY 2012	Total Expenditure FY 2013	Burned							Total Expenditure FY 2014	Accumulated Expenditures through 09/30/2014	Percentage of Execution	Remaining Balance in Relation with the Approved Budget
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Q4				
1	Personnel	3,166,581	488,695	621,373	614,187	137,387	122,480	121,238	33,488	38,461	50,222	122,171	503,275	2,227,531	70.34%	939,050
2	Fringe Benefits and Allowances	1,694,904	282,880	271,424	286,051	66,990	67,318	57,166	15,121	22,117	34,344	71,583	263,056	1,103,411	65.10%	591,493
3	Consultants	171,801	64,225	35,417	49,974	4,154	5,348	337	-	-	-	-	9,839	159,455	92.81%	12,346
4	Travel & Per Diem	367,522	78,827	73,557	52,772	9,179	11,046	11,173	4,115	4,952	9,242	18,309	49,707	254,863	69.35%	112,659
5	Equipment & Supplies	265,600	201,941	3,201	3,425	348	330	557	-	293	775	1,068	2,302	210,870	79.39%	54,730
6	Contracts and Subawards	16,612,623	1,373,557	2,654,732	1,377,215	195,052	259,887	261,688	80,730	66,743	114,644	262,117	978,745	6,384,249	38.43%	10,228,373
7	Program Costs- Direct Implementation	129,507	25,769	41,866	81,233	23,843	716	4,760	19	3,716	3,223	6,959	36,278	185,145	142.96%	(55,639)
8	Other Operating Costs	701,927	162,771	177,661	150,005	43,138	29,673	37,835	12,799	12,522	25,429	50,750	161,396	651,832	92.86%	50,095
9	Indirect Charges Per NICRA	2,889,300	349,839	554,302	384,651	73,048	56,223	60,883	19,534	24,099	30,227	73,860	264,014	1,552,807	53.74%	1,336,494
	<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>	<b>25,999,763</b>	<b>3,028,504</b>	<b>4,433,533</b>	<b>2,999,513</b>	<b>553,139</b>	<b>553,020</b>	<b>555,637</b>	<b>165,807</b>	<b>172,904</b>	<b>268,105</b>	<b>606,817</b>	<b>2,268,612</b>	<b>12,730,163</b>	<b>48.96%</b>	<b>13,269,601</b>



# Sixth Report

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Project “Fiscal Transparency in Nicaragua”



**Sixth Report**  
**Project “Fiscal Transparency in Nicaragua”**  
**Contract No. CHF-081-FT-01**  
**July- September, 2014**

This report corresponds to the activities completed by the Institute of Strategic Studies and Public Policies (IEEPP, Spanish acronym) under the framework of the project “Fiscal Transparency in Nicaragua” between July and September 2014. The project was implemented under sub Grant agreement No. CHF-081-FT-01 between Cooperative Housing Foundation –presently Global Communities- with cooperative agreement funds from the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

During this quarter, the principal highlighted achievements are the following:

*1.1. Information on public procurement is up to date and available to citizens*

During the month of July IEEPP worked to update 2014 information on public procurement on a national and municipal level. This update was necessary because most public institutions make modifications to their annual procurement programs - implying variations in the amounts estimated.

The updated information is available to download with Excel on the site [www.nuestropresupuesto.org](http://www.nuestropresupuesto.org). Also available to download is an interactive map of Nicaragua to facilitate access.

Additionally, the virtual observatory received 484 visits from 331 users. The majority of these users were university students who consulted the observatory as a result of promotional visits by IEEPP to universities.

*1.2. Population has access to information on the General Budget of the Republic in friendly and easy to understand language.*

Two new products were designed with user friendly information on the Budget cycle (a poster with information and a budget calendar with key dates of budget preparation and approvals) which have been distributed to members of the CSOs working with IEEPP training processes and training and other relevant groups. These materials will also be distributed as part of the re-launch of the campaign, “The Budget is your Money, understanding it is your responsibility”.



These promotional materials allow Budget information to be brought to the public's attention.

*1.3. CSO members, journalists, decision makers, and the general public have access to Budget analysis and public contract information.*

Two investigations were developed and published. The first, "Fiscal Space and spending on poverty: A review from the budget performance reports," analyzes the evolution of poverty spending in the period 2005-2013. This work was done after a review of the budget settlement reports.

The second study, "Challenges and Opportunities of Social Accountability in Nicaraguan public procurement", addresses opportunities for exercise of social accountability in the Nicaraguan Public Procurement System (UCS, Spanish acronym) from the public information that is generated through electronic media such as institutional platforms and the electronic system that operates for this purpose. It also states who can potentially perform these exercises using the opportunities of access to information and the limitations they face in their exercise.

