

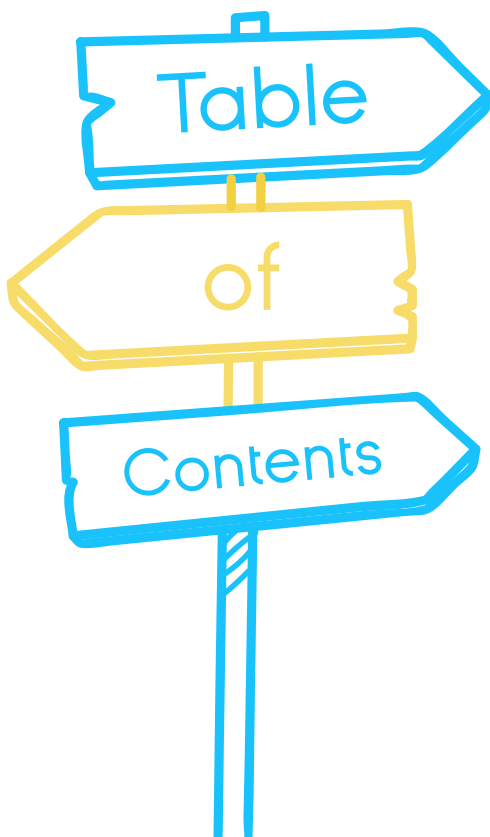
BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION
ARGENTINA
2019



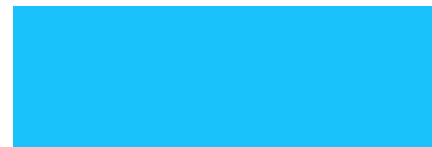
BAYLOR
COLLEGE OF
MEDICINE
**Children's
Foundation**
ARGENTINA

Fundación Baylor Argentina

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CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION
ARGENTINA
2019



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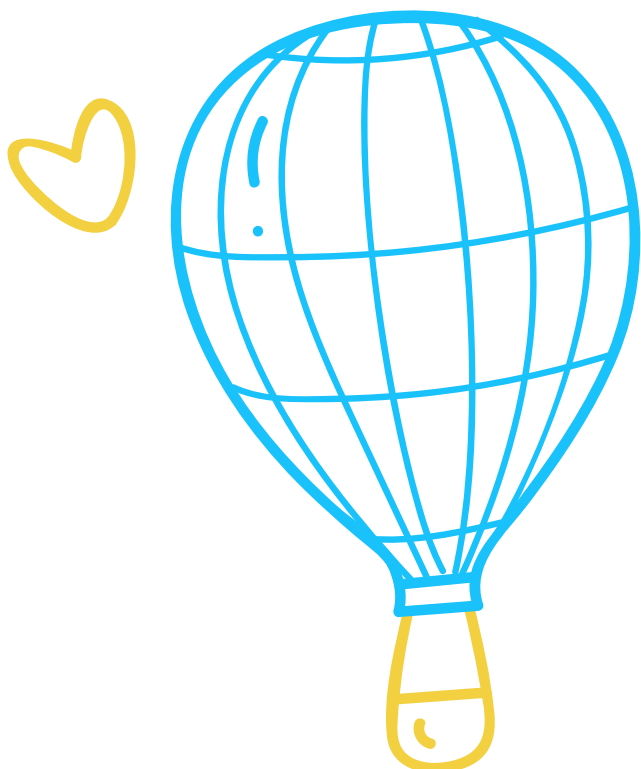
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BIPAI



HISTORY AND SCOPE

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 nine independent non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operating 11 Centers of Excellence that provide comprehensive outpatient care for more than 300,000 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 existing 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.





STATISTICS

	\$43	→ Million budget
	80.000	→ Health professionals trained around the world
	300.000	→ Patients in care
	1500+	→ Staff Members
	200	→ Texas Children's Global Health Corps physicians

- 1** → **Foundations:**
 Romania (2001)
 Botswana (2003)
 Lesotho (2005)
 Eswatini (2006)
 Malawi (2006)
 Uganda (2008)
 Tanzania (2011)
 Colombia (2014)
 Argentina (2017)

- 2** → **Programs:**
 Angola (2011)
 Papua New Guinea (2013)

*Foundations are independent and legally registered non-governmental organizations located in the respective countries.
 *Date refers to year of establishment

Project Name:
**Maternal Child
Healthcare Program**



MISSION

To provide high-quality, high-impact, women-centered mother and child health care, as well as professional training with a focus on the prevention of common health problems and on child morbi-mortality in the region.

VISION

To promote sustainable health programs by working with both public and private institutions to support capacity development of health professionals in order to improve access to healthcare services.



PROJECT LOCATION:

Añelo, Neuquén, Argentina



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Supporters,

In 2017, Chevron provided the initial funding to make Fundación Baylor-Argentina the 16th country in the BIPAI network, a global pediatric health initiative created by Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital. After three years, Baylor-Argentina has successfully established itself as a foundation operating primarily in the town of Añelo, in Neuquén Province, Argentina, and we are now expanding to other areas, such as Rincón de los Sauces.

Apart from BIPAI and Chevron, Baylor-Argentina benefits from other private institutions, including YPF and Tecpetrol. It is thanks to their support that we have not only launched our program but attended to thousands of patients and trained hundreds of medical professionals. We are honored and grateful that they have chosen to renew their commitment.

