



**ATZIN 2018**  
**Summary program report**  
**Tlamacazapa, Guerrero, Mexico**

This report summarizes program activities implemented by Atzin, together with Yotlakat Non Siwatl (YNS, a civil association of nine women in Tlamacazapa) during 2018. The Atzin team members were present in Tlamacazapa on **45 dias** in **2018**, (including **38** Saturdays of a total of **52**). The administrative, logistic, accounting and intensive training activities took place in the Atzin House in Cuernavaca, while Atzin promoters carried out each program's day to day activities in Tlamacazapa.

**Atzin team in Cuernavaca and Iguala**

Women: **6** (Susan, Martha, Estela, Celia, Adriana y Xochitl)  
Men: **2** (Ruben y Oscar)

**Team in Tlamacazapa**

Education Promoters: **9**  
Nutrition Promoters: **3**  
Dental Promoters: **2**  
Midwifery Promoters: **2**  
Sewing Promoters: **2/3**  
Investigation Promoters: **3**

At the end of this report, a diagram captures the four interrelated sectors of Atzin programs. This diagram was revised and updated at the Atzin Canada Board meeting in September 2018.

**A. COMUNIDAD EDUCATION PROGRAM (yellow sector)**

The program objective is to contribute to the personal development and literacy of women, youth and children in Tlamacazapa through literacy programs, based on relevant, well-organized classes taught by local women, and trained and supervised by Atzin.

**1. Tihueliske Early Stimulation Program.** Three afternoons per week for 4 hours for children aged 1-5 years. Given the importance of early stimulation in the development of young children, Atzin implemented this program in September 2016. A small stimulation and learning center for young children from one to five years old operated through the year and progressed well.

The achievements to date include: the organization and logistics of the children's project and stimulation at an early age, a large collection of toys and materials such as chairs and tables appropriate to their age; repeated notices and invitations in the village for the children to attend the program; 4 meetings of parents held during 2017-18; training of two educators; incorporation of three children with special needs in the programs. Our plan is to maintain the program as is during 2019-20.

The school year began in August 2017 with 38 new children. During the year 20 more new children were registered and 13 who were previously registered returned. Total registered during the 2017-2018 school year was 71.

Total number of classes from August 2017 to July 2018	120
Total attendance from August 2017 to July 2018	1314
Number of educators	3
Total number of registered children	71
Breakdown by gender	41 girls; 30 boys
The maximum attendance per day during the year	24
The minimum attendance during year	3
Average attendance per day	11
Total of parents' meetings	4

**At the end of the July 2018 school year:**

Total number that regularly participated	<b>36 (51%)</b>
Breakdown by gender	22 girls; 14 boys
Total number that passed to kindergarten	13
Total number that passed to primary school	15
Total number that passed to Tihueliske Children	3
Total number that did not enter any school	5

The range of the number of children in a class varied from 3 to 24 children, with the lowest numbers related to rainy or cold weather, local village festivities or family trips outside the village. Predictably, the older children (3 and 4 years old) are more likely to attend regularly; younger children (1 and 2 years old) are more likely to be irregular in their attendance. The average attendance on a day during the year was 11.

Each month the educators measure the weight and height of each child. Once a year all children were given a deworming tablet, with parental permission. Underweight children received vitamins, also with their parent's permission.

**2. Tihueliske Boys and Girls.**

This program is for boys and girls who do not attend public schools for various reasons. It operates four days a week for 4 and a half hours a day, is for children between the ages of 6-13 years, and is taught by four educators. Each educator teaches a different level of learning. Evaluations are conducted three times per year to check the progress of each child. The year began with 27 new children. During the year an additional 27 new students registered and 8 children who were previously enrolled returned. The total number of registered boys and girls was 62.

Total number of classes from August 2017 to July 2018	150
Total attendance during the year	3235
Number of registered children	62
Breakdown by gender	35 girls; 27 boys
Number of educators	4
Maximum attendance during year	34

The minimum attendance during year	6
Average attendance per day	22
Total of parents' meetings	3

**At the end of the school year:**

Total number that regularly participated	<b>40 (65%)</b>
Breakdown by gender	26 girls; 14 boys
Total number of children who passed to Primary School	12
Total number of children who passed to Bilingual School	1
Total number of children who passed to Tihueliske Tutoring	2
Total number of children who left education	7
Total number of children that continued with Tihueliske Children	22

During the year, bad weather, village festivities and family work trips resulted in low attendance on certain days. Every month, children who did not attend are moved to an "inactive" list but can be "reactivated" simply by attending two classes in a future month. In this way, children are not eliminated or expelled from the Tihueliske program; they are free to return.

