

Human Rights related projects funded by the EU in Honduras

European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights Instrument for Stability Development Cooperation Instrument

EUROPEAN INITIATIVE FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS (EIDHR)

The EU continues its support to Honduran NGOs in the framework of the regular calls for proposals launched locally under the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights. In this framework, the call for proposals related to the 2008 funds has supported three projects:

- Fundación Democracia sin Fronteras, **131,253 EUR** - Promotes transparency within the National Congress and provides tools to enable the citizenship to ask for transparency and accountability in the use of public funds.

- Asociación de Organismos No Gubernamentales, **200,000 EUR** – Helps the articulation between civil society and local governments for fostering the democratic governance and integral sustainable development. It focuses in gender equity in three rural municipalities in the West of the country.

- Proyecto Aldea Global; **150,000 EUR** – The DEBORAH Program supports the citizen's participation in the defense of women rights in the North of Comayagua.

The last call for proposals combined 2009 and 2010 funds up to **1,5 M EUR**. The intervention of the funding was oriented towards activities proposed by human right defenders. The selection process is at its final stage with seven pre-selected projects. So far three grant contracts have been signed and the rest is in process of signature.

DIAKONIA	"Fortalecimiento del Movimiento de Mujeres para la defensa de los derechos humanos y la incidencia política en el proceso de restablecimiento pleno de la democracia y el estado de derecho en Honduras"	200,000
DAN CHURCH AID	"Previniendo y Mitigando la Violación de Derechos Humanos en la Zona Noroccidental de Honduras"	200,000
CRUZ ROJA ESPÁÑOLA	"Fortalecimiento de la participación y representatividad comunitaria de las mujeres en 11 comunidades del Valle de Amaratéca"	192,634

For the rest of the programming period (2011-13), funding under the EIDHR instrument for Honduras is expected to be, subject to formal approval, around 0.9 M€ a year.

Updated October 20, 2011

Direct support to human rights defenders in need of protection

In April 2010, the EU provided direct financial support to three human rights defenders organizations under a special procedure allowed by the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights Instrument that enables immediate *ad-hoc* measures for human rights defenders in urgent need of protection. Honduras has been the first case worldwide where this procedure had been used.

Three associations have benefited of **10,000 EUR each**:

- *Comité de Familiares y Desaparecidos en Honduras* (COFADEH)
- *Centro de Investigación y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos* (CIPRODEH)
- *Centro Para la Prevención de la Tortura* (CPTRT)

The support was provided between April and October 2010. All three NGOs expressed their great satisfaction with that kind of funding and support, due to its flexibility and swiftness.

The activities supported under this mechanism have been:

- Psychological care for the victims of human rights abuses.
- Medical care.
- Legal assistance (in particular for the concession of preventive measures by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights).
- Transfer and re-housing of human rights defenders (including accommodation, food and other expenses).

INSTRUMENT FOR STABILITY (IfS)

The first intervention with the IfS in Honduras was done in November 2009 on the occasion of the elections that were held following the 28 June break of constitutional order. No EU-Electoral Observation Mission (EOM) was deployed but, considering the key importance of the elections for an eventual solution to the crisis, the EU decided to send, under the IfS, a small team of three experts to the EU Delegation.

The EU has doubled efforts to support Honduras to consolidate peace and democracy. In July 2010 a new project of € **1.1 million** under the IfS was approved in order to support Honduras' effort to consolidate peace and democracy, aiming in particular at promoting governance reforms, social and political dialogue and reconciliation in Honduras.

The action targets the authorities, all national political parties, the Honduran civil society, the media and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission established in May.

The project includes support to four components:

Updated October 20, 2011

Strengthening of democratic governance, the action will facilitate the establishment of platforms for social and political dialogue among national, regional and local actors. The platforms will be established around the essential political and institutional reforms that are on the agenda and will be agreed and validated by all key political actors including the Parliament. It also includes activities to reinforce the capacities of the civil society to participate in such platforms in a professional and effective manner.

Promotion of respect for human rights by strengthening the regulatory mechanisms for human rights actors. This would comprise research and assessment, promotion of dialogue and capacity building for watchdog activities, technical support for the development of a national human rights strategy under the lead of the Government, specific support for the implementation of the relevant Constitutional provisions and enabling civil society to regain confidence in national mechanisms.

Technical support to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to analyze the past events, collect information and develop this Commission's capacities, programmes and strategies for reconciliation, in particular relating to human rights (i.e. reinforce the capacities of the Commission to investigate human rights abuses and violations committed during and following the *coup d'état*).

Building up conflict prevention capacities of media actors, in order to facilitate their participation in the reconciliation process. Activities will include: diffusion of relevant information linked to the promoted dialogue process as well as specialized training and capacity building on the role of the media in a polarized democracy.

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION INSTRUMENT (DCI)

Under the current strategy for Honduras (2007-2013) an allocation of 223 € M has been approved for bilateral cooperation with Honduras concentrated in three focal sectors: **Support to the Poverty Reduction Strategy, Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Justice and Security**.

44 € M had been earmarked for cooperation actions in Justice and Security focal sector.

The first phase of the program ***Programa de Apoyo al Sector Seguridad (PASS)*** was approved under this framework (9 € M). One of the main objectives of the PASS program is to support Honduran Government by providing the authorities with proper tools and training aimed at improving the investigative process and reducing the levels of impunity. The PASS programme can be effectively used to engage the European Union and Honduras in a dialogue on Human Rights, as well as to foster greater transparency and to promote important reforms and tools that will improve the security and Human Rights situation in the country.

A new project in the same sector is currently in the final process of approval. This € 5M project will focus on strengthening the institutional capacity of Honduran Government to effectively promote and protect Human Rights and aims at, *inter alia*, supporting the Government of Honduras to follow-up the UN recommendations on Human Rights in the framework of the recent Universal Periodic Review.