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CREATIVE ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONAL

# ALIANZA JOVEN REGIONAL USAID - SICA

QUARTERLY REPORT

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2009



October 2009

This report was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Creative Associates International, Inc.

**QUARTERLY REPORT**

**JULY-SEPTEMBER 2009**

Prepared by  
CREATIVE ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONAL, INC. (CREATIVE)  
For the  
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)  
El Salvado

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**I. OVERVIEW OF PROJECT ADVANCES THIS QUARTER**

This report covers the period of activities from July 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009, of the Regional Youth Alliance USAID-SICA (*Alianza Joven Regional USAID-SICA (AJR)*) program also

referred to as the Gangs Prevention Alliance for Central America. Due to the political crisis in Honduras, AJR's efforts this quarter focused on advancing activities in El Salvador and Guatemala, collaborating with SICA and while working through our partners to avoid the decline of pre established programs in Honduras. In El Salvador the AJR opened two Outreach Centers (OCs) in 13 de enero, Zacamil, Mejicanos and in Melendez, Soyapango, as well as developed a new alliance with the Municipality of Apopa. The 13 de Enero OC opened its doors to the community in September, prior to its inauguration slated for early October, becoming the center of civic activity in the neighborhood. The Desafío 100 program in El Salvador finalized the evaluation and selection of 42 former gang members to participate in the program. The AJR is now constructing alliances to find job opportunities with the private sector and space for reintegration. AJR personnel in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula were able to find a few opportunities for Desafío 100 beneficiaries in the program. This quarter the AJR evaluated the results of the pilot prevention youth camps, as they may become valuable components of future activities. Also, the AJR launched its Web Site [www.alianzajovenregional.org](http://www.alianzajovenregional.org), which contains a documentation center for regional Juvenile Justice and news, videos and information on the AJR program.

The AJR signed and/or is working on finalizing the following agreements:

- Seven small prevention grants were awarded to the Outreach Centers in Guatemala and are in the implementation phase.
- In anticipation of the establishment of Outreach Center in Choloma (near San Pedro Sula), the municipality of Choloma repaired and donated a house to AJR's partner to implement activities in the community. The AJR will finalize the proposal and formalize an agreement with the municipality upon receiving authorization from USAID to travel to Honduras.
- The AJR submitted a proposal for a small grant for a Street Soccer program in Las Ayestas, Tegucigalpa that is currently pending USAID approval.
- The AJR reached an agreement with the Municipality of Apopa to form an alliance for prevention programs in the area (Annex). The AJR and Apopa municipal personnel have been working on a proposal for an Outreach Center in the Chintuc II community as the first step in developing several prevention initiatives in the municipality.
- A small grant was approved by USAID and signed by the Barrio Lourdes, San Salvador, Outreach Center, to launch the "Jóvenes Marcando la Diferencia" (Youth Making a Difference) movement.
- The AJR produced one electronic Newsletter (2009-03)

## **II. ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS QUARTER**

### ***Analysis of Progress***

In the third quarter of 2009, the AJR has progressed in meeting its September 2010 targets. Thus far 23 communities have been assisted in crime prevention. This quarter the AJR has opened one additional Outreach Center bringing the total number to seven OCs. The AJR has also awarded eight small grants in Guatemala and El Salvador. The number of youth benefiting from the Outreach Centers increased by 1,088 (from 1,819 to 2,970.) It is important to note that this figure does not include youth that benefit from activities supported by small grants, such as the 300 youth that participated in the “Jovenes Marcando la Diferencia” rally and the many hundreds reached by the seven small grants in Guatemala. Also, this number does not include new beneficiaries from the Rivera Hernandez OC, as it has been difficult to obtain data due to the political situation in Honduras.

The Desafio 100 program has evaluated and accepted three additional former gang members in Tegucigalpa to be placed in jobs in the future.

<b>IR 1 Strengthening Rule of Law</b>				
<b>Sub-IR Crime Prevention Programs Implemented</b>				
<b>Number</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline Year</b>	<b>Target Sept 2010</b>	<b>To September 2009</b>
<b>Result 1 Jump Start Public Private Initiatives for Gang Prevention</b>				
1.1	Communities assisted in crime prevention	2008 0	30	23
1.2	New Outreach Centers Established	2008 0	15	7
1.3	Sub-Grants Implemented (other than Outreach Centers)	2008 0	7 mid-size grants 27 small grants	15 small grants
1.4	Youth benefited by Outreach Centers	2008 0	3750	2,907
1.5	Desafio 100 youths provided with jobs	2008 0	450	38
1.6	Leverage Contributions raised	2008 0	1:1	0.243:1
<b>Result 2 Assess Regional Legal/Justice Frameworks and promote Juvenile Justice Policy Reform</b>				
2.1	Evaluation of National/Legal Frameworks/Policies and Best Practices validated by Working Groups and Regional Comparative Analysis Developed	2008 0	3 Evaluations Validated 1 Comparative Analysis Developed	3 Evaluations validated 1 Comparative Analysis Developed
2.2	Advocacy Strategies to influence National/Regional Legal Frameworks/Policies designed and implemented	2008 0	3	0
<b>Result 3 Collaboration and Assistance to SICA to catalyze regional policy reform and harmonization</b>				
3.1	Number of reforms and initiatives promoted by SICA to improve the juvenile justice system and juvenile violence prevention through assistance by AJR	2008 0	5	1

## MAIN PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

The AJR has faced major challenges in 2009 as the political situation Honduras has affected the implementation activities. Nevertheless, the AJR maintains program presence in the country to

resume full implementation in the upcoming months. In order to more efficiently distribute existing project funds, the AJR is reprogramming some of the funding planned for Honduras to new activities in El Salvador.

The economic situation in Honduras and El Salvador has deteriorated with rising unemployment. Hundreds of thousands of jobs have been lost and businesses continue to downsize their workforce. This has made the hiring of former gang members extremely difficult and has negatively impacted AJR's *Desafío* 100 Job Opportunities/Integration program.

The economic situation has also made it more difficult for the AJR to hit its leverage targets, as most private sector companies have reduced or cut charitable contributions. Municipalities have also been fiscally impacted and have reduced programs.

The security situation in El Salvador has also deteriorated. The high number of extortions and homicides, including the recent assassination of movie director Christian Poveda by gang members, has scared potential participants and supporters of the *Desafío 10* Reality Show.

Juvenile justice programming in Guatemala has been delayed due to the assassination of a professor and a cook in a youth detention center which resulted in the dismissal of government personnel that were collaborating with the AJR.

