



USAID
DEL PUEBLO DE LOS ESTADOS
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QUARTERLY TECHNICAL PERFORMANCE REPORT NO. 14

Period covering July 1, 2008 – September 30, 2008
(4th Quarter of FY 2008)

Transparency, Anticorruption and Accountability Program
Task Order Number DFD-I-03-03-00139-00

Submitted to:

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GUATEMALA

In compliance with Contract DFD-I-00-03-00139-00 and Task Order No. DFD-I-03-03-00139-00 (Central America and Mexico [CAM] Transparency, Anticorruption and Accountability Program), Casals & Associates, Inc. (C&A) presents this quarterly report, which covers the period from July 1 through September 30, 2008.

I. KEY ACTIVITIES

During this quarter, the Program concentrated a significant share of its efforts on implementing the following activities:

- 1) Advancing a coordinated strategy to promote the adoption of a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), which resulted in its approval by Congress on September 23, 2008;
- 2) Carrying out a training course on investigative journalism and computer-assisted reporting, which brought about the publication/broadcast of projects of investigative journalism under the guidance of Program specialists;
- 3) Providing technical support to the Joint Commission on Electoral Reforms to revamp the legal standards on electoral campaign financing and oversight; and
- 4) Carrying out training courses on anticorruption-related topics for the Anticorruption Unit of the Attorney General's Office and the Judicial Branch.

Below is a description of these and other Program highlights in the reported period.

IR 2: GREATER TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF GOVERNMENTS

SUB IR 2.1: MORE TRANSPARENT SYSTEMS FOR MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC RESOURCES BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

LLR 2.1.1: NATIONAL ANTICORRUPTION/TRANSPARENCY STRATEGY COMPLETED AND IMPLEMENTED

INDICATORS:

- Existence of a National Transparency Plan (yes/no)
- Number of subject areas in the National Transparency Plan derived from the IACC
- Percentage of implementation tasks from the Transparency Plan completed by the GoG
- Access to Information Index score in the Executive Branch. (0.0-1.0, where 1.0 represents total access to information)

MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED:

Accomplished the adoption of a Freedom of Information Act. The most significant achievement this quarter involved attaining the approval by Congress of a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) as a result of a project conceived and co-executed by the Program as of January 2008.

Throughout the reported period and prior to the law's approval, the Program and its local partners maintained a sustained effort to push for the adoption of the proposed bill. This involved launching public awareness campaigns (see LLRs 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 below), mobilizing support by key public opinion makers (e.g. *Centro para la Defensa de la Constitución*), maintaining the media's interest in covering this topic, and providing technical support to the two members of Congress who argued in favor of the bill in the legislative debates where it was reviewed and discussed. Immediately following the law's approval by Congress, Vice President Espada convened more than 100 high-level GoG officials to discuss the scope of the law and to commit them to its compliance. This activity was funded by the Program and co-organized with *Acción Ciudadana*.

The law will come into effect 180 days from its date of publication in the Government's Official Newspaper *Diario Oficial*. The Program's interventions, in close collaboration with local partners (most notably, *Acción Ciudadana*, a high level political analyst and two key members of Congress), were instrumental in reaching this milestone, which reversed failed attempts to pass this type of legislation in Guatemala for the past eight years.



Media interviews/appearances where members of Congress called for the adoption of a Freedom of Information Act in Guatemala

Provided continued support to develop and implement the anticorruption policies of the Executive Branch. The Program continued providing technical assistance to the Anticorruption Commission of the Executive Branch through a full-time consultant. The consultant's work this quarter focused on consolidating the tasks of the National Transparency Plan into four strategic objectives and carrying out activities in anticipation of "Transparency Month," a series of events to be held from November 6 through December 9.

Additionally, the new Executive Secretary of the Anticorruption Commission, Jorge Pérez, was invited to participate in the Donors' Transparency Table's meeting on two separate occasions to establish a stronger relationship with the donor community and further coordinate the execution of the National Transparency Plan. The Program also held a meeting with Jorge Pérez and the Vice-Minister of Fiscal Transparency, Carlos Barreda to discuss the preliminary actions that will have to be put into place to meet the requirements set forth by the new Freedom of Information Act.

Identified key government officials and civil society and media representatives to participate in the 13th International Anticorruption Conference in Athens, Greece. From October 30 to

November 3, Transparency International will hold the 13th International Anticorruption Conference in Athens, Greece.

The Program, in collaboration with USAID, worked to identify key local stakeholders who have had leading roles in advancing the implementation of the anticorruption agenda to attend the Annual TI Conference in Athens. The individuals identified are the following: Member of Congress Rosa Maria de Frade, who was instrumental in the passage of the FOIA in Guatemala; Jorge Pérez, Executive Secretary of the Executive Branch's Anticorruption Commission, Leonardo Cereser, journalist from *Prensa Libre*, and Alejandro Urizar, Executive Director of *Acción Ciudadana*, TI's chapter in Guatemala

The participation of these individuals in the Conference will help strengthen USAID's working relationship with anticorruption champions in the legislative and executive branches. It is expected that their exposure to best practices in the area of anticorruption will be replicated locally.

Continued acting as Secretariat to the Donors' Transparency Table. The Program continued providing coordination and logistical support to USAID and other members of the international donor community (e.g. bilateral cooperation agencies, multilateral organizations, development banks, etc.) to coordinate the efforts to curb corruption.

During this period, the Donors' Transparency Table focused on launching discussions with the new Executive Secretary of the Executive Branch's Anticorruption Commission.

Exposed government auditors to best practices in internal controls and auditing. On August 7-9, 2008, the *Asociación Guatemalteca de Investigadores de Presupuesto* (AGIP) held its XVII Annual Public Finances Seminar under the theme "New Trends on Government Internal Auditing." The Program supported this event by sponsoring the participation of two international speakers: Tirso de la Gala, who carried out a presentation on internal control methodologies in Mexico's public sector, and Edison Estrella, who served as facilitator at a series of practical workshops on Control Self Assessment techniques for internal auditors from the Ministry of Education.



XVII Annual Public Finances Seminar of the *Asociación Guatemalteca de Investigadores de Presupuesto*

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER FOR THIS LLR:

- Work with the Anticorruption Commission in drafting general guidelines to set up Information Units at each GoG agency and train their staff on how to comply with the standards and regulations to be set forth by the Freedom of Information Act.
- Continue to sponsor a full time external consultant responsible for providing logistical and technical support to the Executive Secretariat of the Anticorruption Commission.
- Sponsor the participation of GoG officials and civil society representatives at the 13th International Anticorruption Conference.

LLR 2.1.2: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION (IACC)

INDICATORS:

- Number of activities in the National Transparency Plan derived from the IACC
- Percentage of activities of the National Transparency Plan implemented
- Percentage of recommendations of the IACC Committee of Experts addressed (under implementation) by the GoG
- Cumulative number of reports presented by GoG to the Committee of Experts in compliance with IACC

MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED:

As scheduled, the Program focused its efforts this quarter on implementing other LLRs under its Work Plan for FY2008. Nevertheless, all activities implemented this quarter abide by the standards set forth by the IACC and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER FOR THIS LLR:

The Program will continue to implement activities that abide by the standards set forth by the IACC and UNCAC.

LLR 2.1.3: IMPROVED NATIONAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET TRANSPARENCY, MANAGEMENT AND EXECUTION

INDICATORS:

- Development of the Budget Transparency Index (Y/N)
- Total amount of financial resources (in quetzals) procured through the *Guatecompras* system
- Number of mechanisms for external oversight of public resources used that are supported by USG assistance (cumulative, "F" List Indicator)

MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED:

The Program completed its direct activities on budget transparency in the previous quarter and is now moving forward with key recommendations from the 2007 Budget Transparency Index (e.g. adopting a FOIA).

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER FOR THIS LLR:

No specific activities are planned next quarter under this LLR. Nevertheless, the Program anticipates working in conjunction with the new Under Ministry of Fiscal Transparency, which will oversee the execution of budget transparency initiatives, and the Executive Branch's Anticorruption Commission in the design of a strategy for the implementation of the recently approved Freedom of Information Act.

LLR 2.1.4: SYSTEMATIC GOVERNMENT DEFICIENCIES IDENTIFIED AND ADDRESSED IN KEY LINE MINISTRIES

In accordance with USAID priorities and the availability of resources, the Program did not conduct activities under this LLR. Nevertheless, the activity described under LLR 2.1.1 (expose government auditors to best practices on internal controls and internal auditing) closely relates to this LLR.

LLR 2.1.5: INITIATIVES TO REDUCE PETTY CORRUPTION (BRIBE SOLICITATION) DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED

INDICATOR:

- Number of USG-supported anticorruption measures implemented that directly address petty corruption (cumulative, "F" List / Disaggregated)

MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED:

In accordance with our Work Plan, the Program concentrated its efforts this quarter on the implementation of activities under other LLRs.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER FOR THIS LLR:

- No specific activities are planned next quarter under this LLR.

LLR 2.1.6: KEY OVERSIGHT AGENCIES STRENGTHENED

INDICATOR:

- Change in access to Information Index Score in the Legislative Branch (0.0 – 1.0, where 1.0 represents perfect access to information)

MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED:

Trained Anticorruption Public Prosecutors on "Government Accounting and Auditing Principles." On July 14, 2005, at the request of the Attorney General's Office, the Program offered a course, broken down into seven modules, on basic accounting and auditing principles for the entire staff of its Corruption Investigations Unit. The overall objective of this activity was to train the operational staff of the Anticorruption Unit and other areas of the Attorney General's Office in techniques and strategies that will allow them to investigate corruption in a

more effective manner given their improved understanding of governmental accounting principles.



Course on “Government Accounting and Auditing Principles” for public prosecutors

Trained judges and court staff on “Corruption Crimes Based on Guatemala Criminal Code and International Anticorruption Conventions.” In conjunction with the Supreme Court and its Judicial Studies Institute, the Program offered—in July and August 2008—three courses on “Corruption Crimes” for 54 judges and other judiciary staff at three strategic sites (Quetzaltenango, Guatemala and Zacapa). This activity was intended to strengthen their analytical capacities to assess corruption crimes and their modalities based on Guatemala’s Criminal Code and International Anticorruption Conventions. By extending its reach to other sites outside Guatemala City, the Program exposed local judges to tools and methodologies that would not otherwise be at their disposal for the resolution of corruption cases. Ivan Meini, former deputy prosecutor of the Fujimori/Montesinos case in Peru, served as the course’s instructor. As training material, the Program published and distributed among attendees a booklet that referenced key aspects of the local criminal legislation and international anticorruption conventions in the subject topic. Additionally, the Program sent copies of this publication to all Law Schools in Guatemala City and different government entities (e.g. the Supreme Court, the Attorney General’s Office, the Constitutional Court, etc.).



Training session offered at one of the regional sites (Quetzaltenango) and the course’s manual

Based on participants' evaluations and their feedback, more than 90% qualified the courses' overall organization and topics as "excellent" or "very good." A few areas of improvement were, nevertheless, identified. For instance, course participants called for the expansion of this type of training to more judges, particularly those that deal directly with criminal offenses and to members of the Attorney General's Office. They were also interested in including practical exercises to apply the evaluation of corruption crimes to "real-life" situations.

As an immediate step, the Program held a meeting with Supreme Court Justice Gilberto Chacón, the Program's liaison at the Supreme Court and the GoG official responsible for the implementation of anticorruption tasks within the Judicial Branch, for the following purposes:

- a) To present the Judicial Branch with a summary of the courses' most relevant results and recommendations to improve the organization of this type of activities in the future (see below second course on the "The Role of the Judicial Branch with regards to the United Nations Convention against Corruption," held in September 2008).
- b) To propose additional areas of cooperation, such as assisting the Judicial Branch in drafting a proposal to revamp the criminal standards on corruption crimes. A comprehensive review of the Criminal Code's Chapter on Corruption Crimes is required, not only because of a few important omissions of crimes, such as illicit enrichment and traffic of influences, but also in light of trivial penalties contained therein that do not properly serve a dissuasive effect (in many cases, there are no prison terms, only relatively small monetary fines). Also, the statute of limitations on this type of crimes needs to be extended to reflect international standards.

A few members of Congress (Rosa María de Frade and Nineth Montenegro), the Vice President and NGOs, such as *Acción Ciudadana*, have already expressed an interest in moving forward with legislative changes in this area. Subject to identifying favorable conditions, the Program may assist in coordinating the efforts of all of these parties in putting together a unified proposal to be presented to Congress.

Trained judges and court staff on "The Role of the Judicial Branch in the Implementation of International Conventions against Corruption." As a follow-up to training activities conducted in July and August for the Judicial Branch, the Program worked with the Supreme Court and its Judicial Studies Institute in carrying out an additional training course on "The Role of the Judicial Branch in the Implementation of International Conventions against Corruption" in Zacapa, Guatemala City and Quetzaltenango. Guillermo Jorge from the *International Center for Asset Recovery (ICAR) of the Basel Institute on Governance* served as the course's instructor.

In addition to personnel from the Judicial Branch, other GoG officials, such as public prosecutors from the Corruption Investigations and Anti-Money Laundering Units from the Attorney General's Office attended these sessions. The Program trained a total of 132 participants through this activity, an increase of 60% over the original estimate. Its immediate result was an increased understanding among judges and public prosecutors of the legal instruments available to them within the UNCAC.



Training sessions in Guatemala City and Zacapa of the course on “The Role of the Judicial Branch in the Implementation of International Conventions against Corruption”

Sponsored the participation of anticorruption public prosecutors at a training course on criminal trials and oral skills. At the request of the Attorney General’s Office, the Program sponsored the participation of five public prosecutors from its Anticorruption Investigations Unit at a training course on criminal trials and oral skills held at University Rafael Landivar. The course, which consists of four sessions starting in September 2008, is intended to provide participants with the adequate communications skills, body language and analytical abilities to successfully sustain a debate in a corruption trial. Chief Anticorruption Prosecutor, Omar Contreras, is one of five participants attending the subject course.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER FOR THIS LLR:

- In November, the Program will launch a Certificate Course on “Strategies in the Investigation and Prosecution of Corruption” for the Corruption Investigation Unit of the Attorney General’s Office. The course will be broken down into seven modules covering topics such as corruption crimes under Guatemala’s Penal Code and international anticorruption conventions, corruption investigations strategies, public procurement, and oral trials and will be offered in coordination with the Universidad Francisco Marroquín Law School. The target population of this activity will be the operations staff of the Anticorruption Unit of the Attorney General’s Office and other justice operators linked to the investigation and prosecution of corruption crimes.
- In response to a request for technical support from the Attorney General’s Office, the Program would also develop an operation manuals, which seek to document best practices and standardize practices in the investigation of and prosecution of corruption, money laundering and asset recovery.
- Subject to identifying favourable conditions, the Program will assist in coordinating the efforts of the Judicial Branch, members of Congress and civil society organizations in putting together a unified proposal to revamp the legal framework governing the criminal prosecution of corruption.

