

# Argentina

## Habitat for Humanity in Argentina

Habitat for Humanity invites people to build homes, communities and hope, and thus show God's love in action. To learn more about our work, visit:

[www.hpha.org.ar](http://www.hpha.org.ar)

## The housing need in Argentina

Argentina has a housing deficit of about 4 million homes of which 1.5 million are the number of houses that need to be built and the rest, houses already built but that have quality problems, lack of basic services or overcrowding. This deficit increases at a rate of approximately 35,000 homes per year. In addition, 18 percent correspond to rental housing, which is equivalent to about 1.5 million families.

Migration to the cities, as in most of Latin America, has increased the urban housing needs. Government programs tend to exclude those who don't have formal income or title deeds to their land, and mortgages are hard to come by even for middle class families. Argentine families seeking to access decent houses end up in severely inadequate rental situations, or self built houses in informal settlements. Both situations have complications legally and technically.

## Habitat's contribution in Argentina

We are a Christian organization that promotes access to decent and affordable housing for the most vulnerable populations. Through our projects, we offer families living in inadequate conditions the opportunity to manage a comprehensive solution to their housing problem. We also promote human and community development to ensure a sustainable solution over time. These solutions can be: loans to accelerate and improve the quality of the social production of housing (self building), or Assisted Rents in the inner cities.



### COUNTRY FACTS\*

<b>Capital</b>	Buenos Aires
<b>Date of independence or creation of the state</b>	1816
<b>Population</b>	44.49 million*
<b>Urbanization (percentage of people in cities vs. rural zones)</b>	92%** (2016)
<b>Life expectancy</b>	76 years** (2015)
<b>Unemployment rate</b>	8.5%** (2017)
<b>Percent of the population living below the poverty line</b>	27.3%** (2017)

\* Source: INDEC (National Institute of Statistics and Census of Argentina)

\*\* Source: World Bank

### HABITAT FACTS

**Date when Habitat started working in the country**  
2002

**Individuals served in FY18**  
540

**Volunteers hosted in FY18**  
877

**Housing solutions**  
New, incremental, repairs

FY stands for fiscal year 2018, which starts on July 2017 and ends on June 2018.



## Our programs

### Neighborhood development

Within Argentina's economy, a large percentage of families are part of the housing informal market. These families must finance, administer and build houses with their scarce resources. We have designed the Seed House model for families that have no access to a complete house loan, but that need to improve their current homes. This opportunity enables them to build a decent house in financially accessible stages to immediately improve their quality of life.

### Urban solutions

This project focuses on families who pay rent in informal tenements, tenancies and pension hotels. The "Assisted Rent" project is carried out by recycling urban spaces and through workshops and guarantees, advocating the right to an adequate rent. It is being developed in Buenos Aires, as part of the response to the urban problem and with strong advocacy in public policies. It is in this area where great achievements were obtained in the last year. Habitat worked with other social organizations and the city government of Buenos Aires to add flexibility in formal rent situations, allowing thousands of families access to better living conditions.

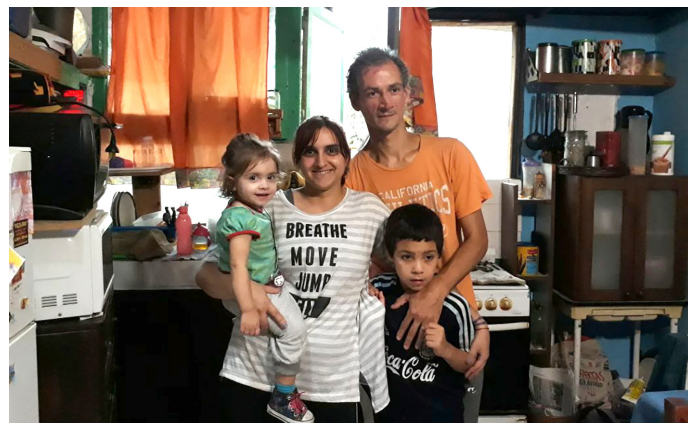
### Meet a Habitat family

#### Peace in a safe home

Carina, Diego and their two children are new tenants at Estelas de Esperanzas, a building of eight apartments where Habitat for Humanity Argentina has an Assisted Rentals program in La Boca. The family went through different workshops to be part of this program and is happy to experience this new stage in their lives. Carina and Diego have been together for 10 years and met at San Juan Evangelista Church in La Boca, where they are very active. Diego is a security guard and every year he takes part in the pilgrimage to Luján, and is always one of the first to arrive. His wife, Carina, is extremely involved in church activities.

Their families and friends have always supported them, yet they could never improve their housing situation. After they had their kids, they moved to La Boca where they informally leased a room in a tenement house. It was infested with rats and had severe infrastructure issues. They did everything they could to make this place their home; they painted and covered the walls with decorative and colorful panels. But living there remained unbearable as rats continued to be a threat, especially for their children.

After they received no response to their complaints from the owner, they started to look for an alternative. They contacted Habitat Argentina through the workshop Economy to Rent and Care of the Household and they started the application process that resulted in acceptance into Habitat's Assisted Rentals program.



### What can you do?

We build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter. You can help us do it with the following actions:

#### DONATE

<https://donaronline.org/habitat-para-la-humanidad-argentina/tu-aporte-construye-dona-hoy-a-habitat-para-la-humanidad-argentina>

#### VOLUNTEER

(Those not currently living in Argentina)

Join the group of international volunteers that offers a minimum of three months of volunteer work in exchange for lodging and an interdisciplinary professional experience.

Contact: [voluntario@hpha.org.ar](mailto:voluntario@hpha.org.ar)

[https://www.habitat.org/volunteer/travel-and-build/global-village/trips?field\\_area\\_edition\\_target\\_id=4&order=title\\_1&sort=asc](https://www.habitat.org/volunteer/travel-and-build/global-village/trips?field_area_edition_target_id=4&order=title_1&sort=asc)

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