

LMG Honduras Quarterly Report: April – June 2015

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LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT & GOVERNANCE PROJECT HONDURAS

QUARTERLY REPORT FOR
APRIL - JUNE 2015

July 24, 2015



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Abbreviations

AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AIDSTAR Plus	AIDS Support and Technical Assistance Resources Plus
AJEM	Youth in Motion Association (Asociación Juventud en Movimiento, in Spanish)
APR	Annual Progress Report
ARV	Antiretroviral drugs
BCC	Behavior Change Communication
CDC	United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CASM	Mennonite Social Action Committee (Comisión de Acción Social Menonita, in Spanish)
CGSSI	Gay Community of San Pedro for Comprehensive Health (Comunidad Gay Sampedrana para la Salud Integral, in Spanish)
CHF	Global Communities
COCSIDA	Center for Guidance and Training on AIDS (Centro de Orientación y Capacitación en SIDA, in Spanish)
CSW	Commercial Sex Worker
DAPS	Department for Primary Health Care (Departamento de Atención Primaria en Salud, in Spanish)
DGD	Department for Decentralized Management (Departamento de Gestión Descentralizada, in Spanish)
ECOSALUD	Ecology and Health (Ecología y Salud, in Spanish)
ECVC	Central American Survey on Sexual Behavior Monitoring and Prevalence of HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections (Encuesta Centroamericana de Vigilancia de Comportamiento Sexual y Prevalencia de VIH e Infecciones de Transmisión Sexual, in Spanish)
FOROSIDA	National AIDS Forum
FSW	Female Sex Worker
GHI	Global Health Initiative
GOH	Government of Honduras
JSI	John Snow, Inc.
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IPSL	Integrated PEPFAR Site List
LLM	The Breastfeeding League (La Liga de la Lactancia Materna, in Spanish)
LMG	Leadership, Management, and Governance Project
MOH	Ministry of Health (also known as SESAL or Secretaría de Salud, in Spanish)
MSH	Management Sciences for Health
MSM	Men who have Sex with Men
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PASMO	Pan-American Social Marketing Organization

PEPFAR	United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
PRODIM	Developmental Programs for Women and Children (Programas para el Desarrollo de la Infancia y la Mujer, in Spanish)
PY	Project Year
Redes	Directorate of Health Networks and Services (Dirección de Redes y Servicios de Salud, in Spanish)
RFP	Request for Proposals
RSD	Regional Health Offices of the MOH (Regiones Sanitarias Departamentales, in Spanish)
SIMS	Site Improvement through Monitoring System
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TW	Transgender Women
TOR	Terms of Reference
UAFCE	Unit for the Administration of External Cooperation Funds (Unidad Administradora de Fondos de Cooperación Externa, in Spanish)
ULAT II	Local Technical Assistance Unit for Health II Project (Unidad Local de Asistencia Técnica, in Spanish)
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UECF	Unit for Extension of Coverage and Financing (Unidad de Extensión de Cobertura y Financiamiento, in Spanish)
UGD	Unit for Decentralized Management (Unidad de Gestión Descentralizada, in Spanish)
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UPEG	Unit for Management Planning and Evaluation (Unidad de Planeamiento y Evaluación de la Gestión, in Spanish)
USG	United States Government

I. Executive Summary

This report describes the main achievements for the Leadership, Management & Governance (LMG) project in Honduras for the April to June 2015 period. This report serves to update the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission in Honduras on project accomplishments and report any outstanding issues during this period. Activities reported during this period are based on the revised Project Year (PY) 3 work plan approved by USAID in December 2014.

Work during this quarter has been centered on coordination with and orientation to new staff at the Unit for the Administration of External Cooperation Funds (UAFCE) that started in the first weeks of April. Another major activity was the project's accompaniment to the UAFCE on the evaluation of the technical and financial proposals submitted by short-listed NGOs for a results-based management contract to provide the HIV prevention services package for key and priority populations in the regions of Islas de la Bahía and Atlántida, and assistance through to the signature of agreements between the MOH and the selected NGO. LMG also supported the NGOs under contract with the MOH on the development of their products in accordance with their MOH agreements.

The major accomplishments of the LMG Honduras program from April to June 2015 are that the project:

- Provided technical assistance and accompanied the MOH on the revision and evaluation of the 2 proposals received as a result from the short list process to contract out services for Islas de la Bahía and Atlántida.
- Provided technical assistance to the UAFCE to prepare the meeting to socialize and sign the agreement between the MOH and the selected NGO to work with MSM in Atlántida.
- Provided technical assistance to 1 NGO on the negotiation and realignment of the technical and financial proposals to address the observations and meet the requirements of the internal and external evaluation committees.
- Prepared guidelines to carry out financial audits in the field.
- Carried out a technical working session to strengthen the technical closure processes with the NGOs working with the Garifuna population.
- Provided technical assistance to the UAFCE for reviewing and updating the Guidelines for Internal Control for USAID Funds in accordance with USAID guidelines.
- Reviewed 100% of the liquidations sent by the NGOs to the UAFCE for May and June in order to identify areas for improvement.
- Prepared draft terms of reference for the workshops on the Development of Capacities for Expanding Coverage of the HIV Rapid Test Service and to contract a consultant for the preparation of the graphic designs for pamphlets, banners, invitations for the HIV rapid test service and publications for social networks for key and prioritized populations.
- Prepared the terms of reference and selected the firm for the development of the workshop on Excel for NGOs.
- Carried out a session for reinforcement on the promotion and education on condoms as follow up of improvement plans for AJEM and PRODIM, based on the results of the application of the SIMS too. These NGOs were supported in their work with the National