*1.4. Technical assistance was provided to CSOs on budget analysis and social accountability.*

During the month of July, the second technical assistance session was carried out with the selected CSOs: *Movimiento Puente, Ajoma, Aldema, Asotrasol* and the *ILLS*. This session included the topics of communications and advocacy as related to budget analysis. The fundamental objective was to give the CSOs tools to plan advocacy action using diverse media and social networks once the budget analysis was prepared.

The second session also involved an evaluation of the technical assistance. One aspect that stood out was the importance of CSOs sharing their experiences and lessons learned, as well as to explore potential partnerships. In turn, it permitted IEEPP to approach the CSOs that work in the regions and transfer tools that had previously only been used by the IEEPP team at a national level.

*1.5 Shared experiences with fiscal transparency- particularly with the Budget.*

On July 9 a conference was held to discuss "Initiatives which contribute to Budget transparency in Latin America". International speakers addressed the Latin American experience, particularly in the cases of Guatemala, México and Argentina, attended this event. The international partner organizations were: Fundar (Mexico), International



Budget Partnership (IBP), ICEFI (Guatemala) and ACIJ (Argentina). All speakers had extensive experience in analysis and advocacy on public budgets focused on social sectors. Punides, CODENI and IEEPP all participated in the presentation of national experiences. The conference also featured a presentation by Kenneth Coleman, a representative of the Latin American Public Opinion Project of Vanderbilt University. He discussed the results of the LAPOP survey on the everyday experience of Nicaraguan citizens with corruption and kickbacks in 2014.

The conference was attended by 70 people, including officials from the Central Bank of Nicaragua (BCN), the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (MHCP), representatives from national CSOs (Funides, Codeni, Aldema, Asotrasol, Movimiento Puente, Inceju, etc); representatives from international organizations (Action Aid, Cosude, etc); and media (La Prensa, El Nuevo Diario, Confidencial, Metro, Radio Universidad, Radio Restauración, Channel 2 and Channel 12). Links to some of the media articles covering the event can be found at [La Prensa](#) and [El Nuevo Diario](#).

This event enabled experience sharing among peers and key stakeholders such as government officials, members of CSOs and journalists. Moreover, journalists' coverage put the issue of regional and national fiscal transparency on the media agenda.

## **2. Various activities**

During the month of September, IEEPP planned activities in preparation for the continuation of the second phase of the Fiscal Transparency Project.

This included the launch of the previously successful campaign “The budget is your money, understanding it is your responsibility” with a greater emphasis on radio, social media and printed materials. The printed materials will be distributed during university visits in order to present the campaign and the virtual observatory: [www.nuestropresupuesto.org](http://www.nuestropresupuesto.org)

An October visit was coordinated for an IBP team to accompany the IEEPP team to meetings scheduled with key actors to provide feedback on advocacy work done by the IEEPP on issues of fiscal transparency.

## **3. Limitations and Lessons Learned**

- Delays in the progress of investigations resulting from publication of government information and increase in investigators assigned work.



- Delays in the development of technical assistance sessions. This was due in part to the need to coordinate dates with CSO recipients to ensure that all involved parties could attend.
- Expectations were not met for the number of participants attending the closing conference for the first phase of the project
- Approval of the budget for the second phase of the project was a month later than initially planned

#### 4. Main Activities for the Next Period

The following table shows the events planned under the project framework for the October-December 2014 quarter.

Activity Name	Activity Description	Location	Proposed Date	Participants
Meetings with key actors	Meet with key actors to cover the issues of fiscal transparency in Nicaragua.	Organization offices	October	IEEPP and IBP teams
Fiscal Transparency campaign	Launch of the campaign " <i>The budget is your money, understanding it is your responsibility</i> "	Radio and social networks	October-December	IEEPP team
Fiscal Transparency Virtual Observatory	Present updated information on the PGR and pre PAC 2015 Projects	Website/ Activities under DAL NIC 2014 framework	October-November	IEEPP team
PGR 2015 Project Descriptions	Present preliminary considerations on the RMP 2015 draft to key stakeholders, the media and students	IEEPP board room / hotel / universities	October-November	IEEPP team
"Citizens Budget" Document	Base document will be prepared for the subsequent development of the user-friendly version of 2015 PC	IEEPP offices	November-December	IEEPP team
Investigation of Budget Reform processes	Currently developing	IEEPP offices	October-December	IEEPP team
Investigation on Venezuelan Cooperation	Begin designing investigation	IEEPP offices	December	IEEPP team