It is also important to mention the cooperation of other organizations working to improve the health of our communities. These include the Health Department of the Province of Neuquén, the Health Under-Secretariat, Health Zone V, Fundación YPF, Añelo Health Center, Castro Rendón Hospital, Cutral Có Hospital, Baylor College of Medicine Colombia, the municipality of Añelo, Añelo Hospital, and Rincón de los Sauces Hospital.

Baylor-Argentina's health services covered three categories in 2019: prevention, health education, and health access. In cooperation with the Health Department, Baylor-Argentina saw 7,291 patients in Añelo, San Roque, Chihuido, and Rincón de los Sauces. Among these were 4,211 pediatric patients, 1,303 ophthalmological pediatric patients, 979 general medicine pediatric patients, and 798 OB-GYN patients. In addition, our staff trained 531 nurses, doctors, and health promoters on medical skills related to each of our service lines, totaling 528 hours of training. This is a substantial contribution to the local health system, but there remains a great unmet need in women's and child health. Indeed, Baylor-Argentina exists to meet this challenge.

I would like to thank again the companies and organizations that make our work possible, as well as the Health Department of Neuquén, with which we have renewed our agreement to continue joint health projects for the benefit of our patients.

Agustina Pérez, B.A., M.B.A.

Executive Director,
Fundación Baylor-Argentina

ARGENTINA

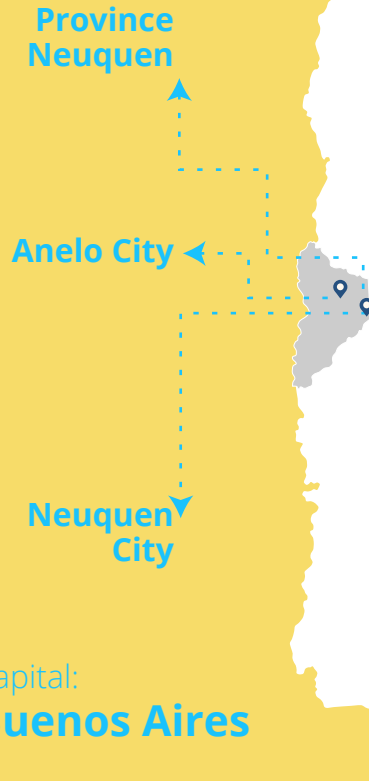


It has a population of
44,938,712



Argentina, officially called the Argentine Republic, is a sovereign country in South America, located at the southeastern end of the continent.

Total area:
2,780,400 Km²



Capital:
Buenos Aires

Argentina is divided into 24 districts, 23 provinces plus the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, which is also the capital of the country and where the federal government is located. It is estimated that it has 40 million inhabitants, according to the last census, which are mostly concentrated in urban centers.



WEATHER

Its territory gathers a great diversity of climates, caused by a latitudinal amplitude that exceeds 30 ° (including several geo-astronomical zones), a difference in the altitude that goes from 0 to almost 7000 meters above sea level and the extension of the maritime coast that reaches 4725 km.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Argentina Maternal-Child Healthcare Program provides high-quality and high-impact health care along with health professional training and capacity building. Baylor-Argentina has promoted sustainable health programs by working in partnership with 13 public and private institutions. Since February 2017, Baylor-Argentina has offered eight programs:



— ANEMIA
DETECTION



— WELL CHILD
SCREENING



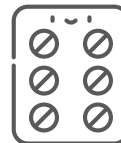
— HPV AND CERVICAL
CANCER SCREENING



— PEDIATRIC VISION
SCREENING



— PRENATAL
CARE



— TEEN PREGNANCY
PREVENTION



— TRAINING AND
PROTOCOL
DEVELOPMENT



— RURAL MEDICINE
PROGRAM

WOMEN'S HEALTH PROGRAM

- **798** pregnant women seen, **36** identified as high-risk for complications
- **278** prenatal care visits
- **96** HPV tests taken, **21%** tested positive and were referred
- **142** women adopted family planning methods
- **64** teenage patients received family planning counseling

CHILD HEALTH PROGRAM

- **4,211** pediatric patients seen
- **1,219** children screened and checked for appropriate vaccination
- **116** children were tested for anemia
- **70%** of the children with diagnosed anemia recovered after treatment

PEDIATRIC VISION SCREENING

- **1,205** children screened for vision disorders in schools, **98** patients referred for advanced vision issues
- **42** pairs of glasses provided
- **10** children with severe sight deficit improved their school performance because of treatment