SUB IR 2.3: MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN AND OVERSIGHT OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT DECISION-MAKING

LLR 2.3.1: STRONG CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION AND OVERSIGHT

INDICATORS:

- Number of governance subject areas in which CSOs are actively involved in program support (cumulative)
- Number of people affiliated with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) receiving USG supported anticorruption training (cumulative, “F” List Indicator)
- Number of people reached by USG-assisted voter education (“F” List Indicator)

MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED:

Coordinated a strategy, which brought about the adoption of a Freedom of Information Act by Congress. The Program’s grantee *Acción Ciudadana* worked in collaboration with the Program in promoting the adoption of a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). As described above (see LLR 2.1.1), *Acción Ciudadana* was instrumental in attaining key objectives under this initiative. Its activities included launching a public awareness campaign in the radio, newspapers and street billboards to promote the adoption of the bill and guiding members of Congress on how to defend the Bill.

Completed a new edition of the Access to Information Index. The Access to Information Index was first published in February 2007. This year, the Program sponsored the preparation of a new edition as part of a grant with *Acción Ciudadana*. The index assesses access to information at five institutional groups: the central government, the judiciary, Congress, municipalities and decentralized entities. Its results, which will be made public next quarter, show that the score for the Executive Branch in FY2008 was of merely .52 (of a maximum score of 1). This placed the Executive Branch in the “regular” access to information range. The Executive Branch’s performance decreased in comparison to its score of .71 in 2007. This may be the reflection of a lower degree of political will and institutional capacity to address these tasks at the time that this evaluation took place. The adoption of a new Freedom of Information Act is expected to reverse this trend.

The score of the Legislative Branch in the 2008 Access to Information Index was 0.22 (with 1.0 being total access to information), thus placing the Legislative Branch in the “substandard” range. The Legislative Branch decreased its score by .17 points in comparison to the 2007 evaluation.

Monitoring the execution of the government’s new Conditional Cash Transfers Program. A grant agreement was signed with *Acción Ciudadana* on July 31 for US\$70,000 to train beneficiaries from the Conditional Cash Transfers Program and civil society representatives on social audit methodologies to assess the efficiency and transparency in the execution of this initiative through December 2008. This quarter, *Acción Ciudadana* completed the design of the methodology to scrutinize the program’s execution, identified the instructors who will teach it at 45 municipalities, and launched training activities.

Organized Conference: “Asset Laundering: Its Impact and Prevention and Combat Mechanisms.” On September 24, and in commemoration of Lawyers Day, the Program worked with the Universidad del Istmo to organize a conference titled “*Asset Laundering: Its Impact and*

Prevention and Combat Mechanisms.” Guillermo Jorge, author of “Recuperation of Corrupt Assets” and expert from ICAR, facilitated the conference. Over 35 people attended, including students and professors from the University.



Presentation made at Universidad del Istmo

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER FOR THIS LLR:

- Print and release the results of the 2008 Access to Information Index, which measures the availability and access to government records in different government entities.
- Continue supporting *Acción Ciudadana* in the execution of the Transparency and Accountability component of “*Mi Familia Progresá*” Conditional Cash Transfers Program.
- Sponsor the participation of Alejandro Urizar, *Acción Ciudadana*’s Executive Director, at Transparency International’s Anticorruption Conference to take place in Athens, Greece. The conference will gather anticorruption activists from TI’s global network and other specialists to exchange successful anticorruption tools and experiences. Additionally, Alejandro Urizar will serve as a speaker at a panel on the “Declaration of Guatemala for a Central America Free of Corruption” aimed at assessing progress to date in its implementation.
- Work with civil society organizations in supporting GoG agencies in their compliance with the standards set forth by the Freedom of Information Act.

LLR 2.3.2: CLEAR LEADERSHIP ROLE ON ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR

INDICATORS:

- Number of activities carried out by private firms, which invest funds on a 1:1 leveraging basis for anticorruption activities supported by USG (cumulative)
- Number of private sector firms that endorse the PTAC electoral communications campaign

MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED:

Identified and assessed potential activities with the private sector. This quarter, the Program received and evaluated two proposals to co-sponsor anticorruption projects with private sector entities. These included an initiative to work with CentraRSE in developing an Ethics Code for the African Palm Association and another project led by Universidad del Istmo to train teachers

and community leaders on how to instill transparency, honesty and accountability values in students, families and the community in general as tools to curb corruption. Nevertheless, given mission priorities and budget constraints, none of these projects is expected to receive funding for the Program for their execution.

Secured in-kind and financial contributions from a private sector entity to promote the Adoption of a Freedom of Information Act. Colite, an outdoor advertising company, co-sponsored a communications campaign to promote the adoption of the Freedom of Information Act through street billboards placed in three strategic locations throughout Guatemala City. In the three-week period of this campaign, each of the billboards was seen by at least 60,000 viewers per day.



Street billboards placed to promote the adoption of a Freedom of Information Act

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER FOR THIS LLR:

- Work with *Universidad Francisco Marroquín*, in the implementation of a second series of courses on Investigative Journalism and Computer assisted Reporting Training, which will be co-funded by this entity.

LLR 2.3.3: CAPACITY OF THE MEDIA TO REPORT ON TRANSPARENCY AND CORRUPTION ISSUES INCREASED

INDICATORS:

- Number of journalists, media students, and citizen journalists trained with USG support (cumulative)
- Number of articles/media productions developed as a result of training activities, including *Mi Periódico* articles (cumulative)

MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED:

Completed First Training Program on Investigative Journalism and Computer-Assisted Reporting. In the earlier part of this quarter, the Program offered the second and third modules of its training course on “Investigative Journalism and Computer assisted Reporting Training,” organized in conjunction with *Universidad Francisco Marroquín* and *Instituto Prensa y Sociedad* (IPYS), based in Peru. By executing this activity, the Program provided on-site and

on-line technical assistance to members of the press (radio, TV and newspapers) in the development of pieces of investigative journalism, a key tool to disclose fraud, scandal or political corruption.

The two modules offered this period (July 9-12 and July 25-26, respectively) focused on a more practical approach to instruct participants on how to access public databases, implement advanced data searches on-line, and use spreadsheets (e.g. Microsoft Excel) and database management systems (e.g. Microsoft Access) to further the scope of their research. Simultaneously, all participants continued to receive individual assistance in the development of their respective investigations.

The third module closed with a round-table discussion where each course participant presented the results of his/her projects and discussed the challenges/obstacles faced during their development. Several lessons learned and recommendations arose from this exercise in connection with the development of pieces of investigative journalism in Guatemala.



Second module and closing ceremony on the courses on Investigative Journalism and Computer Assisted Reporting

As a result of this activity, 18 journalists from TV, radio and print media were trained on investigative journalism techniques, which led to the development and publication/broadcast to date of six pieces of investigative journalism under the assistance of international specialists. These included the following:

- **“Estado paga Q243 millones por administrar Fideicomisos”** (*State Pays 243 Million Quetzales to Administer Public Trust Funds*) by Alejandra Alvarez – Prensa Libre
- **“Subió 25% Gasto para alimentación para diputados”** (*25% Increase in Food Expenses for Members of Congress*) by Geovani Contreras – Siglo XXI
- **“La Verdad de las Mentiras sobre las Adopciones”** (*The Truth about Adoption*) by Marta Yolanda Diaz-Duran – Tiempo Espacio
- **“Delincuencia repunta en el primer trimestre del 2008”**, (*Crime Rates Soar in the First Quarter of 2008*) by Rodrigo Perez – Siglo XXI
- **“Construcción del Desarrollo o Consolidación del Narcotráfico”** (*Building a Future or Consolidating Drug Trafficking*) by Elsie Sierra y Frances Urbina – Telediario
- **“Las Verdaderas Cifras de la Delincuencia en Guatemala”** (*The Real Numbers behind Delinquency in Guatemala*) by Guatevisión.



Front page articles featuring investigations developed under the technical guidance of Program specialists

Furthermore, the Program established key partnerships with members of the press that may assist in furthering the reach of USAID’s technical activities and public awareness campaigns in the future.

The Program also distributed 150 copies of the manual developed under these courses at the Fifth Latin American Congress of Journalism, organized in Panama City in September 2008 by the *Centro Latinoamericano de Periodismo* (CELAP).

Delivered awards to outstanding articles/projects of investigative journalism. In connection with the preceding activity and as an added incentive for outstanding investigations developed by course participants, the Program funded the participation at the Fifth Global Investigative Journalism Conference, held in Norway in September, of the author of the best piece of investigative journalism and presented notebook computers for the second and third place projects as judged by course instructors and the Program. The award ceremony took place immediately after the conclusion of the training program and was based on class performance (including attendance, enthusiasm/commitment, and timely execution of course assignments), the quality of the project and its relevance on the local contexts and other relevant considerations.

Elsie Sierra, a news director from the largest TV network in Guatemala, was the recipient of the award to attend the Fifth Global Investigative Journalism Conference, the most important event of its type, which gathered more than 100 specialists and speakers from Europe, North America, Africa, Asia and Latin America to discuss new research methodologies (e.g. Computer-assisted Reporting) and topics such as the investigation of corruption and organized crime.

Francis Urbina, from *Telediario*, and Geovanni Contreras from *Siglo XXI*, a local newspaper, were selected as the second and third winners and hence received laptops, a crucial instrument to conduct their work.

Furthermore, as described above (see LLR 2.1.1), the Program offered to support the participation of Leonardo Cerecer a journalist from *Prensa Libre* to Transparency International’s

Anticorruption Conference to take place in Athens, Greece on October 30 – November 3. By participating in this conference, he is expected to further his interest and skills in covering news related to transparency and accountability.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER FOR THIS LLR:

- Train and guide an additional group of 10 to 15 journalists from TV, radio and newspapers in the development of pieces of investigative journalism that will be published or broadcast in their respective media. This activity is intended to complement the training courses offered by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), *Fundación DESC* and *El Periódico* of a select group of journalists.
- Host a seminar with local and international experts to present case studies of how investigative journalism techniques may be used to disclose corruption schemes.
- Support the participation of a journalist from *Prensa Libre*, the most influential periodical in Guatemala, at the 13th International Anticorruption Conference to be held in Greece, which will include a special panel on investigative journalism.

SUB IR 2.4: ACCOUNTABILITY OF ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS IMPROVED

LLR 2.4.1: POLITICAL PARTY AND ELECTED LEADERS' ACCOUNTABILITY IMPROVED

INDICATORS:

- Number of political parties that comply with publicly disclosing their sources of campaign financing during the electoral period
- Number of laws or amendments to ensure credible elections drafted using USG assistance (“F” Indicator)

MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED:

In July and August 2008, the Program organized two two-day retreats for the Joint Commission on Electoral Reforms to discuss and reach consensus on legal reforms in three key areas:

1. Electoral campaign financing and political parties' access to mass media.
2. Political party and electoral campaign oversight.
3. Electoral crimes and penalties system.

Three Program consultants drafted reports on each of the above areas and served as guest speakers at the Commission's meeting, where they presented their recommendations for reforms based on lessons learned and also interacted with participants. Their findings will serve as the basis for the electoral reforms that will be presented to Congress in the next quarter.



Program specialists addressing the members of the Joint Commission on Electoral Reforms

Launched preparative activities for the drafting of an Electoral Audits Manual for the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. In September, the Program launched technical assistance activities in support of the Internal Auditing Unit of Guatemala's Supreme Electoral Tribunal. At this entity's request, the Program provided technical assistance through Gilberto Gomez, who serves as Internal Auditor of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Costa Rica. Mr. Gomez's assistance was focused on drafting an Electoral Audits Manual and revising a proposal to revamp the organizational structure of its Internal Auditing Unit. This is intended to strengthen its capacity to oversee electoral campaign and political party finances. The Program collected information for the preparation of the subject Manual, which will be presented for the Tribunal's consideration in October. As a future step, the Program will also train the Tribunal's Auditing Unit in computer audit assisted techniques and systems audit, which would enable it to verify the accuracy of the electoral census, which may have a significant percentage of incorrect records.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER FOR THIS LLR:

- Continue providing technical assistance to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal in the development of an Electoral Audits Manual.
- Develop an Electoral Crimes Chapter to be proposed to Congress for insertion into Guatemala's Penal Code. This intends to build on the study of the same subject drafted and presented recently by the Program to the Interagency Committee on Electoral Reforms.

LLR 2.4.2: IMPROVED GOVERNMENT ETHICS AND DISCLOSURE OF ASSETS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND CANDIDATES FOR PUBIC OFFICE

CURRENT INDICATOR:

- Number of asset disclosure reports verified of key public sector officials (both appointed and elected)

PROPOSED INDICATOR:

- Number of government officials receiving USG-supported anticorruption training ("F" list indicator / desegregation, cumulative)

MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED:

As scheduled, the Program focused its efforts this quarter on implementing other LLRs under its Work Plan for FY2008.

LIST OF IN-COUNTRY TRAINING EVENTS

Element	GJD 2.4 - Anticorruption Reforms		
Indicator Title	Number of people affiliated with non-governmental organizations receiving USG supported anticorruption training.		
Definition	People may not be from government. Training refers to all training or educational events whether short-term or long-term, in country or abroad.		
Name of Training Program	Offered By / Directed To	Start-End Dates / Estimated Cost	No. of Participants (Male & Female)
Second and Third Modules of the Workshop on Investigative Journalism and Computer Assisted Reporting	The Program and Universidad Francisco Marroquín	July 9-12, 2008 July 25-26, 2008	17
	Journalists from print media, TV and radio outlets	\$40,000	7 Female + 10 Male
Training to collect data for the 2008 Access to Information Index	<i>Acción Ciudadana</i>	July 31, 2008	40
	Volunteer citizens	Funded through a grant with <i>Acción Ciudadana</i>	22 Female + 18 Male
Conference on “Asset Laundering: Its Impact and Prevention Mechanisms”	The Program and Universidad del Istmo	September 24, 2008	37
	Law Students	\$146	25 Female + 12 Male
Total			94 Participants

Element	GJD 2.4 - Anticorruption Reforms		
Indicator Title	Number of Government Officials receiving USG-supported anticorruption training.		
Definition	People must be from government. Training refers to all training or educational events whether short-term or long-term, in country or abroad.		
Name of Training Program	Offered By / Directed To	Start-End Dates / Estimated Cost	No. of Participants (Male & Female)
Workshops to revise the legal framework	The Program/National Democratic Institute	July 18-20	20

Element	GJD 2.4 - Anticorruption Reforms		
Indicator Title	Number of Government Officials receiving USG-supported anticorruption training.		
Definition	People must be from government. Training refers to all training or educational events whether short-term or long-term, in country or abroad.		
Name of Training Program	Offered By / Directed To	Start-End Dates / Estimated Cost	No. of Participants (Male & Female)
on “Electoral Campaign Financing, Electoral Crimes/Misdemeanors and Political Party and Electoral Campaign Oversight”	Joint Commission on Electoral Reforms (composed of members of the Congressional Committee on Electoral Affairs and the Supreme Electoral Tribunal)	\$12,431	8 Female + 12 Male
	The Program/ National Democratic Institute	August 7-8	24
	Joint Commission on Electoral Reforms (composed of members of the Congressional Committee on Electoral Affairs and the Supreme Electoral Tribunal)	\$9,485	10 Female + 14 Male
“Government Accounting and Auditing Principles”	The Program	July 14-25	71
	Anticorruption Unit of the Attorney General’s Office	\$13,537.50	20 Female + 51 Male
“Corruption Crimes Based on Guatemala’s Criminal Code and International Anticorruption Conventions”	The Program	July 28 - August 5	55
	Judges and other court staff from the Judicial Branch at three regional sites (Guatemala City, Xela and Zacapa)	\$18,732	22 Female + 33 Male
Internal Controls and Internal Audits	Asociación Guatemalteca de Investigadores de Presupuesto (AGIP) / The Program	August 7-9	197
	Government internal auditors	\$1,505.84	63 Female + 134 Male
“The Role of the Judicial Branch in the Implementation of International Anticorruption Conventions”	The Program	September 22-25	132
	Judges and other court staff from the Judicial Branch at three regional sites (Guatemala City, Xela and Zacapa)	\$12,310	38 Female + 94 Male

Element	GJD 2.4 - Anticorruption Reforms		
Indicator Title	Number of Government Officials receiving USG-supported anticorruption training.		
Definition	People must be from government. Training refers to all training or educational events whether short-term or long-term, in country or abroad.		
Name of Training Program	Offered By / Directed To	Start-End Dates / Estimated Cost	No. of Participants (Male & Female)
Criminal Trials and Oral Skills	Rafael Landívar University	September 27 - October 18	5
	Anticorruption Investigation Unit from the Attorney General's Office	\$560	3 Female + 2 Male
Total			504 Participants

II. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE:

One copy of the previous quarter's performance report was submitted to USAID's Development Experience Clearinghouse.

