



FUNDACIÓN TOSEPAN A.C.

**Title project:** Tamakepalis: Rebuilding their dwellings in Puebla

**Project summary:**

The Tamakepalis initiative stems from the solidarity of the families of the Tosepan Union of Cooperatives in the face of earthquakes. It focuses on the process of community reconstruction in Santa Cruz Cuautomatitla (Tochimilco, Puebla), to strengthen the social fabric and the development of livelihoods in this community.

**Duration: 12 months.** The duration of the requested support must be adapted to the nature and complexity of the proposed activity.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANIZATION**

**Year of establishment of the organization: 2012**  
**Date of legal status: 25/09/2012**  
**Direct beneficiaries: 496**  
**Indirect beneficiaries: 1,405**

**Antecedents of the organization:**

**Mission**

We are an organization that contributes to the Good Life projects, promoting actions to improve the health, nutrition, education, housing, training, and integral well-being of the indigenous peoples of the Northeast Sierra of Puebla.

**Administrative structure**

The Tosepan Foundation is an organization founded by the Union of Tosepan Cooperatives, whose assembly of associates represents the highest authority body of the Foundation. Currently the Union groups 37,000 families -78% indigenous- who live in 430 communities in 29 municipalities of the Northeast Sierra of Puebla. It is the General Assembly of associates that emanates the board of directors of the Foundation. Every month there is participation in a General Assembly of the Union of Tosepan Cooperatives - where 430 delegates representing each of the communities participate, to report on progress and results and establish new work goals. The Union of Cooperatives Tosepan, is an indigenous peasant movement of the Northeast Sierra of Puebla, composed of 8 cooperatives and 3 civil associations; one of them is the Tosepan A.C.

The Foundation has an executive direction that reports directly to the board of directors. The management has 5 program departments, which in turn have regional coordinators and local coordinators.

We also have an accounting and external audit area that ensures the transparency of the foundation's operations.

**Operating structure**



The reconstruction project (TAMAKEPALIS) is inserted in the sustainable housing program and has the following operational structure:

Community Council of Reconstruction: Conformed by 16 people from the community of Santa Cruz Cuautomatitla. They are local authorities that participate in assemblies to make decisions.

Community Committees: Responsible for coordinating and managing the work.

- Committee on food, lodging
- Safety committee for external volunteers
- Demolition Coordinator: Responsible for coordinating and administering the demolition and debris removal works of the fallen houses
- Drinking water repair committee: committees per street to restore drinking water.
- Priority evaluation committee: to receive help from 20 emerging bamboo shelters.
- Shelter needs coordinator.

After discussing and consulting with members of the community, the committee created a mechanism for reducing conflicts based on a multicriteria analysis matrix to determine the priority of support for the most needy.

Executive Team of Work: Conformed by architects, engineers, construction masters, supervisors and social promoters.

Administrative team: In addition to its activity in resource management, it has communication with the committees to make payments and is responsible for seeing the correct supply of services and materials. He is also responsible for the preparation of reports of activities and financial, as well as the report of actions to the SAT to ensure transparency in the use of the resources collected for the reconstruction project due to the effects of the earthquake of September 19, 2017.

**Experience related to the project**

The Tosepan Foundation, through the Tosepan Tichanchiuaj Housing Social Production program, together with the Tosepantomin savings and loan cooperative, offers technical and architectural consulting services to families to build improvement or construction solutions for homes. Currently the cooperative has managed to improve the conditions of 8,500 homes and build 7,500 new homes, but more importantly has strengthened the social fabric by integrating cultural practices of solidarity. The experience in the housing theme was recognized in 2017 with the European Award for Microfinance for being the best experience worldwide for the social production of housing in rural areas.

The program includes the most important decisions for participating families: where to build, what size, with what materials, who to hire, etc. To this end, it has incorporated a Technical Assistance Program, through which families are supported in the preparation of the budget and oriented to the masons to ensure good and adequate construction. They are also motivated to include in their homes two to three eco-technologies to transform them into sustainable homes.

The working axes of the Housing Program are: 1) Training; 2) Improvement and construction of houses under the scheme Social Production of Housing; 3) Installation of eco-technics; 4) Food production in backyard gardens.

## NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

### Context

Santa Cruz Cuautomatitla is located in the municipality of Tochimilco, Puebla, 13 km from the crater of Popocatepetl volcano. The main economic activity is agriculture and the commercialization of seasonal products, such as fruits (pears, walnuts, peaches) and cereals (amaranth, chia), but subsistence agriculture is the majority among people working in the field, according to diagnosis made after the earthquake. The community suffers with the systemic problem of poverty and absence of fundamental livelihoods. This condition is prior to the seismic event and has hindered the adequate resolution of emergency situations. The area is susceptible to geological hazards (landslides, active volcano, constant seismicity), and with the earthquake of September 19, 2017, 244 homes were affected (76 with total loss 168 with partial damages). In view of the disaster of September 19, 2017, mutual help and solidarity between neighbors took root in the community sphere. It was the energy of the community of Santa Cruz Cuautomatitla, which gave impetus to the Tamakepalis initiative.

#### 1. Work with the community

The work of Fundación Tosepan with the community of Santa Cruz Cuautomatitla begins in the aftermath of the earthquake of September 19 to address the emergency situation, bringing together energies to develop the process of integral reconstruction.

#### 2. Identification of the problems that are the object of your project (scope, nature, causes and social or economic impact).

The integral reconstruction process seeks to address different problems observed in Santa Cruz Cuautomatitla, of different scope and nature:

##### 1) The loss and weakening of the community social fabric and grassroots organization.

In Santa Cruz Cuautomatitla relations of territorial roots and community means of life persist, such as tasks, local authorities and the regiment for customs and uses. However, the deterioration of economic conditions that leads to increased rates of migration and rural exodus, affects the community organization and response to tragic events.

##### 2) Lack of resources for reconstruction and interference by public authorities in the operation of reconstruction procedures.

The public resources of the Natural Disasters Fund are not enough for the integral reconstruction of the homes that were affected by the earthquake, and many families that had total or partial losses in their homes did not have the approved resource. Only 11 houses of the 30 classified as total loss, and that we proposed to rebuild, obtained financial support from FONDEN, insufficient to build a decent and safe house. Among the 70 houses that present partial damages, 3 families received partial support from FONDEN for repairs.

##### 3) The risks of natural disasters, related to the ecological fragility of the region, the constant seismicity and the proximity to the Popocatépetl volcano.

Due to the proximity of Santa Cruz Cuautomatitla with the epicenter of the earthquake, it could feel very strong and cause a lot of damage. An important fact to mention is that the soils of this town are not very stable, due to their settlement in collapses of the Popocatépetl volcano, in very inclined soils and exposed to landslides; adding also that the constructions were not adequate both in quality and constructive technique to face an earthquake like this, without forgetting the proximity of living in an active volcano such as Popocatépetl. These elements reflect the need to think about a territorial ecological ordering model that classifies and defines, based on technical criteria and traditional practices, the land use regime of the territory of Santa Cruz Cuautomatitla.

##### 4) The economic situation of the families and the absence of cooperative projects to generate income and work.

The economy of Santa Cruz Cuautomatitla families is based mainly on agricultural production. According to the preliminary diagnosis, 89% of the beneficiary families affirm that the work in the field consists of their main



economic activity. However, the lack of technical support and encouragement to cooperative processes that drive the economy, overcomes the increase in migration rates to urban centers or the United States. The reconstruction process contributes to the direct generation of work for masons and strengthens the construction capacities based on seismic-resistant techniques, and seeks to provide the improvement of the quality of life from the promotion and development of productive projects

### 3. How was it decided in favor of this approach and who participated in the process?

The bases and approaches of the Tamakepalis initiative were defined from the People's Assembly of Santa Cruz Cuautumatitla, with support from the Community Council of Reconstruction. The initiative has the backing of local authorities and support from the Santa Cruz Brigade group, made up of young people from the community.

#### Draft

##### 1. Activities

Complete the reconstruction of 30 affected homes with total loss. Rehabilitation of 16 houses with partial damage from self-construction; workshops to train the beneficiaries and masons of Santa Cruz Cuautumatitla in earthquake-resistant building techniques; construction of integrated washing modules integrated into eco-technologies; workshops with the inhabitants for the planning of the territory and the definition of sustainable livelihoods; preparation of a participatory diagnosis to define the needs and priorities of the projects to be implemented to improve the living conditions of the inhabitants; train the group of young people in the community in management processes and fundraising for the implementation and development of productive and social projects.

