

# FUNDACIÓN BAYLOR ARGENTINA



BAYLOR  
COLLEGE OF  
MEDICINE  
**Children's  
Foundation**  
ARGENTINA

# 2020



# FUNDACIÓN BAYLOR ARGENTINA

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Mg. Agustina Pérez and  
Fundación Baylor Argentina staff

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# BIPAI

## HISTORY AND SCOPE



"I am extremely honored and proud of BIPAI's accomplishments in its first 20 years. BIPAI is committed to its vision and mission and the people it serves despite the ongoing challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and any other issues the future might bring. We have a strong foundation and a team of dedicated experts willing to care for those in need and to support and train others to do the same."

**Michael Mizwa**  
Chief executive officer

Baylor College of Medicine International Pediatric AIDS Initiative (BIPAI) at Texas Children's Hospital is the largest care and treatment network based at an academic institution supporting programs for HIV-infected and -affected children in the world. BIPAI consists of a network of nine independent, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operating 14 Centers and Satellite Centers of Excellence that provide comprehensive outpatient care for more than 350,000 children and families worldwide. Over the past 20 years, BIPAI has also evolved its mission beyond HIV to include comprehensive health programs designed to work within the local health systems and improve maternal and child health outcomes. BIPAI provides technical assistance to its network to ensure the highest level of quality care and treatment, education and training for health professionals, and operational research to improve patient care.



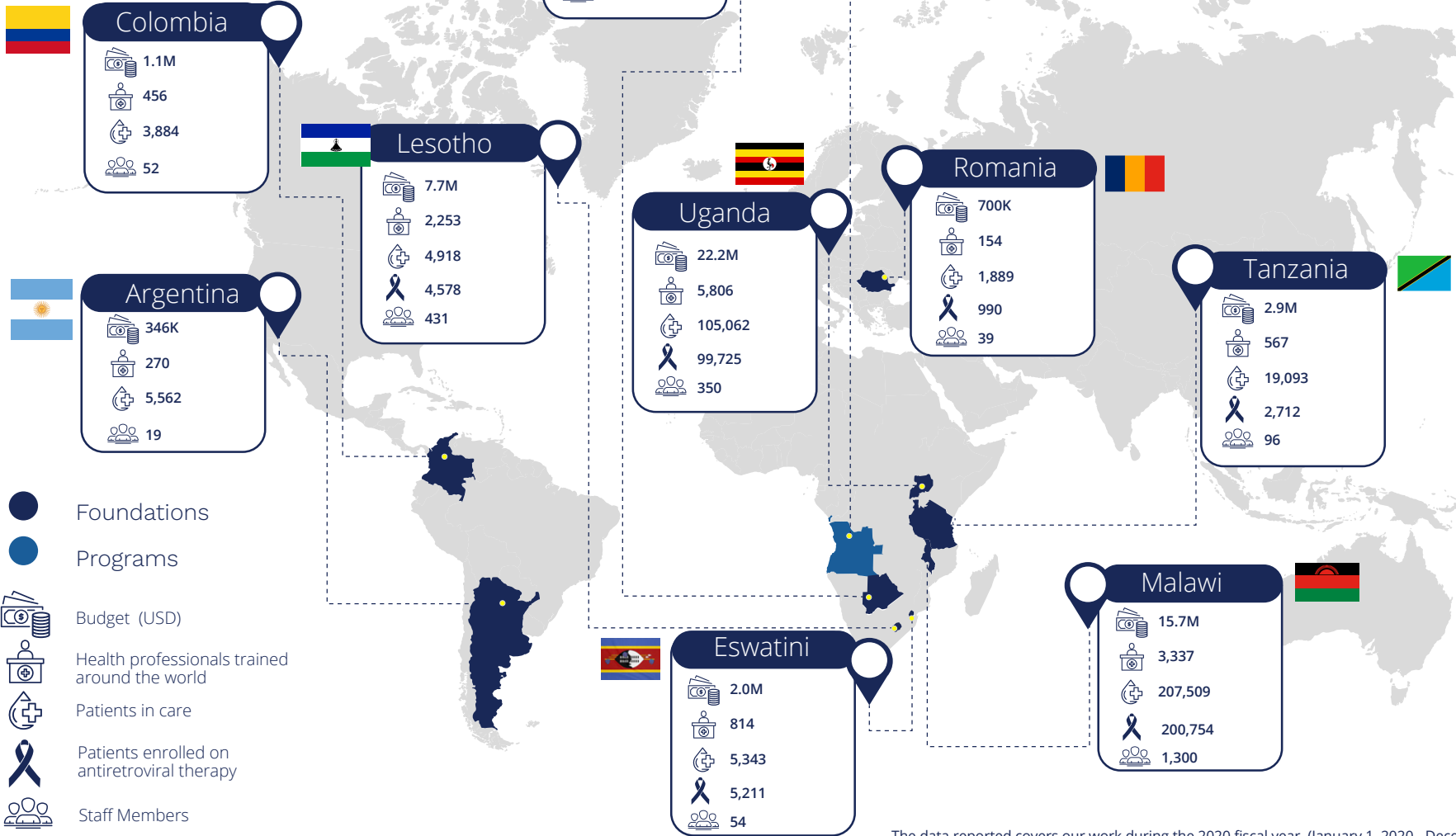
Photo Credit: Smiley N. Pool



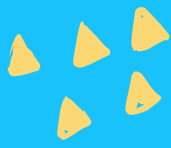


## BIPAI Network Statistics

- \$59.5M** → Budget (USD)
- 138,432** → Health professionals trained around the world since 2003
- 365,559** → Patients in care
- 319,285** → Patients enrolled on antiretroviral therapy
- 2,468** → Staff Members



The data reported covers our work during the 2020 fiscal year (January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020).



