



**REPORT BY THE NUMBERS 2021**  
**ATZIN-YNS PROGRAMS**  
**TLAMACAZAPA, GUERRERO, MEXICO**  
**June 2022**

This summary report provides an overview of program activities carried out by Atzin Mexico in collaboration with Yotlakat Non Siwatl (YNS), in Tlamacazapa during 2021.

**SUMMARY**

During 2021, our focus was the recovery of programs affected by the pandemic; all in all, it was a year of intensive work by the Atzin team. An estimated 3,000 beneficiaries accessed services (keep in mind that an individual can receive more than one service).

A small group of promoters did an incredible amount of good work in often difficult circumstances. The interns are learning from the basics, such as making a day plan and a fact report, gradually grasping the processes of planning, managing and evaluating programs.

Four interrelated factors affected Atzin's operations and are not discussed in any detail in this report: a) fundraising and cash flow; b) administrative workload on office personnel; c) the continuation of widespread insecurity in the states of Morelos (location of Atzin House) and Guerrero (location of Atzin Centre); d) the effects of the covid pandemic and its regulations on program operations and the daily lives of families.

**Observations**

Observation 1: Visits from volunteers and donors dropped drastically since 2015 because of the level of violence that continued in Mexico in general, and especially in certain states such as Guerrero. Both the Canadian Embassy and the United States Embassy maintained "do not travel" notices to Guerrero and warned against travel to Morelos due to the risk of kidnappings and assaults. This affected fundraising as volunteers and visitors most often donate time and money on return home. The pandemic caused a further drop in international and national visitors and volunteers during 2020-2021.

Observation 2: In 2021, the pandemic regulations and stress on families affected programs – it was not possible to re-start Tihueliske Tutoring and Tihueliske Women and Youth. This decreased the total number of beneficiaries.

Observation 3: During the two years of the pandemic schools were closed, very few families had access to, or experience with, the internet; and while the Ministry of Education (SEP) primary and secondary broadcasted primary level classes on televisión, they were hastily produced and difficult to follow. There were two challenges in 2021 that continued: many, if not most, children lost the disciplined habit of regularly attending school or classes; 2) many parents had decreased interest in their children's education or were economically stressed with multiple social problems.

## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

**1. a. Atzin Mission:** Assist the rural population, especially indigenous women, to obtain better opportunities, strengthened cultural identity and well-being, and greater self-sufficiency with a peaceful life.

### 1. b. Personnel – Days Present in Tlamacapapa

Planning, communication with Board members and other organizations, logistics and accounting were largely done at Casa Atzin in Cuernavaca. The promoters of Atzin-YNS (all local women) carried out the day-to-day program activities in Tlamacazapa, based in the Atzin Centre, a rented three-room house with a terrace.

The Atzin office team was present in Tlamacazapa in 2021 for a total of 86 days (41 Saturdays and 45 weekdays). This included days of the interns (*pasantes*), also all women from Tlamacazapa who worked in the Atzin office, gaining administrative, planning and reporting experience.

### 1. c. Atzin Office Team / Casa Atzin Cuernavaca 2021

Women	2	Fulltime – Susan; Xochitl
	2	Part-time – Estela (2 days/ week), Martha (3 days per week)
Men	2	Part-time – Rubén (3-4 days/ week); Óscar (dentist in TLA; 1 day per week; worked 5 months Jan-May)

Volunteers. Two volunteers David (Green project) and Ruth Wiens (Special Needs among other activities) worked full time for four months. They lived in Atzin's rented apartment near Casa Atzin.

### 1. d. Interns from Tlamacazapa in the office/ Casa Atzin Cuernavaca

Women	6	Fulltime – Ana (11 months); Bertha (10 months); Clara (8 months); Marisol (12 months); Fran (5 months); Belem (6 weeks nov-dec). One nutrition intern (from Cuernavaca) worked for one month.
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### 1. e. Promoters - ATZIN - YNS in Tlamacazapa 2021

Promoters in nutrition, education, dental health and midwifery receive an economic stimulus for each four-hour shift (*turno*), while seamstresses receive payment per product. Each one has responsibility mainly in one program, although there considerable mutual help and overlap.

