



**PROGRAM SUMMARY REPORT 2017**  
**ATZIN MEXICO**  
**TLAMACAZAPA, GUERRERO, MEXICO**

This program report is a brief summary of Atzin’s main activities during 2017. The Atzin team worked in Tlamacazapa a total of **61** days in 2017, including **44** Saturdays out of a total of 52.<sup>1</sup> Administrative and planning procedures, intensive training, accounting and procurement activities take place at the Atzin House in Cuernavaca, while in Tlamacazapa, local young women carry out the day-to-day program activities.

**Team based in Cuernavaca:** women: **6**; men: **1**

**Team in Tlamacazapa:**

Education Promoters: **10**

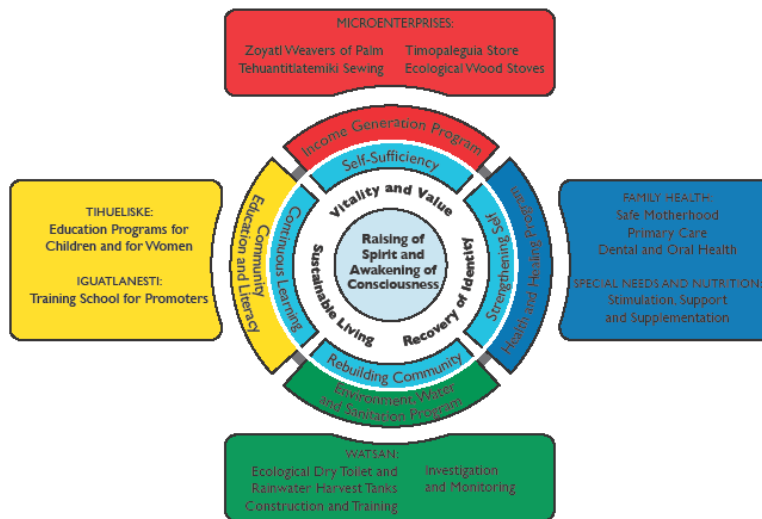
Nutrition Promoters: **2**

Dental Promoters: **2**

Midwifery Promoters: **2**

Ecological Stove Promoters: **3**

Sewing Promoters: **2**



ATZIN DESARROLLO COMUNITARIO A.C.  
 YOTLAKAT NON SIWATL A.C.



<sup>1</sup> The Atzin team did not work Saturdays in the village on Easter, Day of the Dead, Christmas, New Year.

## **COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM** (yellow component)

Program objective: to contribute to improved literacy and personal development of women, youth and children in Tlamacazapa through educational programs that have relevant, well organized classes, taught by trained local women with the technical assistance of Atzin.

- 1. Tihueliske: Early Stimulation.** Three afternoons per week for four hours for young children, 1 to 5 years old. Given the importance of early stimulation in the development of young children, Atzin established a small learning center in September 2014. This project has progressed well. Achievements to date include: organization of program logistics; a large collection of age-appropriate toys and materials; five educator-parent meetings to organize the program over last two years; orientation and on-the-job training of two educators; incorporation of three children with special needs. Children were weighed and measured each month; parents of children with low weight-for-age were given anti-parasite medication and vitamins to administer to their child.

Total number of program days from September 2016 to August 2017: **138**

Total number of children registered and who attended the program: **78**

Number of educators: **3**

Maximum attendance on a day: **26**

Average daily attendance: **23**

Total number of children attended (sum of attendees on program days): **1,882**

This program did well this year overall. Space available would not allow more children to attend existing classes – there just is not enough room. One option would be to hold additional classes on Monday and Tuesday, however, current funding is limited and will not support expansion.

- 2. Tihueliske: Children.** This program is aimed at children aged 6 to 13 years of age who, for various reasons, do not attend primary school. It ran four mornings a week for 4.5 hours/class. Children were assessed three times during the year to determine their progress with consequent adjustments in their study group. Fourteen children who attended Tihueliske in 2016-17 moved to primary school (which Atzin considers a success story); three passed to Tihueliske Women and Youth; and five moved out of the village.