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LETTER

In our fourth year –a complex year impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic –Fundación Baylor Argentina is pleased to have continued our work to achieve the goals set forth in 2017. We remain committed to our work aimed at strengthening the health of children and their families through strong partnerships with sponsors and local leaders, both in the private and public scope.

This year, the efforts of Fundación Baylor Argentina were two-fold: Continuing to offer health care to children and families in need while responding to the pandemic, including finding solutions to the challenges posed by the lockdown and social distancing guidelines set forth by authorities.

- Our pandemic contingency program is based on four main points:
- Offering health care by adaptingservices to the new COVID-19 protocols;
- Detecting emerging needs at local levels;
- Offering support to health centers and hospitals we work with; an
- Fostering activities related to prevention and health promotion. In this context, we delivered 791 talks on hand-washing and developed triage processes for COVID-19. We also offered hospitals Personal Protective Equipment.

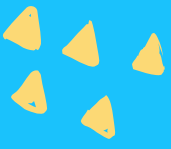
We are proud that we never gave in to our mission while fighting the pandemic. We consolidated and enhanced the focus of our work by designing and executing sustainable programs for children, teenagers and women. Our program portfolio now includes 10 programs oriented toward prevention and health promotion. In addition to the COVID contingency program, we added the Nutritional Emergency Program. We also expanded our geographic reach through health promotion activities in Rincón de los Sauces and in the Ciudad Industrial neighborhood in the capital city of the province of Neuquén.

We are also are working on the path of sustainable development-based goals, mainly focusing on partnerships and promoting good health and welfare.

In this context, numbers and results reflect our efforts and the goals reached in 2020:

- Offered health care to 5,562 patients and 1,107 OB-GYN patients;
- Saw 2,816 pediatric patients and 1,032 general medicine patients through the Baylor Argentina ´ s Health Program;





- Conducted 270 training sessions and protocol training to enhance installed capacity and knowledge transmission for the communities.
- Through our school-based programs, conducted 507 pediatric eye screenings to detect pathologies that prevent children from adequately developing their skills.

This work would not have been possible without the expert and professional team of Fundación Baylor Argentina and the public-private partnerships to address the health needs of the most vulnerable populations in Añelo, Rincón de los Sauces and Ciudad Industrial. These results were also possible through the cooperation of our beneficiaries, including the Baylor College of Medicine International Pediatric AIDS Initiative at Texas Children Hospital, our founding partner Chevron, and the support of governmental players such as the Health Department of Neuquén, Añelo Municipality, hospitals and the health center of Rincón de los Sauces, Añelo and Ciudad Industrial, and private collaborators such as YPF, Tecpetrol and Banco Patagónico de Alimentos.

Today, four years from that beginning full of hope and excitement, we look back with pride on what we have accomplished, but we keep looking ahead fully committed to fulfilling that goal. Our vision remains quite clear: to provide high-quality, high-impact maternal-child health care, train professionals to focus on prevention, and promote sustainable health programs.

**Mg. Agustina Pérez, M.B.A.**  
 Executive Director  
 Fundación Baylor Argentina



# Maternal-Child Health Care Program

## PARTNERS

Texas Children`s Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine

## PROJECT LOCATION

Añelo, Rincón de los Sauces and Ciudad Industrial, in Neuquén, Argentina

## BENEFICIARIES

Women and children less than 15 years. Health professionals.

## CURRENT SPONSORS

Chevron, YPF, Tecpetrol

## CURRENT STAKEHOLDERS

Health Department of Neuquén, Texas Children`s Hospital, Baylor College of Medicine (BCM), Baylor College of Medicine International Pediatric AIDS Initiative (BIPAI), Health Under-Secretariat, Zone V, La Meseta Health Center, Castro Rendón Hospital (CRH), Cutral Co Hospital, Añelo Municipality, Rincón de los Sauces Hospital (RDLS), Centro de Salud de PIN, Neuquén

## PROJECT TERM

February 2017 – February 2022

## MONTHS IN PLACE

46 months.

## MISSION

To improve health and welfare conditions in our communities by designing and running sustainable programs focused on children, adolescents and women.

## VISION

For children, adolescents and women to have a healthy and sustainable lifestyle, and access quality health care in the communities we work in.

## GOALS

By using strategic public-private alliances we commit to:

Improving existing health programs in the communities where we work

Identifying unmet needs

Developing and promoting new initiatives to maximize the positive impact on the health and welfare of children, adolescents, women and communities.





## WHAT WE DO

We contribute to illness prevention and health care focused on children, adolescents and women in the communities where we work.

## WHY WE DO IT

We believe community health needs should be met through access to quality health care and sustained by promotion of a healthy lifestyle.

