

QUARTERLY NARRATIVE REPORT

Grantee: Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy (REDLAD)	Reporting Period: October 1st to December 31st, 2017 Report date of submission: 29/01/2018
Agreement Number: SLM-AQM-15-GR-1267	Project Duration: From: 9/24/2015 Through: 9/30/2018
Country/Region: Latin America	Submitted by: Gina Romero
Funding Liquidated (quarter - Oct-dec 2017): \$28,524 Funding Liquidated (Total): \$668,393 Total Award: \$990,099	Contact Information: Gina Romero Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy gina.romero@redlad.org 573152228450

1a. Brief description of the project:

REDLAD is awarded a grant to support the development of a Summit of the Americas civil society coordination mechanism to ensure that the civil society organization (CSO) community in the region has a meaningful and institutionalized role in the Summit process. This by facilitating systematic consultations with a representative group of civil society and providing technical assistance to CSOs needing to build capacity and better engagement that allow them to monitor the Summit process.

1b. Collaboration and partnerships:

The most significant events for the project during this period of report were the opening of the window to propose coalitions for the 2018 Summit, on October 9th, and the Civil Society consultations that were carried out during the week of October 23rd.

Civil Society consultations held by the OAS: With few exceptions, attendance to these events was relatively low. The base team prepared a series of talking points (annex 3) that were distributed to PASCA's focal points to hammer down a few key messages. These events were organized as brainstorming sessions revolving around three themes: 1) Democratic Governance and Corruption; 2) Corruption and Sustainable Development and 3) Corruption, International Institutions and Public-Private Partnerships. At the end of each session the group was asked to formulate around five recommendations per theme (for a total of around 15 recommendations per country), making sure that they were Specific, Measurable, Assignable, Realistic and Time-related (S.M.A.R.T). Recommendations were then compiled by the OAS and prepared to be presented at the SIRG meeting in Lima on November 2nd and 3rd.

The Base Team interviewed 12 PASCA partners who attended the events and put together a letter (annex 4) on behalf of the Citizen Forum of the Americas with their comments and impressions. Gina Romero sent the letter to the OAS' Summit Secretariat on November 22nd and we received an official response from Secretary James Lambert (annex 5), thanking us for our comments and observations on December 8.

Work on November focused on the SIRG meeting in Peru and also participating in the coalition process throughout the month.

The **SIRG meeting** was held in Lima on November 2nd and 3rd. CSOs were invited to present the conclusions of the national CS consultations (which had been held the week before). Since our local partners (DESCO and Propuesta Ciudadana) had taken on *rapporteur* duties on three out of four groups during the Peruvian CS consultation, they were asked to present the conclusions of their national CS consultation. Our partners took advantage of the opportunity to briefly talk about the PASCA process.

Regarding the mechanism for proposing coalitions, the formal announcement was made on October 9th with the release of a document detailing the conditions for building and proposing coalitions to the OAS and the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the main conditions being that coalitions comprise at least 10 different organizations from at least two different regions of the continent - which presents extra restraints to the process in comparison with the conditions valid for the Cancun General Assembly in June 2017. The deadline for presenting coalitions was originally set at November 1st but was subsequently pushed out to November 20th. On November 28th, four of the six coalitions proposed by PASCA groups were asked to join forces with other like-minded groups.

The project team's work in attracting focal points and other partners paid off: of the 28 coalitions admitted to the Summit on December 19th (annex 6), 8 of them (almost a third) are led or integrated by PASCA organizations:

1. **Citizen Forum of the Americas / Foro Ciudadano de las Américas** - comprising some of PASCA's focal points and other partner organizations from 10 countries.
2. **Transparency, Open Government and Public Participation / Transparencia, Gobierno Abierto y Participación Pública** - comprising by PASCA organizations interested in these topics. It was asked to merge with other four coalitions: "Coalition for Budget Transparency, Accountability and Public Participation" (helmed by the International Budget Partnership, IBP); "Transparency and Human Rights in Policies dealing with Surveillance Technologies"; "A Citizen Observatory for an Open Parliament"; and "A Better Government for a Smart Society". After exploring the lists of member organizations, our coalition agreed to merge with the group helmed by the IBP but declined merging with the others, as their objectives weren't clear and there are serious suspicions that some of their members are government-funded organizations.
3. **Alliance Against Corruption and for Sustainable Development in Central America, North America and the Caribbean / Alianza frente a la Corrupción y por el Desarrollo Sostenible en Centroamérica, Norteamérica y el Caribe** - comprising by PASCA organizations concerned about environmental issues and from these regions which were most affected by the hurricane season. It was asked to merge with a coalition of Haitian organizations, which was accepted.
4. **Coalition for Good Governance and a Strengthened Civil Society / Coalición por la Buena Gobernanza y la Sociedad Civil Fortalecida** - comprising REDLAD members. It was asked to merge with a coalition proposed by Partners Global, which was accepted as both organizations know each other and share similar objectives..
5. **Religions and Beliefs in Dialogue with Civil Society / Religiones, Creencias y Espiritualidades en Diálogo con la Sociedad Civil** - comprising organizations which share that interest and are working with Redlad since 2016. It was asked to merge with a coalition proposed by Religiones por la Paz, but both groups had differing goals and refused to merge.
6. **Comprehensive Care and Right to Health in Latin America / Atención Integral y Derecho a la Salud en Latinoamérica** - comprising CSOs with a focus on health-related issues. One of
7. **Coalition of the Afrodescendant Movement of the Americas / Coalición del Movimiento Afrodescendiente de las Américas** - comprising members of afrodescendant organizations.

8. **Indigenous Peoples of the Avya Yala Coordination / *Coordinación Indígenas de Avya Yala*** - Comprised of indigenous people's organizations from the PASCA population group. It is also the only coalition of indigenous peoples.

The Base Team distributed messages to each country clarifying dates and methodologies about consultation process and the creation of coalitions, as well as outlining key talking points designed to bring to the attention of the OAS the most salient comments formulated inside the PASCA meetings regarding the conditions for CSO participation and the schedule of activities (annex 3).

North America - REDLAD:

During December, **America Solidaria** (<http://americasolidaria.org/en/>) **agreed to take focal point duties in the US**. The organization has over 15 years of experience developing community-oriented projects in the areas of health, education and family economic development with a focus on children and youth of latino communities in cities located in 5 priority zones in the US: the Northwest corridor (Boston to Washington), Miami, Puerto Rico, South California, South Texas, Chicago+Detroit. They also work in other 14 countries through local partners.