Total number of program days from September 2016 to August 2017: **170**

Total number of children registered: **68**

Number of educators: **3**

Maximum class attendance: **37**

Average daily attendance: **31**

Total number of children attended (sum of attendees on program days): **2,951**

Each month, children with zero attendance are moved to an "inactive" list and can be "reactivated" simply by attending two classes in a future month. In this way, children are not eliminated from the program; they just put on hold. However, they are counted in the total number of children registered.

The 2017 numbers indicate two continuing trends: 1) the lower total number of children registered compared to 110-120 children registered in the program's early years (2006-2014) and, 2) the poor or irregular attendance of many children (roughly a third of those registered). These trends reflect a number of factors: more families are now willing to send their children to primary school thereby reducing the potential pool of out-of-school children; the "easy-win" registrants who enrolled in Tihueliske previously are now in primary

school, graduated or working; the remaining out-of-school children are from families that are either too poor to send their children to school and/or are disinterested in education and/or are very mobile, leaving the village frequently to sell on the streets and taking their children with them. To know more about this population, an updated village census is needed, similar to the one Atzin did in 2005.

- 3. Tihueliske: Women and youth.** This program offered afternoon literacy classes three times a week for 3.5 hours, taught by two educators. Registration has 10 women and 17 young men, but attendance daily throughout the year has flowed. In the holidays the attendance was reduced (this is common because many stop going to go to work outside the village during this season), staying on an average of 2-16 people per class. The age range of the students is 12 to 60 years. The year began with 15, registered 10 and returned 2 who were already enrolled.

Total number of program days September 2016 to August 2017: **139**

Number of women and youth registered: **27**

Number of educators: **2**

Number of days with attendance of 10 to 19 students: **40**

Number of days with attendance of 9 or fewer students (usually associated with rain, festivals or bimonthly welfare payments): **92**

Total number of people attended (sum of attendees on program days): **1,072**

**Special Project 2017:** development of a literacy resource for rural Indigenous women. The project objectives were: production of an effective literacy curriculum that incorporates the cross-cutting themes of human rights, gender and personal development. Eight modules were designed, written and illustrated and are currently being pilot tested following training of six educators. Test modules were printed in four books of two modules each, with coil binding. Initial funding from Inmujeres.

Number of modules: **8**

Number of educators in pilot test: **2**

Number of participants in pilot test, in two groups both based in homes: **9**

- 4. Tihueliske: Tutoring.** This program is aimed at children enrolled in primary school but failing grade level. They must be at least eight years old and have a note from their teacher. Afternoon classes of 3.5 hours are offered three days per week, with two educators. This program is fluid with more movement of individual children as they attend until performance improves and then stop (although there are some who attended for the full academic year). The program was suspended for the last week of October and all of November and December because of lack of funding.

Total number of program days August 2016 to June 2017: **99**

Number of enrolled boys and girls: **54**

Number of educators: **2**

Average daily attendance: **10**

Number of days with 10-20 students: **53**

Number of days with 9 students or less (usually associated with rain or village festivals): **41**

Total number of children attended (sum of attendees on program days): **944**

- 5. Learning Circles:** These are held for promoters every Saturday morning, followed by organization of all program logistics and community service. Focused on leadership training and program discussion.

Number learning circles in 2017: **44**

Number of promoter participants: **10 to 15**

- Scholarships.** During the 2016-17 academic year, a scholarship was awarded to one young woman in *telesecundaria* in Tlamacazapa. She received 300 pesos per month plus school supplies and provided community service each Saturday. Two young girls received full scholarships to attend primary school and preschool in Cuernavaca.

Number of scholarships in Tlamacazapa: **1** (junior high school)

Scholarship months: **6**

Number of scholarships in Cuernavaca: **2** (primary and preschool)

Scholarship months: **10**

**Other scholarships:** two Atzin staff (Celia and Estela) were accepted into a six-month diploma program offered by PRODESC in Mexico City, focused on human rights, especially the right to land. The program was held four days per month, fully funded by PRODESC, well organized, and included significant homework. It was well worth the time invested by Atzin and the two team members.