## Local Governance Program

### Programmatic Progress Report

#### I. Overview

The project "**Strengthening organizational and advocacy capacity of organizations of persons with disabilities (PwD) in the South Atlantic Autonomous Region**" officially started on June 25, 2014 with the following two objectives:

1. Organizational and institutional strengthening of the RACS FECONORI branch with six subsidiary associations in Bluefields (ADIFIM, OCN-MT, ORD, APPDJ, ANSNIC y Los Pipitos) including the creation of organizational structures for PwD in Corn Island and Laguna de Perlas.
2. Strengthen citizen participation among persons with disabilities in three municipalities of the region (Bluefields, Corn Island, and Laguna de Perlas), with the aim to establish joint work plans between organizations and regional and local government entities to create opportunities for participation and visibility among PwD.

The first steps taken were to ensure FECONORI's functional operation – a small office was rented and nine people were contracted: a national project manager, a regional project manager, an administrative assistant, and six promoters (4 in Bluefields, one in Corn Island and one in Laguna de Perlas). With this in place, the project hired a consultant to begin training on "national and international paradigms and legal framework on disability" for 200 affiliates of the region's associations involved in program implementation (ADIFIM, OCN-MT, ORD, APPDJ, ANSNIC and Los Pipitos). PODER also prepared the terms of reference to start an awareness campaign aimed at decision makers and coastal society to promote the visibility of the disabled people in the region and their rights.

MGP simultaneously began a training process, which was conducted in six workshops (two per district). The first workshop, called Introductory Workshop, had the following objectives:

1. Conduct an organizational strengthening needs assessment.
2. Determine interests of organizations for persons with disabilities.
3. Share concepts of citizen participation, legal framework, and its significance.
4. Define next steps for the initiation of capacity building and the development of advocacy plans.

Using the data collected from each of the organizations in the city of Bluefields, Corn Island and Laguna de Perlas, MGP planned the second workshop "Social Organization: an instrument for citizen participation ". The goal of the second workshop was to facilitate a process of reflection with local leaders and activists from FECONORI partner organizations in Bluefields, Corn Island and Laguna de Perlas; and to identify the basics of good social organization as a collective tool for citizen participation.

Both workshops are part of a series of three workshops designed for organizational strengthening focused on social organization as a tool to exercise civic participation and build municipal agendas as well as partnerships needed to promote them. The series will conclude with a workshop called "municipal agenda for people with disabilities and alliances necessary for promotion"



## Local Governance Program

### II. Achievements

Achievements attained during this period, include:

1. Formation of promotional teams in each municipality. In the case of Bluefields there is a promoter for each partner organization, a promoter in Laguna de Perlas and one in Corn Island. Activities in the territories are coordinated through these promoters.
2. FECONORI rented an office in Bluefields, where promoters meet to plan activities. The office functions as a local reference point for the project.
3. Procured equipment for the development of different activities (camera, projector, laptop, printer and modem for internet service)
4. Trained 174 people with disabilities in "national and international legal framework paradigms and Disability", of which 69 are men and 105 women. The distribution by municipality and organization is:

Municipality	Organization	Men	Women	Total
Bluefields	ADIFIM	17	18	35
	Los Pipitos	8	20	28
	OCN-MT	13	14	27
	APPDJ	12	21	33
Corn Island		9	14	23
Laguna de Perlas		10	18	28
<b>Total</b>		<b>69</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>174</b>

5. Trained representatives of state institutions (11 women and six men) in "national and international legal framework and paradigms in disability" in the town of Corn Island.
6. Developed a forum for journalists in Bluefields on "paradigms and national and international legal framework on disability" to allow them to be partners in the dissemination of the law 763, as well as to inform the journalists as to the correct terms to be used when reporting news involving people with disabilities. This meeting, which included 13 participants (seven men and six women), also included the support and participation of a human rights attorney in Bluefields.
7. In Bluefields, 11 municipal councilors (six men and five women) carried out a municipal council session addressing "paradigms and national and international legal framework on disability".
8. In commemoration of National Day for People with Disabilities on August 25<sup>th</sup>, the MGP held a cultural event, which was attended by representatives of local authorities, including the mayor of the city of Bluefields, members of the Ministry of Health, and Ministry Of Education and the police. After the cultural event over 1,000 people marched through the main streets of Bluefields, including primary and secondary schools, people with disabilities, representatives of institutions and the general public. Similar activities were also implemented in Laguna de Perla and Corn Island.
9. Conducted an introductory workshop in each of the three municipalities, providing a diagnosis of the six FECONORI institutions involved in the project in the city of Bluefields, as well as groups of people with disabilities in Laguna de Perlas and Corn Island. This workshop will determine the interests of organizations and individuals with disabilities in the three municipalities of project intervention. The workshop had 79 participants, distributed as follows:

## Local Governance Program

Municipality	Men	Women	Total
Bluefields	19	17	36
Laguna de Perlas	5	14	19
Corn Island	9	15	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>79</b>

10. A second workshop was developed for organizational strengthening, titled “Social Organization: Instrument for Citizen Participation”. A total of 105 people participated, distributed as follows:

Municipality	Men	Women	Total
Bluefields	15	20	35
Laguna de Perlas	12	16	28
Corn Island	19	23	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>105</b>

11. Developed two women’s group sessions in Bluefields to cover the theme of gender with a total of 25 women from different organizations participating. In the first session the women conducted a survey of the issues that could be addressed in these areas, identifying the following topics of interest:
- Different expressions of violence towards women
  - Women’s Rights
  - Law 779 – Framework for PwD in Nicaragua
  - Women’s participation in decision making

In the second session, the women discussed women’s rights, violence towards women and the cycle of violence. The participants shared their experiences in the way violence has affected their lives.

### III. Difficulties and Lessons Learned

Of the difficulties, the most significant were the following:

1. There was a delay in the start of the campaign. It was initially expected to coincide with the National Day for Persons with Disabilities. However, the only bid on the campaign exceeded what was budgeted for the activity. This was postponed to November/December to ensure that the campaign coincides with the celebration of the international day of the disabled person. A second bid was presented which was under review at the end of the quarter.
2. There were difficulties for some of the persons with disabilities who participated in the workshops on “Paradigms and national and international legal framework on disability” because there was a lack of suitable materials with which to impart training content. Specifically, participants with hearing disabilities had limited participation as a result of a lack of Nicaraguan sign-language interpreters in the three municipalities. Additionally, participants in Laguna de Perlas who spoke Miskito and English did not have a translator.
3. The local organization for the blind in Bluefields did not fully participant during the organizational diagnostic phase, or the national elective congress, which took place at the same time in Managua.



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From these lessons learned we can highlight:

1. We should figure out how to increase the number of Nicaraguan sign language interpreters in each of the territories.
2. We have noted that Laguna de Perlas has non-Spanish speaking participants and we must ensure a translator at future events.
3. A space should be made for reflection on achievements and difficulties presented during the period of project implementation, in order to find ways to strengthen the achievements and overcome the limitations encountered.
4. The promotion teams should improve their involvement in all activity and begin to organize persons with disabilities in Laguna de Perlas and Corn Island.

#### **IV. Support Requirements for implementation**

The most significant support required for this learning process is the evaluation and joint review process. This will ensure a consistent resource for project actions, especially on the political-organizational part of the national branch of FECONORI towards the locality, and will allow exchange of experiences completed with a process similar to that of regional FECONORI branches.

## Local Governance Program

### Form 1- Activities planned versus implemented in the reported period

Note: The objectives, results, activities, and expected time of execution correspond to the initial planning expressed in the contract. For report purposes execution times of each activity will be updated either with a differently colored bar or by marking an X on the initial planning, as shown in the example.

Specific Objectives	Results	Activities				
			1	2	3	
1. Increase consciousness of local public and private actors on rights of persons with disabilities, promote active participation and advocacy for persons with disabilities and the OPD in local government and the private sector to promote equal rights and opportunities for disabled persons.	1.1 Disabled persons have the knowledge and tools to exercise their right to participate and develop active citizenship	1.1.1 – Design of a Workshop Plan on national and international legal framework related to rights of disabled persons.				The bidding based on ToR was performed as planned and only two bidders competed. This selection was made in coordination between Global Communities and FECONORI.
		1.1.2 –Training workshops for partners.				The training processes on Paradigms and legal framework on disability was completed in August. However, the hiring of a facilitator was delayed a week and the workshop to be implemented with an organization for the blind was delayed until September. The workshop on Corn Island was also changed to September for logistical reasons and in order to correspond with the date of a local traditional festival.
		1.1.3 - Training for institution and local key sectors				Two workshops were planned in Bluefields for the month of August. They were aimed towards municipal officers and councilors as well as to journalists. One in Corn Island was planned for local government officials. Only the latter was carried out because the mayor of Bluefields failed to open the invitation in August and pushed the workshop to September. However, at the August 29 municipal council meeting, the council agreed to hold the workshop in September and assume responsibility for convening the committee for social affairs.
		1.1.4 -Evaluation and Documentation of training actions.				