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HIV Laboratory to carry out quality control for the test kits. They were also guided on how to record the referral process and to follow up cases that tested positive.

- Supported and oriented one selected project on the development of the following products: Waste disposal and elimination plan resulting from HIV rapid testing Plans to promote and perform HIV rapid tests, Geographic mapping of HIV rapid testing service delivery and Condom distribution plan.
- Provided technical assistance to the UGD on the collection and analysis of PEPFAR indicators for their monthly and quarterly presentations.
- Provided technical assistance to the UGD and UAFCE to help them prepare for the monthly monitoring meetings and quarterly partners meeting with USAID
- Carried out a workshop on Prevention of Gender Based Violence related to HIV for Garífuna population.

II. Program Context and Expected Results

National Context:

Honduras is located in Central America and is divided into 18 administrative departments. The population of Honduras is 8,045,990 people (2010), of which 3,965,430 (49.28%) are men and 4,080,560 are women (50.71%). The population under 18 years of age represents 48.7% of the country's population.

The country continues to experience a difficult structural economic crisis that affects the national health system, particularly the MOH. It is estimated that approximately 65% of the population lives under the poverty line, 22.1% in relative poverty and 42.4% in extreme poverty. According to the United Nations Development's Human Development Report 2008/2009, published on December 18, 2008, Honduras ranks fifth among the countries with the lowest Human Development Index (HDI) in the Americas. In 2007, the HDI was calculated to be 0.7, ranking 117 out of 179 globally.

Honduras' urban population is 4,128,652 (51.31%) and rural population is 3,917,338 (48.68%). Life expectancy is 73.6 years, with 77.2 years for women and 70.1 years for men. Honduras has one of the highest population growth rates in Latin America, calculated to be 2.3% between 2005 and 2010. The department with the highest population is Cortes with 1,529,826 inhabitants or 19% of the national population, followed by Francisco Morazán with 1,406,769 or 18% of the national population. 37% of Honduras populated in is concentrated in the two most important cities in these two departments, San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa. The household survey held in May 2009 captured an illiteracy rate of 16.2%. The lowest illiteracy rate is for the 15 to 18 year old population with 5.1%, the national average of schooling is 7.2 years.

Project Context:

The Government of Honduras' Response to HIV/AIDS

Over the past decade, the Government of Honduras (GOH) has taken various steps to respond to the HIV epidemic. The current HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan (PENSIDA III), 2008 – 2012, prioritizes scale-up of prevention efforts for MSM, Garífuna, sex workers and pregnant women. The Sula Valley, North Coast, and the Tegucigalpa metropolitan area are identified as important geographical focus areas due to their higher prevalence rates, and special emphasis is given to HIV diagnosis and treatment and to monitoring and evaluation of the PENSIDA III efforts. The GOH has started the process of drafting PENSIDA IV, written under the umbrella of the National HIV Strategy that was completed in March 2011. The National HIV Strategy formulates a strategic vision for comprehensive HIV and AIDS promotion, prevention, care and support services within the National Health Sector Reform framework, under which the MOH has separated the stewardship and service delivery functions. Also within this framework, two new units were established to manage the decentralization of health services: the aforementioned UAFCE (formerly the Unit for Extension of Coverage and Financing (UECF in Spanish) and UGD (formerly the Department for Decentralized Management (DGD in Spanish)).

The National HIV Strategy outlines 14 key activities designed to provide greater access to a basic package of HIV services at the individual, family, and community levels. The strategy includes the definition and operationalization of a basic package of services according to the life cycle and type of services (promotion, prevention, treatment, care and support); reorganization of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) / Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) / Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) (STI/HIV/AIDS) service provision structure; and the definition of a new management model for results-based service provision.

Additionally, the second Central American Survey on Sexual Behavior Monitoring and Prevalence of HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections (ECVC, in Spanish) in key populations in Honduras was completed in 2012. The first survey was conducted in 2006. The objectives were to determine the prevalence of HIV and STIs, the risk behaviors in female sex workers (FSWs), men who have sex with men (MSM), and transgender women (TW), the Garífuna, and risk behaviors and STIs in people with HIV, as well as to estimate the size of the population of FSWs and MSM in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula. The results presented in the report will serve as an important source of information for the project and collaborating partners.