A total of 21 women worked in the different programs: education, nutrition, dental health, midwifery, and community service.

## II PROGRAMS

In 2021 programs were adjusted because of the pandemic regulations. *Tihueliske* Education for Children ran as a main program, and this year included children enrolled in primary schools but without classes (all schools were closed all year). Midwifery and Special Needs continued throughout the year. *Tihueliske* Early Stimulation for young children restarted in October 2021. Dental only operated until the end of May 2021 (5 months). It was not possible to restart *Tihueliske* Women and Youth.

Atzin's integrated approach to community development is captured in the diagram below. Each programming sector is a different colour.



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



**A. COMMUNITY EDUCATION (yellow):** Objective: to contribute to increased literacy and personal development of women, youth and children in Tlamacazapa through educational programs based on relevant, well-organized classes taught by local women, trained by Atzin.

Atzin staff held weekly meetings with the promoters and educators to plan the education activities, with frequent telephone consultations.

**1. Tihueliske Early Stimulation.** Four afternoons per week for 4 hours for children 2-5 years old. Given the importance of early stimulation in the development of young children, Atzin launched this program in September 2016. Parents do not incur any expenses to send their children to the program, Atzin provides all the necessary material.

**Main activities:** Stimulation of their physical, emotional, social development and creativity to help discover the capacities of each child. In the different stations, the educators work with the children on different movements, singing, outdoor games, as well as activities of daily life such as: correct hand washing, toileting; and general hygiene. The children have recess and eat breakfast.

The early stimulation classes re-started on October 5, 2021, with 41 children aged 2-5 years of age (30 new children and 11 who were previously registered). During the three months of classes, 13 more new children

were registered and 4 children previously registered in other years, for a total registration of 58 children. We formed two groups: one group had classes Tuesday and Thursday and another group, Wednesday and Friday. Older children (4-5 years) were more likely to attend regularly; younger children (2-3 years) were more irregular in attendance.

Total number of classes (5th Oct to 15th Dec. 2021):	41
Number of educators:	5
Number of education promoters:	2
Total number of children registered:	58 (17 SL; 9 SJ; 32 ST)
Gender breakdown:	30 girls 52%; 28 boys 48%
Days of the week (2 groups; each group 2 days per week)	4
Number of meetings with parents of children	4
Average attendance per class:	12

**2. Tihueliske Children.** Six to 12 years of age. **Main activities:** Educators strengthen children's basic literacy and personal and social development through writing, reading, comprehension, basic mathematics, art, body movement, and meditation.

During 2021 SEP schools were closed and the teachers only gave students take-home material once a month, with no instruction. Atzin restarted the *Tihueliske* Children classes as a response to the pandemic, organizing the classes to avoid problems with municipal Civil Protection. The morning and afternoon classes were held from January 2 to July 16, 2021, and each class lasted 4 hours.

Morning. For younger and/or beginner level children (in Atzin's classification of Yellow 1 & 2), two groups were formed: one group Tuesday and Thursday, and another group Wednesday and Friday. Classes began with 67 children registered, and over the next months, 83 more children were registered, for a total registration of 150. The irregular attendance of most children was evident from the start of classes.

Total number of clases (12th Jan to 16 July 2021	104
Total number of attendances in 6.5 months:	2418
Total number of children registered	150
Gender breakdown:	81 girls 54%; 69 boys 46%
Number of educators:	4
Number of promoters in education	2
Number of classes per week:	4
Meetings with parents:	1
Average attendance per class (4 hours):	23

Afternoon. Children at a more advanced level attended classes in the afternoon (Red 1; Red 2 and Green), again divided into two groups, each group attending on two days per week. One group (Red 1 and 2) Tuesday and Thursday, and the second group (Red 1; Red 2 and Green) Wednesday and Friday. Classes started with 73 children registered; 58 more children joined, for a total registration of 131. Again, the issue of irregular attendance of most children was evident.