## HOW WE DO IT

- ▶ By strengthening health systems and respecting the role and functions of the institutions we work with.
- ▶ By offering health care to children, adolescents and women both in urban and rural areas.
- ▶ By implementing education programs jointly developed with communities and institutions.
- ▶ By developing new programs according to the needs of the places where we work and adding values to existing programs.
- ▶ By creating strategic alliances based on mutual respect and partnering with different parties to achieve goals.
- ▶ By expanding to other locations in Neuquén.
- ▶ By seeking support from the Texas Children's Hospital Global Health Network.

## OUR VALUES

● **Team Work**

● **Diversity**

● **Innovation**

● **Transparency**

● **Respect**

● **Commitment**





## PROJECT SUMMARY // AREAS OF WORK

### PROJECT SUMMARY

The Maternal-Child Health Program covers Añelo, Neuquén, which includes the Health Center (La Meseta), a hospital and two Health Posts (San Roque and Chihuido). Fundación Baylor Argentina offers general medicine, pediatric, and OB/GYN services provided by two pediatricians, a general medicine physician and an obstetrician including the rural areas. Fundación Baylor Argentina health agents and promoters participate in the activities held within the community schools and home visits.

It is worth noting that before the Maternal Child Health Program, Añelo counted on only one Health Center that saw patients with scheduled appointments and offered ER and dental services. There were no pediatric or obstetric services. General physicians did not have the necessary training in these specialties. In addition, there were no supplementary diagnoses or in-hospital services so every patient requiring hospitalization or presenting with severe pathologies exceeding the Health Center's capacity to resolve those pathologies had to be referred out. Service guidelines and norms were not fully followed.

The rural areas were only covered by health agents; no physicians visited the area. Well-child screenings and pregnancy visits were not completed according to provincial guidelines, and there was no systematic process for prevention and detection of cervical cancer.

To run this program, Fundación Baylor Argentina, Castro Rendón Hospital authorities, the Health Department, the Health Under-Secretariat, Añelo Hospital, Zone V health officials, BIPAI and Texas Children's Hospital have placed an obstetrician, two pediatricians and a general medicine physician in the area, among others. In the early stages of the program, a baseline survey was conducted to determine the health care needs in the area. Based on the problems detected, a draft containing the essential elements of the program to be developed was prepared.



Photo Credit: Smiley N. Pool



The survey helped identify solutions and work needed on different lines of action to address the supply-demand gap for health care services. In the short term, the two lines of action below were suggested:

- Strengthening primary services in maternal-child health
- Prevention strategies to avoid the most common illnesses in women and children

Fundación Baylor Argentina's physicians performed an initial assessment. Five areas of support, integrated within the Provincial Health Services, were identified to strengthen health services in Añelo:

1. Medical services for pediatric patients
2. Medical services for OB-GYN patients
3. Increase professional capacity within the health system
4. Support to Province-managed health centers
5. Evidence-based evaluation of programs and activities

Key indicators include:

- Number of pediatric patients seen by the pediatrician.
- Number of pregnant women seen by the obstetrician.
- Number of children and pregnant women at risk identified.
- Number of health professionals trained.
- Adequate prenatal visits by pregnant women.
- Number of well-child visits conforming with the National Program on Well-Child Screenings

Since then, provisions of the public health system in the program area have changed. After opening the hospital in October 2018, the health system contributed staff to cover in-hospital services, lab, imaging, and the hospital pharmacy. Fundación Baylor Argentina staff satisfactorily adapted to this reality, keeping their working structure and providing services that exceed the complexity level 3 of Añelo Hospital, as expert health care is offered to women and children.

## **AREAS OF WORK AND PROGRAM FOCUS**

Fundación Baylor Argentina focuses on three main areas:

1. Prevention
2. Health Education
3. Access

Fundación Baylor Argentina receives support and partners with the Health Department in Añelo, San Roque, and Los Chihuidos. Some of the programs, like the visual screening program, include Sauzal Bonito and Rincón de los Sauces. All of Fundación Baylor Argentina's programs are built on long-lasting partnerships with stakeholders committed to providing essential healthcare services and capacity-building for local health professionals.