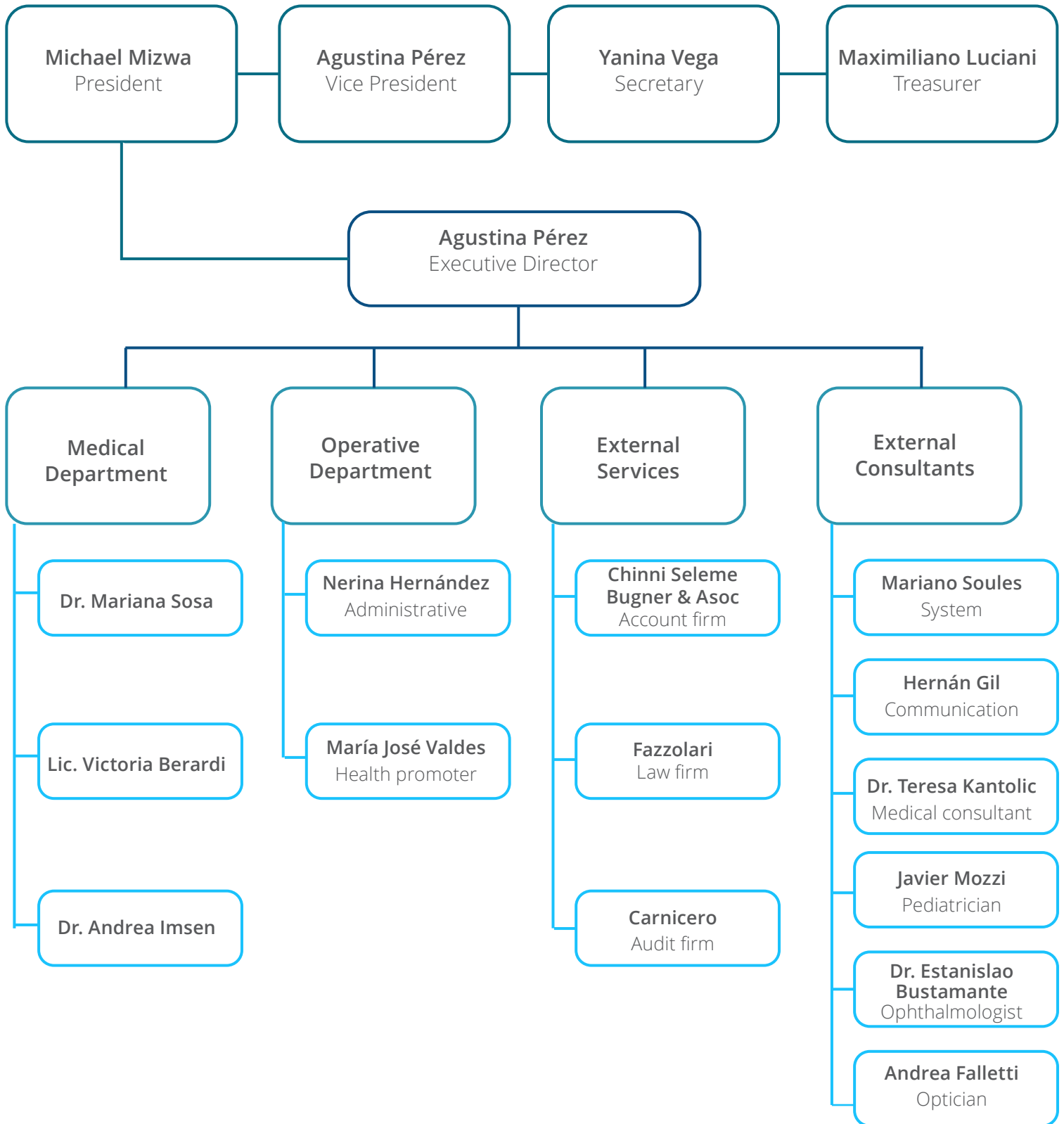
TRAINING

- **528** hours of training and **531** health professionals trained
- **24** new protocols for service delivery implemented

RURAL MEDICINE INITIATIVE AND GENERAL MEDICINE

- **979** general medicine patients seen at the health center and hospital
- **219** patients seen in rural areas of Añelo, San Roque, and Chihuido

BAYLOR-ARGENTINA ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



TEAM AND ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

Working team Baylor-Argentina	Position
Agustina Pérez, MBA	Executive Director
Mariana Sosa, MD	General Doctor
Andrea Imsen, MD	Pediatrician
Javier Mozzi, MD	Pediatrician
Victoria Berardi, BAO	Obstetrician
Nerina Hernández	Administrative Coordinator
María José Valdes	Health Promoter
Chinni Seleme Bugner & Asoc	Accounting Firm
Estudio Carnicero	Accounting Auditor
Maximiliano Luciani	Law Firm Fazzolari
Hernán Gil	Communication Consultant
Mariano Soules	IT Consultant
Dr. Teresa Kantolic	Medical Consultant
Dr. Estanislao Bustamante	Ophthalmologist
Andrea Falletti	Optician

Administrative Board	Position
Michael B. Mizwa	President
Mg. Agustina Pérez	Vice-President
Maximiliano Luciani	Treasurer
Yanina Vega	Secretary

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



Budget January-December 2019:

US\$303,271

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Maternal Child Healthcare Program covers Añelo in Neuquén Province, which includes a health center (La Meseta), a hospital and two health posts (San Roque and Chihuido). Baylor-Argentina offers pediatrics with two pediatricians, obstetrics with our obstetrician, and general medicine services in the rural areas. Baylor-Argentina health promoters also participate in activities with the community, school, and home visits.

Before the Maternal Child Healthcare Program, Añelo depended on one health center that saw patients by appointment, and also offered ER and dental services. There were no pediatric or obstetric services. General doctors did not have the necessary training in this field. In addition, there were no supplementary diagnoses or in-hospital services, so every patient requiring hospitalization or presenting severe pathologies had to be referred. Service guidelines and norms were not fully followed.

Only health promoters, not doctors, visited the rural areas. Well-child screenings and prenatal visits were not conducted according to provincial guidelines, and there was no systematic process for the prevention and detection of cervical cancer.

Through Baylor-Argentina and our partners, we have placed an obstetrician, two pediatricians and a general doctor in the area, among others. In the early stages of the mother-child program, we conducted research to determine the local health landscape. Based on the problems we identified, we outlined the essential elements of the program.

