FROM CONSULTATION TO PARTICIPATION

CIVICUS Civil Society Index Report
For Honduras

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CEHPRODEC
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Foreword

Five years ago the “Centro Hondureño de Promoción para el Desarrollo Comunitario”, CEHPRODEC, (Honduras Center for the Promotion of Community Development) found the opportunity to conduct research on the state of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Honduras. We were not sure whether to get involved in such a profound and comprehensive subject, given the fact that we were exclusively working on a food security project for the most impoverished people in the country, a program we are still working on today.

Lack of information on civil society was another reason why our decision to conduct any research was filled with uncertainty. However several people and institutions connected to international cooperating agencies who had vast experience in the area of civil society encouraged us to get involved in the first screening (mapping out) of CSOs in Honduras. Over a four year period we studied nationally and in six departments the specific situations of CSOs working in various regions of the country.

During the CSO screening, we were able to publish two documents: the first, of national scope, “Mapeo y Caracterización de la Sociedad Civil en Honduras” (Honduras Civil Society Screening and Profile); the second, of regional scope, a screening of the Departamento de Valle. The intention was to take an accurate inventory of all types and levels of CSOs in this region; this document was called “Mapeo y Caracterizacion de la Sociedad Civil de Valle” (Screening and Profile of the Valle Civil Society).

Preliminary results of the above efforts showed that the complexity of the civil society sector was greater than that of the private sector and of the government.

Having to our disposal a methodology such as that offered by the CIVICUS CSI allowed us to get a better reading of civil society in Honduras, and to appropriately diagnose its status. The report’s findings have already received positive comments, as well as some criticism. However there is no doubt that it will inevitably become a reference source for anyone interested in carrying out research regarding ways to strengthen civil society in Honduras.

José Luis Espinoza Meza
Director, CEHPRODEC
OCN/ISC-H
Acknowledgements

It is quite difficult to attempt to express our gratitude to every person who participated in the development of the first structured study of Honduras´ Civil Society. To do so entails the risk of leaving out many people who, even unknowingly, have contributed to this effort. Nonetheless and at the risk of doing just that, we will try to mention the men and women who have supported and participated in the effort to make the Civil Society Index become a reality.

Miguel Manzi, International Development Bank (IDB) is responsible for making CEHPRODEC aware of the fact that the study of civil society was a field of action, which is today a fundamental part of its mission. Anabel Cruz, Uruguay´s Instituto de Comunicación y Desarrollo (ICD), assisted us with the methodology for the first screening of Honduras´ civil society and encouraged us to continue doing research on this sector. Anabel invited us to begin the project using the Civil Society Index (CSI) and the CIVICUS methodology.

By providing us with significant financial support, Sonia Cano, Coordinator of the Honduras Oxfam International program, was a key player in the execution of the CSI process. Even though we sought other financial resources, only Oxfam International provided us with financial support. Maritza Gallardo y Olga Rodriguez of Oxfam showed immense patience during the preparation of reports and when processing our requests for resources to carry out the project. The Universidad Pedagógica Nacional permitted us to use their facilities for the CSI National Workshop.

Pedro Landa, Caritas Arquidiocesana y José Martínez, CEHPRODEC, worked with dedication researching secondary data sources related to the environment dimension. Bernas Hernández worked heartily on the media review, Odalys Coello coordinated the efforts of the team researching Corporate Social Responsibility and Jesús Garza assisted us during all the workshops on Regional Stakeholder Consultations.

Jaime Espinoza was the first person to master the CIVICUS methodology and coordinated all preliminary research variations, as well as the stakeholders´ workshops, among other responsibilities. Without his participation this work would not yet be finished.

Marco Valle, whose leadership was crucial to the functioning of all information technology systems, not only transmitted information to CIVICUS, but he adapted many programs for the National Index Team (NIT) in order to keep an adequate and fluent data management process.

There were 110 participants in the index workshops and we shared and exchanged information with them for at least three days, attempting to define the status of civil society at the local and national levels and to identify proper paths to strengthen it in the future. Their names are listed as an annex to this report.
We had several strategic partners in the various regions where the work was carried out. Thus, we must underscore the contribution made by Adán Rivera in Comayagua and José Cruz Portillo in Santa Rosa de Copán.

Diacuy Mezquita, director of the OSC ECOLOGICA, contributed with her valuable efforts in the Department of Comayagua, where the Regional Stakeholder Consultation had also been implemented. Lenin Martínez, Caritas de Choluteca, who supported us with guidance on the community surveys in that area.

Home surveys were conducted with the assistance of young and enthusiastic people such as Omar Antonio Miranda, Javier Valenzuela, Cintia Estrada Cruz, Martha Alicia Rodríguez, Annie Espinoza, Francisco Alexander Martínez and Lourdes Espinoza.

The twenty members of the National Advisory Group (NAG) provided support alternating between two NAG meetings, as well as during the CSI National Workshop. All are mentioned in an annex to this report.

In addition to the above mentioned people, we must express our gratitude to all those who stayed with us throughout the process: Rosario Roiz, Colectivo de Mujeres Contra la Violencia, Jesús Garza -FIAN, Ronald Barahona, Consejo Hondureño de la Empresa Privada COHEP, Roque Rivera Fundación Popol Nah Tum and journalist Sandra Maribel Sánchez.

A support team operated “in the shadows”. This team was made of Rafael Rodriguez, Daysi Martínez, Franklin Maradiaga, Marco Tulio Padilla, Marco Perdomo, Karla Rodríguez, Jorge Cruz and Hermes López, all of whom are CEHPRODEC members.

There were 585 people who opened their homes to us and devoted at least thirty minutes of their time to fill out the community survey. All these Honduran urban and rural sector people gave shape, with their input, to the results obtained by the CSI in Honduras.

Janine Schall-Emden, Amaya Algarra, Mahi Khallaf and Finn Heinrich, all members of the CIVICUS team in South Africa, have been guiding us through observations, comments and guidelines regarding the best ways to implement the project.

To all of the above mentioned people and to those whom we have not mentioned,

MANY THANKS!
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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASJ</td>
<td>Asociación por una Sociedad más Justa (Association for a More Just Society)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAFTA</td>
<td>Central American Free Trade Agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDM</td>
<td>Centro de Derechos de Mujeres (Center for Women’s Rights)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEHPRODE</td>
<td>Centro Hondureño de Promoción para el Desarrollo Comunitario (Honduran Center for the Promotion of Community Development)</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Centro de Estudios de la Mujer Hondureña (Center for the Study of Honduran Women)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIPRODEH</td>
<td>Centro de Investigación y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos En Honduras (Center for Research and Promotion of Human Rights in Honduras)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIVICUS</td>
<td>CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-LIBRE</td>
<td>Comité para la Libre Expresión (Committee on the Freedom of Expression)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CODEH</td>
<td>Comité para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos en Honduras (Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Honduras)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CODEMH</td>
<td>Colectiva de la Mujer Hondureña (Association for Honduran Women)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COFADEH</td>
<td>Comité de Familiares de Detenidos y Desaparecidos de Honduras (Committee of Relatives of Detained and Missing People in Honduras)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSI</td>
<td>Civil Society Index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSJ</td>
<td>Corte Suprema de Justicia (Supreme Court)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organisations</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSR</td>
<td>Corporate Social Responsibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC</td>
<td>Partido Democracia Cristiana (Christian Democracy Party)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEI</td>
<td>Dirección Ejecutiva de Fomento a la Minería (Mining Sector Executive Directorate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECLAC</td>
<td>Economic Commission for Latin America &amp; the Caribbean</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEREMA</td>
<td>Fundación para la Educación Ricardo Ernesto Maduro Andrews (Ricardo Ernesto Maduro Andrews Educatuional Foundation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FFD</td>
<td>Foro de Fortalecimiento a la Democracia (Democracy Strengthening Forum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FHIS</td>
<td>Fondo Hondureño de Inversión Social (Honduran Social Investment Fund)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FONAC</td>
<td>Foro Nacional de Convergencia (National Convergence Forum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FONAPRIVI</td>
<td>Fondo Nacional para la Producción y la Vivienda (National Fund for Production and Housing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOPRIDEH</td>
<td>Federación de Organizaciones para el Desarrollo de Honduras Honduran Federation of Development Organisations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTA</td>
<td>Free Trade Agreements</td>
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<tr>
<td>FTAA</td>
<td>Free Trade Area for the Americas</td>
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<tr>
<td>FUNDARHS</td>
<td>Fundación Hondureña de Responsabilidad Social Empresarial (Honduran Corporate Social Responsibility Foundation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
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<tr>
<td>GNP</td>
<td>Gross Nacional Product</td>
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<tr>
<td>HDI</td>
<td>Human Development Index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIPC-2</td>
<td>Highly Indebted Poor Countries</td>
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IADB  Interamerican Development Bank  
ILO  Internacional Labour Organisation  
IMF  Internacionl Monetary Fund  
LEOP  Ley Electoral y de las Organizaciones Políticas (Electoral and Political Organisations Law)  
MCD  Movimiento Cívico para la Democracia (Civic Movement for Democracy)  
MINOSA  Minerales de Occidente S.A. (Western Minerals, Inc.)  
NAG  Nacional Advisory Group  
NGOs  Non-Governmental Organisations  
NIT  Nacional Index Team  
OAS  Organisation of American States  
PDO  Private Development Organisations  
PFDO  Private Financial Development Organisations  
PINU  Partido Innovación y Unidad (Innovation and Unity Party)  
PL  Partido Liberal (Liberal Party)  
PRGF  Poverty Reduction Growth Facility  
PRICPMAH  Primer Colegio Profesional de Maestros de Honduras (Honduras First Professional Teachers College)  
PRS  Poverty Reduction Strategy  
RDS-HN  Red de Desarrollo Sostenible – Honduras (Honduran Sustainable Development Network)  
RSC  Regional Stakeholder Consultations  
SIAFI  Sistema Integrado de Administración Financiera (Integral Financial Administration System)  
SIDA  Swedich International Development Agency  
SPS  San Pedro Sula; Honduras’ Industrial Capital  
TSE  Tribunal Supremo Electoral (Supreme Electoral Tribunal)  
UD  Partido Unificación Democrática (Democratic Unification Party)  
UNDP  United Nations Development Program  
UNICEF  United Nations Children Educational Fund  
WVS  World Values Survey
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From November 2004 through March 2006 the Centro Hondureño de Promoción para el Desarrollo Comunitario (CEHPRODEC) carried out strenuous research work in their attempt to diagnose the status of civil society. Many hours were devoted to this research effort, which included the gathering of existing bibliography, carrying out focus group consultations, interviews, community surveys and ice-breaking workshops seeking input and media reviews. We did this to become familiar with Honduras’ civil society, its structure, values and impact, as well as to understand the scenario within which it exists and operates.

Table 1: The Honduras civil society Diamond

The figure used to measure the status of civil society is a diamond. The diamond reveals that Honduras’ civil society is weak, and exists and operates in a scarcely adequate scenario. In spite of this, civil society practices and promotes positive values in a moderate fashion; its activities are strong and varied, but have only limited to moderate impact.

The Civil Society Index process made us explore the concept and define the peculiarities of Honduras’ civil society and, consequently, identify its most evident weaknesses and strengths. It also allowed us to identify the greatest challenges that lay ahead, in order to attain in the midterm a strengthened civil society.
The most outstanding findings are discussed under each of the dimensions studied, based on the analysis of 74 indicators. Such findings are as follows:

**Structure.** The civil society structure is weak and the main evidence of such weakness can be found in the limited depth of citizen engagement in organisations, and in the exclusion that some people experience, especially when considering leading roles in CSOs; in the lack of a meaningful functional structure to support first level CSOs and in the lack of adequate resources necessary to meet their goals.

Despite the above, not everything is negative in the civil society structure, in the relationships among actors (CSOs), in the diversity of actors or in the breadth of citizen participation.

**Environment.** Honduras’ civil society exists and operates in a scenario that is barely adequate. The most visible signs of this adverse environment are its relationships with the private sector, the political and economic context and basic liberties. Considering these limitations, there are some positive factors present in this scenario, which have made the environment assessment less negative. It is noteworthy for instance that the working relationship with the past three administrations in charge has seen significant improvement with regards to the legal environment and socio-cultural context, among others.

**Values.** The interpretation of scores suggests that the best quality of Honduras’ civil society resides in the practice and promotion of its values. Tolerance, non-violence and environmental sustainability are values that the civil society practices and promotes beyond averages found by this study. There is no doubt that the value most practiced and promoted by CSOs is the fight against poverty. Some other values assessed continue being a challenge for civil society. These are: gender equity, internal democracy and above all, transparency.

**Impact.** According to the assessment made by this study, CSOs impact is limited to moderate. The lack of significant impact is fundamentally due to CSOs little or no success in making the government and the private sector accountable, and also due to their poor influence on national politics. This scenario is somewhat balanced by the relative success that civil society has had in its actions regarding citizen empowerment, its direct response to social needs and in actions related to the well-being of the community.

This study was guided by research-action criteria. The expectations of those actors involved in it were based on the profile of civil society at large and on its diversity, as well as on the actors ability to study and share these findings, seeking paths to overcome their weaknesses and to sustain the strengths identified.

In order to have a joint and comprehensive vision of the country, it is the responsibility of the private sector and the government itself to detect in this or any other study paths to achieve greater involvement with civil society.

Going beyond their own agendas, international donors, whether permanent or temporary, may be able to support the efforts to articulate the civil society sector from within, but they
may also use their own resources and experience for better participation by the three sectors to help Honduras achieve sustained and equitable development.
INTRODUCTION

This report is the result of a study of Honduras’ civil society called Civil Society Index (CSI). This research-action oriented project was implemented with the support of the methodology provided by The World Alliance for Citizen Participation (CIVICUS) and the financial support of Oxfam International.

Currently, 54 countries participate in the CSI, which is being implemented in each country by a National Coordinating Organisation. In Honduras this responsibility fell on the hands of the Centro Hondureño de Promoción para el Desarrollo Comunitario CEHPRODEC, supported by a team of twenty citizens from civil society, the private sector and international cooperating agencies.

Chapter I of this report describes the approach and methodology used by the CSI, as well as the conceptual framework supporting the research project.

Chapter II has two sections: the first describes the peculiarities of Honduras’ civil society; the second reports on the process used to define civil society as the basic component of the research.

Chapter III includes the main body of the study, which discusses the results obtained under the four dimensions: Structure, Environment, Values and Impact, and the 25 sub-dimensions and 74 indicators. Each of the indicators has a rationale for the findings, and is preceded by a score, which can be found at the beginning of each sub-dimension.

Chapter IV presents a table related to the main findings, strengths and weaknesses of civil society at large. These factors are described within each dimension.

Chapers V and VI are devoted to conclusions and recommendations. The report concludes with a section including annexes to support the main body of the study.

For CEHPRODEC, the entire CSI has been a satisfying experience and an ongoing learning experience regarding the exact nature of civil society actors in Honduras. Organized citizens’ achievements, plans and hopes placed us as a living part of the project and helped us understand civil society objectively. Today, this belongs to all of Honduras’ citizens.
I CIVIL SOCIETY INDEX PROJECT APPROACH

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The idea of a Civil Society Index originated in 1997, when CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, published the *New Civic Atlas* which included civil society profiles of 60 countries worldwide (CIVICUS, 1997). To improve comparability and quality of the data contained in the New Civic Atlas, CIVICUS decided to develop a precision tool to evaluate civil society, namely the Civil Society Index (Heinrich/Naidoo 2001; Holloway 2001). In 1999, Helmut Anheier, Director of the Centre for Civil Society at the London School of Economics in England, played an important role in the creation of the CSI concept (Anheier 2004). Soon after, a pilot phase was implemented in 14 countries between 2000 and 2002. Once the pilot phase concluded, the project’s approach and methodology were evaluated and refined. For the project phase of 2003-2005 CIVICUS and its partner organisations are implementing the project in more than 50 countries. (See Table I.1.1)

Table I.1.1: Countries participating in the CSI implementation phase 2003-2005

| 4. Bolivia | 22. Guatemala | 41. Russia |
| 5. Bulgaria | 23. Honduras | 42. Scotland |
| 6. Burkina Faso | 24. Hong Kong (VR China) | 43. Serbia |
| 7. Chile* | 25. Indonesia | 44. Sierra Leone |
| 9. Costa Rica | 27. North Ireland | 46. South Korea |
| 10. Croatia | 28. Italy | 47. Taiwan |
| 12. Cyprus, Southern | 30. Lebanon | 49. Togo* |
| 13. Czech Republic | 31. Macedonia | 50. Turkey |
| 15. Egypt | 33. Mongolia | 52. Ukraine |
| 16. Fiji | 34. Montenegro | 53. Uruguay |
| 37. Orissa (India/Fiji) | |

(*) Countries that are conducting the abbreviated version of the CIVICUS Civil Society Index, which consists on revising literature and secondary sources.

In Honduras the project was carried out by the Honduran Center for the Promotion of Community Development (Centro Hondureño de Promoción para el Desarrollo Comunitario - CEHPRODEC) starting in June 2003. The main motivation for both institutions to become involved in this initiative was their interest in researching the degree of understanding and level of awareness about civil society in Honduras; and to strengthen civil society actors through the promotion of dialogue, collective learning and network development and strengthening.

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1 This list includes independent countries as well as other territories in which the CSI has been conducted.
The research process began in November 2004 through March 2006. One of the first CEHPRODEC activities in carrying out the CSI was its participation in the Latin American Workshop for National Coordinating Organisations, which took place in Montevideo, Uruguay in November 2003. During this workshop a revision of the handbook was made and ideas provided to adapt it to the Latin American context. The final version of the Handbook was released in 2004. Each of the National Coordinating Organisations had the responsibility to identify funding sources in their countries, in accordance to a pre-set budget. In Honduras, the research work has been decidedly supported by the Honduras Oxfam International program.

PROJECT APPROACH

The CSI is based on a broad definition of civil society and uses a comprehensive implementation approach that utilizes various research methods. In order to assess the status of civil society in a certain country, the CSI examines four key dimensions of civil society: structure, environment, values and impact. Each dimension comprises a number of subdimensions, which include a number of individual indicators. The indicators represent the basis for data collection within the CSI. The data is collected through several methods: secondary data collection, a population survey, a civil society stakeholder survey, regional workshops, a media review, structured expert consultations and several case studies. The indicators are then separately assessed and discussed by the NAG. The outcomes of the research and assessment are also discussed by the representatives of the key stakeholders at the National Workshop. The task at the National Workshop is to identify the specific strengths and weaknesses and to provide recommendations for key actions aimed at strengthening civil society. The CSI project approach, the conceptual framework, research and assessment methodology are described in detail in this section.

2.1 Conceptual framework

How to define the civil society?
CIVICUS defines civil society as the arena, outside of the family, the state and the market where people associate to advance common interests. The CSI has two interesting features that contrast other civil society concepts. First, its goal is to avoid the conventional focus on formal and institutionalized civil society organisations (CSOs) by also considering informal coalitions and groups. Second, whereas civil society is sometimes perceived as an area with positive actions and values, the CSI seeks to assess both the positive and the negative manifestations of civil society. This concept consequently includes not only the humanitarian organisations and associations active in environmental protection, but also groups such as skinheads and aggressive football supporter groups. The CSI does not only assess to what extent the CSOs support democracy and tolerance, but also the extent of their intolerance or even violence.

How to conceptualize the state of civil society?

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2 In debates about the definition of civil society in regional stakeholder consultations, the NAG meetings and the National Workshop participants agreed to use the word space instead of arena.
To assess the state of civil society, the CSI examines civil society along four main dimensions:

- The **structure** of civil society (e.g., number of members, extent of giving and volunteering, number and features of umbrella organisations and civil society infrastructure, human and financial resources);
- The external **environment** in which civil society exists and functions (e.g., legislative, political, cultural and economic context, relationship between civil society and the state, as well as the private sector);
- The **values** practiced and promoted within the civil society arena (e.g., democracy, tolerance or protection of the environment) and
- The **impact** of activities pursued by civil society actors (e.g., public policy impact, empowerment of people, meeting societal needs).

Each of these main dimensions is divided into a set of subdimensions that contain a total of 74 indicators. These indicators are at the heart of the CSI and form the basis of the data presented in this report. The indicator – subdimension - dimension framework underpinned the entire process of data collection, the writing of the research report, the NAG’s assessment of Honduran civil society and the presentations at the National Workshop. It is also used to structure the main section of this publication.

**Figure I.2.1: CIVICUS Civil Society Diamond**

To visually present the scores of the four main dimensions, the CSI makes use of the Civil Society Diamond tool (see figure I.2.1 as an example). The Civil Society diamond graph, with its four extremities, visually summarises the strengths and weaknesses of civil society. The diagram is the result of the individual indicator scores aggregated into sub-dimension and then dimension scores. As it captures the essence of the state of civil society across its key dimensions, the Civil Society Diamond can provide a useful starting point for interpretations and discussions about how civil society looks like in a given country. As the Diamond does not aggregate the dimension scores into a single score, it cannot, and should not, be used to rank countries according to their scores for the four dimensions. Such an approach was deemed inappropriate for a civil society assessment, with so many multi-faceted dimensions, contributing factors and actors. The Diamond also depicts civil society at a certain point in time and therefore lacks a dynamic perspective. However if applied iteratively, it can be used to table the development of civil society over time, as well as compare the state of civil societies across countries (Anheier 2004).

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3 See Appendix 1.

4 The Civil Society Diamond was developed for CIVICUS by Helmut Anheier (see Anheier 2004).
2.2 Project methodology
This section describes the methods used for collecting and aggregating of various data used in the project.

2.2.1. Data Collection. The CSI recognized that, in order to generate a valid and comprehensive assessment of civil society, a variety of perspectives and data should be included – insider, external stakeholder and outsider views, as well as objective data ranging from the local, the regional to the national level. The CSI therefore includes the following set of research methods: (1) Review of existing information, (2) Regional stakeholder consultations, (3) Population survey, (4) Media review and (5) Fact-finding studies.

It is believed that this mix of different methods is essential to generate accurate and useful data and information, and also accommodates the variations of civil society, for example in rural versus urban areas. The CSI also seeks to utilize all available sources of information to avoid ‘re-inventing research wheels’ and wasting scarce resources. Lastly, the research methodology is explicitly designed to promote learning and, ultimately, action on the part of participants. Besides feeding into the final national-level seminar, the data collection processes also aim to contribute to participant learning. This is done, for example, through group-based approaches that challenge participants to see themselves as part of a “bigger picture”, to think beyond their own organisational or sectoral context, to reflect strategically about relations within and between civil society and other parts of society, to identify key strengths and weaknesses of their civil society and to assess collective needs. It is important to note that the CSI provides an aggregate needs assessment on civil society as a whole, and is not designed to exhaustively map the various actors active within civil society. However it does examine power relations within civil society and between civil society and other sectors, and identifies key civil society actors when looking at specific indicators under the structure, values and impact dimensions.

For data collection, we used the full methodology suggested. This provided an extremely rich database on civil society. The methodology used was as follows:

- **Secondary sources**: A permanent bibliographic review was conducted looking for relevant information produced in Honduras about civil society. During the initial stages, a preliminary report was produced in order to organize all information found. Later on, and during the fieldwork and analysis phase, the bibliographic review was completed using additional secondary sources.

