



Participación Cívica Project

Quarterly Report April – June 2020

Year 5 (FY2020)

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Counterpart International
2345 Crystal Drive, Suite 301
Arlington, VA 22202

Contact:

Ana Santos
Associate Director
ansantos@counterpart.org

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ASORGUA	Deaf Association of Guatemala (<i>Asociación de Sordos de Guatemala</i>)	MSPAS	Ministry of Health and Social Assistance (<i>Ministerio de Salud y Asistencia Social</i>)
AOR	Agreement Officer Representative	MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
CAC	Presidential Commission against Corruption (<i>Comisión Presidencial Contra la Corrupción</i>)	NAP	National Action Plan
CALAS	Center for Environmental and Social Legal Action of Guatemala (<i>Centro de Acción Legal, Ambiental y Social de Guatemala</i>)	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
CENACIDE	The National Center for Information and Research on Development and Disasters (<i>El Centro Nacional de Información e Investigación en Desarrollo y Desastres</i>)	OAS	Organization of American States
CEIDEPAZ	Center for Studies and Investigations for Development and Peace (<i>Centro de Estudios e Investigaciones para el Desarrollo y la Paz</i>)	OD	Organizational Development
CFLI	Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives	OGP	Open Government Partnership
CIIDH	The International Center for Human Rights Research (<i>Centro de Internacional para Investigaciones de Derechos Humanos</i>)	POC	Point of Contact
CODEFEM	Association for the Defense of Women's Rights in Guatemala (<i>Colectiva para la Defensa de los Derechos de las Mujeres en Guatemala</i>)	SEGEPLAN	Secretariat of Planning and Programming of the Presidency (<i>Secretaría de Planificación y Programación de la Presidencia</i>)
CSO	Civil Society Organization	SEPREM	Presidential Secretariat for Women (<i>Secretaría Presidencial de la Mujer</i>)
DAI	Development Alternatives International	SPM	Suggested Purchasing Model (Sistema Modulo Sugerido de Compras)
DEC	Document Experience Clearinghouse	TOS	Transparency and Organizational Strengthening
FUNDAL	The Alex Guatemalan Foundation for Deafblind Children (<i>Fundación Guatemalteca para Niños con Sordoceguera Alex</i>)	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
FUNDESA	Foundation for Guatemala's Development (<i>Fundación para el Desarrollo de Guatemala</i>)	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
FY	Fiscal Year	USG	United States Government
GAE	Presidential Commission for Open and Electronic Government (<i>Comisión Presidencial de Gobierno Abierto y Electrónico</i>)		
GCSS-LWA	Global Civil Society Strengthening Leader with Associates		
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion		
GoG	Government of Guatemala		
ICEFI	Central American Institute for Fiscal Studies (<i>Instituto Centroamericano de Estudios Fiscales</i>)		
IPS	Institute of Social Protection (<i>Instituto de Protección Social</i>)		
IRM	Independent Reporting Mechanism		
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning		
MIDES	Ministry of Social Development (<i>Ministerio de Desarrollo Social</i>)		
MINFIN	Ministry of Public Finance (<i>Ministerio de Finanzas Públicas</i>)		
MSF	Multi-Stakeholder Forum (<i>Foro Multiactor</i>)		

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The **Participación Cívica Project**, hereafter referred to as “the Project,” is a five-year Project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) under the framework of the Global Civil Society Strengthening Leader with Associates (GCSS-LWA) agreement. The Project builds the capacity of Guatemalan civil society organizations (CSOs) and key government institutions while fostering a society that participates in the promotion of accountability and transparency of public institutions in Guatemala. The Project aims towards a goal of *strengthened civil society and key government institutions to more effectively promote accountable governance and transparency of key institutions in Guatemala.*

The Project works towards this goal through two complementary and mutually reinforcing objectives:

- **Objective 1:** Improve the Government of Guatemala’s institutional capacity to develop and manage key transparency, public accountability, and Open Government initiatives.
- **Objective 2:** Improve the capacity and effectiveness of targeted CSOs to advocate for more accountable, open, and transparent public institutions, including under the Open Government Partnership framework.

Participación Cívica fosters partnership between civil society and government institutions to promote accountable governance. Through its support of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), the Project directly contributes to three indicators within USAID’s *Guatemala Journey to Self-Reliance*, promoting the Guatemalan Government’s commitment to Open Government, and the capacity for Government Effectiveness and Civil Society & Media Effectiveness.

Socio-Political Context and Adaptive Management

In Guatemala, cases of COVID-19 have skyrocketed since the end of Q2, going from 38 cases to over 18,000, and the country is preparing for the continuation of daily increases. President Dr. Alejandro Giammattei served less than two months in office before declaring Guatemala under a State of Emergency in early March 2020 due to COVID-19. Since then, the Administration has struggled with procuring needed medical supplies. Even with emergency powers which authorize international procurement, Giammattei has decided to keep all procurement of medical supplies local to Guatemala, resulting in at higher costs and slower delivery times. The government of Guatemala’s (GoG) procurement systems are not linked, leaving data unreliable and not useful for strategic planning and decision making. Furthermore, without an effective and well-integrated procurement system that links existing medical inventories to new procurements, the Government remains in the dark on how to best manage and plan for the peaking pandemic. The Project experienced challenges with Project closeout due to restrictions of movement, especially the demobilization of the office, but in Q3 has close operations in-country.

During Q3, the Project responded to delays and logistical challenges due to COVID-19. First, the co-creation process for the 5th OGP NAP may not be re-started until early 2021 and the 4th OGP NAP implementation may be extended. Despite this interruption, the Project team remains confident that the capacity and resources instilled in Presidential Commission for Open and Electronic Government (GAE) and the OGP Roundtable will continue to benefit OGP in Guatemala. Second, the Project found an opportunity to engage in the COVID-19 response by reaching out to USG with recommendations on how to leverage its partnership with FUNDESA to contribute to an efficient and effective emergency response. Lastly, the Project learned through conversations with key stakeholders that cultivated trust is the most critical component of effective transparency programming.

Closeout Activity Highlights

- Closeout meeting with the Presidential Commission for Open and Electronic Government (GAE)
- Closeout meeting with the Presidential Commission against Corruption
- Delivery of office donations to three remaining CSO recipients

OGP Activity Highlights

- Attendance of five Multi-stakeholder Forums for the Open Government Partnership

- Coordination meeting with the Organization of American States (OAS) and civil society
- Delivery of Summary Report of the Project's support to the Presidential Commission for Open and Electronic Government (GAE)
- Manual of Participation and Governance Mechanisms of the Open Government Partnership in Guatemala shared with the OGP Support Unit

CSO Partner Activity Highlights

- Counterpart and FUNDESA share COVID-19 response recommendations to USAID
- Vivan los Jóvenes and Lambda submitted two advocacy plans and one financial sustainability plan for review
- The Project facilitated the submission of multiple CSO proposals to a funding opportunity from the Embassy of Canada
- The Project publishes a video to highlight key results from the partnership with FUNDESA, in both English and Spanish

Key Results and Achievements for Objective 1

Closeout Meetings with Key Government Partners: The Project team met with leadership from the Presidential Commission for Open and Electronic Government and the Presidential Commission against Corruption to formally close the Project's collaboration with both institutions. The meetings recapped key highlights of the Project's support and mutual accomplishments and shared insights on the future of both institutions after the life of the Project. To ensure continued benefit from resources developed with the Project's support, the Project team shared the Open Government Toolkit with both institutions so that the government officials would have key OGP documents, reports, and evaluations easily accessible for future reference.