This program has worked successfully for 12 years, helping children who do not attend school to have access to education and, in many cases, the students of Tihueliske were able to enter the government education system. A general observation is that registration has gone down from approximately 110 to 130 enrolled children each year from 2006 to 2015, in comparison with the 62 children registered this year. During this same time period, primary school facilities in Tlamacazapa improved, with more classrooms and teachers available (although the quality of education remains problematic), with resulting higher attendance. We are now trying to reach families that do not prioritize their children's education. For reasons related to poverty and a non-reading culture for the most part, these parents simply do not expect or insist that their children attend school or if they are enrolled, that they go regularly.

**3.a. Tihueliske Women and Youth**

The literacy classes were held in the afternoon, three times a week for 3.5 hours and were taught in 2018 by one educator. Atzin is the community center for INEA (National Institute for Adult Education) in Tlamacazapa. In 2018 23 Tihueliske participants were registered by Atzin in INEA (7 women and 16 young men). (One other woman participant did not have the papers required to enroll in INEA and a young man entered high school instead).

Daily attendance throughout the year in this program component increased. Attendance dropped during holidays because many work outside the village during those weeks. The age range of participants was 12 to 61 years.

Total number of classes from August 2017 to July 2018	120
Total attendance during the year	689
Number of days with attendance of 10 to 17 students	24
Number of days with attendance of 9 or less students	96
Number of women and young people enrolled	23
Breakdown by gender	8 fem., 17 masc.
Number of educators	1-2

Maximum attendance	17
Average attendance per class	6

### **3.b. Pilot project: Literacy for empowerment: production of a learning resource based on participation, rights, gender and peace**

Achievements of this pilot project in 2017-2018 were:

- production of a literacy plan that incorporated cross-cutting themes of human rights, gender equality and peace;
- production of eight modules of tested teaching materials;
- short trainings of educators on the use of the modules with follow-up;
- start-up of pilot project of home-based small group learning.

During 2018, Atzin introduced the new literacy modules as the main teaching/ learning resource for women and tested a new strategy of home-based small group learning. Two groups, each with 4-5 participants (mostly family members) and an educator, met three afternoons per week for 2.5 hours.

Number of modules produced	8
Number of educators implementing modules	2
Total number of participants (in two groups)	7
Breakdown by gender	6 women; 1 man
Number of classes until December 2018	97
Number of attendances	467
Number of participants gaining literacy by December 2018	2
Number of people who continued classes in 2019	1

One observation was that attendance was irregular towards the end of the year because of competing work and household demands on the participants, and that for some women, they became discouraged with their slow progress. The strategy of holding classes in a family home as well as in the Atzin Centre was well received. Adjustments in 2019 included: each participant issued a module to take home with exercises to complete; the modules will be used in both the Atzin Centre (which only used INEA material in 2018) and in two home groups. We are considering charging a 100 pesos fee for classes which would be returned on completion of the eight modules.

### **4. Tihueliske Tutoring**

This program is aimed at children (8-11 years of age) who attend primary school but who are failing grade level and need individualized help to advance in their subjects at school. Classes are held in the afternoons for 2.5 hours, three days per week. Two educators manage this program component.

There were 65 children enrolled in the program during the 2017-2018 academic year. This program is more fluid because children tend to enroll individually, attend, and then stop attending when their performance at school improves, although some continue their attendance throughout the year. Anytime that there is a suspension of classes in the primary schools due to a lack of teachers, more children attended the tutoring program. In September 2017, classes in one primary school were suspended because classrooms were damaged by the earthquake, and ten of their students attended Tihueliske Tutorial from September through December inclusive.

Total classes during August 2017 to July 2018	110
Total attendance from August 2017 to July 2018	1630
Total registered children	65
Breakdown by gender	38 girls; 26 boys
Number of educators	2
Number of classes per week	3
Maximum assistance per day during the year	32
Average attendance per day	14

## 5. Learning Circles

The learning circles focus on leadership training and personal development of the promoters (young village women who take responsibility for program implementation on a daily basis). They are held on Saturdays for about one hour, and are run by Xochitl with a different promoter each week. Circles are followed by planning meetings, and different activities related to community service.

