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The support provided by USAID has meant credibility, growth and support among transgender women organized at ADESENI

"If we want to make healthy lifestyle changes among transgender female population, first I must change myself, as a leader I have had many healthy behavior changes in the sexual and emotional aspect." Tracy Boniche, ADESENI promoter, Managua, Nicaragua

The Association for the Rights of Nicaraguan Sexual Diversity (*Asociación por los derechos de la Diversidad Sexual Nicaragüense - ADESENI*) is a nongovernmental organization founded more than 10 years ago. It has nine promoters who have been properly trained, three volunteer promoters, and for 2012 they were trained on combination prevention including HIV and AIDS prevention topics, behavior change, stigma, discrimination and gender-based violence, as well as administrative and financial management through technical assistance from USAID|PrevenSida and other partners such as PASMO.



Tracy Boniche, one of the leading promoters working with ADESENI for the past six years has taken the role of directive board secretary; although as a promoter she has worked within the organization for over ten years. She tells us that through training received from USAID|PrevenSida, she has grown as a person, emotionally and professionally, in addition she has felt her self-esteem improve greatly. Professionally she feels she has improved and this has inspired her to back to school. *"With all the support from both the organization and the staff, I feel we now have greater credibility and greater recognition by the people we serve and the donors. Our work is great"*

Natasha Hernández has been working with ADESENI for five years, holding the role of first member on the directive board. She tells us about her participation in training provided by USAID|PrevenSida and how this has strengthened her knowledge on Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) topics. *"On several occasions I have addressed and provided support on STI topics to my colleagues and I have given the respective support, I thank USAID|PrevenSida, for giving me the opportunity to learn and help others"*



Natasha, Seyli and Cristabella

Cristabella Berrios, with two years in the organization and in the role of treasurer within the directive board, she comments: *"the HIV testing we do now has a greater range of security and professionalism. Besides, I'm being trained on human rights and advocacy topics; in my community I am seen as a promoter of human rights, following up*

with allegations of human rights violations in the transgender community in my city. I am glad that our work takes a more comprehensive approach; we keep updated and higher quality information "Cristabella Berrios, promoter at Managua-Nicaragua ADESENI.

Seyli Canales, with one year of experience as a promoter she believes her approaches are now "quality not quantity". In addition, she tells us that on a personal level she has improved her ability to communicate with other people, for example, being able to reach decision makers through negotiation within the framework of respect and tolerance.

Marlene Vivas, she is the face of the organization and has been the legal representative since the organization began. She stated each of the ADESENI promoters do their part to contribute to its proper operation through volunteer work, which has led the organization to grow and expand to other territories. Over time, Marlene has learned and implemented one of its values: respect, respect for society, her partners and of course to ensure compliance with the objectives of the organization. Organizationally, Marlene believes PrevenSida has strengthened the capacity of human resources at ADESENI in technical, administrative and managerial aspects



Tracy Boniche and Marlene Vivas

Undoubtedly these five leaders are an example of overcoming obstacles, as they have been able to defend their ideals and furthermore their gender identity, regardless of the stigma and discrimination from society, with an organization that grows stronger and with greater representation in the country.

For us the support of USAID|PrevenSida has meant:
"Evolution, allies who walk hand in hand with ADESENI, opportunity to acquire knowledge, expansion of our organization, strength, equality and much support as they lift us up if we fall"



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