## **B. HEALTH AND HEALING PROGRAM** (blue component)

Program objective: Support the wellbeing of women and their families in Tlamacazapa through their participation in health, dental, nutrition and special needs programs.

- Special Needs:** Program is now aimed at individuals with chronic conditions or malnutrition. Service includes: provision of vitamins and/or medicines; assistance with procurement of equipment or special material; accompaniment and assistance with transportation and costs for specialized medical appointments (depending on the situation and if possible); provision of food packages and vitamins for malnutrition; home visits for stimulation and follow-up.

The funding of this service program by Unbound (formally CFCA) based in Kansas City, ended in July. Atzin had received advance notice of termination of this support. In August we reviewed enrollment and reduced the number of participants from 123 individuals to 53. (Note that the service numbers add up to more than the number of registrants as people can receive multiple benefits depending on their situation.)

### **January to July 2017**

Total number in the program: **123**

Boys and girls (1-17 years): **77**

Children with disabilities: **15**

Adults with disabilities: **22**

Elderly (isolated): **9**

- Number that received a monthly food package: **38**
- Number that received monthly home visit: **27**
- Number that received monthly vitamins and medicines for chronic conditions: **25**
- Number with special needs that attend Tihueliske Education Program: **4**
- Children from families with special needs who attend Tihueliske: **31**
- Children in primary school who receive monthly school supplies/materials (all previously attended)

- Tihueliske education program and passed to primary school during 2015 and 2016): **28**
- Families that received ecological stoves: **123**
- Number that received a gift (used clothing in good condition): **123**
- Number that received dental care: **86**

### **August to December 2017**

Total number in the program: **55**

Boys and girls (1-17 years): **29**

Adults: **26**

Children with disabilities: **11**

Adults with disabilities: **22**

Elderly (isolated): **6**

- Number that received a monthly food package: **6**
- Number that received monthly home visit: **22**
- Number that received monthly vitamins and medicines for chronic conditions: **31**
- Number with special needs that attend Tihueliske Education Program: **4**
- Children from families with special needs who attend Tihueliske: **9**
- Number attended primary care clinic: **12**
- Number that received dental care: **47**
- Number that received special equipment: **5**
- Number that received transport funds and accompaniment: **7**
- Special cases: **2**

### **Special cases**

Number of women in crisis of violence: **1**

Number of children with woman: **1**

Total months in support: **12**

### **Primary Care**

Number of primary care clinics (Susan): **17**

Number of people served: **350+**

### **Eye Clinic (17-21 February)**

Patients who attended World Cataract Foundation campaign in Ometepec, GRO: **7**

Promoters + driver who accompanied: **3**

Total of days: **5**

### **Specialized Visits – Mexico City**

Patients with specialist consultations: **4**

Promoter who accompanied each time: **1 x 6 trips**

Total of days: **6**

### **Rehabilitation Hospital**

Patient: **1**

Staff accompanying: **1 x 2 trips; 2 x 1 trip** (1 in orientation)

Trips made to Mexico: **3**

2. **Motlan Dental and Oral Health.** Free basic dental services for seniors and for children under the age of thirteen. Subsidized costing for all others with discounts on crowns and dentures. A dental checkup is provided every six months for children in the Tihueliske Education Program.

Number of clinical days (dentist present): **101**

Total of patients: **929**

Average number of patients per day: **9.2**

Number of treatments: **1,197**

Dental promoters, each working 4 hours, two days per week: **2**

Dentist attending part-time (Fridays and Saturdays): **1**

Dental technician (based in Cuernavaca): **1**

The dental team visited the two preschool kindergartens and the two primary schools, conducting oral hygiene education classes, as well as a rapid dental health assessment (with written references for children with caries or other oral problems) and toothbrush distribution. With increased funding, this popular program that addresses a real need could easily grow, offering another day of clinical service as well as increased individual education on nutrition and oral hygiene.

