



International Medical & Solidarity Mission November 2022



Free and Quality Public Health for All!

**November 15 to 22, 2022
Resistencia, Chaco, Argentina**

Objectives and History of the Project

The **Organizacion Amancio Samuel Villatoro** organizes **medical missions** that particularly serve the more vulnerable populations in Argentina. For the first time, it is reaching beyond its borders to assist fraternal organizations in Argentina to undertake its own medical missions. The objectives of the project are the following:

- **To offer medical services to communities with no full access to healthcare**
- **To provide these communities with the necessary tools for the practice of preventive health by developing community health partners, in collaboration with the community**
- **To involve medical professionals in conducting a community health needs assessment and sharing their knowledge with commitment and social sensitivity**
- **To extend international solidarity amongst healthcare workers from other countries and local health workers**



Why conduct an International Medical Mission in Argentina?

Argentina **has an extensive public health system with free access, but it is progressively underfunded** to meet the basic needs of the population. The country **does not have** the **necessary** number of **health centers**; and those that do exist operate in very precarious building conditions, without sufficient personnel or the necessary medical resources. Because of this, appointments are oftentimes restricted or deferred. **Hospitals suffer the same reality**; but despite their size and allocated budget, **many are left without access to required medical treatments or interventions**. Private health care is expensive and restricted, while the system of care provided by the union social workers (*obras sociales sindicales*) which aim to provide health and social services to its workers do not escape the general reality of partial access and deficient benefits.

In spite of these conditions, Argentina **has excellently trained professionals and specialists**, most of them in the public university. They also **possess a sense of vocation and commitment** to "serve the people". They are the **real actors that make the Argentinean public health system one of the references in Latin America and the world**, despite the terrible material conditions and the lack of funding. In the population, **there is a strong sense of awareness about the importance of access and the right to health for the people**; sustaining and fighting every day for access and for the allocation of the necessary resources.

Without ceasing to denounce the role of the state and governments, the medical mission **aims to organize social health brigades that would investigate the health needs** of the communities and lead to mapping a **plan of action** for them to face the fight for their rights, together with the local health workers.

Argentina, a diverse territory.

Argentina is a beautiful and diverse country in South America. It has a population of 43 million inhabitants and 22 provinces. Its geography is very varied, with areas of plains, mountains, jungle, desert, sea, lakes, and forest. Depending on the area its climatic reality can vary a lot, from the north of the country where the climate is very dry and the temperatures are very high, to the south of the country where it snows all year round and there are temperatures below zero.



Cerro de los Siete Colores
(*Seven Color Hills*), Jujuy



Iguazu Falls, Misiones



Salinas Grandes (*Salt Flats*),
Salta & Jujuy



Glaciar Perito Moreno (*Perito Moreno Glacier*),
Tierra del Fuego

Chaco Province

The November 2022 International Solidarity and Medical Mission will provide **medical services for (2) two days** in the capital of Resistencia, Chaco Province. Chaco Province is in the **northeast part of Argentina**, separated by the Bermejo and Teuco Rivers from the Formosa Province in the north, and separated by the Parana and Paraguay Rivers to the east from the Republic of Paraguay and Corrientes Province. It **has one of the largest indigenous populations of the country, integrated by Wichis, Qom and Mocovies.**

The **climate in Chaco is sub-tropical**. The wetlands area to the east of was declared as a Ramsar site for its environmental value. It **is one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems** in Argentina and covers an area of approximately one million hectares.

Unfortunately, although it is a beautiful province, **Chaco** has historically been one of the provinces with the highest poverty rates. More than **50%** of the population **is poor and living conditions are very precarious**, especially for members of the indigenous communities, where hunger and lack of decent housing conditions are one of the main causes of disease.

Although **health is public, it is underfunded** and there is often a **lack of medicines** in the health centers and hospitals. There are **no medical appointments due to lack of personnel**; and they are **not sufficiently equipped** for medium to high complexity treatments and interventions.



Educational Day Trips

Buenos Aires • Plaza de Mayo • San Telmo



Itinerary*

Tuesday, November 15 *Arrival in Buenos Aires (BA)*

Wednesday/Thursday, November 16 to 17 *Orientation, Historical Educational Tour in BA*

Friday, November 18 *Travel to Resistencia, Chaco*

Saturday/Sunday, November 19 to 20 *Solidarity & Medical Mission, Resistencia*

Monday, November 21 *Foro Soberano (Forum for Sovereignty), Travel back to Buenos Aires*

Tuesday, November 22 *Departure from Buenos Aires*

**In light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and all related governmental restrictions regarding travel, all scheduling and itineraries are subject to change upon the discretion of the organizers.*

Covid Protocols

The health and safety of all its national and international participants is the top priority of the medical mission. We will strictly adhere to social distancing measures, temperature check, frequent handwashing and/or hand sanitizer/alcohol, and disinfecting common areas. The medical clinics will be conducted in open air spaces. Patients will be given certain time slots to avoid overcrowding and long lines.

All participants:

- Must be **fully vaccinated**** to participate in the medical mission and provide proof of vaccination prior to departure.
- Must **present a negative Covid - 19 test** (antigen or PCR test) taken within 72 hours of departure date. A Covid test is not necessary for entry to Argentina, but we would like to for all international participants to get tested prior, for our own safety.
- Must **secure travel insurance** that includes Covid coverage for the duration of the trip.
- Must **bring an appropriate face covering** for air travel and **multiple rapid Covid tests**.

- Must **sign an acknowledgement form** stating the current State Department travel advisory level for Argentina.
- Must **comply with the Argentinian local authorities' requirements** and Covid protocols, if applicable.
- Must **comply with health and safety precautions**, including wearing appropriate **protective personal equipment (PPE)**, as required by the location and task being performed at the medical mission.
- Must **review and comply with their employer's requirements and quarantine protocols for international travel, if applicable.**

***To be deemed fully vaccinated, participants must have received their third dose (booster) of a two-dose vaccine or their second dose (booster) of a single-dose vaccine at least 28 days prior to departure date.*

Sponsors

Coordinadora de Unidad Barrial - Movimiento Teresa Rodriguez (CUBa-MTR) CUBa-MTR is the main local sponsor in Chaco. It is an organization of unemployed workers that organizes against hunger and poverty in the different provinces of Argentina, where it has seen a significant development and strong work in Chaco. The organization is sustained by the solidarity work of its members, who organize and sustain vegetable gardens, dining halls and picnic areas, community construction of housing for its members, in addition to the constant struggle for genuine work.