The economic crisis has had a definite impact on the Rotary Clubs of Tegucigalpa. The Rotary Clubs expected to receive matching grants from Rotary International, but due to the financial crisis they were suspended. The AJR hoped to leverage resources (as outlined in the Agreement signed between the Rotary Clubs of Tegucigalpa and the AJR) to open 6 Outreach Centers (OCs) in the greater Tegucigalpa area. The Rotary funds would have covered \$9,000 for each of the OCs.

The unstable political situation in Honduras also affected implantation plans for Outreach Centers in San Pedro Sula, in partnership with *Paz y Convivencia* (OPC), part of an Inter-American Bank (IDB) prevention program. The IDB froze the resources after the interim government took office. Equipment and materials already purchased by the OPC will be used to open an additional OC in San Pedro Sula, for a total of two OCs, out of the four originally planned.

## **Next Steps**

Consistent with Result I, the AJR is considering a program *New Focus: Work with Youth Leadership and a Coalition against Violence*.

A new wave of violence is affecting El Salvador. Homicides (that mostly affect youth) and extortions have increased at an alarming rate. Curfews imposed by gangs in some neighborhoods have resulted in an increase in violence. The affected population has reacted to this surge in violence by organizing demonstrations such as the youth march against violence, in Apopa, Lourdes, Colón and Zacamil organized by the AJR funded OC. The OC in Barrio Lourdes organized a new youth group called Youth Making a Difference (Jóvenes Marcando la

Diferencia). The AJR believes that the rise of youth protests against violence in their communities can be used to advocate for prevention activities. Properly channeled, it could give youth and the communities a voice, foster discussion, encourage action and push for effective public policies to find solutions for the eradication of youth and of violence in the country.

The USAID funded Youth Challenge Program in Guatemala, has developed the Youth Movement Against Violence unifying 90 youth organizations and groups as well as a Coalition Against Violence integrating 26 faith based and private sector organizations and NGOs with the goal of formulating recommendations for a public policy against violence. These recommendations will be presented to the Guatemalan Government at the end of the year.

The AJR has surveyed existing youth groups and youth networks that were interested in joining a Youth Movement similar to the one developed in Guatemala. At a recent Youth Movement Against Violence event, El Salvadoran youth leaders had the opportunity of meet with the leaders of the Movement as well as observe some of the events and tactics used to raise awareness against violence. The AJR will aim to create a similar movement in El Salvador.

The initial costs of organizing a youth movement in El Salvador are not considered to be high. If approved by USAID, the AJR could accommodate these costs within the line items of Workshops and Meetings. The AJR will need to hire a local consultant to dedicate to this component (the Youth Movement and the Coalition). The consultant will be expected to produce a diagnosis of the situation of youth in the country, assist in the production of a video outlining the deteriorating situation of violence affecting youth in the country as well as draft a plan and initiate contacts with various youth segments in the country.

The AJR will initiate contacts to engage youth and different segments of society to present the results. There will be a number of workshops planned for 2010. The AJR expects to develop this activity into a full component if there is an extension of the regional program. Youth mobilization will have a synergetic relationship with a possible Coalition against Violence that is discussed below.

The central idea of the Youth Movement and the Coalition is to mobilize public support and interact with government institutions to propose and facilitate the implementation of a public policy on the prevention of violence.

If approved by USAID, from October to December 2009, the AJR will arrange meetings among the leaders of youth movements of the three countries and between the presidents of the national chapters of the Central American Youth Parliament with the Secretary General of SICA. The first meeting will take place in October/November in El Salvador.

### ***Result I: Jump Start Public-Private Initiatives for Gang Prevention Awareness, Rehabilitation and Reinsertion***

During September, the fourth OC in El Salvador, located in the high risk 13 de enero community of Zacamil, in the municipality of Mejicanos, became operational. Its inauguration is planned for

early October. The AJR is working to find an adequate location for an OC in the Melendez community of the Soyapango municipality.

In Honduras, there were advances with the implementation of an OC in the López Arellano community of Choloma. The Municipality of Choloma has allocated and repaired a space for the OC and has handed the building to AJR's partner, the Pastoral de Movilidad Social of the Catholic Church. Paz y Convivencia contributed equipment to furnish the Outreach Center. The AJR has been able to provide follow up to its initiatives in San Pedro Sula with the assistance of a part-time consultant, previously in charge of joint activities between the program and Paz y Convivencia.

In its attempt to improve monitoring and evaluation OC activities and results, the AJR was assisted by International Development professional, Ms. Melanie Reimer. Ms. Reimer has invested several weeks in the development of a linked data gathering instrument that will be able to facilitate record keeping and homogenize results among OCs. The design of these instruments also includes a more precise definition of OC beneficiaries. OC Coordinators were trained by Ms. Reimer in using this tool.

Although USAID Honduras has requested that the AJR look into the implementation of an OC in Puerto Lempira, located in the Honduran Moskitia, this has not been possible due to the political situation in the country.

This quarter, the AJR received two visits from the communications company Nortel Government Solutions, who is considering a GDA alliance with the AJR for the donation of computer equipment and software to support the IT offerings of Outreach Centers in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. The donation will also include a juvenile "virtual courtroom" pilot in Guatemala.

The AJR formed a relationship with the Municipality of Apopa with the intention of developing prevention initiatives in an area considered among the six most violent municipalities in El Salvador. The AJR Program Director and officers met with the Apopa City Council and visited locations where the city has tried and failed to implement sustainable prevention initiatives for youth. The Chintuc II community was identified as a potential area for the implementation of an Outreach Center. The AJR met with other volunteer organizations that could collaborate in this effort. Councilmen in Apopa and the executive assistant of the Mayor were invited by the program to visit the Villa Nueva and Mixco municipalities in Guatemala to witness prevention activities and the OC model. Their trip resulted in a decision by the Council to propose to the Mayor an alliance to develop an OC in Apopa and to participate in other prevention initiatives in the municipality.

The AJR made a presentation of its prevention activities to the Local Prevention Council of Apopa (the first to be formed in El Salvador). The Municipality of Apopa passed a resolution formalizing a prevention alliance with the AJR and a proposal to implement an OC is in progress with the Community Board of Chintuc II. The AJR has also initiated talks with Nejapa Power in implementing OCs in Apopa.

## **Component I: *Preventing that young people enter gangs***

### **Achievements**

#### **El Salvador**

##### **Outreach Centers**

The 13 de enero, OC in Zacamil, became the focal point of civic activity even before its inauguration in October. On Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, after several meetings held by the Zacamil community board and boards of three adjacent communities and with guidance from the OC Coordinator, 400 people marched for peace demanding a stop to violence in Zacamil. Gangs operating in the neighborhood had imposed a curfew starting at 7 PM and homicides had increased significantly in the last few months. Several neighboring Zacamil communities will benefit from the 13 de enero OC (Raúl Rivas, Emmanuel I and II, Próceres, 4 de octubre, Nazareno and Súper Manzana). The 13 de enero OC had an initial number of 54 beneficiaries prior to its inauguration.