US Government Assistance in Honduras

USAID's HIV and AIDS programs in Honduras are implemented as part of the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in line with the strategic priorities outlined under the Central American Regional HIV/AIDS Partnership Framework, 2009 – 2013. Activities also directly contribute to the Honduras Global Health Initiative (GHI) Strategy, 2011 – 2015. The overarching GHI country goal in Honduras is to "Improve the health status of underserved and vulnerable populations". In collaboration with the MOH, other United States Government (USG) agencies/departments and private sector partners, the HIV-related component of the GHI strategy contributes to the achievement of "Priority Area 1: Increased access to quality essential services for underserved and vulnerable populations", and "Priority Area 2: Improved stewardship and responsiveness of the health system".

As part of its health portfolio, USAID improves the quality of, and access to, HIV/AIDS care and treatment services through both civil society organizations and the MOH. In close collaboration with the GOH since 1993, USAID has supported HIV/AIDS prevention activities for key populations through financial and technical support to local NGOs. Since 2005, this support has included a range of capacity building initiatives with community health workers from promoting healthy behaviors, to rapid testing of HIV for vulnerable populations.

Expected Results

All project activities from this quarter contribute to achieve the following two Expected Results of the LMG Honduras program:

- 1) Organizational capacity developed within the MOH to establish and carry out effective funding mechanisms, management and stewardship of HIV prevention services provided by local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other non-public institutions.; and
- 2) Organizational capacity developed within local NGOs and other non-public institutions to support the implementation of evidence-based, quality HIV prevention services for key and priority populations in compliance with the new MOH funding mechanisms.

III. Intermediate Program Results and Activities

This section of the quarterly report serves to inform USAID/Honduras of the results achieved from April to June 2015, and to report on specific activities. Results are presented in relation to activities listed according to the approved project year 3 (PY3) work plan.

Expected Result 1: Organizational capacity developed within the MOH to establish and carry out effective funding mechanisms, management and stewardship of HIV prevention services provided by NGOs and other non-public institutions.

Activity 1.1: Strengthen the processes and capacities of the MOH (UAFCE, UGD and the Regional Health Offices (RSD in Spanish) to bid and contract NGOs and other non-public institutions in accordance with the approved Manual to Contract Public and Non-public Institutions.

A meeting was held with the UAFCE acquisitions coordinator to review the latest draft of the Contracting Manual for Public and Non-public Institutions, which had been modified with the previous UAFCE team. Several changes were made which will be reviewed again by the coordinator and socialized with the rest of the team.

During this period, accompaniment and technical assistance was provided for the review and technical and financial qualification of two proposals received by the UAFCE as a result of the short list bid process for the IPNP contracting process for the areas of the Bay Islands and Atlántida. The internal review committee was formed by representatives from the UGD, UAFCE, and the standardization and the management control technician from the Atlántida health region. As a result of this process, a project submitted by the National AIDS Forum NGO (FOROSIDA in Spanish) and Humans in Action (HUMAC in Spanish) was pre-selected for the Atlántida region, to be submitted to the selected external committee.

Technical assistance was provided to the UGD for the modification of the technical proposal submitted to USAID for decentralized management of STIs/HIV/AIDS health promotion and prevention services for key and prioritized populations through non-public providers; the modification adds that the zones and populations that were left unprotected will be addressed through pilot projects prepared to be implemented by the corresponding health regions or direct consultancies through organizations in the zone.

Technical assistance was provided to the UGD in the preparation of the agenda and presentation to different organizations in the area such as the Roatán Chamber of Commerce, Zolitur (Tourism Free Zone), the Rotary Club, the Municipality of Roatán and the Roatán Tourism Chamber for the purpose of socializing the contract with the IPNP for the provision of HIV prevention services on the Bay Islands.

FOROSIDA had to be evaluated to determine its administrative and financial capacity to implement MOH projects. In order to carry out this evaluation, UAFCE accounting and financial personnel were trained on the Quickstar tool, to be used to determine the feasibility of assigning funds to NGOs.

Technical assistance was provided, and the project participated in two meetings for the signing of the agreement with FOROSIDA. During the first meeting, technical assistance was provided to the UAFCE. The agreement was not signed because the FOROSIDA director requested more time to review the management agreement. During the second meeting, technical assistance was provided in order to clarify any doubts FOROSIDA had and responses were provided to their queries. During these meetings, the FOROSIDA participants included the director, coordinator, project administrator and legal representative. Participants from the UGD included representatives from the technical and legal areas and from the UAFCE there were representatives from the administrative area. As a result, the agreement was signed.

Activity 1.2: Strengthen the processes and capacities of the MOH (UAFCE) on accountability and transparency in the management of the agreements signed by the MOH and the NGOs and other non-public institutions.

Financial Field Audit guidelines were prepared. The draft documents were submitted to USAID for review on May 26. Once feedback is received from USAID, the guidelines will be socialized with the UAFCE in order to advance in the implementation of financial audits in the field. A meeting was held with the Directorate of Integrity and Ethics of the Superior Accounts Tribunal (Tribunal Superior de Cuentas) in order to explore the possibility of the Tribunal to provide training on the code of ethics for public officials, which was found to be feasible and will be coordinated during the next period.