Total number of clases (12th Jan to 16 July 2021):	104
Total number of attendances during 6.5 month period:	2510
Total number of children registered:	131
Gender breakdown:	80 girls 61%; 51 boys 39%

Number of educators:	4
Number of promoters in education:	2
Number of classes per week:	4
Average attendance per class (4 hours):	23
Meetings with parents:	1

During 2021, most children at all levels in *Tihueliske* did not attend classes regularly despite home visits and discussions with parents by educators. This was an ongoing frustration for educators, as the pattern affected everyone's progress, including a core group of children who attended all classes.

Negative change due to the pandemic. Children of all ages in the village missed two years of education (and therefore literacy) because of the pandemic and its regulations. Driven by economic necessity, older children began to work; younger children lost the disciplined habit of regularity, parents did not insist on attendance, and children simply played at home or on the street.

**3. Continuing Education of Promoters and Interns:** Objective: training in leadership and personal development.

Learning Circles (each Saturday, usually for 45 minutes)

Number of learning circles in 2021:	41
Number of promoters in learning circles:	15-22

Number of intensive training days (held in village):	11
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Scholarships

Number of females with scholarship in Cuernavaca: (one girl for six months; one girl for 12 months; 1 intern in computer training 4 months; 1 intern for 2 months)	4
Number of women with high school scholarship	1 for 2 months (moved))
Number of interns in diploma of human rights program run by PRODESC (online, 4 months)	1

**Training conducted by seamstresses in sewing workshop**

Number of seamstresses doing training:	2
Number of participantes (from Cuetzala GRO) in this workshop:	2
Number of training days:	3

**B. HEALTH AND HEALING** (blue): Objective: Support the well-being of women and their families in Tlamacazapa through participation in health, dental, nutrition and special needs programs.

**1. Special Needs:** Starting in 2002, Atzin has provided support to children and older adults living in conditions of extreme poverty, malnutrition and/or chronic conditions.

Atzin promoters provided care as a community service under the supervision of Atzin team. These activities included:

- Preparation and distribution of medications for chronic conditions;
- Preparation and distribution of food supplements and vitamins;
- Friendly home visits;

- Accompaniment to medical appointments and shelters;
- Organization of logistics and transportation arrangements;
- Preparation of necessary paperwork for appointments and applications;
- Provision of stimulation sessions at home for (selected) young children, needed equipment, or information on health conditions and procedures.

All activities in this program are time-consuming and detail-oriented, requiring regular monitoring, supervision and training. The numbers below reflect services or care provided. Note that an individual can receive more than one service.

Total children and adults registered in program:	78
Registered children:	38 (24 boys; 15 girls)
Registered adults:	40 (20 men y 20 women)
Individuals who receive monthly home visits:	54
Individuals who receive vitamins each month:	33
Individuals who receive medications each month:	16
Registered children with special needs who attend Education program	11
Individuals who received gifts of (gently used) clothing or shoes:	68

Promoters frequently accompanied families with appointments in hospitals in Taxco, Cuernavaca or Mexico City, with Atzin covering transportation, paperwork for appointments, studies and often, meals.

Families with medical appointments in Cuernavaca:	3
Families with medical appointments in Taxco:	3
Families with medical appointments in México City in HS, INP, INR, or HI (some had appointments in several institutions on different days):	5
Families with financial help for medical studies or equipment:	5
Families with (considerable) advocacy assistance: (families affected by fraud or violent acts)	7
Families with assistance (financial) to obtain legal documents:	5
Families with monthly food packages for six months:	6
Families with help to open a bank account:	4
Families with Atzin transport to Chilpancingo, Iguala and Taxco:	6
Families assisted to admit a member to drug rehab in Cuernavaca:	1

## 2. Advocacy

a. On June 15, 2021, seven young and innocent young men from Tlamacazapa were shot in another municipality by suspected narcos. Five died and two brothers survived, one was left a parapalegic unable to walk (he is now registered in Atzin Special Needs Program). This tragic event prompted the team to support the families of the victims with: provision of 200 pesos and food packages (beans, rice, oatmeal, oil) for six months; partial payment of supplies for hospitalized patients (total 2,000 pesos); payment of five death certificates and two birth certificates (total 1,400 pesos).