This survey helped us identify solutions and work on different lines of action to address the unmet need for healthcare services. In the short term, we chose to prioritize two lines of action:

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

Based on our initial assessment, the following five focal points were identified as the most needed to strengthen health services in Añelo, integrated within the Provincial Health Services:

1. Medical services for pediatric patients
2. Medical services for OB-GYN services
3. Increase professional capacity within the health system
4. Support to state-run 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 screenings in pregnant women
- Number of well child screenings for children utilizing the National Program for Well-Child visits

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. Baylor-Argentina staff satisfactorily adapted to this reality, keeping their working structure and providing services that exceed the complexity 3 level of Añelo Hospital, indicating that expert health care is offered to women and children.

AREAS OF WORK AND PROGRAM FOCUS:

Baylor-Argentina works in three main categories:

1. Prevention
2. Health education
3. Access

Baylor-Argentina's work receives support and is jointly implemented with the Health Department in Añelo, San Roque, and Chihuido.

Some of the programs, like the visual screening program, reach Sauzal Bonito and Rincón de los Sauces, as they belong within the Health Zone and their problems are quite similar in certain aspects. For all Baylor-Argentina's programs, commitment to provide essential healthcare services, capacity-building for local health professionals and long-lasting partnerships with stakeholders are key.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS 2019



PROGRAM 1: ANEMIA DETECTION

Although the Province counts on free preventive provision of ferrous sulfate for 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 35%, obtaining 39,6 % of pediatric patients with diagnosed anemia.

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 2019, 116 children ages 0 to 4 years in Añelo were screened. All children who were shown to be anemic started on treatment with ferrous sulfate with pediatric follow-up. Recovery is expected after three months of treatment.

- Number of Hemocue HB 201 samples taken in children in Añelo: **116**
- Percentage of patients with diagnosed anemia: **39,6%**
- Percentage of anemic children under treatment with ferrous sulfate: **100%**
- Percentage of patients recovered after three months of treatment: **70%**

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.

Results from 2019 greatly exceeded results from 2018. In 2018, more than 66% of patients did not recover from their anemia, whereas in 2019, 70% did recover due to the implementation of the program.



PROGRAM 2: CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING (HPV)

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

Before Baylor-Argentina began providing screening, the sampling for HPV as part of the Provincial Program for cervical cancer prevention was very rare due to lack of awareness and staffing. Now, the obstetrician and the health promoter from Baylor-Argentina worked together with the health promoters 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 C6 or Neuqu6n.

- Number of HPV samples: **27**
- Number of HPV self-samples: **69**
- Total number of HPV self-tests: **96**
- Percentage of HPV positive: **20,83%**
- Number of homes visited with the self-test kits for HPV: **105**

The Baylor-Argentina health promoter has been in charge of following up with those patients who tested positive and did not have Pap smears done (68%). This program continuity allows us to treat the whole patient, screen new women, and detect any other sexually transmitted diseases.

PROGRAM 3: WELL-CHILD SCREENING

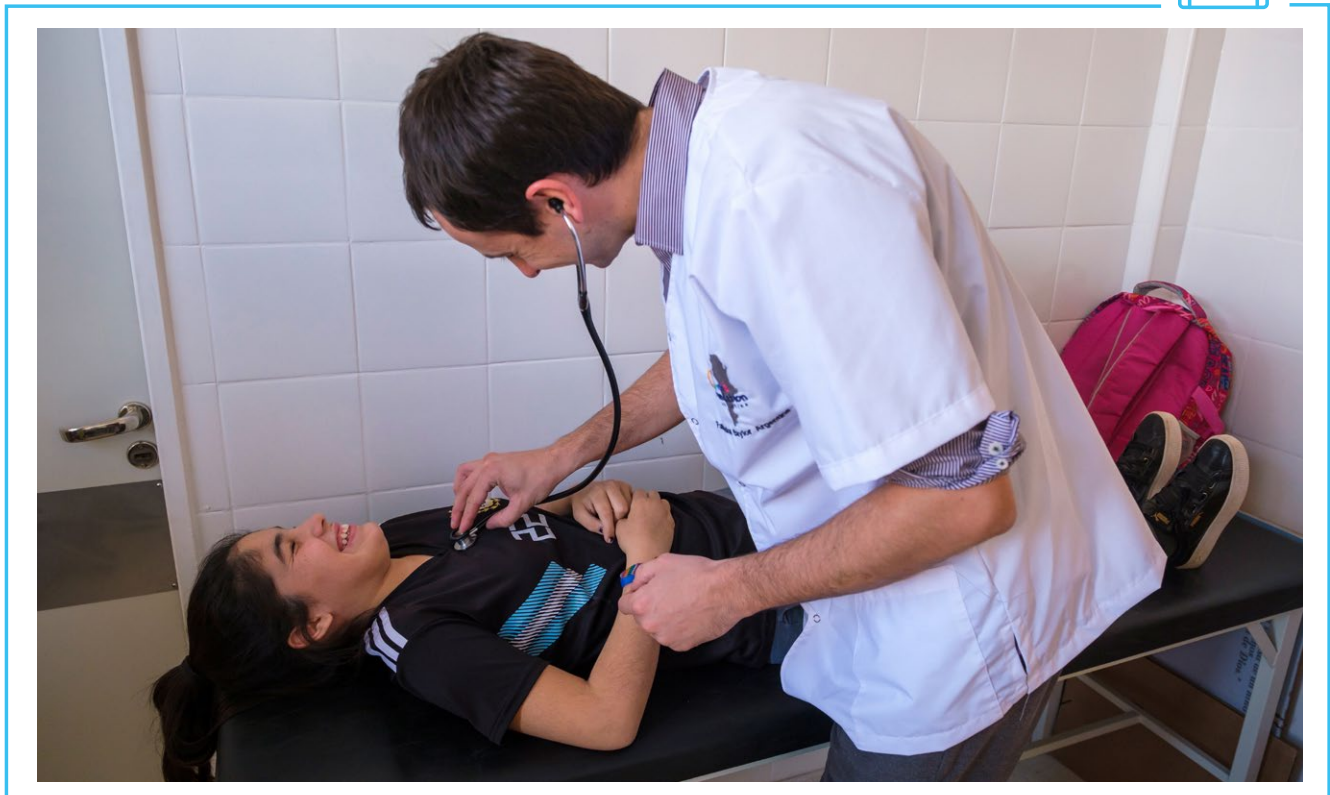
In years past, local healthcare providers did not conduct well-child visits despite recommendations in provincial guidelines. Such visits, especially for children under 1 year old, are rare in an area where there is limited access to higher complexity centers where pediatricians practice.