Activity 1.3: Strengthen the processes and capacities of the MOH (UGD) to perform technical audits of the agreements signed by the MOH and the NGOs and other non-public institutions.

Prior to reviewing the audit manual, it was presented to the new UGD technical staff person in order for her to learn the NGO processes.

Working meetings were held with the participation of the UGD, during which the technical audits manual was reviewed and updated, adapting it according to the new project structure, the suggestions from the national HIV laboratory chief and the SIMS tool.

A pilot was carried out with the PRODIM by applying the reviewed tools. A second review was carried out by the national HIV laboratory chief, who suggested changes which have been included in the manual.

Activity 1.4: Strengthen the processes and capacities of the MOH (Sub-secretariat of Networks including the RSD), to monitor the agreements with the NGOs and other non-public institutions.

A technical working session was held to strengthen the technical closure process with NGOs working with Garifuna populations, including ECOSALUD, CASM Cortés and CASM Colón as well as the health regions. During this activity the management control technicians were strengthened on aspects they should review when carrying out technical closures and the technical closure was carried out for April.

A meeting was held with the management control technician from the metropolitan San Pedro Sula health region during which the following points were addressed: how the NGOs carry out evaluations of activities, the importance of the NGOs preparing training plans for the development of educational activities and a general review of how the behavior change communication (BCC) reports should be reviewed and verified.

A technical visit was made to the Cortes health region along with the representative from the Decentralized Management Unit, for the purpose of orienting the chief of integrated networks on the functions of the health region in accordance with obligations established in the contract signed between the Ministry of Health and the NGOs. During this meeting orientation was provided for the chief of integrated networks on the function of the health region in accordance with obligations established in the contract signed between the MOH and the NGOs. In addition, the integrated networks representative stated the need to include additional trained technical resources for carrying out technical closures in view of the fact they only have one person to perform this function. It was also made clear that the liaison with the NGO on behalf of the region is the management control technical staff person.

Management control technical staff of the metropolitan region, Puerto Cortes and Atlántida were accompanied during technical closures with the NGOs.

Technical assistance was provided for the presentation by the UGD during monthly coordination meetings with the UAFCE and USAID, as well as for the preparation of the quarterly technical report.

The project co-facilitated the orientation on DATIM to the MOH as well as AIDSTARPlus staff. In addition, technical assistance was provided to the MOH on filling out the system.

Activity 1.5: Strengthen the management capacities of MOH (UAFCE and Sub Secretariat of Networks including UGD and RSD).

This activity will continue in the next quarter.

Activity 1.6: Strengthen the financial and administrative processes of the MOH to manage the USAID HIV implementation letters.

Meetings have been held with the UAFCE project financial officer for USAID funds for the purpose of supporting her and providing her with the guidelines to follow for presenting the

reports required by USAID, such as: funds liquidations, quarterly reports, and follow up to the audit report to provide responses to USAID. She has been given support and continuous follow up given that she is not a finance and administration professional.

Meetings were held with the financial coordination assistant, the project financial officer and the internal auditor to review and update the internal control guidelines for USAID funds in accordance with USAID guidelines and the requirements of the new UAFCE structure. The draft was finalized and delivered to USAID for review and approval.

Support was provided to the UAFCE for the review of the first liquidations submitted by the NGOs in order to comply with the time frame agreed with USAID for the delivery of the UAFCE funds liquidations.

Follow up has been provided for the corrections requested by the UAFCE from the NGOs in order for them to present the liquidations in the short term.

Support was provided to the UAFCE for the reconciliation of balances for the NGOs in order for them to liquidate the total amount of the first advance received.

In May and June, 100% of liquidations submitted by the NGOs to the UAFCE were reviewed to identify areas to improve. As a result, 21 areas to improve were found which were classified according to the administrative guidelines manual for IPNP in three categories: High, moderate and low risk.

Four opportunities were found for improvement at high risk, 11 at moderate risk and six at low risk. The report on this review was submitted to the UAFCE during the last week in June 2015.

The agenda was developed for the workshop to strengthen the UAFCE on USAID guidelines, relationships with NGOs, audits by the Superior Accounts Tribunal and the new invoicing system. This agenda was submitted to USAID for approval.

Expected Result 2: Organizational capacity developed within local NGOs and other non-public institutions to support the implementation of evidence-based, quality HIV prevention services for key and priority populations in compliance with the new MOH funding mechanisms.

Activity 2.1: Strengthen NGOs and other non-public institutions' technical capacity to develop technical proposals during negotiation with MOH.

As a result of the short list invitation process carried out by the MOH for contracting IPNPs, the National AIDS Forum/Humans in Action (HUMAC in Spanish) was selected for working with the population of men having sex with men in La Ceiba and the communities of Jutiapa, San Francisco, and La Masica. Technical assistance was provided for the re-adaptation of the technical and financial proposal in order for the IPNP to incorporate observations made by the

internal evaluation committee, which included the participation of 7 persons from the IPNP. All necessary adjustments were carried out and the IPNP submitted the technical and financial proposal on the date established by the UAFCE.