Manual shared with OGP Support Unit: In direct response to a request from the OGP Support Unit during their February 2020 visit to Guatemala, in Q3, the Project shared the approved Manual for Participation and Governance Mechanisms of the Open Government Partnership in Guatemala with them. The OGP Support Unit plans to share this resource with all OGP member states in Latin America as a guide and reference for shaping similar Manuals for greater clarity on the roles and responsibility of government and civil society delegates that participate in the OGP initiative.

Key Results and Achievements for Objective 2

Sustained Benefit to CSOs in the TOS Program: While the Transparency and Organizational Strengthening (TOS) Program finalized in February 2020, CSOs continued to benefit from the Project's support in Q3. While Vivan los Jóvenes and Lambda had both completed all the training and working group requirements to complete the Transparency and Organizational Strengthening (TOS) Program in Q2, both organizations had not yet submitted their final strategic products developed during the Program. Vivan los Jóvenes submitted both completed products in Q3 and Lambda submitted its advocacy plan. These strategic products will serve as valuable resources for both organizations to do advocacy work and seek funding for their programming. The Project shared with partners a funding opportunity for up to Q135,000 (\$17,500 USD) from the Embassy of Canada's Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI). Two CSO partners (ASORGUA and IPS) confirmed that they would be submitting proposals, which may further diversify their funding sources. Lastly, due to restricted movement in Q2 due to COVID-19, the office donations for Vivamos Mejor, Fundación Ernesto Schneider, and Vivan los Jóvenes were completed in Q3.

Creation of women's network: Building on programming with CODEFEM in Q2, in Q3, the Project worked with CODEFEM to facilitate the development and signing of a letter of understanding between all members of this network, which outlines the shared purpose of the network, its vision, a plan of action, and a code of conduct. The letter was adopted by all members and received by the Project on June 18, which states, "*The representatives of the participating organizations...established a joint dialogue on the contents of the Strategic Agenda for Women 2020-2024, the situation of the mechanisms to [for the] advance[progress] of women in Guatemala, and*

the Open Government Partnership in Guatemala.” In total, the network includes 17 signatories, which represent 11 women’s organizations or associations and five community leaders from Amatitlán, Villa Nueva, Villa Canales.¹ The Project’s investment in the Q2 workshops to strengthen women’s participation will continue to have a lasting impact through the work of this network advocating for women’s rights in Guatemala, specifically related to the Strategic Agenda for Women 2020-2024 and the Open Government Partnership.

Publication of FUNDESA Video: The Project collaborated with USAID to develop a short, animated video clips to highlight the achievements of FUNDESA’s Suggested Purchasing Model and its impact on cost savings for the Ministry of Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS), especially within the context of the current global health pandemic. The videos concisely capture and communicate key elements of the Project’s legacy, which Counterpart and FUNDESA shared on their social networks in Q3. The videos will serve as resources for FUNDESA and USAID, available to be shared with the broader development community, as relevant, in the coming months.

II. FINANCIAL

A total of \$12,199,797.79 has been reported as of June 30, 2020, in the SF-425 submitted to USAID with this technical quarterly report. This amount represents 99.74% of the obligated program budget of \$12,231,506.

Expenses reported under subgrants to date total \$1,983,077 and \$6,154 for the period of April - June 2020. Expenses reported under Rapid Response Fund to date are \$289,365, and \$0 for the quarter ending in June 2020.

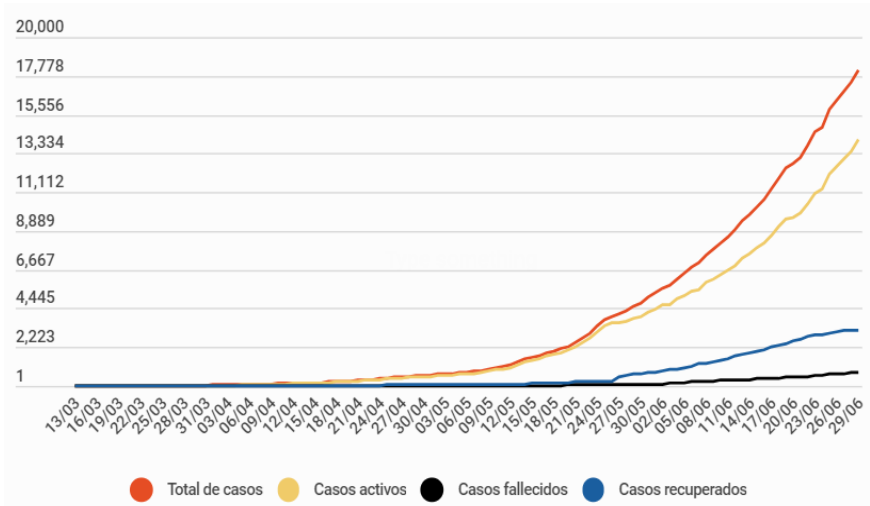
¹Plataforma Urbana, Grupo de Mujeres Sobrevivientes sobre el Genocidio; COCODE Cerro Dorado Amatitlán; Oficina de la Mujer Dios con Nosotras; Por una Vivienda Digna; Comunidad Amatitlán; Foro Nacional de la Mujer en Villa Nueva; SITRAINSA; Colectivo Nazareth; Colectivo de Mujeres de San Miguel Petapa; and CODEFEM

III. SOCIO-POLITICAL CONTEXT AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

COVID-19

In Guatemala, cases of COVID-19 have skyrocketed since the end of Q2, going from 38 cases to over 18,000, and the country is preparing for the continuation of daily increases. President Dr. Alejandro Giammattei served less than two months in office before declaring Guatemala under a State of Emergency in early March 2020 due to COVID-19. Since then, the Administration has struggled with procuring needed medical supplies. Even with emergency powers which authorize international procurement, Giammattei has decided to keep all procurement of medical supplies local to Guatemala, resulting in higher costs and slower delivery times. The GoG has also to date declined tapping global agencies such as UNOPS, UNDP, or WHO to support procurement processes. In addition to broken supply chains globally, limited PPE availability due to extremely high demand, shipping/transport challenges, and price gauging, Guatemala faces additional barriers with a procurement system not apt for crisis response and laws that impede agility, efficiency, and transparency in procurement.

The GoG’s procurement systems are not linked, leaving data unreliable and not useful for strategic planning and decision making. Furthermore, without an effective and well-integrated procurement system that links existing medical inventories to new procurements, the Government remains in the dark



Information from MSPAS in June 2020 on the escalation of COVID-19 cases in

on how to best manage and plan for the peaking pandemic. On May 19, USAID released survey results from 731 implementing partners globally, which demonstrated that 93% of partners reported that implementation was moderately or significantly more challenging, citing barriers due to restrictions of movement, security, electricity issues, teleworking, and COVID-19 preparedness for staff. USAID’s partners asked for support in four areas: 1) Increased flexibility for awards, performance, and monitoring; 2) Clear, consistent, and timely guidance; 3) Streamlined processes; and 4) Learning resources, including monitoring and evaluation. The Project did experience challenges with Project closeout due to freedom of movement, especially the demobilization of the office, during Q3 it continue to finalize administrative close out activities in country.

Adaptive Management

COVID-19 caused additional delays and logistical challenges. The co-creation process for the 5th OGP NAP may not be re-started until early 2021 and the 4th OGP NAP implementation may be extended. Despite this interruption in momentum from the Project’s OGP-focused activities in Q2, the Project team remains confident that the capacity and resources instilled in GAE and the OGP Roundtable will continue to benefit OGP in Guatemala.

The Project found an opportunity to engage in the COVID-19 response sharing recommendations with USG on how to leverage FUNDESA’s expertise to contribute to an efficient and effective emergency response. For example, procurement and inventory management and relationships with the Ministry of Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) and other key government stakeholders. Despite some tensions with key government and

civil society partners in the early years of the Project, the Project team has learned during closeout conversations with key stakeholders in Q3 that cultivated trust is the most critical component of effective transparency programming.