In August 2017, we decided to raise the initial dental consultation fee to 20 pesos (from 10 pesos) for those between 13-65 years of age. This increase did not affect numbers seeking service and compensated in part for the increase in payment/day to the dentist and his transport costs.

3. **Safe Motherhood.** Regular prenatal checks with follow-up of mothers and newborns post-delivery. One midwife and a diploma nurse continued to have **20-25** women on their prenatal monthly roster. Prenatal clinic takes place every Saturday afternoon, with an average attendance of **8 to 10** women. Routine services: pregnancy test; blood pressure, weight, hemoglobin screen, fetal growth measurements and heart beat, traditional massage, vitamins and nutritional supplements; referrals for lab studies and/or medical care; individual education. The best next step would be to offer prenatal education more formally, in a series of four classes.
4. **La Buena Comida (Good Food).** Cooking on an ecological rocket stove outside, two nutrition promoters demonstrate the preparation of lentils with vegetables and then offer lentil tacos to people waiting for the different programs. This also provides lunch for promoters and the Atzin team. A portion of the lentil dish is sold at five pesos for two cups. Very rarely are there leftovers. Our conclusion: the acceptance of lentils in the local diet is growing, following persistence of. Lentils are not cultivated in Tlamacazapa; only 25% of the population has fields and cultivates maize and beans; all other foods are imported into the village. Next step would be to offer bags of uncooked lentils for sale at the Centre; we have never done that and it would be easy to implement.

Number of Saturday lentil demonstrations: **45**

Estimation of number that received lentil tacos after demo: **1,125**

Number of nutrition promoters: **2**

**Tihueliske Nutrition:** Two nutrition promoters prepared a nutritious breakfast of *atole* (similar to a fine porridge) and distributed this three days a week to children and educators in the Tihueliske Early Childhood and Children levels. Starting in April 2017, they prepared a lentil dish with tortillas once each week.

Number of days that breakfast was prepared for Tihueliske children: **125**

Number of *atoles* distributed to Tihueliske participants: **3,364**

Starting in April 2017, number of lentil dishes distributed to Tihueliske participants: **462**

### **C. INCOME GENERATION FOR WOMEN** (red component)

Program objective: to contribute improved economy of women and families through the creation of viable economic and productive opportunities, as well as the development of technical and personal skills.

1. ***Tehuantlatemiki Sewing Workshop (We Dream)***. Sewing Workshop with different fabric products (quilts different designs; purses, market bags; clowns). In short: The seamstresses need a moral attention More and two more members.

Total of sewers: **2-3**

Total of products purchased: **1,098** (majority of products were market bags, continue to sell well)

In preparation: planning of a pilot sewing course (8 classes) on home clothing repair and basic sewing for 5-7 women on regular sewing machines, to be taught by one sewer. (Note: this course was actually implemented in late January-February 2018, with five students, taught by Nina.)

2. ***Zoyatl Weavers***. Women weavers produce high quality items for purchase by *Art Siwame* (Women's Art), a small company run by Atzin to increase market and weaver income. Technical assistance for product quality and sales provided by Atzin.

Total of active weavers: **24**

Total of products purchased from weavers: **411**

The closing of the WAYF art and palm exhibition had good palm sales in February 2017 in Hamilton, ON, sufficient to cover the costs of the exhibition – see the WAYF financial report. The limiting factor with Zoyatl has been insufficient funds to purchase products as well as inadequate staff time to develop marketing opportunities.

3. ***Timopalaguia Tienda*** (We help ourselves). The small shop moved from the waiting area of the dental clinic to the Atzin Centre. This program continues to need attention but lacks funding to purchase items for stock.

### **D. ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND SANITATION PROGRAM** (green component)

Program objective: To support improved household conditions in Tlamacazapa through an environmental program that focuses on a sustainable environment, clean water and adequate sanitation and includes training, local employment and monitoring.