Number of learning circles in 2018	38
Number of promoters participating in circles	12 to 15

## 6. Scholarships

Number of scholarships (girls in primary school)	2
Months of the scholarship	12

## B. HEALTH AND HEALING PROGRAM (blue sector)

Program objective: To support the wellbeing of women and their families in Tlmacazapa through health, dental, nutrition and special needs programs.

### 1. Special Needs

This program is aimed at people with special needs, chronic conditions and malnutrition. It provides vitamins and / or medications; help with equipment or special material; accompaniment and help with transportation and costs for medical appointments (depending on the situation and if possible); provision of supplements; home visits for stimulation and monitoring. (People appear more than once in the numbers below depending on the benefits received.)

Children and adults who receive monthly home visits	19
Children and adults with chronic conditions receiving vitamins and medicines for chronic conditions	30
Children with disabilities attending Tihueslike Education	6
People who received a gift (shoes or clothes)	55
People who received dental care	55

### Special cases

Number of women in crisis due to violence housed at Atzin	1
Number of children with special needs in Casa Atzin	2
Number of days with a youth with special needs living in Casa Atzin	81
Patients with appointments and accompaniment by Atzin	5
6 appointments in Cuernavaca	

1 appointment in Mexico City	
Number of total days of accompaniment by the Atzin team	4
Number of nights lodging at Casa Atzin for patients and their 6 companions	2

### Home therapies

Number of people receiving therapies at home regularly	2
Number of promoters (1 in charge and 2 in training)	3

### Motlan dental and oral health

This program provides family education on oral hygiene and nutrition, and free basic dental services for the elderly and children under the age of thirteen. Discounts on crowns and dental prostheses are available for adults. Dental consultations are organized every six months for children in the Tihueliske Education program.

**2018:** Dr. Oscar worked 68 days in the dental clinic with an average of 12.6 patients per day (counted as people in the dental chair, attended by the dentist); 862 individuals received a total of 912 treatments. Promoters gave oral hygiene education to patients, as well as a rapid assessments of dental health. During 2018 as a saving measure, it was necessary to reduce the number of days of the dental clinic from twice to once per week. It is notable that the number of women and girls patients was double that of men and boys. Our interpretation is that adult men travel much more outside the village and more likely, they are hesitant (embarrassed) to go to the dentist when there are so many women present at the Atzin Centre.

Number of clinical days	68
Total of patients	862
Breakdown by gender	582 fem; 280 masc.
Average of patients per day	12.6
Number of treatments	912
Number of individual talks reported	75
Number of dental promoters	2

### 3. Primary Care

Number of Saturdays with consultations	16
Number of people attended	330

### 4. The Good Kitchen

The nutrition promoters prepare nutritious and economic food dishes through demonstrations on Saturdays. In 2018 there were a total of 34 demonstrations of cooking lentils with vegetables using the ecological stove in the courtyard of the Atzin Center (cooking 2 kg of lentils or rice with 5-6 kg of tortillas). A portion of the cooked food is distributed with a tortilla by the promoters to all those present; if any is left over, women pay five pesos for two cups of this nutritious food. Our conclusion: the successful introduction of lentils in the local diet is due to Atzin's persistence in their preparation and distribution. Lentils are not grown in Tlamacazapa; only 25% of the population has fields and cultivates corn and beans; most food is brought in from other places.

Number of food demonstrations using the

ecological stove	34
Estimation of people who received cooked lentils on Saturdays	2850
Number of nutrition promotoras	2

**Nutrition Tihueliske:** Two nutrition promoters prepare a nutritious breakfast of atole (similar to a fine porridge) three days a week and on one day, prepare a lentil dish with vegetables for the participants in the Tihueliske Children and Early Stimulation programs.

#### **August 2017-July 2018**

Number of breakfasts prepared for participants	120
Number of atoles distributed	3105
Number of lentils with vegetables plates	1619
Number of breakfasts in total	4724
Nutrition promoters	2

### **5. Safe Motherhood**

This program provides regular prenatal check-ups with subsequent monitoring of the mother and the newborn by a traditional / empirical midwife and a promoter. 68 pregnant women attended in 2018 - a significant number. The prenatal clinic was open every Saturday afternoon, with an average attendance of 8 to 12 women. Routine services included: measurement of blood pressure, weight, fetal hemoglobin, measures of growth and heartbeat, traditional massage, supply of vitamins and food supplements, referrals for lab studies or medical care, and education. Pregnancy urine test are available for ten pesos (cost price).