- **Regional stakeholder survey**: Stakeholders are individuals with knowledge about civil society and represent diverse sectors within and outside civil society. Consultations consisted of a survey designed by CIVICUS. In order to conduct such surveys in Honduras, there were five workshops, which included 104 participants. There were five consultations to Stakeholders: Siguatepeque, Comayagua, Copán, Puerto Cortés, Tegucigalpa.

- **Civil Society Mapping**: Five civil society mappings were simultaneously conducted in the same number of departments (Colón, Comayagua, La Paz, Choluteca é Intibucá) with an ad-hoc committee on Civil Society. The information obtained by this mapping-out process, was extremely relevant to arrive at the results presented in this research report.
• **Community Survey:** The community survey took place in five locations in the country, alternating between the marginal urban sector and urban neighbourhoods and settlers between the departments of Comayagua, Francisco Morazán and Choluteca. A total of 585 homes were surveyed.

• **Media review:** There was a total of three months of work monitoring media (January, February and June 2005). Reviewed were the following media: La Tribuna/printed medium, TN5/TV, Channel 5 (largest national coverage), Noticiero Matutino/Radio America (largest national radio audience). As a result of the media review, a total of 311 news items regarding civil society were obtained.

• **Fact finding studies:** CEHPRODEC conducted three special consultations: on the situation of women in Honduras, on Corporate Social Responsibility and on the socio-economic and political situation in the country.

2.2.2. **Data Aggregation.** The project team collected various types of data for the draft report and structured them according to the CSI indicators, subdimensions and dimensions. Each indicator was attributed a score between 0 and 3 (0 being the lowest value and 3 the highest). Each potential indicator score (0, 1, 2 and 3) was described in either qualitative or sometimes quantitative terms. The NAG scoring exercise is modelled along a “citizen jury” approach (Jefferson Centre 2002), in which citizens come together to deliberate and make decisions on a public issue based on presented facts. The NAG’s role is to give a score (similar to passing a judgement) on each indicator based on the evidence (or data) presented by the National Index Team (NIT) in the form of the draft country report.

The process of indicator scoring performed by the NAG was based on a discussion on the information provided for each indicator. Based on this discussion and the scoring matrix featuring the indicator score descriptions, the NAG decided on a score for each respective indicator. The National Workshop also played a role in validating the indicators. If an adequate rationale was provided, national workshop participants could decide to change the indicator score provided by the NAG. This only happened in one case, and national workshop participants were also asked to provide comments and inputs related to the CSI findings. As a result of the workshop, participants built a common understanding of the current state of civil society and recommended initiatives for civil society strengthening.

In Honduras the scoring workshop took place on March 28, 2006, with the participation of twelve members of the NAG. Before the meeting the participants discussed the research report and scored each of the indicators individually and later examined those items where divergence was found. The meeting provided ideas and perceptions related to the scores, particularly on those indicators that exhibited the greatest divergences. When consensus was not reached, the indicators’ scores were rounded. In each sub-dimension the average of scores given to each indicator was estimated. The same was done with the percentages for dimensions and sub-dimensions, thus creating the Honduras’ civil society diamond.
2.3 Linking research with action
The CSI is not a purely academic project. Its goal is to involve civil society actors in the research process, contribute to a discussion on civil society and provide recommendations on how to strengthen civil society. This categorizes the project as action oriented research.

In Honduras the widespread participation of various civil society actors is seen at various points in time: firstly through the participation of the NAG members, representing several stakeholder groups such as academia, experts on civil society and some representatives from the private sector. From the beginning the NAG became actively involved in the review of concepts and methodology of the Honduras CSI and concluded their work with the indicator scoring process.

Another action-research element was constituted by the Regional Stakeholder Consultations (RSC), which took place in four departments of the country, where actors had the opportunity to discuss, in depth, some important topics regarding Honduran Civil Society. Generally speaking, great efforts were made to give the project a participatory and consultative profile during the implementation phase.

2.4 Project Outputs
- A comprehensive report on the situation of Civil Society in Honduras.
- A list of recommendations, strategies and priority actions made by the Stakeholders in order to strengthen Honduras’ Civil Society.
- Results of the Regional Stakeholder Consultations to allow us to have a better idea about the situation of Honduras’ Civil Society.
- Results of community surveys.
II CIVIL SOCIETY IN HONDURAS

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Honduras has traditionally been one of the countries with the best social organisation in Latin America. Unions, banana plantation workers, those who support the catholic church, women’s clubs and “patronatos”, started during the first half of the past century.

During the 80s, organisations such as indigenous organisations, unions, and a new wave of NGOs, different than the traditional charitable organisations, emerged. These new organisations are not only interested in activities related to development in different fields, but are also devoted to the defence of human rights and to the defence of other causes.

The 90s highlight the emergence of new and varied social manifestations, such as indigenous CSOs, environmental protection groups, women groups, “patronato” associations, as well as development oriented NGOs seeking the implementation of government sponsored social projects. Finally, after Hurricane Mitch, other organisations directed towards citizen empowerment emerged and became influential. During this period, connections between CSOs were established, including coalitions among churches, international donors and other CSOs.

These events make civil society in Honduras appear as a heterogeneous and complex body. Several studies have shown that it is possible for Honduras to have approximately 92,000 CSOs if that number can include any type of citizen group with a shared a common goal.

In 2003 we said, “in some settings, there is often a bias which restricts the definition of civil society and its organisations to a specific type of organisation. NGOs or private sector development organisations (PDOs) are entities with a certain position on development,

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5 On October 30, 1998, Honduras was practically destroyed by Hurricane Mitch.
placing other organisations behind the scenes. The fact that these privileged entities are connected with the international cooperation has made the bias stronger."\(^6\)

Not too far back in time there was a tendency to believe that civil society was an exclusive field of action for NGOs or PDOs, as some of them are known in Honduras. In spite of the fact that, for several years now, some institutions and authors insist that the civil society spectrum includes a wide range of social groups, there are others who suggest that there are very specific differences between business corporations and social groups, and between NGOs and social movements.

Worth noting is the fact that social movements, which have been taking shape for the past thirty years (1954-1984), still exist in Honduras. Social movements have had significant impact during specific periods of time, resulting in changes in Honduras’ society. Some of these movements are: unions, indigenous organisations, teachers’ unions, the health sector and others. Most of these CSOs are currently grouped under the Popular Block or under an association called Coordinadora Nacional de Resistencia Popular (national coordinating unit for popular resistance). Some CSO leaders occasionally have said that new types of CSOs (NGOs) have usurped their representation in the scenarios devoted to consensus building among the government, the international cooperation and the civil society.

In spite of such complex relationships among civil society actors, they are still able to work arduously on the articulation of their actions, both to face current challenges as well as to use their resources efficiently. These articulation efforts are more evident in CSOs with similar objectives, and not so evident in traditional movements and in CSOs born during the post-Hurricane Mitch era.

There has been substantial progress made during the period following the so called “lost decade”, \(^7\) when restrictions to civil liberties undermined the existence of a dynamic and heterogeneous civil society, like the one that exists and is still emerging today in Honduras. Nevertheless, it is also true that this civil society will have to face many more challenges, in order for its actions to have significant impact on the nation’s wellbeing.

**Civil Society Concept in Honduras**

The civil society concept continues to be widely discussed in specialised literature. Numerous discussions and interpretations on the subject have lead to a myriad of meanings and definitions of the “civil society” concept.\(^8\)

For purposes of this study, the National Coordinating Organization (NCO), invited the NAG to participate in a workshop devoted to producing a definition of civil society. The main input for this concept was the one proposed by CIVICUS, as follows:

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\(^6\) Honduras civil society, Mapeo y Caracterización, 2003.

\(^7\) Name given to the 80s, when Central America was the scenario of the so called “cold war”.

\(^8\) La sociedad civil en Honduras, Caracterización y directorio, 2003. pp51.
“THE ARENA OUTSIDE OF THE FAMILY, THE STATE AND THE MARKET WHERE PEOPLE ASSOCIATE TO ADVANCE COMMON INTERESTS.”

Even for a group of experts as small as the NAG, finding a consensual definition of the “civil society” concept turned out to be close to impossible. Discussions continue about whether to include second and third level business associations (such as the Consejo Hondureño de la Empresa Privada and the Business Chambers) or political parties within the concept of civil society concept.

Going beyond academic recommendations, civil society actors themselves, such as CSOs widely recognized throughout the country, are engaged in discussions related to fundamental issues associated with the points of view of one or the other side. Undoubtedly, these diverse points of view are saturated by ideological influences in some cases, and by the actors’ status-driven interests, in others.

In view of the above, the NAG accepted the civil society CIVICUS concept, adding the following:

“IT IS THE PUBLIC SPACE WHERE COLLECTIVE ACTION TAKES PLACE, WHERE INTERESTS AND PREFERENCES AND IDEAS ARE MANIFESTED, IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE COMMON GOALS”.

The most outstanding difference between both definitions resides in the fact that CIVICUS fundamentally deals with the determination of the limits which enclose the civil society, while the NAG attempts to explain, more specifically, what occurs within that space, in addition to the association factor.

Honduras’ CSO typology is rather diverse. Other studies have pointed out that the “civil society map” provides a portrait of a comprehensive matrix of the ‘public goods’. Following different groups’ interests, from community to business associations or popular or workers groups, benefiting millions of individuals, the CSOs in Honduras vary in their make-up, structure, degree of formality, type and quantity of resources managed and products and services offered.”

An approximation to the CSO typology could be as follows:

a. Community based
b. Connected to churches
c. Defence and expansion of rights
d. Cultural, artistic and sports oriented
e. Training, education, community promotion and technical and financial assistance
f. Social and humanitarian assistance
g. Unions and corporations
III. ANALYSIS OF CIVIL SOCIETY

This section presents the information and data collected during the CSI project implementation. It includes analyses of individual indicators, subdimensions and dimensions, albeit in varied levels of detail. This section is divided along the four dimensions of the CSI diamond: **Structure, Environment, Values and Impact.** At the beginning of each section, graphs are provided with scores for all its subdimensions on a scale from 0 to 3. The findings for each dimension are then examined in detail. A separate box provides the scores for the individual indicators for each subdimension.

1. **STRUCTURE**

This dimension examines citizen participation as this pertains to breadth and depth, and it also attempts to find the diversity of participants and their degree of engagement in leadership roles within organisations. On the other hand, it seeks to establish the existence of synergy between CSOs and the resources they manage in order to achieve their goals.

The structure shows a score of 1.3, the second lowest of the four dimensions assessed. It is only lower than the score of the environment dimension. As a result of this score, it can be said that the Honduras civil society is weak.

**Figure III.1.1: Subdimension scores in structure dimension**

![Subdimension scores in structure dimension](image-url)
1.1 The Breadth of Citizen Participation in Civil Society

This sub-dimension examines the breadth of citizen participation in civil society.

**TABLE III.1.1: Indicators assessing the breadth of citizen participation.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. #</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1.1</td>
<td>Non-partisan political action</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.2</td>
<td>Charitable giving</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.3</td>
<td>CSO membership</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.4</td>
<td>Volunteering</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.5</td>
<td>Collective community action</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.1.1 *Non-Partisan political action.* This indicator examines participation in political non-partisan action, for example sending a letter to a newspaper, signing a petition or participating in a public demonstration.

According to the community survey, only 6% has ever sent a letter to a newspaper; 22% has signed some kind of petition and 12% has participated in a public demonstration.

Generally speaking, 22% of those surveyed have participated in some of the political non-partisan actions mentioned in the survey.

1.1.2 *Charitable giving.* One of the questions asked when visiting peoples’ homes was if they had made cash contributions or donated goods to charitable organisations during the past year. According to community survey, 63% stated that they had made cash or other donations to philanthropic organisations during the past year.

As an additional comment, apparently the Telethon is extremely exceptional, due to the fact that thanks to media coverage, people are massively driven to contribute in some form to this activity, primarily sponsored by the private sector.

There are other temporary activities which are also successful only if they have adequate media coverage, such as the case of marathons or fund-raisers for people who have lost their goods or been affected by natural phenomena, as well as those related to strengthening public services institutions such as the Hospital San Felipe and the Fundación para el Niño con Cáncer.

During the past thirteen years, and always based on the initiative of the main television station, a campaign has been promoted to collect toys for Christmas. Over the years the number of beneficiaries has grown, as well as the donations, and even though most citizens participate in this campaign, most of the donations are made by the private sector.

More discreet, but not less significant, are the donations made by citizens associated with religious institutions in support of their charitable activities.
1.1.3 CSO membership. In accordance with the community survey, 75% state that they participate in CSOs. However it is worth noting that most of those interviewed said that they belong to religious organisations (59%) and to savings and loan associations (19%).

A study of the Department of Valle showed that there were approximately 2,153 CSOs in the department. Based on the data provided by such CSOs about their membership, 33,666 individuals were associated with a variety of CSOs. If the population of this department was 167,375 inhabitants, this means that more than 30% of Valle’s population was affiliated with or had some function in a CSO.

The variation in these percentages must be due, among other reasons, to: 1) the data for the total population including minors -from zero to eleven years old- who normally do not belong to any social organisation and 2) Valle being one of the departments with the greatest emigration rate to the United States, with population changes not being recorded by population census because these are based on birth registrations and residence changes. Thus, the data for the total population of the department may not be accurate.

The NAG estimated that the most accurate data should be between 51% and 65% due to the religious and collaborative nature of CSOs.

1.1.4 Volunteering. This indicator measures the percentage of individuals who regularly work as volunteers. According to a community survey, 40% indicated that they work on voluntary efforts in their communities without necessarily working through an established organisation, for example shopping for their neighbours, assisting during emergencies, babysitting for neighbours, etc. There were 58% of respondents who stated that they did not work as volunteers, and 2% opted to not respond to this question.

According to the study “Mapeo y caracterización de la sociedad civil” for the Valle department, out of 33,666 members associated with 2,153 CSOs, 32,472 worked as volunteers, that is, more than 96% of CSOs’ membership. This study did not measure the number of hours devoted to voluntary work by each individual CSO member.

In the “Caracterización y directorio” study of Honduras’ civil society (January 2003), out of 25,347 individuals associated to 328 CSOs nationally, a total of 17,124 were volunteers, that is, almost 68%. Similarly, this study lacks information regarding the number of hours that each individual devoted to voluntary work.

1.1.5 Collective community action. This indicator was used to assess community activities and the degree of citizen participation in events organized by the community or in collective efforts aimed at solving community problems. According to the community survey, 25% said that they had participated once or many times in meetings organized by the community regarding common interests; 13% said that they had not participated at all and 62% said they did not remember having participated in those types of meetings. The NAG observed that, even though there are weaknesses in collective community activity, citizens were taking steps towards some kind of improvement in this area.
According to the NAG’s and the National Index Team’s (NIT) experience in the field, citizen participation in community activities is clearly more important than what the community survey has shown. The NIT states that, although 62% said that they do not remember, the fact is that many of their activities are so “natural and routinely” performed that people do not perceive them as community efforts. Such activities include “patronato” meetings, water board meetings and parent associations meetings, among others. In most of the communities there are base organisations, such as patronatos and water boards. Their activities are community driven and it is quite common for most of the community members to participate.

1.2 Depth of Citizen Participation in Civil Society
This sub-dimension analyses how deep and meaningful citizen participation is within civil society while it attempts to respond to the question regarding how frequently and to what extent citizens are involved in civil society activities.

**TABLE III.1.2: Indicators assessing depth of citizen participation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. #</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.2.1</td>
<td>Charitable giving</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.2</td>
<td>Volunteering</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.3</td>
<td>CSO membership</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.2.1 *Charitable giving.* This indicator attempts to examine what percentage of income people donate.

**TABLE III.1.3: Relationship between average annual income to average annual contributions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Percentage Surveyed</th>
<th>Average Annual Contribution</th>
<th>Percentage Contributions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lempiras</td>
<td>US $</td>
<td>Lempiras US $</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 40,000</td>
<td>Less than 2,105</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>127.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 40,000 and 150,000</td>
<td>Between 2,105 and 7,895</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>413.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 150,000 and 300,000</td>
<td>Between 7,895 and 15,789</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>764.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 300,000 and 500,000</td>
<td>Between 15,789 and 26,316</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>1,028.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 500,000</td>
<td>Over 26,316</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2,680.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Average</td>
<td></td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>1,002.28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of those surveyed, 2% did not provide any information on their annual income.

It is obvious that those with the greatest income make greater charitable contributions; however the relationship between income and donation is not necessarily greater.
On average we found that, out of the total of people who said they made an annual donation, such donation averaged to Lempiras1,002.80 (US$ 52.77), approximately 0.40% of their annual income (considering the average of income for all ranks).

1.2.2 **Volunteering.** This indicator seeks to quantify the number of hours that people devote to voluntary work. According to community survey, 44% of those surveyed said they devoted some of their time to voluntary work in networks and other support groups. The average number of hours that these people work as volunteers is twenty per month, which is equivalent to five hours per week. For example the school lunch program, where mothers take turns once a week to prepare meals for the children.

1.2.3 **CSO Membership.** This indicator examines the depth of citizen participation in organisations. According to the community survey, out of the total of individuals surveyed who said they were active in civil society organisations, 45% participate in more than one.

1.3 Diversity of Civil Society Participants

This sub-dimension examines how diverse and representative the civil society arena is, and asks if all groups have equitable participation in civil society. It also attempts to determine whether there are dominant or excluded groups.

**Table III.1.4: Indicators assessing the diversity of civil society participants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. #</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.3.1</td>
<td>CSO membership</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3.2</td>
<td>CSO leadership</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3.3</td>
<td>Distribution of CSOs</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.3.1 **CSO membership.** Upon analysis of the data resulting from consultations with stakeholders, most of those surveyed agree that women, rural populations and religious minorities are moderately under-represented in CSOs; impoverished populations are absent or excluded while elites and upper classes appear as the sole social group equitably represented.

There are contradictory opinions on whether minorities are severely or moderately under-represented.

**Table III.1.5: CSO Membership percentages for different population groups**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CSO Membership</th>
<th>Absent or excluded</th>
<th>Moderately Under Represented</th>
<th>Severely Under Represented</th>
<th>Equitably Represented</th>
<th>Unknown Or No Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Population</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic /Linguistic Minorities</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious minorities</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The community survey shows that, out of the total number of women surveyed, barely 2.5% said that they were affiliated with any women’s organisation. Considering the total number of people surveyed who said that they belonged to a CSO, approximately 60% were women. However it is worth noting that 68% of the total community survey participants were women. Those surveyed said that groups with whom they mostly work are religious groups and savings and credit associations. These are, in fact, the groups with the lowest membership in the country. Other groups in which those surveyed said they participate are, in descending order: social movement groups or political parties, professional associations, unions and neighbourhood or community associations.

When examining the data resulting from the 2005 “Mapeo y Caracterización de Sociedad Civil” carried out in five departments of the country, we found that in a sampling of 2906 civil society organisations and 14 CSO typologies, women’s groups hold the sixth place, representing 5% of the total survey.

1.3.2 CSO leadership. This indicator seeks to identify leadership roles held in CSOs by different social groups. The stakeholders surveyed said that women, rural populations and religious minorities are moderately under-represented in CSO leadership and power holding roles.

Opinions are split on whether ethnic and linguistic minorities are moderately or severely under-represented. However most of those surveyed said that they were not aware of any leadership positions held in CSOs by any of these groups.

Those surveyed consider impoverished populations to be absent or completely excluded from CSO leadership roles, which are primarily controlled by elites and upper classes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CSO Membership</th>
<th>Absent or excluded</th>
<th>Moderately Under Represented</th>
<th>Severely Under Represented</th>
<th>Equitably Represented</th>
<th>Unknown Or No Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Population</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic /Linguistic Minorities</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious minorities</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impoverished population</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elites or Upper Class</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Study conducted under the leadership of the Comisión Ad-Hoc de Sociedad civil para la participación ciudadana in the departments of Colón, Intibucá, Choluteca, La Paz and Comayagua. Reference will be made in other chapters on this study, as part of the exploratory studies carried out by the NIT.
Both for indicators 1.3.1 and 1.3.2, the NIT considered that there was a bias in the responses given by stakeholders when they said that the groups best represented in CSO leadership roles correspond to elites and upper classes. This appears to be quite obvious when dealing with cattle associations, business chambers and political parties. Yet it is not true when considering other CSOs in which leadership positions are primarily held by mid-level sectors of the population and by individuals with medium and advanced academic training.

Traditionally excluded social groups, such as homosexuals, lesbians, HIV-AIDS patients and the disabled, appear to have re-emerged recently.

1.3.3 Distribution of CSOs. According to Regional Stakeholder Consultations, CSOs are concentrated in larger cities and in urban areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CSO Geographic Distribution</th>
<th>% Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly limited to urban areas</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly concentrated in larger cities</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present throughout the country except in remote areas</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present in all the country including remote areas</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2003, the study “La Sociedad Civil en Honduras, Caracterización y Directorio”, pointed out that, out of 451 CSOs, 309 (68.5%) were located in Francisco Morazán, and 80.9% were in the two largest cities of the country; 13.4% in eight departments, and a little less than 1% were distributed throughout the remaining eight departments.

This indicator was significantly discussed by the NAG, arguing that it was hard to find a municipality or village in Honduras where they did not have a patronato, a school parents’ association or a water board. From this perspective, we could stress that CSOs are located everywhere in the country. On the other hand, it was said that those CSOs mentioned above were not operational. The opinion that finally prevailed was that there is a great concentration of different types of CSOs everywhere.

1.4 Level of Organisation
This sub-dimension examines the degree of civil society organisation and the kind of infrastructure available for CSO operations.

TABLE III.1.8: Indicators assessing level of organisation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. #</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.4.1</td>
<td>Existence of CSO umbrella bodies</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4.2</td>
<td>Effectiveness of CSO umbrella bodies</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4.3</td>
<td>Self-regulation</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4.4</td>
<td>Support infrastructure</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4.5</td>
<td>International linkages</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.4.1 Existence of CSO umbrella bodies. According to the categories included in the Regional Stakeholder Consultations, 36% considered that the number of second level CSOs in the country ranges from 20% to 40%. Some were not aware of the relationships between first level CSOs and federations and second and third level CSOs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CSOs which belong to a federation, network or second level CSO</th>
<th>% Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 40 and 60%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 20%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 20 and 40%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 60%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A 2003 study states that out of 252 first level CSOs, 141 (almost 56%) were affiliated with some type of network or federation. According to the study of the Department of Valle, out of 2,145 CSOs surveyed, barely 40% declared to be affiliated with a second or third level federation. The difference between the percentages found may be explained through the survey, since the 2003 results are based on a national sample requiring participant organisations to have minimal operating structures, while the Valle study included a large number of first level organisations with local and focused goals, such as patronatos, churches, sports clubs and others. Because of their rural nature and in many cases due to their lack of resources and/or knowledge of CSOs’ operating styles, these entities have very few opportunities to become part of a second level network.

There are twelve types of third level organisations, under which a large number of second level CSOs are grouped. An example of these is the Central General de Trabajadores (workers union) with at least twelve unions, or the Consejo Coordinador de Organizaciones Campesinas –COCOCH (Coordinating Council for Indigenous Organisations) with nine indigenous organisations.

On the other hand, the NIT identified, and in some cases was able to interview, more than 20 second level CSOs with a large number of first level CSOs. In most cases these networks associate on the basis of a subject theme and not necessarily in terms of their organisation level. An example of the latter is the Federación de Organizaciones Privadas de Desarrollo de Honduras (Honduras Federation of Private Organisations for Development), a second level CSO, which is part of another second level CSO, the Asociación Nacional para el Fomento de la Agricultura Ecológica –ANAFAE (ecological agriculture association).