Both the 13 de enero and the Melendez, Soyapango OCs are being implemented by the Catholic faith based organization Fe y Alegría in Community Houses. This has led to increased participation from the Community Boards who own these houses. Although the involvement of the Community Boards is essential the long term sustainability on the OCs, the additional implementers cause delays in decision making and sometimes the exclusion of beneficiaries that do not belong to the community.

The Resolution by the Council of Apopa to develop an alliance with the AJR goes beyond the establishment of one Outreach Center in Chintuc II. This relationship could serve as the long term sustainability model for this OC and others. Chintuc II is a very high risk community with inadequate infrastructure and little community involvement in prevention activities. The AJR hopes that the establishment of an OC in Apopa will have a ripple effect in the way that the Municipality operates its Youth Houses which are currently underutilized.

The Municipality of Apopa has requested that the AJR help in the development of a strategy to better engage the private sector in the Municipality. This may be done in a joint presentation in the coming months, in which the recently formed Local Prevention Council will be introduced to the private sector.

Some of the OCs in El Salvador that are no longer receiving funds from the program are having some difficulties. The AJR is trying to work with them towards financial solvency and sustainability.

The Barrio Lourdes OC is launching the “Youth Making a Difference” (Jovenes Marcando la Diferencia) movement through a small grant of \$1,400. The idea behind the movement is to raise awareness among youth in communities neighboring the OC and mobilize young leaders to reclaim urban spaces and mobilize their efforts against violence in these areas. This activity involved more than 400 youth from at least 9 communities in an all day activity in an urban area

plagued by violence (Plaza San Esteban). The AJR ensured that the Ministry of Transportation would allow the closure of some streets for the activity and sought police surveillance.

The Barrio Lourdes OC also established a small gym. Youth take participate in ethics classes and then are able to use the gym. Some active gang members wanted to use the gym as well, but after the Coordinator explained the nature of the OC and they agreed to not insist on participating, so as to not create a risk for the beneficiaries.

The Lourdes, Colón OC conducted a successful training of 12 youth as sexual education trainers. Through this training the program expects to impact over 100 youth beneficiaries. The effort also included related talks for parents, but they did not participate in the numbers expected. This OC increased the number of beneficiaries during this quarter by 74.

The Lourdes, Colón OC assisted five youth that have never attended school due to economic difficulties. They will continue to attend the OC until next year, when they can enroll in school. This reveals the hard realities of a number of children without access to any schooling in urban El Salvador. This OC increased the number of beneficiaries during this quarter by 47.

The Mejicanos OC has organized recreational excursions used to promote youth leadership. The OC has been able to maintain fourteen volunteers some of whom are from two Universities and a Vocational Center (ITCA.) This OC increased the number of beneficiaries during this quarter by 98.

## **Obstacles**

Due to the extreme violence surrounding the area where the OCs operate, activities held later in the day or evening have not been very successful. During the month of September two people were killed near two of the OCs. One of them, a youth, was killed in broad daylight. Although none of the victims were beneficiaries of the OCs, this has scared some parents from sending their children to the centers.

Although the AJR had an initial agreement with Tigo and Fundación Crisálida to open an OC in Popotlán, Apopa, in a semi-abandoned vocational facility, Tigo decided to work in the development of community centers and not youth centers. The implementation of this community center in Popotlan has had many obstacles and AJRs involvement does not seem possible at this time.

The Project Director visited Mr. Benjamin Cestoni, who is in charge of community security projects for the municipality of San Salvador. The purpose of the visit was two-fold: to introduce Pastor Carlos Artiga and to receive some kind of assistance for the Barrio Lourdes OC, as well as to explore the willingness of the Municipality to partner development of another OC model in Barrio Tinnetti. Mr Cestoni indicated interest, as San Salvador is prioritizing Districts #5 and #6, precisely where Tinnetti is located.

## **NEXT STEPS:**

## **Next Steps**

The AJR is focused on expanding services through the OCs by improving the IT educational offerings. As such, TORs have been sent to local universities in San Salvador that can offer volunteer services. Six thousand dollars is being reserved for this activity as originally outlined in the 2009 Annual Work Plan.

Additionally, the AJR recognizes the need for OCs to deliver psychological services to beneficiaries and their families. A similar TOR for a contract will be developed to provide these services through university-based volunteer networks. This activity is estimated to cost approximately \$5,000 and although implementation will commence in 2010, the grant will be awarded in 2009.

The AJR wants implement one OC in the Tinnetti Market, located in San Salvador, using an abandoned community facility. The cost will be around \$16,000 and the partner will be CFO (Father Antonio Rodríguez) and potentially the municipality of San Salvador (with whom some talks have been initiated). The AJR is interested in collaborating with the municipality of San Salvador on their prevention priorities that focus on District #6 and sharing the OC model (through volunteerism and local community involvement). In case there is no interest of behalf of San Salvador, a second OC will be developed in Apopa, probably in the Chintuc I community.

The AJR wants to work with the municipality of Apopa and its local prevention council to encourage local private sector involvement in prevention efforts. The AJR will award small grants towards prevention efforts prioritized by the local prevention council. The AJR will dedicate a total of \$6,000 for two small grants for these prevention efforts. The experience gained in working with the local prevention council will expand the range of activities that will be beneficial for the AJR's possible regional extension and Merida programming in El Salvador.

## ***Prevention Camps***

This quarter the AJR completed an evaluation of the pilot prevention camp experience, where 255 youth participated in 4 camps organized by four different organizations. Although each organization had different levels of experience in organizing camps, their experience in dealing with high risk youth was limited. This was, in part, the value of this joint experience.

The AJR concluded that the following:

- These organizations are willing to organize prevention camps in greater scale
- The participating faith based groups (3 of the 4) are able to recruit high risk youth from the most vulnerable of communities and that both, participants and the organizations, believe that camps are an effective prevention tool if designed properly.
- Further training is needed to bring this activity to scale.
- The manual that was developed for the experience is a valuable tool that needs to be developed further.

The value of each organization was in its ability to train the others in its area of expertise. The Fe y Alegria has extensive experience programming for high risk youth, but could benefit from the Scout organization to develop an effective prevention camp.

Participants surveys show that the most effective tool in making these high risk youth reflect on the importance of their decision (“to be or not to be” part of a gang) can be open and honest discussions with former gang members and psychological assistance, such as the one received by the Desafio Prevencion team that participated in each of the camps.

## **Honduras**

### **Achievements**

#### **Tegucigalpa**

AJR’s partner in Tegucigalpa, Save the Children Honduras, continue to operate the two OCs and adhere to the OC methodology.