Activity 2.2: Strengthen NGOs and other non-public institutions' capacity to improve the quality of HIV prevention services they provide to key and priority populations.

The Association of Youth in Movement (AJEM in Spanish) was invited by USAID to install a stand in the “Community Heroes” awards event and a meeting was held with this NGO prior to the event to organize and prepare, and technical support was provided for the preparation of pamphlets, banners and promotional material. During this activity the educational tool Decisions was presented in a hard copy version and electronically, the HIV rapid test service was provided, tattoos were shared with messages of prevention and demonstrations were given on the correct use of condoms. There was very good attendance at the stand from youth who actively participated in the educational tools, designed to hold their attention by actively involving them.

The draft terms of reference were prepared for contracting the consultant or consulting firm to develop the workshop on development of capacities for expanding coverage of the HIV rapid test service, which has been reviewed and adjusted as requested. The project considers that the IPNPs should prepare for the future and that the countries in the region and partners committed to increasing to 90% the number of persons with HIV who are aware of their diagnosis, to increase to 90% those persons receiving antiretroviral treatment and that 90% of those in treatment have a suppressed viral load. These terms of reference are oriented towards reinforcing capacities and abilities in IPNP technical personnel, with diversified strategies for the promotion of HIV rapid test services in key prioritized populations which will permit them to expand coverage.

In addition, the terms of reference were prepared for contracting a consultant for the preparation of the graphic designs for pamphlets, banners, invitations for HIV rapid test services and publications in social networks for key prioritized populations, for the purpose of supporting the IPNPs with the preparation of educational materials, with an attractive graphic design for target and prioritized populations

Activity 2.3: Strengthen NGOs and other non-public institutions in their technical capacity to implement the agreements in compliance with MOH requirements.

The technical team from the National Aids Forum/Humans in Action (HUMAC in Spanish) was given an orientation on carrying out technical closures. The processes and formats to be used were explained for technical closure as well as the format for the monthly technical advance report and formats for monitoring and evaluation and monthly planning were reviewed.

The formats for monitoring were prepared for measuring indicators which are updated each month and sent to the seven projects.

A technical event was carried out for the purpose of strengthening the technical closure process with NGOs working with Garifunas, ECOSALUD, CASM Cortés and CASM Colon. In addition, accompaniment was provided to CASM Cortes, AJEM and PRODIM during technical closures.

Follow up was provided for the post-SIMS improvement plans for AJEM and PRODIM.

LMG provided the following plan implementation support activities:

- Thirteen persons (6 men and 7 women) were updated by the Pan-American Social Marketing Organization (PASMO) on approaches on educational approaches promotion of the use of condoms. The aspects for which information was provided were:
 - The presentation of studies carried out on positioning condoms in the market at national and Central American level;
 - The different types of condoms that are marketed as well as the benefits for the users from each type of condom and the zones where these retailed;
 - The different strategies for promotion carried out by PASMO to position the brand (“VIVE”) in the market, offering the NGOs the opportunity to participate in the VIVE kiosk with “Team VIVE”.
 - The importance of the educational component when distributing condoms component as well as on aspects to consider for storing condoms.
- Support was provided to these NGOs in requesting that the National HIV carry out quality controls of the test kits purchased in 2015. The NGOs complied with this requirement and are expecting notification of the results from the national HIV laboratory.
- Orientation was provided on how to record the processes of referral and follow up of cases that test positive.

The terms of reference were prepared for contracting the firm who will provide the workshop on EXCEL software. The selection process of the firm was carried out and the workshop will be conducted in July.

A technical support event was carried out with four technicians from the AIDS Forum /Humans in Action (HUMAC in Spanish) for the preparation of the five products to be delivered by it from the first project result. These include a plan for discarding and eliminating waste from the HIV rapid test service that complies with all biosecurity standards, a plan for the promotion of HIV rapid tests, a plan to carry out the tests, mapping zones where the HIV rapid test services are provided and a plan for the distribution of condoms. All plans were completed.

Activity 2.4: Strengthen NGOs and other non-public institutions on their financial management capacity to comply with MOH standards.

Visits were carried out to each of the NGOs to provide technical assistance with the preparation of their monthly financial reports and to train the persons who review the liquidation documents (pre-interventores) in the document review processes in order to be able to carry out their verification work prior to the NGOs submitting their liquidations to the UAFCE. The use and application of financial administrative guidelines for the IPNP was emphasized with the administrators.

CASM Cortes was supported on the review of their budget because changes had to be made in some of the line items.

Activity 2.5: Strengthen NGOs and other non-public institutions capacities in transparency, accountability and management.

This activity will initiate in the next quarter.

Activity 2.6: Strengthen NGOs and other non-public institutions capacity on prevention of gender-based violence related to HIV.