IV. PROGRESS IN OBJECTIVE 1: IMPROVE THE GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA'S INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY TO DEVELOP AND MANAGE KEY TRANSPARENCY, PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY, AND OPEN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

During Q3, Participación Cívica focused closing activities with government partners, especially the GAE and the Open Government Roundtable. While the Project had concluded all technical activities in Q2, the Project's Acting COP and an expert consultant in Open Government maintained communication with key GAE partners in order to phase out the Project's participation and to convey key messages to USAID in April and May.

Result 1.1: Strengthened GoG institutional capacity to comply with commitments (including but not limited to OGP)

Activity Area 1.1.a Support GPAT in its Institutional and Technical start-up

Activity 1.1.a.1. Closeout Meeting with the Presidential Commission for Open and Electronic Government

The Project shared the *Open Government Toolkit* to the GAE on May 31. , The Toolkit includes key governing documents on the co-creation and implementation of National Action Plans, valuable evaluation and contextual analyses, recommendations, and best practices and lessons learned during OGP implementation in Guatemala. The Project shared information on the donor agencies that attended February's High-Level Event on Open Government and the Fight against Corruption. In the future, GAE will be able to engage institutions with potential interesting participating in OGP, especially those interested in providing technical assistance or financial support.

The Project met with GAE on June 3rd to discuss closeout. Participants included the Executive Director of GAE, the Deputy Director, the OGP Point of Contact, the Acting COP, and staff from Counterpart's HQ. All parties expressed gratitude for what was accomplished together in the two fully operational months of the Giammattei Administration, with recognition for trainings of GAE staff and the delegates of the OGP Roundtable, hosting of two regional citizen information sessions on OGP, and the approval of the Manual of Participation and Governance Mechanisms of the Open Government Partnership in Guatemala. GAE leadership informed the Project that the OGP Support Unit had granted Guatemala additional time for the implementation of the 4th OGP NAP, possibly extending through December 2020.

Due to COVID-19, the co-creation process for the 5th OGP NAP may not be re-started until early 2021. The OGP POC also shared that Guatemala may be able to propose that the 5th OGP NAP has a longer timeframe than the standard two-year plan, instead extending it for the duration of the Giammattei Administration through 2023. In conclusion, the Project leadership recognized the positive relationship and mutual trust demonstrated with the GAE officials, the Project's key government partners.

Activity Area 1.1.b: Support to the Open Government Point of Contact and Relevant Public Institutions to Implement OGP Commitments in Guatemala

In Q3, the Project participated in several events related to the Open Government Partnership, detailed below.

Activity 1.1.b.1: Summary Report on Participación Cívica's Direct Support to the Implementation of Milestones and Commitments within the 4th OGP NAP

The project held an introductory meeting with Mr. Enrique Cossich on December 19 to introduce him to the project team and the support being provided to GPAT. Following the meeting, the Project was formally asked to provide insights on the status of the 4th OGP NAP (2018-2020), supplementing documents provided by outgoing GPAT officials. The Project sent Mr. Cossich a draft *Summary Report on Participación Cívica's Direct Support to the Implementation of Milestones and Commitments within the 4th OGP NAP* on December 31, 2019. The project will share a *Final Report on Participación Cívica's Direct Support to the Implementation of*

Milestones and Commitments within the 4th OGP NAP to detail all contributions to OGP over the past four years, emphasizing milestones and commitments of the 4th OGP NAP, that are under the responsibility of GPAT.

FOURTH OGP NAP IMPLEMENTATION

Activity 1.1.b.4 Multi-Stakeholder Forums

Throughout Q3, GPAT hosted a total of seven Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF) meetings, the Project participated in five. Per agreement with USAID, following the conclusion of activities in March, the Project's consultant with expertise in Open Government attended the meetings to relay information to Project leadership and to USAID, to stay up to date on the initiative's progress. Of note, several CSOs that had left the initiative in late 2018 announced their intention to re-engage with the Open Government Roundtable, including Red Ciudadana, FUNDESA, Acción Ciudadana, ICEFI, the National Center for Information and Research on Development and Disasters (El Centro Nacional de Información e Investigación en Desarrollo y Desastres, CENACIDE), and the Guatemalan Chamber of Construction. Yet, despite their stated intentions, these organizations attended MSFs with little frequency over Q3. During Q3 no Open Government Roundtable were held due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The 53rd Open Government Technical Committee meeting was held virtually on April 28 and focused on the data collection form on compliance and implementation of the 4th OGP NAP. Representatives from CEIDEPAZ and CIIDH expressed their discontentment with the inconsistencies in data collection and noted the negative impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the implementation of the 4th OGP NAP. The MSF members agreed upon a revised data collection form, which GAE later sent to all ministries. The MSF took several decisions during the meeting. First, approval of a tracking matrix that graphically presents progress on commitments and milestones and generates a database with total percentage of the country's progress. Second, agreement that the MSF members would provide capacity building support (using materials from the previous session) for new delegates who did not participate in the Project-sponsored training in February.

GAE announced it would send an official letter to the Ministry of Public Finance related to the need to transfer the monetary contribution (\$50,000 USD) of Guatemala to the Open Government Initiative. GAE does not have this disbursement within its approved budget for fiscal year 2020, so the Ministry of Public Finance will determine how the Government will manage the payment. The Independent Review Mechanism (MRI) submitted the draft of the 2018-2020 IRM Design Report, work conducted by a consultant hired by OGP International, which provides analysis on the co-creation process of the 4th OGP NAP. The report was shared for comments (due May 21) with both the MSF and the CSO members that disengaged with OGP in late 2018.

On May 5, GAE held the 51st MSF meeting virtually. Representatives from civil society included CEIDEPAZ, Guatecívica, CIIDH, Fe y Alegría, and CODEFEM. UNESCO also participated as an observer of the process. CIIDH presented its Open Budget Report, which shows that Guatemala ranks 65 out of 100 in terms of budgetary transparency; 35 out of 100 in public participation; and 56 out of 100 in terms of budgetary oversight, which means an improvement to the previous measurement (position 61).

The OGP POC shared that GAE had sent official letters to each ministry and secretariat in order to have the updates on the level of progress of the 4th OGP NAP, which will serve as input to analyze whether the country may or may not finish its implementation in time by August 2020, or may instead request a moratorium to delay the co-creation phase of the 5th OGP NAP. Additionally, the CSO Roundtable requested that all delegates update the Participant Registry, in alignment with the Manual of Participation and Governance Mechanisms. The MSF members also agreed to post all reports and other relevant materials on the website.

On May 12, the 52nd MSF discussed the draft IRM report. Participation from Guatecívica, CEIDEPAZ, CiiDH, CODEFEM, and Fe y Alegría, as well as UNESCO. Participants shared their analysis of the report: contextual background was well presented, the motivations and issues with CICIG that precipitated five organizations to leave the initiative in late 2018 was made clear. However, members found that the sections relating to the design and co-creation phase of the 4th OGP NAP conveyed lack of methodological rigor and had subjective opinion

The MSF agreed to send written comments to GAE for incorporation into a next draft, which was sent on May 21 to the Independent Review Mechanism (Annex A).

On May 19, the 53rd MSF was held, with CSO representation from GuateCívica, CEIDEPAZ, and CIIDH. During the meeting, the Ministry of Education presented on the milestones and commitments in this subject area, which, with the exception of one milestone, demonstrate 90% compliance. The MSF has also noted that some documentation, such as meeting minutes, participant lists, and other key documents have not been posted on the website, indicating that GAE remains at risks for losing track of the historical legacy of Open Government in Guatemala.

