

# Participation and organization of citizens

The participation and organization of citizens is essential for the development of communities

The participation and organization of citizens let us know our community and the people who form part of it, as they have a positive impact, help us to deliberate and work together. Congregación Mariana Trinitaria uses those elements as a basis for its community work, which has provided benefits to millions of people for more than 24 years of work.



As a consequence of it, we may have several questions like: What can we use citizen's organization for? What are the benefits of it? Can it really make a change? What extra things does it need? It is possible to use it to improve our environment only if we have social commitment so, it is necessary to know our community and the people who are part of it.

Congregación Mariana Trinitaria (CMT) has actively participated for 23 years to promote the development of millions of people in Mexico, Latin America and the USA. It does not matter if those were little or big changes, as they meant that people could improve their quality of life.

## Organization of the community

The organization of the community is the process that makes the people come together to identify their problems or common goals to use resources, develop and implement strategies to reach the objectives they expect.

This way, the community members link the development of productive forces to their relations of production. That is to say, they take the issues so seriously because they know that they are essential for the growth of the community and their own families.

Community is a multidimensional phenomenon that involves geographical, sociological, natural, territorial, political, cultural and social elements that must be known, respected, and integrated to transform a territory into an efficient social organization that is also able to provide affection in material and spiritual areas.

CMT's philosophy is based on the comprehension of collectivity as the only way to get transcendental work. The actions that are a characteristic of native communities in Oaxaca are based on:

### • Tequio



### • Guelaguetza



### • Assembly



A community organization that is well implemented, makes a change in the distribution of power as it develops a power-based structure between a numerous group of people. In many occasions it is developed by those whose voices were not heard before, or the ones whose needs have been ignored.

For CMT, the participation and organization of citizens is important because they are the basis of the work that has been developed by this civil organization in Oaxaca. So, it is currently considered as one of the organizations with more impact on social and human development issues, citizen's participation, and social welfare all over the country.

Thanks to the CMT Welfare Ecosystem and the 11 networks that are part of it, it was possible to have direct and indirect impact on many areas where there are several needs to be solved. Each network is related to each other so that the implemented actions may be transversal to cause a bigger impact on the population.

### An effective community organization implies:

- Knowing about the community
- Generating and using power
- Describing the topics
- Planning actions with a purpose
- Fostering active participation in others
- Creating and using other resources
- Communicating with the community



One thing that must be taken into consideration is that community organization does not mean that "an expert" tells the community the aspects they have to work on. On the contrary, it means that community members participate in something and they use that energy to make a change. In sum, it means empowering people to improve their own lives through effective ways.

## Benefits of community organization:

- Higher potential to make the changes that people expect
- Empowerment
- More independence between the community members
- Increase of social support
- More equality in the society



## Networks of CMT Welfare Ecosystem:

<b>Food</b> It contributes to increasing a balanced intake of healthy food.	<b>Environment</b> It throws support to get equipment, develop infrastructure and facilities to stop the negative impacts on the environment.	<b>Education</b> It provides support to students, teachers, and parents while in school facilities or outside them.	<b>Water</b> It strengthens the systems to collect rainwater for domestic and productive use to benefit vulnerable families.
<b>Health</b> It promotes opportunities to facilitate the access of families to the health services.	<b>Energy</b> It provides opportunities to have access to sustainable energy services with for improving quality of life.	<b>Human Security</b> It helps on the most relevant needs in issues related to the security of the communities.	<b>Productive and Financial Inclusion</b> It grants access to financial and productive resources, especially those related to infrastructure, supplies and equipment.
<b>Housing</b> It provides a set of solutions to build, expand, and improve housing, and provide access to basic services.	<b>Art, Culture, Sports, and Youth</b> It provides solutions to build, improve or get equipment for culture, art, and sports centers.	<b>Innovation and Management of knowledge</b> It contributes to the development of public and social intervention based on scientific and methodologic knowledge.	

In case you want your community to get involved, contact CMT and we can give you options. You can find us on Facebook and Twitter as @CongregacionMT or you can visit our webpage [www.cmt-global.org](http://www.cmt-global.org)

Remember that you can make a change!  
#SomosCMT