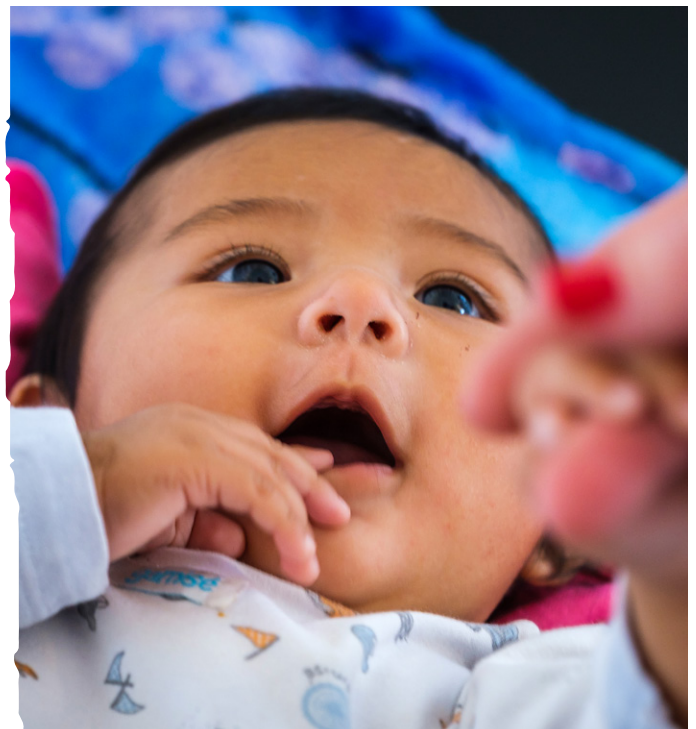


Photo Credit: Smiley N. Pool



# HIGHLIGHTS IN 2020



## ✦ COVID-19 HEALTH EMERGENCY



Mandatory lockdown was established on March 15th in Argentina and, during the months that followed, only essential workers could move around. Facing this pandemic scenario, Fundación Baylor Argentina started running a program aimed to ease the health emergency Coronavirus had unleashed.

Public-private partnerships were key to get the necessary aid. It is worth noting the smooth interaction among Fundación Baylor Argentina, Chevron, the Health Department of the Province of Neuquén and referents at hospitals and health centers in Añelo, Rincón and Ciudad Industrial in Neuquén.

### The following topics were addressed:

- Fundación Baylor Argentina and hospital staff training: bio-security measures (PPE use, differentiated circulation, adapted health care provision); epidemiology (case definition, precautionary measures, protocols); pediatric health care, pregnancy check-ups, managing chronic diseases within the context of the pandemic
- Preparation and implementation of telemedicine protocols
- Preparation and implementation of health care services: appointment management and pre-triage, triage, social distancing measures, inpatient and outpatient settings
- Supply of PPE
- Ongoing update on COVID-19 epidemiology
- Hand washing training
- Triage of suspected COVID-19 patients

During the second part of the year, face-to-face appointments were resumed with the strict implementation all existing protocols to avoid COVID-19 infection. In addition, Baylor Foundation Argentina, in cooperation with Chevron, made contributions to meet the needs emerging from the pandemic.

Rincón de los Sauces and Añelo Hospitals received PPE for doctors, nurses and health staff: 200 tight goggles, 400 N95 face masks, 3000 latex gloves, 5000 three-layer chin strips and 300 loose shirts. Rincón de los Sauces and Añelo received two donated trailers as a result of the effort and successful interaction among local hospitals, the Health Department of the Province of Neuquén, Fundación Baylor Argentina and Chevron.





## ✦ EFFORTS TO FIGHT THE PANDEMIC

One of the nutritional problems in our country is related to food access, which is closely related to household income and food prices that have an impact on food consumption at home (Eating Habits Office at Health Department).

According to the 2nd National Survey of Nutrition and Health in 2018, healthy, highly nutritious food is not widely consumed by lower income populations. In turn, children eat poorer nutritional food than adults.

In order to improve access to better quality food, “nutritional packs” were designed, together with the Food Bank of Neuquén and Chevron Argentina, with culturally accepted food to address the needs. These packs aim to improve the nutrition of the most vulnerable populations and people with existing conditions who should follow a treatment that includes a change in eating habits to foods with good nutritional quality.





## + PROJECT EXPANSION

This year, Fundación Baylor Argentina expanded its program scope to reach the location of Rincón de los Sauces and Ciudad Industrial neighborhood, located in the capital city.

In this context, Rincón de los Sauces benefited with the implementation of the Nutritional Vulnerability Program – emergency aid facing the pandemic, and the Eye Health Program.

In July, Fundación Baylor Argentina started running its health programs in the Parque Industrial neighborhood in the city of Neuquén. In particular, Fundación Baylor Argentina is jointly working with the Health Center at Parque Industrial and School No. 154. Fundación Baylor Argentina decided to collaborate in the area since the pandemic has affected the health and economic conditions of vulnerable populations in the Parque Industrial neighborhood.

Fundación Baylor Argentina's goal is to continue identifying underserved needs and connecting children and their families with Fundación Baylor Argentina programs to improve life quality.

In partnership with the Health Department of Neuquén, Fundación Baylor Argentina is currently running three health programs: Well-Child Screenings, Eye Health, and Nutritional Vulnerability Programs. These programs serve children between 6 and 12 years old who attend School No. 154. We also screen children under six years old for growth and development problems in partnership with the Health Center at Parque Industrial Neuquén.

Beginning in August, Fundación Baylor Argentina offers services in the Health Center of Parque Industrial in the city of Neuquén. The Health Center underwent a cutback on human resources and therefore set aside integral children care. Fundación Baylor Argentina assessed the situation together with the Metro Area Health Office and the Head of the Health Center and decided to implement well-child screenings for children under 6 years old and vision screenings.