1.4.2 Effectiveness of CSO umbrella bodies. This indicator serves to measure the effectiveness of federations or second level organisations, according to the opinions given in the Regional Stakeholder Consultation. There are some who think that federations and second level organisations are moderately ineffective. On the other hand, a similar number
of individuals surveyed consider that within the group of federations and second level organisations there is a mix of effective and ineffective organisations.

**Table III.1.10: Stakeholders Opinions regarding CSOs and Federations’ Effectiveness**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generally Effective</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately ineffective</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completely ineffective</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nevertheless, a more in-depth analysis might show that there is a strong perception that second level CSOs are ineffective because less than one sixth (16%) of those surveyed have a favourable opinion of them. Yet the response remains mixed, and leaning more towards the opinion of the federations being moderately ineffective (32%).

1.4.3 **Self-regulation.** On this indicator we asked ourselves whether self-regulating mechanisms indeed exist and are effective. According to the Regional Stakeholder Consultations, there are split opinions regarding the existence of CSOs with self-regulating mechanisms. Those surveyed think that basic efforts are made by CSOs to self-regulate. On the other hand others think that CSOs have self-regulating mechanisms, and only 8% think that these are effective.

**Table III.1.11: Stakeholder Opinions regarding efforts made by CSOs to establish self-regulating procedures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Efforts made by CSOs to establish self regulating procedures</th>
<th>% Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are Basic efforts</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are some self regulating mechanisms</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are sufficient self regulating mechanisms</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No effort made</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Regional Stakeholder Consultation, regarding CSO self-regulation, shows that 40% of those surveyed stated that CSOs have such mechanisms.

An analysis of the exploratory studies found than in a sample of 2,906 departmental CSOs, 36% said they have at least one internal regulation. In this case, the problem is that these regulations are aimed at fundamentally regulating CSOs’ administrative activities and workers labour issues, in line with government requirements.

Recently the Federación de Organizaciones Privadas de Desarrollo de Honduras (FOPRIDEH - Honduras’ private federation of development organisations) submitted to
Congress a proposal for a regulatory framework for PDOs in Honduras. On the other hand, there is a regulatory framework for Financial PDOs (Decree 229, February 2000).

There is also Decree 268, February 2002, which empowers the Tribunal Superior de Cuentas (National Accounts Tribunal) as the body responsible for regulating control mechanisms on the use of public funds. Specific functions include after the fact monitoring of how funds, goods and other resources are managed by government entities, whether decentralized or autonomous. Included are government central and autonomous banking operations, as well as the national banking and insurance commissions, and other overseeing municipalities and public or private entities handling public funds, whether supplied by national or external sources.

There is no legal framework that encompasses the varied aspects included in the diverse world of CSOs in Honduras. The legislation and legal framework regulating the CSO sector is incorporated in an important number of laws, and is consequently dispersed in the legislative body of the nation. In practice, once CSOs are legally established and due to the lack of a specific law, they are regulated by the Ministry of Governance and Justice, through the recently created NGO office. In order to fulfil its role, the above-mentioned ministry requires that CSOs follow a basic registration procedure to update their data. The effectiveness of legislation regarding CSOS is minimal, except for those who get their resources through government run offices, which normally require, among other things, copies of financial statements for the past three years, a report on the competencies and abilities of the sector they are working with, and performance audits on the use of resources managed.

In conclusion, few efforts are made by CSOs to self-regulate, and we do not know, to date, of any collective norms other than the CSOs’ ethics code developed by the IDB, aimed at strengthening civil society. Even though such code is available to all, it has not been put into use by any CSO.

1.4.4 Support infrastructure. An analysis of the data gathered in the Regional Stakeholder Consultation shows that most of those surveyed (61%) indicate that there is limited support infrastructure, while others (24%) think that such infrastructure simply does not exist.

Regarding automated infrastructure support, there are two websites sponsored by the Red de Desarrollo Sostenible (http://www.rds.hn) and by the Comisión Ad-Hoc de Sociedad Civil para la Participación Ciudadana (http://www.lasocieddccivilhon.org). Both of these sites supply information on CSOs, and their data is organized by specific subjects related to civil society.

A number of CSOs have established their own support infrastructure, such as cooperatives, PDOs, financial PDOs, Rotarians, union movements, professional associations, and business chambers. The availability of a support infrastructure apparently does not rely on the government’s initiative, but on second and third level CSOs’ abilities to properly operate.
1.4.5 International linkages. Here we examine the proportion of CSOs that have established international connections, for example membership in international networks and participation in world events. According to the Regional Stakeholder Consultation, those surveyed consider that there are only a few CSOs (57%) that are members of international networks and only a few (66%) CSOs participate in world events.

The 2003 study of Civil Society in Honduras shows that there is a complex set of relationships between CSOs and the international cooperation. It is not possible to show the whole picture, because in many cases surveyed organisations omitted mentioning their funding source, gave only partial information or provided inaccurate data. The table that follows provides a visual picture of the basic relationships among 114 international donors identified, bilateral and multilateral, governmental or non-governmental. All operate in Honduras and in some instances support many and diverse CSOs.

**TABLE III.1.12: Minimal Relationships between 114 cooperating agencies and Honduras’ CSOs.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide support to at least one CSO</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>65.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To at least 2 CSOs</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To at least 3 CSOs</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To at least 4 CSOs</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To at least 5 CSOs</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To at least 6 CSOs</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To at least 7 CSOs</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To at least 8 CSOs</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To at least 9 CSOs</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 and more</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.5. Inter-Relations

This sub-dimension examines how strong and productive the relationships between civil society actors are.

**TABLE III.1.13. Indicators to measure the degree of inter-relationships among civil society actors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. #</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.5.1</td>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5.2</td>
<td>Cooperation</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.5. Communication. This indicator examines the degree of communications existing among diverse civil society actors.

Most of those surveyed in the Regional Stakeholder Consultation (47%) consider that the degree of communication among civil society actors is limited. However there are significant opinions (31%) stating that dialogue is moderately acceptable.

In practice, CSOs use diverse means in order to promote and carry out dialogue, almost always around specific matters and interests. The main mechanisms used are: conferences, seminars, exchanges, electronic or paper bulletins, focus groups, and others. A relevant aspect of the dialogue process among CSOs is the more frequent use of discussion groups and Internet lists and/or electronic mail. In this regard, the Red de Desarrollo Sostenible RDS-HN, has played an important role in the promotion and maintenance of these sites on subjects such as: Poverty eradication, Environment, Social Auditing, Government Management and Human Rights. While it is true that access to such technology continues to be limited, it is evident that there has been greater use of these sites to submit ideas, proposals and complaints.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response Criterion</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderately good</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-existent/ Insignificant</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significant/ Very Good</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.5.2 Cooperation. This indicator attempts to measure the degree of collaboration among civil society actors in subjects of common interest. Of those surveyed, 49% consider that there are some examples of inter-sectoral alliances or coalitions, based on CSOs common interests.

In Honduras there are alliances, networks, coalitions and federations that connect CSOs on the basis of common interests, needs, goals and/or objectives. Some of these are obviously more permanent than others, and even some have been able to formalise their ties based on their legal status. Such is the case of the PDOs grouped under FOPRIDEH, unions grouped under the three large main unions, indigenous groups, business chambers, among others.

A map of CSO relationships, coincidences and approaches confirms that there is an immense variety of formats for coordination and management of alliances emerging between similar organisations in society, such as CSOs and other actors.

First level organisations associate frequently on the basis of common topics, mid-term goals, the need to protect some interests and creating second level entities. These organisations often join hands with other similar units in order to come up with third level institutions.
During the past two years, CSO alliances and coalitions have proliferated around specific interests and matters, such as the fight against the ratification of the free trade agreements (Bloque Popular), reforms to the electoral legislation and auditing processes (Movimiento Cívico para la Democracia), Alianza por la Justicia (Alliance for justice), which seeks reforms to the judicial branch, and Alianza Cívica (Civic Alliance), which proposes reforms to the mining law.

1.6 Resources

This sub-dimension attempts to identify resources that CSOs have for the achievement of their goals.

**TABLE III.1.15: Indicators to measure the amount of civil society resources.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. #</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.6.1</td>
<td>Financial resources</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6.2</td>
<td>Human resources</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6.3</td>
<td>Technological and infrastructural resources</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.6.1 **Financial resources.** According to the findings from the Regional Stakeholder Consultation, 47% consider that the financial resources available to meet their goals are moderately adequate; 30% consider their resources to be adequate; 11% consider their resources inadequate and another 11% said they did not know whether resources were adequate or not.

An analysis of the data in the exploratory study shows that of all CSOs surveyed in five of the country’s departments, 80% of the organisations made their annual budget available for review. Budgets amount to about 718 million Lempiras per year (approximately 38 million U.S. Dollars) managed by 2,316 CSOs.

Based on the above, we have an average of US$ 7.6 million per department, which if multiplied by the total of the country’s population provides a conservative estimate of an annual budget of US$ 137 million managed by CSOs. This amount is equivalent to approximately the total funds available for the 2006 Estrategia de Reducción de la Pobreza –ERP- (Poverty eradication Strategy).\(^\text{10}\)

In spite of the above, data on CSOs for the Department of Valle are quite revealing: “out of 1,125 CSOs which are said to have an annual budget of 80 million Lempiras, scarcely twelve CSOs manage 62.5% of the whole declared budget (50 million Lempiras). That is, the remaining 1,113 CSOs survive annually on 30 million Lempiras”.

In the NAG’s opinion, even though the available resources are significant, resources are still insufficient to meet the goals set by CSOs. In other words, global amounts do not present a situation of abundance or scarcity regarding CSOs financial resources.

\(^{10}\) This amount was the one projected by the government of Ricardo Maduro for 2005. The new government, run by Manuel Zelaya, assigned only $US 45 million in 2006.
1.6.2 Human resources. According to the Regional Stakeholder Consultation, most of those interviewed (56%) indicated that their organisation’s staff is adequate to achieve their goals. However there are some (32%) who said that their staff is moderately adequate.

Through the exploratory studies, we found that out of a total of 2,906 CSOs surveyed in five departments in the country, only 10% of their staff is paid. Consequently there are some who think that the lack of financial resources to pay appropriate salaries forces them to hire staff with insufficient technical abilities.

Honduran CSOs, both first level and those in coordinating roles, deal with thousands of people and the majority have paid staff as well as volunteers. In a study conducted in 2003, there were around 25,000 people working in about 328 CSOs, 60% female and 40% male. Of these, 7,776 received a salary (working permanently or temporarily) while more than 17,000 worked as volunteers.

The same study showed that turnover rates in leadership functions was high, with 38% of the positions taken during the past two years.

1.6.3 Technological and infrastructural resources. According to the Regional Stakeholder Consultation, 44% of those interviewed believed that the infrastructure and sites available to their organisations was adequate, and 30% said that their infrastructure is moderately adequate.

In the exploratory studies, CSOs surveyed said that most of them operate in sites that are either rented or loaned to them.

Generally speaking, CSOs have good technological and infrastructure resources. For example, television sets, recorders, projectors, VHS, photocopy machines and other equipment. A high percentage of them (over 60%) own a vehicle. Likewise, almost 90%, the vast majority of first level CSOs and at least 80% of the networks and federations have automated information systems (including computers, printers, scanners). Of a total of 270 first, second and third level CSOs, we found that they had almost 1,800 computers. However not all of the organisations with access to computer systems take advantage of the communication possibilities that these systems offer them. Less than 60% of all CSOs have an email address and only 15% said that they have a web page or web site.  

2. ENVIRONMENT

The Environment dimension analyzes the economic, political, social and cultural context in which Civil Society exists and operates. Similarly, it examines the relationships between Civil Society and the state and the private sector. This dimension received the lowest score of all (1.1), which may mean that Honduras’ civil society exists and operates within an inadequate or partially adequate arena.

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2.1 Political context
This sub-dimension examines the political situation in the country and its impact on civil society.

**TABLE III.2.1: Indicators assessing the Political Context.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. #</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1.1</td>
<td>Political rights</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.2</td>
<td>Political competition</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.3</td>
<td>Rule of law</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.4</td>
<td>Corruption</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.5</td>
<td>State effectiveness</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.6</td>
<td>Decentralization</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2.1.1 Political rights.** This indicator serves to assess the type and degree of restrictions imposed on citizens’ political rights, for example: the right to freely participate in political processes, to elect their political leaders or to freely organize under a political party. According to the “Índice de Transformación de Bertelsmann” (Transformation Index), during Ricardo Maduro’s administration (2002-2005), the social, political and economic structures which have historically been known for their inequality, clientelism, informality and corruption were still controlled by a small oligarchic minority.

Even though there is no prohibition to associate with a political party and freedom of association is guaranteed under the constitution, political and civic organisations face significant risks when they affect the interests of established social and political groups.
This was demonstrated by the assassination of an environmental Olanchano leader (Carlos Reyes) in 2003 and the murder of an indigenous leader (Elpidio Martinez) in 2004.

On the other hand, the highly bureaucratic and politicised process to secure legal recognition reduces the effectiveness of political and social organisations, for example the failure to grant legal recognition to homosexual, lesbian and transgender groups until mid 2004.

Unions are the group most impacted by repression, particularly in banana plantations. OIT conventions/guidelines are often broken in this sector, as well as in the maquila sector.

As a whole, the political system lacks sufficient capacity to deal with the interests of various groups, particularly those of ethnic groups.  

The Electoral and Political Organisations Law (LEOP) regulates the registration of political parties and establishes costly financial requirements, which make it very difficult for new political parties to register. For example, it requires lists of citizens who back up the request, equivalent to 2% of valid votes during the previous election, and at least 50% of the total of municipalities and departments in the country.

As no independent candidates were registered in Francisco Morazán (congress), for Mayor in La Paz and the Triunfo Choluteca the effectiveness of the LEOP is questionable. In addition to the significant financial resources required, there is manipulation by large political parties through the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE), which creates roadblocks to independent candidacies.

Civil society participates in citizen education campaigns to influence the vote: the “Pastoral Social” of the Catholic Church, through a campaign called “a true democracy” and the Movimiento Cívico para la Democracia –MCD- (Citizen Movement for Democracy), through their campaign called “Think your vote”. CIPRODEH monitors political campaigns and proposals; other organisations facilitate forums with candidates and/or reach agreements, such as the Decentralization or Local agreement and the Children Pact. The “Por Una Sociedad Más Justa” association -ASJ (For a more just society)- has conducted follow-up activities on the approximate cost of political party campaigns. The MCD has organized about 10,000 civil society members to oversee elections and control vote counting, particularly on the congressman vote, through a national electoral oversight process, which faces great opposition by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, not accustomed to any oversight of their activities.

During the November 2005 electoral process, several reforms were introduced to the LEOP; among them were voting slips showing the picture of each of the congressional candidates. Several of the reforms to the LEOP were promoted by various CSOs.

2.1.2 Political competition. This indicator examines the main features of the political party system, such as the number of political parties, their ideological orientation, legal stand and

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12 Betersmann, Indice de Transformación, Honduras.
competency. Honduras has five political parties legally recognized by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE). The Partido Nacional and the Partido Liberal are political institutions created during the nineteenth century, and are known as majority and as the most traditional parties. Given their ideology, both parties are classified as conservative. During the past twenty-five years they have taken turns in the country’s power holding scenarios, meekly obeying the neo-liberal mandates of the International Monetary Fund. During the recent past the Liberal Party was connected to a workers’ sector, but it was during the liberal Roberto Suazo Córdoba’s administration that a repressive policy on national security was put into practice. The National Party, on the other hand, revamped its political stand by eliminating its differences with the Liberal Party and increasing its electoral support base. We found in both parties conservative proposals regarding education and independence from the church, for example.

The Innovación y Unidad Social Democráctica (PINU) party is the third oldest, emerging during the seventies. Its membership is low as is its electoral support base. In spite of its social democratic stand, it projects the image of being a small centre-right group.

The Honduras Christian Democratic party emerged during the sixties but was officially recognized only in 1980. In its beginnings it was connected to a christian social movement, however as of 2001 it has a strategy that has produced alliances with the party in power. This has resulted in a significant loss of influence among the popular sectors. During the current term it has four congressmen and one municipality.

The Unificación Democrática party was officially recognized in 1994 and has participated in the election process beginning in 1997 with outstanding results. In 1997 it won a municipality in La Paz for the first time, thus breaking the national liberal monopoly. It later lost that municipality. This party’s stand is leftist and has five seats in the National Congress.

The Electoral Supreme Tribunal was organized along the lines of the Electoral Law and Political Organisations Reform. It is currently made of magistrates elected by the National Congress and by direct political party representatives, as it has been in the recent past. However complaints submitted by civil society on the agreement between traditional political parties and the DC regarding the allocation of seats in the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (SET) have demonstrated that the SET is clearly biased and has little authority. The PINU and UD were left out of this political arrangement and have limited options to have any impact on electoral process regulations.

According to the LEOP, political parties receive funds from the government based on the number of votes each party receives. Primary elections are subsidized by the government and regulated by the SET. However there is little control of campaign funds use, creating a huge gap between the two largest parties and the three remaining ones regarding access to funds for political campaigns. There are evident weaknesses in some spheres regarding the understanding of how government operates.

2.1.3 Rule of law. This indicator asks: To what extent is the rule of law applied in the country? Even though there is a legal framework guaranteeing civil liberties, contradictions
found in such framework, corruption and the politicized judicial system, raise questions about the efficiency of the rule of law.

Both National Congress and the Supreme Court of Justice broke the law by allowing a presidential and a congressman candidate to register. In spite of the significant efforts made to change the judicial system, the Supreme Court of Justice still voted eight to seven, that is, eight nationalistic magistrates against seven liberal ones, showing an almost even split. Political clientelism limits the government’s ability to operate in accordance to the political framework.

The massacres of the La Ceiba y San Pedro Sula prisons, as well as the assassinations in the Támara maximum security prison, question the adherence of the government of Honduras to the Declaration of Human Rights. The most unsafe places are prisons. The number of extra-judicial executions in such prisons is increasing. In the case of the Sula prison massacre, the Catholic Church denounced these abuses to the Inter American Judicial Court, which provoked a violent reaction on the part of the executive branch and those responsible for national security.

**TABLE III.2.2: Indicators to measure the rule of law in the Governance Index – World Bank**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governability Indicator</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage Ranking (0-100)</th>
<th>Estimate (-2.5 to + 2.5)</th>
<th>Standard Deviation</th>
<th>Number of Surveys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>rule of law</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>33.8</td>
<td>-0.61</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>-0.89</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Table III.2.2: level of trust index for Latin America – World Bank**
Despite the data shown in the above graph, the trust level index developed by the World Bank indicates that, while there is an evident improvement of 15% in trust levels during a five year period (2000-2004), trust levels regarding the observance of the law by the government and citizenship continue to be too low (barely within the third quartile) to guarantee an efficient and effective rule of law, placing the country on an intermediate trust level when compared to the entire Latin American region. The application of the rule of law in Honduras is greater than 34%, compared to the other countries researched worldwide in this study. This shows an improvement in comparison to the previous four years. At that time the Honduras rule of law was only 18% better than other countries.

2.1.4 Corruption. Here we try to describe the degree to which corruption in the public sector is perceived. According to Transparencia Internacional data for 2005, Honduras is next to Nicaragua, holding the 107th slot (among 158 places) with a score of 2.6, where 10 represents no corruption and where zero represents a perception of a highly corrupt country. In 2002 Honduras held the 71st slot in the Transparencia Internacional Corruption Perception Index. One year later it held the 106th slot, even though the survey showed that the perception of corruption in the country had improved. It is likely that this improvement was due to the creation of the Consejo Nacional Anticorrupción (anti corruption national council), made of civil society organisations. Nevertheless the score given by Transparencia Internacional shows that, in spite of all the efforts made, Honduras continues to be a highly corrupt country. This score is not accepted by some organisations demanding more efficiency on the part of the judicial system incapable of punishing those responsible for the “pasaportazo IV” (passport fraud).

Corruption cases are part of the negotiations between political party leaders and a strong business entrepreneurs sector. These cases are seen as merely big scandals that serve to distract public opinion. Citizen safety cannot be guaranteed if laws are not observed.
Some financial groups connected to the political classes and responsible for the bankruptcy of many banks and private financial institutions involving over two hundred million dollars remain unpunished, showing that justice has not prevailed. Lost savings belonging to small investors, mostly the elderly, had to be reimbursed using public funds.

Another corruption example was the authorization provided by National Congress to condone the 250 million dollar debt of some morose farmers, particularly coffee growers. This benefited many political class representatives, including the President of Congress, who had one of the highest debts. Another scandal, which was a front page news, involved the current President of the Central American Parliament (and member of the National Party) Mario Facusse, who was subpoenaed by the attorney general for the alleged under-priced purchase of state-owned land.

In 2003 some members of National Congress and of the Central American Parliament have been tied to drug trafficking activities, however the judicial system has been unable to obtain proper evidence on these accusations, allowing corruption and impunity, to prevail. According to recent reports, one of those individuals accused of drug trafficking was sentenced to fifteen years in jail. This, however, does not provide any guarantees that all those involved—some of them connected to power circles—will be prosecuted.

The judicial branch has also been associated with some corruption cases. Blanca Valladares, a Supreme Court of Justice magistrate, resigned in protest against corrupt activities and decisions favouring some power groups in the government. The judicial branch has also been questioned regarding seven freedom letters issued in favour of former president Rafael Callejas, accused of abuse of power and corruption.

Another area where the Judicial System’s inadequacy produces insecurity is gender discrimination on access to justice. Of the total number of cases submitted to the police on violence and delinquency, 60% correspond to domestic violence, an example of the severity of the problem.

In the two largest cities in the country, Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, only ten percent of those cases that start a legal proceeding advance to the sentencing stage. This has had a significant impact, particularly on impoverished women. One of the reasons why women do not pursue legal proceedings is the amount of money they must pay to get their aggressors subpoenaed, although the laws establish that these proceedings are free of charge (Social Watch 2004, Informe Honduras).

2.1.5 State effectiveness. This indicator examines the degree to which the government is capable of performing its specific duties.

TABLE III.2.3: Indicators to measure Government Effectiveness in the Governance Index – World Bank

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governability Indicator</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage Ranking (0-100)</th>
<th>Estimate (-2.5 to + 2.5)</th>
<th>Standard Deviation</th>
<th>Number of Surveys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
According to the World Bank’s governance indicators, Honduras has experienced a drop of nine percentage points during the past five years, compared to other countries’ effectiveness. This shows a lack of ability by president Maduro to effectively manage the country and allow it to achieve greater development standards. Although macro-economic indicators show improvements, poverty levels have increased. On the other hand, this setback reflects the government’s inability to meet established goals, both through governmental plans as well as through its millennium goals. This has also downplayed all sacrifices made by the government, particularly regarding social policies to achieve the highest marks on the HIPC-2 initiative. The overall result is shown through a number of restrictive actions in the social sectors, which provoked general discontent among the population.  

Similarly, the growth improvement program for poverty eradication (PRGF) was suspended starting December 2001 due to a departure from established financial parameters ---public sector salaries were increased and there was a weak income generating process-- and when negotiations to reach the HIPC-2 initiative through 2004 took place. 