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

- Prevention: Administer scheduled immunizations
- Tracking growth and development: Evaluate child growth and follow up on development milestones, social behaviors, and learning conditions
- Emerging concerns: Child development, behavior, sleep, and eating habits

The pediatrician at the hospital and Meseta Health Center have provided well-child visits to 1,219 children.

- Number of vaccination cards checked: **1,219**
- Diagnosed/treated cases of upper respiratory infections (CVAS, pharyngitis, laryngitis, infectious rhinitis, sinusitis): **189**
- Diagnosed/treated obstructive lung condition (asthma, bronchiolitis, recurring obstructive bronchial syndrome): **81**
- Number of overweight/obese children seen: **251**





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 that, if untreated, might interfere with the proper development of visual acuity and intellectual development. Vision screening also allows the early detection of preventable vision-threatening conditions or more serious conditions (see WHO report on ophthalmological conditions worldwide).

There are no adequate strategies (considering accessibility, opportunity, and effectiveness) to detect and treat ophthalmological problems in children of school and pre-school age in Añelo, its surrounding areas, or in Rincón de los Sauces. 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, and cataracts following current WHO recommendations.

- Number of patients screened: **1205**
- Number of patients with detected eye conditions: **98**
- Number of glasses delivered: **42**
- Number of consultations with parents: **42**
- Number of children reporting better school performance and learning conditions after a year wearing glasses: **10**



PROGRAM 5: PRENATAL CARE

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

- Number of patients identified as high risk: **36**
- Number of family planning consults: **142**
- Number of OB-GYN patients seen: **798**



PROGRAM 6: TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION

Unintentional pregnancy in adolescence interrupts schooling: 30% of the young women between 15 and 29 years old haven't finished school because of pregnancy in adolescence. In addition, adolescent mothers are more likely to be out of the work force. Multiple factors lead to higher risk of adolescent pregnancy, but one of the main reasons is lack of comprehensive sexual education.

Between June 2017 and June 2018, out of 64 pregnancies in Añelo, 17 were teenage pregnancies (27%). From June 2018 to 2019, 18 of 90 pregnancies were teenage pregnancies (20%). The rate decreased slightly due to the availability of contraceptive methods and information. Subdermal implants, a long-lasting hormone contraceptive method that lasts three years, is offered for free at public health facilities in Argentina for women between 13 and 24 years old who have no health coverage. It is widely chosen by the population for its effectiveness.

- Number of teenage patients attending family planning counseling: **64**
- Number of people on the waiting list for subdermal implants: **26**
- Subdermal implants placed: **15**
- Percentage on the waiting list for implants vs. other contraceptives: **58%**
- Number of teenage pregnancies (less than 19 years of age): **23**



PROGRAM 7: TRAINING AND PROTOCOL DEVELOPMENT

Working with the staff of nurses in the Añelo Hospital, this program aims to continuously improve local healthcare services through training sessions and new protocols. Topics for the monthly training sessions are determined jointly with the nurses, and training is developed and facilitated based on staff needs and following local and national guidelines.

We assess baseline knowledge through a pre-test, and a post-training test measures how much they learned

- Number of nurses attending: **30**
- Number of protocols implemented: **24**
- Total hours of training: **528**
- Total number of health professionals trained: **531**

PROGRAM 8: RURAL MEDICINE PROGRAM

The Rural Health Program provides basic healthcare services to 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, which provides nurses and health promoters.

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

- Number of patients seen by a general doctor in San Roque and Chihuido: **219**
- Number of patients under follow-up: **93**
- Number of rural homes visited: **50**
- Number of survey forms to detect unmet needs completed: **29**

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2019



Renewal of the Maternal-Child Healthcare Program: Chevron, YPF and Tecpetrol

In July 2019, the foundation and our sponsors signed a renewal agreement for the Baylor-Argentina Mother Child Healthcare program in Añelo. We will continue to strengthen the program through contributions made by sponsors, including Chevron, YPF, YPF Foundation, and Tecpetrol, in line with the strategies drafted by the Health Department of the Province of Neuquén, the Municipality of Añelo, and Añelo Hospital.