# KEY NUMBERS



5562  
Total patients



2816  
Pediatric patients



1032  
General medicine patients



1107  
OB-GYN patients



507  
Ophthalmological patients



100  
Nutritionist patients



791  
Handwashing talks

1143  
Covid Triage



499  
Follow up patients



1019  
Telemedicine visits



1405  
Well child screenings



410  
Prenatal controls



270  
Health professionals trained

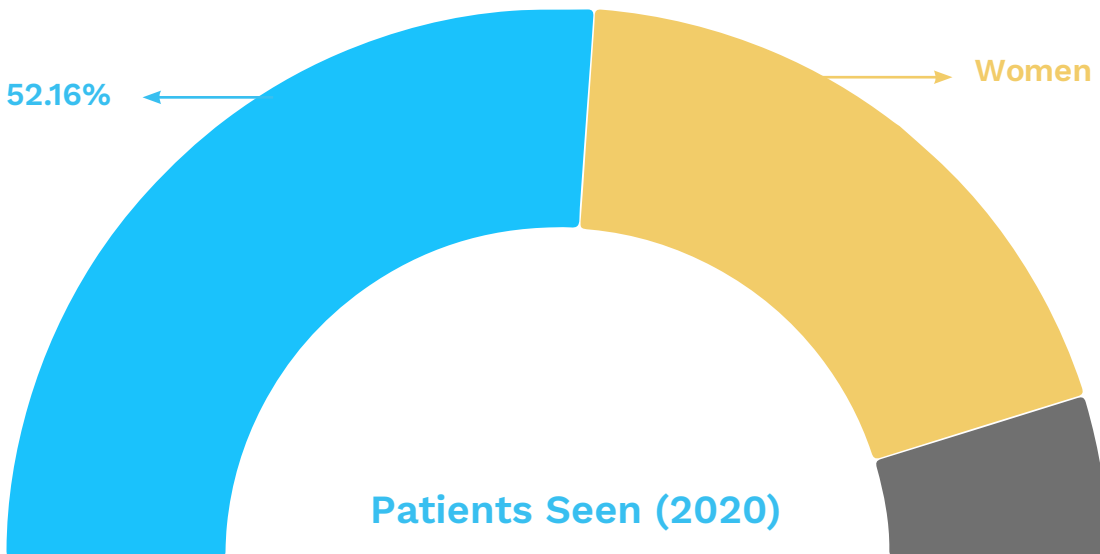


Child 52.16%

Women 38.21%

Elderly 9.63%

Patients Seen (2020)



# PROGRAMS



## PROGRAM 1: ANEMIA DETECTION

Although the Province counts on free preventive provision of ferrous sulfate in children in care, program efficiency and adherence to treatment had not been assessed. At the start of the program the number of children with iron deficiency in Añelo was uncertain but suspected to be higher than the national average of 16% in children under 5 years.

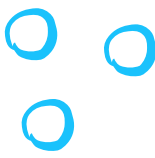
According to the latest 2005 National Nutrition and Health Survey in Argentina, 16% of children under 5 years of age and 20% of women of childbearing age have anemia. This prevalence varies in different regions, with considerably higher values in those of lower socioeconomic levels.

During 2020, 120 children ages 0 to 4 years in Añelo were screened. All children who were shown to be anemic were all started on treatment with ferrous sulfate with pediatric follow-up. Recovery is expected after 3 months of treatment.

- Number of Hemocue HB 201 samples taken in children in Añelo: **130**
- Percentage of patients with diagnosed anemia: **34%**
- Percentage of children under treatment with ferrous sulfate: **100%**
- Percentage of patients recovered after 3 months of treatment: **100%**

It is important to continue assessing those children who failed to recover after treatment with ferrous sulfate. In addition to aiming for treatment adherence in these children, assessment may help advise future public policies in the region.





## PROGRAM 2: CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING )

Cervical cancer is the second cause of death due to cancer in women, between 35 and 64, at global levels. In Argentina, some 5,000 new cases are diagnosed a year, and 1,800 women die because of this illness.

Before Fundación Baylor Argentina provided screening, the sampling for HPV as part of the Provincial Program for cervical cancer prevention was very rare for lack of awareness and staff. The obstetrician and the health promoter from Baylor Foundation Argentina worked together with the health agents from the hospital to conduct the self-test in women's homes. This method has enabled women to take a self-sample of vagina cells with a brush at home, thereby addressing access-limiting barriers, such as appointment availability, family organization, distance to the health center, decency or shyness, and lack of information. It includes women between 30 and 64 years old and excludes pregnant women.

The test comes from Añelo Hospital lab and goes to the Pathology Department of Castro Rendon Hospital. Results are handed out by the obstetrician at the Añelo hospital. Kits for the tests are provided by the National Health Department. If they are positive, patients are referred to the gynecologist in the city of Cutral Co or Neuquén.

- Total number of oriented HPV self-tests: **103**
- Percentage of HPV positive: **5%**

The Baylor Foundation Argentina health promoter has been in charge of following up with those patients who tested positive and did not have their PAP smears done. Program continuity will enable completing the circuit for women who did not have their PAP smear done, add new women, and supplement detection of other sexual transmitted diseases.

## PROGRAM 3: HEALTHY CHILD SCREENING

Well-child visits were not done previously despite recommendations in provincial guidelines. The presence of pediatricians for well-child visits, especially for children under 1 year old, is rare in an area where access to higher complexity centers where pediatricians practice is limited.

The national health system recommends a schedule of screenings and assessments at each well-child visit for newborns to 14 years old.

