

2. SUCCESS STORY: SUSTAINABILITY OF COLLABORATIVE OVERSIGHT IN MADRE DE DIOS

**MAYORAL RESOLUTIONS
RECOGNIZED THE
CONTRIBUTIONS OF THIRTEEN
OVERSIGHT TEAMS. THE
TEAMS RECEIVE ASSISTANCE
FROM THE WORKING GROUP
IN THE FIGHT AGAINST
POVERTY AND THE MINISTRY
OF THE ENVIRONMENT TO
CONTINUE EFFORTS TO
IMPROVE PUBLIC SANITATION
SERVICES IN MADRE DE DIOS**



Representatives from MCLCP and MINAM participate in a ceremony to transfer the mechanism in Madre de Dios.

“The Municipality has a great responsibility to provide this service, but citizens also can make a significant contribution to how solid waste is managed...”

Carlos Arévalo,

Head of Environmental Management, Provincial
Municipality Tambopata, Madre de Dios
(November 2016)

The high rate of population growth in Madre de Dios presents significant obstacles to effective delivery of public sanitation services. In 2007, residents produced 21 tons of solid waste per day; in 2017 the population of more than 140,000 inhabitants is expected to generate 79 tons of waste per day.

Dating back to 2013, the Tambopata Provincial Municipality and the district municipalities in Inambari and Las Piedras received technical assistance from the USAID ProDecentralization Program to undertake coordinated efforts to address the difficulties facing the delivery of public sanitation services. This included strengthening the capacity of officials and personnel responsible for delivering the services, identifying opportunities to access public and private funding and, most especially, include collaborative citizen oversight as a strategy for continuous improvement.

The 13 teams of citizens (seven in Tambopata, five in Las Piedras and one in Inambari) were able to complete nine oversight actions. Their findings in the Report from the oversight activities were presented to authorities and responsible officials, and they welcomed the recommendations to improve the services. The teams comprise of more than 60 volunteers, all residents cognizant of their responsibilities as citizens to cooperate with authorities in overseeing services, which extends to monitoring route compliance, schedules, use of uniforms and safety equipment, among other aspects.

Other actors in the region are very impressed with the positive results from the work carried out in the province of Tambopata and the districts of Inambari and Las Piedras. For example, the Provincial Municipality increased frequency of collection services from 2.33 times per week in 2013 to 4.3 times per week in 2016.

On a similar note, the collaborative nature (as oppose to regulatory) of the oversight activity and the value placed by public servants on the information reported back to them were instrumental so that institutions like the Working Group to Fight Against Poverty (*Mesa de Concertación para la Lucha Contra la Pobreza* –MCLCP in Spanish) and the Technical Office at the Ministry of the Environment (MINAM in Spanish) in Madre de Dios decided in late 2016 to coordinate efforts with the Tambopata Provincial Municipality to take over the technical assistance required by the 13 oversight teams and generate the conditions required for expansion to other regions and services.

These successes contribute to the sustainability of collaborative oversight teams, as a participatory mechanism and continues to support improved public sanitation in Madre de Dios.