After numerous telephone conversations looking for advice, Atzin contacted the representative of the "Collective Group of Parents of the Disappeared, Kidnapped and Murdered in Guerrero" and worked with the

five families to gather the documents required to obtain federal economic support indefinitely. Atzin transported the affected women to Chilpancingo to the offices of the State Executive Commission for Attention to Victims in Guerrero (CEAVGRO) for individual interviews and submission of documents.

CEAVGRO continued to manage this case. The process will be lengthy as the families decided to not pursue a formal complaint, demanding an investigation of the murders – they were afraid to do so. By the end of 2021, no response had been received.

b. A woman (ex-promoter of Atzin) had an emergency caesarean section in September 2021 (having arrived unconscious at the hospital in Taxco) and paid 12,000 pesos for a blood transfusion, plus 455 pesos for hospital food during her stay. On behalf of the family, Atzin assisted YNS to initiate a complaint and petition for return of the payment to the family on December 1st 2021, addressed to the senator of the central region of Guerrero. On December 16, 2020, the Guerrero Human Rights Commission took up the case and in May 2022, the full repayment was achieved.

**3. Monitoring of activities related to pandemic:** accompaniment with condolences for families who lost a member; data collection of all deaths and analysis.

Condolences. Promoters made a total of 93 home visits to families to offer condolences in 2021. Each family received support in cash (\$200 per family) and a 5-piece food package.

Death registry and mapping. We kept the death registry updated with data analysis; and mapped the locations of deaths on a map of Tlamacazapa. In 2021 there were 91 deaths (all causes of mortality); in 2020 there were 82 deaths. The findings were distributed to the municipal mayor, the *comisario* of Tlamacazapa, and others. Following discussions with the civil registrar of Tlamacazapa, it was clear that only one third of the known deaths are formally registered in the state data base. This low number is because: families were unable to pay for the registration; did not see the death registration as necessary; or most frequently, had difficulty with obtainment of death certificates issued by doctors and its cost. The inaccurate numbers in the state data base has implications for the further marginalization of indigenous peoples, especially those living in rural areas.

**4. Wellness Program.** Wellness consultations at Atzin Centre with basic care and counsel, vitamins or home remedies.

Number of days of wellness clinic:	20
Estimate of people attended: (25 individuals x 20 days)	500

**5. Motlan Dental and oral health.** Objective: Offer free basic dental services for seniors and children under the age of thirteen, with cost-recovery for services and discounts on crowns and dentures for adults. Dental consultation were provided every six months for children in the Tihueliske Education program.

Number of clinic days:	17
Total number of patients:	361
Gender breakdown:	(226 F 63%; 135 M 37%)
Average number of patients per day:	21
Number of treatments:	408

Number of dental promoters:

2

During 2021, the Motlan Dental program operated once per week for five months (January to end of May). The dentist, Oscar Lázaro Adán, opened his own dental office in Tlamacazapa in June and increased the prices of all services. People later came forward to report his hidden charges for services and manipulation of reports.

The Atzin dental program was put on hold; a new dentist takes time to find because of the working conditions (no running water, no drainage, no x-ray facility) and the financial compensation per day.

**6. La Buena Cocina.** Objective: To demonstrate and offer nutritious and economic food to program participants of all ages.

Nutrition in Tihueliske: Two promoters prepared a nutritious breakfast for *Tihueliske* children four days a week. In 2021, atoles (similar to a thin porridge) of oats, rice, sesame or amaranth were prepared, as well as lentil tacos with vegetables. In late 2021, soy or almond milk with a bar of amaranth was given to the children as a successful (and easy) pilot test. The cooks prepared a special meal for Children's Day, Christmas and the July closing.