- Number of vaccination cards checked: **1405**
- Diagnosed/treated cases of upper respiratory infections (CVAS-pharyngitis-laryngitisinfectious rhinitis, sinusitis): **3**
- Number of overweight/ obese children seen: **280**





## PROGRAM 4: PEDIATRIC VISION SCREENING

The importance of screening for visual problems in childhood is based on the recognition that 15-20% of preschoolers will have difficulties (according to WHO report and ophthalmological conditions worldwide) which, if untreated, might interfere with the proper development of visual acuity and intellectual development, according to t. Vision screening also allows the early detection of preventable vision-threatening conditions or more serious conditions.

There are no adequate strategies, considering accessibility, opportunity and effectiveness, to detect and treat ophthalmological problems in children in school and pre-school age.

The Program run in Añelo and recently started in Rincón aims to strengthen prevention and early detection strategies for eye conditions such as myopia, retinopathy or cataracts, following current recommendations by the WHO.

- Number of patients screened: **407**
- Number of glasses delivered: **64**
- Number of children reporting better school performance and learning conditions after a year wearing glasses: **11**



## PROGRAM 5: PRENATAL CARE

Prenatal care was provided inconsistently before Fundación Baylor Argentina began its program. The presence of the obstetrician has impacted the quality of sexual and reproductive health care for women where access to higher complexity centers is still limited. Activities include nutrition guidelines, blood pressure control, pre-delivery courses, and diabetes control to reduce the risk of pregnancy complications mother and child.

- Number of patients identified as high risk: **28**
- Number of family planning consults: **73**
- Number of OB-GYN patients seen: **1107**





## PROGRAM 6: TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION

Multiple factors affect adolescent pregnancy, but one of the main reasons is lack of comprehensive sexual education. Unintentional pregnancy in adolescence interrupts schooling - 30% of the young women between 15 and 29 years old who dropped out of school did so because of pregnancy, according to Argentina's Ministry of Health. In addition, adolescent mothers are more likely to be out of the labor market.

The rate decreased slightly due to the availability of contraceptive methods and information. Subdermal implants, long-lasting hormone contraceptive method that lasts for 3 years, are offered for free in Argentina for women between 13 and 24 years old with no health coverage. It is widely chosen by the population for its effectiveness.

- Number of teenage patients attending family planning counseling: **37**
- Subdermal implants placed: **10**
- Number of teenage pregnancies (less than 19 years of age): **18**

## PROGRAM 7: TRAINING AND PROTOCOLS DEVELOPMENT

Carried out in conjunction with the nursing staff at the Añelo Hospital, this program aims to implement continuous improvement processes through developing training sessions and protocols.

Topics for the monthly training sessions are determined jointly with the nursing staff, and training is developed and facilitated based on staff needs and following local and national guidelines. Baseline knowledge is assessed through the pre-test, and after the training sessions a post-test administered to measure knowledge acquisition.

- Number of nurses attending: **67**
- Number of protocols implemented: **27**
- Number of health professional trained: **270**



Photo Credit: Smiley N. Pool



## PROGRAM 8: RURAL MEDICINE PROGRAM



The Rural Health Program provides basic health care services to each of the families living in remote communities for whom accessing health centers is difficult. The goal of the program is to improve the health conditions of the population by offering universal coverage through health promotion and prevention activities.

Visits to homes and medical services are offered once a month at the health posts. Programs are run jointly with the public health system that provides nurses and the health agents.

The program includes the rural populations of Aguada San Roque and Los Chihuidos, located 65 km and 100 km away from the Añelo Hospital, respectively. The two communities are home to 600 residents.

- Number of patients seen in San Roque and Los Chihuidos: **140**
- Number of patients under follow-up: **58**

## PROGRAM 9: HEALTH EMERGENCY COVID-19

The goal of the program is to develop health staff and community-oriented actions to effectively address the crisis generated by COVID-19 pandemic.

- Number of talks for handwashing: **791**
- Number of Triage COVID-19: **1143**
- Follow up by phone for COVID positive pediatric patients: **62**





## PROGRAM 10: NUTRITION VULNERABILITY PROGRAM

The Nutrition Vulnerability Program run by Fundación Baylor Argentina addresses problems related to food security with the aim of preserving and improving the nutritional condition of the most vulnerable population in Añelo, Rincón de los Sauces, and Ciudad Industrial in Neuquén. Food security is defined as people's right to access healthy food, meaning enough, adequate, and good quality food. The program identifies, assesses, and develops strategies addressing the main nutritional problems in the area, particularly for pregnant women and children. The program also provides the opportunity for the community to have consultations with a nutritionist and treatment follow-up.