In spite of the enlarged government structure, the government is incapable of performing its specific functions due to the legislative arena, which complicates management processes. In addition, there is a heavy bureaucracy, politicking, clientelism, and lack of trained public sector staff due to personnel changes made by each new administration.

Besides these limitations, public sector employees have little civic culture to meet their obligations. The promotion of citizen participation, public fund accountability and transparent financial management are for the time being the main aspirations of the citizenship.

The 2003 United Nations millennium goals report, stated “… during the past four years, we observed that progress has been halted, while economic growth problems have persisted. Poverty appears to be a phenomenon which public policies have barely been able to impact”. 

2.1.6 Decentralization. This indicator analyzes the degree to which public investment is transferred to local governments. Constitutionally, the government is required to transfer five percent of the public budget to municipalities. However this requirement was met only as of 2005. While seeking to condone the foreign debt, a goal to increase resources for municipalities was set.

Kaufmann D., A. Kraay, and M. Mastruzzi 2005: Governance Matters IV: Governance Indicators for 1996-2004 de Banco Mundial, Índice de Gobernanza
Institute of social studies, Proyecto de la Agencia Sueca para el Desarrollo Internacional (SDA) para la Evaluación y Monitoreo de las Estrategias de Reducción de la Pobreza (ERP) en América Latina, Informe regional 2003
Sistema de Naciones Unidas, “Informe sobe las metas del milenio, Honduras, 2003, Pág. 14”
In most cases, funding for local projects is not based on consensual planning but on political party interests and rests on the ability of mayors to reach the central government.

2.2 Basic Rights and Freedoms
This sub-dimension examines the degree to which basic liberties (civil liberties, access to information, freedom of the press) are guaranteed both by the laws and in practice to the Honduran population.

**Table III.2.4: Indicators assessing Basic Rights and Freedoms.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. #</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1</td>
<td>Civil liberties</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.2</td>
<td>Information rights</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.3</td>
<td>Press freedom</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2.1 *Civil liberties.* To what extent are civil liberties guaranteed by laws and in practice? (For example: freedoms of speech, association and assembly). Freedoms of speech and of the press, though included in the laws, are not completely put into practice. This happens because printed media is privately owned; television and radio markets are limited and mostly controlled by some politically and economically influential individuals or families.

There is some plurality of opinion, and while there is no government censorship, it occurs informally through other political and economic power holders’ actions. For example: employee terminations, intimidation, and in one case during 2003, the murder of controversial journalists. 16

According to Freedom House data for 2005, Honduras is considered “partially free”, with a score of three points (on a scale of 1- free- to 7-less free-, figures identical to those for 2004).

During his electoral campaign current president Maduro put an emphasis on citizen safety by putting pressure on Congress to implement reforms to the Penal Code, specifically Article 332, which required more severe sanctions for gangs and other citizens who permanently get together with the purpose of carrying out activities aimed at physically harming people and destroying property; making threats, blackmailing or committing other felonies. Sanctions range from nine to twelve years in jail. Almost 800 youths suspected of being members of gangs (called “maras”), have been sent to jail since the approval of the reform during mid 2003. In some neighbourhoods there is an evident decrease of ‘maras’ activity. This reform has been considered anti constitutional by the prosecutor’s office, the national human rights representative, the attorneys association and by organisations in charge of the protection of human rights. However Maduro has insisted on keeping this reform active.

16 Bertelsman Transformation Index, Honduras.
Regarding urban violence, the Catholic Church and some private and governmental humanitarian organisations have denounced the existence of “death squads” (part of which include policemen), responsible for some assassinations blamed on the gangs in San Pedro Sula.

During 2003 Carlos Arturo Reyes, a farmer from the Provincia de Olancho, an advocate for the defense of Honduras forests and a strong opponent of the hydro-energetic project, was murdered, as was Germán Rivas, a journalist from Santa Rosa de Copán, who was against Empresa Minera Minosa’s interests. The murder on October 6, 2001 of Aristides Soto, a Tegucigalpa journalist, continues to go unpunished.

Insecurity and overcrowding in prisons have caused episodes of violence, such as the murders of 58 inmates on April 5, 2003, at the Granja Penal El Porvenir, near the city of La Ceiba (Social Watch 2004. Informe Honduras).

2.2.2 Information rights. This indicator examines the degree to which access to information is guaranteed by law, and also how accessible are government documents to the general public.

The General Constitution of the Republic of Honduras, Article 80, states that: “any individual or association of individuals have the right to request information from authorities, whether for personal or general reasons, and have the right to receive a prompt response within a established period of time”. Interpretation of this article leads us to understand that government officials have the obligation to provide information as requested. However in the strict sense of the word, what is really guaranteed here is the right to request information and not necessarily the obligation to provide it. A study sponsored by the Comité por la Libre Expresión - C-Libre - (freedom of expression committee) published in November 2005, states that: “70% of governmental institutions do not provide information to those citizens who solicit it”. After 159 visits to about 53 public institutions, it was demonstrated that most of the institutions do not provide any information, arguing that such information ‘is confidential’ even though there are no legal restrictions classifying information as such, nor preventing its dissemination. The study demonstrates, scientifically and empirically, that there are no possibilities, under current conditions, to guarantee citizen access to information or institutional transparency.

The main guidelines -laws and internal regulations- which prevent information dissemination are associated with institutions in charge of civil and penal investigations against public officials, in addition to those responsible for the banking sector. Institutions that refused, at all times, to deliver information and were rated as the “most rigid” were the following: Ministries of Defense, Security and Education; the National Congress, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (SET), the Dirección Ejecutiva de Minería -Defomin- (mining) and the Fondo Nacional para la Producción y la Vivienda (Fonaprovi) (housing).

Of those surveyed, 56% considered that information dissemination is restricted because “there is a culture of secrecy among the institutions” while 22% said that they were afraid to give out information due to possible “sanctions”.

CIVICUS: Civil Society Index Report for Honduras
The act of hiding information encourages corruption and is not a behaviour limited only to public employees, because it also occurs in other sectors of society.

In face of this problem, a civil society coalition has promoted the passing of a law related to access to information as habeas data. This has not had any positive results to date, due to the opposition presented by media owners and congressmen as well as Honduran private business entrepreneurs (Consejo Hondureño de Empresarios Privados). The current government administration has publicly agreed to pass a transparency law endorsing the spirit of the proposal to have a law on access to information as habeas data. However some power-holding groups continue to impede its approval.

Congressmen have rejected an electronic board aimed at monitoring attendance and parliamentary vote. The national budget reports do not yet include all the information necessary to guarantee transparency and are far from being accessible to civil society members or to municipal governments. As of 2006 the central government has been working on an integrated financial management system (SIAFI).

The process to negotiate debt condoning is not available to the general public and only approximate figures are provided without sufficient information on the specific conditions that each of the lending countries is imposing on Honduras in the context of the Club de Paris negotiations.

Reports regarding illicit activities by members of the police force are not available for public review. Even though the reputation of the police force has improved and there is an office monitoring their internal operations, complaints regarding abuse of power by senior officials are frequent.

While the law related to access to information has not yet been approved, it is worth noting that access to information has improved, compared to 1998 when the Mitch tragedy occurred. However for those citizens who live outside of Tegucigalpa or far away from municipalities, access to information, with a few exceptions, is still very difficult.

**TABLE III.2.5: Violation of Freedom of Speech - Honduras.**

| Violation of civil and political rights in Honduras – Freedom of Speech | January to December 2005 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Mar | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | TOTAL |
| # of violations on the freedom of speech | -- | -- | 2 | 2 | -- | -- | -- | 2 | -- | 1 | -- | -- | 7 |

2.2.3 *Press freedom.* To what extent is the freedom of the press guaranteed by laws and in practice? Sandra Maribel Sanchez, a journalist, received a freedom letter after a trial that lasted almost two years, for making public a phone conversation between the President of the Supreme Court of Justice and the Attorney General. Journalists Adolfo Hernandez and Renato Alvarez have been prosecuted for publishing information considered of public
interest, but which affected the image of some government officials. Bribing journalists is well-known as a frequent occurrence.

In October 2005 two journalists, Carlos Galeas and Suyapa Banegas, and a group of five policemen, were pardoned after being accused of defamation. The charge resulted from a publication made, in December 2004, of a witness report revealing the alleged involvement of high-ranking police officers in timber, coffee and grains trafficking, intended for shipment to El Salvador. The judge’s sentence stated that these individuals had not partaken in defamation, because they were releasing information of public interest. Similarly, the sentence cleared the policemen, stating that what they had done was an investigation that exposed a number of presumed illicit activities in the region and which negatively affected the national economy and the country; this was based on the evidence found on such trafficking activity.

Even though there is a press association, a social security office and association bylaws, eight professional journalists still lack any job security.

The CDICM indicator on freedom of the press places Honduras, for 2003, in the 51 slot, within a range of 31-60. According to this indicator, media in Honduras are partially free. The scale used in this analysis rates countries in the 1 to 30 slots as free countries; those in the 31 to 60 as partially free and those in the 61 to 100 as not free.

Based on the Freedom House criteria, Honduras appears as partially free, (with a score of 51). The OAS and the Committee for Freedom of Speech (C-Libre) 2004 report contains important information regarding freedom of expression in Honduras.

2.3 Socio-Economic Context
This sub-dimension examines the degree to which the five (5) socio-economic conditions might be a hindrance to the efficient operation of civil society in the country. These are:
1. Generalized poverty (for example, more than 40% of the people live on less than US$ 2 - per day).
2. Civil war (armed conflict during the past five years).
3. Severe ethnic or religious conflict.
4. Severe economic crisis (for example, the external debt is greater than the GNP).
5. Severe social crisis (during the last two years).

**TABLE III.2.6: Indicators to measure the Socio-cultural arena within which Civil Society operates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. #</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.3.1</td>
<td>Socio-Economic context</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*a) Generalized poverty: This criterion does apply to the situation in Honduras.*
Based on the Poverty Level methodology, in 1998 poverty affected 63.1% of the population and has increased slightly in 2004 to 64.2%. Of these, 44.6% live in extreme poverty, that is, they do not have sufficient resources to pay for their basic food needs.\(^\text{17}\)

According to the Estado Mundial de la Infancia (UNICEF, 2003), 24% of the Honduran population lived on less than one dollar a day during 1990-1999. The social groups who run the greatest risk of falling into poverty are those under 14 years of age, families with a female head of household, the elderly, ethnic groups and the disabled. Geographically, rural areas are the most impoverished, particularly in the southern and western departments of the country (Copán, Valle, Choluteca, Lempira and Intibucá). Poor families living in or around municipalities are not necessarily better off, in spite of officially having better indicator scores.

Poverty creates increased rural to urban migration, resulting in a continuous growth of suburban settlers who live under uninhabitable conditions highly vulnerable to natural disasters. Migration can also be rural-rural, putting hard pressure on natural resources and on the environment, mainly due to subsistence activities on land aimed at forest development. This has produced eradication and burning of trees to adapt land for agriculture and pasture, with very limited sustainability.

\[b) \text{ Territorial War. (Armed conflict during the past five years): This criterion is not applicable to Honduras.}\]

There has not been a territorial war or armed conflict during the past five years. Nevertheless, the internal violence levels are reflected in the numbers of violent deaths, which according to the report submitted by the Honduran Committee on Human Rights were 438 for 2005.

\[c) \text{ Severe Ethnic or Religious Conflict: This criterion is not applicable to Honduras.}\]

\[d) \text{ Severe Economic Crisis (for example, the external debt is greater than the GNP): This criterion is not applicable to Honduras.}\]

According to the World Bank “Global Development Finance 2005” report, the relationship of the national debt to the GNP is 83%. Beginning in 2005, Honduras’ GNP was around 7,4000 million U.S. dollars and the external debt was around 5,100 million U.S. dollars.

The external public debt increased by 22.8% in relationship to 2003, when Honduras had a total estimated debt of US$ 5,082 million (Banco Central de Honduras, Comportamiento Económico, 2004). On the other hand, the internal public debt was 5,666.2 million Lempiras, a decrease of 15%.\(^\text{18}\)

\(^\text{17}\) Tercer Informe de Avance de la ERP, Enero 2005, pp.25.
\(^\text{18}\) Idem, pp.18.
The country complied with the IMF requirements, in line with monetary program goals. The Honduras currency exchange rate continued its slow downturn (5%). As a result of minimum wage negotiations between the workers unions and private entrepreneurs, there was an agreed wage increase of 9.7%, however inflation at the end of the year, was 9.2%.

A review of the Balance of Payments shows a persistent deficit in the Trade Balance, 33.9% higher than that for 2003. The deficit’s impact was curbed by the contributions made by thousands of Honduran citizens who had left the country. The emigration rate increased by 32% during that year, producing 1,135 million U.S. dollars.

Official figures indicate that the Honduran economy had a satisfactory performance during 2004 with an overall 4.3%, increase in the GNP, while inflation was the same as in previous years. Apparently, the country is experiencing a slow recovery after several years of economic stagnation; there have been improvements in the agricultural sector, especially banana, coffee and sugar cane; and the manufacturing industries have shown a dynamic behaviour. During 2004 the “maquila” sector experienced changes as well, showing an aggregated value of around US$ 830.7 million, according to preliminary figures. However it is worth noting that the “multi-fibra” agreement, which lifted the Chinese textile embargo beginning in 2005, will have a negative impact on the “maquila” sector.

e) Severe Social Crisis. (During the past two years, including natural disasters). According to the EM-DAT: the OFDS/CRED International Disaster Data Base, the population affected by natural disasters during the past two years (2003 and 2004) is 2%. However the country is still suffering from the socio-economic consequences that Hurricane Mitch produced in 1998, impacting then and still today more than 25% of the population (1.5 million people).

Similarly, there are severe deficiencies in the health services sector (according to the 2003 Honduran Development Index, the social debt in this area shows that 66.3% of the population does not have access to health services). This is evidenced by high children’s malnutrition rates. According to the Encuesta Nacional de Epidemiología y Salud Familiar, 2001 (national epidemiologic and family health survey), out of every one thousand live births, 34 newborns and 45 children under five showed chronic malnutrition (for 2003, the IDH showed a chronic children malnutrition rate of 34%) as well as high child and maternal mortality rates. Added to these problems are the poor quality and limited access to potable water and basic sewage services (14.1% of the population did not have sustained access to clean water), plus a qualitative and quantitative housing deficit, poor social services coverage and lack of investment resources.

f) Severe Socio-Economic Inequity: Gini Index greater than 0.4: This source indicates that this criterion is applicable to Honduras.

The Gini coefficient was 0.55 in 1999 (World Development Indicator).

g) Generalized Illiteracy (over 40%). This criterion is not applicable to Honduras.

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According to the Human Development Index (Honduras 2003), the adult illiteracy rate in Honduras is 20.3%. In spite of improvements made in education, such as the reduction in the illiteracy rate and the increase in school attendance, the country’s educational system continues to be inefficient and not equitable, with low coverage and severe qualitative problems. One out of five Hondurans over fifteen cannot read or write, the rural population showing the greatest impact, with a 27% illiteracy rate.

h) TIC Lack of Infrastructure (for example, the internet connection rate: fewer than five servers per 10,000 inhabitants). The source indicates that this criterion is applicable to Honduras.

According to the data provided by Honduras’ Unión Internacional de Telecomunicaciones (International Telecommunications Union), there are 0.49 servers per ten thousand inhabitants. Other external data point out that Internet users are fewer than 5% of the country’s population.

2.4 Socio-Cultural Context
To what extent are socio-cultural norms and behaviours favourable or detrimental to civil society?

**TABLE III.2.7: Indicators to measure the Socio Economic arena in which Civil Society operates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. #</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.4.1</td>
<td>Trust</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4.2</td>
<td>Tolerance</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4.3</td>
<td>Public spiritedness</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.4.1. Trust. This indicator examines trust levels among civil society members. Only 30% of those surveyed in the community survey consider that people, in general, ARE trustworthy.

In accordance to the 2002 UNDP social capital survey, interpersonal trust levels in municipalities, measured by agree/disagree questions, were as follows: 38% of those surveyed consider that most people are honest, while more than 85% said that people would “take advantage of you if you are not paying attention”. This is contradictory to the 77.5% who think that there are good trust levels among the inhabitants of their municipality, where people “will always assist you” in case of need. In general, there is a great deal of personal mistrust, except for the municipal environment, where people appear to believe that there is some degree of trust and mutual respect among neighbours.

Trust levels are a somewhat higher among men than among women. However data on interpersonal and institutional trust levels in those municipalities included in the study paint a discouraging picture regarding trust levels at the local level. This in turn reflects tendencies found in national level studies.\(^{20}\)

Much of people’s mistrust may be related to the increase in violence and criminality, as well as to the types of municipal development programs and projects. Some of those surveyed said that there are great differences in the allocation of natural and financial resources by some projects, most directed to urban centres and their surroundings, in detriment of more remote communities. When resources are used in such an inequitable manner, the population tends to think that this imbalance promotes unfair competition and rivalry among communities and individuals.

**Table III.2.8: Interpersonal Trust Levels**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There is a good level of trust and people can count on the support given by other citizens in this municipality when problems arise.</td>
<td>77.5%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One must remain alert in this society, or else people may take advantage of you.</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most of the people are trust worthy</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Institutional trust levels (29.9%) were drawn from the percentage of individuals surveyed who have a high degree of trust in the institutions mentioned. Interpersonal trust levels (0.42%) were estimated using an index based on responses to three of the survey questions. The scale used was: minus one for responses that indicate mistrust; zero for neutral responses, and one for responses showing a high degree of trust.

### 2.4.2 Tolerance

This indicator attempts to examine how tolerant society’s members are. Regarding tolerance of isolated groups, most people are indifferent to the presence of such groups in their community. However mention was made of a few types of groups they would not like to share activities with. Among them: HIV-AIDS (mentioned by 11% of those surveyed), a mean of 0.53; homosexuals (mentioned by 23% of those surveyed), a mean of 1.125. In conclusion, Honduran society appears to have a high level of tolerance on the subjects mentioned.

**Table III.2.3: Tolerance levels in Honduran society towards certain social groups (according to the community survey)**
“The Honduran population perception is split between a majority who think that
discrimination levels in the country are low, and a minority who think that discrimination
levels are high. Specifically mentioned as some of the main problems in their daily lives,
are discrimination against the poor, persistent male chauvinism (machismo) and mistrust”.

Honduran males and females agree or highly agree (56.7%) that there is negative
discrimination in the country based on people’s economic or social status. Although to a
lesser degree there is also discrimination on the basis of political and religious beliefs, skin
colour, sexual preference, age, language, culture and gender. It is outstanding to note that
discrimination based on economic status was highlighted as a problem, even though this is
a matter not openly discussed. Those who are financially well-off, do not care (Encuesta de
Caracterización Cultural de la Honestidad de los Hondureñas y Hondureños Del PNUD,
2003). This study states that those who agree that the country has all types of
discrimination are those who suffer from it.

**TABLE III.2.9: Reasons for discrimination.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Impoverishment or social class</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual preference</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political or religious orientation</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age (elderly or too young)</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin colour</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language or cultural background</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reasons for Discrimination

In spite of the issues discussed above, according to the Encuesta Mundial de Valores
(WVS- World Values Survey), generally speaking the Tolerance Index shows that the
Honduran society has a high level of tolerance, with a score of 0.4140, on a scale which
ranges from zero for societies with a high level of tolerance, to a maximum of five for
societies with a low level of tolerance.

This was one of the indicators broadly debated at the NAG scoring meeting. The mere
reading of the World Survey values would have given three points to Honduras,
characterized as having high tolerance levels. However the NAG considered that when
adding up all other data, the Honduran society may be characterized as having moderate
levels of tolerance.

2.4.3 Public spiritedness. Here we evaluate how strong the sense of honesty among
members of society is. According to the community survey, when those surveyed were
asked to give their opinion on whether they would commit some actions compromising
their public dignity or honesty, we found the following:

a) Asking the government for benefits to which they are not entitled. There are split
opinions among those surveyed. 51% consider that doing this always or sometimes is
justified; 49% consider that this action is never justified.
\textit{b)} Avoiding payment of public transportation fares and tax evasion if the opportunity arises. Most everyone consider such actions as never justified.

According to the Honduras Indice de Honestidad Publica (Public Honesty Index), in a sampling of 586 people, 47.6\% stated that they never requested any benefits from the government; 26.6\% did sometimes and 24.4\% always did.

On the other hand, on avoiding payment of a service, 77.6\% said never; 14\% sometimes and 6\% always.

Regarding tax evasion, 87.4\% said they never do this, 6.7\% sometimes, and 3\% say they always evade taxes.

Generally speaking, the Honduras public honesty index is 2.6, which corresponds to a society with a low level of public honesty. In a UNDP 2003 survey of Honduran male and female cultural values, the population was asked about the values that the country had lost during the past ten years. The responses were as follows:

1. Respect – 41.6\%
2. Honesty- 21.6\%
3. Religious Values -10.7\%
4. Civic culture – 10.3\%

This study also reveals that 45\% of the respondents rate Hondurans as having a positive profile, while 35\% rated it as having a negative profile. This rating placed honesty in sixth place as a feature of Hondurans’ character and others such as: kindness, laziness, conformism, generosity or respectfulness.

2.5. Legal Environment

In this sub-dimension we analyze the degree to which the legal arena is favourable or detrimental to civil society.

\textbf{Table III.2.10: Indicators assessing the Legal Environment}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. #</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.5.1</td>
<td>CSO registration</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5.2</td>
<td>Allowable advocacy activities</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5.3</td>
<td>Tax laws favorable to CSOs</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5.4</td>
<td>Tax benefits for philanthropy</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textit{2.5.1 CSO registration.} This indicator evaluates the features present in the CSO registration process. According to the Regional Stakeholder Consultation, most of those interviewed consider that the registration processes are not simple, speedy nor low cost. There are split opinions on whether the processes abide by the law and whether costs are reasonable.
TABLE III.2.11: Stakeholder opinions regarding the CSO registration process in Honduras.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedures required for CSO registration</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Do not know or no response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speedy</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low cost</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As prescribed by law</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balanced</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The data included in the exploratory studies show that out of 2,906 CSOs in five departments of the country, 58% have some type of legal framework. Of the total CSOs that have a legal framework, 51% have a formal legal status, granted by a government entity. Others operate under the umbrella framework of other second level CSOs or under a status formally recognized by a municipal government.

This means that meeting costly legal registration requirements (approximately US$ 800) is not a priority for the CSOS, which opt for getting legitimacy from their target groups rather than wasting large amounts of money and time, to obtain a formal registration.

2.5.2 Allowable advocacy activities. This indicator attempts to analyze the degree of CSOs’ freedom to be critical of the government or to lobby on matters of their concern. Regional Stakeholder Consultations show that 41% of those surveyed consider government restrictions to lobbying activities to be unreasonable; 24% think that restrictions are reasonable and 18% believe that there are no restrictions at all. On the other hand, most of the stakeholders surveyed (52%) think that the government frequently attempts to impose controls on civil society. The NAG believes that there are sufficient scenarios for discussion and participation in spite of some restrictions.