Neuquén's Health Department, through the municipality and Añelo Hospital, recognized the commitment to the community from Chevron, YPF, Tecpetrol, Baylor-Argentina, and BIPAI. Baylor-Argentina staff also presented certificates awarded to nurses, health promoters, and doctors working at the hospital in Añelo who participated in the training sessions.

Chevron renewed the agreement for three more years, and YPF and Tecpetrol renewed their agreement for another year.

Sustainable Programs (Public-Private Partnerships)

The most successful intervention has been the ability to implement Sustainable Health and Education Programs funded by private companies (Chevron, YPF, and Tecpetrol) and the state.

All programs run by Baylor-Argentina have private and public partners, so as not to duplicate expenses and work towards the same goals. Both human and material resources are agreed between the parties to optimize resources. Consolidation of strategic alliances between the public and private sector help foster initiatives and improve services for the community.



Thanks to the partnership achieved between the public health system and Baylor-Argentina, the community benefited from:

- 4,211** Children visits
- 1,205** Eye screenings by a pediatrician
- 98** Pediatric ophthalmological screenings by specialist
- 798** OB-GYN appointments
- 979** General medicine patients seen
- 7,291** Total visits
- 531** Health workers trained in capacity-building sessions

The foundation and public-private partnerships mutually contribute resources for the eight programs, including Human Resources, Health Centers, Medical Supplies, and Transportation.

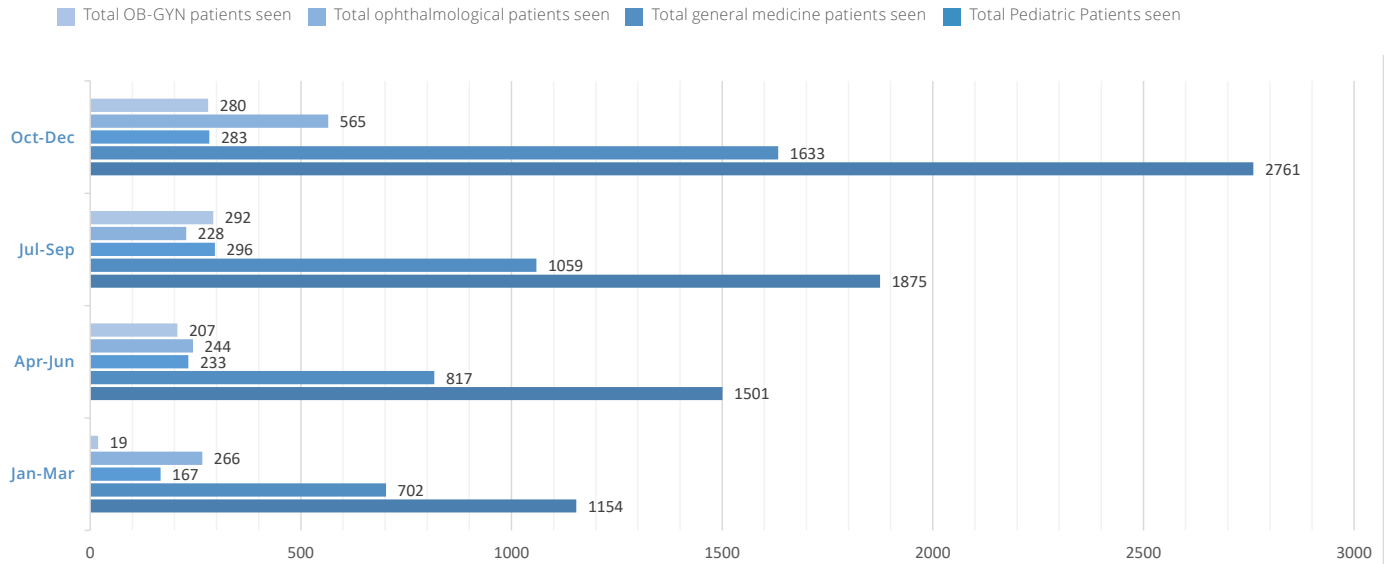
Vision screening expansion to **Rincón de los Sauces**

With support from Tecpetrol, we are expanding the vision screening program, which has been successful in the primary schools of Añelo, to more schools in the surrounding areas. Screenings began at School No. 363 in Rincón de los Sauces, Rincón Hospital, and the Health Department in October 2019.

PART 1	N°	Indicator	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total 2019	%	Frequency
		Total patients seen	1154	1501	1875	2761	7291		
1. Operational Excellence	1	Total pediatric patients seen	702	817	1059	1633	4211	58%	Quarterly
	2	Total general medicine patients seen	167	233	296	283	979	13%	
	3	Total ophthalmological patients seen	266	244	228	565	1303	18%	
	4	Total OB-GYN patients seen	19	207	292	280	798	11%	
	5	Number of patients seen for the first time	374	613	480	813	2280	31%	
2. Partnerships and sustainability	6	Number of partner organizations contributing funds	3	3	3	3	12		
	7	Number of partner organizations contributing in kind	4	4	4	4	16		