Central America and Mexico - CECADE:

In **Costa Rica**, the official OAS Civil Society Consultation was held in San José on the morning of October 23rd and was attended by 15 people. FUNPADEM, the Project's focal point in the country, helped in the call to organizations to participate as well as in systematizing the document of recommendations. In November we received the monitoring reports for the mandates of Education, Health, Hemispheric Cooperation and Migration, which joined the work previously delivered on Energy and Environment. As with the first delivery of the monitoring reports, these last ones also include Civil Society recommendations for solving the issues identified. Regarding work in the coming months, the country is entering a pre-electoral phase as presidential and parliamentary elections are expected to take place on February 2nd. While polls cannot yet determine a clear winner, it's clear that the Costa Rican government that attends the Summit in April 2018 will have been in power for only a couple of weeks, so there's only a small window to lobby for Civil Society recommendations to be part of the national platform.

In **El Salvador**, during October the OAS consultation was held in San Salvador on the morning of the 23rd and was attended by around 15 people, much like the event in Costa Rica. Around half of those in attendance were linked to the PASCA process so it was a good opportunity to emphasize the project's presence. During November the corruption and electoral issues in Guatemala and Honduras sparked renewed interest within the country in discussing the upcoming (March 2018) parliamentary and mayoral elections among CSOs, and our focal point organization realized that corruption and transparency issues are viewed mainly through the lens of electoral observation and other processes. From December 4th to 8th the Government hosted a "Transparency Week" in which multi-stakeholder roundtables were held on different topics - our focal point participated in roundtables on political innovation, accountability, security, education and health.

In **Guatemala**, the OAS consultation was held on the morning of the 24th in Guatemala City, but no one from the focal point organization was able to attend it since the staff in charge of liaising with multilateral

organizations were in different regions of the country tending to the preparations for the 4th National NGO Congress, which was held from November 15th to 17th. The highly conflictive current political climate has put great pressure on CSOs and NGOs to mobilize for transparency and against corruption, which gives particular relevance to the 2018 Summit.

In **Honduras**, the national OAS consultations was held in Tegucigalpa on the morning of October 23rd, but our focal point representative could not participate since he is based in a different city. Mainly, civil society activity revolved around the presidential/parliamentary/mayoral election that was held on November 26th. The weeks leading to the election were very tense, with political parties fighting and questioning the capacity of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal to hold fair and competitive elections. After massive protests that left more than 18 people dead in the weeks following the election, results were only announced on December 17th, where victory was awarded to Juan Orlando Hernández, the incumbent candidate, with a lead of less than 2% over his main rival. Given these conditions and the ongoing political crisis, any kind of dialogue between CSOs and government officials (in preparation for the April Summit) is impossible for the time being.

In **Mexico**, the national OAS consultation was held on the morning of October 23rd. At least 20 organizations participated. The event was attended by Laura Becerra, Director of Equipo Pueblo, our focal point. Impressions on the event were not positive, as Mrs. Becerra had to explain to those present how the Summit process works and its usefulness to Civil Society activities, since the hosts were either unwilling or unable to do so themselves. Representatives from the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the local OAS office seemed worried that CSOs didn't attend the event in greater numbers.

In **Nicaragua**, the national consultation was supposed to happen on October 23rd but was unilaterally suspended by the OAS on the 20th. Our focal point organization sent a letter to the OAS on the 25th (annex 7) inquiring about the reasons for the event's suspension and demanding that the quorum be expanded from the 20 attendants originally planned, but received no response. Also Fundación del Río, an organization member of Red Local (the focal point), and Red Local have been denied their certification of compliance with the law after its board of directors changed at the beginning of 2017. In November, the National Civil Society Forum met on the 28th to review the situation with the OAS after the cancellation of the national consultation and discuss possible courses of action. The overall impression among participants was that the OAS purposefully paired back its criticism of the Nicaraguan Government for unclear reasons, and this is negatively affecting how the OAS is perceived by CSOs. The National Forum recognizes the importance of multilateral institutions but cannot keep quiet about what it perceives as partisan actions from the OAS in favor of the Nicaraguan Government. To this end, they have decided to prepare a position paper detailing the situation and formulating recommendations, which they expect to have finished in Mid-January.

In **Panamá**, Alianza Ciudadana pro Justicia (Project's focal point organization) was invited by the OAS Ambassador to organize the event in recognition of the organization's work both in Panama City and in other cities of the country. Using resources from another project, the organization mobilized 30 representatives from different CS sectors and regions of the country for a session that was held on the afternoon of October 23rd. Recommendations from the event concentrated on issues of transparency. The Focal Point sent a preliminary CSO agenda about the topics of the 2018 Summit (annex 18).

Southern Cone and Brazil - Semillas para la Democracia:

In **Argentina**, the OAS consultation took place on the morning of October 23rd, and was attended by around 20 organizations. The hosts also displayed an uncooperative attitude toward providing guidance to participants, who had to solve doubts amongst themselves. Directorio Legislativo, our focal point in the country, organized the Regional Encounter of the Open Government Alliance on November 21st and 22nd, which was among the activities of the Open Government Week that ran from November 20th to 24th. Among the participants to the event were our focal point partners from seven countries (Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Venezuela), along with the aforementioned Argentinian focal point. Participation in transparency and open government initiatives appears to be diminishing, with very few new organizations attending these kinds of events. The focal point is finalizing monitoring reports and Civil Society agendas, which they expect to submit to us in Early-January. In December, a meeting of the World Trade Organization was held in Buenos Aires between December 10th to 13th. In advance of the events, President Mauricio Macri vetoed the presence of more than 60 activists and CSOs which were forbidden from entering the country. This sparked protests from Civil Society groups and prompted the Base Team to prepare a declaration condemning these CSO restrictions, which was approved by and sent on behalf of the members of the Citizen Forum of the Americas (annex 8).

In **Brazil**, the first meeting of National CSO Council was held in Brasilia on October 17th and was attended by seven organizations (ANDI, Agenda Pública, Artigo 19, Campanha Nacional pelo Direito à Educação, Fundação Abrinq, Instituto Sou da Paz, Rede de Justiça Criminal) along with PASCA's Project Officer. The morning session of the meeting focused on discussing the OAS as a space for useful political action and explaining PASCA's schedule and objectives. The afternoon session focused on discussing the methodology for conducting the monitoring exercise and identifying sources of information that could contain the indicators required to facilitate the process of locating and analyzing data. In the following weeks Campanha Nacional pelo Direito à Educação and Instituto Sou da Paz formalized their commitment to work on the monitoring report along with ANDI and Fundação Abrinq. The OAS contacted ANDI to organize the national CSO consultation to be held in Brasilia on October 26th. For the event, ANDI was asked to provide a space for the meeting and the necessary accommodations (including meals for 20 people) and the OAS would handle the entirety of the invitation process. Under such short notice (barely more than a week) ANDI secured a room and pre-paid for meals, but on October 26th only three people showed up: two from ANDI and one from Fundação Abrinq - noone from the OAS. Nonetheless, our partners conducted the exercise and developed a group of recommendations which were sent to the OAS. After several communications over the following weeks, the OAS finally reimbursed ANDI for its expenses. We expect to deliver a monitoring report and the Civil Society recommendations in January, in time for PASCA's presentation at the SIRG meeting in Lima.

