Housing and Habitat Improvement Programs for Indigenous Residents of Salta

Submitted By: IPV Salta - Unidad Ejecutora de Programas Descentralizados



Organization Profile

Organization Name: Provincial Housing Institute of Salta

Organization Type: Subnational government

Website: http://ipv.salta.gov.ar/

Practice Details

Country(ies): Argentina

City(ies): Various towns and places in the province of Salta

Start Year: 2008 **Ongoing:** Yes **End Year:** N/A

Main Adequate Housing Components:



Housing Thematic Areas:



Relevant SDGs:



UN-HABITAT

Problem & Context

Salta has an Indigenous population distributed across 9 officially recognized ethnic groups: Wichi, Chorote, Guaraní, Chané, Chulupi, Tapiete, Toba, Diaguita, and Kolla. They are settled throughout the province's diverse geography, occupying rural areas, and many communities are located on the outskirts of urban centers.

Their issues are varied and generally relate to the cultural norms of each group.

Structural problems are observed, such as lack of access to land, loss of forest and therefore food sovereignty, with poor nutrition among children; water: a scarce resource; the health system, with limited coverage, is not culturally adapted; and lack of access to decent housing.

In response, the IPV develops housing programs framed within state policies, both at the national and provincial levels, through numerous interventions in Indigenous housing and habitat.

Solution Developed

The development of these policies is made possible by understanding housing as a tool for social inclusion of the most vulnerable sectors in pursuit of personal and community dignity.

The basic objective is to provide care, through the construction of housing and appropriate infrastructure, to groups of Indigenous and rural residents in critical situations, economically excluded, with unfavorable bio-environmental factors, where poverty and habitat conditions reduce their ability to reverse the harmful effects of their situation.

To achieve this objective, projects were designed to suit each specific environment, taking into account construction knowledge, cultural norms of the population, and the climatic characteristics of each location, respecting a strong sense of identity.

A joint effort was considered with the Instituto de Pueblos Indígenas de Salta (IPPIS), addressing the social aspects of the communities, their locations, and the execution of programs that incorporate a high degree of local labor participation in the construction groups for each project.

Implementation

Provincial and national programs are applied jointly with IPPIS, the Secretaría de Pueblos Indígenas de Salta, NGOs, and municipalities of the province, coordinated by the Unidad Ejecutora de Programas Descentralizados del IPV.

The types of solutions implemented depend on the location. Based on conceptual definitions and periodically available budgets for each program, the locations, quantities, and projects to be implemented are determined.

The strategic partnership with IPPIS is key in designing the policies to be adopted in the territory: community selection of priority family groups, formation of the various cooperatives that will carry out the works, and the entire control process until completion.

In other cases, agreements are made with municipalities, which manage the assigned budgets and propose the work groups that carry out the projects, with ongoing supervision by IPV.

In this process, the aforementioned provincial agencies are involved, and at the national level, the Secretaría de Viviendas (later transformed into a Ministry, and now dissolved).

Provincial programs are financed according to the provincial budget allocated by the Ministry of Economy to IPV for implementation.

The execution of federal programs depends on funding from the national housing agency based on approved budgets and projects.

Enablers & Obstacles

The programs are born from the political decisions of key officials in areas related to promoting families through social housing. They are the managers from provincial and national agencies, from which the necessary budgets are allocated.

The IPV, through the UEPD, generates suitable projects for each program; which, once agreed upon in terms of typologies, technologies, and social acceptance, are implemented in the territory.

The scheduled timelines often suffer delays due to seasonal climate variations—summer and winter—that hinder travel, material storage, and outdoor tasks.

Additionally, economic instability processes are often obstacles, requiring budget reallocations and extended project timelines.

At the same time, territorial presence is required for organizing the social structure of the beneficiary and construction family groups.

Results & Impact

The policies applied by the provincial agency have generally been successful, both qualitatively—viewing housing as a tool for transforming each family group to begin a path toward a more dignified life—and quantitatively, with 4,093 housing solutions completed from 2008 to the present.

The benefit for each family group is clearly evident. Many are composed of large numbers of occupants, who generally share a single room.

The new housing proposes separation of social and private spaces, providing privacy among family members.

Additionally, each home built in a community sparks action among other members to improve their personal situations; and when groups or clusters of homes are built, improvements occur in the urban landscape, potential urbanization of the community with street openings, lighting, and tree planting, and provision of electrical and sanitary infrastructure that substantially improves families' quality of life.

Across various provincial programs, 1,971 housing solutions have been executed through different typologies, such as new homes, module expansions, or wet core additions.

With national programs for Indigenous and Rural Populations, 2,122 homes have been completed.

Replication & Scale Up

The programs mentioned are implemented equitably across the 9 Indigenous peoples, in joint work with IPPIS and its Board of Directors, composed of one representative from each ethnic group, elected periodically by the provincial communities belonging to them.

Therefore, interventions are replicated equitably throughout the provincial territory.

At the national level, the National Housing Council is composed of representatives from each provincial housing agency; between 2008 and 2015, federal meetings were held rotating across different provinces to evaluate the implementation of Indigenous and rural programs in each region.

In some provinces, program replicability was more successful than in others, but it must be considered that rural contexts differ by region, as does the presence of Indigenous communities.

Policy Uptake

This housing practice has informed or been partially integrated into policy discussions, strategies, or pilot-level policy instruments.

This long-standing housing practice is formally integrated into provincial decision-making and management bodies, and implemented as a state policy.

It is carried out by the IPV, as an autonomous institute linked to the Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Works; interrelated with IPPIS, and connected to the Secretariat of Indigenous Affairs of the province of Salta.

Municipalities with Indigenous populations also actively participate in these policies. Therefore, these policies have permanent institutional support.

Lessons & Takeaways

It would be beneficial to intensify social work in the field with communities (with assistance from IPPIS and the Secretariat of Indigenous Affairs), as well as to advance with the Land Secretariat in land title regularization.

Part of this cadastral characterization process was carried out between the national and provincial governments through the National Program for Territorial Survey of Indigenous Communities (Law No. 26160).

In planning new programs, it would be favorable to establish agreements with universities and professional associations to enrich solutions by expanding intervention criteria.

Note

The original submission was received in Spanish. An automated translation was prepared using Copilot to enable broader multilingual access.