PANAMA

In compliance with Contract DFD-I-00-03-00139-00 and Task Order No. DFD-I-03-03-00139-00 [Central America and Mexico (CAM) Transparency, Anticorruption and Accountability Program], Casals & Associates, Inc. (C&A) presents this quarterly report, which covers the period from July 1 to September 30, 2008.

I. KEY ACTIVITIES

Based on activities conducted by government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector entities and our Program (in partnership with these sectors), progress under a functional anticorruption strategy may be quantified as follows through September 2008, the ending date of C&A's Task Order in the country.

Component of the Strategy	Progress to Date
1) Adjustments to the Regulatory Framework / Public Policy	25.31%
2) Institutional Strengthening	10.65%
3) Citizen's Participatory Mechanisms	18.00%
Total	53.96%

The following sections detail the scope and results of the Program's interventions as related specifically to our final quarterly report of activities.

IR 2: GREATER TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF GOVERNMENTS

SUB IR 2.1: MORE TRANSPARENT SYSTEMS FOR MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC RESOURCES BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

LLR 2.1.1: NATIONAL ANTICORRUPTION/TRANSPARENCY STRATEGY COMPLETED AND IMPLEMENTED

INDICATORS:

- % implementation of National Anticorruption Strategy
- Number of sessions with Justices of the Supreme Court to design an anticorruption commission at the Judicial Branch

MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED:

Assisting in setting up a corruption-control entity at the Judicial Branch. In compliance with Amendment 27 to Task Order DFD-I-00-03-00139-00, which incorporated new activities to Panama's Work Plan, the Program conducted technical assistance activities and training to implement select components of the Judiciary's Anticorruption Plan.

Activities involved drafting guidelines to set up a permanent body responsible for monitoring the implementation and enforcement of anticorruption tasks in the Judicial Branch. Following the Program's recommendations, these functions were allocated to the recently created Ethics Commission, composed of four Supreme Court Justices.

To make this Commission operational, the Program assisted the Judicial Branch in preparing its internal regulations, which detail its new corruption-control responsibilities, as well as the organizational structure, human and financial resources requirements, and tasks assigned to its Executive Secretariat. The Program conducted workshops and interviews with Supreme Court Justices and their advisors, as well as among its own consultants, to harmonize the Commission's regulations with recommendations arisen from other components of the Judiciary's Anticorruption Plan (namely, the internal auditing and Ethics Code components) and with the proposals of other anticorruption-related projects sponsored by the European Union (in the area of civil service) and the Spanish Cooperation Agency (with regards to judicial audits and disciplinary actions).

This set of standards, presented to the Supreme Court in September 2008, are expected to strengthen the role of the Ethics Commission and consequently increase the Judicial Branch's role in the implementation of measures to prevent, detect or reprimand internal corruption.

LLR 2.1.2: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION (IACC)

INDICATOR:

- % implementation of Committee of Experts' recommendations regarding IACC commitments

While the Program did not conduct activities *per se* under this LLR this quarter, all the tasks described throughout this report abide to the standards set forth by both international anticorruption conventions signed and ratified by Panama (IACC and UNCAC).

LLR 2.1.3: IMPROVED NATIONAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET TRANSPARENCY, MANAGEMENT AND EXECUTION

In accordance with Mission priorities and the Program's Work Plan for FY08—ratified by two revised scopes of work issued, successively, in December 2007 and July 2008—the Program concentrated its efforts this quarter on advancing other LLRs.

LLR 2.1.4: SYSTEMIC GOVERNMENT DEFICIENCIES IDENTIFIED AND ADDRESSED IN KEY LINE MINISTRIES

INDICATORS:

- Number of workshops at the Judicial Branch to train GoP officials on internal auditing techniques
- Number of GoP officials at the Judicial Branch trained on the implementation of anticorruption measures

MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED:

This quarter, the Program also assisted the Judicial Branch in revamping its internal auditing mechanisms as an effective tool to identify and prevent corruption. The Program did this in two stages. First, it organized consultative workshops on July 10-11 for 35 members of the Internal Auditing Unit and other administrative areas of the Judicial Branch. Its goal was to gather their recommendations and inputs to complete a diagnostic and improve the management model of the referred unit in five major areas:

- 1) Legal standards
- 2) Strategic planning over the short and long terms (including a three-year Auditing Plan).
- 3) Organizational structure
- 4) Financial and human resources
- 5) Auditing procedures

On August 5, 2008, the Program presented the results of these workshops to the Judicial Branch. This was mainly intended to inform Supreme Court Justices of the relevance of the auditing function – traditionally undervalued by judicial authorities – as a relevant mechanism to support the Supreme Court in identifying and implementing corruption prevention and detection measures.



Workshops to assess and improve the internal auditing function in the Judicial Branch

As a subsequent step, the Program offered a 30-hour training course for the technical staff of the Internal Auditing Unit on government auditing, internal controls, strategic planning, and corruption-prevention standards set forth by international conventions. Furthermore, the Program instructed course participants on how to use risk assessment methodologies through a practical exercise at one of the critical areas of the Judicial Branch (the Legal Notices Center).

As a result of this activity, the Judicial Branch is anticipated to:

- 1) Focus the scope of its internal auditing plan towards corruption-prevention and detection measures in judicial and administrative procedures.
- 2) Monitor compliance with the recommendations issued by the Internal Auditing Unit to address and correct recurring internal controls deficiencies.



Training courses on government auditing standards, internal controls, strategic planning and corruption-prevention tools

LLR 2.1.5: INITIATIVES TO REDUCE PETTY CORRUPTION (BRIBE SOLICITATION) DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED

In accordance with Mission priorities and the Program's Work Plan for FY08—ratified by two revised scopes of work issued, successively, in December 2007 and July 2008—the Program concentrated its efforts this quarter on advancing other LLRs.

LLR 2.1.6: KEY OVERSIGHT AGENCIES STRENGTHENED

INDICATORS:

- Number of recommendations issued by the Program to key oversight agencies that are accepted and launched
- Draft law on justice of the peace procedures
- Proposal of a model unit responsible for the administration of justice of the peace procedures

MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED:

Continued implementation of the project “Access to Administrative Justice with Quality, Efficiency and Transparency.” Throughout the reported period, the Program continued to execute a project titled “Access to Administrative Justice with Quality, Efficiency and Transparency” in collaboration with the Solicitor General’s Office (*Procuraduría de la Administración*).

The immediate objective of this initiative was to develop, through a consensus-building process, a legal framework for the implementation of a revamped administrative justice system at the community level based on accountability practices, justice of the peace procedures (a form of justice implemented at the community level that privileges an amicable resolution of conflicts rather than legal confrontations) and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. In pursuit of that goal, the Program coordinated three working sessions with the members of the Justice Reform Commission (the Solicitor General’s Office, the Attorney General’s Office, the Judicial

Branch, the Ministry of the Interior and Justice, Congress and civil society organizations) to agree on the presentation of a unified Community Justice bill before Congress.



Meeting of the Justice Reform Commission for the discussion of a Community Justice bill

All members of the Commission, except the Judicial Branch, agreed on the final version of the bill. Despite the Program's efforts to breed a general consensus, technical differences on key elements of the proposed Community Justice Act (mainly, the mechanisms to appoint and remove community judges) prevented the Judiciary from endorsing the bill approved by all other parties. The Supreme Court's proposal, likely influenced by political considerations, would give the Judicial Branch the authority to appoint all community judges. This could hinder their independence and turn their proceedings overly legalistic, hence defying the very nature of the justice of the peace system.

In consultation with the Solicitor General's Office and municipalities, the Program also designed the model structure and human resources practices for community justice units. This was intended to safeguard the objectivity and merit-based nature of the selection of community judges and its personnel.

In anticipation of the eventual entry into force of a justice of the peace system, and following a public request for the submission of applications, the Program selected and trained 42 participants on the contents of the Community Justice Bill, ethical and accountability standards and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. As part of this activity, the Program designed two training manuals on teaching skills. Outstanding participants in the course were certified as trainers of justice of the peace procedures and will in turn instruct community judges and their staff on these subjects.



Manuals developed by the Program to set up a group of trainers on justice of the peace procedures

Additionally, the Program published, in collaboration with the Solicitor General’s Office and *Alianza Ciudadana*, 49,000 copies of a newspaper supplement in *La Estrella* and *El Siglo* to explain in layman terms how the new community justice system will operate (See also LLR 2.3.1).

SUB IR 2.2: INCREASED DEVOLUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES AND RESOURCES TO THE LOCAL LEVEL RESULTING IN GREATER RESPONSIVENESS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO CITIZENS’ NEEDS

In accordance with Mission priorities and the Program's Work Plan for FY08—ratified by two revised scopes of work issued, successively, in December 2007 and July 2008—the Program concentrated its efforts this quarter on advancing other LLRs.

SUB IR 2.3: MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN AND OVERSIGHT OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT DECISION-MAKING

LLR 2.3.1: STRONG CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION AND OVERSIGHT

INDICATORS:

- Number of social audits conducted of government programs and performance
- Number of civil society organizations trained in the execution of social audits
- Number of measures in place to prevent and detect corruption by means of training and/or the findings of social audits
- Number of outreach activities at the national level to promote reforms in the administration of local justice

MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED:

Advancing the Program’s small grants component. *Alianza Ciudadana Pro Justicia*, the Program’s main counterpart in civil society, carried out the implementation of its fourth grant

(Access to Administrative Justice with Quality, Efficiency and Transparency). Below is a list of major highlights, broken down by its three major components, in connection with the implementation of this project.

a) Promoting civic participation in the process to reform the local administrative justice system.

- In conjunction with the Solicitor General’s Office, *Alianza Ciudadana Pro Justicia* organized five citizen consultation and public awareness workshops in Panama (July 24), Colón (July 25), Coclé (August 7), Chiriquí (August 19) and Chitré (August 26) to relay the relevance of revamping the local administrative justice system. *Alianza Ciudadana Pro Justicia* made a presentation at these events on the proposed Community Justice Bill and collected data from its 328 participants on their perceptions of the quality and inefficiencies of the administration of justice at the local level. This information was then used as a valuable input in the discussion and revision of the Community Justice Bill.



Citizen consultation and public awareness workshops held in Panama City and Colón

- Involved 35 civil society organizations in endorsing a public communiqué calling for the adoption of justice of the peace procedures in the administration of justice at the community level.
- Designed and disseminated a third electronic news bulletin on justice of the peace reforms, community mediation and self-sustainability activities.
- Published and disseminated 500 copies of a poster, in the form of a “citizen charter,” to educate the general public on its rights and obligations vis-à-vis the entities responsible for administering justice in Panama. The posters were placed at the premises of the Attorney General’s Office, the Judicial Branch, *Corregidurías*, churches and universities in Colón, Panamá, San Miguelito, Aguadulce and Veraguas.
- Motivated the media to report on justice of the peace reforms. This included presentations and interviews on TV (SERTV Channel 11) and newspapers (e.g. *Panamá América*).

- As reported in LLR 2.1.6, *Alianza Ciudadana Pro Justicia* was also an active participant at the three round table discussions summoned by the Solicitor General’s Office in July and August to generate consensus around a unified Community Justice Bill with the Judicial Branch. Furthermore, it assisted the Solicitor General’s Office in convening a “train the trainers” workshop on justice of the peace procedures.
- Organized a conference by a Supreme Court Justice of El Salvador to share her experiences with civil society organizations on the implementation of the justice of the peace system in that country.
- Published a 12-page newspaper supplement in coordination with the Solicitor General’s Office to explain in layman terms the relevance and scope of the proposed reforms to the administrative justice system (see LLR 2.1.6). This was mainly directed to the general public to identify the most serious problems affecting the administration of justice at the community level and to describe what the regular citizen would gain from switching to justice of the peace procedures.
- Organized a meeting with judicial news correspondents from TV, radio and print media. Seven journalists from Medcom, TVN, *La Prensa*, *El Siglo*, *Panamá America* and Channel 5 attended the event, which sought to secure their support in stressing the relevance to revamp the local administration of justice in Panama.
- Offered a presentation to eight lawyers from local indigenous groups to acquaint them with the proposal to instill justice of the peace procedures at the community level. At this event, *Alianza Ciudadana Pro Justicia* took note of their comments and suggestions on how to improve access to justice in their own communities,
- Made a presentation for students and professors from the Law School of the *Universidad de Panamá*, where *Alianza Ciudadana Pro Justicia* identified the institutional weaknesses and deficiencies affecting the administration of justice at the community level and the need to instill justice of the peace procedures to resolve non-criminal litigations.
- Published a newspaper ad in *La Prensa* (with a circulation of 30,000 copies), summarizing the main features of the proposed justice of the peace procedures.
- Made a presentation on the legal framework of the local administrative justice system at the Third National Encounter of Indigenous and Rural Leaders. The event was held in Bocas del Toro on September 21 with the participation of more than 50 indigenous leaders.



Newspaper publications and supplements prepared in conjunction with *Alianza Ciudadana Pro Justicia*

b) Strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations to scrutinize, through social audits the effectiveness and transparency of the future administrative justice system.

- Offered workshops in the provinces of Panama, Coclé, Veraguas and Chiriquí to train 70 representatives from 22 civil society organizations on social auditing methodologies. Then, under the coordination of *Alianza Ciudadana Pro Justicia*, a number of course trainees carried out social audits at eight *Corregimientos* (Rufina Alfaro, Juan Díaz Antón, Penonomé, Soná, Santiago, David and Bugaba) in the aforementioned provinces. This consisted of polling government officials, users of justice services and community representatives on the efficiency and transparency of the administration of justice at the community level. Their audit reports and findings were released at a public event on September 24.
- Conducted an additional audit to assess compliance with the pending actions under the justice reform process. Its results, which received wide press coverage, were made public on January 29, 2008 and highlighted the areas, which will require continued support.

c) Enhancing its sustainability

- Organized a fundraiser event to continue operating past the termination of its grant with USAID. The event, which took place on August 5, featured Nobel Prize Economist Joseph Stiglitz as keynote speaker. Stiglitz, who served as World Bank Vice-President and Chairman of the U.S. Council of Economic Advisers during the Clinton administration, gave a presentation on “The Global Economy and Its Impact in Panama and Central America.” Through ticket sales, *Alianza Ciudadana Pro Justicia* raised \$52,445 in net earnings. Furthermore it received in-kind donations in the amount of \$45,000 to publicize the event through radio, TV and printed media from *La Prensa*, *Panamá América*, TVN Channel 2, Medcom Corporation and KW Continente.