##### 2. Work plan and activity schedule.

The work plan of the Tamakepalis initiative has two general lines of action: 1) Strengthen and enable the process of reconstruction of houses damaged by the earthquake; 2) Expand and strengthen the community participation of Santa Cruz Cuautumatitla for the development of livelihoods and citizen territorial management.

In relation to the first line of action, the project includes the promotion and accompaniment of community self-organization in the different stages of the reconstruction and rehabilitation of houses, the training of inhabitants and masons in earthquake-resistant construction techniques and the integration of eco-technics, and the participatory elaboration of architectural design and accompaniment of processes of acquisition, collection and distribution of materials.

The second line of work includes carrying out workshops with inhabitants of the community for the planning of the territory and definition of sustainable livelihoods, the accompaniment of the elaboration of a participative diagnosis for the definition of needs and priorities of the actions to be implemented for improve the living conditions and the economic solvency of the families, and the training of young people of the community for the community organization and processes of capture and management of resources for the development of the defined, productive, social and cultural projects.

#### **Schedule:**

Final stage of reconstruction of earthquake-resistant and growing houses	October to november 2018
Rehabilitation of houses with partial damages	October 2018 to March 2019
Training of beneficiaries and masons in construction techniques	October 2018 to March 2019
Conducting workshops to diagnose needs and priorities	November 2018 to May 2019
Construction of integrated washing modules with ecotechnics (saving stoves and biodigesters)	March to September 2019
Realization of territory planning workshops	May to September 2019
Conducting training workshops for fundraising and resource management and project implementation	May to September 2019

##### 1. Participation of partners in the project and contributions



Beneficiary families: All beneficiary families for the reconstruction or rehabilitation of homes contribute to the process of self-construction and work.

Allied organizations committed:

The Benemerita Autonomous University of Puebla and its University Center for the Prevention of Regional Disasters (CUPREDER - BUAP): responsible for the development of diagnostics, technical advice for earthquake-resistant construction and training for the population.

Pixka Integral Participation: technical assistance and community organization processes;

Tosepan Tichanchiuaj: administrative, logistical and construction support

Tosepantomin: Technical assistance and supervision of works.

UNDP: Advice on repair techniques for homes with partial damages.

Expected short-term results:

- Generation and better use of resources for the reconstruction of safe and earthquake-resistant housing and growing, with the use of techniques developed by the research centers that support the project;
- We hope that the management practices of transparent and participatory resources will be promoted;
- We hope that the intervention together with technical advice will generate applied knowledge about the risks involved in living in an area of intense seismic and volcanic activity, and the possibility of developing the necessary measures and precautions.

Long-term expected results:

- We hope that community participation will be strengthened, through strategies of cooperative reconstruction with tasks and self-construction;
- We expect the generation of a territorial ecological ordering plan for integral development.

The search for the expected results will be accompanied by a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, which will establish indicators and evaluation mechanisms based on quantitative and qualitative criteria on community participation, the proposals implemented and the community's perceptions of the project.

So far, a battery of indicators of results has been designed that allow us to measure the monitoring of the project, and among which are:

Number of homes repaired and reinforced; Degree of technical quality of the structures built; Perception of the beneficiaries about the reconstruction process; Percentage of beneficiaries who participated in the organizational processes for the construction process; Number of actions implemented for the organizational process around the reconstruction; Percentage of beneficiaries who contributed to self-construction; Number of training granted to the inhabitants of SCC; Number attending the trainings; Degree of knowledge about seismic-resistant construction techniques; Number architectural plans; Number of processes implemented for the acquisition, collection and distribution of materials; Number Houses built and rehabilitated; Number of technical reports prepared by architect or site supervisors; Perception of the inhabitants on the projects related to Tamakepalis; Number of actions implemented to expand and strengthen community participation; Percentage of participating families; Number of workshops held; Number of community assemblies held; Average number of participants in the workshops; Number of actions performed to implement the diagnosis; Number of community initiatives presented; Percentage of progress in the livelihood development plan; Number of workshops for the youth group of the Santa Cruz Brigade; Degree of knowledge in fundraising and project management; Number of actions implemented to raise funds