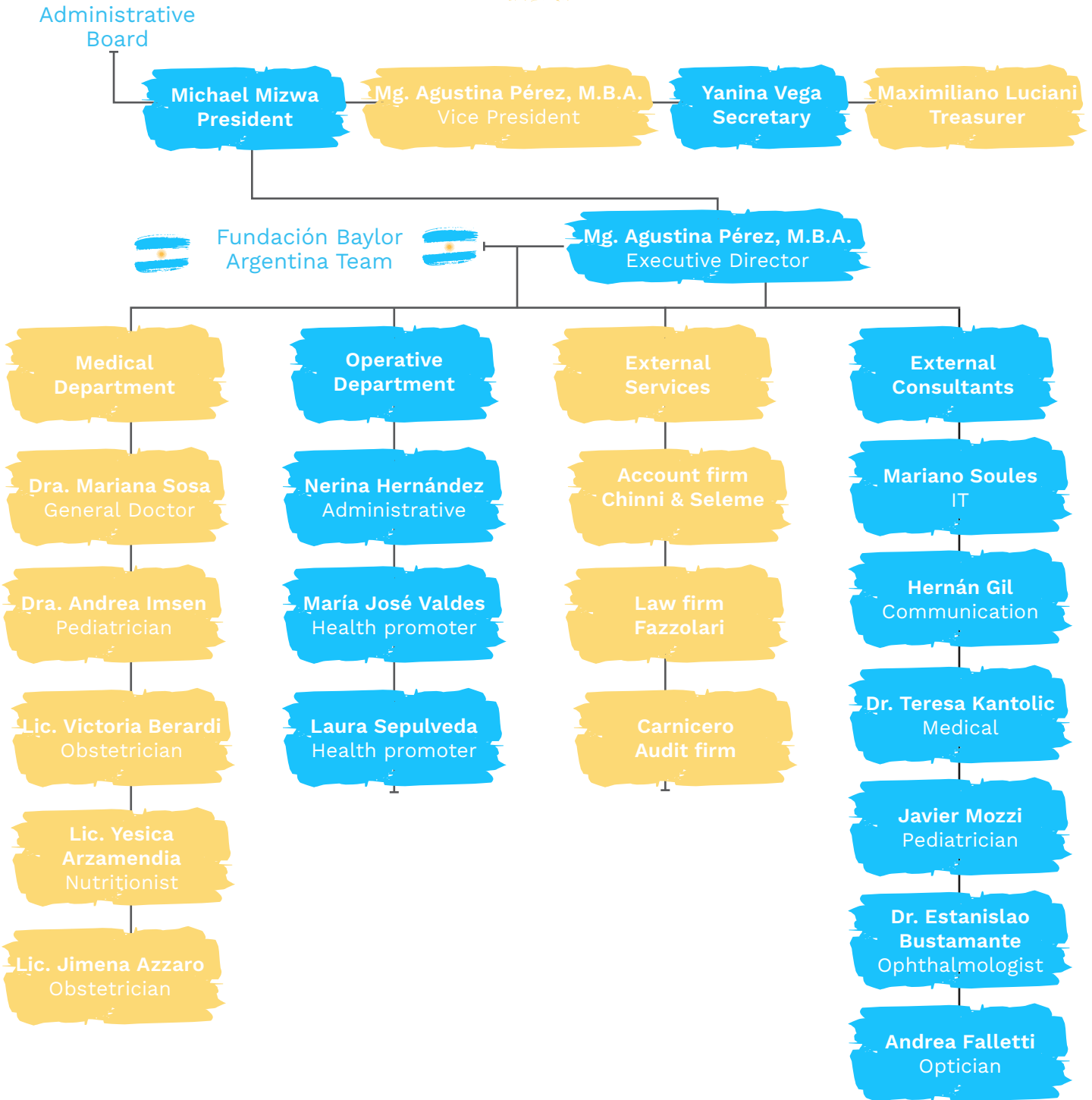
Program goals include: (1) To work with the community to raise awareness on social conducts regarding food habits as a cultural-biological act; (2) to adapt individual's behaviors to use local resources to make diets more adequate; (3) to promote local production and food consumption with minimum environmental impact in order to promote social and scientific knowledge to generate a sustainable transformation regarding food and diet.

- Boxes delivered: **209**
- Boxes delivered to pregnant women: **70**
- Boxes delivered to children with anemia, malnutrition/risk: **83**
- Boxes delivered to patients with diabetes, obesity: **27**
- Boxes delivered to patients with digestive pathologies: **3**
- Boxes delivered to patients with celiac disease: **26**



DONORS	TOTAL (USD)
Chevron (By Baylor College of Medicine)	\$ 204,519
GHC	\$ 110,286
YPF	\$25,602
Tecpetrol	\$5,840
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 346,247</b>

## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# PROGRAM TESTIMONIALS

## Claudio Solorza (Rincón de los Sauces Hospital Director)



Claudio Solorza is the Director at Rincón de los Sauces Hospital. Rincón is a location 200 kilometers away from the capital city of Neuquén. He voices that these pandemic times are “really hard” and points that the help and support from Fundación Baylor Argentina, through its founding partner Chevron.

The hospital received personal protective equipment and supplies for the staff who receives patients on a daily basis. “They are our front line,” Solorza says. In total, 100 tight goggles, 200 N95 facemasks, 1500 latex gloves, 2500 three-layer chinstraps, three monitors, 1 electro-cardiometer, three pulse oximeters and 150 loose shirts were delivered.