In this quarter the increment of beneficiaries in the Tegucigalpa OCs has been significant. The Villafranca OC had an increase from 63 to 375 beneficiaries and the Buenas Nuevas OC from 46 to 649 beneficiaries.

One of the innovations of the OCs in Tegucigalpa has been the inclusion of traditional game crafts in the use of free time component. Festivals of traditional games (such as “trompos”), have been a success, as they have created interactions across generational lines, fostering friendships and better community relations. This idea can be replicated in other OCs in the different countries AJR operates.

Although some volunteers in the Tegucigalpa OCs have been come from outside the community, the community volunteers have been the basis of the effort . Save the Children has made a good effort in convincing neighbors to participate in volunteerism.

### **Obstacles**

The principal difficulty of the OCs in Tegucigalpa is the lack of technical assistance on behalf of the AJR. Due to the travel restriction to Honduras, the AJR has not been able to help consolidate the work the two OCs in Villafranca a Buenas Nuevas properly.

The political instability in Honduras has affected regular attendance and the recruitment of volunteers. Additionally the number of youth benefiting from the homework assistance component has diminished, as academic requirements at schools have been relaxed.

The political situation has also affected the implementation in an OC in Flores de Oriente, in the area of Nueva Suyapa. The potential partners have not been able to advance in the presentation of a viable proposal.

The OCs in Tegucigalpa have established links with the Government's Labor Secretariat, to look for future job opportunities for beneficiaries. Some of the beneficiaries were trained in labor rights. Unfortunately the job experience of the OC beneficiaries are below the requirements of the few companies offering opportunities, limiting their possibilities.

### **San Pedro Sula**

The OC in Rivera Hernandez, San Pedro Sula has also been affected by the situation in the country. Beneficiaries and volunteers have not been consistent in their attendance. The OC has nevertheless registered new beneficiaries and started new training courses and other activities. The AJR has not been able to obtain an exact number of new beneficiaries this quarter and will include the figures in the next report.

Even though the Rivera Hernandez OC has experienced financial strains, it has maintained a good level of activities in the use of free time and vocational training. Computer training continues to be in high demand and equipment has become scarce. At the end of the quarter Paz y Convivencia donated all pending equipment to the OC.

The demand for these types of activities reflects on the lack of similar opportunities for Rivera Hernandez and surrounding communities.

The equipment bought by Paz y Convivencia for the development of a second OC in partnership with the AJR at Choloma, is currently being stored at the Rivera Hernandez OC. Although the partner for the OC in Choloma, the Pastoral de Movilidad Humana de Choloma, has been proactive and that the house for the OC has been handed to them by the Mayor, there have been problems in receiving a good financial proposal from them and some details related to future sustainability of the OC, have still to be finalized with the Mayor. Further advancement on this issue is impeded by the inability of AJR personnel to travel to Honduras.

### **Obstacles**

The main obstacle to the OCs in Honduras was caused by a delay of more than eight months in the delivering of Paz y Convivencia equipment.

The AJR has also not been able to find a partner to establish an OC in Chamelecon.

### **Next Steps**

When AJR personnel are able travel to Honduras, the first two steps will be a visit to Choloma, San Pedro Sula and Puerto Lempir, Moskitia.

### **Guatemala:**

Seven crime prevention small grants were awarded in Guatemala and inaugurated on September 17th at the Bucaro, Mezquital Outreach Center with the participation of representative of the seven Outreach Centers' representatives, Villa Nueva's municipal authorities, representatives of Youth Regional Alliance, the Asociacion Alianza Joven, and Guatemala and DC based Creative Associates staff.

At the inauguration, each one of the Centers participated presenting their projects and their implementation plans. They uses power point presentations and other materials to present their small project. Immediately, AJR supported by the Youth Challenge Program in Guatemala initiated the procurement process for the approved activities, which is expected to be completed by mid October.

The seven awarded Projects will be implemented by the following Outreach Centers:

1. Palin, Escuintla
2. Ciudad del Sol, Villa Nueva
3. Búcaro, Mezquital Villa Nueva
4. San Rafael II, Zona 18
5. Santa Catarina Pínula
6. Cantón Ojo de Agua, Palencia
7. Paraiso II, Zona 18

The Centers are expected to implement their main activities next quarter involving the participation of the community and municipalities to organize all sorts of events against crime. The events vary from Bucaro Mezquital's Concert against Crime scheduled for November 7th with the participation of 10 singers/bands, to Santa Catarina's Video and Forums against Crime, or Ciudad del Sol and San Rafael Tournament's against Crime.

### **Component II: *Encouraging gang members to abandon gangs***

During this third quarter there has been evidence of more social awareness about the problem of gangs. Although the crime indicators have increased, increased awareness has triggered further analysis and focus on the situation.

Analysts, intellectuals, private and government officials, have all expressed their opinions in regards of the present level of violence and crime. Most of these opinions focus on prevention and law enforcement, but few touch upon the issue of reinsertion.

The death of professional photojournalist Christian Poveda, producer of the now famous documentary "La Vida Loca" in early September increased the debate. Although the investigations led to the capture of the gang members and one police officer accused as being responsible for the death of Mr. Poveda, several voices point to a more complex situation.

The AJR's efforts in producing the Desafio 10 reality television show were severely affected by this situation. The AJR has nevertheless found some partners that are willing to participate in the production of the show. Meridiano 89, a local producer, has expressed interest in the project and

made a substantial effort in finding sponsors and allies. Several meetings were held with La Prensa Grafica, Channel 12 and lately with the principals of Channel 33 and the School of Communications of Universidad tecnológica (UTECH). La Prensa Grafica and Channel 33 in partnership with UTECH, expressed their interest.

An agreement between the AJR, Meridiano 89, Channel 33 and UTECH is being developed. UTECH is to provide volunteer production personnel.

During this process, some have expressed their concern about producing a Reality Show that brings together members from the two main rival gangs. Others say that assassination of Christian Poveda makes the production of Desafío 10 potentially risky. Some of the former gang members that initially expressed interest in participating have withdrawn given their security concerns. Even AES, the energy distribution company, who had agreed to sponsor the Reality Show, has since withdrawn after the death of Mr. Poveda.

Although the production of Desafío 10 in El Salvador continues to be a challenge, there are other opportunities to explore. The issue of reintegration presents opportunities to do promote awareness and build support among Salvadorans. This is the main purpose of the Reality TV Show.

The homicide rate has increased in the region during 2009 and the majority are linked to gang violence. Solving the problem of gang violence requires cooperation from multiple sectors of society and the best way to raise awareness among these groups is mass media.