Finally, on May 26, the MSF included the participation of CSO representatives from GuateCívica, CEIDEPAZ, CIIDH, CODEFEM, Fe y Alegría, and Red Ciudadana also rejoined the initiative. The Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Economy requested an extension of 10 days to be able to send the requested information for the 4th OGP NAP tracking matrix. Likewise, GAE officials agreed to upload an updated table to the Open Government website, so that all the information sent by public institutions can be open to public opinion.

In addition, during the meeting, the OGP POC also reported that, within the vote that was held to elect the government members of the OGP International Surveillance Committee, Guatemala voted for the United Kingdom's candidacy, since GAE maintains a stronger relationship and more fluid communication ties with the UK than with the other candidate countries.

At the end of Q3, the implementation of the 4th OGP NAP and the co-creation of the 5th OGP NAP both seem to be stalled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Project anticipates that once the country begins to recover from the pandemic, that the capacity and resources that the Project instilled within GAE and the OGP Roundtable will contribute to Guatemala's more effective and efficient return to these two critical OGP processes.

OGP POC INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

Activity 1.1.b.6 Manual of Participation and Governance Mechanisms of Open Government

In Q2, the OGP Roundtable and GPAT approved the Manual of Participation and Governance Mechanisms of the Open Government Partnership in Guatemala, which sets standards for participation in the initiative among members of government and civil society and becoming a sustainability tool for the future of the initiative. On May 12th, the Project shared the final Manual to be shared as an open-source document on the OGP global website. As such, the Manual can now serve as a model document for other countries in Latin America looking to strengthen their own OGP governance mechanisms, enabling the Project to leave a concrete resource as a legacy for future support Open Government in the region.

COORDINATION WITH OTHER GOG INSTITUTIONS

Activity Area 1.1.c: Support GPAT and Other Public Institutions to Comply with Key International Commitments

Activity 1.1.c.1 Closeout meeting with the Presidential Commission against Corruption

The Project had been trying to coordinate an introductory meeting with the Presidential Commission against Corruption through counterparts at the USAID Security and Justice Sector Reform Project (SJSRP) since Q2. Eventually the Project was successful in meeting virtually with leadership from the SJSRP, USAID representatives and the Executive Director of the Presidential Commission against Corruption (CAC), Oscar Dávila. During the meeting, the Project outlined its support to the Open Government Partnership, focusing on key mechanisms for civil society engagement. Mr. Dávila shared updates on the status of the Commission and plans to further coordinate with GAE on issues of transparency. SJSRP committed to providing technical assistance for the coordination and delineation of functions between the Presidential Commission against Corruption and the GAE, and to developing and sharing a document on public policy related to anti-corruption from SEGEPLAN that will inform civil society and CSOS of the functions of the CAC.

Following this meeting the Project shared key documents from the *Open Government Toolkit* with the Security and Justice Sector Reform Project and new Commission for them to use as lasting resources.

Governing Documents (by Project and GPAT)	4th Open Government Partnership National Action Plan 2018-2020 Manual of Participation and Governance Mechanisms of Open Government
External Evaluations and Analyses	Summary Report by Participación Cívica’s on the Project’s Direct Support to the Implementation of Milestones and Commitments within the 4th Open Government Partnership National Action Plan 2018-2020 Four Bulletins published by CIIDH about Social Audit of Four Commitments of the 4th Open Government Partnership National Action Plan 2018-2020 Report on Implementation of the 4th Open Government Partnership National Action Plan in Guatemala from the Perspective of Civil Society (CIIDH, CEIDEPAZ, CODEFEM, GuateCívica) Lessons Learned and Best Practices on compliance with the 3rd National Action Plan 2016-2018 (by DOSES) Lessons Learned on Co-creation Process of the 4th National Action Plan (2018-2020) of the Open Government Partnership (by DOSES) Evaluation and Systematization of the Methodology for the Co-creation Process of the 3rd Open Government Partnership National Action Plan (by consultant Jorge López-Bachiller)

Result 1.2: Enhanced Capacity of Targeted GoG Institutions to Develop and Implement Effective Transparency, Accountability, and Citizen Participation Mechanisms

Activity Area 1.2.a: Support Transparency and Accountability Capacity and Systems in Key Public Institutions

Activities under this activity area were finalized prior to Q3.

Activity Area 1.2.b: Assist Government Institutions to Develop OG Capacity-Building Strategies for National and Local Civil Servants

Activities under this activity area were finalized prior to Q3.

V. PROGRESS IN OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVE THE CAPACITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF TARGETED CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS TO PROMOTE MORE ACCOUNTABLE, OPEN AND TRANSPARENT PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Year 5 activities on Objective 2 focused on working with CSO partners to develop their capacity to effectively advocate for government transparency and accountability. During Q3, the Project saw the fruition of many of those activities with the finalization of pending CSO financial sustainability plans and advocacy plans, submission of proposals to various funding opportunities, the creation of a women’s network, and the publication of a video to provide greater citizen awareness on transparency in the health sector.

Result 2.1: Enhanced Technical Capacity of Targeted CSOs to Effectively Advocate, and Oversee GoG Compliance with National and International Commitments related with Transparency, Public Accountability, Anti-Corruption and Open Government

Activity Area 2.1.a Provide Grants and Targeted Capacity Building to CSOs for Government Oversight, Advocacy and Implementation of Prioritized Commitments of the NAP

In Q3, the Project maintained communications with several CSO partners that had received grants or had participated in the Transparency and Organizational Strengthening (TOS) Program, detailed below.

YEAR 4-AWARDED SUBGRANTS

The Project had no active subgrants in Q3. Counterpart’s HQ team conducted an internal audit of the three subgrants that closed during Year 5 to ensure completion of the files.

Activity 2.1.a.7 FUNDESA: Implementation of the Suggested Purchasing Model in National Hospitals (July 3, 2019 to February 29, 2020)

FUNDESA implemented a grant with the Project from July 3, 2019 to February 29, 2020 to support Phase II of the “Implementation of the Suggested Purchasing Model (SPM)” project (Activity 2.3.a.2 for details on video).

Building on the momentum from Q2, including the successful handover of the SPM to the Giammattei Administration, the Project and FUNDESA identified a need to work together again to bring the power of tested procurement analytics to the GoG’s COVID-19 response. No additional COVID-response support was possible because of project close-down. However, Counterpart and FUNDESA reached together out on May 21 to share with USAID some recommended response actions that build on success of the work conducted by FUNDESA through grant support from the Project.



Remaining deficit in PPE from March-June

FUNDESA conducts weekly monitoring of the gap between PPE needs in hospitals and procurement made by hospitals and MSPAS, providing real-time data and offering a “temperature check” on key performance indicators (KPIs) on the status of PPE purchased. For example, a recent report from June 6, 2020 shows a remaining deficit of 17.6 million PPE units, or 82% of the supply needed across the country.

Additionally, since the onset of the COVID-19 State of Emergency in March, FUNDESA has supported the President of Guatemala and the Ministry of Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) to provide the National Laboratory and other hospital laboratories with point of care molecular (PCR) tests and other supplies, responding with efficiency and providing value for money. FUNDESA is currently responding to regular requests for donations from public hospitals and labs to meet that humanitarian demand and has to date provided Q8.99 million (\$1.16 million USD) in PPE and supplies. FUNDESA is currently working with MSPAS, CONRED, and GoG's Customs Agency to expedite the process, receiving tax exempt shipments and fast-tracking delivery of tests from South Korea, USA, Europe, etc. to beneficiaries in 10-15 days. As such, Counterpart and FUNDESA have identified the need for core emergency response, equipping the GoG with urgent PPE items needed to save human lives, mainly by addressing supply gaps among national laboratories running COVID-19 tests and for first line health responders. Counterpart remains open to further discuss collaboration opportunities with USAID.