Fundraiser event with Nobel Prize Economist Joseph Stiglitz

- *Alianza Ciudadana Pro Justicia* also organized meetings between the keynote speaker and sponsors and media to discuss the subject of his presentation in a closed setting.



Meetings with event sponsors and the media

Other relevant activities conducted by *Alianza Ciudadana*:

- Participated in five additional sessions of the Justice Reform Commission (July 3, 10, 24 and 31 and September 11) to finalize the discussions of the proposed reforms to the community justice system.
- Organized a discussion session with the members of the Justice Reform Commission to advocate for the launching of training activities on the new oral trials system and secure financial resources for the implementation of the new Code of Criminal Procedures. *Alianza Ciudadana Pro Justicia*'s Executive Director also participated in TV/radio interviews (e.g. RPC) to acquaint the general public with the nature and scope of the Criminal Procedures Code.
- Continued to update its Website under the sections titled "Citizen Monitoring Mechanisms" and "Justice of the Peace." This required updating the information on high-

profile corruption cases, posting the discussions of the Criminal Procedures Code and disseminating the activities undertaken by *Alianza Ciudadana Pro Justicia* in pursuit of revamping the administration of justice at the community level.

LLR 2.3.2: CLEAR LEADERSHIP ROLE AND ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR

INDICATOR:

- Number of anticorruption programs funded by the private sector

In accordance with Mission priorities and the Program's Work Plan for FY08—ratified by two revised scopes of work issued, successively, in December 2007 and July 2008—the Program concentrated its efforts this quarter on advancing other LLRs.

LLR 2.3.3: CAPACITY OF THE MEDIA TO REPORT ON TRANSPARENCY AND CORRUPTION ISSUES INCREASED

In accordance with Mission priorities and the Program's Work Plan for FY08—ratified by two revised scopes of work issued, successively, in December 2007 and July 2008—the Program concentrated its efforts this quarter on advancing other LLRs.

SUB IR 2.4: ACCOUNTABILITY OF ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS IMPROVED

LLR 2.4.1: POLITICAL PARTY AND ELECTED LEADERS' ACCOUNTABILITY IMPROVED

In accordance with Mission priorities and the Program's Work Plan for FY08—ratified by two revised scopes of work issued, successively, in December 2007 and July 2008—the Program concentrated its efforts this quarter on advancing other LLRs.

LLR 2.4.2: IMPROVED GOVERNMENT ETHICS AND DISCLOSURE OF ASSETS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND PUBLIC OFFICE CANDIDATES

INDICATOR:

- Number of participants trained in justice of the peace procedures, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, accountability practices and ethics.

MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED:

In accordance with Amendment 27 to Task Order DFD-I-00-03-00139-00, which called for the implementation of three components of the Judiciary's Anticorruption Plan, the Program assisted in setting up concrete measures to facilitate the observance in practice of its new Ethics Code, approved recently with technical support from the Spanish Cooperation Agency.

These measures included holding consultative meetings with members of the Judicial Branch and other relevant parties (e.g. the Attorney General and her top level prosecutors, private lawyers and citizens). With their input and the assistance of an international specialist (Rodolfo Vigo, author of the Model Ethics Code adopted by the Iberoamerican Association of Supreme Courts),

the Program drafted internal regulations to guarantee an effective implementation of ethical standards for judges and court personnel. The subject directives stipulate, among other features, the creation of a Judicial Ethics Office (the entity responsible for receiving and investigating accusations of ethical violations), the execution of training and public awareness activities on the objectives and contents of the Code, and putting in place incentives to recognize models of ethical behavior in the Judicial Branch. In preparing these standards, the Program also proposed a series of reforms to the civil service system to ensure its compatibility with the provisions set forth by the Ethics Code of the Judicial Branch.



Internal regulations drafted by the Program to implement the Code of Ethics of the Judicial Branch



Consultative meetings at the Judicial Branch on mechanisms to enforce the implementation of its new Ethics Code

To support the training assignment of what will become the Judicial Ethics Office, the Program taped and reproduced 50 copies of an instructional video on Judicial Ethics. Furthermore, the Program offered introductory guidance to the new Commission's staff on the enforcement of ethical standards.

Also in relation to this LLR, the Program sponsored the participation of two international specialists (Rodolfo Vigo and Diana González) at the XVII Congress of the Public Defender’s Office, organized in September under the theme “The New Criminal Accusatory System.” Both addressed in their presentations the linkages between the implementation of a new oral trials system for the administration of criminal justice and the recently adopted Ethics Code of the Judicial Branch.



XVII Congress of the Public Defender’s Office

Finally, to accompany the adoption of the new Ethics Code, the Program designed brochures and posters and published a newspaper supplement in *La Estrella* and *El Siglo* (49,000 copies) for the general public titled “18 Questions to Demand Ethical Behavior from Judges and Court Staff.” Through this initiative, the Program sought to engender a citizen-driven demand to make the justice system more transparent and accountable.



Newspaper supplement and posters on the ethical standards that judicial staff must abide by

LIST OF IN-COUNTRY TRAINING EVENTS

Training Program	Field of Study	Relationship to the Contract	Date	Estimated Cost	Female Participants	Male Participants
Technical support meetings in the framework of the Justice Reform Commission to discuss and concur on the proposed reforms to revamp the local administrative justice system (Instructor: Rosember Ariza).	Transparent administrative justice systems	LLR 2.1.6.	July 8-11, 2008	\$3,466.05	13	9
Workshop aimed at gathering information to assess the Internal Auditing Unit of the Judicial Branch and provide recommendations to revamp its structure and management model (Instructor: Rafael Reyes).	Internal Auditing	LLR 2.1.4.	July 10, 2008	\$3,900.00	9	3
Workshop aimed at gathering information to assess the Internal Auditing Unit of the Judicial Branch and provide recommendations to revamp its structure and management model (Instructor: Rafael Reyes).	Internal Auditing	LLR 2.1.4.	July 11, 2008	\$3,900.00	6	17
Technical support meetings to present and discuss with civil society the proposed reforms to revamp the local administrative justice system (Counterpart: <i>Alianza Ciudadana Pro Justicia</i> . Site: Panama City).	Transparent administrative justice systems	LLR 2.1.6 and LLR 2.3.1.	July 24, 2008	\$600.82 (Also partially funded through <i>Alianza Ciudadana's</i> grant).	23	32
Technical support meetings to present and discuss with civil society the proposed reforms to revamp the local administrative justice system	Transparent administrative justice systems	LLR 2.1.6 and LLR 2.3.1.	July 25, 2008	\$770.40 (Also partially funded through <i>Alianza Ciudadana's</i> grant).	21	31

Training Program	Field of Study	Relationship to the Contract	Date	Estimated Cost	Female Participants	Male Participants
(Counterpart: <i>Alianza Ciudadana Pro Justicia</i> . Site: Colón).						
Meetings to identify mechanisms for the effective implementation of the Ethics Code of the Judicial Branch with representatives from the Supreme Court, the Attorney General's Office, <i>Alianza Ciudadana Pro Justicia</i> the Panamanian Bar Association (<i>Colegio de Abogados</i>) and others (Instructor: Rodolfo Vigo).	Code of Ethics	LLR 2.4.2.	July 30, 31 and August 1, 2008	\$139.10	15	5
Technical support meetings to present and discuss with civil society the proposed reforms to revamp the local administrative justice system (Counterpart: <i>Alianza Ciudadana Pro Justicia</i> . Site: Coclé).	Transparent administrative justice systems	LLR 2.1.6 and LLR 2.3.1.	August 8, 2008	Funded through <i>Alianza Ciudadana's</i> grant.	18	7
Technical support meetings in the framework of the Justice Reform Commission to discuss and concur on the proposed reforms to revamp the local administrative justice system (Instructor: César Solanilla).	Transparent administrative justice systems	LLR 2.1.4.	August 8, 2008	\$68.21	4	8
Training workshops for the staff of the Judiciary's Internal Auditing Unit on mechanisms to prevent and detect corruption (Instructor: Rafael Reyes).	Internal Auditing	LR 2.1.4.	Aug. 11-14, 2008	\$10,548.99	5	6
Technical support meetings to present and discuss with civil	Transparent administrative justice systems	LLR 2.1.6 and LLR 2.3.1.	August 19, 2008	Funded through <i>Alianza</i>	66	85

Training Program	Field of Study	Relationship to the Contract	Date	Estimated Cost	Female Participants	Male Participants
society the proposed reforms to revamp the local administrative justice system (Counterpart: <i>Alianza Ciudadana Pro Justicia</i> . Site: Chiriquí).				<i>Ciudadana</i> 's grant.		
Trained civil society organizations on social auditing methodologies (Counterpart: <i>Alianza Ciudadana Pro Justicia</i> . Sites: Panama City, Coclé and Chiriquí)	Social Audits	LLR 2.3.1.	July 19, August 9 and 22, 2008	Funded through <i>Alianza Ciudadana</i> 's grant.	39	11
Technical support meetings to present and discuss with civil society the proposed reforms to revamp the local administrative justice system (Counterpart: <i>Alianza Ciudadana Pro Justicia</i> . Site: Chitré).	Transparent administrative justice systems	LLR 2.1.6 and LLR 2.3.1.	August 26, 2008	Funded through <i>Alianza Ciudadana</i> 's grant.	13	19
Train the trainers workshop on justice of the peace procedures in conjunction with the Solicitor General's Office (Instructor: Rosembert Ariza)	Transparent administrative justice systems	LLR 2.1.6.	Sep. 8-12, 2008	\$22,633.23	25	17
Presentation of the results and recommendations to strengthen the internal auditing function in the Judicial Branch (Instructor: Rafael Reyes).	Internal Auditing	LLR 2.1.4.	September 9, 2008	\$5,479.54	14	10
XVII Congress of the Public Defender's Office with the theme "The New Accusatory System". Presentations offered on the enforcement of the new Ethics Code in the Judicial Branch (Speakers: Rodolfo Vigo and Diana González).	Transparent administrative justice systems and Code of Ethics	LLR 2.1.6.	September 18-20, 2008	\$11,017.97	103	62

Training Program	Field of Study	Relationship to the Contract	Date	Estimated Cost	Female Participants	Male Participants
Training workshops for judicial officials (judges, public defenders and administrative personnel from its internal auditing unit and human resources department) in the eventual implementation of the Ethics Code in the Judicial Branch (Instructor: Rodolfo Vigo).	Code of Ethics	LLR 2.4.2.	September 19, 2008	\$72.76	4	2
Training workshops for judicial officials (judges, public defenders and administrative personnel from its internal auditing unit and human resources department) in the eventual implementation of the Ethics Code in the Judicial Branch (Instructor: Rodolfo Vigo).	Code of Ethics	LLR 2.4.2.	September 22, 2008	\$72.76	10	1
Presentation on the legal framework of the local administrative justice system at the Third National Encounter of Indigenous and Rural Leaders (Counterpart: <i>Alianza Ciudadana Pro Justicia</i> . Site: Bocas del Toro).	Transparent administrative justice systems	LLR 2.1.6 and LLR 2.3.1.	September 21, 2008	Funded through <i>Alianza Ciudadana's</i> grant.	25	25
Presentation on the proposed reforms to revamp the local administrative justice system (Counterpart: <i>Alianza Ciudadana Pro Justicia</i> . Site: <i>Universidad de Panamá</i>).	Transparent administrative justice systems	LLR 2.1.6 and LLR 2.3.1.	September 25, 2008	Funded through <i>Alianza Ciudadana's</i> grant.	36	36
Meeting with lawyers from indigenous	Transparent administrative	LLR 2.1.6 and LLR 2.3.1.	September 26, 2008	Funded through	4	4

Training Program	Field of Study	Relationship to the Contract	Date	Estimated Cost	Female Participants	Male Participants
communities to acquaint them with the nature and scope of the proposed justice of the peace system.	justice systems			<i>Alianza Ciudadana's</i> grant.		
Presentation on the proposed justice of the peace system (that is, the Community Justice Bill) to journalists that cover legal news.	Transparent administrative justice systems	LLR 2.1.6 and LLR 2.3.1.	September 29, 2008	Funded through <i>Alianza Ciudadana's</i> grant.	4	3
				Subtotal	457	393
				Total	850	

CONSULTANCIES

Consultant	Main Activity/Activities	Type of Contract (LOE or Fixed Price)	Period of Execution	Counterpart / Beneficiary	Relationship to the objectives of the Contract
Rafael Reyes	Conducted a diagnostic of the Internal Auditing Unit of the Judicial Branch; provided recommendations to revamp its structure and management model and trained its staff on mechanisms to prevent and detect corruption.	LOE	July 7 – September 5, 2008	Judicial Branch	LLR 2.1.4
Rosembert Ariza	Assisted in generating a consensus around a revised scope and wording of the proposal to revamp the local administrative justice system.	LOE	July 8-11, 2008	Solicitor General's Office	LLR 2.1.6
Rodolfo Vigo	Conducted a consultative process, through workshops with the staff of the Judicial Branch, to identify and draft procedures aimed at facilitating the implementation in practice of the Judiciary's Code of Ethics.	LOE	July 28 – August 1, 2008	Judicial Branch	LLR 2.4.2
Cesar Solanilla	Drafted guidelines to set up an entity responsible for preventing, detecting and penalizing corruption at the Judicial Branch.	LOE	August 3-8, 2008	Judicial Branch	LLR 2.1.1
Rosembert Ariza	Assisted in generating a consensus around a revised scope and wording of the proposal to revamp the local administrative justice system.	LOE	August 13-16, 2008	Solicitor General's Office	LLR 2.1.6
Rodolfo Vigo	Conducted a consultative process, through workshops with the staff of the Judicial Branch, to identify and draft procedures aimed at facilitating the implementation in practice of the Judiciary's Code of	LOE	Aug. 31, September 1-2, 2008	Judicial Branch	LLR 2.4.2

Consultant	Main Activity/Activities	Type of Contract (LOE or Fixed Price)	Period of Execution	Counterpart / Beneficiary	Relationship to the objectives of the Contract
	Ethics.				
Rosembert Ariza	Trained 42 participants on the contents of the Community Justice bill, ethical and accountability standards.	LOE	September 3-12, 2008	Solicitor General's Office	LLR 2.1.6
Rodolfo Vigo	Participated as speaker at the XVII Congress of the Public Defender's Office under the theme "The New Accusatory System."	LOE	September 14-23, 2008	Judicial Branch	LLR 2.4.2.
Diana González	Participated as speaker at the XVII Congress of the Public Defender's Office under the theme "The New Accusatory System."	LOE	September 18-20, 2008	Public Defender's Office (Defensoría de Oficio)	LLR 2.1.6
César Solanilla	Drafted guidelines to set up an entity responsible for preventing, detecting and penalizing corruption at the Judicial Branch.	LOE	September 8-22, 2008	Judicial Branch	LLR 2.1.1.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Closeout event. *On September 22, 2008 the Program organized a closeout event to showcase its major achievements in the implementation of anticorruption activities led by local partners in government, civil society and the private sector. This sought, specifically, to:*

- *Communicate actively and consistently USAID's support for results-driven alliances aimed at motivating a culture of intolerance against corruption and inducing institutional reforms to strengthen corruption-prevention, detection and prosecution.*
- *Stress the relevance to follow up on the implementation of the above initiatives and their results achieved to date.*

U.S. Ambassador Barbara Stephenson served as keynote speaker along with the Vice-President of the Supreme Court, the Attorney General and the Executive Director of Alianza Ciudadana Pro Justicia.