Usually, prenatal care for a pregnant woman (low risk) is offered more frequently as the pregnancy progresses, that is, a visit once a month for the first 1-4 months; twice a month during the fifth to eighth month; and weekly during the last month. This schedule is adjusted if the woman needs more attention. Due to the requirements of the government program, *Prospera*, many of the women who attend the Atzin prenatal clinic and who are registered in *Prospera*, also attend the government health center.

Total of pregnant women attended in 2018 for prenatal care:	<b>68</b>
Number with 1-2 prenatal visits in 2018	18
Number with 3-4 prenatal visits in 2018	17
Number with 5-6 prenatal visits in 2018	8
Number with 7-12 prenatal visits in 2018	25
Number of midwife promoters	2
Number of Saturdays attended to pregnant women	43
Number of home births attended by the midwife in 2018	5

### **C. INCOME GENERATION for women and their families (red sector)**

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

**1. Tehuantitlatemiki ("We dream") sewing workshop.** In September, the sewers offered their first short basic sewing course for young women in Tlamacazapa. And, as in other years, they continued the production of different cloth articles for sale (quilts of different designs and sizes, purses, market bags, clowns).

**Basic sewing course pilot in Tlamacazapa**

Course teacher	1
Number of days of the course (once a week)	6
Number of people registered	4

The sewers considered this new initiative as worthwhile and planned to run it again with broader promotion (although space is a limitation). Details are pending.

**Sewing products**

Total of sewers	3
Total products made and sold through Arte Siwane	172

**2. Zoyatl ("palm") Weavers**

Zoyatl is a group of more than 20 weavers who produce high quality items for sale by Arte Siwame ("women's art"), a small company registered with SAT and managed by Atzin to increase the income of the weavers and to develop more markets. Atzin continued to provide technical assistance to increase product quality and manage sales. Due to bank fees and taxes, we stopped Arte Siwame as a small registered business by the end of 2018 and, instead, it became a component of Atzin's income generation program. Zoyatl continued to buy palm products from the weavers.

Total participating weavers	20
Total products purchased from weavers	97

**3. Timopalaquia ("we help each other") Store**

The small promoter shop has changed locations over the years: first, it was housed in one room in a rented concrete block building; then, because of frequent damage to the metal door and building by youth at night, the store was re-located to the waiting room of the Atzin dental clinic. In 2016 Atzin discontinued renting the clinic, re-locating the dental program to the Atzin Centre, and the store was reduced to a glass showcase, and essentially stopped operating in 2018 (except for occasional sales of small items to people waiting their turn in other programs).

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

Program objective: to promote the welfare of families and the sustainable development in Tlamacazapa with environmental programs that focus on a healthier environment, with clean and sufficient water and adequate sanitation. It includes training, local employment and monitoring.

With the exception of the activities related to the ecological stove, this program has not been a priority since 2010, because 1) the construction of dry toilets with tanks was stopped by Atzin because of a government program that built more than 500 dry toilets that were poorly designed and malfunctioning in Tlamacazapa; and 2) the lack of funds and a volunteer with experience in this sector.



**Action-Research Project: “rocket ecological stoves” project for 300 families in Tlamacazapa.**

**Goal:** Families in Tlamacazapa, Guerrero, Mexico (population 6,200) will reduce fuel consumption (firewood) and smoke emissions and have better air quality, better family health in general with less pressure on the surrounding forest through the incorporation of the ecological stove in their homes.

**Objective 1:** Distribution of stoves, education and use. Identify and work with 300 impoverished families that cook over a three-rock fire to introduce the ecological stove to each family, after a signed agreement regarding attendance at an educational class on its use, and permission to conduct two interviews, and take a picture of the current cooking area with the stove.

**Objective 2:** Monitor and evaluate the incorporation of the ecological stove by the 300 family homes, and quantify the time and fuel consumption (firewood) with the use of a monthly monitoring calendar for 40 selected families of the 300.

**Justification.** Most families living in poverty in Tlamacazapa cook over a fire with three rocks, making weekly trips to the surrounding forest to collect firewood. Ecological stoves use 60% less firewood and emit 70% less smoke in comparison with the use of open fire, which reduces the consumption of natural resources and the inhalation of toxic smoke, in addition to allowing faster cooking time. The proper use of an ecological stove frees up a considerable time for family members, especially for the cooks – mostly women - time that then can be spent on other activities. This project focused on the poorest families and introduced an ecological alternative for more efficient cooking with time saving.