In **Chile**, the formal OAS consultation took place on the afternoon of October 23rd, but our local focal point couldn't participate due to scheduling issues. They did participate in the November OGP event in Buenos Aires and came away underwhelmed as reversals in the political stability in many countries keep these kinds of yearly discussion at a similar stage (as opposed to advancing discussions and reaching milestones), since it's difficult to set collective agendas under such unequal circumstances. The monitoring reports on Hemispheric Cooperation and Security are being validated with local partners and we expect to receive them in January, along with the Civil Society recommendations are expected in January.

In **Paraguay**, the formal OAS consultation took place on the morning of October 23rd and was attended only by three organizations out of nine that had confirmed participation. In November the national discussion started concentrating on the upcoming general elections (President, Vice-President,

Congress, Senate, Governors and Mayorships) to be held on April 22th 2018. The first major milestone was reached on December 17th with the primaries of the two major parties: Partido Colorado and Partido Liberal. The focal point organization also participated in the OGP event in Buenos Aires in November.

Andean Region - DESCO:

In **Bolivia**, the OAS consultation took place on the morning of October 23rd and was attended by seven organizations (out of 22 that had confirmed). Of these seven attendants, three were affiliated with PASCA and had met twice in the previous days to prepare a strategy for the meeting and a common set of proposals. The PASCA Project Officer participated in one of these preparatory meetings via skype. During November the national discussion circled mainly around the issue of whether Evo Morales could aspire to a reelection in 2019, which shouldn't be possible on the terms of the national constitution and was actually voted against by the Bolivian electorate in a 2016 referendum. Nevertheless, on November 28th the Supreme Tribunal of Justice allowed President Morales to run for President again in 2019. As could be expected, the process leading up to this announcement was marked by protests and Civil Society repression. In this context, our focal point has found it hard to retain local partners' interest in the Summit process, especially as the OAS is perceived to be tacitly approving of this developments, since Secretary Almagro is perceived to be quick to criticize the Venezuelan Government's legal maneuverings but hasn't said much about the Bolivian Governments'. The focal point organization also participated in the OGP event in Buenos Aires.

In **Colombia**, the national council has been meeting with regional networks within the country to study the Summit's concept documents and coordinate a common set of proposals. A national meeting was planned on November 28th to build the national agenda, which will be presented to the Colombian Ambassador to the OAS at a later date. Regarding the OAS consultation, it was held in Bogotá on the morning of October 24th and was attended by only 12 people out of 30 who had confirmed. The project's M&E Specialist and Project Officer attended the meeting and witnessed first-hand the lack of preparation on the part of the hosts. In Colombia, the national representative wasn't available to update us on activities carried out during November.

In **Ecuador**, the national consultation was held on the morning of October 23rd with 23 participants out of 30 that had confirmed. As in other countries, the hosts provided little information beyond what was indicated in the documents prepared by the Washington office. Of the 23 participants, eight were involved in PASCA process and had met on October 18th to share advances in the monitoring reports and coordinate positions for the consultation event. This work showed in the quality of arguments in the debate and signaled a clear distinction between the PASCA-affiliated organizations and the rest - mainly conservative groups and politically-affiliated organizations. CEDEAL (our focal point) delivered the monitoring reports about governance (annex 9) and participation (annex 10). During November CEDEAL attended the OGP event in Buenos Aires. On December 9th CEDEAL and other partners in the national council met with government authorities regarding a national campaign against gender violence, in which they also shared the most recent information on the Summit process. Progress on the monitoring report for the environmental mandate has slowed as its been hard to obtain support from environmentalist organizations - probably because the OAS is not perceived as a relevant forum for environmental issues. Nonetheless CEDEAL committed to work on the report relying mainly on secondary information and expects to deliver the report in January.

In **Peru**, the national consultation took place during the afternoon of October 26th. Unlike in most countries, the OAS agreed to expand participation beyond the 30-people limit and almost 50 people ended up participating in the event. Around a third of those present had been involved in PASCA activities and knew about the project. Our local partners were a bit surprised at how organized conservative-leaning organizations were, especially when it came to discussing topics such as gender and sexual diversity issues. Nevertheless, PASCA-affiliated organizations erected themselves as moderators of each thematic table and were subsequently invited to present the conclusions of the exercise at the SIRG meeting that was held on November 2nd and 3rd in Lima. On November 27th and December 4th the national group organized meetings with local partners to share information on the Summit process and confirm that all the Peruvian organizations related to the PASCA process had joined coalitions for the Summit.

On December 5th, the focal point met with representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to meet with the team that will be in charge of relations with Civil Society - they agreed to schedule monthly meetings starting in January to review progress. After these meetings the pace of work on the Summit slowed down as our main contact in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs took a vacation and the political climate in the country started getting tense as the corruption scandal involving Odebrecht money implicated Peruvian President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski (PPK) along with other high profile people in the Public and Private sectors. This situation dominated the national discussion and made it hard to focus on OAS matters. The situation quickly escalated and a Parliamentary political trial was held in late December which the president managed to avoid by a thin margin, thanks to late-minute support from the Fujimori party. After the crisis was averted, PPK pardoned Alberto Fujimori - a former Peruvian president (1990-2000) who was convicted of crimes against humanity during his term and sentenced to more than 30 years of prison. This sparked massive CS protests in the country and rejection from major multilateral spokespeople. In response to these events the Base Team prepared a declaration which was approved by and sent on behalf of the members of the Citizen Forum of the Americas (annex 11).

In **Venezuela**, the OAS held no consultation event in October, likely due to the country's unilateral decision to retire from the organization earlier this year. However the focal point organization continued mobilizing regional allies throughout the country to focus on the OAS as a useful forum for proposing actions. As a result of these efforts, the Venezuelan SC Council has been the first to present its national SC agenda for the 2018 Summit, which we received on October 13th (annex 12). During November, our focal point organization was appointed co-coordinator of the "**Transparency, Open Government and Public Participation**" Coalition, and its work in November and December focused on this. The topic of corruption is gaining significance in the current national situation as the newly appointed Prosecutor General (replacing the previous one who fled the country after raising strong accusations against the entire Executive power) is heading a crusade against the top and middle-management level of PDVSA, the country's public oil company. Our focal point prepared a concept paper on relevant issues and distributed among coalition members to start a discussion.