Activity Area 2.1.b Provide Technical and Logistical Support to Strengthen the Effectiveness and Sustainability of the Open Government Roundtables

The Project continued to facilitate the work of the CSO Roundtable as they engage in and drive the implementation of the 4th OGP NAP.

Activity 2.1.b.1 Engagement with the CSO Roundtable

In Q3, the Project had two interactions with the CSO Roundtable, providing sustained communication and support leading to closeout. The Project participated in a coordination meeting with the CSO Roundtable along USAID, the Organization of American States (OAS), and the Carter Center on May 14. The objective of the meeting was to coordinate the interests and priorities of international entities engaged in the initiative, in addition to key CSO partners, to create a united voice in collaboration with GAE and the OGP POC. The key result of the meeting was to schedule a coordination meeting with the participants and GAE, but to date the meeting has not been scheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the Project sent the OGP Toolkit to four members of the CSO Roundtable- CODEFEM, CIIDH, CEIDPAZ, and GuateCívica (see detail in Activity 1.1.c.1), ensuring that trusted CSO partners have access to all the key resources developed by the Project in support of OGP to use in their sustained engagement in the initiative.

Result 2.2: Improved Organizational Capacity of Targeted CSOs Contributing to the Promotion of More Accountable, Open and Transparent Public Institutions

Activity Area 2.2.a Support Grantees to Implement the OD Cycle and Provide Technical Assistance and Training for Organizational Strengthening

Activity 2.2.a.1 Development of CSO Advocacy Plans and Financial Sustainability Plans, especially related to Open Government and migration

STRATEGIC PRODUCT SUBMISSION

While Vivan los Jóvenes and Lambda had both completed all the training and working group requirements to complete the Transparency and Organizational Strengthening (TOS) Program in Q2, both organizations had not yet submitted their final strategic products developed during the TOS Program. Lambda had submitted their financial sustainability plan in Q2, but did not submit their advocacy plan until Q3. Vivan los Jóvenes submitted



Cobán Regional Hospital request to FUNDESA for COVID-19 supplies

both completed products in Q3. These strategic products will serve as valuable resources for both organizations as they continue their advocacy work and seek funding for their programming.

Lambda's advocacy plan outlines activities related to the organization's mission to raise awareness for the rights of LGBTIQ+ populations in Guatemala, especially related to improving the conditions of displaced LGBTIQ+ people and migrants. For 2020, Lambda's two main advocacy objectives include 1) developing a policy for migrants, which includes considerations for LGBTIQ+ populations, and 2) advocating for consular protection for LGBTIQ+ migrants in Guatemala to include labor rights. The advocacy plan defines key actions, partners, and results to enable Lambda to meet their objectives.

The advocacy plan of Vivan los Jóvenes focuses on two specific objectives: 1) contributing to improve the living standards of Guatemalans in the framework of a culture of peace, through a network of youth leaders who lead comprehensive development projects and promote health and well-being and 2) implementing youth activities, programs, and projects aimed at the prevention of violence and suicide among young people; and to support economic and social growth to address destabilization caused by COVID-19.

To meet their objectives, Vivan los Jóvenes has planned 14 activities within three phases of action, that include initiatives such as holding 22 departmental assemblies; delivering a certificate course for leadership and peace; delivering a certificate course for entrepreneurs; offering virtual conferences for all project beneficiaries; implement a campaign to prevent violence and suicide; and implement a campaign to prevent COVID-19. Complementary to their advocacy plan, the financial sustainability plan lays out key mechanisms to diversify funding for these and other initiatives in the future, including the mapping of nine potential new donors and the possibility of adding a minimal cost structure to the virtual conferences and entrepreneurship-related activities in order to generate income that can sustain those activities going forward.

NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The Project shared a funding opportunity for up to Q135,000 (\$17,500 USD) from the Embassy of Canada's Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI). The program is designed to support small-scale, high-impact projects in developing countries. Given that many resources have been allocated to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, the funds available from the CFLI for this year are limited. Proposed projects must be focused on responding to at least one of the priorities defined by the Government of Canada: Gender equality and empowerment of women; inclusive governance; peace and security; human dignity, including health, education and nutrition (this priority includes response to the COVID-19 pandemic); growth for all, including women's economic rights, decent work and entrepreneurship; and environment and climate change. While several CSOs expressed interest, two confirmed that they would be submitting proposals (ASORGUA and IPS) by the May 31st deadline. ASORGUA, for example, submitted a proposal to support deaf and hard of hearing people who have lost their jobs as a result of COVID-19 with food security support. The Project encouraged TOS Program CSOs to apply in order to put their developed financial sustainability plans into practice and to further diversify their funding sources. The Project has not been notified of any award decisions.

CSO MATERIAL SUPPORT

Due to restricted movement in Q2 due to COVID-19, the office donations for Vivamos Mejor, Fundación Ernesto Schneider, and Viven los Jóvenes were postponed until Q3. The three organizations received their donations in April. In the end, all 15 organizations² that "graduated" from the Transparency and Organizational Development Program received office donations in Year 5.

² Asorgua, IPS, Asindes, Lambda, Alianza Norte 6, CALAS, Jovenes contra la Violencia, FUNDAL, Educaguat, Ernesto Scheneider, Vivamos Mejor, and Viven los Jóvenes

Result 2.3 Increased Citizen Awareness and Participation in Transparency, Accountability and Democratic Processes

Activity Area 2.3.a: Implement Transparency and Open Government Outreach Strategies to Increase Citizen and Stakeholder Knowledge and Awareness of Open Government Processes at the Executive Branch

Activity 2.3.a.1 Establishment of a Network of Women for the Strategic Agenda for Women

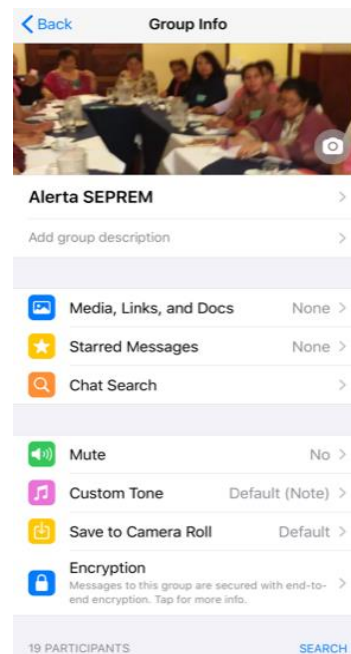
CODEFEM hosted three workshops with women's organizations on the commitments of the Strategic Agenda for Women (2020-2024) and the Open Government Partnership. The objective was to promote and strengthen the civic participation of women in both Open Government and in advocacy work. During these sessions, women from Community Development Councils (*Consejos Comunitarios de Desarrollo*, COCODES), NGOs, and representatives from indigenous organizations and local communities participated. Many participants agreed on the idea to form a coalition among themselves to lobby in Congress related for institutional mechanisms, such as Initiative 4977, to promote women's rights within the GoG. Their first step was to foundd the *Alerta SEPREM* group to coordinate and share information and events focused on the Strategic Agenda for Women 2020-2024 and the Open Government Partnership.