## 1. Feasibility of the project.

In the first place, by the existing social organization in Santa Cruz Cuautomatitla, based on the bonds of community work and the territorial identity of its inhabitants and, above all, of young people. In addition, the feasibility of the project is due to the experience of 41 years of the Union of Cooperatives Tosepan in the community organization and cooperativism in 430 communities of the Sierra Nororiental de Puebla, its program of social production of sustainable housing that has improved the conditions of room of 17 thousand families,



and their experience together with the CUPREDER-BUAP in the elaboration of Territorial Ecological Management Programs. Finally, external support in resources, from various institutions, aimed at the complementarity of the different stages of the project, promoting a process of integral reconstruction.

## 2. Potential difficulties of the project and the way in which your organization plans to face them.

The energy and organizational will of the young people of Santa Cruz Cuautamatitla, the integration between the different areas in which the Union of Tosepan Cooperatives operates and the support of allied and academic organizations, are the main potentialities of the project.

The variability of costs related to the particular technical solutions for each case of rehabilitation of homes that present partial damages is one of the difficulties encountered. However, it was possible, based on a technical analysis carried out jointly by the technical staff of Tamakepalis and specialists from the Engineering Faculty of the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, to propose an approximate budget that contemplates the techniques to be used.

## 3. Spectations

The Tamakepalis initiative and the integral reconstruction process of Santa Cruz Cuautamatitla aspire to strengthen the community and generate self-managing capacities for its autonomous development in the implementation of productive projects, cooperative processes and popular initiatives of management and ecological ordering of the territory. We will continue in accompaniment, from the Tosepan Foundation and the Union of Cooperatives Tosepan, to give attention to the needs of the people of Santa Cruz Cuautamatitla and support in the different processes that are generated from this experience.

BUDGET

Budget items	Requested	Counterpart of the proposer		Contributions from the beneficiaries		Other Contributions	
	Cash					Cash	In kind
1. Administrative expenses							
a. Salaries (4 persons)		759.10	1440 volunteer hours			51.48 (Banorte)	
b. Accounting services						98.05 (Banorte)	
c. Fees and administrative expenses		6.6					
2. Building							
a. Materials (Repairs and structural improvements)	17,500.00					8,715.85 (Banorte)	
b. Masonry (Repairs and structural improvements)	10,000.00				245 work hours 70 household	2,776.72 (Banorte)	
c. Implementation of Ecotechnics (ecological stoves and biodigesters)						5,271.51 (Documental Ambulante A.C.)	
3. Divulagation							
a. Audiovisual media			Web page			12.90 (Banorte)	Audiovisual media (Ambulante A.C.)
4. Team							
a. Computing					Computer Desktop, printer		
5. Human Resources - Salaries							
a. Salaries (social promoters and coordination of material storage)							
6. Human Resources - Contracted Services							
a. specialized Technical Assistance for territorial planning (includes advice for risk reduction and volcanic seismicity)							480 hours (CUPRE DER)
b. Specialized consultancy for repair of adobe houses	3,750.00						
7. Human Resources - Services Contributed							
a. Technical supervision team	3,750.00					6,167.66 (Banorte)	480 hours (CUPRE DER)
8. Investment capital							
9. Loan fund							
10. Materials and supplies							
11. Operating expenses							
12. Preliminary activities							
13. Others							
a. Conducting diagnostic and planning workshops							
14. Immobables							
a. Building					Use of materials and office house		
15. Building Fund of Subgrants							



16. Trainig							
a. Material for territorial planning workshops and community organizational processes.						119.72 (Banorte)	
17. Travels							
a. Viatic							
18. Vehicles							
a. Van			Toyota Hilux Cabina Doble SR + camión de volteo.				
b. Motorcicle Honda XR 150L Rally							
c. Maintenance (motorcycle, van and dump truck) - Includes changing the tires of the truck							
d. Fuel (technical visits and transport of materials)	15,000.00						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50,000.00</b>	15,313.73				344,817.58	