Caribbean - Fondation Espoir:

In the Caribbean, the region continued to deal with the aftermath of the hurricane season. The region suffered the most severe demographic and economic losses by far due to climate change. Most of the small islands of the Caribbean were seriously affected and one entire island (Barbudas) had to be completely evacuated. Any form of basic communication is still very difficult in most of the Caribbean countries and even in Puerto Rico, which is part of the USA, help and recovery has been very slow and

demonstrates that the Caribbean has to mobilize its own resources to organize itself and confront future climate-induced events that may hit the region in the future.

The topic of climate change reparations is a strong point of agreement between many countries, as it's rightfully perceived that the Caribbean is suffering the costs of a handful of highly-polluting nations who are not willing to fix the situation. The Caribbean has the disadvantage of having small populations who are mainly concentrated on their localities and who feel they must find other means to organize, while not fully trusting any political institutions - either national or international.

Within these parameters it is understandable that the Caribbean Civil society does not have much trust in international organizations and their governments in general, and do not think that they truly have the interests of the region at heart. Indeed civil society efforts LGBT issues are going backwards and most countries of the Caribbean are culturally opposed to giving more rights to these groups, making it very difficult to pass legislation that could guarantee more rights to people who are at risk because of their sexual orientation. This is an opportunity for CSOs to increase their visibility and fill the void, however the lack of resources also seriously affects the possibilities for expanding Civil Society networks.

Our contacts from Dominican Republic and St. Lucia, reported difficulties at OAS consultation meetings similar to those explained above, related to the low number of attendants and lack of information and guidance during the event. Concerning the Forum itself and the relationship with the OAS, the local OAS offices have given confusing information to local CSOs regarding the coalition mechanism, such as the minimum requisite of 10 organizations from 2 regions for each coalition. This confusion also makes it more difficult to get to effective discussions on the whole summit, as some CSOs think they can participate by themselves.

From the Base Team Caribbean CSO were contacted in late October and November to motivate their participation toward the Summit in a coalition about sustainable development and climate change. Twelve organizations were interested on it and their names were presented at the OAS, who asked to join this coalition with another integrated mainly by Haitian organizations. Early January is crucial to confirm these CSO will to join the coalition and to complete their registration process at the VIII Summit overcoming remaining communication problems in countries such as Dominica, generalized lack of trust in the OAS activities and limited resources to guarantee Caribbean attendance in Peru due to the expensive cost of airfares.

Collaboration and Partnerships by the Team Project with other stakeholders:

The base team also established contact in Late October with two organizations: the International Budget Partnership (IBP) and the *Instinto de Vida* Alliance. The IBP is comprised of organizations in 115 countries interested in promoting open budget practices, and contacted the base team after knowing of the project through its website, to better understand how to coordinate participation at the 2018 Summit. The *Instinto de Vida* Alliance is comprised of organizations in seven countries looking to cooperate with local governments in designing evidence-based policies to reduce violent deaths by 50%, and was contacted by the base team after learning from its existence through one of the participants of the Brazil meeting.

On November 6th, the Project Officer met with Aram Barra (Mexico) and Dandara Tinoco (Brazil), coordinators from the *Instinto de Vida* Alliance. The members of the Alliance agreed to distribute PASCA information among their members. As a result of this process, the Base Team was contacted by the

Asociación para una Sociedad Más Justa (ASJ - Association for a More Just Society) the Honduran chapter of Transparency International.

During November, **Mr. Alfredo Toledo, a representative from ALIBER** (*Alianza Iberoamericana de Enfermedades Raras*, a member of Rare Diseases International) approached the Base Team through the PASCA website requesting more information on the Summit process. After speaking with the PASCA Project Officer on November 13th, the ALIBER representative expressed interest in assuming focal point duties for PASCA in Uruguay, as he is also **Director of Fundación Salud**, an organization from the Uruguayan Medical Union with 5 years of experience. In further communications during the month, Mr. Toledo informed that ALIBER had proposed a coalition at the OAS named “Rare Diseases in Latin America and the Caribbean”, which was asked to merge with another group and was renamed “Comprehensive Access and Right to Health in Latin America”. We are expecting to hear from him in January.

During the week of November 20th, the **Open Government Week** was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Seven of our allies and focal points (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Venezuela) traveled to Argentina to participate in the series of events. Our focal point in Argentina was responsible for organizing the Regional Open Government Partnership Meeting, which took place on November 21st and 22nd.

Population groups

Religion: The base team has established a partnership with GEMRIP (the Multidisciplinary Study Group on Religion and Public Action, or *Grupo de Estudios Multidisciplinarios sobre Religión e Incidencia Política*), a group of religiously-affiliated scholars from several countries interested in promoting comprehensive discussions regarding public policy and societal issues from a spiritual perspective. GEMRIP led the creation and registration of one of the coalitions for the 2018 Summit.

LGBTIQ: We are developing dialogue activities on gender and sexual diversity issues along with Sentiido, a multinational collective of journalists looking to use journalistic tools to promote this kind of dialogue. Also, inputs were gathered in several countries to draft an action strategy in preparation for the Summit, to be applied starting in January.

Indigenous: The group of indigenous people’s organizations organized themselves to present the Avya Yala Indigenous Coalition to the OAS.

Afrodescendants: A group of afrodescendant people’s organizations from several countries organized themselves to present a coalition for the Summit.

Communications:

- Monitoring of the PASCA microsite www.hacialacumbre2018.info.
- Content management for the PASCA website: www.proyectopasca.org and for the project’s social network accounts. Facebook: [/proyectopasca](https://www.facebook.com/proyectopasca) and Twitter: [@proyectopasca](https://twitter.com/proyectopasca).
- Content management and distribution of the project’s monthly virtual bulletin “[Entre Regiones](#)”.
- Monitoring and reporting of news and events in the region.
- Media monitoring for the project.

- Coordination with focal points for the provision of information on their events.
- Coordination to participate in the Virtual Forum of the OAS Secretariat of Summits on: http://svc.summit-americas.org/coalitions_en
- Webinar “[Corruption: theft of rights](#)” (Oct. 3rd). Number of views: 54.
- Adjustment of the Citizen Forum of the Americas’ logo.