In Q3, the Project worked with CODEFEM to facilitate the development and signing of a letter of understanding between all members of this network, which outlines the shared purpose of the network, its vision, a plan of action, and a code of conduct. The letter was signed by all members and received by the Project on June 18, which states, "The representatives of the participating organizations...established a joint dialogue on the contents of the Strategic Agenda for Women 2020-2024, the situation of the mechanisms to advance women in Guatemala, and the Open Government Partnership in Guatemala" (Annex B). In total, the network includes 17 signatories, which represent 11 women's organizations or associations and five community leaders from Amatitlán, Villa Nueva, Villa Canales.³ The Project's investment in the Q2 workshops to strengthen women's participation will continue to have a lasting impact through the work of this network advocating for women's rights in Guatemala.

Activity 2.3.a.2. Production of Short Video Clips to Demonstrate Project Best Practices

As a component of the Project's collection of lessons learned and best practices, the Project collaborated with USAID to develop a short, animated videos to highlight how the Project contributed to self-reliance and the improvement of transparency processes in Guatemala. The videos specifically highlight the achievements of FUNDESA's Suggested Purchasing Model and its impact on cost savings for the Ministry of Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS), especially within the context of the current global health pandemic.

Once the activity was added to the Year 5 Work Plan on April 6, the Project then worked with USAID to develop and finalize the videos' language and messaging during the development process, also complying with Branding



Whatsapp group established by members of Alerta SEPREM to facilitate coordination

³Plataforma Urbana, Grupo de Mujeres Sobrevivientes sobre el Genocidio; COCODE Cerro Dorado Amatitlán; Oficina de la Mujer Dios con Nosotras; Por una Vivienda Digna; Comunidad Amatitlán; Foro Nacional de la Mujer en Villa Nueva; SITRAINSA; Colectivo Nazareth; Colectivo de Mujeres de San Miguel Petapa; and CODEFEM

and Marking requirements. USAID approved an English version of the video on April 23 and the Spanish version on May 20. The videos concisely capture and communicate key elements of the Project’s legacy, which Counterpart then shared on its social networks on May 7. FUNDESA retweeted Counterpart’s post of the English video in April. Due to sensitivities around MSPAS and COVID-19 procurement in May, USAID did not retweet the Spanish video, but FUNDESA will share it with its networks in July 2020. See Success Story section below for more information about the video. The videos will serve as resources for FUNDESA and USAID, available to be shared with the broader development community, as relevant, in the coming months.



Counterpart and FUNDESA promoted the video in English, May 2020

Activity Area 2.3.b: Support CSOs to Design Advocacy Campaigns to Advocate for Transparency and Open Government Focus in 2019 Elections

There are no new activities under this activity area. The activities were concluded prior to Year 5.

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (GESI)

In Q3, the Project facilitated the signing of a letter of understanding between women’s organizations conducting advocacy related to (see Activity 2.3.a.1). Additionally, the Project analyzed the Project’s GESI programming under the learning activity provided by the George Washington University (see MEL section below).

VI. MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING

USAID approved the Final MEL Plan Mod 3 on March 11, 2020. There are 12 active indicators for Year 5 with two report progress in Q3.

Summary of Indicators for Q3

Of all indicators to be reported in Q3, two of the eight have reported progress. Four indicators are only reported in the MEL Annual Report, as applicable:

- Indicator 1 (Impact): % change in citizens' perception of civil society's ability to influence government decision-making.
- Indicator 2 (Outcome): Proportion of CSOs surveyed reporting that they can influence government decisions at the national, regional or local level, as a result of Project interventions.
- Indicator 12 (Output): Number of organizations with improved organizational capacity per Counterpart's OD Assessment.
- Indicator 13 (Output): Number of targeted CSOs with an increased financial sustainability score.

Two indicators with targets set for Y5 have reported progress this quarter:

- Indicator 15 (Output): Number of strategic products created by target CSOs resulting from participation in organizational development interventions.
- Indicator 16 (Outcome): Number of CSO networks established.

Six indicators with targets set for Y5 did not report progress this quarter:

- Indicator 3 (Outcome): Number of transparency and/or anti-corruption policies completing at least one of each of the following stages of development as a result of USAID assistance: 1. Stakeholder consultation/public debate; 2. Drafting or revision; 3. Approval (legislative or regulator).
- Indicator 5 (DR.2.4-2) (Output): Number of mechanisms for external oversight of public resource use supported by USG assistance.
- Indicator 10 (DR.4-1) (Output): Number of USG-supported activities designed to promote or strengthen the civic participation of women.
- Indicator 11 (DR.2.4-1) (Output): Number of government officials receiving USG-supported anti-corruption training.
- Indicator 14 (DR.4.2-2) (Output): Number of CSOs receiving USG assistance engaged in advocacy interventions.
- Indicator 17 (Output): Number of USG-supported activities implemented by CSO Networks to increase their internal management and public leadership in holding government accountable.

Results and Indicator Analysis for Q3

The performance of indicators with progress on targets set for Y5 include:

Indicator 15 (Output): *Number of strategic products created by target CSOs resulting from participation in organizational development interventions*

Baseline Value	Target	Actual	Variance	Cumulative Reference
0 (2018)	25	30	+5	<p>Quarter 1: There is no reference for this indicator, as it was added and approved in the MEL Mod 3 on March 11, 2020.</p> <p>Quarter 2: A total of 27 strategic products were created by 14 CSO as a result of participating in the working sessions part of the TOS program Working Groups.</p> <p>Quarter 3: A total of 3 strategic products were created by 2 CSOs as a result of training received during the TOS program Working Groups.</p>

Since Y4, the Project has implemented the TOS Program aimed at strengthening CSO organizational capacity. In Q3, two CSOs completed a total of three strategic products (two advocacy plans and one financial sustainability plan), validated by the Project team. While these two organizations had participated in all the trainings and Working Groups required to complete the TOS Program, due to internal delays they were not able to submit their final strategic products until Q3. Lambda submitted their financial sustainability plan in Q2, but did not submit their advocacy plan until Q3. Vivan los Jóvenes submitted both completed products in Q3. The CSOs and plans are listed below:

No.	CSO	Advocacy Plan	Financial Sustainability Plan
1	Vivan los Jóvenes	1	1
2	LAMBDA	1	0
TOTAL		2	1

Indicator 16 (Outcome): Number of CSO networks established

Baseline Value	Target	Actual	Variance	Cumulative Reference
0 (2015)	0	1	+1	Quarter 1: There is no reference for this indicator. Quarter 2: There is no reference for this indicator. Quarter 3: Launch of the Network Alerta SEPREM as a result of an event hosted by CODEFEM.

The *Alerta SEPREM* group was founded as result of an event hosted by CODEFEM on January 28, focused on the Strategic Agenda for Women 2020-2024 and the Open Government. Members of *Alerta SEPREM* have joined to promote the advocacy of the “Women’s Strategic Agenda.” As a direct follow-on activity from the CODEFEM event in January, the Project and CODEFEM facilitated the signing of a letter of cooperation between all participating organizations in the network. CSOs who are members of *Alerta SEPREM* includes:

1. VN – Plataforma Urbana
2. Grupo de Mujeres Sobrevivientes sobre el Genocidio
3. Presidenta del COCODE cerro dorado Amatitlán
4. Comunidad Amatitlán
5. Oficina de la Mujer Dios con Nosotras, Villa Nueva
6. Ciudad Quetzal, San Juan Sacatepéquez – Por una vivienda digna
7. Foro Nacional de la Mujer en Villa Nueva
8. SITRAINSA
9. Colectivo Nazareth - Ciudad Peronia, Villa Nueva
10. Colectivo de mujeres de San Miguel Petapa
11. CODEFEM

TraiNet

No trainings were implemented this quarter nor uploaded to TraiNet.

Capturing Project Learnings

Field research conducted by US university students

The Project leveraged a partnership with masters level students from George Washington University during Q1 to collect and synthesize best practices, lessons learned, and recommendations during a field visit planned for Q2, drawing upon the insight of Project staff and key government and civil society partners.