Forty of the Program's associates and beneficiaries were present at this event. This included high-level GOP officials, such as the Executive Secretary of the Anticorruption Council and the head of the Civil Service Directorate. Civil Society, private sector, and media representatives also attended the event.

The event concluded with a presentation of a revised video highlighting the results of the most relevant activities supported by the Program. This incorporated testimonies from the Program’s counterparts that described the impact of USAID’s support and their thoughts on how to maintain and advance the progress.



Closeout event to showcase Program accomplishments

II. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

One copy of the previous quarterly performance report was submitted to USAID’s Development Experience Clearinghouse.

Public Policy	
1 Reform of Unjustified Enrichment Law (Act 59)	No change. The proposal to reform the subject law was inserted into the draft Criminal Procedure Code in previous quarters. Hence its value moved from 0 to .2 (assessment criteria: under the "Public Policy" component, 0.2 is allocated for the preparation of a bill. 0.4 for its presentation before the Assembly; 0.6 for its approval and 1 for its enactment).
2 New Criminal Code	No change. The Criminal Code was enacted in 2007. (See assessment guidelines on note number 1 above).
3 New Criminal Procedure Code	Increased to 1 in light of its approval in Congress and enactment by the President on August 30, 2008. (See assessment guidelines on note number 1 above).
4 Standards to Protect Whistleblowers	Increased to 1 in light of the insertion into the Criminal Procedure Code (see note 3 above) of standards drafted and proposed by our Program to protect whistleblowers. (See assessment guidelines on note number 1 above).
5 Conflict of Interest Standards	Increased to 1 in light of the insertion into the Criminal Procedure Code (see note 3 above) of standards drafted and proposed by our Program on conflicts of interest. (See assessment guidelines on note number 1 above).
6 Plea Bargaining Standards	Increased to 1 in light of the insertion into the Criminal Procedure Code (see note 3 above) of plea bargaining standards drafted and proposed by our Program. (See assessment guidelines on note number 1 above).
7 Asset Recovery Act	No change. The Program drafted asset recovery standards which were incorporated into the proposed Criminal Procedure Code. Nevertheless, they were not approved as part of the final version of the Code.
8 New Civil Service Act	No change. It increased in previous quarters to 1 when the the President enacted a new law on July 2, 2007 (See assessment guidelines on note number 1 above).

9	Community Justice Act	Increased to .2. The law was drafted in June 2008 by a Committee coordinated by the Program and composed of representatives from the Judicial Branch, the Solicitor General's Office, civil society organizations and others. (See assessment guidelines on note number 1 above).
Institutional Strengthening		
10	Attorney General's Office (AGO)	No change. It increased in previous quarters to .65 as a result of the implementation of a performance based management system proposed by our Program at the AGO's Anticorruption Unit. The Program adds .05 under this item for every action executed by the AGO as a follow-up to our recommendations.
11	Judiciary	It increased to .6 to account for the approval and launching of three major components of the Anticorruption Plan of the Judicial Branch, which included 1) the creation of an anticorruption commission, 2) implementing the Judiciary's code of ethics and 3) strengthening internal auditing practices. Assessment criteria: The assumption is that 1/3 (0.3) of the work with the Judiciary implies the drafting of the Anticorruption Plan; 0.4 its formal approval; 0.6 to 1 its execution and continued monitoring.
12	Civil Service Directorate	No change. It increased to .25 in previous quarters when the Program completed a diagnostic of a key component of the civil service system (labor description and salary classification system) and presented recommendations to revamp other sub-systems.
13	Ministry of Economy and Finance	No change. It increased to 0.3 in previous quarters when the Program completed a project to restructure the National Tax Directorate.
14	Administration of Justice at the Community Level	It increased to .8 in light of the presentation by the Program of guidelines for the appointment and organizational structure of the units that will be responsible for administering justice at the community level and for completing a course to train trainers on justice of the peace procedures (Assessment criteria: .4 will be allocated for the preparation of guidelines to implement justice of the peace procedures; .4 for offering a "training for trainers" course on justice of the peace procedures; and .2 for launching a pilot justice of the peace program at a <i>Corregimiento</i>).
Citizens' Participation		
15	Social Audits	It increased to .58 in light of a cumulative implementation of 28 social audits (out of a universe of 48 projected audits) carried out by <i>Alianza Ciudadana Pro Justicia</i> and others from the inception of this Program. This included nine audits this quarter (one to oversee compliance with actions items under the justice reform process and eight to oversee the quality of the administration of justice at an equal number of <i>corregimientos</i> in the provinces of Panamá, Coclé, Veraguas and Chiriquí).
16	Other Initiatives or Projects	No change. It increased in previous quarters to .5 to reflect achievement under the eight GDA projects (this involved securing matching funds from the private sector at a 1:1.86 ratio), <i>Alianza Ciudadana's</i> close involvement in the selection of Supreme Justices and the compilation of its social auditing practices into a publication for nationwide distribution.
Note: The changes that occurred in the reported period (July - September 2008) are highlighted in red color font.		

NICARAGUA

In compliance with Contract DFD-I-00-03-00139-00 and Task Order No. DFD-I-03-03-00139-00 [Central America and Mexico (CAM) Transparency, Anticorruption and Accountability Program], Casals & Associates, Inc. (C&A) presents this quarterly report, which covers the period from July 1 to September 30, 2008.

I. KEY ACTIVITIES:

Please note that the Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Plan for this Program has not yet been finalized; therefore, no indicators have been included in this report. Please also refer to Annex I for a list of Acronyms.

SUB-IR 2.1: MORE TRANSPARENT SYSTEMS FOR MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC RESOURCES BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

LLR 2.1.1: NATIONAL ANTICORRUPTION/TRANSPARENCY STRATEGY COMPLETED AND IMPLEMENTED

The Program will no longer conduct activities under this LLR.

LLR 2.1.2: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION (IACC)

There are no new developments to be reported under this LLR for this quarter.

LLR 2.1.3: IMPROVED NATIONAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET TRANSPARENCY, MANAGEMENT AND EXECUTION

A report on activities performed under this component has been submitted to USAID and is held on reserve. The Program will no longer conduct activities under this LLR.

LLR 2.1.4: SYSTEMIC GOVERNMENT DEFICIENCIES IDENTIFIED AND ADDRESSED IN KEY LINE MINISTRIES

There were no activities for Nicaragua under this LLR as specified in the task order.

LLR 2.1.5: INITIATIVES TO REDUCE PETTY CORRUPTION (BRIBE SOLICITATION) DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED

The Program will no longer conduct activities under this LLR.

LLR 2.1.6: KEY OVERSIGHT AGENCIES STRENGTHENED

There were no activities for Nicaragua under this LLR as specified in the task order.

SUB IR 2.2: INCREASED DEVOLUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES AND RESOURCES TO THE LOCAL LEVEL RESULTING IN GREATER RESPONSIVENESS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO CITIZENS' NEEDS

LLR 2.2.1: IMPROVED DECENTRALIZATION POLICY FRAMEWORK

There were no activities for Nicaragua under this LLR as specified in the task order.

LLR 2.2.2: IMPROVED LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET TRANSPARENCY, MANAGEMENT AND EXECUTION

The Program initiated the methodological design and implementation of the Municipal Component, which strives to promote citizen participation at the municipal level by strengthening communication between official citizen participation venues such as the CDM (Municipal Development Committees) and the municipal government. Consultant Mirtha Gonzalez championed this effort and met with several civil society organizations, that were identified as the most technically and administratively capable of implementing a project of this magnitude, to determine which of them would be interested in this effort.

MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED:

- Four of the six organizations that had been preliminary identified agreed to become part of the effort. The other two declined the offer to participate, but were successfully replaced with two other organizations later identified by the Program.
- Organizations received a detailed training on methodologies and processes to be used. These were revised and modified according to observations made by the organizations.
- Twenty-seven potential municipalities were chosen.
- Six Municipal Experts were hired to provide technical assistance to the implementing organizations.

OBSTACLES/ISSUES FOR RESOLUTION:

- Time. This component was introduced very late in the Program. At this point, the Program is racing against time because the municipal elections will be held in November and a fundamental activity of the component deals with mayoral candidates. A link between the CDMs and the candidates must be established prior to them coming into office.
- Lack of civil society organizational skills and technical capacity. The Municipal Component is very complex and highly sensitive. It requires a great deal of organizational and technical capabilities and although the civil society organizations that form part of this

component were chosen precisely because they demonstrated a higher degree of both capabilities over other organizations, they are still deficient in some areas. They require a lot of technical assistance and supervision.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER UNDER THIS LLR:

- Establish cooperating agreements with the 27 municipal governments and CDMs.
- Carry out one training session on the roles and functions of the CDMs in all 27 municipalities.
- Organize a forum with municipal candidates prior to the municipal elections in all 27 municipalities.

SUB IR 2.3: MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN AND OVERSIGHT OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT DECISION-MAKING

LLR 2.3.1: STRONG CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION AND OVERSIGHT

A second round of public bids for small grants proposals took place during the month of July. On this occasion the project ceiling amounts went up from \$25,000 to \$40,000, and a total of 18 proposals were selected (9 NGO and 9 media). The winning organizations from the second round are: ASC, ASODEL, CORASA, CPDH NGO, CPDH media, DESAFIOS, FIBRAS, FNN, FVBCh, Grupo Romance, Movimiento Autónomo de Mujeres de Chinandega, Radio Corporación, Radio La Costeñísima, Radio Mi Voz, Radio Rumbos Estéreo, Radio VECA, Radio Visión Estelí, and SOLIDEZ. Implementation of activities will begin as of October 2008; detailed reporting of these grants will be provided during the next quarter.

Results obtained from the first round of small grants, which took place from May through September, are presented in this quarterly report. The majority of grantee activities took place during this past quarter. It is important to note that although all grants awarded during the first round were supposed to end by September 30, some requested a no cost-extension to complete activities. Six out of 15 grantees requested this extension. They were all granted and the extension to October 31, 2008.

OVERALL MAIN IMPACT RESULTS ACHIEVED (FIRST ROUND 15 GRANTEES)

- Increased visible, active, and enthusiastic civic participation in the upcoming municipal elections.
- Increased civil society visibility and innovative practices such as theatrical presentations, mobile units providing information about voter precincts, and creating rock songs performed by nationally renowned rock groups to engage citizen participation (emphasizing on youth) in the upcoming elections.
- Increased voter education regarding the electoral process, candidates' background and proposed platforms, how and where to go to find voting precincts, and what qualities to look for in candidates.
- Strengthened and empowered women's groups from diverse ethnic backgrounds in the electoral process.

- Strengthened media and local journalists' capability (e.g. training to local journalists, empowered radio outlets promoting voter education and democratic citizen participation, and donated equipment to ensure future radio transmissions).
- Covered a greater geographical area – 17 primary municipalities plus others – thus increasing the number of citizens reached.
- Widened the Program's partner base. Out of the 15 partners, 10 were completely new to the Program. The first round of small projects enabled the Program to reach and support other organizations that had not been able to receive previous funding. This strengthened the Program's partner base (religious and women's groups, and universities, among others) and allowed activities to be implemented in more regions of the country.
- Established venues for citizens to become more knowledgeable about candidate platforms and issues and also to be able to discuss problems that affect several sectors (women, youth, health, education, and infrastructure) with mayoral candidates in several municipalities.
- Supported 13 NGO projects in launching public awareness campaigns that used media (public service announcements, radio and TV spots, radio programs and TV documentaries) and both national and cable channels as a means for reaching a wide array of citizens, thus increasing the number of citizens reached.

MAIN OUTPUT RESULTS ACHIEVED (FIRST ROUNDS 15 GRANTEES)

- 1,796 people trained in voter education, electoral process and electoral law, access to public information, construction of social agendas, citizen participation, citizen rights and duties, and advocacy.
- 99 journalists trained on electoral coverage (coverage of municipal issues that need to be addressed, candidate platforms, agendas, etc.).
- 139 women from different ethnicities trained on voter education and citizen participation (mestizas, creole, rama, and miskitas).
- 60 young adults trained on youth leadership.
- 15 theatrical presentations on the importance of voting.
- 82 radio shows on how voting impacts the future of citizens.
- 5 get-out-the-vote concerts.
- 5 documentaries on citizen participation, accountability, electoral processes, access to public information, local government and youth, transmitted on 23 channels in 12 municipalities of the country.
- 1 mobile unit circulating through schools, communities, and shopping centers, assisting voters in finding their voting precincts through the use of the CSE (Supreme Electoral Council) website.
- 1 song on the importance of voting written specifically for the projects. This song is played by a national rock group, targeting youth.



- 10 documentaries on best practices and lessons learned transmitted on a nationally televised channel.
- 4 movie forums where best practices and lessons learned from citizen participation experiences in several municipalities of the country were shared. The documentaries presented the experiences and later a discussion forum took place on which ones could be tailored to the needs of the municipality where the movie-forums took place.
- 15 public awareness campaigns on the importance of voting and impacts of voter abstinence.
- 9 Forums with Candidates for Mayor.



ALN Candidate to Mayor signing a Cooperative Agreement with community leaders, Managua

OVERALL OBSTACLES/ISSUES FOR RESOLUTION (FIRST ROUND 15 GRANTEES)

- Time. The timeframe for the 15 projects was very short, only a period of three months, which proved to be insufficient for implementation purposes. Time is also a concern for the new NGO and media projects that are to initiate in October since their implementation timeframe will only be one month. The Program suspects that the full implementation of activities will not be conducted during that timeframe.
- Unfavorable environment towards NGOs and negative perception of their work.
- Increased restrictions being imposed on independent media outlets.
- Resistance from candidates of the current administration's political party to participate in any municipal activity conducted by civil society organizations that received international donor funds.
- Lack of coordination between civil society organizations when it comes to planning activities. Frequent duplication of efforts, which causes problems when activities are going to be implemented.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER UNDER THIS LLR:

- Implementation of the 20 new NGO and media projects.

LLR 2.3.2: CLEAR LEADERSHIP ROLE AND ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR

The Program will no longer conduct activities under this LLR.

LLR 2.3.3: CAPACITY OF THE MEDIA TO REPORT ON TRANSPARENCY AND CORRUPTION ISSUES INCREASED

Media results have been reported under the Small Grants Fund in LLR 2.3.1.

SUB IR 2.4: ACCOUNTABILITY OF ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS IMPROVED

LLR 2.4.1: POLITICAL PARTY AND ELECTED LEADERS' ACCOUNTABILITY IMPROVED

The Program, in coordination with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), met during the month of September with the six civil society organizations that formed part of the Citizenship for Transparency in Politics (CxT) Coalition. The primary purpose of the meetings was to determine which organizations are still interested in forming part of the coalition so that it can be revived and new activities related to the topic of transparency in political financing carried out.

MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED:

- Five of the six organizations that formed part of the CxT coalition agreed to revive the group. One organization stated that it was concentrating on electoral observation efforts and preferred to stay on the sidelines of all political party financing activities in order to maintain credibility and legitimacy during the upcoming municipal elections.