Relevant data of digital communications:

Twitter account @ProyectoPasca				
Level of reach per month in the last semester				
October	Tweets: 8	Tweet impressions: 2.725	Profile visits: 81	Mentions: 9
November	Tweets: 16	Tweet impressions: 6.444	Profile visits: 230	Mentions: 6
December	Tweets: 2	Tweet impressions: 1.169	Profile visits: 64	Mentions: 9

Website www.proyectopasca.org		
Number of visits per month in the last semester	October	503
	November	555
	December	373
	Total	1431
Number of visits per month in 2017	January	425
	February	573
	March	965
	April	567
	May	923
	June	855
	July	649
	August	476
	September	577
	October	503
	November	555
	December	373
	Total	7441

<u>Countries with the highest number of visits in the last trimester</u>	
Peru	228
United States	171
Mexico	159
Colombia	122
Argentina	85
Cuba	84
Chile	59
Panama	58
Nicaragua	48
<u>Countries with the highest number of visits in 2017</u>	
United States	1087
Peru	843
Colombia	691
Mexico	581
Argentina	470
El Salvador	417
Guatemala	341
Chile	318
Cuba	315
Venezuela	241
Panama	231
Ecuador	228
Costa Rica	216

Digital bulletin Entre Regiones		
Number of receivers per bulletin in the last semester	Bulletin No. 20 - October 2017	1255
	Bulletin No. 21 - November and december 2017	1241
Number of receivers per bulletin in 2017	Boletín No. 11 - January	1004
	Boletín No. 12 - Febraury	1390
	Boletín No. 13 - March	1336
	Bulletin No. 14 - April	1331
	Bulletin No. 15 - May	1293
	Bulletin No. 16 - June	1281
	Bulleín No. 17 - July	1276
	Bulleín No. 18 - August 2017	1264
	Bulleín No. 19 - September	1263
	Bulletin No. 20 - October	1255
	Bulletin No. 21 - November and december	1241
The variation of the number of receivers is because of the constant debugging and updating of the database		

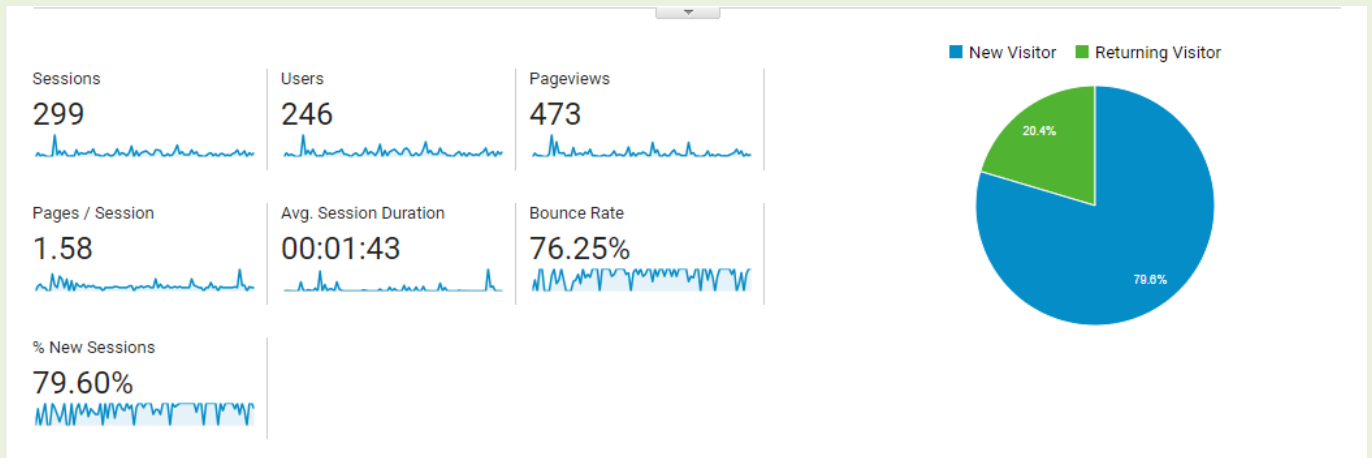
Level of reach in the last semester		
Total Open rate %	Bulletin No. 20 - October 2017	10.3
	Bulletin No. 21 - November and december 2017	19.2
Total Click rate %	Bulletin No. 20 - October 2017	1.5
	Bulletin No. 21 - November and december 2017	2.6

Level of reach in 2017		
Total Open rate %	Boletín No. 11 - January	12.2
	Boletín No. 12 - February	15.9
	Boletín No. 13 - March	15.5
	Bulletin No. 14 - April	14.7
	Bulletin No. 15 - May	22.8
	Bulletin No. 16 - June	14.8
	Bulletin No. 17 - July	23.8
	Bulletin No. 18 - August 2017	13.6
	Bulletin No. 19 - September	20.6
	Bulletin No. 20 - October	10.3
	Bulletin No. 21 - November and december	19.2
Total Click rate %	Boletín No. 11 - January	1.7
	Boletín No. 12 - February	3.1
	Boletín No. 13 - March	3.4
	Bulletin No. 14 - April	2.5
	Bulletin No. 15 - May	1.8
	Bulletin No. 16 - June	2.8
	Bulletin No. 17 - July	2.2
	Bulletin No. 18 - August 2017	1.9
	Bulletin No. 19 - September	1.5
	Bulletin No. 20 - October	1.5
	Bulletin No. 21 - November and december	2.6

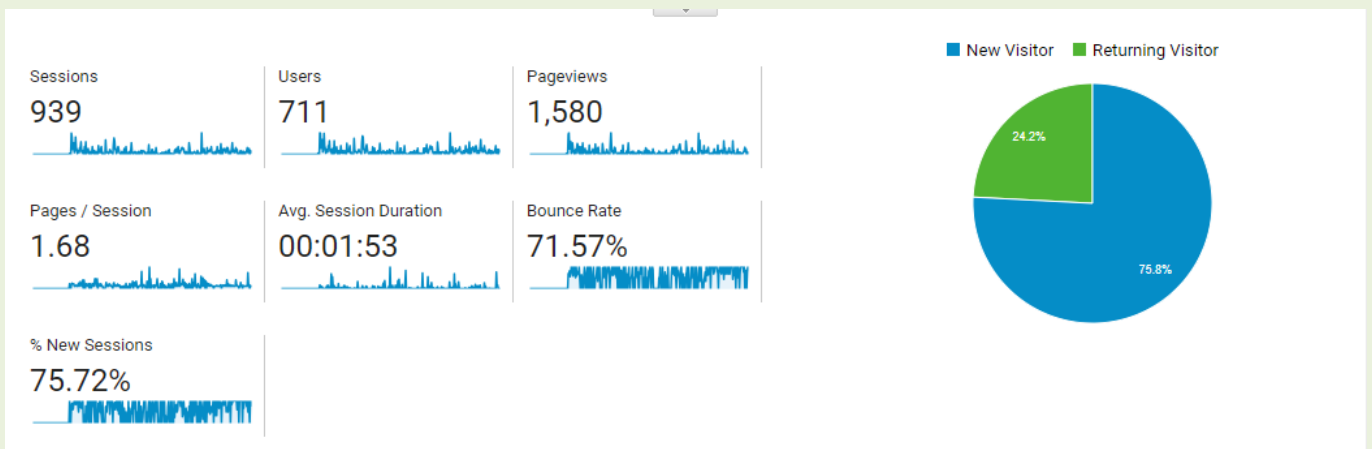
Facebook fanpage /proyectopasca		
Likes per month	October 2017	390
	November	401
	December	420
Total reach per month	October 2017	832
	November	20694
	December	515
Total impressions per month	October 2017	2402
	November	49287
	December	1177
Consumers of content per month: The number of people who have clicked on any of the content of the fan page. (unique users)	October 2017	23
	November	49119
	December	996

Microwebsite www.hacialacumbre2018.info

Data range: 2017 October 1st. to December 31th.