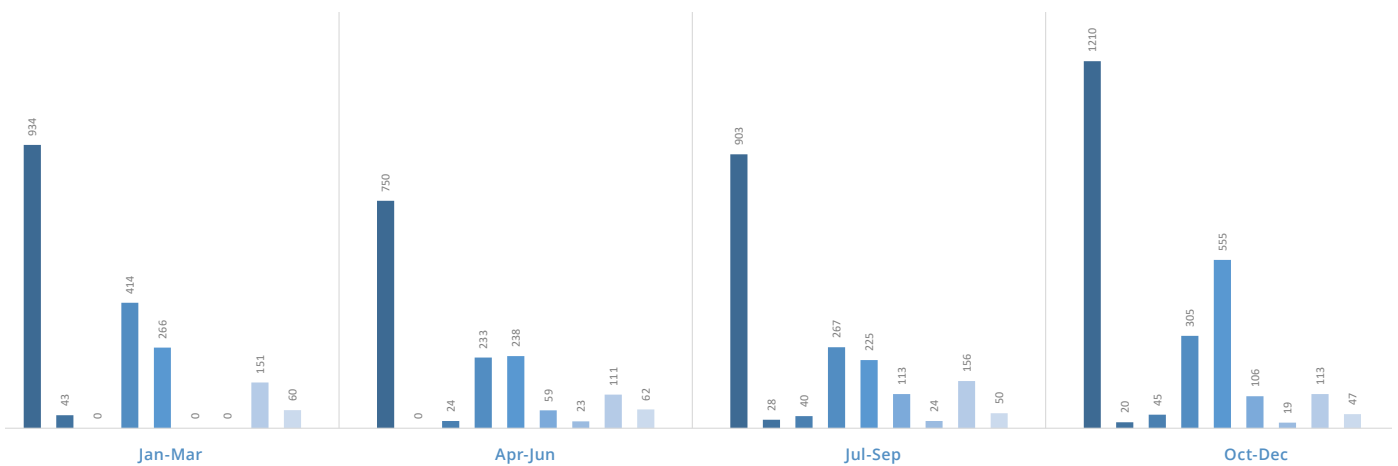
PART 2	N°	Indicator	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total 2019	%	Frequency
		Total Programs	934	750	903	1220	3728		
P1: Anemia Detection	8	Total pediatric patients seen	43	0	28	45	116	3%	Quarterly
P2: Cervical Cancer Screening	9	Total ophthalmological patients seen	0	24	40	32	96	3%	
P3: Well-Child Control	10	Number of patients seen for the first time	414	233	267	305	1219	33%	
P4: Pediatric Sight Screening	11	Number of partner organizations contributing in kind	266	238	225	555	1205	32%	
P5: Prenatal Care	12	Number of pre-birth and GYN checks	0	59	113	106	278	7%	
P6: Teenage Pregnancy Prevention	13	Number of teenage patients who saw the family planning counselor	0	23	24	17	64	2%	
P7: Health Professional Training	14	Number of people trained	151	111	156	113	531	14%	
P8: Rural Medicine Program	15	Number of patients seen	60	62	50	47	219	6%	

TOTAL VISIT PER QUARTER 2019









PROGRAMS PER QUARTER

- P1: Anemia Detection
- P4: Pediatric Vision Screening
- P7: Training and Protocol Development
- P2: HPV and Cervical Cancer Screening
- P5: Prenatal Care
- P8: Rural Medicine Program
- P3: Well Child Screening
- P6: Teen Pregnancy Prevention



People Trained:

	Jan-Mar 2019	Apr-Jun 2019	Jul-Sep 2019	Oct-Dec 2019	TOTAL
 Nurses	85	45	80	54	264
 Doctors	9	4	6	11	30
 Health Promoters	9	14	18	15	56
 Admin staff, psychologist, social service officer	0	0	3	1	4
 One-to-one training	48	48	48	33	177
 Total people trained	151	111	156	113	531
TOTAL HOURS	133	147	144	104	528

List of topics of training sessions:

- Respiratory system
- Hypertension in pregnancy
- Endotracheal intubation
- Hypertension
- Diabetes
- Bronchiolitis
- Importance of OB-GYN controls
- Burns
- Carbon monoxide poisoning
- Fetal screening
- Health care for older adults
- Acute coronary syndrome
- Convulsion crisis
- COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease)
- Severe COPD
- Normal ECG
- Auricular fibrillation
- HPV cervical cancer
- Asthma
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Strokes
- Dosage
- Addiction prevention
- First aid

LESSONS LEARNED

Below are some lessons we've learned after three years of implementing programs in Añelo:

- **Work environment:** The work environment at Baylor-Argentina with regard to working hours and distributions of tasks is often more attractive to qualified staff than other aspects (financial, for instance).
- **Access:** Program success in terms of coverage and access are mainly the result of focusing on primary points of contact, including health and community centers (schools, swimming pools, and workplaces).
- **Specific capacities:** More specialization among Baylor-Argentina medical professionals may increase the local response capacity to some health problems. Infant cardiology, pneumology, and ultrasound are some examples.
- **Integration and communication:** Integration with the Health Department and maintaining ongoing conversations contributes to buy-in toward Baylor-Argentina's work.
- **Training:** Trainings also contribute to the acceptance, integration and prestige of Baylor-Argentina.
- **Telemedicine:** Telemedicine is not yet developed. Doing so might contribute to increased problem-solving capacity and might facilitate distance follow-up for complex cases.
- **Communication at Añelo Hospital:** Together with the human resources staff at Añelo Hospital, we have continued to foster acceptance of our work through quarterly meetings and communicating Baylor-Argentina's activities within and outside of the hospital.
- **Communication at other Neuquén hospitals:** Baylor-Argentina's role is more difficult to understand among community members outside Añelo because hospitals have their own public staff and resources. This is different from Añelo Hospital, which operates as a public-private partnership. Baylor-Argentina should use social networks to reinforce awareness of our activities.