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	1.2 Organizations of persons with disabilities make, execute and achieve results with their advocacy plans.	1.2.1 - Developing Advocacy Agendas for organization.					
		1.2.2 – Identification of Actors					
		1.2.3 – Workshops to formulate the Advocacy Plan of Action					
		1.2.4 - Participation in Advocacy spaces, townships, municipal consultations, Regional Councils					
		1.2.5 – Participation in the MINSA “Every Voice” diagnostic and certification					
		1.2.6 – Identity cards for 700 persons with disabilities					
		1.2.7 - Lobbying					
	1.3 Citizens have greater knowledge on the rights of persons with disabilities, with focus on gender, in order to create a more inclusive and equal society.	1.3.1 – Design and validation of local awareness campaign					During this period there were two offers with a third in process, however no offers met the expectations of Global Communities or FECONORI. Therefore, the decision was made to open a third offer in which applicants must be related to advertising companies or teams of consultants who meet the criteria set out in the TOR.
		1.3.2 – Design and Reproduction of the popular version of the Law of Regulation of Legal Framework for Persons with Disabilities.					The negotiations were initiated with the UNI School of Architecture for jointly designing the People's version of the Act and its regulations
		1.3.3 – Campaign implementation					
		1.3.4 – Cultural and Sport Presentations					
		1.3.5 – Accountability Forum on Paradigms with media					
		1.3.6 – March for Awareness on International Day of Persons with Disabilities					
		1.3.7 – Theater Group development in Bluefields					
	1.3.8 – Promotion of a camp for youth with disabilities						
2. Expand the capacity of local organizations of	2.1 Institutional Strengthening of	2.1.1 – ARC Organizational Self-Evaluation				Evaluations have been conducted in Bluefields, Corn Island and Pearl Lagoon. We have	



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persons with disabilities to effectively represent and advocate for people with disabilities.	Organizations of persons with disabilities in the towns of Bluefields, Laguna de Perla and Corn Island				developed two of the three workshops planned; this activity has been developed by the team at Global Communities, and in the case of Corn Island was accompanied by FECONORI.	
		2.1.2 - Development of ARC Organizational Improvement Plans				
		2.1.3 – Organizational Development design and consultation offer				
		2.1.4 –Implementation of Organizational Development actions				
		2.1.5 – Provision of Basic Equipment				
		2.1.6 – Completion of ARC Organizational Self-Evaluation				
	2.2 Strengthened capacities for coordination and articulation of networks and partnerships between central and local level organizations of persons with disabilities.	2.2.1 – Territory visits to Corn Island and Laguna de Perla to coordinate				This activity took place in Corn Island on August 11 with support from FECONORI national headquarters and the local project team in Bluefields. It served to promote closer relations between five public institutions and people with disabilities on the island that had not previously had this kind of experience.
		2.2.2 – Organization Bylaw Study Sessions				
		2.2.3 - Assemblies by Organization (Information, Planning, and Choice)				
		2.2.4 – Election of Board of Directors in Laguna de Perla and Corn Island				
2.2.5 – Home visits to expand membership						



## Local Governance Program

### Form 2. Registry of Training Events.

Event Name	Objective	Hours	Date		Number of Participants				Cost		
			Start	Final	Men	Women	Total	Under 30	Implementing Partner Contribution (USD)	Program Contribution (USD)	Total (USD)
Induction Workshop	Define work roles for elected promoters	8	06/24/14	6/24/14	4	6	10	-			
Project Launch	Introduce project authorities	4	6/25/14	6/25/14	12	23	35	-	791.16	672.94	1,464.10
Monitoring of Project Coordinator	Action Plan Phase		7/1/14	7/2/14	2		2			207.41	207.41
1.1.1. CANO Training for ADIFIM partners	1.1 Gain knowledge and tools to exercise rights to participate and develop as an active citizen	24	8/4/14	8/6/14	16	18	34			1,376.51	1,376.51
1.1.2 Corn Island institution training		6	8/12/14	8/12/14	6	11	17			985.00	985.00
Indicator 1.3.1 Campaign Meeting		2	8/12/14	8/12/14	5	9	14			45.00	45.00
Corn Island Follow Up Meeting	Planning	3	8/11/14	8/11/14	4	4	8			248.00	248.00
1.1.1. Training workshops for partners in Laguna de Perlas	Gain knowledge and tools to exercise rights to participate and develop as an active citizen	24	8/12/14	8/14/14	11	16	27			1,223.13	1223.13
Corn Island Diagnostic Workshop	Carried out by Global Communities										
1.1.2 Journalist Workshop		5	8/20	8/20	11	13	24			551.24	551.24
Health Campaign for Persons in With Disabilities in Corn Island											

Note: There is a participant list for each event, which will be attached to this report.