During this period, the second workshop for the prevention of gender violence, oriented towards the IPNP working with the Garifuna population and including health region representatives and a representative from the family counseling unit linked to HIV, was carried out.

This workshop had a major emphasis on the pre-adolescent and adolescent population. Its objective was that the IPNP working with the Garifuna population provide specific information to this group so that the target populations better understand and question the existing standards and their link to the prevention of HIV transmission. In addition, the project expects it to address the search for empowerment, self-care and self-esteem that will lead the pre-adolescent and adolescent populations to make risk free decisions based on rights. The specific issues addressed during the workshop were the following:

- Socialization of gender and customs and traditions in the Garifuna culture that impact on gender based violence linked to HIV in women, pre-adolescents and adolescents,
- Gender roles and gender standards that impact on gender based violence linked to HIV in women, pre-adolescents and adolescents,
- The critical path, first aid for cases of violence, mapping of actors, sexuality, the difference between sexuality and sex,
- Adolescent concepts, factors that influence adolescent development, adolescence and rights, empowerment, preventive focuses for violence based gender linked to HIV in adolescents, aspirations of the pre-adolescents and adolescents and women, trafficking as a form of violence and its consequences.

This workshop included the participation of 23 persons (6 men and 17 women) of which 18 were IPNP technicians, 4 management control technicians from the health regions and 1 representative from the metropolitan San Pedro Sula mental health unit.

As a result of the gender workshops initiated in March with the participation of the 7 projects, during this period 7 training plans were prepared to comply with the 10 hours of discussion on the issue with the target and prioritized population.

The 7 projects have initiated with educational sessions to implement the training plans resulting from these workshops. During this period case referrals due to violence were not reported.

IV. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) for this fiscal year presents a series of indicators for the project objective and expected results 1 and 2; see Annex 1 for an updated PMP report. During this period, LMG provided technical support and follow up the action plans for 2 NGOs, implementing recommendations resulted from application of Site Improvement through Monitoring System (SIMS) tools by USAID in December 2014.

V. Outstanding Issues, Constraints, Delays and Actions Taken

During this period, the key UAFCE positions of General Coordinator and Acquisitions Coordinator were appointed and began work, the Finance and Administration coordinator has been appointed but not yet initiated, in addition, new technical officers have also integrated the unit, from which one was named as liaison for all USAID matters. With these changes, LMG has been focusing on providing information and orientation to new staff in order to comply with USAID's pending activities. Despite this challenge, LMG has continued working with the new and remaining staff in order to comply with USAID requirements and continue with short list bidding process, selection and the start-up of the new contract, which resulted in the signature of the agreement for one selected NGO.

The MOH is in delinquent status because it has not liquidated the total disbursement received from USAID in November 2014. At the beginning of April, the UAFCE sent USAID a note, stating that it was not aware that they should liquidate the total amount of funds received and, thus, they disbursed these to the IPNPs contracted in March to carry out activities. UAFCE requested USAID guidance on the procedure to follow including the possibility of an extension of the term for liquidating the advance. In addition, in the same communication they presented an analysis of disbursements and liquidations with USAID funds and a detail of the planned distribution of the pending amount to liquidate. USAID indicated that the UAFCE should liquidate the total pending amount of the advance. Therefore, with technical assistance from LMG, the UAFCE has focused on coordinating with the NGOs for the delivery of the liquidations and the return of the advance funds received. As this quarter finalizes, all NGOs have submitted liquidations to the UAFCE for all funds received, with the UAFCE submitting liquidations to USAID. Still pending is the liquidation of a minimum amount which is being prepared by the UAFCE.

Because of the delinquent status, the UAFCE cannot request funds from USAID and the NGOs have proceeded to finance activities for May and part of June with credits with their providers and some with their own funds.

Changes in key personnel at the UAFCE due to personnel rotation and the termination of interim assignments resulted in a backlog of UAFCE commitments related to USAID implementation letters. During this period, LMG provided technical assistance and follow up to the processes. As a result some pending issues have been resolved and others not for which LMG continues to provide continuous follow up.

The USAID mission in Honduras requested the participation by representatives from MSH headquarters in the weekly meetings. In addition, USAID requested coordinating meetings with the USAID AOR for the purpose of considering the current situation of the UAFCE. As a result of these meetings, a request was made for LMG to prepare a plan to strengthen the UAFCE which would be completed with the results from the rapid evaluation the mission is carrying out



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at the UAFCE. LMG submitted a draft of this strengthening plan to USAID, requested on May 22, and the project is expecting to receive feedback on this issue.

The LMG project director submitted her resignation and worked until June 30. LMG identified an interim director who began June 29, allowing for a brief overlap. The transfer of the project has been planned which ensures that this change will not affect the development of the planned activities.



VI. Financial Report

Period April'15-June'15	
Pipeline at the beginning of period	\$618,597.01
New Fund Obligation	\$ -
Expenses during the reported period + Accruals	\$241,998.74
Pipeline at the end of the period	\$376,598.27
Estimated expense burn rate for next period	\$331,946.49
Estimated quarters of pipeline	1.13
* Note that this report is a projection of the quarterly balance, as MSH has not yet closed the quarter that ends in June 30, 2015.	