The AJR will continue to try to develop the Desafío 10 reality television show while at the same time explore other alternatives to use mass media for awareness raising.

## **Rehabilitation**

The AJR initially budgeted \$20,000 to pilot rehabilitation experiences in El Salvador (detailed in the AWP 09). Two opportunities have been identified for immediate action and are described below:

- Support for Rehabilitation Services provided by CFO in *Mejicanos*. This could include the transfer of an underutilized Tattoo Laser removal machine from the Ronald McDonald Foundation to the CFO tattoo removal clinic that operates in *Mejicanos* and uses a less effective heat technology. The AJR will help CFO with some of the operation costs and with the protocols for the use of the machine. The CFO tattoo removal services will be just a part of the rehabilitation services that will be supported by AJR. Others include training for income generation activities, informal job creation and psychological services for former gang members. This grant will be approximately for \$12,500.
- Support for Proyecto Metamorfosis in Santa Ana to create a second shoe-making workshop as part of rehabilitation efforts for former gang-members. The first workshop has already produced 1,000 ladies shoes a month and is selling them. The grant will include purchase of machinery along with business consulting services from an *MBA*

*without Borders* volunteer. This second workshop will employ more former gang members. The machinery will be owned by Vinculo de Amor (Metamorfosis project parent), an NGO that has been working in El Salvador for 22 years. The grant will be around \$12,500.

## **Honduras**

The AJR had made significant progress in the organization of an awareness campaign called “For the Life of Honduran Youth”, including a meeting with important Centers of Moral Authority in the country slated on July 6, 2009. The AJR planned to present findings of a Diagnostic of the Situation of Youth in Honduras at this luncheon meeting though the campaign had to be cancelled.

The AJR hired a consultant to prepare this Diagnostic and a power point presentation of the findings. The AJR expects to reschedule the presentation.

### **Component III: *Job opportunities for rehabilitated former gang members***

The Desafio 100 program had notable advances in the selection of former gang members in El Salvador. The AJR is making substantial efforts to find job opportunities even though the private sector continues to be reluctant.

In Tegucigalpa, Honduras, six young former gang members have been hired by four businesses (Pepsi, Aguazul, Better Kitchens, Cadeca). This was achieved during one the worst economic and political crises the country has faced. This situation has limited further businesses committing to the effort.

In San Pedro Sula, the second Desafio 100 launch created important opportunities and social awareness. Unfortunately, the events in Honduras complicated the work of AJR’s partner, Paz y Convivencia which has stalled further activities.

## **Accomplishments**

### **El Salvador**

The AJR completed psychological evaluations for seventy two former gang members out of eighty seven applicants to the Desafio 100 program. Of these, forty two candidates have interviewed and qualified as beneficiaries. Sixteen candidates remain to be interviewed. Of the candidates qualified, eleven are women. The forty two candidates come from four gangs and most of them have not been able to find jobs because of their past history.

The AJR has visited several individual businesses with the purpose of introducing the Desafio 100 program, raising awareness and trying to obtain job opportunities for youth. Some of the business visited by the program were Borel, Partex, Torogoz, Phillip Morris, Hanes, Repuestos Canahuati, AES and Tasty, among others. Only three jobs have been offered.

Presentations have also been made to the Asociación Azucarera, ASI and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of El Salvador (CCI).

The AJR identified a greater opening at the Chamber of Commerce, who invited AJR to a subsequent presentation and agreed to feature an article in its November magazine (some 2,600 businesses receive this publication.) Also, the President has agreed to hold an event to present the Desafio 100 program to the general membership of the Chamber. The AJR has identified a young champion Mr. Jorge Hasbun who presides the Commerce Committee. Although ASI's President, Mr. Napoleon Guerrero, responded negatively to Desafio 100, its Executive Director, Mr. Jorge Arriaza, has agreed to organize a meeting with a select group of industrialists so the AJR can present the program.

The AJR will have to change its strategy with respect to Guatemala and Honduras. Instead of a public launch the AJR will immediately place the youth as each opening becomes available. Eventually, a public event with the beneficiaries may be possible.

This situation demonstrates the need for a mass media awareness campaign, such as a Reality Show or a variation of it.

### **Obstacles**

The increasing levels of gang violence and particularly of extortions, has led to a decrease societal receptivity to the reintegration of former gang members. One of the main fears of employers is that if they hire former gang members, these could provide inside information to their former gang which might lead to extortions. This perception has been cited as the main impediment in providing job opportunities by the private sector.

### **Next steps**

The next step is to try to get media exposure for the Desafio 100 program including the AJR Project Director contacting the main newspapers in El Salvador.

The AJR has been in contact about potential collaboration with the US Embassy's Commercial Section Enlaza program of Corporate Social Responsibility and with the new officer in charge of GDAs at USAID. This may open doors for working with US firms operating in El Salvador.

The AJR will continue to insist for a presentation to the Corporate Social Responsibility Committee of AMCHAM, which has been postponed twice.

Additionally, the AJR is considering hiring a consultant with high level contacts with the private sector and media that can help form alliances, obtain jobs and leverage.

### **Honduras**

#### **Tegucigalpa**

In Tegucigalpa, Honduras six young former gang members have been hired by four businesses (Pepsi, Aguazul, Better Kitchens, Cadeca). These opportunities were made available after individual visits to more than 30 businesses.

### **Obstacles**

A low level of education is one of the main obstacles in former gang members finding a job. Some participants have been able to pay for the costs of getting necessary legal documentation needed for employment.

### **Next Steps**

The AJR is considering adjusting the Desafio 100 model to incorporate elements of training and support for candidates, to perhaps intern at a willing business before being hired. This may form part of the AJR's design for the extension of the program.

### **San Pedro Sula**

The social worker assigned by the AJR to Desafio 100 follow up, provided support for the beneficiaries of the program and made visits to the companies where they are working.

### **Obstacles**

The Desafio 100 program in San Pedro has also suffered greatly from the situation, as its implementing partner Paz y Convivencia operations were frozen by the IDB. The social worker assigned to accompany the Desafio 100 program finished his contract with Paz y Convivencia in July. Additionally, the psychologist resigned who had been hired by Paz y Convivencia to Desafio 100.

### **Next Steps**

The AJR has hired the part time social worker that provided follow up to Desafio 100 on behalf of Paz y Convivencia as he has full knowledge of the program details and knows the beneficiaries and hiring firms. He will also provide follow up to the OC program there.

### ***RESULT II: Assess regional legal/justice frameworks and practices and multi-country policy and legal reforms to improve the treatment and rehabilitation of youth.***

During the past quarter, the juvenile justice advocacy effort in El Salvador was consolidated. With support from the AJR, the Intersectoral Commission for the Reform of the Juvenile Justice System has continued advocating on improving the juvenile justice system and in particular the situation of youth in conflict with the law. During this time, the AJR has continued to coordinate meetings, provide assistance and accompaniment to the Commission. Meetings are regularly held at AJR's office.