For nine months in 2021 (January 12 to July 16, and September 30 to December 15), the cooks prepared breakfast for the children:

Number of preparation days:	147
Number of atoles distributed to children:	3585
Number of tacos distributed to children:	2293
Meals for special events:	112
Number of nutrition promoters (cooks):	2
Number of days per week:	4

Nutrition Demonstrations: In 2021 there were 37 cooking demonstrations on Saturdays, preparing lentils with vegetables or rice with vegetables, using the ecological rocket stove at the Atzin Center. Tacos were then distributed to the promoters and to all patients in the health, dental and midwifery programs.

Number of demonstrations:	37
Estimated tacos distributed:	2138

**7. Safe Motherhood.** Objective: to provide prenatal consultations with traditional care, with home follow-up of the mother and newborn, by a traditional/empiric midwife and a promoter.

The prenatal clinic runs every Saturday with 8 to 15 pregnant women attending each day. Routine check-ups include: monitoring of blood pressure, weight, hemoglobin, fetal growth and heart rate; traditional massage; provision of vitamins and food supplements; referrals for studies or medical care, and if indicated, a pregnancy test. The clinic offers services at no charge (with the exception of pregnancy test at 10 pesos per test).

Prenatal care for a (low-risk) pregnancy is usually done more frequently as the pregnancy progresses, ie, a visit once a month for the first 1-4 months; twice a month during the 5th-8th month; and weekly for the last month. This schedule is adjusted as needed.

Number of pregnant women registered with Atzin 2021	61
Number of live births of registered women in 2021	56
Number of prenatal clinic days in 2021:	47



Number of home visits with postpartum interview:	51
Number of promoters in prenatal clinic:	4 (one each week)
Number of midwives in prenatal clinic:	1
Number of women assisted with payment for ultrasound:	2

Following delivery, the midwife and a promoter visit the women who registered with Atzin (for one or more prenatal checks). Each woman is interviewed, and receives a gift of a bag of (lightly used) baby clothes (7-10 pieces).

Age of women registered with Atzin at first prenatal visit in 2021	Number	%
Pregnant at 14-17 years (first visit):	4	6
Pregnant at 18-20 years (first visit):	4	6
Pregnant at 21-30 years (first visit):	30	49
Pregnant at 31-40 years (first visit):	20	33
Pregnant at 41-50 years (first visit):	3	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61</b>	

Barrio - location of pregnant women registered with Atzin 2021	Number	%
Santiago	30	49
San Juan	13	21
San Lucas	17	28
Lived outside of Tlamacazapa	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>100</b>

Gender of 56 live births in 2021 from women registered with Atzin	Number	%
Female	21	37
Male	32	57
Missing gender information	3	5
Stillbirths / miscarriages	5	--
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61</b>	

Place of delivery	Number	%
At home, alone	2	3
home birth with midwife (Victoria)	15	27
home birth with midwife (Lucí)	2	3
In hospital in Taxco	31	55
In health centre Coxcatlan	1	2
enroute to hospital	1	2
In hospital in Iguala	1	2
In hospital outside the state	1	2
miscarriages	5	--
missing location information	2	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61</b>	

NOTE: The number of postpartum women interviewed in 2021 is NOT the total number of deliveries or births in Tlamacazapa. The midwife/promoter visited the women who attended Atzin's prenatal clinic at least once.

In 2020, 73 women were interviewed and in 2021, 51 women were visited at home (plus five who miscarried or suffered a stillbirth), and five not interviewed but with information provided by the midwife, for a total of 61 registered women).

**C. INCOME GENERATION** (red). Objective: Contribute to improvement of the economy of vulnerable individuals and families through the creation of viable economic and productive opportunities, as well as the development of technical and personal skills.

**1. Tehuantitlatemiki (Soñamos) Sewing.** As in other years, the seamstresses continued the production of different cloth items (market bags, patchwork quilted bags and masks).

Number of seamstresses:	2/3
Number of cloth face masks produced:	635
Number of cloth bags produced:	40
Number of small market bags produced:	10

**2. Arte Siwame Women's Art.** Weavers are informally organized in a group called *Zoyatl* and produce high-quality palm articles, which, in turn, Arte Siwame sells to support Atzin's programs. Atzin provides technical assistance to increase product quality and to manage sales, and pays the woman when she brings in her palm basket. (Arte Siwame stopped functioning as a registered small business in 2018 because of high bank fees and taxes and instead, was incorporated as part of Atzin's Income Generation program.)