VII. Lessons Learned

In relation to the UAFCE's delinquent status, the concerned parties were unaware of the procedure to follow in case of remnant funds from advances received from USAID and the opportunity was presented to update and strengthen the internal control guidelines related to USAID funds at the UAFCE to prevent similar situations from occurring in the future.

The new key and technical personnel at the UAFCE were incorporated in April and they received information of the pending processes with USAID. Important advances have been made during this period to resolve critical situations. This has been possible due to effective short term coordination focusing on issues that are priorities for USAID.

Weaknesses were identified in some NGOs in the technical closure processes for which LMG immediately took measures and carried out a technical work session for the purpose of strengthening the technical closure process. With the participation of the NGOs and the health regions, April technical closures were carried during this activity demonstrating that if corrective measures are taken in a timely manner, it is possible to efficiently resolve challenges.

When the resignation of the LMG project director was received, MSH immediately proceeded to seek and propose a solution to prevent disruptions in the technical assistance provided, which indicates that in difficult situations MSH is capable of providing an immediate response.



VIII. Coordination with Other Actors

In this past quarter, LMG Honduras was invited by USAID to a meeting with ULAT, in order to identify opportunities to coordinate technical assistance for UAFCE in the development of organization and functions manual and it was agreed that USAID would lead the process to obtain the political commitment at the highest level and from the UAFCE. In addition, it was agreed that LMG would contract a consultant for the process to development the organization and functions manual for the UAFCE and that ULAT would provide all the organizational framework and tutelage to LMG during the process. As a first step, ULAT submitted a model for the terms of reference to LMG.

During the period, LMG was advised that LINKAGES would be initiating and AIDSTAR Plus terminating the HIV/AIDS Technical assistance. LMG has coordinated with both AIDSTAR Plus and LINKAGES in the respective close down and start up phases.



IX. Gender Component

During the workshop for the prevention of gender based violence, a review was carried out of the referral plans prepared by the IPNP. The conclusion was reached that for the implementation of the referral plans some difficulties have emerged. Some institutions and health offices do not offer the necessary agility and acceptance due to various reasons, including the lack of personnel, the lack of confidence and in some cases the lack of technical will and sensitivity towards the cases.

The review and refreshing of the importance of the referral plan was valuable and some of the NGOs had the opportunity of reflecting and rescuing some tasks that were partially forgotten. For others it was a new experience that required important efforts to finally recognize the importance of satisfactorily complying with what is requested.

As of this quarter, the 7 projects have initiated implementation of their training plans through educational sessions directed to leaders and mentors. This was discussed in greater detail in the description of Activity 2.6 “Strengthen NGOs and other non-public institutions capacity on prevention of gender-based violence related to HIV” discussed above.



X. Summary of Key Conclusions

During this quarter, LMGs support and assistance has been centered on establishing coordination with new key personnel and technical staff that joined UAFCE in April 2015. In addition, UGD appointed a new technical officer, who required orientation on USAID's processes. Significant progress has been achieved this period considering staff in both units UGD and UAFCE is new.

LMG provided technical assistance on the evaluation of proposals to contract health services providers in 2015 for Islas de la Bahía and Atlántida, received as a result of the short list bidding process. LMG supported and followed up the process to final contract signature with the selected NGO and provided technical assistance needed to comply with the requirements to start up the project, based on the technical proposal and agreed upon products.

This period a financial officer joined the LMG team. He will provide technical assistance to UAFCE in finance and administration. The technical advisor in capacity development position will be replaced with short term consultants, since after two recruitment processes, no suitable candidates were found.

According to PY3 work plan, in the next quarter, LMG will focus its support and assistance on the institutional capacity development processes for MOH units and NGOs.



Annex 1: Honduras LMG Project Performance Monitoring Plan

LMG Honduras Project Goal:								
Provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Health (MOH) and local NGOs and other non-public institutions in organizational capacity building to provide HIV/AIDS education and prevention services to key and priority populations.								
No.	Indicators	Goal Oct 1, 2014 – Sept. 30, 2015		Goal reached October 2014 - June .30, 2015		Average reached	Source (s)	Frequency
P.11.1.D	Number of individuals who received Testing and Counseling (T&C) services for HIV and received their test results.	Male:		Male:	4,202	64%	NGO Reports	Annual
		Female:		Female:	5,708			
		(<15 years):		(<15 years):	5			
		(15 + years):	15,555	(15 + years):	9,905			
		Positive:		Positive:				
		Negative:		Negative:				
		MSM:	3,067	MSM:	1,142			
		CSW:	5,526	CSW:	2,222			
		Garifunas:	6,962	Garifunas:	5,380			
		Other indirect groups:		Other indirect groups:	1,166			
		Individuals:	15,555	Individuals:	9,910			
		Couples:		Couples:				
		TOTAL:	15,555	TOTAL:	9,910			
P.8.3.D	Number of key populations reached with individual and/or small group level HIV preventive interventions that are based on evidence and/or meet the minimum Standards required	Male:		Male:		79%	NGO Reports	Annual
		Female:		Female:				
		MSM:	1,592	MSM:	625			
		CSW:	2,712	CSW:	2,760			
		TOTAL:	4,304	TOTAL:	3,385			
P.8.1.D	Number and percentage of each priority population who completed a standardized HIV prevention intervention including the specified minimum components during the reporting period	Male :	1,860	Male :	2,155	96%	NGO Reports	Annual
		Female	3,031	Female	2,560			
		(<15 years):		(<15 years):				
		(15 + years):		(15 + years):				
		Garifunas :		Garifunas :				
		Other indirect groups:		Other indirect groups:				
		TOTAL	4,891	TOTAL	4,715			