The students’ trip to Guatemala, which was scheduled for March 16-20, to conduct interviews and focus groups was cancelled due to the global pandemic. The activity design was adapted: the Project hosted three

days of 18 remote phone interviews with key GoG and CSO partners (March 19, 25, and 26), administered a GoG informant survey to stakeholders who were not interviewed, and added questions to the Project's annual CSO survey. The researchers delivered their final report to the Project in early Q3, and it was submitted to USAID for approval on May 26 (approval pending).

The key findings highlighted the Project's strengths as a recognized convening power with trust among partners. The Project team is proud of these findings, considering the shift in perspective of many partners over the life of the Project. The report also commended the Project's adaptive management demonstrated in recent years, especially given the Project's unique position working with the government on sensitive issues (ex. political changes, OGP changes, etc.). The report also mentioned the strength of the technical assistance provided to both government and civil society.

Once approval is confirmed, the Project intends to share the report with all government and civil society partners that participated in the research process in order to be transparent of the findings and to close the feedback loop, ensuring key partners have the lessons learned and recommendations for future programing. The Project will incorporate the report's analysis into the Final Report.

More information related to the Project's adaptive learning in the best practices, success stories, challenges, and lessons learned are in section XI.

VII. DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE CLEARINGHOUSE (DEC)

As result of the internal, detailed audit of the documents uploaded in the DEC over the life of the Project, 100 documents were identified and reviewed for upload in Q3, including deliverables from CSO grantees and the Project's quarterly and annual technical reports that have received technical concurrence from over the life of the project. The Project has pending to upload Q2, Q3 report which will be uploaded upon approval of the submissions. The Project's final technical report will be uploaded per the agreement terms.

VIII. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Departure of Team Members

At the start of Q3, the only full-time Project team member was the Acting Chief of Party supporting the completion of programmatic deliverables and administrative tasks. All other remaining team members were demobilized at the end of Q2. In April, the Project reengaged the four team members as short-term consultants for very specific tasks and deliverables for closeout and reporting.

Financial and Administration

During the last quarter, the team conducted finance and administrative tasks towards closing Project operations in Guatemala City. This included finalizing pending payments, concluding the disposition of supplies and materials in the project's inventory, transferring financial and other relevant files to Counterpart's legal representative in country to maintain on file as required by law.

Closeout Meeting with USAID

On May 27, the Project and USAID representatives held a closeout. The meeting started with the expression of gratitude for the collaboration between the Project, Counterpart, and USAID team members on the call, many of whom had been with the Project for years and had seen it weather many challenging chapters. There was consensus expressed that the Project is ending on a high note, and that even more could have been accomplished in Year 5 with the original obligation maintained. During the meeting, the Project team recapped pending final programming actions, the status of pending administrative requests from USAID, administrative closeout, final deliverables, and the upcoming submission of the George Washington University Final Report.

Speaking about the Project's main programmatic accomplishments, the Project team expressed the realization that the Project's indicators do not fully reflect the Project's results. While many successes are shown through the indicators, the story of the Project is much greater than the sum of the indicators. The Project team intends for the Final Report to USAID to tell the full story and go beyond the indicators to highlight the successes, best practices, and lessons learned of the Project's work with government and civil society. USAID recognized that the Project faced contextual and administrative challenges that impacted how it operated. The civil society landscape continues to be complex and will continue as such in Guatemala, and their financial sustainability remains a challenge. CSOs have a voice with government but they still need a lot to influence the government. While the Project made an impact on a small pool of organizations, increasing their capacity, but it is important to recognize the wider context and to acknowledge the limitations the Project had uniting the voice of civil society, especially outside of Guatemala City. Many of the CSOs that had worked very closely with the Project have existed for decades.

Yet the work related to OGP served as a marked turning point, advancing transparency and accountability in the country. The Project helped to evaluate the visibility of the initiative and create momentum for interest in both government and civil society participation in OGP. USAID encouraged the Project team to consider the successes and advances the Project has contributed, but to also recognize the work that still needs to be done. As the Project develops the Final Report, USAID suggested consideration of the original intention of the Project and what was accomplished to achieve sustained change. The Project should take stock of all that was achieved within the complex environment, without losing sight of what was not accomplished and why.

IX. COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION WITH OTHER USAID PROJECTS

Security and Justice Sector Reform Project. In Q2, USAID’s Democracy and Governance Office made introductions between the Project and senior leadership from USAID’s Security and Justice Sector Reform Project (SJSRP), implemented by Checchi. The SJSRP is working closely with the Presidential Commission against Corruption (CAC), therefore the coordination between the Project and SJSRP can also advance coordination between GAE and CAC. A follow-up meeting had been delayed due to COVID-19 and issues relating to the administrative start-up of the CAC, yet on May 28, the SJSRP successfully programmed a meeting with the new Executive Director of the Commission against Corruption. See Activity 1.1.c.1 for more information.

Nexos Locales. In Q1, the Project successfully transferred two Project vehicles to the USAID Nexos Locales project, implemented by DAI. In Q3, the Project finalized the last remaining legal paperwork, securing the affidavit fully executed by leadership from both Projects. The Project shared a copy of the affidavit with USAID on June 30 for its records.

X. ACHIEVEMENTS FOR YEAR 5, QUARTER3

Key Results and Achievements for Objective 1

Closeout Meetings with Key Government Partners. The Project team met with leadership from the Presidential Commission for Open and Electronic Government and the Presidential Commission against Corruption in Q3 to formally close the Project's collaboration with both institutions. The meetings recapped key highlights of the Project's support and mutual accomplishments and shared insights on the future of both institutions after the life of the Project. To ensure continued benefit from resources developed with the Project's support, the Project team shared the *Open Government Toolkit* with both institutions so that the government officials would have key OGP documents, reports, and evaluations easily accessible for future reference.

Manual shared with OGP Support Unit. In direct response to a request from the OGP Support Unit during their February 2020 visit to Guatemala, in Q3, the Project shared the approved Manual for Participation and Governance Mechanisms of the Open Government Partnership in Guatemala with them. The OGP Support Unit plans to share this resource with all OGP member states in Latin America, so that they can use the Manual as a guide and reference document in developing or shaping similar Manuals in their own countries for the purpose of establishing greater clarity on the roles and responsibility of government and civil society delegates that participate in the OGP initiative.

Key Results and Achievements for Objective 2

Sustained Benefit to CSOs in the TOS Program. While the Transparency and Organizational Strengthening (TOS) Program finalized in February 2020, CSOs continued to benefit from the Project's support in Q3. While Vivan los Jóvenes and Lambda had both completed all the training and working group requirements to complete the Transparency and Organizational Strengthening (TOS) Program in Q2, both organizations had not yet submitted their final strategic products developed during the TOS Program. Vivan los Jóvenes submitted both completed products in Q3 and Lambda submitted their pending advocacy plan. The Project hopes that these strategic products serve as valuable resources for both organizations as they continue to do advocacy work and seek funding for their programming. Additionally, the Project shared a funding opportunity for up to Q135,000 (\$17,500 USD) from the Embassy of Canada's Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI). Two CSO partners (ASORGUA and IPS) confirmed that they would be submitting proposals, which may further diversify their funding sources. Lastly, due to restricted movement in Q2 due to COVID-19, the office donations for Vivamos Mejor, Fundación Ernesto Schneider, and Viven los Jóvenes were completed in Q3.