Data range: 2017 January 1st. to December 31th.



2. Executive summary: During the period of this report, the team worked in different activities.

A. Reports: the report for the Third Quarter of 2017 was submitted at the end of October.

B. Designing and update of internal documents:

- Key points for the OAS consultation meetings (annex 3). Document shared with focal points and other partner organizations, mainly in the Caribbean.
- As part of the coordination with PASCA's CSO and other partners, the Base Team elaborated a document entitled "Proposal of Civil Society Coalitions" (annex 13) which allowed to work collaboratively suggesting CSO interested and confirming their position at the different coalitions. Simultaneously, we registered the different contact in our database to update the correspondent list of members for each coalition.
- In addition the base team elaborated models to support the postulation of the following coalitions:
 - Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Corruption in Central America, North America and the Caribbean (annex 14).
 - Citizen Forum of the Americas (annex 15)
 - REDLAD Coalition (annex 16)
 - Transparency, Open Government and Enabling Environment (annex 17)
- Presentation to explain the OAS's schedule to participate at the VIII Summit of the Americas, used in sub regional meetings of coordination with focal points (annex 20).

C. Consortium update:

Work on the last quarter of 2017 concentrated on the **coalition-building process** in preparation for the 2018 Summit. As the conditions for participation became known in October, virtual meetings of the PASCA Consortium and the Citizen Forum of the Americas (with representatives from Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela) were convened on October 11th (annex 1) and 31st (annex 2) to discuss possible strategies of action - it was decided that the Base Team would take initiative and propose several thematic coalitions to increase the odds of coordinating voices at the Summit. This strategy paid off as all the proposed coalitions were eventually accepted by the OAS, although most had to form alliances with other similarly-minded groups.

Project Objectives:

1. To develop and implement a Civil Society Council that represents CSOs across the region in monitoring and advancing Summit priorities.
2. To increase collaboration in consultation and engagement between CSO and OAS to present recommendations for the 2018 Summit.
3. To improve CSOs' capacities to monitor the implementation and impacts of 2015 Summit commitments and to participate effectively in 2018 Summit processes.

3. Description of results achieved during the period, using indicators for activities, outputs and outcomes associated with your agreement.

We use here some conventions to show the progress of the indicators, according to the project's timeline performance.

	100% - Completed
	50% to 99% - Activity in progress
	49% or less - Delayed
	Pending (it is not time yet)
	Suggested changes
	Activity completed with limitations to reach the goal.

Activity 1: To develop and implement a Civil Society Council that represents CSOs across the region in monitoring and advancing Summit priorities.

ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	BASELINE DATA (include date/ source)	TARGET (life of the agreement)	Result this Period	CUMULATIVE DATA and % of progress completed if applicable
1.1 Conduct a project planning meeting with the partners organizations	One Project Working Plan Document	N/A	1	It was completed on January 2017.	100%
	Consortium members increase their confidence in their partners and in the process	N/A	5	Fourth survey report results will be available on January 2018.	50%
1.2 Organize three focus groups of 20 CSOs each to assess opportunities for creating the Council	One report to guide the creation of the Civil Society Council	N/A	1	Completed on August 2016.	100%
	Number of CSOs demonstrating increased levels of understanding and interest in participation in Summit-related events and activities.	N/A	90% of participants increase their confidence and show interest in participating in Summit related events and activities	198 organizations have participated at meetings to elect members for national civil society scenarios. They represent 57% of the aim of 350 CSO involved. Attending OAS's call to create coalitions to participate at the VIII Summit, 105 organizations showed their interest in join it. It represents 53% of the organizations which	55%

				participated in the creation of national civil society scenarios.	
1.3 Conduct a comparative study about similar regional oversight mechanisms and platforms	One Comparative Study of best practices and lessons in CSO consultation mechanisms	N/A	1	The final version was completed on October 2016.	100%
1.4 Develop and conduct a stakeholder mapping and engagement strategy	One stakeholders' mapping and engagement strategy	N/A	1	Data collection is being improved. There is significant progress identifying unique persons and organizations. 225 activities have been held in 27 countries and by Internet. From there are 1536 attendants which represent 573 individuals and 378 CSO.	85%
	One strategic communications plan	N/A	1	From September 2016 the general strategic plan of communications was adopted by the Base Team and it is being implemented.	100%
	Number of CSO surveyed that express interest and commitment to participate in the creation of the Council	N/A	350	We use here the same source at 1.2.2 indicator. We report the 198 CSO who attended national meetings to create their councils.	57%
1.5 Elaboration of draft documents for CSC establishment	Draft of the CSC proposal to be review by CSOs and other actors and partners	N/A	1	From August 2016 Consortium members and focal points received the document which explains objectives, structure, functions and ways of election of the representatives at different levels.	100%
	Percentage of CSOs' inputs taken into account in the draft document for CSC establishment	N/A	60%	During the discussion of the draft, 45% of the comments systematized were applied to the initial proposal of the mechanism of participation of civil society at the Summit of Americas. Unfortunately, CSO's response was lower than expectancies and they tend to prefer spoken comments rather than writing. In the practice each country and subregion is adapting the general proposal to their needs, culture and CSO's dynamic.	45%

1.6 Organizing five sub-regional working-coordination meetings to finalize CSO support for creation of the Council	Number of sub-regional working coordination meetings held, documented and socialized	N/A	100%	The remaining percentage correspond to the planned coordination meetings with North American civil society organizations. We have had some contacts but there are not Focal Points there yet.	80%
	Number of CSOs demonstrating increased levels of participation in the creation of the council and interest in participating in other Summit scenarios	N/A	250	As it was reported at the indicator 1.4: from 115 organizations which filled the survey, 88% (102 CSO) expressed high interest about joining a civil society council. 91% (106 CSO) expressed high interest about the construction of one agenda for the 2018 Summit. 75% (87 CSO) expressed high interest about monitoring the mandates of Panama Summit. Note: the cumulative data is result of the average of CSO and of their percentages in the three categories. Between October-December 2017 105 CSO were interested in joining coalitions promoted by PASCA, to participate at the VIII Summit.	105 CSO
90%					
1.7 Organizing an online vote to elect the members of the council	Number of CSO voting in sub-regional coordination meetings for the CSC creation	N/A	300	The vote is occurring in meetings rather than through an online platform. This number comes from the organizations which joined meetings to create national civil society councils in Argentina (1), Belice (7), Bolivia (22), Chile (4), Colombia (8), Cuba (15), El Salvador (10), Guatemala (3), Honduras (14), México (19), Nicaragua (17), Panamá (41), Paraguay (4), Venezuela (33).	198 CSO 66% of the goal
	Number of members of the CSC elected	N/A	10 CSC members (2 for each 5 subregions, plus 3 population groups representati	Attending a rotatory dynamic 2 representatives from Central America and México, 2 from Andean Region and 2 from Southern Cone and Brazil have been elected. Although 2 temporary representatives from the Caribbean, 1 from	13 = total expected members 6 elected = 46 %