The advocacy process is well underway in El Salvador. Viable actions have continued to be advocated through meetings with key actors of the government. As a result recommendations have been accepted and are being taken into account by important government institutions regarding some of the most urgent issues determined by the Commission such as the need to develop institutional programs for rehabilitation of juvenile offenders and the establishment of specialized training for juvenile justice sector operators. The advocacy project proposal is currently being finalized according to the terms of reference previously presented to the Commission. It is expected that the Intersectoral Commission will be presenting the project to the AJR during the first weeks of October.

In Honduras the Juvenile Justice Advocacy Coalition had been working on the design of the advocacy project proposal to be presented to AJR, as well on the definition and implementation of an advocacy strategy, carrying out regular meetings during the month of June. However this important effort was stopped due to the political situation generated by the coup on June 28th. The insecurity climate over the past three months has divided the country. Also the ongoing protests, strikes, changes in management and personnel of government institutions have generated a climate of instability among public sector employees. This situation resulted in the suspension of activities by the Advocacy Coalition.

In Guatemala, during the months of August and September, the AJR concentrated its efforts in rebuilding the advocacy initiative. Several meetings were held with important juvenile justice operators including judges and magistrates of the juvenile justice jurisdiction. This resulted in a proposal to form a Juvenile Justice Sub-commission (made up of juvenile justice sector actors and civil society working in the field of juvenile justice) who will carry out an advocacy process aimed at improving the juvenile justice system in Guatemala. The AJR expects to start work with the Sub-commission during the month of October.

Furthermore, the AJR is currently planning the Second Juvenile Justice Forum "Towards Restorative Juvenile Justice in Central America" which will take place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2009, in San Salvador. This second forum will provide follow-up to the important recommendations provided last year during the First Regional Juvenile Justice Forum carried out in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, established in the "Documento de Tegucigalpa". One of the recommendations was the need to shift towards a restorative focus in the juvenile justice systems of the region.

In order to ensure the execution of the Second Regional Forum, the AJR initiated discussions with the UNDP/AECID-SICA fund and with Italian Cooperation. As a result funding has been secured for this important event.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

***Consolidation of the Intersectoral Commission for the Reform of the Juvenile Justice System in El Salvador, as an advocacy coalition.***

In the month of July 2009, the “*Intersectoral Commission for the Reform of the Juvenile Justice System*” continued to advance their advocacy agenda and established a Technical Sub-commission that will work on the advocacy project proposal to be presented to AJR; implement advocacy campaign; represent the Commission in key meetings; and provide follow-up to the activities and/or actions determined by the Commission.

The Technical Sub-commission is composed of the following members: Doris Luz Rivas and Edith Godoy de Jimenez, both Juvenile Justice Magistrates; Julia Carcamo, representative of the Public Defender’s Office (PGR); Giovanna Rizzi, Italian Cooperation and Democratic Security Unit member of SICA; Adilio Carrillo, Director of the Central American Coalition for the Prevention of Violence; and Karen Alvarez, from the Juvenile Justice Office of the Supreme Court. Patricia Galdámez, AJR Liason Officer has been providing assistance in the coordination and follow-up of the Commission’s and Technical Sub-commission’s meetings and activities.

The Sub-commission is carrying out an average of three meetings per month. The Intersectoral Commission is meeting approximately once a month. During these general meetings of the Commission a briefing on the progress made by the Sub-commission is provided, main issues and other actions that need to be followed up are discussed, as well as next steps. The coordination and assistance provided by AJR, has been key to the consolidation of this advocacy coalition.

***Advocacy priorities established and important advances made in El Salvador by the Intersectoral Commission for the Reform of the Juvenile Justice System.*** During the months of July through September the Intersectoral Commission and respective Technical Sub-commission continued to carry out various follow-up meetings where the main issues were discussed, key advocacy activities were prioritized, as well as results-oriented strategies.

The main areas prioritized for advocacy activities by the Intersectoral Commission are the following: 1) Development of proper institutional programs for prevention, rehabilitation of youth who have been convicted of crimes; 2) Creation of conditions to allow for the establishment of a Restorative Juvenile Justice model and articulation of mechanisms to engage in restorative actions with various stakeholders of the juvenile justice system; 3) Establishment of training for juvenile justice operators; and advocacy with the media to achieve a comprehensive and fair treatment of the problems of children and adolescents in conflict with the law.

As a result of the commitment and experience of the members of the Intersectoral Commission, as well as the valuable coordination of the advocacy process provided by the AJR, there were important advances made by the Commission during the last quarter which include:

- 1) Accompaniment during the process of formulation and validation of the Restorative Juvenile Justice project of the Italian Cooperation. This project is expected to start in

January 2010. The AJR will coordinate closely and articulate efforts with Italian Cooperation regarding this important area.

- 2) Meetings were held by the Technical Sub-commission during the month of August with the Director of the Salvadoran Institute for the Integral Development of Children and Adolescents (ISNA) Mr. Luis Salazar, who was receptive to the proposals presented. As a result ISNA is currently reviewing the situation of the juvenile detention centers (juvenile hall), as well as the secure administrative facilities where the minors are taken into custody and held for a short period of time (less than 72 hours). This detention is not considered punitive and it differs from a juvenile detention center, as minors who are held have not been formally charged with a crime or misdemeanor, they are held here and taken care for while other alternatives are arranged for them. ISNA intends to retake its role as administrator of these centers within the next couple of months and has asked the Intersectoral Commission for accompaniment in this process.
- 3) The Commission provided follow-up to the matrix of prioritized recommendations presented to Justice and Security Minister Manuel Melgar on May 14 by revising the recommendations in light of the receptiveness shown by the current juvenile justice institutions, considering the most urgent actions to take in order to improve the juvenile justice system. The two areas prioritized were improper police procedures regarding minors in conflict with the law and the lack of specialized training for juvenile justice operators including police officers.

During the month of September, a meeting was held by the Technical Sub-commission with Minister Melgar, where the advances of the Commission were presented, as well as the main problems and key recommendations. A joint meeting was further called by Minister Melgar with the Director of the National Civilian Police, Director of the National Academy of Public Security, and the Director of ISNA. During this meeting, agreements were reached regarding the incorporation of representatives of those institutions to the Intersectoral Commission and the establishment of a person from each institution who will provide follow-up to the important recommendations presented in order to work on an implementation strategy.