OBSTACLES/ISSUES FOR RESOLUTION:

- Time constraints. Activities are beginning very late in the game and the implementation timeframe is very narrow. The municipal elections could overshadow the forums on the relevance of campaign accountability and monitoring and ultimately diminish citizen participation.
- Most of the CxT organizations already have a heavy load of work with other Program components, making it more difficult for them to coordinate efforts and meet deadlines.
- Unfavorable political environment towards the civil society organizations that promote democracy and citizen participation with international donor funds. This has made our partner organizations afraid of implementing activities that bear the USAID logo.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER UNDER THIS LLR:

- Organize a mock political campaign to compare and contrast with actual campaign expenses reported to the Comptroller's Office.
- Monitor political campaign expenses (banners, ads, TV and radio air time, others).
- Carry out forums in seven municipalities of the country to promote a new political financing legislation and position it on the public agenda.
- Lead public awareness campaigns on the need for transparency in political financing.
- Direct a seminar on Transparency in Political Financing.

LLR 2.4.2: IMPROVED GOVERNMENT ETHICS AND DISCLOSURE OF ASSETS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND PUBLIC OFFICE CANDIDATES

The Program will no longer conduct activities under this LLR.

LIST OF IN-COUNTRY TRAININGS:

Please refer to Annex II for a list of in-country trainings.

CONSULTANCIES:

Juan Pablo Rivas: Mr. Rivas traveled from July 20 to August 2 to initiate the work of identifying the municipalities that the Program could work with under the Municipalities Component. He also assisted in drafting the terms of reference for the organizations that would ultimately conduct the fieldwork.

Mirtha Gonzalez: Ms. Gonzalez traveled to Nicaragua from August 4 to October 4 to design and direct the Program's Municipal Component during its take off.

Carlos Hinojosa: Mr. Hinojosa traveled to Nicaragua from September 18-24, under the subcontract with IFES, to meet with the six civil society organizations that formed part of the Citizenship for Transparency in Politics Coalition. The primary purpose of Mr. Hinojosa's trip was to revive the coalition and identify plausible initiatives related to political party financing that could be conducted between October 8 and February 9.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

A technical and cost modification to the Nicaragua Annex was approved and signed on September 8, 2008.

Annex I: Transparency Program, USAID-Nicaragua: List of Acronyms

ASC.....	Asociación para la Salud Comunitaria de San Juan
ASODEL.....	Asociación para la Supervivencia y el Desarrollo Local
CDM.....	Municipal Development Committees
CORASA.....	Corporación Radio AM y FM de Occidente, S.A.
CPDH.....	Comisión Permanente de Derechos Humanos
CSE.....	Supreme Electoral Council
CxT.....	Citizenship for Transparency in Politics Coalition
FIBRAS.....	Fundación Iberoamericana para las Culturas
FNN.....	Fundación Nicaragua Nuestra
FVBCh.....	Fundación Violeta Barrios de Chamorro
EyT.....	Grupo Cívico Ética y Transparencia
LLR.....	Lower Level Result
SOLIDEZ.....	Fundación Solidaridad Internacional con los Discapacitados
Sub-IR.....	Sub-Intermediate Result
USAID.....	United States Agency for International Development

Annex II: Transparency Program, USAID-Nicaragua: In-country Trainings and other Key Events

Training Program	Field of Study	Objectives	Beneficiaries	Dates	Males	Females
CEIMM-URACCAN						
19 Workshops with women's groups on electoral issues and the construction of agendas based on health, education, development, citizen participation, and gender equity.	Gender Equity and Elections & Political Processes	Strengthen and empower women's issues, concerns, voter turnout during the upcoming municipal elections, and raise women's awareness on the importance of having a local social agenda of priorities.	<i>Creole, Miskito, Mestizo, and Rama</i> women's groups from the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast	Unavailable at this time	0	760
3 Conversational Exchanges between women's groups and female candidates to municipal council.	Gender Equity and Elections & Political Processes	Discuss obstacles faced by women in governmental (candidacy) positions and how each female candidate perceived their role to be if they became elected. The project also worked on reaching out to female candidates to municipal council and bringing them closer to their future constituents.	<i>Creole, Miskito, Mestizo, and Rama</i> women's groups from the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast	Unavailable at this time	0	Unavailable at this time
4 Social Auditing Indicator Workshops with women's groups	Gender Equity and Elections & Political Processes	Strengthen and empower women's groups to conduct social audits in their municipal governments.	<i>Creole, Miskito, Mestizo, and Rama</i> women's groups from the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast	August 15-17, and August 20	0	131
Lessons Learned Exchange with women's groups from Nueva Guinea	Gender Equity and Elections & Political Processes	Raise women's awareness of the importance of having a local agenda of priorities.	<i>Miskito</i> women from Bluefields	August 28-29	0	29
Forum with female candidates to Municipal Council with women's groups	Gender Equity and Elections & Political Processes	Share experiences, best practices, and lessons learned throughout this project	<i>Creole, Miskito, Mestizo, and Rama</i> women's groups from the Nicaraguan Caribbean Coast	Unavailable at this time	0	15
CEAV						
Leadership Training Module I: Citizen participation and Municipal Legislation	Youth Leadership and Elections & Political Processes	Develop youth leaders to engage youth in citizen participation efforts, especially during the municipal elections, for the benefit of their community.	Youth from 12 municipalities of the country	July 25-26	11	8
Forum with Youth and Mayoral	Youth Leadership	Bring candidates closer to the younger	Youth from the	August 9	111	112

Training Program	Field of Study	Objectives	Beneficiaries	Dates	Males	Females
Candidates	and Elections & Political Processes	sector of the voter community to listen to their concerns and include them in their government platforms.	municipality of <i>Nagarote</i>			
Forum with Youth and Mayoral Candidates	Youth Leadership and Elections & Political Processes	Bring candidates closer to the younger sector of the voter community to listen to their concerns and include them in their government platforms.	Youth from the municipality of <i>Estelí</i>	August 9	Unavailable at this time	Unavailable at this time
Forum with Youth and Mayoral Candidates	Youth Leadership and Elections & Political Processes	Bring candidates closer to the younger sector of the voter community to listen to their concerns and include them in their government platforms.	Youth from the municipality of <i>Granada</i>	August 29	27	21
Leadership Training Module II: Instruments used for Monitoring Governmental Administrations (Social Auditing)	Youth Leadership and Elections & Political Processes	Develop youth leaders to engage youth in citizen participation efforts, especially during the municipal elections, for the benefit of their community.	Youth from 12 municipalities of the country	August 23-24	15	7
Forum with Youth and Mayoral Candidates	Youth Leadership and Elections & Political Processes	Bring candidates closer to the younger sector of the voter community to listen to their concerns and include them in their government platforms.	Youth from the municipality of <i>Chinandega</i>	September 7	Unavailable at this time	Unavailable at this time
3 Forums on Electoral Participation and Electoral Processes	Youth and Elections & Political Processes	Raise youth's awareness of the importance of participating in electoral processes and the importance of voting.	Youth from the Department of <i>Masaya</i>	September 12, 19, and 26	76	110
Leadership Training Module III: Access to Public Information and Advocacy	Youth Leadership and Elections & Political Processes	Develop youth leaders to engage youth in citizen participation efforts, especially during the municipal elections, for the benefit of their community.	Youth from 12 municipalities of the country	September 19-20	13	7
CPDH MEDIA						
5 Workshops for Journalists on Municipal Budgets	Journalists/Media and Elections & Political Processes	Increase journalists' knowledge on aspects of the municipal budgets so that they can report better on them.	Local journalists from <i>Sébaco, Granada, Jinotega, Managua, Chontales</i>	July 4-24	57	29
5 Municipal Forums for the Construction of Social Agendas	Community Leaders and Elections & Political Processes	Strengthen and empower community leaders and engage them in the need to create local social agendas that reflect the priorities of their municipalities.	Community Leaders from <i>Sébaco, Matagalpa, Jinotega, Juigalpa, Managua</i>	July 16-August 23	155	134
5 Workshops for developing and arranging forums between community leaders and candidates	Community Leaders and Elections & Political Processes	Strengthen and empower community leaders and engage them in the need to create local social agendas that reflect the priorities of their municipalities.	Community Leaders from <i>Jinotega, Juigalpa, Managua, Sébaco</i>	August 1-27	105	88

Training Program	Field of Study	Objectives	Beneficiaries	Dates	Males	Females
	Elections & Political Processes	create local social agendas that reflect the priorities of their municipalities, and present them to the candidates.	<i>Matagalpa Sébaco, Managua</i>			
5 Workshops for developing and organizing forums for journalists and candidates	Journalists/Media and Elections & Political Processes	Increase journalists' knowledge of candidate platforms.	Local journalists from <i>Chontales, Granada, Jinotega, Sébaco, Managua</i>	August 5-12	60	47
5 Workshop for Journalists on the Electoral Law	Journalists/Media and Elections & Political Processes	Increase journalists' knowledge of aspects of electoral law so that they can provide better coverage of the municipal elections.	Local journalists from <i>Jinotega, Sébaco, Chontales, Granada, Managua</i>	August 13-September 6	55	27
5 Forums with community leaders and candidates to mayor	Community Leaders and Elections & Political Processes	Present social agendas to mayoral candidates.	Citizens from <i>Jinotega, Juigalpa, Matagalpa Sébaco, Managua</i>	August 15-September 22	286	271
5 Forums with journalists and candidates to mayor, deputy mayor, and councilmen	Journalists/Media and Elections & Political Processes	Increase journalists' knowledge of candidate platforms.	Local journalists from <i>Chontales, Matagalpa, Jinotega, Granada, Managua</i>	August 22-September 24	69	47
FUNJIDES						
4 Workshops on voter importance	Youth Development and Elections & Political Processes	Raise awareness among youth of the importance of voting.	Youth from <i>Jinotega</i>	September 8-26	109	131
IAP/UNI						
Civic Festival "Strengthening Our Democracy Values"	Democratic Values, Law of Citizen Participation, Social Audit, Law on Access to Information and Electoral Law	Strengthen democracy through the exercise of the values, duties and rights of the citizens of <i>Nagarote</i> .	<i>Nagarote's</i> Citizens	August 17		
Forum on "Youth Promoting Civic Participation for Good Governance"	Democratic Values, Law of Citizen Participation,	Promote citizen participation from different interest groups in the municipality, expressing their proposals and / or needs to the candidates for	Members of Organizations of the Civil Society Networks and Mayor's Office of	August 9		

Training Program	Field of Study	Objectives	Beneficiaries	Dates	Males	Females
	Social Audit Act, Access to Information Act and Electoral Law	public office in the upcoming municipal elections so that they can be incorporated in the local social agenda.	<i>Nagarote</i>			
8 Workshops on democratic values, citizen participation, social auditing, access to public information, and electoral law.	Civil Society and Elections & Political Processes	Increase civil society knowledge and participation in municipal processes and elections.	Civil society representatives and Municipal Government of <i>Nagarote</i>	July 5-15	51	55
FUPADE						
Workshop on Strengthening the Municipal Legal Framework	Citizen Participation and Elections & Political Processes	Disclose the instruments (laws) for the promotion of participatory local governance and the electoral framework.	Sabana Verde Community	September, 27	6	34
3 theatrical plays presentations	Citizen Participation and Elections & Political Processes	Disseminate messages alluding to the promotion of public participation, and duties and rights of male and female citizens to participate effectively in the spaces of local concert.	120 citizens of the communities of: Río Nuevo No.1, Río Nuevo No.2 y Sabana Verde	September 20 & 27	18	34
3 movie-forums	Citizen Participation and Elections & Political Processes	Present civic participation experiences of other municipalities in Nicaragua, to encourage the leaders of Sébaco	105 citizens of the communities: Paso real, Río Nuevo No.1 y Las Conchitas	September 21 & 28	7	40
6 Workshops on local governance and the electoral law.	Civil Society and Elections & Political Processes	Increase civil society knowledge and participation in municipal processes, local governance, and elections.	Citizens from the communities of <i>Paso Carreta, Paso Real, and Las Palomas - Matagalpa</i>	July 6-20	68	145
2 Theatrical Presentations on citizen participation	Citizen Participation and Elections & Political Processes	Increase citizen participation within the communities of Matagalpa.	Citizens from the communities of <i>La China and Río Nuevo.</i>	July 12 & 19	52	74
3 workshops on communications	Communications	Construction of a work plan and social agenda in order to maintain communications between rural communities and radio stations. This will maintain everyone informed of developments within their communities.	12 Community Leaders	July 12-26	4	8

Training Program	Field of Study	Objectives	Beneficiaries	Dates	Males	Females
ASODEL						
Forum on Construction of Social Youth Agenda	Youth Development and Elections & Political Processes	Express to the political parties and society in general the agenda of youth proposals. Engage the candidates for mayor, deputy mayor and councilors of the various political parties to commit with the main proposals of the Youth Agenda	Young Citizens of Chinandega/ municipal candidates	September	225	169
10 Theatrical Presentations on the importance of voting	Youth Development and Elections & Political Processes	Raise awareness among youth of the importance of voting.	High school (junior and senior) students from the Department of <i>Chinandega</i>	July-August	236	245
CINCO						
3 Forums with women's groups (leaders)	Gender Equity and Elections & Political Processes	Strengthen and empower women's issues, concerns, voter turnout during the upcoming municipal elections, and raise women's awareness on the importance of having a local social agenda of priorities.	Women's groups from <i>Ciudad Sandino, El Crucero, and Managua's III District</i>	July 18-24	0	147
2 Workshops with youth leaders	Youth Development and Elections & Political Processes	Construct and validate the youth social agenda to be presented in the upcoming municipal elections.	Youth Leaders from <i>Managua's II, III, IV, V, VI Districts; Masaya, Carazo, Granada, León, Chinandega, Estelí, Nueva Segovia, Chontales, Río San Juan, Matagalpa, Jinotega, and RAAN.</i>	July 24-29	40	41

EL SALVADOR

In compliance with Contract DFD-I-00-03-00139-00 and Task Order No. DFD-I-03-03-00139-00 [Central America and Mexico (CAM) Transparency, Anticorruption and Accountability Program], Casals & Associates, Inc. (C&A) presents this quarterly report, which covers the period from July 1 to September 30, 2008.

I. KEY ACTIVITIES

SUB IR 1.1: IMPROVED TRANSPARENCY AND EFFICIENCY OF JUDICIAL PROCESSES

LLR 1.1.1: PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY, EFFICIENCY AND UNDERSTANDING OF JUDICIAL PROCESSES

INDICATOR:

- Number of activities promoting greater transparency in the justice sector

MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED:

Transparency Judicial Indicators – Consejo Nacional de la Judicatura (CNJ): The process of collecting the information to build the transparency judicial indicators has been progressing more slowly than anticipated. Concerned by this delay, the CNJ President, Lic. Gonzalo Cabezas, and Ms. Nora Montoya, counselor in charge of this project, sent letters and personally contacted the heads of the judicial system institutions (Attorney General's Office, Public Defender's Office, National Judicial Council, Supreme Court of Justice and the Ministry of Security and Justice) seeking their collaboration and greater involvement in providing reliable and accurate data to build these indicators. Meanwhile, the consultant in charge of this project, Cristián Hernandez from the *Centro de Estudios de Justicia de las Americas* (CEJA), prepared a set of matrixes segregated by thematic areas (public procurement and acquisitions; access to information; citizen participation; accountability; principles and ethics values; whistle-blower protection; asset declaration of public officials; public recruiting; and job performance evaluation and competence) to facilitate the incorporation of the data gathered in a more comprehensive mode reflecting the relationship among the indicators. It is expected that during the upcoming quarter, the process of obtaining the Transparency Judicial Indicators will be finalized and delivered to the CNJ.