LMG Honduras Project Goal:

Provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Health (MOH) and local NGOs and other non-public institutions in organizational capacity building to provide HIV/AIDS education and prevention services to key and priority populations.

Result 1: Organizational capacity developed within the MOH to establish and carry out effective funding mechanisms, management and stewardship of HIV prevention services provided by local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other non-public institutions.

No	Indicators	Baseline		Source (s)	Goal Oct 1, 2014 - Sept. 30, 2015	Frequency	Goal reached April 1 – June. 30, 2015
		Value	Year				
1.	Proportion of NGOs and other non-public institutions contracts managed in compliance with MOH policies, protocols, and guidance for contracting, as measured through the following areas in the past 12 months:						
	○ Bidding process based on results undergone timely		2014	UAFCE reports		Annual	N/A
	○ Monthly financial reviews based on results						
	○ Semi-annual results-focused technical audits						
1.1	Proportion of technical and financial proposals based on results that have been reviewed and negotiated by the MOH in the past 6 months as part of the competitive bidding process.			UAFCE reports	10	Annual	80% ¹
1.2	Percent of NGOs and other non-public institutions with approved contracts that have undergone monthly financial reviews by the MOH within the past 3 months.			UAFCE reports	8	Monthly	50% ²
1.3	Percent of NGOs and other non-public institutions with approved contracts that have undergone semi-annual results-focused technical audits by the MOH within the past 6 months.			UGD reports	8	Annual	N/A

¹ Corresponding to 8 proposals reviewed and negotiated for the MOH

² Only 4 NGOs closed their books

LMG Honduras Project Goal:

Provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Health (MOH) and local NGOs and other non-public institutions in organizational capacity building to provide HIV/AIDS education and prevention services to key and priority populations.

Result 1: Organizational capacity developed within the MOH to establish and carry out effective funding mechanisms, management and stewardship of HIV prevention services provided by local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other non-public institutions.

No	Indicators	Baseline		Source (s)	Goal Oct 1, 2014 - Sept. 30, 2015	Frequency	Goal reached April 1 – June. 30, 2015
		Value	Year				
1.4	Percent of financial advance requests and liquidations received from contracted NGOs and other non-public institutions in the past three months that have been reviewed and processed by the MOH.			UAFCE Report	8	Monthly	0% ³

LMG Honduras Project Goal:

Provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Health (MOH) and local NGOs in organizational capacity building to provide HIV/AIDS education and prevention services to key populations.

Result 2: Organizational capacity developed within local NGOs to support the implementation of evidence-based, quality HIV prevention services for key populations in compliance with the new MOH funding mechanisms.

No.	Indicators	Baseline		Sources (s)	Goal October 1, 2014 – Sept. 30, 2015	Frequency	Goal reached April 1 – June. 30, 2015
		Value	Year				
2.	Proportion of NGOs and other non-public institutions that comply with financial and technical regulations, measured by:			NGOs' and other non-public institutions Management projects reports		Annual	N/A
	o Percentage of funds executed quarterly by the NGOs and other non-public institutions (financial regulation)		2014				
	o Percentage of the NGOs and other non-public institutions project targets achieved quarterly (technical regulation)						

³ No disbursements were processed on behalf of the MOH

LMG Honduras Project Goal:

Provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Health (MOH) and local NGOs in organizational capacity building to provide HIV/AIDS education and prevention services to key populations.

Result 2: Organizational capacity developed within local NGOs to support the implementation of evidence-based, quality HIV prevention services for key populations in compliance with the new MOH funding mechanisms.

No.	Indicators	Baseline		Sources (s)	Goal October 1, 2014 – Sept. 30, 2015	Frequency	Goal reached April 1 – June. 30, 2015
		Value	Year				
2.1.	Percentage of funds executed quarterly by contracted NGOs and other non-public institutions			UAFCE Report		Monthly	0% ⁴
2.2.	Percentage of the NGOs and other non-public institutions project targets achieved in the past 3 months.			UGD Report		Monthly	38% ⁵

⁴ Funds were not received by the NGOs from the MOH

⁵ 3 out of the 8 projects met their technical goals