



**UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION AND STABILIZATION
OFFICE OF TRANSITION INITIATIVES**

Countries: Honduras
Program: Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI)/Honduras
Funding: \$18,080,000 in Transition Initiative (TI) Funds; \$3,000,000 in Complex Crises Funds (CCF)
TI Report Start Date: May 18, 2021
TI Report End Date: July 17, 2024
Program Areas: Gender-Based Violence
Government Transparency

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is submitting this report pursuant to the Transition Initiatives (TI) account contained in the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-47, Division F), which directs USAID to “submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations at least 5 days prior to....terminating a, program of assistance” when using TI funds.

Accordingly, USAID is submitting this report notifying Congress of its intention to end on time and per its contractual timeline the Bureau for Conflict Prevention and Stabilization’s Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) program in Honduras as part of the Central American Regional Initiative.

Regional Context and Background:

Honduras was one of three OTI country programs launched in May 2021 in support of the Administration’s Root Causes Strategy (RCS), which seeks to curb irregular migration from Central America to the United States. The OTI Honduras program aimed to strengthen community resilience to mitigate the root causes of irregular migration in marginalized communities characterized by historically elevated levels of irregular migration. After close coordination with the USAID Mission in Honduras, and in alignment with Pillars II and IV of the RCS, the program established two context-driven objectives: **(1) increase community agency to improve transparency, inclusivity, and quality of state, municipal, and community service providers; and (2) increase community recognition of gender-based violence (GBV).** The program identified these objectives as pivotal “push factors” within marginalized communities characterized by historically elevated levels of irregular migration.

Achievements and Illustrative Activities Implemented by the CPS/OTI Honduras Program:

Since May 2021, OTI implemented 174 activities in support of more than 100 local partners to strengthen accountability and transparency within local communities, enhance systems to prevent and respond to GBV, and equip and train local community development organizations, including youth and women’s networks. Examples of these activities include:



- OTI collaborated with the Network of Women’s Shelter Houses, which provides services to approximately 120 women and 165 children each year, to develop a series of trainings to standardize safe shelter operations for GBV survivors and their families using the Shelter Houses Model. OTI supported the San Pedro Sula Municipality’s campaign to re-open its only Shelter House, which closed over a year earlier. The Shelter House is a key part of the local response to GBV as it links survivors with government resources while keeping them close to their support networks. Spaces like these are critical in a country where women suffer the highest rates of gender-based violence in the Western Hemisphere.
- OTI supported a network of six community health centers, rehabilitating spaces for specialized women’s care, and offering GBV survivors dedicated, secure, and private care rooms. These activities also provided training to staff at all levels with a standardized outreach, care, and screening protocol, as well as the provision of family care spaces with playgrounds for children. These centers serve 21 communities and offer services to more than 15,000 monthly patients across Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula. The prevalence of GBV in Honduras and its role as a driver of irregular migration makes increasing networks and access to services for survivors a critical effort under the RCS.
- OTI partnered with the Institute for Public Access to Information and the Universidad José Cecilio del Valle to host civic engagement, public information, and transparency training for over 50 community leaders in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula. Participants identified 42 initiatives of public institutions for a social audit and developed a report with recommendations for public accountability. Participants received certification as Community Social Auditors. As a result, six Government Secretaries, including Public Works and Transportation, Labor, and Environment, have engaged in dialogues and project building with these communities, furthering the RCS Pillar II of combating corruption, strengthening democratic governance, and advancing the rule of law.
- OTI trained 2,380 community members including 1,275 women through transparency-related activities. In addition, the program engaged 5,645 students and 175 young leaders in awareness-raising and training activities through non-traditional methodologies and tools on transparency, anti-corruption, and ethics. The RCS posits that a government that better serves all citizens will deter migration by helping vitalize economies, safeguard human rights, and advance civilian security. OTI’s work advanced this goal by empowering independent audits and oversight institutions and promoting transparency in government processes.

Still a priority for the Administration, the RCS addresses long-term development challenges, and its five pillars are covered by ongoing Mission programming as the OTI program nears closure. As the OTI program phases out, the USAID Mission will continue supporting several of OTI’s local partners and NGOs OTI identified, including through a direct localization award on GBV, leveraging learning from OTI’s programming. New Mission awards in governance, transparency, anti-corruption, and GBV were introduced in fiscal year (FY) 2023 and FY 2024.