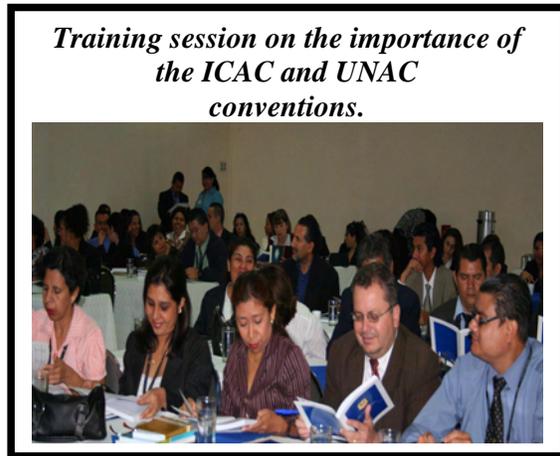
Ethics Module for the National Judicial Council Judicial School: As a follow up to the implementation and use of the Ethics Module prepared under the technical assistance of the Program for the Judicial Training School, Counselor Nora Montoya notified the Program that this instrument has been incorporated in the Social Rights curriculum and it is considered as a crosscutting subject across all academic disciplines in the school. During the upcoming school year, the Ethics Module will be taught in four courses. Ms. Doris Luz Rivas Galindo and Mr. Martin Alexander Martinez have been selected as the core team responsible for teaching about 80 students.

Coordination with other areas of the Justice Sector – Unidad Técnica Ejecutiva (UTE): During this reporting period, the process of revision and validation of the draft of the new Criminal Procedures Code continued at the Legislative Assembly. The Program received a request from the Legislative Assembly to support the publication of a document containing the summary of all discussions held at a forum with the participation of various government, political party and civil society actors. This document will be used to socialize the process

and share the views of different actors, ultimately strengthening the lobbying process for its final approval. The Program held meetings with the UTE to discuss other proposals and explore possible technical assistance in other areas. Dr. Rafael Flores y Flores, the UTE Executive Director, stated that the dissemination of the importance of the application of rules of evidence, the international conventions (IACC and UNCAC) and the judicial indicators across the various judicial operators (judges, lawyers, prosecutors, etc) are key elements for improving and strengthening the judicial system in El Salvador. The Program is considering the possibility of bringing similar experiences from other contexts, including Puerto Rico.

The Anticorruption Unit of the Attorney General's Office –Fiscalía General de la República (FGR):

With the technical assistance of Mr. Hiram Morales Lugo and based on the training plan submitted to the FGR, a series of training sessions and conferences were held during this reporting period for about 700 technical and administrative staff members of the FGR, in Santa Ana, San Miguel and San Salvador. The topic of these training sessions and conferences was the importance of the IACC and UNCAC conventions. The New Crimes Training Plan for the Anticorruption Unit of the FGR was presented at the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery meeting held in Vienna, Austria on September 25 to 26, 2008, to share this interesting educational dossier and seek from other donors and international institutions, additional technical assistance for the implementation of this training plan.



OBSTACLES/ISSUES FOR RESOLUTION:

- Due to the lack of a legal instrument (Freedom of Information Act) and a low degree of political will from the participating judicial institutions in providing the necessary data to build the transparency judicial indicators, the implementation of this work is slowly advancing.
- The approval process of the new Criminal Procedures Code still needs additional support from the members of the National Assembly, judicial operators and in particular from the judges who perceive with this new law, the empowerment of the FGR and a threat and loss of power for the judges.
- The FGR's lack of experience in running a training center and the slowness to implement feasible courses recommended in the Training Plan submitted by the Program, are impeding greater use of this plan.
- Approval of the Ethics Code by the Supreme Court is still pending since magistrates have not reached a consensus among themselves.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER UNDER THIS LLR:

- Finalize the preparation of the Transparency Judicial Indicators.
- Evaluate the requests to be received by the FGR.
- Coordinate with the UTE additional technical assistance in promoting rules of evidence.
- Publication of the summary of the process of validation of the new Criminal Procedures Code.

- Promote the official approval of the new Judicial Ethics Code by the Supreme Court. This will be accomplished by supporting the lobbying process with magistrates.
- To confirm the efficient implementation of the Ethics Module at the Judicial School, the Program plans to have focus group sessions to evaluate the degree of knowledge acquired on ethics.

SUB IR 2.2: INCREASED DEVOLUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES AND RESOURCES TO THE LOCAL LEVEL RESULTING IN GREATER RESPONSIVENESS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO CITIZEN'S NEEDS

LLR 2.2.1: IMPROVED DECENTRALIZATION POLICY FRAMEWORK

INDICATOR:

- Number of initiatives, events and proposals to strengthen the national framework of decentralization, financing and municipal transparency

MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED:

Promoting the National Enabling Environment to Increase Local Government Level Responsibilities, Resources and Decision-Making:

Technical Support for the Implementation of the National Agenda for Local Development and Transparency: The original plan to conduct two events in the two largest cities of El Salvador – Santa Ana and San Miguel, similar to the one held last year in San Salvador, was canceled since *Corporación de las Municipalidades de la República de El Salvador* (COMURES) was holding similar activities in those cities. The Program thus, moved the events to Chalatenango and San Vicente to spread the subject across other areas of the country.

Additionally, the Program met with representatives of CONADEL to discuss the mass publication of 110,000 copies of the popular version of Title IX of the Municipal Code and obtained the corresponding approval from USAID. The material will be published during the upcoming reporting quarter in *La Prensa Gráfica*.

Institutional Strengthening for Transparency and the Promotion of Ethical Practices and Open Government at the Municipal Level: On September 10, 2008, a ceremony was held to finalize the training-for-trainers program that reached out to 18 municipalities and trained about 40 personnel and council members. Due to this training, these municipalities produced municipal ordinances on citizen participation, access to information and transparency. In this event that was attended by the Deputy Director of USAID, Mr. Carl Derrick, the President of COMURES, Ms. Milagro Navas, the President of the Government Ethics Tribunal, Ms. Lisette Kury de Mendoza and representatives of the Court of Accounts and FUSADES, all the participating municipalities were awarded a recognition for their participation in the training program and commitment towards implementing Title IX of the Municipal Code. It was agreed with COMURES that the dissemination of the knowledge gained by these 40 participants would start in the near future.

This represents the final activity under the MOU signed with COMURES. This agreement that lasted 18 months is expected to produce a final report to close out this activity during the next reporting period.

Policy Dialogue on the Formulation of Decentralization and Local Development Instruments and Policies:

Introduction of Pluralistic Municipal Councils: On August 27, 2008, *Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo* (FUNDE), *Fundación Salvadoreña para el Desarrollo Económico y Social* (FUSADES), the Office of Democratic Governance, the Coalition for Decentralization, and a member of *Red de Cooperantes para el Desarrollo Local* (RECODEL) organized a forum to promote the importance of Pluralistic Municipal Councils. The aim of this forum, called “*Consejos Municipales Plurales y Gobernabilidad Democrática para El Salvador*” (Pluralistic Municipal Councils and Democratic Governance in El Salvador), was to introduce the results of a



study of a qualitative data analysis of the past three municipal elections results, emphasizing the real representation of the political parties in the voting population and how this affects local democracy and governance; and, hypothetical scenarios of multi-party composition based on various international standards and formulas, which show how each party *would have been* represented if a multiparty composition formula would have been in place. The Program supported the participation of Mr. Tonatiuh Guillen, President of the North Frontier School (COLEF) in Mexico, and other members of RECODEL supported international speakers from Ecuador and Costa Rica to share the individual experiences in their countries. It is worth mentioning that the discussions were enriched by political party and private sector representatives, who expressed their support for this new composition of municipal councils.

About 400 people, including members of the National Assembly, municipal mayors, central and local government and private sector officials, international organizations, NGOs, and media, attended this event. Ultimately the event represented the launching of a lobbying process with various political and economic sectors to obtain necessary support for feasible reforms in the Electoral Code regarding this issue.

OBSTACLES/ISSUES FOR RESOLUTION:

- The traditional slow response of COMURES to deliver reports and implement activities under the MOU was still noticeable during its final phase of the agreement.
- The lack of definition of decision-making processes in CONADEL was noted possibly because of the proximity to the elections, during which focus is more on the political agenda than on the technical issues.
- The lobbying process to promote the reform of the Electoral Code is still pending the formulation of a comprehensive strategy to sensitize the various actors.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER UNDER THIS LLR:

- Finalize the COMURES MOU.
- Carry out the Municipal Transparency events in Chalatenango and San Vicente.
- Produce a mass publication of the popular version of the Title IX of the Municipal Code on transparency and citizen participation.

- Participate with RECODEL in the lobbying process of a pluralistic composition of Municipal Councils. This includes five regional forums, conferences in universities, and a presentation to political parties and the Electoral Board.

SUB IR 2.3: MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN AND OVERSIGHT OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT DECISION-MAKING

LLR 2.3.1: EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN THE OVERSIGHT OF THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVEL DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

INDICATOR:

- Number of civil society organizations participating in transparency activities

MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED:

Defenders Associations Coalition: The mainstreaming training organized by the Program (with the assistance of Dr. Yemile Mizrahi and Dr. Olga Nazario) to provide anticorruption and transparency mechanisms to civil society organizations was delivered to about 25 members of this coalition. During the interactive session, the members of the coalition exchanged and expressed their points of view and participated actively in identifying the key problems of the Defenders Associations sector. As a result of this training, they shared lessons learned and mechanisms with two local governments (mayor and municipal councils) and civil society organizations in order to hold two public accountability hearings (Mejicanos and Tonacatepeque). Additionally, to increase the coalition membership, they organized two training sessions for local development committees (CDL) of San Pablo Tacachico, San Matias, Talnique and La Libertad on issues related to water supply, electricity, gasoline and telecommunications contained in the National Policy of Protection of the Consumer. It is important to mention that this highly motivated group participated in obtaining a certification on Consumer Rights given by the Technological University.

Status of Civil Society Sub-Grant Second Round Grant Initiative:

1) Universidad Modular Abierta (UMA): *The Right of Access to Judicial Information and Transparency in El Salvador.*

Duration: 12 months Cost: \$39,900

The purpose of the project *Right of Access to Judicial Information and Transparency in El Salvador* is to analyze the incidence of the right of access to information in the judicial system. During this reporting period, the results of the survey of access to judicial information received input from about 1,092 respondents and 21 interviews to experts. The results of the survey will be presented to the public during the upcoming quarter.

2) Instituto Iberoamericano de Derecho Constitucional, Sección El Salvador (IIDC): *Transparency and Access to Information.*

Duration: 8 months Cost: \$39,985



Speech from Ms. Rosa Ines Ospina, about the importance of Access to Information Law in order to consolidate and strengthen democracy.

The purpose of this project is to prepare a draft law on *Access to Information and Transparency*. The grantee, in cooperation with FUSADES, presented publicly the draft of a Law on Access to Information and Transparency at an event that was attended by about 350 people from various sectors, including representatives of the Legislative Assembly, Supreme Court of Justice, universities, public and private sector, civil society and media. For this event, a well-known consultant, and former TI vice-president, Ms. Rosa Inés Ospina, was brought to the country to deliver a speech on the importance of a Freedom of Information Act to consolidate and strengthen democracy. Before this event, FUSADES and the IIDC held a press conference and participated in talk shows to disseminate the purpose and provisions of this draft legislation. The draft, after receiving final recommendations by Ms. Ospina and other experts, will be presented to the Legislative Assembly during the beginning of the next quarter.

3) Fundación Salvadoreña de Apoyo Integral (FUSAI): *Application of Reforms to the Municipal Code related to Transparency and Access to Information in Four Municipalities of La Libertad*.

Duration: 7 months Cost: \$39,984

This project aims at promoting transparency mechanisms and facilitating access to information on public administration at the local level. Training of municipal employees, councils and citizens on accountability, transparency, civic participation and organizing local development committees began in the municipalities of Talnique, San Matias and San Pablo Tacachico with 18 training events which hosted about 200 participants. As a result, three events of citizen participation and accountability were carried out with the attendance of 200 people in each municipality. In the municipality of La Libertad, a public event on accountability was held and the data was posted in the official website of the municipality.

4) Iniciativa Social para la Democracia (ISD): *In Line with Transparency Phase II*.

Duration: 8 months Cost: \$39,897

This project is the continuation of Phase I which aims at developing a webpage as a tool for municipalities to improve transparency. During this Phase II, three additional training sessions were carried out on basic computer and webpage template use, with the participation of students from the three municipalities. Also three regional forums were held to introduce this technological tool to promote greater transparency, accountability and access to information in compliance with the Title IX of the Municipal Code. Three evaluation meetings were also held with students, municipal officials, civil society representatives and community leaders, to assess and socialize this new way of accessing information, and to identify deficiencies and recommend improvements to enhance the system.

5) Cámara Salvadoreña de Empresas Consultoras (CAMSEC): *Evaluation of Transparency and Competitiveness of the Public Procurement System*

Duration: 8 months Cost: \$39,985

CAMSEC received greater support from officials of the Social Investment Fund and the Social Security Institute to carry out the evaluation on the application of the *Ley de Compras y Contrataciones del Gobierno de El Salvador (LACAP)* in these two institutions. Also the Ministry of Health, that originally had denied the request, allowed the grantee access to their files to evaluate this institution as well. The result of this analysis brought to light many

deficiencies in the three institutions that range from lack of transparency towards potential new vendors to opacity in the process of selection of vendors under sole-source awarded contracts, among other problems. The findings were shared with other entities including *Asociación Nacional de la Empresa Privada (ANEP)*, *Cámara Salvadoreña de la Industria de la Construcción (CASALCO)* and the Chamber of Commerce, which also provided valuable input and corroborated the results. The project plans to share this information with the Attorney General Unit of Acquisition and Assets, which is in charge of the oversight of the government procurement process (with a budget of \$1 Billion USD for 2008) of the LACAP.

6) *Asociación Patronato para el Desarrollo de las Comunidades de Morazán y San Miguel (PADECOMSM): Strengthening and Organization of Citizen's Participation for Transparency and Access to Public Information of Local Government for Northern Zones of Morazán*

Duration: 12 months Cost: \$39,978



Graduation ceremony on transparency and citizen oversight of the local government.

This project consists in strengthening citizens' ability to act as controllers and supervisors of transparency, in addition to facilitating processes that foster accountability from local governments. During this reporting period, additional training was provided to 40 community leaders. For the period of eight weeks, in Perkin, Morazán, a course on transparency and citizen oversight of the local government was carried out and completed with a graduation ceremony attended by representatives of the

Government Ethics Tribunal and the Program.

Two other training sessions were held for about 20 participants from five participating municipalities to improve their skills to properly prepare municipal decrees (*ordenanzas municipales*) on transparency, access to information and citizen participation, as well as the Government Ethics Law. During this period, several local radio spots and interviews continued promoting this topic.