Creation of women's network. Building on programming with CODEFEM in Q2, in Q3, the Project worked with CODEFEM to facilitate the development and signing of a letter of understanding between all members of this network, which outlines the shared purpose of the network, its vision, a plan of action, and a code of conduct. The letter was signed by all members and received by the Project on June 18, which states, "*The representatives of the participating organizations...established a joint dialogue on the contents of the Strategic Agenda for Women 2020-2024, the situation of the mechanisms to advance women in Guatemala, and the Open Government Partnership in Guatemala.*" In total, the network includes 17 signatories, which represent 11 women's organizations or associations and five community leaders from Amatitlán, Villa Nueva, Villa Canales.⁴ The Project's investment in the Q2 workshops to strengthen women's participation will continue to have a lasting

⁴Plataforma Urbana, Grupo de Mujeres Sobrevivientes sobre el Genocidio; COCODE Cerro Dorado Amatitlán; Oficina de la Mujer Dios con Nosotras; Por una Vivienda Digna; Comunidad Amatitlán; Foro Nacional de la Mujer en Villa Nueva; SITRAINSA; Colectivo Nazareth; Colectivo de Mujeres de San Miguel Petapa; and CODEFEM

impact through the work of this network advocating for women's rights in Guatemala, specifically related to the Strategic Agenda for Women 2020-2024 and the Open Government Partnership.

Publication of FUNDESA Video. The Project collaborated with USAID to develop a short, animated video clips to highlight the achievements of FUNDESA's Suggested Purchasing Model and its impact on cost savings for the Ministry of Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS), especially within the context of the current global health pandemic. The videos concisely capture and communicate key elements of the Project's legacy, which Counterpart and FUNDESA shared on their social networks in Q3. The videos will serve as resources for FUNDESA and USAID, available to be shared with the broader development community, as relevant, in the coming months.

XI. BEST PRACTICES, SUCCESS STORIES, CHALLENGES, AND LESSONS LEARNED

Best Practices in Leveraging transparency capacity and partnerships for COVID-19 response

Counterpart International and FUNDESA recognized the valuable expertise their partnership holds in regard to transparency in procurement and inventory management, niche areas in high demand in the current crisis of COVID-19. To leverage this partnership, skills, previous investments under the project, and relationships with the Ministry of Health and Social Assistance (MSPAS) and other key government stakeholders, Counterpart and FUNDESA offered recommendations to USAID to further improve efficiency and transparency in the use of public health resources for COVID-19 response. Additionally, in June, Counterpart, FUNDESA, and CIIDH responded to a funding opportunity from the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL). The goal of the proposed activities would be to improve transparency in COVID-19 government procurement and increase capacity of civil society and media to monitor and advocate for government accountability in the response and recovery of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through both of these opportunities, Counterpart and local CSO partners would have the ability to build upon the progress made under Participación Cívica to extend the work in transparency and advocacy to directly address gaps in PPE availability and instances of over-pricing, catching problems before they arise and saving money within the health system. Ultimately, Counterpart and FUNDESA aim to contribute to an efficient and effective emergency response, equipping the GoG with the urgent tools needed to save human life.

Success Stories

On May 7, the Project published an English video highlighting the results from FUNDESA's grant to rollout the Suggested Purchasing Model (SPM) nationally, resulting in significant financial savings for the MSPAS. [Click here](#) for a link to watch the two-minute video in English and [click here](#) to watch it in Spanish.⁵⁶ The full approved script in English is shared below.

Improving Transparency and Accountability in Guatemala's Health System

USAID Participación Cívica partnered with the civil society organization FUNDESA to improve transparency and efficiency within the national health system in Guatemala.

A lack of accountability and transparency in medical supply purchasing led to inefficient inventory management by public hospitals. This resulted in wasted money and medical resources, putting patients at risk and leaving Guatemala ill equipped to respond to public health emergencies. The development of the Suggested Purchasing Model offered a solution.

This online system uses standardized inventory codes and integrates data uploaded by hospitals. The system predicts the need for medicine and medical supplies based on demand, helping hospitals to more accurately make purchases.

USAID funded the development and launch of the Suggested Purchasing Model, working with FUNDESA to train government and hospital staff, rolling out the system in all 45 national public hospitals.

Through accountability and transparency in medical supply purchasing, the Suggested



Image of the video posted on Counterpart's website

⁵<https://www.counterpart.org/story/improving-transparency-and-accountability-in-guatemalas-health-system-usaid-participacion-civica/>

⁶<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZmUvDovgTU&feature=youtu.be>

Purchasing Model has saved Guatemala's health system \$32.5 million over three years and decreased the length of hospital stays for patients by 25%, ensuring medicine is available when needed. Going forward, this sustainable system is estimated to save an additional \$13 million every year.

Through this transparent, efficient process for medical inventory management, the Government now reinvests these savings back into Guatemala to address urgent healthcare priorities as they arise.

Challenges

OGP Delays due to COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every aspect of life in Guatemala, including government-led processes. Guatemala's current 4th OGP National Action Plan (2018-2020) was scheduled to conclude in August 2020. The Project, during Q2, had support GAE and the OGP POC to begin activities to initiate the co-creation process for the 5th OGP NAP, a process that would have run parallel to the completion of the 4th OGP NAP, enabling the launch of the 5th OGP NAP in September 2020. However, restrictions to movement and the ripple effect of the pandemic across Guatemalan society has resulted in delays to both the implementation and co-creation processes. Additionally, during Q3, GAE leadership informed the Project that the OGP Support Unit had granted Guatemala additional time for the implementation of the 4th OGP NAP, possibly extending through December 2020. Additionally, due to COVID-19, the co-creation process for the 5th OGP NAP may not be re-started until early 2021. The OGP POC also shared that Guatemala may be able to propose that the 5th OGP NAP has a longer timeframe than the standard two-year plan, instead extending the duration of the Giammattei Administration through 2023. During the COVID-19 emergency, the Technical Committee has continued to meet regularly using virtual platforms, which demonstrates the commitment of leaders from both government and civil society to the initiative. Despite these delays and the interruption in momentum from the multitude of OGP-focused activities implemented by the Project with GAE in Q2, the Project team remains confident that the capacity and resources instilled in GAE and the OGP Roundtable over the course of the Project, and especially in Year 5, will continue to benefit OGP in Guatemala throughout the implementation of the 4th OGP NAP and during the co-creation of the 5th OGP NAP, whenever that process may resume.

Lessons Learned

Relationships at the heart of effective transparency programming

True to Counterpart's mission of working in true and meaningful partnership with partners around the world, Participación Cívica serves as a strong case study for how mutual trust and collaboration can be the most valuable assets that a project can cultivate. In earlier years of the Project, tensions had escalated with key government and civil society partners, due to a myriad of internal and external factors. No matter the reasons, Counterpart recognized that the Project would not be able to move forward positively and make the anticipated impact without investing time and energy into improving the inter-institutional and inter-personal relationships between the Project and key stakeholders, including USAID. In Q3, the fruits of that investment are apparent. Despite funding cuts in Year 4 and the COVID-19 pandemic in Year 5, throughout the Project's closing conversations and communications with key GoG and CSO partners, a common theme kept arising: a wish that the Project could continue. The Project has demonstrated how demonstrating collaboration and respect can translate into good will and trust with partners, ultimately resulting in outcomes. Especially in a sector rife with obscurity and deceit, the Project team has learned that this cultivated trust between stakeholders is the most critical component of effective transparency programming.

XII. PROJECT EXPENDITURES

A total of \$12,199,797.79 has been reported as of June 30, 2020, in the SF-425 submitted to USAID with this technical quarterly report. This amount represents 99.74% of the obligated program budget of \$12,231,506.

Expenses reported under subgrants to date total \$1,983,077 and \$6,154 for the period of April - June 2020. Expenses reported under Rapid Response Fund to date are \$289,365, and \$0 for the quarter ending in June 2020.