***Advocacy effort rebuilt in Guatemala with the juvenile justice sector operators.*** During the months of August and September, the AJR concentrated its efforts in rebuilding the advocacy effort started in February. Several meetings were held with important juvenile justice actors such as the National Commission of Childhood and Adolescence (Comisión Nacional de la Niñez y Adolescencia -CNNA) entity responsible for the formulation of public policies regarding youth and children, as well as Juvenile Justice Magistrate Roxana Morales and Execution of Measures Judge Dina Ochoa.

As a result of the meetings held, the conformation of a Juvenile Justice Sub-commission under the CCNA made up of juvenile justice sector actors and civil society working in the field of juvenile justice and juvenile violence prevention is well underway. It is expected that this Sub-

commission will have been established and will have begun their advocacy work within the month of October.

An advocacy workshop with the Sub-commission is also being planned for the last week of October. This workshop similar to one previously held in Honduras and El Salvador during the months of April and May will aim at strengthening the skills and abilities of the members of the Sub-commission in their advocacy and lobbying initiatives and will assist them in prioritizing the most important and urgent areas to consider in the advocacy process.

Also important to mention was the joint meeting held with the Juvenile Judge for the Execution of Measures Dina Ochoa and Nortel (a recognized communications and network technology company). Nortel presented their network aimed at facilitating the use of IP video conferencing services which would allow juvenile offenders to appear in court for processing without the challenge of having to travel to and from the court.

The Juvenile Court for the Execution of Measures which is in Guatemala city would benefit greatly from such a network given that it is the only one of its kind in the country and juvenile offenders usually have to travel or be transported by the police for several hours in order to attend their court hearing. The AJR is currently in discussions with Nortel regarding the possibility of implementing a pilot project in this court. The pilot project would take place during the extension of the cooperative agreement.

***Organization of the Second Regional Juvenile Justice Forum underway.*** Talks continued with SG-SICA and its Democratic Security Unit, as well as with the UNDP/AECID-SICA fund and Italian Cooperation regarding the execution of the Second Juvenile Justice Forum entitled "Second Regional Juvenile Justice Forum: *Towards Restorative Juvenile Justice for the Region*"; which is to take place on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The date for the forum has been confirmed by the SG-SICA.

The organization of the forum is well underway. The AJR has drafted the forum program, proposed budget, list of invitees from the Central American region and is drafting letters for the Central American Court of Justice and the National Council for Public Security (CNSP) inviting them to participate as sponsors of the Forum. The AJR has also contacted possible international speakers and facilitator for the Forum.

Additionally, The AJR has secured financial support for the forum from the UNDP/AECID SICA fund and to some extent from the Italian Cooperation. It is expected that the UNDP/AECID-SICA fund contribution toward this end will be approximately \$40,000 dollars. The Italian Cooperation will be funding the lodging and paying for transportation to and from the event in order to ensure representation from youth organizations in the region, as well as translation services.

The AJR is ensuring the participation of juvenile justice sector actors from the Central American region to the Forum, and has included in the budget a line for lodging and transportation for a group of juvenile justice operators coming from Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica,

Panamá, Belize and the Dominican Republic. Transportation and lodging costs for invitees will be funded by the UNDP/AECID-SICA fund.

***AJR Web Portal running.*** The AJR web portal has been running since the first week of July and can be accessed in the following address: [www.alianzajovenregional.org](http://www.alianzajovenregional.org)

The AJR has continued to compile materials for its web portal, especially for the ***“Juvenile Justice Documentation Center”*** in order to make it available to juvenile justice sector actors in the region. Activities executed by the AJR, and news regarding prevention, youth violence as well as other related areas of interest in the region are constantly being updated.

## **PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED**

In Honduras, the coup which ousted President Manuel Zelaya had a direct impact on the advocacy effort by the Juvenile Justice Advocacy Coalition - as Coalition members including the Supreme Court INHFA (Honduran Institute for Childhood and Family), Attorney General’s Office and civil society were divided on the issue.

Furthermore, the climate of insecurity and uncertainty generated by the coup, have limited the activities that can be carried out . This has had a direct impact on the meetings that were being carried out by the Advocacy Coalition. As a result, the activities, the Coalition are still on stand-by due to the instability in the country and pending further USAID approval. The AJR will continue to monitor closely the situation as it develops. Once the situation normalizes the AJR will look to continue to support the advocacy effort of the Coalition.

## **NEXT STEPS**

In the month of October the advocacy project proposal is expected to be received from the Intersectoral Commission for the Reform of the Juvenile Justice System in El Salvador. The AJR will request USAID approval and expects to sign a grant agreement for \$15,000 grant during the month of October. Implementation of activities under the advocacy project is expected to start during the first week of November.

It is also expected that during the month of October, the Juvenile Justice Sub-commission in Guatemala will be operational and meetings will start to take place including the workshop aimed at in the definition and design of the advocacy strategy. During November, the advocacy project proposal is expected to be received from the Sub-commission.

Within the next month of October, the AJR will continue to organize the Second Juvenile Justice Forum and continue to coordinate and collaborate closely with SG-SICA, as well as with the UNDO/AECID-SICA to finalize all details for the event. It is expected that in early November, the Regional Forum will be ready to go on November 23rd and 24th.

The AJR will continue to monitor Honduras and be ready to start-up advocacy activities with the Coalition, once the situation normalizes and with USAID approval.

***RESULT III: Collaboration and Assistance to SICA to catalyze regional policy reform and harmonization; and gather relevant stockholders to spur development of policy initiatives an implementation of reforms***

The AJR continues its close collaboration with SICA. It is more conducive for the AJR to interact with SICA on different levels given the fact that the Democratic Security Unit (DSU) of the organization has been strengthened by the hiring of five professionals financed by the Spain-SICA fund, that Italian Cooperation has assigned an expert to work within DSU, and that the UNDP/Spain-SICA project has one professional and an assistant working directly with DSU..

The Secretary General and the Legal and Political Director of SICA have frequent contact with the AJR through its Project Director and regularly seek advice on issues relating to prevention activities.

The AJR collaborated with SICA's DSU for the organization of a second Donor's Coordination Meeting held at the Sheraton President in San Salvador. Several meetings and consultations took place between DSU personnel and AJR's Project Director and Liaison Officer. The AJR provided advice on Agenda Design, list of guests, speakers and methodology. The meeting was held on September 18<sup>th</sup>, showing a new face of SICA and the increased capacity of its DSU to donors. Of particular relevance was the presentation of the state of regional security. The AJR heard positive comments from several participants at the Meeting.