Also, PADECOMSM, in accordance with the commitments stipulated in the grant, continued providing training to eight schools to promote the understanding of issues like transparency, accountability and citizen participation, using various tools developed by the other grantees, including the video produced by the *Universidad Centroamericana "José Simeón Cañas"* (UCA) on accountability and citizen participation, and the webpage template designed by *Iniciativa Social para la Democracia (ISD)*. Two municipalities, Joateca and Meanguera agreed to adopt the ISD webpage.

7) *Sistema de Asesoría y Capacitación para el Desarrollo Local (SACDEL): Building Capacities and Coordinated Mechanisms for Transparency and Citizen Auditing*

Duration: 12 months Cost: \$37,741

This project aims at reinforcing the capacity to create mechanisms of transparency and civic participation in compliance with the Municipal Code. The participating municipalities of San Dionisio, Concepción Batres and Ozatlán Sacdel started a training program with local leaders, municipal employees and council members, youth and local NGOs on the provision of Title IX of the Municipal Code. As a result of the work of SACDEL, the municipal councils of San Dionisio and Concepción Batres, held, for the first time, a public meeting; and Ozatlán and Concepción Batres held a public session of accountability. Additionally, in Concepción Batres and San Dionisio, a communication and access to information plan were prepared in compliance with the Municipal Code.

First round grants final reports:

Improving accountability in the Salvadoran Public Sector (UCA):

On July 17, at the premises of the UCA, the director of the project, Mr. Alvaro Artiga, held a conference with the participation of members of various sectors including the *Tribunal de Etica Gubernamental* (TEG), Legislative Assembly, international organizations, university scholars, NGOs, and students. During the conference, he exposed the aims of this project and the results of the research carried out in four government institutions (Court of Accounts, Human Rights Prosecutor Office, Attorney General, and Legislative Assembly).

Survey to measure the perception of transparency in El Salvador from the perspective of public officials (IUDOP): The institute was not able to deliver the final product due to an unexpected work load reported by the executive director; however the plan is to receive this final document by October 17 with a final public presentation at the UCA premises at the end of November 2008.

Bi-monthly meeting of grantees: During this period, the Program held, as planned, the third bi-monthly meeting for grantees with the seven grantee organizations. In light of the upcoming delivery of the draft of a Transparency and Access to Information Law, the grantees discussed this important issue with the participation of Mr. Hiram Morales Lugo, a Program consultant on ethics and accountability, who shared with the group his views and experiences with regards to the importance of such legislation. The next bi-monthly meeting, scheduled for October 2, 2008, will discuss Municipal Transparency and Citizen Participation.

Support civil society alliances that work on transparency initiatives in El Salvador:

Technical support to the Local Development Committees (CDLs): The technical assistance and support provided by the Program to these committees continued during this



Training session with representatives the communities.

reporting period. Based on a work plan prepared by these organizations, two training sessions were delivered on democracy principles, citizenry development, rule of law and citizen rights, and on the role of the CDLs in the local development and democratization process. The participants, representing the communities of Usulután, Ozatlán, Tepecoyo, Cuyultitán, Santa Tecla, Olocuilta, San Salvador, San

Francisco Javier y California, aim to consolidate and form a network of local development organizations.

Support to a Private Sector Foundation on Ethics (Fundación Lidera): The Program sponsored a round table discussion with the members of *Fundación Lidera* and Ms. Rosa Inés Ospina, a TI consultant. During this discussion, the Foundation obtained a valuable orientation from Ms. Ospina, regarding private sector participation and its role in the fight against corruption. During this event, it was pointed out that the unique window of opportunity of involving the private sector in addition to the commitment from the academic sector, would be instrumental towards the promotion of more ethical and accountable practices across sectors. Lidera participants expressed their interest in providing total support during the lobbying process of the Transparency and Access to Information Law in the Legislative Assembly and political circles.

Transparency International El Salvador Chapter: The Program, in support to the confirmation process of FUNDE as the El Salvador TI Chapter, decided to sponsor the participation of Mr. Marcos Rodriguez, director of the Transparency Unit, at the XIII Conference of Transparency International in Athens, Greece. During this event, the Program has scheduled meetings with TI officials and other TI Latin American Chapter representatives to discuss venues of opportunities and share experiences to strengthen the El Salvador TI Chapter.

Mainstreaming training on anticorruption: From July 14 to 18, 2008, the Program brought to El Salvador two specialists in mainstreaming training on anticorruption. Dr. Olga Nazario



Mainstreaming training on anticorruption issues with participants of different areas.

and Dr. Yemile Mizrahi carried out a series of training sessions with participants of different sectors such as NGOs, universities, alliances, youth, local development committees and newly arrived volunteers of the Peace Corps stationed in El Salvador. During these sessions, various tools, techniques and methodologies were introduced to the participants, which could be easily applied in their line of work to reduce the risk of corruption. The openness of the discussions helped to enrich transparency and accountability views, and oriented the Program toward new alternatives like the

support of alliances, youth involvement, and extending assistance to other target groups within the country. As a result, an internet network was created within the group to be used as a tool to share information and keep all informed about novelties and initiatives on transparency issues. During these training sessions, about 150 people participated.

OBSTACLES/ISSUES FOR RESOLUTION:

- None at this time.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER UNDER THIS LLR:

- Present project results of the IUDOP *Survey to measure the perception of transparency in El Salvador from the perspective of public officials* and approval to make a public presentation.
- Plan the *Ethics Values and Transparency Week* with FUSADES, FUNDE and other interested actors.
- Support the lobbying process after the draft of the Transparency and Access to Information Law is introduced to the Legislative Assembly.
- Select feasible technical assistance to the El Salvador TI Chapter after receiving FUNDE's strategic plan.

SUB IR 2.4: ACCOUNTABILITY OF ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS IMPROVED

LLR 2.4.2: ACCOUNTABILITY OF APPOINTED OFFICIALS IMPROVED

MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED:

Technical Assistance to the Ministry of Public Works (MOP): The new bidding process to receive proposals to carry out the consultancy for the internal control and the creation of a "risk map" for the MOP was completed. Four companies submitted their proposals. After the corresponding process of opening the proposals, analyzing, scoring, and reviewing the economic offers, only PriceWaterhouseCoopers and *Nathal Actuarios y Consultores* met the requirements. These two were asked to disaggregate the budget of the two vice-ministries and lower their bid. Finally, after reviewing their best and final offers, the Program awarded the contract to *Nathal Actuarios y Consultores*.

MOU with the Public Defender's Office (PGR):

The internal control system for the PGR, which is being implemented by the consulting company *Nathal Actuarios y Consultores*, continued with a series of meeting, interviews and training to different staff members of the PGR. As a first product, Nathal delivered the internal control diagnosis that was designed initially for the four auxiliary prosecutors' offices and was later extended to the entire institution. The findings and recommendations are listed in the report under the topics of control environment, risk evaluation, control activities, processes of communication and information, and monitoring actions.

During these training sessions, about 120 key staff members were trained from different areas of the PGR including the prosecutor's office around the country. The entire features of the internal control system were taught during these sessions including the roles of each employee in the implementation of the system, providing each participant with training materials to share this knowledge with other colleagues in their respective offices. The Prosecutor General was constantly briefed on the development of the consultancy and has demonstrated full support towards the completion of the project. *Nathal Actuarios y Consultores* is scheduled to conclude this work by the end of October 2008.

Technical Secretary of the Presidency (STP): During this quarter, a Dissemination Plan on the Governance Indicators prepared by Porter Novelli was approved by USAID. The Plan contains communication strategies to disseminate the progress and performance of the country in meeting these indicators, and aims to sensitize the various actors responsible in providing information to the researchers who gather data to update these indicators. To implement this Plan, the STP requested addition assistance from the Program for its first

phase implementation and this request was approved by USAID. The bidding process for this new consultancy was announced, several companies were invited and the Program expects to receive proposals by October 10, 2008.

Government Ethics Tribunal (TEG): AGA started the work to prepare the General Communication Strategy for the TEG through the revision of the status of the present communications plan, and an analysis of the relationship with the counterpart organizations, ethics committees and the TEG staff to understand the flow of information within and outside the organization. This analysis serves to coordinate the consultancy throughout the end of the contract.

During this reporting period, the following products were developed: “Key Messages” for every target group; a General Strategy that includes the identification of the spokesperson profile in the ethics committees; and a Communication Plan that includes the objectives, actions, implementation mechanisms, media, indicators, timetables and costs.

Additionally, following a request from the TEG for technical assistance for the “Design and Implementation of the Management Information System” as a follow-on to the work of the Ethics Commissions, and after seeking from USAID the corresponding authorization, six companies were invited to submit proposals. Only two of these responded to the invitation: *Peralta, Marroquín y Cia.* and *Chicas Vilchez & Ruiz.* On October 7, the Program plans to open proposals with the participation of TEG officials and recommend the best company to award this contract. It is expected that the award of the contract will take place in mid-October 2008.

Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN): To carry out the consultancy to assist the MARN with a diagnostic and institutional assessment, the following six companies were invited to submit proposals: (from El Salvador) Outsource, *Peralta Marroquín y Cia.* and ADEPRO; (international) Aragon & Zaragoza, PriceWaterhouseCoopers and KPMG. On September 29, 2008 with the participation of Mr. Oscar Díaz, General Director of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, the six proposals were opened and a copy of each one was given to the MARN for their review and evaluation. It is planned that on October 3, 2008, technical and cost proposals will be reviewed in order to make a recommendation of the two best offers. The award of the contract is planned for mid-October 2008.

OBSTACLES/ISSUES FOR RESOLUTION:

- The MOP consultancy for the internal control assessment did not receive enough proposals and the bid had to be cancelled and new invitation for proposals carried out.
- The PGR did not respond in the timely manner agreed and the consultancy had to be extended (no extra cost was incurred).
- Because of the political climate, it is difficult to obtain full support from the STP to implement the first phase of the Dissemination Plan on the Governance Indicators.
- The lack of interest of companies in presenting a proposal during the first bidding attempt delayed the process for three weeks.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER UNDER THIS LLR:

- Contract and start execution of the consultancy for the internal control system for the MOP.
- Finalize the PGR contract for the internal control system.

- Review the proposals for the STP Dissemination Plan on the Governance Indicators, adjudicate and contract the consulting company to do this work.
- Adjudicate and contract the consulting company to carry out the Design and Implementation of the Management Information System for the follow-on of the work of the Ethics Commissions.
- Adjudicate and contract a consulting company to carry out the MARN diagnostic and institutional assessment.

SUMMARY OF TRAININGS			
TAG July 1, 2008 to September 30, 2008 disaggregated Male/Female			
SUB IR 1.1 LLR 1.1.1 Promote transparency, efficiency and understanding of judicial processes	MALE	FEMALE	DATE/ 2008
Conference on Strategies on Preventing Organized Crime provided by Dr. Angel Moreno	41	27	July 17, 2008
Meeting with Judges' Board of Directors and Mr. Hiram Morales	3	3	July 19, 2008
Presentation of the Training Plan to Prosecutors by Mr. Hiram Morales	271	325	July 24, 25, 28, 29 & 30
Launching of the draft law "Transparency and Access to Public Information"*	34	32	September 24, 2008
SUB IR 2.3 LLR 2.3.1 Strong civil society participation and oversight			
Workshops on Transparency Initiatives provided by Dr. Olga Nazario and Dr. Yemile Mizrahi	78	70	July 15, 16, 17 & 18, 2008
Conference on Ethics Values provided by Mr. Hiram Morales to university students	62	132	July 23, 2008
Conference on Ethics Values provided by Mr. Hiram Morales to NGOs	7	12	July 24, 2008
Meeting with Local Development Committees (CDLs)	27	25	July 26, 2008 Sept. 27, 2008
Launching of the draft law "Transparency and Access to Public Information"*	141	101	September 24, 2008
SUB IR 2.4 LLR 2.4.2 Accountability of appointed officials improved			
Forum titled: <i>Concejos Municipales y Gobernabilidad Democrática para El Salvador</i>	200	173	August 27, 2008
Launching of the draft law "Transparency and Access to Public Information"*	19	12	September 24, 2008
TOTAL PER GENDER	883	912	
GRAND TOTAL		1,795	
Program Element: Justice System	Male	Female	Total
1. Number of Justice System Personnel that received USG training	349	387	736
Program Element: Anticorruption Reforms			
1. Number of government officials receiving USG-supported anticorruption training	219	185	404
2. Number of non-government officials receiving USG-supported anticorruption training	315	340	655
TOTAL			1,795

II. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

During this quarter, the following activities were executed in the administrative/ financial area:

After financial reports were audited successfully, the following advances were awarded to grantees as follows:

PADECOMSM	\$13,873.49
SACDEL	\$11,024.00
FUSAI	\$ 9,645.14
CAMSEC	\$11,383.00
ISD	\$ 7,907.14

Contracts:

- *Nathal Actuarios y Consultores* from Mexico to design/improve the PGR's internal control, from May 2 to September 24, 2008, paid the amount of \$10,500.00 as the first payment of the contract (balance to be paid = \$24,500). A contract extension was granted to finalize the project by October 31.
- María Antonieta Josa contract to follow up on the new Criminal Procedures Code, from May 9 to August 8, 2008 was finalized and fully paid in the amount of \$7,500.00.
- Porter Novelli El Salvador contract to design an information plan on the importance of country development indicators, from May 5 to June 11, 2008, in the amount of \$14,690.00, was fully implemented and paid.
- Contract awarded to *Grupo Aguilera* for the design of a Communication Strategy 2008-2012 to the *Tribunal de Etica Gubernamental* was extended until October 31 and two payments of \$3,980.00 each were made, totaling 7,960.00 (balance to be paid = \$11,940.00).
- Bidding process for the MOP (internal control), the MARN (internal control), the TEG (Management Information System), the CONADEL (design of a recognition mechanism of best municipal transparency practices) and the Technical Secretary of the Presidency (dissemination of the governance indicators) are in progress.

Additional activities:

XIII Transparency International Anticorruption Conference in Athens, Greece. The Program is supporting the participation of the following government and civil society representatives to the XIII TI Anticorruption Conference in Athens, Greece to be held from October 30 to November 2, 2008 as follows:

- 1) Ms. Lisette Kuri de Mendoza, President, Government Ethics Tribunal (TEG).
- 2) Mr. Manuel Quinteros, Deputy of the Legislative Assembly (FMLN)
- 3) Mr. Guillermo Gallegos, Deputy of the Legislative Assembly (ARENA)
- 4) Mr. Marco Gregorio Sánchez Trejo, Public Defender (PGR)

- 5) Mr. Marcos Rodriguez, Director of Transparency International Chapter in El Salvador (FUNDE).

During the reporting period, all arrangements with reference to TI Conference, including loading, travel reservations, medical insurance and corresponding USAID documentation required, were completed. On October 10, 2008, the first of two orientation meetings will be held to brief the participants on the conference contents and travel arrangements. The trip is planned for departure on October 28 and return on November 3, 2009. The TraiNet System will be updated with all the corresponding travel information. Training on the TraiNet System was provided to our Financial Officer by AVIS from Washington.

Preparation of the 2008-2009 TAG Work Plan

During this reporting period, the 2008-2009 Work Plan was prepared, based on the CAM/ES the task order and previous work plans. Several meetings were held with the technical and financial staff of the TAG, including the input of two C&A HQ experts who were in the country providing a mainstreaming training, to identify feasible activities to be implemented until March 2009. The Work Plan was finished and submitted to HQ for approval and corresponding submission to USAID.