

SCS Honduras: *ComunicAcción Ciudadana*

Overview

ComunicAcción Ciudadana (2018 – 2022, \$9.962 million) is a USAID/Honduras-funded, four-year initiative to enhance the capacity of civil society to influence government decision-making on anticorruption and transparency. To achieve this, the project works closely with both formal and informal civil society organizations (CSOs), media institutions, media organizations, and the Government of Honduras (GOH) to promote coordination and collaboration to improve accountability.

Honduras Context

According to figures maintained by the Mission to Support the Fight Against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH), at least 2% of the country's GDP has been stolen by public officials. Growing awareness of corruption, including public reports of the involvement of high-level political figures, has put pressure on the government to demonstrate progress on combating corruption and improving transparency.

Major Program Components

Constructive citizen participation increased through:

- Grants to CSOs and media organizations to mobilize national-level anti-corruption efforts
- Fostering the development of innovative ICT solutions that promote citizen involvement in advocacy and monitor government transparency
- Improving the enabling environment through targeted technical assistance and the formation of a coalition of CSOs, media and GOH champions to identify civil society constraints and advocate for enabling environment reforms

Civil society infrastructure increased by:

- Training CSOs on social accountability tools for citizen oversight, social auditing, and monitoring service provision
- Developing the capacity of alternative media organizations that report on corruption through grants and trainings
- Building the capacity for investigative journalism
- Convening peer-to-peer learning forums on various topics related to fighting corruption and promoting transparency

Evidence-based advocacy strengthened through:

- Working with CSOs to develop new tools that monitor the progress of the government on international transparency and anticorruption commitments
- Convening forums to promote collaboration and connection between CSOs, media, and GOH champions
- Grants to CSOs that promote engagement with GOH allies to increase transparency and reduce corruption

Achievements

- **Trained 21 CSO representatives and 34 public officials** on freedom of association and global standards on Anti-Money Laundering-Counter-Terrorism Financing (AML-CTF) regulations of non-profit organizations
- Organized the **Human Rights and Corruption Panel** and supported a launch event for an [online open data search tool](#) on the private sector attended by civil society representatives, international donors, and GOH officials
- **Participating in and supporting the Honduras Digital Challenge**, a national, ICT-based competition to develop new tools and applications related to transparency and accountability, coordinated by the largest bank in Honduras – *Banco Atlántida*
- Provided technical assistance to the Office of Legislative Management in the National Congress on international standards and guides for action from the Global Initiative of the Open Government Partnership and best practices to transform Honduras into a more open state
- **Trained GOH personnel on organizational development methodologies** to support CSOs and better understand the sector's needs. Both directors from the Directorate for the Promotion of CSOs' Activities (DIREF) and the Directorate for Registration and Assistance for Civil Associations (DIRSAC) and members of their staff attended a five-day workshop on organizational development and ways to act as an effective resource for CSOs throughout the country

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