2.5.3 Tax laws favourable to CSOs. Here we attempt to evaluate how favourable to CSOs the fiscal system is.

a) INCOME TAXES

Article 7th, “b”, “c” and “e”, of the current income tax law provides income tax exemption to the following organisations recognized by the government, provided that they are non-profit: charitable, scientific, political, religious, cultural or sports organisations, as well as the church and “patronal”, professional and workers associations. However decree number 51-2003 Ley de Equidad Tributaria (equity tax law) Article 49 states the following: “without any intention to change the meaning of item “b”, Article 7 of the income tax law, non-profit private development organisations (PDOs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and private financial development organisations (FPDOs) are required to pay income taxes on the income they receive for the provision of services or the sale of goods, exception made if those funds are destined to charitable health or education activities.” Based on this legal framework and in spite of the reform of the tax law, these organisations are not required to submit income tax statements nor pay any taxes. Upon submission of financial statements, institutions are required to note the difference between income and
expenditures, using the terms deficit or surplus, but never profit or loss, with the understanding that resources are always used on a non-profit basis.

b) SALES TAX
All society’s organisations must pay a sales tax, except on goods and services classified as “basic food staples” (Article 15, Ley Impuesto sobre Ventas - Sales Tax Law).

c) IMPORT DUTIES
Vehicles such as pickup trucks and the like are exempt of import duties when used for activities pertaining to the organisation’s purpose.

In spite of the above, many of the tax exemptions granted to CSOs, such as those for vehicle importation, require cumbersome paperwork and involve bureaucratic decision-making prior to approval. Many of these procedures are avoided via special “contacts”. In practice, to obtain these benefits, CSOs must get involved in burdensome procedures with government entities, mostly in the capital cities. This, of course, becomes a real obstacle to some CSOs. In addition to this limitation, these benefits are available to CSOs duly established and registered, which prevents many first and second level social organisations from having access to these benefits, given their non-formal registration status.

2.5.4 Tax benefits for philanthropy. What is the level of availability of tax deductions, credits or others to promote individual or business responsibility? For example, is there any fiscal regulation that aims at encouraging individuals or businesses to support some CSO activities, in exchange for tax exemptions?

Article 11, I) states: donations and inheritances received by the central government, municipalities, and legally established educational, charitable and sports organisations, may benefit from tax exemptions as long as they are in compliance with established legal guidelines. Tax-exempt donations may be made by individuals or corporations. In order to benefit from the tax credit, individuals making a donation must request such credit, in advance, at the Direccion Ejecutiva de Ingresos -DEI- (income tax office).

When donations are made by for-profit or non-profit corporations, such donations must be incorporated in their annual income tax report, attaching supporting documentation. Worth noting is the fact that only approximately 25% of total donations is given tax-exempt credit by the DEI.

2.6 State-Civil Society Relations
This sub-dimension analyses the nature and quality of the relationships between civil society and the government.

**TABLE III.2.12: Indicators assessing the relations between state and civil society**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. #</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.6.1</td>
<td>Autonomy</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6.2</td>
<td>Dialogue</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6.3</td>
<td>Cooperation/ support</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.6.1 Autonomy. This indicator measures the degree to which civil society exists and operates independently from the government. Also, it examines the breadth to which CSOs freely operate without experiencing excessive interference from the government. More than 100 first, second or third level CSOs reported having some type of agreement with government institutions or receiving public funds to carry out their projects.

Those surveyed regarding the frequency with which the government attempts to control civil society activities, said that the government attempts to control them quite frequently. Following is a Table of the responses received:

**TABLE III.2.13: Stakeholders opinion regarding the frequency with which the government attempts to control civil society activities.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response Criterion</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frequently</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarely</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not know / No response</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Fondo Hondureño de Inversión Social (social investment fund) is a project support source for about 20% of the organisations surveyed. Similarly, institutions working with family and women’s issues, and the Ministries of Finance and Agriculture, were mentioned by organisations as sources providing them with resources to achieve their goals (La Sociedad Civil en Honduras, Caraterización y Directorio, 2003).

During the first gathering of civil society organisations in 2002, work teams stated that relationships between civil society and the government have improved but remain fragile, essentially confrontational and vertical, affected and undermined by mistrust in most cases.

A paper submitted by Anabel Cruz and Jose Luis Espinoza, to the Latin American Conference of the ISTR, which took place in Costa Rica, 2003, states, among other things, that:

“Some of the actors who were highly representative of citizen initiatives, and even international cooperating agencies, agree that through co-optation and dissolution, the government seeks to increase the existing gap between CSOs that have adopted friction as a means to get their work done, and CSOs which prefer dialogue and consensus-building, as a means to secure changes in public policies.

Consensus-building CSOs use dialogue to negotiate and often become frustrated, returning to lobbying and reaching breaking points, in order to have a significant impact on public policy. The last administrations and the current one limit their agenda to this theme. In fact, “this could be the government’s vision of an ideal civil society”.”
An alternative agenda, in which men and women seek to achieve immediate transformation, includes the promotion of topics such as union victories, fights against the privatization of public services, gatherings against the Free Trade Agreement for the Americas and other popular demonstrations. This type of agenda causes confrontation and ill feelings toward the government. There are even a few who think that, in some cases, the “use of demonstrations without concrete proposals”, is a mistake.

Regarding progress and setbacks on the efforts made to organize civil society, Alfredo Stein, a Swedish Cooperation for International Development Program Officer (ASDI), states: “There were many expectations of civil society before the new administration took over power, however the fatigue is now manifest; this is due to: on the one hand a deficient administration by the current government and, on the other hand, Civil Society’s weaknesses, demonstrated by its lack of any real power”.

“From our perspective, the inefficiency of the current administration is not the only problem, but also its desire to co-opt efforts made by others to integrate civil society, which truly seeks a national transformation. Diverse civil society initiatives have at best served to legitimize the well known activities of the political classes”.

The NAG members stated that, in fact, there is a CSO sector working independently from the government. There are even some who think that, in principle, it is not the government’s role to legitimize the existence of an independent civil society, which exists on its own.

2.6.2 Dialogue. This indicator examines the degree to which the government interacts with civil society. How inclusive and formal is participation, and what are its terms and rules if participation is indeed possible?

According to the Regional Stakeholder Consultation, most of those interviewed (54%) agree that the dialogue between government and civil society is limited, although some (24%) consider that there is no dialogue at all.

There are many dialogue and consensus building scenarios for civil society actors and the government. For example the Foro Nacional de Convergencia –FONAC (national convergence forum) discussed under the 2.5.2 indicator; the Consejo Consultivo de la Estrategia de Reducción de la Pobreza (poverty eradication council) which acts as an advisor to the social arm of the executive branch and which includes a variety of civil society institutions such as the Consejo Hondureño de la Empresa Privada (private entrepreneurs council), workers and farmers associations, federation of “patronatos”, ethnic, women, youth and child protection organisations and NGOs, among others, which encourage and promote civil society participation.

There have been a few failed attempts to promote dialogue, as well as agreements (most of them occurring prior to an electoral process) between civil society and the government, as well as with international cooperating agencies. The most well known took place in 2001 and was jointly promoted by the FONAC, the Foro para el Fortalecimiento para la Democracia (democracy strengthening forum) and the Comisión de Participación de
Sociedad Civil, which resulted in an agreement that included sixteen issues. Unfortunately this agreement was not properly followed-up upon by the Ricardo Maduro administration.

The media review showed that there is significant dialogue (19% of the monitored press releases) between local civil society organisations and municipalities and an improved dialogue between teachers, medical and other unions and associations with the ministries associated with their sectors.

On the other hand, there has been little dialogue between the government and those organisations connected to popular movements and to the Coordinadora Nacional de Resistencia (national resistance coordinator).

2.6.3 Cooperation and Support. This indicator examines how broad or narrow is the diversity of CSOs receiving government funds, whether via subsidies or contracts. The Regional Stakeholder Consultation shows that only 8% of CSOs receive some type of financial support from the government. CSOs included in this category are neighbourhood committees, savings and loans cooperatives, religious, education, civic or human rights groups and professional associations.

More than 100 first, second or third level CSOs reported having some kind of agreement with governmental institutions or receiving public funds to carry our their projects.

The Fondo Hondureño de Inversión Social (FHIS) is one of the sources of support to projects for about 20% of the organisations interviewed. Other mentioned funding sources were the Family and Women Institute and the Ministries of Finance and Agriculture.

2.7 Private Sector-Civil Society Relations
This sub-dimension asks: What is the nature and quality of relationships between civil society and the private sector?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. #</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.7.1</td>
<td>Private sector attitude</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7.2</td>
<td>Corporate social responsibility</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7.3</td>
<td>Corporate philanthropy</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.7.1 Private sector attitude. This indicator examines the general attitude of the private sector towards civil society. According to the Regional Stakeholder Consultations regarding the attitude of the private sector towards civil society, 46% of those surveyed believe that the private sector rarely participates extensively in any civil society activities; 21% state that businesses never participate and some think (15%) that businesses participate sometimes. When asked whether they cared or not about the private sector attitude towards civil society, 59% expressed indifference. The NAG considered that given some facts, the private sector appears to be generally hostile towards civil society and only collaborators with it when convenient.
The “Sociedad Civil en Honduras, Caracterización y Directorio” Report states that: “support provided by businesses and individual entrepreneurs to CSO projects is infrequent. While business chambers and entrepreneurs associations have a variety of social development programs, there are only a few CSOs that maintain any direct collaborative relationships with the private sector and there are only a few businesses that have been involved in efforts to support project execution to date”.

There are a few connections between some CSOs and private sector representatives. For example: the Comisión de Notables (outstanding citizens committee) to deal with the high fuel costs problem and the Consejo Consultivo de la Estrategia de Reducción de la Pobreza (poverty eradication). Some business chambers and entrepreneurs have shown a sense of belonging to civil society. In fact the Comisión Ad-hoc de Sociedad Civil para Participación Ciudadana, (civil society ad-hoc commission on citizen participation), along with other CSOs, include the Tegucigalpa and Cortés business and industry chambers.

At the time of giving a score for this indicator, the NAG agreed with the view that private sector attitudes towards civil society, at least within the current scenario, have been and continue to be hostile. Reacting to this score, the civil society representative at the CSI National Workshop reminded everyone that business chambers are, and believe themselves to be, an active part of civil society.

2.7.2 Corporate social responsibility. This indicator asks: How developed are the beliefs and actions related to corporate social responsibility? Most of those interviewed in the Regional Stakeholder Consultation (55%), said that efforts made by large corporations, when considering the social and environmental consequences of their activities, are insignificant; 26% consider such efforts, limited. Corporate social responsibility is a concept of recent creation in Honduras. The first Honduran businessmen reaction to the concept occurred during a workshop regarding corporate social responsibility, which took place in Brazil from August 18-22, 2001, sponsored by the Fundación WK Kellogg.

Beginning in 2004 and 2005, the CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) is being promoted in Honduras by the Fundación Hondureña de Responsabilidad Social Empresarial – FUNDHRSE- (a foundation for the promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility), made of 32 businesses, at a national level and currently working on information dissemination and promotional activities. The foundation has announced that it is also working on improving the quality of their businesses, employee well being and the environment. Their first CSR meeting was planned for March 9, 2006, in addition to the creation of a national award for sustainable development, in recognition of the efforts made by any corporation supporting the country’s economic, social and environmental development.

FUNDHRSE is a member of the Foro Empresa, an organisation for Americas CSR that includes around 2,500 corporations from the USA, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. The third Central American, Panama and the Caribbean CSR conference took place in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, during April 27 and 28, 2005. FUNDHRSE’s current activities include the promotion of inter-business alliances, conferences, the development of evaluation mechanisms and networking.
FUNDAHRSE’s website (www.fundahrse.org) has a section called “La Comunidad” whose stated purpose reads “get businesses closer to the community through some civil society organisation promoting social development programs for the benefit of the socially excluded; or through organisations working on environmental topics”. Two civil society organisations are mentioned here, the Fundación Sanpedrana del Niño and the Amigos Para Siempre.

2.7.3 Corporate philanthropy. How broad or narrow is the diversity of CSOs that receive private sector support? The Regional Stakeholder Consultation shows that 7% of the CSOs to which those interviewed are affiliated receive some kind of financial support from national businesses. CSOs included in this category are business associations, cultural groups, savings and loans cooperatives, civic and human rights groups and professional associations.

According to the Estudio de Mapeo y Caracterización de la Sociedad Civil for the Departamento de Valle, CSOs included in the study have indicated that a few of the corporations are very sensitive to the needs of the population. Even some municipal mayors have highlighted their importance, stating that without them, meeting population needs would be an impossible task.

The Fundación Sanpedrana del Niño is a non-profit organisation founded on 22 August 1991, by a group of Sanpedrana citizens preoccupied with providing concrete solutions to specific problems. Their main goal is to protect and rescue poverty stricken street children and adolescents. Children, family and the community are involved in the Sanpedrana citizens’ efforts. This effort has been progressively made possible, from the beginning, with the financial support provided by private sector enterprises. Among them, HB Fuller, Cativo de Honduras, Grupo Continental, Cementos del Norte and Texaco Caribbean Inc.

This foundation is an example of philanthropic efforts supported by private corporations listed on the FUNDAHRSE web page. Additionally, there are other philanthropic CSOs that receive private sector support. Among them, Fundación Teletón, Fundación Hondureña para el Niño con Cáncer, Instituto Franciscano para el No-Vidente, Fundación Amor (CSOs working with children affected by HIV-AIDS).

Some business groups have opted for creating their own foundations in order to carry out philanthropic activities. Examples of these are, the Fundación Ficohsa, Fundación para la Educación Ricardo Ernesto Maduro Andrews (FEREMA).

In spite of the above-mentioned collaborative scenarios, the NAG determined that private corporations do not show a deep philanthropic behaviour, but instead use their actions as marketing strategies aimed at highlighting their institutional image.

The NIT considers that the NAG did not conduct an in depth review of philanthropic efforts or of businesses social responsibility, adding that these are, in fact, themes that do not correspond to the analysis of CSOs. This view, of course, depends on the interpretation and development of the civil society concept and fundamentally depends on resolving the
dilemma of whether some types of business oriented CSOs belong to the civil society sector or not.

3. VALUES

The Values dimension attempts to define the status of civil society regarding the transmission and practice of some universal values, such as democracy, transparency, tolerance, non-violence, gender equity, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability. The score received by this dimension in the CSI was 1.9, the best among the four dimensions evaluated. The interpretation of this score suggests that the best of civil society in Honduras rests upon the practice and promotion of its values.

Figure III.3.1: Subdimension scores in Values Dimension

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Values sub-dimensions</th>
<th>Scores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democracy</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transparency</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tolerance</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-violence</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Equity</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Eradication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Sustainability</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.1 Democracy
The first sub-dimension examines the degree to which civil society actors put into practice and promote democracy.

**TABLE III.3.1: Indicators assessing democracy.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. #</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1.1</td>
<td>Democratic practices within CSOs</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.2</td>
<td>Civil society actions to promote democracy</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.1.1 *Democratic practices within CSOs.* This indicator examines democratic practices within CSOs, the control that members have over decision-making processes and the practice of democratic elections. Regarding how CSOs select their leaders, most of those interviewed (66%) stated that leaders are elected by CSO membership.

Regarding the influence that CSO members have on their institutions, there were split opinions among those interviewed. On the one hand, some (34%), consider that the members’ influence is moderate, 30% consider that it is significant and 17% state that members have little or no influence on their organisations.

According to the Honduras civil society study, the election of board of directors for first level CSOs (65%) and second and third level (72%) occurs every two years.

In the civil society study of the department of Valle, data show that out of 1,927 CSOs:
- a) 67.1% elect their board of directors once a year.
- b) 24% elect their board of directors every two years.

3.1.2 *Civil society actions to promote democracy.* This indicator examines what civil society does to actively promote democracy in society. The Regional Stakeholder Consultations found that there were contradictory opinions regarding the role of CSOs in the promotion of democracy. Most think that civil society actions range from moderate (26%) to limited (31%), while others think that their role is significant and important (32%).

Regarding examples of public campaigns or civil society activities aimed at promoting democracy, the regional stakeholders consultations showed that 37% of those surveyed recalled only a couple of campaign examples or similar activities, while others could not remember any examples (24%).

During the last electoral campaign, which concluded with the general election held on 27 November, 2005, many CSOs promoted a variety of activities, projects and programs focusing on greater and improved citizen engagement in the electoral process. The Movimiento Cívico para la Democracia, made of several CSOs, introduced for the first time in any general election the practice of having citizen observers. Caritas de Honduras promoted a campaign seeking new options through crossed voting on the congressional voting slip.
Other CSOs contributed to the creation of pre-electoral “agreements” and compromises between candidates for mayor, congressman, and/or president. Other coalitions and second level groups organized public debates involving presidential and mayoral candidates in the main cities of the country. Most of the data included here become more evident in the sample of eight press releases included in the media review.

3.2 Transparency
This sub-dimension examines the degree to which civil society actors put into practise and promote transparency.

**TABLE III.3.2: Indicators assessing transparency.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. #</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.2.1</td>
<td>Corruption within Civil Society</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.2</td>
<td>Financial transparency of CSOs</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.3</td>
<td>Civil society actions to promote transparency</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2.1 *Corruption within civil society.* This indicator asks: How generalized is corruption in civil society? According to the Regional Stakeholder Consultation, there are split opinions. Some think that corruption within civil society ranges from rare (24%) to occasional (17%); a few think that corruption is quite frequent (16%) or very frequent (24%).

As can be seen from the media review and information available, there are rare examples of this.

**TABLE III.3.3: Stakeholders opinions regarding corruption within CSOs.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corruption cases in civil society</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No response</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarely</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occasionally</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quite Frequent</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very frequent</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A study on the status of civil society in Honduras concluded with a recommendation to promote accountability on the part of CSOs, which could make information available to all citizens.

Media review during 2005 by the NIT highlighted two important alleged corruption cases that were publicly exposed. One of them was the ruthless fight between two groups disputing legal representation of the first Honduran Professional Teachers Association (PRICPMAH). This fight revealed reciprocal and ongoing accusations of corruption. The other case occurred in the Honduran Attorneys Association, where even their board of directors submitted a formal accusation to the Attorney General’s office due to internal financial irregularities in their institution.
3.2.2 Financial transparency of CSOs. This indicator examines how many CSOs are financially transparent. What percentage of CSOs makes their financial statements available for public review? Out of the total individuals participating in the Regional Stakeholder Consultation, 70% stated that their organisations provide information on their financial statements or make them public.

Worth noting is that, out of 2906 CSOs included in the Mapeo y Caracterización de la Sociedad Civil in five departments of the country, only 20% did not make their annual budgets publicly available. However in a similar study conducted nationally in 2001, using a sample of 451 CSOs, 30% did not make their annual budgets publicly available, while a study of civil society in the department of Valle shows that 52% of CSOs did make their budgets available.

Mistrust appears to be a prevailing feature among CSOs. A 2002 study of civil society in Honduras, states the following:

In Honduras, CSOs exhibit certain resistance to provide information on subjects considered sensitive, such as their budgets or their financial sources. This becomes a more serious problem in some organisations when it is felt that such information will be reviewed by peers, more than when it will be done by international cooperating agencies. Worth noting is the fact that some people had exactly opposite views on the matter because some organisations disagreed with the fact that reviews were to be handled by international organisations.

The above-mentioned two cases may prove that there is some kind of bias when responding to questions. The so called “location biases” or “sponsor biases” are risks we face when using this type of methodology, even though we attempted to avoid such risk.

The refusal to provide some information considered confidential is not necessarily behaviour exclusive to civil society organisations, and Honduras is not the only country where this type of problem exists. Surveys of this type conducted in other countries produced similar results. Likewise, other types of organisations, such as cooperating agencies or government entities in some cases, refuse - or are indifferent to sharing information with their peers.

In Honduras one can assume that resistance to provide information is due to a lack of habit and to the fact that this initiative is one of the first forms of transparency that civil society organisations are facing, even for cooperating agencies. Thus the efforts to promote transparency are valued highly, as required by the international cooperation and by all other actors in Honduras.

3.2.3 Civil society actions to promote transparency. This indicator examines what civil society does to promote transparency in the government and the private sector. According to the Regional Stakeholder Consultation, 40% of those surveyed can only identify a couple of examples of civil society activities aimed at promoting government transparency. Regarding the private sector, 26% of those surveyed consider there to be only a couple of examples, while 33% think that there are no examples at all.
In general, interviewees believed that, at the time of promoting government transparency, the civil society role ranges from insignificant (23%), to limited (28%). Regarding the private sector, stakeholders think that the role of civil society in the promotion of transparency is insignificant (25%) or limited (30%).

According to the NIT media review, there are several examples of civil society organisations actively promoting government transparency. Some of these are:

a) Information monitoring on the external debt and other coordinating activities carried out by the Consejo Consultivo de la ERP (poverty eradication) in general terms, and by the Foro Social del Fondo de la Deuda Externa in specific areas.

b) Monitoring of the high cost of fuels by the Comisión de Notables, the Bloque Popular, Gremio de Taxistas, etc.

c) Permanent monitoring of laws, approved by the Legislative Assembly by the Centro de Investigación y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (CIPRODEH).

d) Monitoring of the budget process and personnel appointments at the Ministry of Health, carried out by the health workers union --SITRAMEDYS-- and by the medical doctors association.

e) Monitoring of the budget process and personnel appointments at the Ministry of Education by the teachers unions.

f) General status of the Instituto Nacional Agrario by their union and by indigenous organisations.

g) Vigilance of privatization agreements for HONDUTEL by their union.

Regarding the private sector, while activities are more infrequent, they seem to be more significant. Such is the case of the fight for “non-deforestation of the Olanchano forests” by a civil society coalition lead by a priest, Father Andrés Tamayo; the fight for reforms to the mining code, lead by Honduras Caritas; the fight for the rights of fishermen in the Fonseca Gulf, lead by the Comité de la Defensa de la Flora y Fauna (CODEFFAGOLF), among others.

3.3 Tolerance
This sub-dimension examines the degree to which civil society actors and organisations practice and promote tolerance.

**Table III.3.4: Indicators assessing tolerance.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. #</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.3.1</td>
<td>Tolerance within the civil society arena</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3.2</td>
<td>Civil society actions to promote tolerance</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.3.1 *Tolerance within the civil society arena.* This indicator analyzes whether civil society is tolerant. When asked about the existence of forces related to civil society being explicitly racist or discriminating, most of those surveyed (34%) said they did not know of any examples; 25% could not recall any examples and 17% mentioned only a few. Regarding the relationship between different civil society forces, most of those surveyed do not know if there is a link. In sum, there are no evident intolerant behaviours within the civil society arena. Generally speaking, CSOs tend to promote tolerance in different ways. Nonetheless many believe that several forms of intolerance, described under indicator 2.4.2, at times affect many CSOs.

3.3.2 *Civil society actions to promote tolerance.* This indicator examines what civil society does to promote tolerance within society. Most of those surveyed stated that they could not recall specific examples of civil society actions aimed at promoting tolerance. In general they think that civil society’s role is limited when promoting tolerance.

**TABLE III.3.5: Stakeholder opinions regarding examples of civil society activities to promote tolerance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples of civil society organisations activities to promote tolerance</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No response</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From one to two examples</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No examples</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A few examples</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many examples</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TABLE III.3.6: Stakeholder opinions regarding the role played by civil society in the promotion of tolerance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role played by CSOs when promoting tolerance.</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No response</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insignificant</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significant/Important</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to media review, many efforts are being made by CSOs to fight all forms of discrimination against women. On the other hand, discrimination against ethnic communities continues. During 2005, efforts were also made to fight discrimination against, and persecution of, youth and “maras”. The homosexual communities have organized around their struggle to receive legal recognition, although this seems to be an effort independent from other CSOs.
3.4 Non-violence
This sub-dimension examines the extent to which civil society actors practice and promote non-violence.