The water and sanitation aspect of this program has been in the background since 2010 for several reasons. No water sampling or testing was done, nor was there construction of dry toilets or tanks.

1. “Adoption of ecological rocket stoves by families in Tlamacazapa.” Funded by Rotary Lethbridge; June 2017 – ongoing. Steps completed in 2017:
  - Design and funding of stove project; design and testing of interview questionnaire and calendar; writing of Atzin-family agreements; criteria for family selection; training of promoters for different roles.

- 335 families visited of which **300** families were selected for participation. ST 196 families; SL 69 families; SJ 35 families.
- Number of promoters who conducted pre-stove interviews: **3**
- Number of promoters who gave classes on correct use of stove: **2**
- Total stoves distributed: **320** (20 families received two stoves)
- Total number of classes: **22**
- Number of families with monthly calendar to monitor fuel consumption: **40** (20 families with two stoves; 20 families with 1 stove)
- Number of promoters working on calendar visits: **4**

## E. SPECIAL PROJECTS

### 1. Public education and training

Total of **presentations** about Atzin's work in Tlamacazapa, held in Cuernavaca or Tlamacazapa for visiting groups: **3**. Income from presentations: **7,800 pesos**

Intensive **training workshop** for the group, *Zihuame Xotlametzinon* (Chilapa, Guerrero) on self-care and healing, 27-30 September. Held at Atzin House. Rated as "excellent" by participants. Payment for workshop: 25,400 pesos. Short narrative and financial (expenses) report in Spanish available.

Total workshop days: **4**

Total number of participants: **9 women**

### 2. Art and Palm Exhibition: "We are your Future: Creativity and Resilience among Women Weavers of Palm, Tlamacazapa, Mexico."

"We are your Future" is Atzin's third touring exhibition. Against a backdrop of the daily reality of basket weavers, the exhibition portrays the struggle of village women to recreate a sense of worth and identity. More than 50 high quality palm weavings accompany 25 original paintings and prints, done by two artists, a Mexican and a Canadian. The exhibition showed in Winnipeg (2016) and in Hamilton (November 2016-February 2017). Financial report available in English.

### 3. National Indigenous Congress (CNI): three people (Xochitl, Celia and Berta) were accepted as CNI delegates (as part of the Amatlan group) and attended two meetings in Chiapas (30 Dec 2016-2 Jan 2017; 26-29 May 2017), travelling by CNI-rented bus for 25 hours each way.

### 4. Atzin Centre Upgrade and Other

In December, a large group of 30+ people, consisting of team members, promoters and students, worked magic in the Centre over three long days – moving out each piece of furniture, cleaning, sanding and painting every building surface. A smaller group of ten did the touch up work on a fourth day. Beforehand, Ruben had repaired the ceiling of each room, a time-consuming task. The Centre looked amazing – fresh, clean and cockroach-free. Total cost was roughly C\$1,000 for materials, brushes and paint.

Atzin sold the 1995 VW combi van on 12 April for 28,000 pesos (of which 18,000 was paid to Tania upon her retirement in April). We had driven the combi since July 1998, having purchased it used for 72,000 pesos.

Atzin vacated the rented *bodega* (storeroom) on 30 June.



## F. VOLUNTEERS and VISITORS

### Volunteers

Jutta Klass	Hamburg, Germany	18 Sept-20 Oct	Return volunteer – Tihueliske Education
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### Visitors

Polly & Peter Edmunds	New Mexico, USA	20-23 January	Former volunteers
Robert Dismukes	Portland, USA	21 January	Visitor
MaryAnna & Rudy Ouwehand	BC, Canada	7-16 March	Visiting family
Gaby Zaldivar Herrero	Mexico City	21-23 March	Possible thesis (with Carmen, Edgardo)
LaToya Ottley	USA	4 November	Visitor
Hannah & Jean Devignes	Montreal, Canada	16 November	Former volunteers

Thank you.



Susan Smith

Executive Director, Atzin Mexico

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