

# GROUP ACTIVITIES

## MARCH 2025

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Energy Center. Mazatenango, March 2, 2025.

# ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

## Initial face-to-face meeting

On Sunday, March 2nd, the initial in-person meeting with the advisory board members took place. Two members were unable to attend due to personal reasons, while eight were present. This gathering provided an opportunity to deepen our understanding of one another, share our motivations, interests, expectations, and contributions to the association.

Before the meeting, a virtual form was utilized, enabling each member to share their feelings and thoughts to help shape the organization's philosophy.

Flor Quiñonez compiled the contributions of each member from the online form. During this meeting, the document was presented for group evaluation and discussion, leading to the enhancement of the proposal (this Organizational Philosophy document has already been distributed via email to the committee's board).



**Introduction of the Association's members.  
Mazatenango, March 2, 2025.**

This document may contain minor editorial modifications; it requires review by our advisors. Nevertheless, the content and methodology will remain the same.

Discussions were held regarding potential names for the association. However, it was decided to extend the timeframe for reaching a final decision.

The roles and responsibilities of the board of directors were reviewed and examined, as mandated by law. Several individuals were nominated for the board of directors; however, the complete composition remains to be finalized. Once the decision is reached, this information will be communicated, along with the resumes of the members.



**A portion of the Association's members. Mazatenango, March 2, 2025.**

## Second face-to-face meeting

On Sunday, March 23, the second in-person meeting took place, featuring the participation of Ellen Dozzier. The advisory board members and Ellen Dozzier engaged in discussions about their backgrounds, motivations for joining the association, and their perspectives.

Ellen discussed her organization, "Presbyterian Women Presbytery of Western N.C.," along with the history of the Microcredit Project.

We had a conversation with Ellen regarding the philosophy of the association.



Ellen and members of the Association are engaged in conversation. Mazatenango, March 23, 2025.

During this meeting, the name of the organization was established as **Aj Kawoq'**. This name, derived from the K'iche language, represents two nahuals (energies) from the Mayan perspective. The significance of these nahuals is both deep and broad. From descriptions (a synthesis of three documents) of the nahuals, which reflect our identity, we created our organization's name.

**Aj:** its symbol is the reed. It originates from the seed that sends its roots into the nurturing womb of Mother Earth while raising its stem towards the sky. In the center, it develops its power and multiplies, producing thousands of grains akin to the one from which it came. Aj represents the spine and joints, embodying the victory of good over evil, serving as a guardian of the home, and symbolizing the heart of life, family, childhood, and the sowing of joy. It signifies the restoration of Mother Nature, linking cosmic and terrestrial energy. Aj embodies the continuous rebirth of existence and its evolution towards wholeness. It is a symbol of life.

**Kawoq':** the nahual symbolizing family, community, and the path toward the collective, prioritizing shared interests over individual ones. It embodies the power of unity in pursuing significant personal, familial, and societal objectives.

Aj Kawoq can be incorporated into Life and Community.



Ellen and the Association members.  
Mazatenango, March 23, 2025.

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Training seminar on sexual and reproductive health

On March 5, Reyna and Flor took part in a workshop focused on addressing the needs of adolescents regarding Sexual and Reproductive Health, conducted by the Alas de Guatemala Association.

This training equipped us with resources to assist adolescents with these matters, while also enhancing our understanding of sexual and reproductive health. These training sessions offer us additional information and tools to aid the women in the groups, where various situations related to this topic emerge.



**Workshop addressing the needs of adolescents in sexual and reproductive health, conducted by the Alas Guatemala Association. Mazatenango, March 5, 2025.**