			ves to be determined).	afrodescendants and 1 from LGBTI have joined Citizen of the Americas' Forum meetings. It is pending to confirm their election and to define North America and indigenous peoples' participation.	6 elected + 4 temporary = 77%
1.8 Organize the first meeting of Civil Society Council in Perú (2016)	One meeting held and systematized	N/A	1	First meeting was in Washington D.C. on March 2017	100%
	Number of active members of the CSC	N/A	10 subregional representatives plus 3 from population groups.	Currently there are 10 elected members.	13 = total expected members 6 elected = 46 % 6 elected + 4 temporary = 77%
1.9 Redlad will help the council to establish its Secretariat and support the activities of the Secretariat	One CSCs working plan	N/A	1	The working plan was approved on the online meeting (2017/10/11) (Annex 19).	100%
1.10 Develop a financial sustainability model for approval by the Council	One financial sustainability model developed	N/A	1	It was a theme of the first meeting of the CSC. Some needs and strategic contacts were identified.	5%
	Number of Council members trained in the financial sustainability model	N/A	20	Results on this indicator depend of advances in the indicator above.	0
1.11 Assist the Council Secretariat in design, implementation and monitoring a strategy of communication, relationship and knowledge management to support the interaction within the CSC and with the different stakeholders	One strategy of communication, relationship, and knowledge management	N/A	1	It was approved a logo for the Forum. The microsite www.hacialacumbre2018.info will be the temporary website of the forum	85%
	Percentage of CSO users of CSC's media and communicational scenarios	N/A	80%	Currently there are not media specific for/from the Citizen Forum of the Americas. It is using mailing and Whatsapp and public information is under PASCA label yet.	0

Activity 2: To increase collaboration in consultation and engagement between CSO and OAS to present recommendations for the 2018 Summit

ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	BASELINE DATA (include date/ source)	TARGET (life of the agreement)	Result this Period	CUMULATIVE DATA and % of progress completed if applicable
2.1 Support the Council in the development of a consultation mechanism between the Council and OAS-SIRG to improve skills and awareness on the process	One consultation mechanism between the Council and OAS-SIRG developed	N/A	1	DESCO and Grupo Propuesta Ciudadana, our partners in Peru, were rapporteurs in two groups during the OAS consultation meeting. Then, they were invited to present their recommendations at the SIRG meeting in November. It is a sort of advance, despite it seems to be a coincidence rather than a formal bridge between the Forum and the SIRG. The Citizen Forum of the Americas is looking for being invited to the next SIRG meeting in Lima (February 2018)	20%
2.2 Establish a support network in Peru to work the 2018 Summit Agenda	One networking plan for building the 2018 Summit Agenda	N/A	80%	Participation of organizations related to PASCA in the OAS consultation meetings was an opportunity to include Civil Society claims and recommendations in official documents.	80%
2.3 Establish an ongoing consultation process with governments	Percentage of countries reporting information	N/A	70%	Up to December we received 13 partial reports which represent 39% of 33 countries we would like to reach and 68% if we consider just the 19 countries which are actively joining the project.	68%
2.4 Develop and Sign an agreement between the Council and SIRG	One agreement subscribed between the Council and SIRG	N/A	1	It would be necessary to review this indicator, because after two years of PASCA's implementation there hasn't been a planned contact between the Citizen Forum of the Americas and the SIRG and we unknow if this group is willing or not to make any agreement.	0
2.5 Organize 5 sub-regional	Number of regional and sub-regional	N/A	1 regional and 5	In October the OAS organized unilateral	0

consultation in coordination with OAS Summit, and one virtual online consultation	consultations between the Council and representative organizations held		sub-regional consultation meetings	consultation meetings and 11 Focal Points (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Argentina, Brasil, Paraguay, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Haiti) plus contacts from Dominican Republic and St. Lucia went there. However the role was not as it was stated in the activity like something "coordinated with". It happened only in Panama due to a decision of the OAS Ambassador in that country.	
	Number of CSOs consulted during the development of the CSO recommendations for the 2018 SIRG	N/A	400	We received recommendations from Costa Rica, Venezuela and Panama. It is pending to summarize the number of CSO involved on that.	3
	One document with the Civil Society agenda for the 2018 Summit, presented to SIRG	N/A	1	0	0
2.6 Conduct 6 Council meetings, 2 each year from 2016 to 2018	Number of council meetings held	N/A	6	First hemispheric meeting was held on March 2017 in Washington D.C. Second meeting was in Cancun, Mexico on June 2017. Third meeting was online, on October 2017 (Annex 2)	3 meetings = 50%
	Council members acquire experience and confidence in relation with CSO, OAS-SIRG and other actors	N/A	90%	Although formal meetings with SIRG haven't been held, 11 Focal Points, members of the Citizen Forum (Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, México, Panama, Argentina, Chile, Paraguay) have looked for meetings with OAS' representatives in their countries with unfair responses.	11 Focal Points from 19 active focal points = 58%
2.7 Strengthen the participation of the Council and CSOs to the 2018 Summit	Number of meetings among Council, Secretariat, SIRG, and governments to secure CSO participation.	N/A	20	Members of the Citizens' Forum of the Americas were in meetings with Mexican OAS Mission in Washington DC (March) and with Peruvian government delegates in Cancun (June) In addition, DESCO has been in touch with Peruvian Government,	2 meetings of the Forum with other actors plus meetings between Focal Points and Ministries of Foreign Affairs (5