**TABLE III.3.7: Indicators assessing non-violence.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. #</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.4.1</td>
<td>Non-violence within the civil society arena</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4.2</td>
<td>Civil society actions to promote non-violence and peace</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.4.1 *Non-violence within the civil society arena.* Under this indicator, violence is understood as actions related to property and personal damage when individuals express their concerns in a public arena. Most of those surveyed (34%) considered that the use of violence by civil society groups to be is extremely rare. Some (28%) said that there are isolated groups that turn violent, with examples of public riots given.

Media review showed only one case of internal violence within a CSO when it was attempting to protect its rights.

3.4.2 *Civil Society actions to promote non-violence and peace.* This sub-dimension identifies civil society actions regarding the non-violent resolution of conflicts and the struggle to avoid violence against women, youth, etc. Of those surveyed, 34% could recall a few examples, while 30% could not recall any examples of civil society campaigns or public actions promoting non-violence and the peaceful resolution of conflict.

Regarding civil society’s role in promoting non-violence and the peaceful resolution of conflict, most of those surveyed consider this role to be moderate to limited. However there are some who see civil society’s role as important and significant.

**TABLE III.3.8: Stakeholder opinions regarding civil society’s role in the promotion of non-violence**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role played by Civil Society in the promotion of non-violence.</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No response</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insignificant</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significant / important</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Media review shows that there are several examples in which CSOs have been working on rescuing young kids on the verge of joining maras (youth gangs), helping those who are already part of maras or those who have deserted a gang. Some examples are: Casa Alianza de Honduras, COFADEH and CODEH.
On the other hand, the work being done by the population against domestic violence is evident (especially regarding violence against women). Proof of this is the development of legislative monitoring activity and other types of judicial actions.

3.5 Gender Equity
This sub-dimension examines the extent to which civil society actors practice and promote gender equity.

**TABLE III.3.9: Indicators assessing gender equity.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. #</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.5.1</td>
<td>Gender equity within the civil society arena</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5.2</td>
<td>Gender equitable practices within CSOs</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5.3</td>
<td>Civil society actions to promote gender equity</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**3.5.1 Gender equity in the civil society arena.** Do women play any leadership roles in civil society? The review of over 510 leadership positions in CSOs has revealed that there are almost twice as many men than women in such roles. While 65% of positions are held by men, only 35% are held by women. There are also fewer women than men in paid positions (54% men, 46% women). However twice as many women than men hold voluntary positions, 65% of CSO volunteers are women and 35% are men, a proportion exactly opposite to the one shown for paid positions.

**3.5.2 Gender equitable practices within CSOs.** This indicator measures the number of CSOs that are gender equitable. According to the Regional Stakeholder Consultation, 47% of the interviewees state that their organisations do not have any written and established gender equity policies, such as equal pay for equal work; 37% state that they do have such policies.

Although more than half of the CSOs state that their work involves women/gender issues, the above figures show that there is an imbalance and suggest that there is need for a specific strategy, by all actors, to develop policies benefiting women at all CSO levels.

The 2003 Honduras civil society study recommends greater promotion regarding women and youth participation within CSOs in their programs, activities and with their beneficiaries. It also recommends the creation of mechanisms that incorporate the equal opportunity principle in their activities in order to guarantee gender and generational equity in CSO programs and policies, as well as in other government and international donor activities.

**3.5.3 Civil society actions to promote gender equity.** Most participants (38%) in the Regional Stakeholder Consultation recalled only a couple of examples, while 25% had several examples of public campaigns or civil society actions aimed at promoting gender equity. Interviewees believe that civil society’s role in promoting gender equity can be rated as moderate (33%) or significant and important (40%).
Media review during 2005 showed that women’s associations promoted reforms to the equal opportunity law. They were also able to secure the inclusion of 40% of female candidates in popular elections; finally, these groups secured reforms to the gender equity law.

At the political level, particularly during the 2001 electoral process, some demands made by women associated under networks stood out. For example the Colectivo de Mujeres contra la Violencia (collective effort by women against violence) and Mujeres Campesinas y Convergencia de Mujeres converted into public agreements made with presidential candidates.

On the other hand, indigenous women’s organisations working under the sponsorship of the Confederación Hondureña de Mujeres Campesinas-CHMC-(Confederation of Indigenous Women) and Red Nacional de Mujeres Rurales –REDNAMUR- (Rural Women National Network), in their fight for land ownership, submitted their proposal regarding the Programa de Asignación de Tierras para la Mujer Rural (land allocation program for rural women).

3.5 Women’s participation in elected public positions
A review of the six recent electoral processes (1981-2006) shows that the number of women in elected positions has not exceeded 10% of congressional seats, even though everyone is aware that women represent more than 50% of the voters. This demonstrates that women are still under-represented in the political decision-making arena.

During the nineties, women’s organisations flourished in the country. This is explained by the gender equity boom, propelled by recurrent problems experienced by women and their demands, both nationally and internationally.

The combination of these phenomena made government, international cooperating agencies, and particularly civil society, aware of the negative consequences that gender inequity produces on development, particularly because it involves flagrant human rights violations. This has resulted in an organized and institutionalized response.

According to data reported by the Instituto Nacional de la Mujer (INAM), by 2002 there were around 80 women’s organisations and associations in Honduras. Thirteen of them are indigenous organisations or directly associated with indigenous peoples. Thirteen indigenous organisations work exclusively on subjects and problems related to ethnic groups. Six are either agricultural, artisan or industrial cooperative organisations. Ten are NGOs and two are Catholic Church entities. The rest either deal with a variety of problems and issues (domestic and sexual violence, citizen participation, political activism, women’s rights, leadership, micro-enterprise, art) or are second level CSOs where a variety of organisations converge.

**Table III.3.10: Women’s quota in the Honduran National Congress**
### Table III.3.11: Male/ Female mayors elected in Honduras’ municipalities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Municipalities</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(This information has been taken from the Mujeres en Cifras 2004 study, Centro de Derechos de Mujeres)

### 3.6 Poverty eradication

This sub-dimension examines the extent to which civil society actors promote poverty eradication. Worth noting is the fact that this indicator received the highest NAG score. Poverty eradication was considered the most important and significant value practiced and promoted by Honduran society.

### Table III.3.12: Indicators assessing poverty eradication.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. #</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.6.1</td>
<td>Civil society actions to eradicate poverty</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.6.1 Civil Society actions to eradicate poverty. Of the stakeholders surveyed, 36% identified several examples of public campaigns and civil society actions devoted to poverty eradication, while 8% stated that they knew of several examples.

Regarding civil society’s role in the promotion of poverty eradication, those interviewed consider that this ranges from moderate (36%) to limited (30%); a few state that this role is significant (16%).

The 2003 Honduras civil society study identified at least 32 subject matter areas related to poverty eradication activities. Fundamentally, work carried out affected the most vulnerable populations in each of the areas.

Honduran CSO activities directly benefit an important number of people and indirectly impact most of Honduran society. In addition to providing benefits and services to their members and beneficiaries, Honduran CSOs always go a step further. Their work impacts public and private activities, and their goals and objectives undoubtedly pertain to the public and collective wellbeing, and not necessarily to individual wellbeing.

It is extremely enriching to highlight the words of hundreds of organisations that carry out their mission in areas so distinct and yet complementary, such as the improvement of the living standards and social inclusion of the country’s most impoverished populations, along
with their contribution to a rational use of natural resources. Democracy strengthening in many organisations goes hand in hand with the efforts made by other organisations to protect the rights of their membership, to improve community development, train youth and young adults or to make people aware of gender equity in society at large.

Environmental protection, support to government institutions dealing with vulnerable populations, or the provision of health services, food security and child protection, are some of the organisations’ goals, while academic research, the dissemination of traditional culture or information dissemination to rural communities, keep other organisations busy.

The sectors that benefit from CSOs actions in Honduras, are many. CSOs benefit at least 2.5 million people according to information given by the organisations. Although “overlaps” occur (when two or more organisations work in favour of the same social or geographic sector), this number is impressive. CSOs also indirectly benefit their beneficiaries’ relatives and extensive sectors of the community.

Those directly benefited by CSOs range from partners to sectors not necessarily affiliated with the organisation. Partners and other sectors never receive financial benefits because they are non-profit.

The beneficiaries are: neighbours, people in sites where the organisation works, decision makers, boys and girls and their families, organized or non-organized women, workshop and course participants, the ill and their families, a variety of professionals and many more.

The impact of FPDOs is of great importance. Data for January–September 2001 on 20 FPDOs gathered by the Red COVELO show that these have 250,000,000 lempiras, 367,000,000 in loans, and a total of 89,000 active members. Thus, only 20 institutions are serving 89,000 people, their families and communities. Most of the beneficiaries (more than 80%) are women.

Projects are the main mechanism for fund raising and for activity development and evaluation. Most CSOs carry out many projects simultaneously, some with the support of only one donor and some with the support of many sources.

Networks, coordinators and federations act mostly as direct project implementers. Sixty percent directly implement projects and occasionally assume leadership roles in their associations.

As mentioned above, Honduran CSOs carry out multiple and diverse activities in different subject matters. At the time of the survey, most organisations chose more than one when asked about their main work area.

An analysis was made of first level CSOs due to the fact that many networks organize themselves around specific subject matters. Responses show that some subject matters are popular while others are not. Therefore, it can be argued that there might be a bias regarding this variable because this sample included only union coordinators and federations and not all of Honduras’ individual unions (which may have led unions to have
greater representation). Worth noting is the lack of attention to subjects such as addictions, drug users, the elderly, the disabled and employment generation activities, since only 10% or less of the total of organisations are working on these subject areas. More than half of the organisations devote time to education and women/gender topics.

Organisations devote time to promotion, dissemination and communication; as well as to technical assistance, social and professional services, training and to advisory activities regarding lobbying and advocacy.

During 2004 & 2005, CSOs have indirectly carried out other poverty eradication activities directly associated to poverty eradication. At a regional level, many CSOs have participated in the formulation of regional strategies. At the national level, there are at least 12 CSOs participating in the Consejo Consultivo de la ERP (poverty eradication consultative council).

On the other hand, there are organisations such as FOSDEH, responsible for monitoring foreign debt condoning, as well as resource availability for the ERP.

Other CSOs, particularly indigenous and workers associations, are monitoring the potential negative effects that international free trade agreements may cause, worsening poverty in the country.

3.7 Environmental Sustainability
This sub-dimension examines the extent to which civil society actors practice and promote environmental sustainability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. #</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.7.1</td>
<td>Civil society actions to sustain the environment</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.7.1 Civil society actions to sustain the environment. Most of the participants in the Regional Stakeholder Consultation (51%) recalled several political campaigns and civil society actions related to environmental protection. Civil society’s role on this matter was perceived by interviewees as ranging from moderate (28%) to significant/important (25%). It was seen as limited by 31%.

According to the 2003 Honduras’ Civil Society Study, 36% of CSOs were devoted to environment/ecology while the Valles study shows that 22% of CSOs surveyed devoted their activities to this topic. The environmental protection cause has given rise to coalitions, networks and alliances led by second and third level CSOs working on deforestation, mining, agro-toxins, genetically modified foods and others.

“In Olancho, people are fighting against deforestation and the subsequent loss of water and wildlife, damage to climatic conditions and to the economy through activities led by the Movimiento Ambientalista de Olancho – MAO (environmental group). In the Fonseca Gulf, communities are fighting against the destruction of manglars and lakes, the
contamination of estuary waters and protecting wildlife, which sustains thousands of farmers and fishermen. This action is led by CODEFFAGOLF.” (www.rds.hn)

4 IMPACT

This dimension evaluates the status of civil society regarding its effectiveness on society at large. It received a score of 1.8, the second best after the values dimension. This defines civil society as a sector with moderate impact.

Figure III.4.1: Subdimension Scores in Impact Dimension

4.1 Impact on Public Policy

This dimension examines how actively and successfully civil society influences public policy.

TABLE III.4.1: Indicators assessing influence on social policy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. #</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1.1</td>
<td>Human rights impact</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.2</td>
<td>Social policy impact</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.3</td>
<td>Civil society’s impact on National Budgeting Process</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Indicators 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 serve to respond to the following questions:

1) Is civil society active and successful in its role to influence public policy?
2) Is it possible to identify CSO campaigns and actions impacting on public policy on specific topics?
3) How significant are these actions and campaigns?
4) Were CSOs actions and campaigns successful in the achievement of their specific goals?
5) Did they produce recognizable impacts?
6) How meaningful were the results?

4.1.1 Human rights impact. Regarding CSOs impact on the protection and exercise of human rights, the study approached the subject from the basic rights perspective. Regarding food security, some say that CSOs’ actions are limited (38%) and 28% think that CSOs are inactive. Regarding the success of CSOs at influencing public policy on human rights, some think that their success is limited (48%), while others (30%) think that they are not successful at all. The NAG felt that the NIT’s contributions to civil society’s activities and impact on human rights were scarce.

The NAG considered it important to acknowledge the impact organisations such as the Comité de Derechos Humanos en Honduras (CODEH) and the Comité de Familiares de Desaparecidos y Detenidos de Honduras COFADEH (committee for the missing and incarcerated) have had on the investigations and conclusions related to the assassinations of union, student and other social organisations’ leaders during the 80s.

The information dissemination efforts related to food security issues, made by Food First Information and Action Network (FIAN), and by indigenous organisations and NGOs, are significant. Moreover, there are an important number of organisations, such as Caritas, Habitat, Casa Alianza, and others who are also engaged in public policy-making regarding human rights and food security. Other organisations and networks, such as the Red de Acción Hondureña por la Alimentación Saludable y Sustentable (network for healthy and sustainable eating habits) (REDAS) and the Foro Agrícola (agricultural forum) (FA), have taken steps to promote a law on the right to adequate nutrition.

4.1.2 Social policy impact. The Regional Stakeholder Consultation included three topics related to the impact that civil society has on public policy: fighting corruption, democratization of the electoral processes and food security. Those surveyed stated the following:

Fighting Corruption: 36% think that civil society is active; 47% think that it is active but limited when attempting to have an impact on public policy. In conclusion, 59% think that civil society’s impact is very limited.

Democratization of the Electoral Processes: 36% think that civil society is active; 33% think it is active but limited. Regarding civil society’s success influencing public policy on this matter, 56% think that its success is very limited.

Food Security: 38% think that CSOs are active but limited and 28% think that they are inactive. Regarding CSOs success influencing public policy on this subject, some (48%)
think that its success is very limited, while others (30%) think that civil society is not successful at all.

4.1.3 Civil Society’s impact on national budgeting process. This indicator examines civil society’s role in securing state accountability, specifically regarding the national budget process. The process to develop the country’s national budget is as follows:

1) Ministries request decentralized and independent executive branch entities to develop their specific budgets for the upcoming fiscal year.
2) These entities transfer their request to directorates, which in turn submit them to higher-level directorates. Directorates submit the budgets to the ministry’s executive levels.

3) Once the budget is developed at the ministerial level, it is submitted to the Ministry of Finance, which after a thorough review starts a negotiation process requesting additional information from the various ministries on their budget proposals. The ministries, in turn, transfer the questions down to branches and other ministerial units. Generally speaking, the first budget proposals submitted include items and amounts higher than what is required because surplus money budgeted is normally used for negotiation purposes and due to the fact that the Ministry of Finance usually recommends cutbacks in the various budget line items.

5) Once negotiations with the ministries are over, the Ministry of Finance submits the general budget to the Executive Branch for approval by the ministerial cabinet.
6) At this point and as a result of recommendations made by the cabinet, the budget is often returned and the above-mentioned process restarts.
7) When this new negotiation process concludes, and no later than September 15 of each year, the budget is submitted to the National Congress for final approval.
8) At this time a new negotiation and review process takes place, resulting in additional questions and requests for justifications, a task that is handled directly by each ministry. This is the time when the budget is amended. Once Congress approves and submits the budget for publication in the official gazette, the budget is considered finally approved.

Regularly, this process lasts six months.

At a national level, there are a few CSOs that have become specialized in monitoring the national budget both during its congressional approval phase and during its final phase. These activities do not necessarily have an impact on the development or execution of the national budget itself.

Nonetheless, there have been some civil society activities that eventually have resulted in the inclusion of their social goals in the national budget. Among them are the health and education workers’ and women’s associations on issues regarding budgets for the Instituto Nacional de la Mujer (women’s national institute INAM) and farmers regarding fund availability in the Banco Nacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (Agricultural Development Bank).

The Consejo Consultivo of the ERP, made of 12 CSOs, has been putting pressure regarding debt condoning, which they believe should be included in the national budget in order to
implement priority projects in each of the 298 municipalities throughout the country. In 2006 these funds will amount to around 260 million US dollars.

It could be that the most relevant experiences are found in the municipal arena, where during the past four years some organisations promoting decentralized processes, along with the AMHON, have been promoting the creation of municipal participatory budgets.

4.2 Government and private sector accountability.

This sub-dimension examines the degree to which civil society has been active and successful in achieving government and private sector accountability.

**TABLE III.4.2: Indicators assessing holding state and private corporations accountable.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. #</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.2.1</td>
<td>Holding state accountable</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2.2</td>
<td>Holding private corporations accountable</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.2.1 *Holding state accountable.* This indicator measures civil society actions and their success in monitoring government’s accountability.

Of the stakeholders surveyed, 48% considered that when trying to hold government accountable, civil society is active but limited; 21% think that civil society is inactive. Civil society’s success on this subject is considered successful to a limited degree (44%); on the other hand 35% think that civil society is totally unsuccessful.

In spite of the above, the media review reveals that there is in fact a lot of activity on the part of CSOs regarding their demand of government accountability, whether through popular movements and accusations or through the legal arena. In the 34 media releases monitored, there are several CSOs, among them COCOCH, COPIN, Asamblea Popular Permanente de Yoro, CITRAMEDYS, Indígenas de Copán, Colegio Médico de Honduras, Bloque Popular and Sociedad Civil de Lempira that demanded additional information on debt condoning for the agricultural sector, information regarding the allocation of funds condoned, fulfilment of agreements with various ministries to provide infrastructure, opening files and arriving at conclusions on assassinations, speed on morose judicial trials, and others.

It seems that civil society activities related to oversight of government accountability are numerous. However the same cannot be said regarding civil society’s success on this matter.

4.2.2 *Holding private corporations accountable.* When it comes to achieving private sector accountability, 49% of those surveyed said that Honduran civil society is inactive, while 30% stated that it is active but limited. When asked about civil society’s success in demanding private sector accountability, most people said that it is not successful at all (55%).
According to the media review, unions have had little success regarding their demands for benefits from the private sector. This is not the case when it comes to demanding accountability from other sectors such as large companies or international corporations.

As stated in the CSR study, accountability still remains taboo to CSOs; most people think that companies should respect the law and that there is nothing more to it; however none of the CSOs realize that the CSR starts where the law ends. Some civil society sectors such as mining, forest and fuel work hard on their demands for private sector accountability; their success is measured only by delays in specific situations, in any case harmful to society as a whole.

4.3 Responding to Social Interests
This dimension evaluates how effective civil society actors are in responding to social needs.

**Table III.4.3: Indicators assessing response to social interests.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. #</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.3.1</td>
<td>Responsiveness</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3.2</td>
<td>Public trust</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.3.1 Responsiveness. This indicator examines whether civil society actors respond efficiently to priority social needs. Honduran civil society actors are particularly sensitive to social concerns, especially those related to the political and economic arenas such as natural disasters like floods and others situations of extreme calamity.

Generally speaking, after civil society actors, media have great influence on what the social concern of the moment is or should be. Nonetheless, in some circumstances CSOs have determined what the social priority was at a certain time, given their direct involvement.

The 2003 Honduras civil society study showed that there was a very wide range of topics approached by CSOs, almost to the point that there is a CSO for each topic defined as a priority.

**Table III.4.4: Subject Themes in which Honduran CSOs work.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th># of CSOs</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women/Gender</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Development</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Promotion</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health/Medicine/Alternative medicine</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment – Ecology</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micro-enterprise</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural development</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Listed above are the priority topics mentioned in 58 press releases (obtained from the media review):

**Table III.4.5: Most important CSO subject themes, according to the media review**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>CSO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citizen Security</td>
<td>Patronatos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High fuel prices</td>
<td>Public Transportation Workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drought</td>
<td>Farmers Unions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High cost of living</td>
<td>Retired teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum wage</td>
<td>Workers Unions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure requirements</td>
<td>Patronatos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>Water Boards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages</td>
<td>Public sector employees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free trade agreement</td>
<td>Bloque Popular, Workers Unions, Copín, Microentrepreneurs, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>Farmers Unions, Indigenous groups, Garifunas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Privatization of state enterprises</td>
<td>Unions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As seen throughout this document, there are only a few national priorities that are not addressed by at least one CSO. For example:
- Private sector accountability, CSR
- National budget monitoring
- Quality education at all levels
- Lack of housing, as a socio-political issue
- Youth employment
- Issues of the elderly

The commitment and experience that CSOs have on certain areas is critical to their efficiency to respond to social needs. There are several examples and data related to this matter.

4.3.2 Public trust. This indicator measures the degree of trust shown towards civil society actors. An evaluation of the community survey showed that 64% of interviewees do not trust CSOs, while only 34% do (if the following institutions are included as civil society actors: the Catholic Church, Unions, NGOs and the Bloque Popular—the most renown CSO in the country).

Regarding the church, 75% of interviewees say that they have a high degree of trust; 35% have some trust in unions; and an average of 56% have little or no trust. Regarding NGOs, 53% have some trust and 34% have little or no trust. When it comes to the Bloque Popular, 30% have some or a lot of trust and 53% has little or no trust at all.

**Table III.4.6: Stakeholder level of trust in some CSOs.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CSO</th>
<th>Some or high levels of trust</th>
<th>Low or no trust</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unions</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloque Popular</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A comparative analysis of institutions that are not part of civil society, such as the armed forces, the press, television, the private sector in general, the police and the government shows that the group that has the lowest trust levels is the government with 71% of those interviewed stating that they have little or no trust in government.

Similarly, when political parties are excluded from civil society the percentage of those who trust civil society rises to 50%.
The 2002 Honduras Human Development Index (HDI) surveyed institutional trust levels among organisations that have the highest levels of trust by the population. As shown by the table above, the following CSOs are included: the church, patronatos and NGOs.

### 4.4. Empowering Citizens

This sub-dimension focuses on the evaluation of civil society’s success regarding citizen empowerment, especially traditionally excluded groups, to allow them to have a say in the decisions that affect their lives.

#### TABLE III.4.7: Indicators assessing empowering citizens.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. #</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.4.1</td>
<td>Informing and educating citizens</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4.2</td>
<td>Building capacity for collective action</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4.3</td>
<td>Empowering marginalized people</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4.4</td>
<td>Empowering women</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4.5</td>
<td>Building social capital</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4.6</td>
<td>Supporting livelihoods</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**4.4.1 Informing and educating citizens.** This indicator examines citizen education on public matters. When interviewees were asked about civil society’s role regarding the provision of information to citizens, 56% said that civil society is active but limited, while
57% said that it is not active. This shows that civil society still faces a great challenge: maintaining active, fluid and permanent communication with citizenship. In many cases this relates to representation and legitimacy. Experience shows that there are weak relationships between organisations included in the Foro Nacional de Convergencia and the Foro de Fortalecimiento para la Democracia, among others, and the citizenship at large. The general perception of citizens is that they are excluded from those sectors. In many situations this perception is due to the fact that citizens are uninformed regarding what CSOs do and about the decisions they make.