Sofía, Headmistress of School 363 in Rincón de los Sauces



For two years, Sofía, the headmistress of School No. 363 in Rincón de los Sauces, had been trying to start a cooperation with the local hospital for specific health cases. Together with the vice-headmistress, Marta, both are particularly concerned about sight acuity in several students.

“Once, with the cooperation of the hospital, we took five children to Cutral Có so they could be seen by the ophthalmologist. It was very difficult. We could only transport the children and couldn’t take their families. We have no ophthalmologist in Rincón,” she said. “We have even organized raffles to be able to buy glasses for children who needed them.”

Not long after this trip, the director of Rincón Hospital and representatives from Baylor-Argentina visited Sofía’s school at the recommendation of local leaders that the school needed extra resources. The school was then invited to participate in the Eye Health Program. “We couldn’t believe it,” Sofía said.

“I’m a strong believer. It was crazy, suddenly these people appeared and they offered us help. Very quickly, Martita organized the logistics and everything was perfect.”

The Eye Health Program aims to identify children in school age with vision problems and more severe undiagnosed conditions. Without that essential diagnosis, children can have their development or educational opportunities hindered. Those children found to have some sort of sight deficit are referred to a specialist. And those without medical coverage are provided glasses by the program at no cost.

Before the program arrived, children with sight deficits went to special schools, but now they are at their school alongside their peers. “We didn’t know that children diagnosed with sight problems before they turn 10 have a higher possibility of (learning progress) recovery. After that age, it is late,” Sofía said. “Working with Baylor-Argentina is very positive. We can anticipate problems and offer options to a highly vulnerable population. Previously, there were almost no options, as there is no ophthalmologist here, and paying for glasses is unaffordable for most families.”

She highlighted not only the importance of early detection but also of systematic and regular check-ups. “A child with sight deficit starts generating other problems and sometimes presents bad behavior,” she said. “State-run schools must work together with other actors to offer possibilities to those in most need. Partnerships will contribute to a better society.”

Rubén Bautista, Head of Doctors at Añelo Hospital

Rubén Bautista is the Head of Doctors at Añelo Hospital and was the long-time director of the health center. Born in Jujuy, in the north of Argentina, he arrived in the area in 1996 when Vaca Muerta shale gas was not even in the conversation. Today, given the location's demographic boom, Bautista highlights the important role of Baylor-Argentina to face the increasing demand for health services.

"We are working very well with this public-private initiative, and this allows us to provide better services for the people, which is our main objective," he said.



He not only pointed toward Baylor's contributions but also the effect of opening the new hospital. "Opening this new space made our people and Baylor-Argentina's people feel more comfortable," he said. "The improvements have been significant. I think Baylor-Argentina is a plus for Añelo, I have to admit. We were alone before, in a complexity III hospital with no general doctor, pediatrician, or obstetrician."

Since opening the hospital, Bautista said the emergency room receives double the number of patients. "Given that this is Vaca Muerta and Añelo, every day we get new people looking for jobs and this also affects the number of people requiring healthcare services at the hospital. We receive over 60 patients a day, in addition to office appointments," he said.

Bautista says the trainings that Baylor-Argentina's professionals provide for the hospital staff "have a multiplying effect" in the local health system. "Our colleagues and nurses really value the courses." Moreover, "I think we take for granted what it means to be trained here, at the hospital, without having to go to Neuquén. This would mean extra costs and a greater investment of time. Here, at the hospital, sometimes you're working in a sector and you can get out and attend training. It's very convenient."



Visual Acuity: Alan's Story

Herminda is 69 years old and is well known in Añelo. She arrived with her husband 25 years ago to work on farms, and she has had 12 children here. Today she is in charge of bringing up her grandson, Alan, who is 11 years old and has been under her care since he was 6 months old.

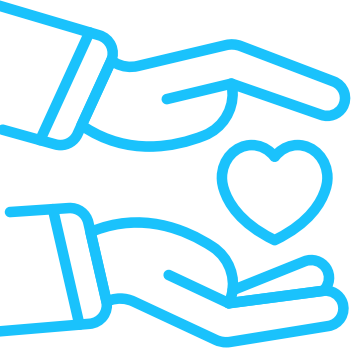
"Alan is a very quiet boy, a nice and kind boy. He is my companion because my husband passed away six years ago," says Herminda. She described how, for some time, Alan told her he couldn't see very well. She did not believe him because it was a joke her children used to play on her when they were little. "I didn't believe him, see? They tend to lie sometimes," she said.

She also didn't consider going to the ophthalmologist because everything is too far away. "We have no ophthalmologists here," she said. "They don't come. We have to go to other places. And although I have health coverage it's not good enough. It doesn't cover much."

Now, Alan is one of the beneficiaries of the Eye Health Program that Baylor-Argentina runs in Añelo, where the Baylor-Argentina pediatrician screened his vision. He was diagnosed with a sight deficit and prescribed glasses. Alan quickly received his new glasses thanks to the Eye Health Program. "His performance at school improved a lot when he started wearing the glasses, and also his life quality improved," Herminda said.

"I could have never taken him," she said, thanking the program. "Maybe one day, but everything takes time: You need an appointment, have enough money to go to Neuquén or Centenario, and finally have enough money to buy the glasses. It's very difficult."

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