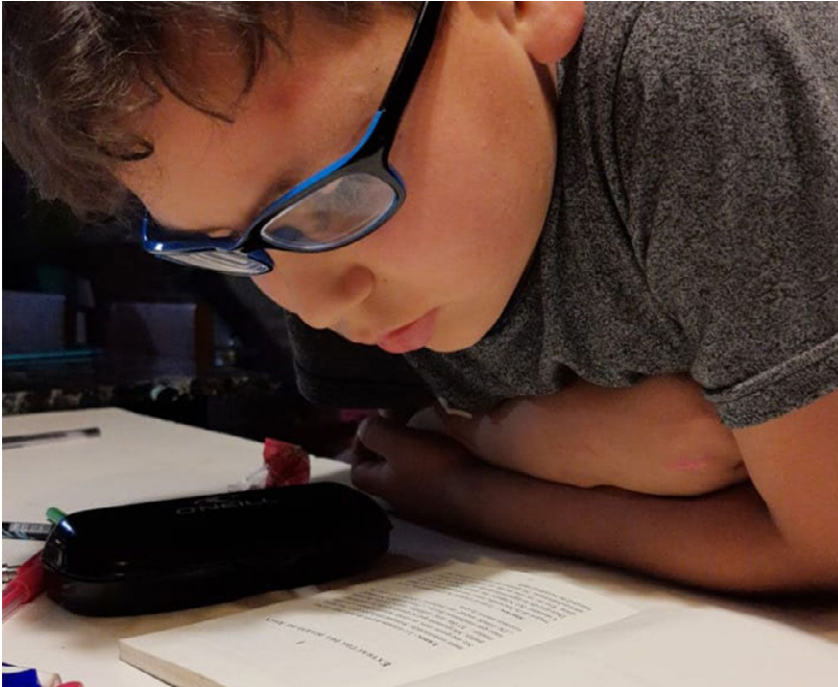
***“Having the trailer soon enough was important to start fighting the pandemic”***

“They are important to take care our front line. Due to the complexity level of our hospital, we offer primary health care, and therefore, staff protection is essential when assisting and admitting patients. They have to be safe because that is the starting point”, he explained.

He also highlighted the importance of the trailer donated by Fundación Baylor Argentina and Chevron, after coordinating the actions with the Health Department of the Province. “That extra space allows us to fight the Coronavirus pandemic by strengthening the health system in Rincón de los Sauces,” Solorza stated. And he added: “the fact of getting the trailer quickly was important. The process was fast, from the moment we put forward the need to trailer delivery.”

Among other aspects, he pointed that the trailer is a “luxury” and added that patients with respiratory conditions will go through admission there. The idea is to cut contact with the rest of patients as much as possible. “It is an invaluable space in this current context,” he added.

## Ariana (Martín's Aunt)



Martín is 8 years old and is in second grade at School 154 in Parque Industrial. Last August, Fundación Baylor Argentina started implementing its Eye Health Program in the neighborhood, and children's vision was assessed. Martín was detected a serious sight deficit.

“He used to wear glasses because he has trouble focusing. He can't read very well and, if he wants something, he needs to get very close. He had glasses but somehow they got broken and I could not afford a new pair,” says Martín's aunt. Ariana Villar is 28, she lives near the neighborhood and for some months her sister and nephew have been living with them.

***“He is discovering a totally new world. It's different now. It's a big change for him. He tells me: 'I can see now' ”***

During the pandemic, Martín participated in videocalls with his partners and the teacher had him a surprise for every meeting: the letters were a bigger size. He was happy because he could read. “The teacher and headmistress gave me a lot of support. I can't complain about the school. He could see big things, but not smaller ones. It was worse from the phone. We had to read the things to him or we drew the things bigger for him to see and write later,” Ariana explained.

“He had to slant his eyes to be able to see. In fact, he could not focus well and run onto things sometimes. He told me he could not see them. Now, with the glasses Martín can see perfectly, no blurs at all. “He is discovering a totally new world. It's different now. It's a big change for him. He tells me: 'I can see now”.

Martín's aunt highlighted Fundación Baylor Argentina's commitment. “They were very kind since the very first moment, all through the check-ups for glasses graduation and now at delivery. They took all the time and were very patient. I truly thank them, they helped me loads,” she explained.





## **Ana (Headmistress of School N° 154 of Ciudad Industrial)**

Ana Jaime is the headmistress of School No. 154, Parque Industrial Don Jaime de Nevares, neighborhood located in the north of the capital city, few kilometers from the city center. With over 25-year experience as a teacher, last year she applied for the position of Vice-headmistress, but as the school had no headmistress, she got that position there in February.

“When I started working at the school, I walked the neighborhood and talked to several families. Unfortunately, the community has many underserved needs. Many students live in wooden shacks covered with nylon, in crowded places, and in very poor conditions”, she described.

***“Families feel enthusiastic about the program. The feel problems are addressed, and also that somebody is paying attention, they became more visible”***

The headmistress explained that, on the first day of class this year, she saw some underweight children, with learning problems, as well as 6th and 7th grade students who were still illiterate.

Jaime described the story of a young student who had many learning problems. “One relative expressed he might not see very well.” Thanks to Fundación Baylor Argentina, the boy was checked and it was discovered he had severe vision problems. “He felt very well, not only because the problem had been detected but also because he felt somebody was paying attention,” said Jaime.

“This recognition implies a feeling of being heard. Families feel Fundación Baylor Argentina treats them kindly, with patience, with care. They are kind and professional. They give families a space for asking questions. They even explain things when nobody else does. They explain about the devices they use and what they use them for, etc. And this means respect to these families,” Jaime added.





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