Number of weavers active in <i>Zoyatl</i> in 2021:	10
Number of palm products purchased from weavers in 2021:	395

This year buyers ordered fewer baskets from Arte Siwame compared to previous years. At the same time, big companies like WalMart and FonArt made large orders to certain families (the most organized or the best weavers), who then contracted baskets from other (generally poorer) weavers. Interestingly, many of these selected families were members of *Zoyatl*, producing higher quality weaving.

In 2020, 711 products were purchased by clients who wanted to help families economically by giving them work during the covid pandemic; in 2021, the purchases numbered 395, half the amount.

**D. ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND SANITATION** (green). Objective: promote the well-being of families and sustainable development in Tlamacazapa with environmental programs that focus on a healthier environment, clean and sufficient water and adequate sanitation, and includes training, local employment and monitoring.

With the exception of activities related to the ecological stoves, this program has been on a back burner since 2010-11. The successful construction of 60+ dry toilet and tank units by Atzin was stopped due to a municipal government program in which more than 500 poorly designed and malfunctioning dry toilets were constructed rapidly in Tlamacazapa, with no education or followup monitoring.

Proyecto Verde (Green Project): At the end of 2021, Atzin drafted a new "green home" pilot project with three components and 20 participating families including a small-scale vegetable and herb garden; an eco-friendly portable rocket concrete stove; and for 10 families, a 2,500-liter tank to collect rainwater. In December 2020, Atzin started a vegetable and herb garden at Casa Atzin Cuernavaca; this work continued in 2021 with trials of

stove prototypes and types of gardens and plants. With financing obtained via Zapapres (Germany), the pilot will begin in Tlamacazapa in 2022.

## **E. PROJECTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

1. Recovery of authorized donee status. In 2020, Atzin lost the status of authorized donee due to an administrative error in the delivery of a report. After gathering all the necessary paperwork and numerous communications, this status was achieved again in February 2021.
2. Board meetings. In 2021, the Atzin Canada Board of Directors held four meetings online via Zoom. Frequent personal communication with directors of Atzin Mexico, was held usually by phone or personally, in the office.
3. Civil Registrar. On May 16, 2021, a local women (and also an Atzin promoter for years) was approved to be the civil registry in the community. Atzin supported her nomination with transport, application payments, letters and submissions for the position, paid for six months rent (1000 pesos per month) in a temporary location, provided orientation on management, and provided the civil registry office with basic furnishings (on longterm loan) and start-up supplies.
4. Village elections for *comisario* (representative of municipal mayor). 29 October 2021. For the first time in the history of Tlamacazapa, a woman from the community (and also an Atzin promoter) ran for the candidacy of *comisario*, with only three days' notice. The woman and her running mate (also an Atzin promoter) ran independently without the support of any political party. Although Bertha did not win the position, she made history. In close consultation with women presented at the election, Atzin submitted a summary descriptive report of the management and organization of the election to the municipal president.
5. Meetings with municipal mayor, Marcos Parra, and others from the municipal cabinet in Taxco. Two face-to-face meetings: February 2 and 24, 2021; and two Zoom meetings.
6. Visitors to Atzin-YNS in Tlamacazapa.

  - January 16, 23 and February 6, 13 Leticia from the Pakilia group, Taxco;
  - March 7, 2021 Lic. Mayra Ramirez García, Undersecretary of the Department of Environment and Ecology, Taxco;
  - May 1, 2021 architect, Inocente Hernández, of Public Works of Taxco municipality;
  - May 1, 2021 the councilor, Mario Moronatti;
  - October 2, 2021 the president of Cuetzala, Elizabeth Mendoza, plus others from her municipal council;
  - November 27, 2021, Sofía Cruz of Tekiti (friend of Rodrigo Cruz).