The community survey shows that 27% feel that there are local and external groups or organisations that demonstrate an interest in supporting community development (communication, information on their rights). Nonetheless, a large majority (63%) stated that such groups or institutions do not exist in their communities.

The NIT has indicated that CSO activities related to information dissemination and education are noticeable and extensive. Citizen education scenarios, in various departments of the country, confirm this assertion. The development of regional poverty eradication strategies has engaged large numbers of male and female citizens. What we do not know is whether the information provided to citizens was accompanied by some kind of educational process.

4.4.2 Building capacity for collective action. This section refers to civil society activities and their success in organizing citizens in transferring resources and in working jointly to solve common problems.

When asked about civil society’s role to strengthen capacities at the community level, 46% of the interviewees said that civil society is active but limited, and when assessing its success, 49% said that it is very limited.

Regarding participation in activities promoted by groups or institutions, the community survey shows the following:

1) When citizens were informed about an important concern, only 5% said that they had participated.
2) When citizens were encouraged to work jointly on a specific problem, 6% said that they had participated.
3) When a specific problem was directly solved, 9% participated in the resolution of the problem.
4) When the community was encouraged to carry out fund-raising activities, 4% of those interviewed had participated.

As an average, only 6% of the community survey participants said that they had engaged in activities that required joint work to solve common problems, even though 9% stated that they had successfully participated in this type of activity.
The 2003 Honduras study of civil society includes a typology of the various CSOs in the country. According to the sample, two types of CSOs stand out in the areas of capacity building, exercising citizen rights and collective work:

- CSOs for the defence and promotion of rights
- CSOs dealing with capacity building, education, community development and technical and financial assistance.

Each of these CSOs are described as follows:

**Defence and promotion of rights:** An important number of organisations are part of this effort, with a high degree of impact on public policies. In Honduras human rights organisations have enabled the creation of citizen scenarios in which the government has been confronted, especially during the last phase of the military regime. There are also several movements fighting for the rights of refugees and immigrants.

Other organisations, such as the women’s movement, focus on the needs and issues of specific groups; during the eighties the women’s movement became strong through political action. Also, there are organisations fighting for the rights of ethnic groups, especially regarding the enforcement of the WTO agreement 169.

The 1993 Rio de Janeiro World Conference on Environment and Development was the starting point for dozens of groups concerned about environmental protection. Of more recent creation are other collective interest groups, such as those dedicated to the improvement of access to public services, food security and consumer rights.

Organisations concerned with children’s rights, child labour and child abuse and violence have emerged recently. Organisations dedicated to youth are fewer, therefore student movements have found no support.

**CSOs concerned with capacity building, education, and community development, and technical and financial support:** These groups of organisations (NGOS) which, in Central America and particularly in Honduras, are defined primarily by their orientation to development (PDOs), have many and diverse profiles. While most were born during the eighties, it was the post-Mitch period that propelled their growth and strength, while new ones emerged with funding provided by international cooperating agencies. Their activities range from social and community development to the study and research of specific topics, as well as training, capacity building and institutional strengthening for base groups in urban and rural areas.

A group of organisations, FPDOs (financial private development organisations) are focusing on micro-credit and their impact is visible and important.

There is no doubt that organisations fighting for human rights have been successful. An example of this is the progress made in the practice of human rights in Honduras during the nineties and early 2000.
Regarding the environment, the movement has grown and their concerns (forests and mining) have been incorporated in public discussions. Finally, worth mentioning is the fact that issues such as child labour, child abuse and violence against children and women have been incorporated in several national laws.

4.4.3 Empowering marginalized people. This indicator measures civil society’s success on this matter. The community survey shows that institutions were assisting communities with their activities aimed at improving the living conditions of the poorest, very few of those surveyed (4%) said they had participated in such activities. Of all those surveyed, only 8% agree that there were CSO supported activities aimed at helping the poorest among the population.

CSOs which lobby to empower marginalized people in the country are those involved with the defence and promotion of basic rights and dedicated to capacity building, education and community development. Among them: unions, women, ethnic and some farmer organisations; homosexual, child protection and HIV AIDS associations, among others.

The NIT states that there are several organisations devoted to adult literacy, primarily among the most marginal sectors of the country. There are successful programs, such as the one run by the Instituto Hondureño de Educación por Radio – IHER- (radio education program) or the literacy program run by the Central Nacional de Trabajadores del Campo – CNTC- (rural workers association), which although not currently operating at the same level as that of the eighties and nineties, have produced important benefits for their associates.

4.4.4 Empowering women. This is seen as rights of women to manage and make decisions on their quality of life. The community survey shows that in those cases where communities were assisted in carrying out activities aimed at improving the living conditions of women in the community, very few of those surveyed (4%), had participated in such activities. Of all those surveyed, only 6% agree that there were any CSO supported activities aimed at benefiting women.

Clearly, women are a crosscutting sector in Honduras and CSOs handle this sector with a relative degree of formality. During recent years the number or organisations working on empowering women has increased significantly. In fact the 2003 Honduras study of civil society includes six second and third level CSOs devoted to the subject. Among them, the Centro de Derechos de Mujeres –CDM- (women’s rights centre), the Centro de Estudios de la Mujer Hondureña –CEM-H—(centre for the study of Honduran women), the Comité Visitación Padilla, Colectiva de la Mujer Hondureña –CODEMH, Colectivo contra la Violencia, Convergencia de Mujeres, etc.

The above-mentioned organisations, individually or jointly, have had tremendous success at the national level on specific issues related to the legal and electoral spheres. Some of their achievements are: the approval of the law against domestic violence; the child, woman and family code; and the promotion for the creation of municipal units dealing with women’s issues.
4.4.5 Building social capital. How comparable are the trust levels, tolerance and public integrity of civil society actors regarding those of individuals who are not part of civil society? The 2003 Honduras civil society study states that CSOs are a symbol of a set of skills and services of transcendental significance for Honduras development, although organisations tend to concentrate geographically, focusing on topics and problems critical to the country. Their rich agenda includes services regarding crucial national interests and their impact is unquestionable.

Based on samples and on detailed data gathering, we identified organisations working on citizen safety, violence, health, good living standards, poverty eradication, natural disasters and maquila workers, among others. Honduran CSOs are truly a rich social capital whose achievements and failures should be used as a learning tool to generate further social success.

The following is a synthesis of Honduran CSOs strengths and potentials:
- As agents for the promotion of citizen participation at the community level in unions and as volunteers for development. CSOs are a scenario for collective work and a valuable tool to promote participation.
- CSOs are partners in the implementation of social and public policies, as well as intermediaries between citizens and local and sectorial authorities for joint implementation of activities.

Within this scenario and in the short term, the ERP becomes an important challenge, where dialogue, participation or consensus must be clearly defined and where co-participation and co-responsibility are the axis for policy execution.
- CSOs as co-managers of equitable development projects and poverty eradication efforts.
- CSOs as key players in the achievement of a people oriented development agenda.
- CSOs as contributors to governance, transparency and ethics through social and quality control and monitoring of public functions.

In sum, a strong civil society is of utmost importance and value to democracy and is the source of legitimacy for efficient public activities.

Data show that CSO members have a tendency to trust members more than non-members, leading us to believe that CSOs are more apt to assist in the development of social capital.

4.4.6 Supporting livelihoods. This indicator measures the degree of support given by CSOs to employment and income generation for the most impoverished. A study of civil society in Honduras conducted in 2003 based on a 328 sample of national CSOs shows 10,000 national CSOs sharing similar features. Thus, if these projections are accurate, we could say that in 2003 the CSO human resource base in Honduras included approximately 772,774 people. On the other hand, estimates that the number of paid, temporary staff is 238,292.

Given that the economically active population (EAP) for 2003, according to data published by CEPAL, was 2,410,000, CSOs were employing, during that year, approximately 10% of the EAP and civil society, in general, was responsible for creating income generating opportunities for approximately 32% of the EAP.
Based on the above, the contribution made by CSOs to income generation is significant, particularly when comparing the 238,292 people working directly within CSOs in 2003, and the employment generated by the maquila industries, which in 2004 generated between 130,000 and 150,000 direct jobs.

On the other hand, 32% of income generating opportunities as a proportion of the EAP is due to the support provided to the impoverished sectors of the country found within the informal economy.

4.5. Meeting Societal Needs
This sub-dimension examines how civil society’s activity impact social needs, particularly those of the impoverished population and other marginal groups.

4.5.1 Lobbying for state service provision. This indicator measures civil society activities to put pressure on the government to meet urgent social needs. According to the Regional Stakeholder Consultation, 29% of those interviewed indicated that there are no examples of civil society lobbying to force the government to provide social services. 32% stated that they are unfamiliar with this subject matter. However a significant number of interviewees (33%) stated that they can recall some examples. Regarding civil society’s rate of success on this matter, opinions range from limited success (28%) to lack of knowledge on the subject (32%).

In spite of the above, CSO pressure on the government to respond to urgent social needs is increasing. Examples of this are: actions by the patronato of the Valles de Santa Barbara to secure infrastructure for their communities; Trujillo farmers using roadblocks to get their land rights legally recognized; unions taking over buildings to secure salary increases; AIDS affected people making street demonstrations for the provision of retro-viral medication, or taxi drivers taking over the capital city in protest of the increase in the price of fuels. These are examples of actions of daily life in Honduras.

It seems that as a result of such pressure, the government, in seeking some degree of governance, has avoided confrontation and made concessions.

Civil society sustained actions are demonstrated by the fight of teachers associations to increase not only their wages, but also the quality of education; farmers’ efforts to reactivate the agrarian reform; cooperatives aiming at speeding up public policies on housing construction.
Meeting pressing societal needs directly. Interviewees’ opinions regarding civil society’s response to social needs were split. Some (30%) think that civil society’s role is limited, 30% think it is moderate, and a few (25%) think civil society’s role is significant.

The Estudio de la Sociedad Civil en Honduras, Caracterización y Directorio, stated:

“There are many sectors in Honduras which have benefited from CSOs activities. When asked to quantify the number of direct beneficiaries, data from organisations surveyed show that CSOs directly benefit at least 2,150,000 people. Even though there may be some overlaps (geographic), this number is quite impressive. CSOs report that their benefits also reach, though indirectly, many direct beneficiaries’ relatives, as well as other community sectors.

CSOs’ direct beneficiaries range from members of sectors which are not affiliated with such organisations. Members or other actors never receive financial benefits because the organisations included in this study are non-profit, thus do not have any profits to distribute to anyone.”

“Honduran CSOs directly benefit an important number of people, and indirectly benefit a great portion of the Honduran society. Their work impacts on the public and private sectors and CSOs goals and objectives pertain, undoubtedly, to the collective public wellbeing, and not to the individual wellbeing.

It is enriching to recall the words of hundreds of organisations whose mission is related to such diverse and complementary areas, such as the achievement of a better standard of living and social participation by low income sectors and the optimal development of natural resources in order to improve the quality of life of the Honduran population, the contribution to, and strengthening of democracy, the defence of members’ rights, community improvements, youth and young adult training or citizen awareness regarding gender equity in society at large. Environmental protection, support to government institutions working with vulnerable populations or the provision of health, food and child protection services, are some of the organisations’ goals. Academic researches, the promotion of cultural and ethnic values, or information dissemination to rural communities are other organisations’ topics.

The sectors that benefit from CSOs activities are many. Based on data supplied by the studies, we assume that CSOs directly benefit at least 2,150,000 people. Although there may be overlaps, (more than one organisation with direct beneficiaries within the same geographic or social sector). This is an impressive number. CSOs also benefit many of their direct beneficiaries’ relatives and other sectors in the community. Beneficiaries may be neighbours or people who live in the area where the organisation is working, the decision makers lobbied by CSOs, children and their families; women, whether organized or not, workshop participants, the ill and their families, professionals in various areas, among others.

“(La Sociedad Civil en Honduras, Caracterización y Directorio, 2003).”
The civil society map provides a picture of the “public good” matrix, including several distinct groups ranging from small communities to entrepreneurs associations or workers associations, benefiting millions of individuals.

4.5.3 Meeting needs of marginalized groups. Are CSOs more effective than the government in the provision of services to marginal groups? The community survey shows that, regarding the question of who provides better services to the poor, most interviewees (66%) chose CSOs; 15% chose the government, and 20% said they did not know.

Regarding the efficiency of services provided by CSOs and by the government, among those who had to request services from government-run entities, (39%) said that CSOs assisted them more efficiently at the time of need. Most of the interviewees (58%) said they never had to request such services from any institution.

In spite of the above and taking into account the 2005 natural disasters, even government organisations have improved on the delivery of immediate assistance compared to that provided after Hurricane Mitch in 1998.

Lack of data and related studies prevents us from providing assurances on whether CSOs provide better services than the government to marginal groups. However we know that international cooperating agencies often prefer CSOs for the execution of social projects and programs.
IV. STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN HONDURAS

According to this study’s findings, each dimension has strengths and weaknesses, as follows:

Structure.
Strengths: The strength of civil society structure resides first on its diversity. In addition to diversity that already exists, new CSOs continue emerging with the aim of working in various fields and targeting different populations. Another strength is that CSOs are distributed throughout the country. It is likely that in any of the 298 municipalities there is a non-profit organisation working alongside governmental organisations. Of significance are the large number of volunteers and the number of hours these people devote to community work.
Weaknesses: Our findings show that some groups, particularly ethnic groups, feel excluded from CSO general membership and specifically from leadership roles. There is limited communication among civil society actors. CSOs appear to lack adequate financial and human resources to meet their goals and, worse yet, they have insufficient or no infrastructure. Last but not least, first level CSOs have stated that second level CSOs, federations and confederations are basically ineffective in supporting their goals.

Values.
Strengths: The most outstanding feature throughout this study are the findings that civil society has a leading role in poverty eradication, both through direct intervention as well as through the requirements of services from the government, and the pressure exerted to ensure that public policies focus on the most impoverished. Civil society activities on this matter are quite visible and have people’s support. Civil society is perceived as active in its role to promote each and every one of the values included in this study, although CSO actions still lack visibility.
Weaknesses: One of CSOs most evident weaknesses is their lack of internal democracy, transparency and accountability. Also, women appear to be underrepresented in leadership roles.

Impact.
Strengths: Overall, it seems that the greatest CSO impact occurs when CSO respond directly to social needs in specific areas. Their impact is considered even greater than that of governmental institutions, reflected in opinions stating that the population has a high level of trust in civil society organisations.
Weaknesses: While we acknowledge civil society’s intense activity on human rights, public policy making, the national budget processes, accountability (government and private sector) and citizen empowerment, there is also evidence that its impact is limited.
Environment.
**Strengths:** A positive aspect is the acceptance by government of an independent civil society. The moderate level of trust and tolerance in society as a whole is also a good indicator.

**Weaknesses:** The environment within which civil society operates in Honduras exhibits important weaknesses. The most evident one being the low level of public honesty, frequent violations of basic liberties, generalized corruption, private sector hostility towards CSOs and the lack of government guarantees to ensure CSO operations.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Information Sharing.** Activities to disseminate CSI results through workshops, training, seminars, program courses, written materials and others should become a priority to Honduran CSOs.

- **Facing Weaknesses.** Weaknesses identified in the structure and values dimensions, such as forms of exclusion, lack of depth in citizen participation, insufficient resources, lack of transparency, gender equity and democracy within CSOs must be carefully and promptly addressed by all types and levels of CSOs so that when promoting their causes they become more efficient in demanding government and private sector accountability.

- **Sectorial Coordination.** Coalitions and coordination of efforts essentially involving civil society, the government and the private sector must be encouraged. Coordination should start with the discussion of the concept, incorporating different sectors’ points of view.

- **CSI Methodology.** The CSI National Workshop recommends that the CIVICUS CSI be disseminated, at least in each department of the country, so that the CSI is identifiable even at local levels.

- **Solidarity.** The CSI National Workshop recommends that the methodology incorporate solidarity as part of the VALUES dimension.

- **Corporate Social Responsibility.** The CSR should be a fundamental theme in the government’s and civil society’s agendas. CSR should not be the sole responsibility of some business entrepreneurs. This should serve to improve or increase the participation of all actors.
VI. CONCLUSIONS

Honduras’ Civil Society Diamond

- **Honduras Civil Society** is rather weak. It exists and operates within a scarcely adequate scenario, yet it moderately practices and develops positive values; its activities are strong and diverse, though its impact ranges from limited to moderate.

- **Structure.** The civil society structure is weak. This is expressed in the limited depth of people’s participation in organisations, in the exclusion felt by some citizen groups (particularly regarding leadership roles) and in the lack of adequate operating structures and resources for first level CSOs to meet their goals. In spite of the above, not everything is negative in the civil society structure. Interactions among CSO actors themselves, the diversity of actors and the breadth of citizen participation are positive aspects worth mentioning.

- **Environment.** Civil society in Honduras exists and operates within a scarcely adequate scenario. Evidence of this includes its relationship with the private sector and the political and economic context and basic liberties. In spite of the above, there are some positive aspects, such as its relationship with the last three administrations, the legal framework and, above all, the socio-cultural environment, key elements allowing some progress.

- **Values.** Based on the score given to this dimension, we can infer that the best of civil society in Honduras rests on the practice and promotion of values. Tolerance, non-violence and environmental sustainability are values which civil society practices and promotes beyond other areas included in this study. There is no doubt that the value most practiced and promoted by CSOs is poverty eradication. Some of the values assessed continue to represent challenges for civil society. Among them: gender equity, internal democracy, and above all, transparency within CSOs.

- **Impact.** The assessment of the impact of civil society activities indicates that this is limited, bordering on moderate. The absence of a significant impact is due to civil
society’s lack of success on achieving government and private sector accountability, and its limited influence on national public policy-making. The above is balanced by civil society’s relative success regarding citizen empowerment, by its direct response to social needs and by its impact on collective public interests.

- **Sector Involvement.** There are few signs of civil society involvement with the government and the private sector as a national project. Also, a noticeable flaw is the lack of coordination within civil society itself.

- **Concept.** The civil society concept, as a social category, has been widely used by all sectors and within CSOs but rarely debated. This has resulted in each sector having its own interpretation, causing useless arguments that could have been avoided, while using consensus building as a means to reach a joint definition.

- **Scope and Specificity.** The CSI process is rich regarding data gathering, but it lacks depth in most of its 74 indicators. Future CSIs should focus on a more in-depth research of each of the dimensions, sub-dimensions and indicators.

- **Civil Society Baseline.** The CSI study in Honduras could be seen as a baseline to measure the progress made on the practice and promotion of values, structures and impact in future years.
VII. ANNEXES

1. LIST of NATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS.

1. José Guadalupe Ruelas – Caritas de Honduras
2. Roy Guevara Arzú – Afroamerica XXI
3. Ronald Barahona - COHEP
4. Eugenio González - FONAC
5. Joaquin Cardoza – Bellota Cultural
6. Nicolás Aasheim – Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo
7. Sandra Maribel Sánchez - Journalist
8. Ezequiel Miranda – Asociación de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales (ASONOG) (NGOs Association)
9. Oscar Mejía (Patronato Regional de Occidente – Diputado al Parlamento de Honduras) (Western Regional Patronato- Hondurans’ Congressional Assembly)
10. Jesús Garza (FIAN INTERNACIONAL – ONG Internacional por el derecho a la alimentación) (International NGO for Food Security)
11. Joel Alemán (Asociación Nacional de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales – ASONOG – Red de ONGs) (National NGO Association)
12. Tulio Mariano González (Centro Independiente para el Desarrollo de Honduras – CIDH – Organización de Desarrollo Étnica) (Independent Center for Development )
13. Roque Rivera (Popol Nah Tun - ONG)
14. Carlos Patiño (Pastoral Social Caritas – Church)
15. Sara Dewachter (Universidad de Antwerpen – Academia / International Cooperation
16. Rosario Roiz (Collectivo de Mujeres contra la Violencia – Organización feminista) (Collective Women’s Organisation)
17. María Antonia Martínez (Consejo Latinoamericano de Mujeres CLADEM – Organización Feminista Internacional) (Latin American women’s council)
18. María Elena Rodríguez (Cruz Roja Hondureña – Organización Filantrópica) (Honduran Red Cross)
19. Francis Osorio (Madre Tierra – ONG Ambientalista) (Environmental NGO)
20. Bárbara Mejía (Professor)

2. REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION - PARTICIPANT LIST

2.1 Regional Stakeholder Consultation in Siguatepeque, Comayagua

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
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<th>Organisation</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Luis García Alemán</td>
<td>Siguatepeque Patronato Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ifran Rodríguez</td>
<td>COAPIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mario Santos</td>
<td>Business and Industrial chamber</td>
</tr>
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### Regional Stakeholder Consultation in Santa Rosa de Copán, Copán

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Manuel Maldonado</td>
<td>Transparency Commission / Evangelic Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pedro Jesús Pinto</td>
<td>Coordinator of the La Labor Civil society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Álvaro Padilla</td>
<td>Asonog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Nahum Tejada</td>
<td>Asonog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>José Cruz Portillo Zúñiga</td>
<td>Asonog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Orlando Aguilar</td>
<td>Local Development Patronato</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Roberto Perdomo</td>
<td>Comunal Development Patronato</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Reynaldo Torres Rodríguez</td>
<td>Talgua Patronato</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Rosandra Lara</td>
<td>Lepaera Municipality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Gloria Cortés</td>
<td>OCDIH, Lepaera</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>José Bautista</td>
<td>Santa Rosa de Copán Local Strategic Development Agency</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Vilma Machado</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Hugo Edgardo Mencía</td>
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<td>Fredy Rufino Aguilar</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Wilmer Jaime Mejía</td>
<td>COPROCA, Paraíso</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Mardoqueo Mejía</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Sendy González de Dios</td>
<td>Corquin Network of female leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>María Isabel Déras</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Silverio Rodríguez</td>
<td>La Unión</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Jamie Espinoza</td>
<td>ENI</td>
</tr>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Marco Antonio Valle</td>
<td>ENI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Jesús Garza</td>
<td>NAG Member / Facilitator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>José Luis Espinoza</td>
<td>ENI / OCN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2.3 Regional Stakeholder Consultation in Tegucigalpa / Valle de Ángeles, Francisco Morazán

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Donald Hernández Palma</td>
<td>Caritas Arquidiocesana</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Herminia Reyes</td>
<td>Valle de Ángeles Municipality</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mario Humberto Durón</td>
<td>CODEH</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Johann Rivera de Villeda</td>
<td>FUNHNICER</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Nora Miselem</td>
<td>CDM</td>
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<tr>
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<td>María Elena Rodríguez</td>
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<td>Eugenia Idiáquez</td>
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<td>Alex Matamoros</td>
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<td>Iris Meléndez</td>
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<td>Ana Murillo</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Marco Antonio Perdomo</td>
<td>CEHPRODEC</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Francisco Quintanilla</td>
<td>INTERFOROS</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Jesús Garza</td>
<td>GAN / ADERH</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Blanca Luz Silva Valle</td>
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<td>Ligia María Álvarez</td>
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<td>María Dolores Martínez</td>
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<td>Sandra López Núñez</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Daysi Aurora Rivera</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Ricardo Isidro Flores Estrada</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Lourdes Patricia Díaz</td>
<td>ICYE- Honduras</td>
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### 2.4 Regional Stakeholder Consultation Puerto Cortés, Cortés