1. Number of families of Santiago that received stove	264
2. Number of families of San Lucas that received stove	85
3. Number of families of San Juan that received stove	66

**Summary of field activities in 2018**

**Registered families**

Post-stove interviews of the 300 registered families.

1. Families interviewed	160
2. Number of promoters conducting interviews	2
3. Total months to do post-stove interviews	2

Families with calendars

4. Families with 2 stoves and calendar each month	20
5. Families with 1 stove and calendar each month	20
6. Number of promoters conducting visits	4

**April 2019 update:** All data from all interviews was captured on computer and verified. The first analysis of data is now done; the final report is pending. All the activities related to the distribution of the 300 stoves and the education of household cooks on stove use, plus the training of the promoters (cooks, interviewers, calendar monitors) were more than satisfactory and timely in completion. The investigation component and its analysis lagged behind schedule.

**E. PROJECTS OR SPECIAL EVENTS DURING 2018**

**Presentations** about Atzin and its work in Tlamacazapa 3  
Each presentation is a fundraising event and an opportunity to

present Atzin's work (public education).

- Cemal 17 April in Cuernavaca 2.5 hours
- Cene UNAM May 26 in Tlamacazapa with visits to houses 1 day
- Cemal August 7 in Cuernavaca 2.5 hours

### **Workshop received**

A two day participatory workshop on security and safety was given by the the Network of Human Rights Defenders (based in Mexico City) to the Atzin team in Cuernavaca, after a threatening phone call was received by Xochitl in the Atzin Centre in Tlama on March 17th.

### **Workshop given by Atzin**

An intensive workshop on energy healing and self-care given by Atzin to a small group of defenders of human rights from the region of the Montaña in Guerrero. Susan and Xochitl facilitated the workshop. The team assumed the coordination of logistics, food and lodging.

Total days of the workshop (August 30 to September 3) 4  
Total workshop participants- all women 12 and 3 children

### **Visitors during 2018**

1. Hannah and Jean Devigne December 3 (half day)
2. Maria Villapando Paez, representative of Global Giving (from DF) June 8-9 (1.5 days)
3. Alyssa Alsheimer (iProspect) and Brayden Varr (Isobar) of Route to Good (a Global Giving project) (from Boston) 13-19 February (7 days)

**International or national volunteers 0**

### **OBSERVATIONS**

**Observation 1:** The number of visitors and volunteers has fallen drastically since 2016, largely due to the economic recession in general and the situation of violence that continues in Mexico generally, and especially in certain states such as Guerrero. Both the Embassy of Canada and the US Embassy issued warnings of "no non-essential travel" to Guerrero (level 4) and warned of traveling to Morelos because of the risk of kidnapping and assault. In turn, the absence of visitors and volunteers has seriously affected income and program support because usually, visitors and volunteers held fundraising activities on return home.

**Observation 2:** Atzin was selected to participate in the "Route to Good project" (RTG), managed by Global Giving from London, England. We were matched with two consultants located in Boston; both were directors of their departments in digital promotion/creativity and marketing research. Their week visit to Atzin and Tlama went well, and we all had high hopes for a new way of raising funds. Following their lead as experts in digital promotion, any request for information or help from RTG became a priority. We realized later the importance of doing a small trial first, testing out partners, then figure out a feasible (less ambitious) plan.

### **Board Meeting of Atzin Canada September 17-18, Pouch Cove, NL Canada**

Two people from Mexico traveled to attend: Susan (20 day stay, covering her own costs) and Xochitl (14 days, her trip generously paid for by Ruth and David Wiens). Bob Brink and Po Chun Lau supplied the accommodations. Each person contributed to the food kitty and paid for their own

flights. Local transport in two cars was donated by David Wiens and Bob Brink. The meeting report is available in English only, upon request.

**SUMMARY**

In summary, 2018 was another year with a small number of office staff and promoters doing an incredible amount of good work largely in two program sectors (health and education), in often difficult and overcrowded conditions. There are three main and interrelated factors that affected the operations and that are not discussed in this report in any detail: a) fundraising and cash flow; b) the need for more personnel in the administration and coordination office; c) the continuation of violence in Morelos and Guerrero and security implications.



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