				REDLAD and Mexican Focal point were in touch with Mexican government to coordinate activities during OAS general Assembly 2017 and focal points from El Salvador and Panama have been heard by their Ministries of Foreign Affairs. In addition, REDLAD have been in touch with OAS' officers.	Peru, 2 Mexico, 2 Panama, 1 El Salvador) Total: 12 meetings = 60%
Number of Western Hemisphere CSOs, targeted by the project, that express interest in participating in the Civil Society Forum at the 2018 Summit.	TBD	800	105 CSO expressed their interest in joining coalitions to participate at the VIII Summit	105 CSO = 13%	
One document with the Civil Society recommendations to the SIRG	N/A	1	0	0	
Percentage of presented CSO recommendations from the civil society council incorporated by Summit stakeholders into Summit documents or activities	N/A	40%	We have received recommendations from Costa Rica about energy and environment, Panama and Venezuela, who are 3 of our 19 active focal points.	15%	
Number of CSOs demonstrating increased levels of participation in Summit-related events and activities.	TBD	600	11 Focal Points and some partners, members of National scenarios of civil society participation (to be counted), joined OAS consultation meetings in 11 countries. 105 CSO expressed their intention to be part of coalitions toward the Summit	105 CSO = 13%	
Number of CSOs reporting increased and substantive CSO engagement in the Summit process as a result of the CSO mechanism	N/A	300	0	0	
Percentage of CSOs reporting increased satisfaction with the Summit process.	TBC	60%	It is critical to discuss if we can modify this indicator, because we can control the variables related to the satisfaction with PASCA process, but	0	

				not those complex elements which affect the satisfaction with the Summit process where decisions are taken by the Peruvian government and the OAS, and consultation meetings on October demonstrated unfair willing to attend civil society expectations and needs and to guarantee their participation	
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Activity 3: To improve CSOs' capacities to monitor the implementation and impacts of 2015 Summit commitments and to participate effectively in 2018 Summit processes

ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	BASELINE DATA (include date/ source)	TARGET (life of the agreement)	Result this Period	CUMULATIVE DATA and % of progress completed if applicable
3.1 Develop a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating implementation of Summit commitments to be used by the CSO community	Percentage of prioritized 2015 Summit mandates monitored by the council and relevant CSOs.	N/A	At least 40%	Themes will be prioritized rather than individual mandates. From 10 proposed themes 5 are subject of monitoring. It means, at least 50% would be monitored.	50%
3.2 Conduct a needs assessment for technical assistance and capacity building among CSOs across the region, to improve knowledge and feedback on monitoring and evaluation mechanism /practices	Number of CSOs demonstrating increased ability to research, monitor and report on Summit commitments in their sub-regions.	N/A	44	26 Focal Points were informed about the suggested route of work. At this moment 13 countries presented monitoring report. However 67 CSO have participated on that exercise.	13 Focal Points presented drafts of national reports = 50%
3.3 Design and implementation of a plan of enhancement and technical assistance according to the needs identified	Number of CSO joining the enhancement in capacities for monitoring and evaluation	N/A	70%		0
3.4 Provide training and Technical Assistance to at least 100 CSOs for implementing the	Five training activities held (one in each subregion) and one Technical assistance action per CSO involved in the follow up	N/A	105	20 CSO (PASCA Focal Points) received our guide about how to develop the methodology to monitoring the Summit Commitments and individual meetings have	20%

mechanism/Summit commitments				been held to resolve questions and make adjustments according to their context.	
3.5 Produce joint report on outcomes of the 2015 Summit of the Americas	Number of CSO participating in the joint report	N/A	50	67 CSO participated in the process to build the 13 partial reports received.	67 CSO =134%
3.6 Coordinate the adoption of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism	Number of CSOs reporting increased and substantive CSO engagement in the Summit process as a result of the CSO mechanism	N/A	50		0
3.7 Monitoring and evaluate programs/projects that impacted the commitments made at the Summit	Number of reports of advance in programs/projects impacted by the commitments	N/A	22	There are 13 equal number of countries, some evaluate the grade of advance, stagnation or recoil, but to evaluate programs and projects as it is stated here overcome the current capacity of the involved CSO and the resources available to do it (qualified staff, time, access to information)	13 reports = 59%

Monitoring and Evaluation Indicators

ACTIVITY	INDICATOR	BASELINE DATA (include date/source)	TARGET (life of the agreement)	Result this Period	CUMULATIVE DATA and % of progress completed if applicable
Methodological design	One set of orientations for explicit knowledge management	N/A	1	Keys to build national agendas of civil society and keys to participate at OAS consultation meetings	95%
Elaborate baseline of the project	One report of the baseline	N/A	1	First report sent on September 2016. It is pending the baseline related to CSO capacities and needs of technical support (indicator 3.2).	70%
Elaboration and management of databases for participation monitoring	One database system for monitoring participation of CSO in activities and discussions	N/A	1	Unified database reached 2194 contacts and 1460 organizations. Consolidated subregional and national reports show 225 activities in 27 countries and online. From there are 1536 attendants which represent 573 individuals and 378 CSO.	85%

Design and measure CSOs' capacities at national, sub-regional and thematic levels	One report of final state of CSO's capacities (including baseline)	N/A	1	National and subregional meetings of monitoring offer information about weakness and CSO's needs of support.	70%
Evaluation of the process	One report of results, impact and recommendations	N/A	1	0	0

5. Challenges, lessons and best practices related to your project:

Challenges

1. Regarding the complaints about the weak performance of the OAS consultations, it is important to consider that experiences like that don't contribute to gain positive recognition about the OAS and the Summit of the Americas, and it makes harder PASCA encouragement to civil society organizations to participate in this process. I.e. We have the indicator of "Number of CSOs demonstrating increased levels of understanding and interest in participation in Summit-related events and activities", but if those events have restrictions for registration, if the objective and methodology are not clear, if the host don't answer clearly questions, if CSO don't perceive the event such as a good opportunity to be heard and improve their work... the result would be demotivation rather than genuine interest and commitment.
2. Although Consortium members and Citizen Forum of the Americas members express their concerns about the future of this scenario, they seem to have weak initiative to adopt the implementation of their working plan and explore alternatives to support and sustain the Forum further PASCA project, especially if there is few or non monetary resources available for the next steps.
3. To motivate Caribbean civil society organizations to join the OAS activities is still challenging, mainly after all the effects which the hurricanes season left in that region. Some CSO such as Dominican ones lost part of their organizational information and they have difficulties to access to Internet frequently. The main worries of these CSO are related to how to recover themselves from all the affectations and they don't perceive OAS' scenario particularly useful.
4. We are worried about those activities related to the coordination with the SIRG, because the access to them seems to be bureaucratic and distant. Even, in spite of the presence of our Focal Point in Peru, and the Consortium member for the Andean Region in the SIRG meeting of November 2017. Their presence was almost casual and it was limited to present the conclusions of the national consultation, but it is not an space for open dialog or collaborative work.

Lessons

1. Although most CSO joining PASCA process are reticent to follow the OAS agenda and they claim to have one own agenda of civil society, in the practice the activities organized by the OAS, such as the consultations toward the Summit 2018, tend to awake them and increase their response to online meetings and calls to complete duties like the creation of coalitions.

Best practices

1. Participation of civil society organizations related to PASCA in the OAS consultations about the next Summit of the Americas was an opportunity to present their previous reflections and