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Carlos Alfonso Carías</td>
<td>Economist Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>José Ernesto Cálix</td>
<td>Universidad de San Pedro Sula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Israel Cruz</td>
<td>CASM</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Salvado Caballero</td>
<td>Bordos Forum</td>
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<td>José Ever Rivera</td>
<td>Choloma Social Forum</td>
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<td>Dagoberto González</td>
<td>Shepherd’s Association</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Julián Cruz</td>
<td>Catholic Church</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Margarita Murillo</td>
<td>Foro Social del Valle de Sula</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Saída Martínez</td>
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<td>Liberato López Pinto</td>
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<td>Jesús Garza</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Nolvia Yolanda Irías</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Policarpo Mejía</td>
<td>SITRAEMP</td>
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### 2.5 Regional Stakeholder Consultation in Comayagua, Comayagua

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Héctor Ramón García</td>
<td>STENEE</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Rosa Otilia Escalón</td>
<td>FIAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Rosa Melania Bustillo</td>
<td>SITRAINAI</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>María Bernarda Guzmán</td>
<td>COLPEDAGOGOSH</td>
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<td>Adán Enrique Rivera</td>
<td>ECOLOGICA</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Dacia Padilla</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Ixson Medina</td>
<td>INHDEI</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Josefin Henríquez</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Mariela Iveth Salgado</td>
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<td>Osmin Manzanarez</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Elda Rubí</td>
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<td>Carmen Sorto</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Silvia de Fonseca</td>
<td>Patronato</td>
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<td>Oscar Maldonado</td>
<td>Asociación de vendedores mercado colonial</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Estefana Palma Bueso</td>
<td>Cooperativas de Comayagua</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Brenda Mayorga</td>
<td>SITRAINAI</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>María de Jesús Mejía</td>
<td>UTC</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Enrique Peña</td>
<td>Los Leones Patronato</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Tonita Flores</td>
<td>ORGADISFA</td>
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<td>Milagro Dolores Alvarado</td>
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<td>Carmen Suyapa Perez</td>
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<td>Gladis Leticia Argeñal</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Regina Saravia</td>
<td>FEDEMUH</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Karla Alemán</td>
<td>J.D. Mercado Sn Fco.</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Ana Luz Mejía</td>
<td>Lenca Santa María Organisation</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Pedro Rivera Moya</td>
<td>ALCONH</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Sebastián Flores</td>
<td>CNC</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Angel Alexis Morán</td>
<td>UCDAH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Oscar Arturo Mendoza</td>
<td>SIPRODOH</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Participants in the CSI national workshop
12 Nora Miselem CDM
13 José Martínez FOPRIDEH
14 Ronald Moreno COFADEH
15 Entima Andino Zavala COFADEH
16 José Ernesto Távora TECNIDE
17 Víctor Sánchez ACAN
18 Gerson Francisco Granados ALITEDH
19 Francis Osorio Madre Tierra
20 Roberto Marin Journalist
21 Alejandra Cabrera OPROH
22 Tatiana Ucles Abrego OPROH
23 Maritza Gallardo Oxfam International
24 Blanca Rosa Padilla INA
25 Dania Martínez UJCV
26 Eugenia Idiaquez CHE
27 Maribel Sánchez Radio Globo
28 Laura Montoya Education Secretariat
29 Pedro Landa Caritas Arquidiocesana
30 Lorena Rubí COFADEH
31 Wilmer Vásquez COIPRODEN
32 Eda Alicia Meza CDM
33 Ricardo Zelaya Radio Globo
34 Martín Ramírez La Tribuna
35 Sobeyda Alvarez ACI- PARTICIPA
36 Martha Alicia Gayton UPN
37 Ronald Barahona COHEP
38 Leonel Estrada El Heraldo
39 Gleden Perdomo El Heraldo
40 Francesca Randazzo Doctors without Borders
41 Ricardo Flores Estrada COLPROCAH
42 Mario Flores Quan UNAH
43 Bertha Isela Herrera CIDH
44 José Baltasar Campos IHNFA
45 Santos Oliva FUHRIL
46 Kyoko Watanabe FUHRIL
47 Julia García IHADFA
48 Angel Zelaya CUTH
49 Mario Enrique Aguilar FUDENA
50 Manuel de Jesús Vásquez INFOP
51 Lourdes Patricia Díaz Valle ICYE
52 Doris Escalante OPROH
53 Alex Navas Álvarez OPROH
54 Dilcia Vásquez BANADESA
55 José Guadalupe Ruelas Plan Honduras
56 Julio Villalta FUDENA

CIVICUS: Civil Society Index Report for Honduras
Data gathering

CEHPRODEC had no difficulty in finding data regarding Honduras civil society. On the one hand, there are insufficient data, on the other CEHPRODEC’s staff has been involved in other studies and research efforts closely related to the subject.

In this case we opted for a rapid review of the status of civil society in Honduras for each of the sites where we held Regional Stakeholder Consultations.

REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS
In order to carry out Regional Stakeholder Consultations, the NIT first reviewed the documents provided by CIVICUS to guide the research project. Some changes were made
at that point; first, the survey was adapted to the Honduran context and second, it was changed to facilitate Stakeholder responses at the time of the survey.

Given the importance of the data gathering effort, the NIT introduced an alternative method to the one proposed. Due to our limitations regarding automated communications and the organisations’ behaviour at the time of providing information through new technologies, we opted for avoiding what could have been a fruitless exercise and held survey sessions that lasted two to three days. During the first day, stakeholders were told about the general CSI process and filled out the surveys. During the second day, tabulated survey results were explained to participants to generate a brainstorming scenario, which made stakeholders express opinions about each CSI sub-dimension.

Along with NAG members, five areas were identified for the Regional Stakeholder Consultations, including modifications to the areas chosen. Finally, the surveys took place, according to the following schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Number of participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 25 – 27, 2005</td>
<td>Siguatepeque, Comayagua</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Siguatepeque CSO participation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2 - 4, 2005</td>
<td>Santa Rosa de Copán, Copán</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(western region CSO participation, Copán, Lempira y Ocotepeque departments)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 25 – 26, 2005</td>
<td>Valle de Angeles, Francisco Morazán (Tegucigalpa participation)</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 20 – 22, 2005</td>
<td>Puerto Cortés, Cortés (Sula, San Pedro Sula, Puerto Cortés y Santa Bárbara participation)</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 7 – 8, 2005</td>
<td>Comayagua, Comayagua (Comayagua y La Paz department participation)</td>
<td>29</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Stakeholder selection was made with the support, in some cases, of local CSOs. The invitation to participate was based on participants’ profiles submitted by the NIT to local organisations.²¹

²¹ The stakeholders general profile was as follows: over 21, high school graduate and preferably university student, a good understanding of the institution being represented, knowledge about civil society in their town, preferably about the country’s, availability to participate full time during the two-day survey.
According to the CIVICUS methodology, participation by diverse sectors (government, civil society, private businesses, media, international cooperating agencies) was taken into account at the time the invitation was made.

COMMUNITY SURVEY
Although during the planning stage a proposal was made to use three community surveys, the CSI coordinating team, taking into account the variety of universes existing in the country (using criteria such as location, socio-economic profile, demo table), opted for a total of five community surveys, as follows:

Community 1
Colonia Kennedy: a community located in Tegucigalpa (capital of Honduras), Department of Francisco Morazán, with a mid level socioeconomic profile and classified as one of the largest colonies in the capital city, with an estimated 5,000 houses, paved non-vehicular streets, all basic services available, including those which may place it in the small city category (hospitals, schools, businesses, churches, public transportation, etc.)

Community 2
Residencia Las Colinas: a community located also in the capital city, with a mid to high socio-economic level, including an estimated 500 houses located in a residential area, vehicular streets, close access to basic necessary services. Although it is not possible to take public transportation to the area, it is feasible to reach its surroundings through other means.

Community 3
El Sitio: a community located within 15 minutes of driving time from the capital’s central district; it has a mid-low socio-economic level, with an estimated 500 houses and basic services.

Community 4
Bo. Abajo Comayagua: a community located in the city and department of Comayagua, with a heterogeneous socio-economic level. This community has top of the line housing, as well as temporary dwellings bordering on poverty. It is located near the central district of the city of Comayagua (the country’s capital from 1824 to 1880) and has access to all basic services.

Community 5
Ciudad Nueva, Choluteca: a community located within 25 minutes of driving time from the city of Choluteca and has a low socio-economic level. It is a marginal urban community, created after the Mitch Hurricane in 1999, to relocate families impacted by this natural disaster. Most of the population in this community live in poverty conditions, although it is possible to find some middle class housing.

The community survey took place according to the following procedures:
a) Adaptation of the survey to the Honduran context.
b) Survey analysis by the NIT.
c) Community identification and selection.
d) Hiring of survey takers.
e) Training of survey takers through an inductive workshop.
f) Survey validation in the field.
g) Survey application in the field.

The field survey application used a simple random sampling method, reaching alternate housing units.

A total of 585 surveys were carried out in the five communities, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>No. of surveys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Res. Las Colinas</td>
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<td>El Sitio</td>
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<td>Bo. Abajo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ciudad Nueva</td>
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</table>

Results from the community surveys were fundamental to the analysis and scoring of the four CSI dimensions. Moreover, they were an important input to the thorough analysis of the impact dimension, because the methodology allowed those surveyed to freely express their perception of civil society actions in their communities.

MEDIA REVIEW
In order to initiate the media review, it was necessary to identify the media that were to be assessed. The following criteria were used to select what media to monitor:

1. National media coverage
2. Circulation (number of printed copies per day)
3. Radio and television program ratings

Following media selection, the NIT hired a monitor responsible for data gathering, analysis and processing.

On a daily basis the monitor compiled the information necessary to develop a news file, which incorporated each of the press releases selected from the three types of media selected. The formats used were: micro cassettes for radio, VHS for television and clippings for the printed press.22

After duly recording the news items, each of them was reviewed, documented, described and classified according to the CIVICUS media review format. Once each press/news release was registered and classified, it was input into a database in order to produce outputs offering a general overview of the research results.

22 All these files are included in the general CEHPRODEC files
A detailed analysis of the media review can be found in Annex 6, of this report.

**CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN HONDURAS (CSR)**

Introduction

The CSR Study in Honduras, was carried out using three types of inputs:

- a. Monitoring of the Honduran Website “Fundación Hondureña de Responsabilidad Social Empresarial”. (Fundahrse)
- b. NIT participation in the First CSR National Forum in Honduras.
- c. Primary research on 19 enterprises.

CSR, as such, became noticeable in the national scene three years ago, thanks to the private sector efforts.

The study attempts to reveal the degree of CSR understanding within the business sector, and this sector’s behaviour regarding the various directions that CSR has taken internally and externally.

Background

The CSR concept in Honduras is of recent creation. The first entrepreneurs’ approach to the subject took place during a CSR seminar held in Brazil, August 18-22, 2001, under the sponsorship of the WK Kellogg’s Foundation.

Beginning in 2004, the CSR has been promoted in Honduras by the Honduran “Fundación Hondureña de Responsabilidad Social Empresarial” (FUNDahrse), made of 32 national private corporations. The foundation is currently working on promotion and information dissemination, stating that their aim is to improve the quality of life standards for their companies, their employees and the environment. On March 9, 2006, it held its first CSR Forum including the establishment of an annual award to recognize the work done by private corporations working on Honduras’ economic, social and environmental development.

FUNDahrse current activities relate to the promotion of inter-corporation alliances, lecturing, design of evaluation tools and networking.

FUNDahrse is a member of “Forum Empresa”, a CSR organisation that includes more than 2500 businesses in the United States, Argentina, Brasil, Canada, Colombia, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. The third Central American, Panama and the Caribbean CSR conference took place on April 27 – 28, 2005, in San Pedro Sula, Honduras.
Concept
Although the CSR concept is still being developed, for purposes of this report we have adopted the following definition: “The CSR is a management concept defined by the ethical relationship between the company and the clients it interacts with and by business goals compatible with society’s sustainable development, protecting natural and cultural resources for future generations, having respect for diversity and promoting the reduction of social inequality.”

Dealing with the concept in Honduras
The theoretical management of the CSR concept seems to be the sole territory of FUNDAHRSE and its technicians who, among their activities offer businesses, public organisations and civil society a basic introduction on the subject. On of its modules seeks to clarify the difference between social investment, philanthropy and CSR.

Nonetheless, there are a few business entrepreneurs, particularly large corporation leaders, such as: Celtel, Batca, Cervecería Hondureña and Alcon among others, that have become involved with this subject matter and, therefore, have a better handling of the CSR concept.

How CSR is understood, is as follows:

- Ethical and responsible management of process outcomes, so that people, clients, suppliers, and communities are positively impacted. (ALCON)
- CSR is a philosophy that allows businesses to include in their business strategy the community, the environment, ethics and transparency, as well as the welfare of their associates and a Responsible Market (“Folleto promocional del I Foro Nacional de RSE” – Promotional Brochure on the First National CSR Forum).
- It is an ongoing business contribution to sustainable economic development, as well as a contribution to the improvement of their employees/families quality of life. It also means improvements in local communities and society at large.
- We propose a business vision that harmonically integrates respect for ethical values, people, the community and the environment. CSR goes beyond philanthropy or charity. It is the expression of businesses’ real involvement in strategic and intelligent decision-making, creating concepts and values that are useful to all community members. It is the creation of awareness and is the practice of responsible social and political action within a culture of shared social responsibility. (FUNDAHRSE).
- People depend on solidarity in order to become effective and dignified actors within modern business entrepreneurship practices. There are large numbers of groups that do not earn enough to meet family needs; these people have neither social security nor sanitary and decent working conditions. Businesses are responsible for preventing damage to the natural and human environments. Everyone should share this responsibility, but particularly businessmen. This belief is based on the principle that he who has more should give more to ensure common wellbeing. CSR

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23 Instituto Argentino de Responsabilidad Social Empresarial (Argentinean CSR Institute): “Some CSR definitions”.
is not a set of rules; it is instead a set of skills which should allow us to identify what is here and now and make decisions accordingly. A critical factor is the ability to always be just (Antonio Tavel, Honduran business entrepreneur).

- Corporate CSR is acknowledged in developed countries as an essential corporate feature, therefore foundations, hospitals, nurseries, schools, rehabilitation centres and people have benefited from our support (BAMER).
- CSR objectives are: the reduction of negative environmental impacts as a result of production processes and the improvement of employees’ and business owners’ quality of life. Therefore our values passionately focus on our customers and their needs. We practice customer relations based on integrity and trust and we keep our promises (Dinant Corporation).

As it can be seen, there are quite a number of theories regarding CSR, and although those above mentioned do not exhaust all arguments and opinions on the subject, Bruce Burdett’s opinion must be highlighted: businesses understanding of, and involvement in CSR by most Honduran companies is still minimal. Consequently, for purposes of this research, the sample seems to be sufficient, considering the reduced number of businesses theoretically and practically engaged in CSR activities.

**CSR Entrepreneur’s Activity**

Most people feel that “politicians and entrepreneurs do not do what they say”, which means that there are companies that have developed a CSR discourse, which does not translate into practical actions within or outside businesses. The research did not carry out an in-depth analysis because of time limitations.

What follows are examples of activities, projects and programs mentioned by businesses, as part of their CSR programs.

**Internal Activities**

A review of businesses included in this study shows that companies practicing CSR have given priority to their staffs’ needs and requirements, as well as to their working conditions, educational needs and to CSR promotion.

There are a few examples on this matter.

- Alternative employees’ health coverage systems.
- Support to public education, including teachers’ salaries.
- Support to employees’ self-improvement plans.
- Improvements regarding employees’ participation through the “anonymous commitment survey”.
- Adult literacy program “Educatodos” for company employees.
- Microbiology services for employees.
- Retirement Plan.
- Support to the foundation for business transparency.
• Sharing and dissemination of common practices between companies.
• Stakeholder engagement seminars.

External activities

Citizen Security
• Actions to support citizen security through the provision of food and fuel to security police.

Health
• Support for cleft lip surgery (Operación Sonrisa).
• Collaboration with Telethon and Special Olympics.
• Hospital infrastructure improvements.
• Support to foundations: Ruth Paz, Funhnicer, and others.
• Health equipment.
• Participation in health related campaigns (dengue, anti-rabies).

Education
• Improvements in the quality of Primary education PROMEB.
• Support to mobile libraries.
• Non-smoking campaigns for underage youth.
• Support to private universities, schools and public institutes.
• Support to the Telebásica Project, Ministry of Education.

Public Infrastructure
• Volunteering for housing, school, and sports complex construction.
• Construction of the “Instituto Hondureño de la Niñez”.
• Parks improvement.

Emergency related activities
• Medical, food and other donations made during natural disasters.

Environment
• Protection of areas such as: Farallones, Punta Hisopo, Zacate Grande and others.
• Reforestation and wildlife protection.
• Manglar protection.
• Creation of greenhouses to fight deforestation.
• Voluntary work for the prevention and control of forest fires.
• Support to environmental foundations.
• Introduction of environmental protection programs.
• Embellishment and cleaning of public spaces
• Beach sanitation.

Support to Civil Society Organisations
- Fundación Cerro de Plata
- Aldeas SOS
- Evangelical churches
- Red Cross
- Firefighters
- Cámara Júnior de Comayagüela
- Nursing homes for the elderly
- Orphanages
- Catholic radio
- Theatre groups
- Women in arts groups
- Sports clubs

As can be seen from the wide range of examples supplied above, business activities are varied. Mostly, these activities are strongly influenced by a philanthropic business culture.

On the other hand, some companies state that to accomplish their CSR tasks, they use alliances with governmental entities or other international organisations. Examples of these are:

- With UNICEF, on environment educational campaigns,
- With AFE-COHDEFOR, on fire-fighting,
- With the Attorney General, to prevent illegal animal trade,
- With the Health Ministry, on malaria eradication,
- With the First Lady’s Office and the World Food Program, on school meals,
- And generally, with some municipalities.
Conclusions

1. CSR is a topic of recent creation and analysis in Honduras and has been put into practice for only three years. It was promoted mainly by businesses that are part of international corporations seeking the creation of a foundation specializing in CSR.

2. FUNDAHRSE is the only entity found in Honduras working on the promotion and dissemination of CSR. This foundation is funded by the private sector.

3. Services offered by FUNDAHRSE are evaluated through CSR indicators related to strategy, status, policies and practices in areas where businesses operate.

4. Indicators measure seven main CSR components: values, transparency, internal actors (labor standards), suppliers, consumers, environment, community relations and relationships with the government.

5. The government and civil society seem to play a minimum role in CSR. Sometimes it seems to be an academic issue, particularly when it comes to private universities and public universities’ administrative spheres. Undoubtedly, most business activities are part of a philanthropic business culture and not necessarily the result of CSR awareness. Nonetheless, there are examples of CSR actions directly associated to improving the poor image that has resulted from the negative impact caused by businesses themselves, such as the BATCA campaigns against youth and smoking.

6. As individuals there are some business entrepreneurs who have a good understanding of CSR going beyond profitable activities. This type of entrepreneur is wholly aware that CSR begins where the observance of the law ends. Yet other entrepreneurs still need to understand that CSR is everything but a simple strategy for businesses to make profits.

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INTERVIEWEEs

Mario Martínez  BAMER
Daniel Pineda    Supermercados La Colonia
Manuel Acosta   LOTHELSA
Carmen Flefil   Larach y Cia.
Irma Suazo      DIPPSA
Maura Reyes     Leche Sula
Marco López     BAC Credomatic
Karla M. Ávila  Cervecería Hondureña
Olimpia Aldana Grupo ALCON
Elsa Osorto     FUNAZUCAR

ANNEX

ENTERPRISES INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CSR STUDY

1. Banco Mercantil, BAMER
2. Compañía televisora hondureña, Televicentro
3. La Colonia Supermarkets
4. Loterías electrónicas de Honduras S.A. LOTHELSA
5. EYL Comercial
6. Larach y Cia.
7. Fundación azucarera, FUNAZUCAR
8. Distribuidora de productos del petróleo, S.A. DIPPSA
9. Leche Leyde
10. SHELL
11. Teléfonica celular, CELTEL
12. Leche Sula
13. British American Tobacco de Centroamérica, BATTCA
14. Compañía Avícola de Centroamérica, CADECA
15. Alimentos y Concentrados, ALCON
16. Banco de América Central, BAC Credomatic
17. Corporación DINANT
18. Cervecería Hondureña
19. Distribuidora de vehículos, Corporación Flores
CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE MEDIA

INTRODUCTION

Under the CSI Project, media reviews took place between January 12 -March 12, and June 6 – July 6, 2005. The study was aimed at visualizing how civil society was perceived by those media with the greatest audiences in the country.

Three types of media were selected for this purpose: printed media, Diario La Tribuna; radio, Noticiero el Minuto de Radio América (Audio Video Group); and television, Noticiero TN5 (Televisión Group).

During three months of media reviews, information was gathered from 311 news releases related to CSO activities nationally. The methodology used for this research activity is described under Annex 4. A brief description of the findings follows:

MAIN FINDINGS

Number of media press releases monitored

Out of 311 newscasts monitored: 114 come from “Diario La Tribuna” (printed press), 110 from “Noticiero TN5” (television) and 87 from “Noticiero el Minuto de Radio América” (radio).

Table A.1. Percentage of media monitored
Of the 311 newscasts monitored, 44% correspond to national news, listed in descending order (by number of reports) as follows: professional organisations, unions and lobbying CSOs; 35% correspond to regional news related to the same type of CSOs and a few newscasts related to ethnic subjects; 20% local news, related to community and financial CSOs; only 1% pertain to international news on lobbying CSOs and unions.

Monitoring themes

Some themes appear to be more important than others to CSO activity, as mentioned in TABLE III.4.5 and included in the main section of the report, which specifically discusses each report’s contents. According to classification criteria included in the database, we found that news concentration occurs around promotion (lobbying, riots, petitions and protests); the economy (mainly fuel prices), education, sustainable development, national public policies and others.

CSOs image, as perceived by media

According to a classification of news releases, there are no positive or negative opinions about CSOs in most newscasts (96.5%). News is not judgmental about CSOs’ activities and are rather limited to just reporting such activities. In those few cases (2.22%) where news is of a negative nature, the subject matter is related to corruption, riots, protests, the economy or to some personalities; where the nature of the news is positive (only 1.26%) the subjects discussed are health, the economy, and corruption (when the objective is to denounce internal CSO behaviour).

Relationship between the media review and CSI indicators

With reference to Table 2, we realized that the most visible CSO actions in Honduras could hardly go unnoticed by media, specifically lobbying activities, many times manifested through riots and marches.

A further analysis of the media review made us realize that news is connected to indicators measuring CSOs fight against their own weaknesses. For example: under the structure dimension, there is abundant news regarding collective community efforts and inter-CSO relationships, particularly when it comes to communication: under the environment dimension, most newscasts are related to activities regarding public decision-making and dialogue with the government. Under the values dimension there are few activities reported by media; government accountability is the subject that receives the greatest attention (11%). Under the impact dimension, media make efforts to show institutional strengthening, collective efforts, lobbying for government services and responses to specific requirements.
Under the environment dimension, as mentioned in item 2.7, CSO relationships with the private sector are openly hostile. Because media are privately owned, civil society activities that do not include protests or riots are not reported.
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