One of the concrete results of the meeting, was the decision that the group of the several international cooperation projects in the area of Democratic Security that have a direct relationship with SICA, should meet on a regular basis to better understand what each project is doing, coordinate actions and even look into some joint efforts. The projects that have a direct relationship with SICA are:

1. The German Technical Cooperation project "Prevenir" (GTZ-SICA)
2. The Italian Cooperation-SICA Project (Restorative Juvenile Justice and technical assistance to SICA)
3. The UNDP/Spain-SICA Project dealing mainly with Prevention
4. The Spain-SICA Fund, dealing with all aspects of Democratic Security
5. INTERPEACE and its Poljuve Project

SICA has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), for an action plan which is not funded and UNODOC is looking for donor sources. Additionally, there is an upcoming UNFPA-SICA project that will deal with youth issues.

SICA also requested the AJR to assist with ideas and guidance for the organization of a Central American Conference on the Culture of Lawfulness (education for the Rule of Law), which will

be held in San José, Costa Rica on October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. SICA has decided to make Culture of Lawfulness (COL) s one of its four areas of focus for the coming years. It has assigned Mr. Luis Torres, former Ambassador of Panama to El Salvador and now a member of the DSU to be in charge of the Conference and this new area of programming. COL has a direct relationship with crime prevention, and in particular to youth crime prevention through its middle-school curriculum programs that have been widely implemented in Mexico, Colombia and now Costa Rica.

SICA has invited AJR's Project Director to be one of the speakers of the Conference and present AJR's program as it relates to the building of a Culture of Lawfulness in the countries the program is being implemented. Apart from this presentation, as agreed with USAID, the AJR's contribution to the event will be the payment of travel costs of a US expert that will be a speaker at this conference. USAID will be featured as co-sponsor of this event.

The AJR is working closely with the UNDP/Spain-SICA and Italian Cooperation-SICA projects, the organization of the Second Forum of Juvenile Justice, which will be held in San Salvador on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The AJR is coordinating all aspects of the organization of this Forum, which hopes to gather between 200 and 250 Juvenile Justice Operators of the region. AJR has negotiated with DSU that most of the funds for this Forum be provided by the UNDP/Spain project. The total cost of this Forum will be around \$50,000, of which the UNDP/Spain project will provide nearly \$40,000, AJR \$7,000 and Italian Cooperation the rest (by paying for the cost of youth representatives from the region in the Forum). The Forum will have a strong focus on Restorative Justice. AJR's contribution will focus on the payment of the professional that will serve as main facilitator at the event and by bringing a US speaker to the Forum.

Additionally the UNDP/Spain-SICA project has reserved some of its project funds for Restorative Juvenile Justice and youth leadership activities that would be implemented in conjunction with AJR.

SICA's Secretary General has made several attempts to use its close relationship with the leadership from ANEP in El Salvador, to get that business organization to collaborate with the Desafío 100 program. Unfortunately there has been little response and outright disinterest on behalf of ANEP, who even cancelled a meeting that had been arranged by the Secretary General between President Federico Colorado and AJR's Project Director.

The Secretary General has expressed his interest to collaborate with the AJR in promoting the formation of a Coalition of personalities and organizations against violence. Also, he has expressed interest that AJR promotes a Central American youth movement against violence that would receive some sort of space and recognition by SICA.

### **Next Steps:**

Depending on the concurrence of USAID, the AJR will continue to plan activities leading to the formation of anti-violence youth movements in El Salvador and when possible, in Honduras and then foster exchanges among the youth leaders of these countries with the leaders of the Youth Movement Against Violence that has been supported by USAID-Guatemala.

The AJR will continue to work with SICA to foster a dialogue between the several international donors Democratic Security-Prevention projects associated with SICA and interact with the individual projects to find avenues for coordination and possibly, collaboration.

AJR will continue its close dialogue with SICA, to explore which areas of joint efforts can be developed for the future.

## **Annex**



ALCALDÍA MUNICIPAL DE APOPA,  
Departamento de San Salvador, El Salvador, C. A.  
Unidad de Secretaría Municipal.



**LA INFRASCrita SEÑORA ALCALDESA MUNICIPAL,**

**CERTIFICA:** Que en folios 397 y siguientes del libro de actas de sesiones ordinarias y extraordinarias del Concejo Municipal, que esta Alcaldía Municipal, lleva durante el corriente año, se encuentra la acta número **DIECINUEVE** de la sesión extraordinaria celebrada en la sala de sesiones de esta Alcaldía Municipal de las nueve horas de la mañana en adelante del día **miércoles veintiséis de agosto del año dos mil nueve**, la cual contiene el acuerdo que en su parte conducente dice: **"ACUERDO MUNICIPAL NÚMERO TRESCIENTOS CUARENTA Y OCHO"**.- El Concejo Municipal, habiendo conocido informe de Alianza Joven Regional USAID-SICA, en el marco de Cooperación de la Declaración Conjunta efectuada en julio/07, entre los Estados Unidos y el Sistema de Integración Centroamericana SICA, otorgó el 11/01/08 un Convenio de Cooperación a CREATIVE ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONAL, INC., para la ejecución del programa "ALIANZA JOVEN REGIONAL USAID-SICA", con la finalidad de reducir la actividad de pandillas en la región; se propone dar el visto bueno a dicho informe y trabajar con el programa "ALIANZA JOVEN REGIONAL USAID-SICA - ESPERANZA PARA CENTROAMÉRICA", para la creación de los Centros de Alcance "POR MI BARRIO"; por lo tanto y por unanimidad de votos, **ACUERDA:** Aprobar el informe y visto bueno para trabajar con el programa "ALIANZA JOVEN REGIONAL USAID-SICA - ESPERANZA PARA CENTROAMÉRICA", creando los Centros de Alcance "POR MI BARRIO" de Alianza Joven Regional USAID-SICA, en el marco de Cooperación de la Declaración Conjunta efectuada en julio/07, entre los Estados Unidos y el Sistema de Integración Centroamericana SICA, que fue otorgado el 11/01/08 en Convenio de Cooperación a CREATIVE ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONAL, INC., para la ejecución del programa "ALIANZA JOVEN REGIONAL USAID-SICA", con la finalidad de reducir la actividad de pandillas en la región; debiendo coordinarse con los señores de la COMISIÓN DE NIÑEZ Y JUVENTUD DEL CONCEJO MUNICIPAL, que se conoció por medio al numeral 10 de la agenda de esta sesión.- **COMUNÍQUESE.**- Y no habiendo más que hacer constar se da por terminada la presente sesión y acta que firmamos.

Es conforme con su original con el cual se confrontó, y se extiende la presente en la Alcaldía Municipal de la Ciudad de Apopa, Departamento de San Salvador, a los treinta y uno días del mes de agosto del año dos mil nueve.

  
Dra. Luz Estrella Rodríguez de Zúñiga,  
Alcaldesa Municipal.



  
Sr. Juan Ricardo Vásquez Guzmán,  
Secretario Municipal.

